

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**AT**

**ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH**

**MAIN STREET, COSBY**

**LEICESTERSHIRE**

**NGR SP 5479 9486**

*On behalf of*

*PCC*

**NOVEMBER 2014**

**REPORT FOR** PCC St Michael & All Angels Church, Cosby  
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**Site Code** COSMAA 14  
**JMHS Project No:** 3139

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## INTRODUCTION

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation at St. Michael and All Angels Church in Cosby, Leicestershire (NGR SP 5479 9486) (Fig. 1). Three test pits were excavated in order to investigate deposits below the current tiled floor in the west tower of the church built in 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (JMHS 2014) were: to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed impact horizon; to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered, and to determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (*ibid*). The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).

## RESULTS

Three hand excavated test pits, approximately 0.5×0.5m in size, were opened across the floor in the west tower of the church. The test pits were excavated by ground workers the day before (21/10/2014) in order to lift the quarry tiles and remove the make-up material for them and were slightly relocated from the proposed locations.

Test pit 1 (TP. 1) was located next to the north wall of the tower (Fig 2a, Pl. 1), excavated to the general depth 0.31m from present floor surface. The lowest deposit within TP. 1 was loose light yellowish grey sandy mortar (1/04). It was overlaid by 0.20m thick layer of loose mid brown sandy silt (1/03). This deposit was not fully excavated and one roughly worked stone (200×120×100mm) was left *in situ* by ground workers. The next deposit was 0.10m thick compact light greyish sandy mortar with *c.* 30% brick fragments. The uppermost layer was 0.12m thick concrete with red ceramic floor tiles laid on the top. The north wall of the tower was not exposed (Fig. 2b).

Test pit 2 (TP. 2) was 0.60m long, 0.43m wide and reach a maximum depth of 0.37m, approximately located in the middle of the floor (Fig. 2a). The lowest deposit recorded within TP. 2 was a compact layer of light whitish grey sandy mortar (2/04). Overlaying deposit (2/04), was layer (2/03) which was of same composition and colour as deposit (1/03), containing dark reddish brown fragments of bricks (46mm thick). Both deposits were cut by cut 2/05. It was backfilled with 0.22m thick sandy gravel (2/02). The uppermost layer (2/01) represents modern concrete and red ceramic floor tiles (Fig. 2c, Pl. 2).

Test pit 3 (TP. 3) was excavated against south wall of the tower (Fig. 2a). It was 0.5m long, 0.45m wide and 0.39m deep. In the south section wall foundation **3/02** was exposed, set within construction cut 3/01. In TP. 3 were recorded four successive deposits (3/05), (3/04), (3/06), and (3/03), which entirely matched the situation recorded within TP. 1 (Fig. 2d).

## DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation was successful and met the aims, which were set up in WSI. The reliability of results is considered to be good.

The most significant deposit recorded during the evaluation was (2/04) which represents the remains of a floor surface possibly laid down shortly after the west tower was completed in 14th century. Deposits (1/04) and (3/05) represent disturbed remains of the same floor surface. Medieval floor tile or their imprints were not presented within the test pits; however possibility that surviving parts of medieval tiled floor might be presented within the area of west tower is not excluded. The floor lies below the proposed impact of 305mm.

Layers (1/03), (2/03) and (3/04) represents a make-up or levelling layer. Fragments of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries bricks recovered from (2/03) indicated building activities, which took place in the same period or later during the course of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

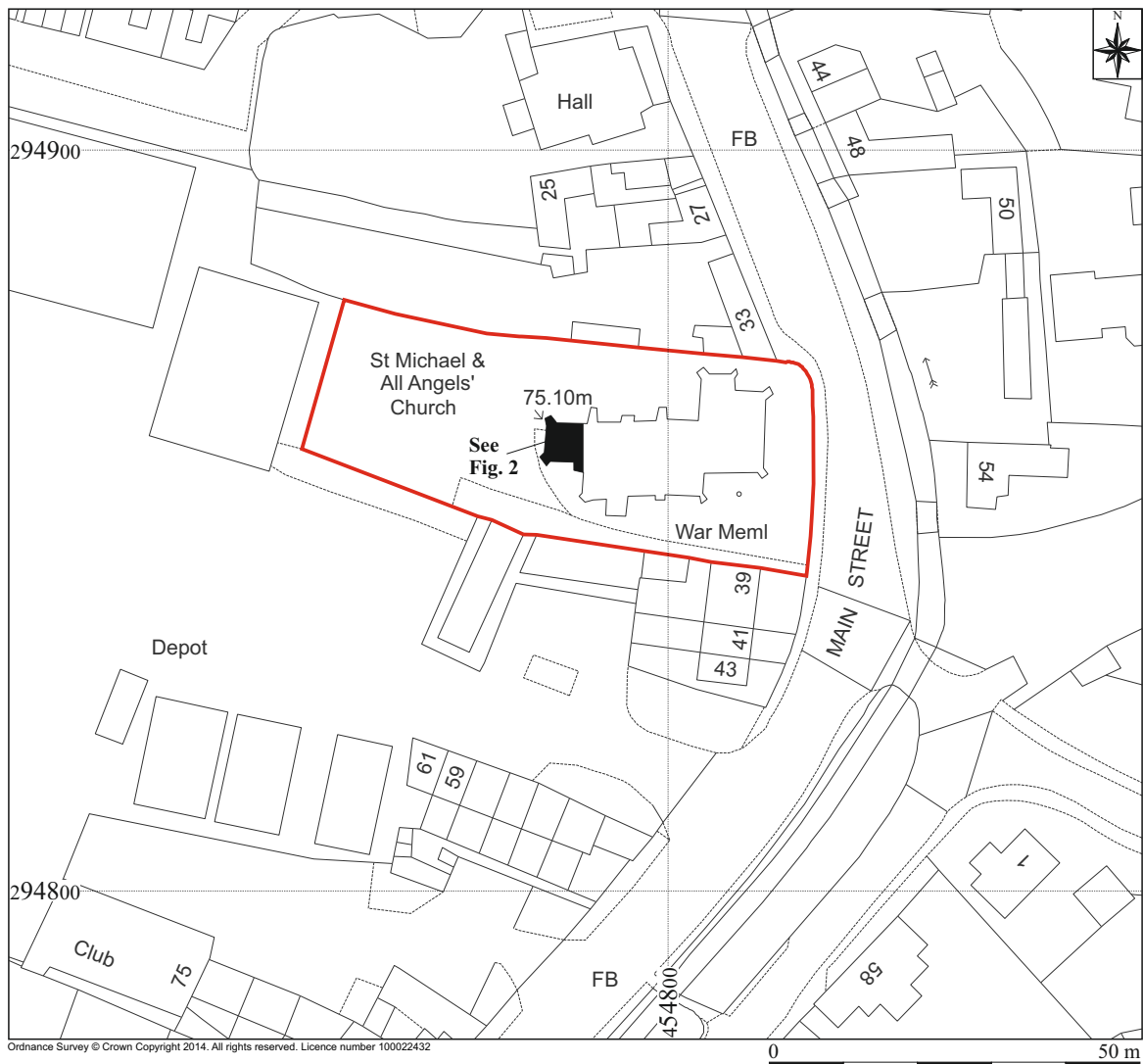
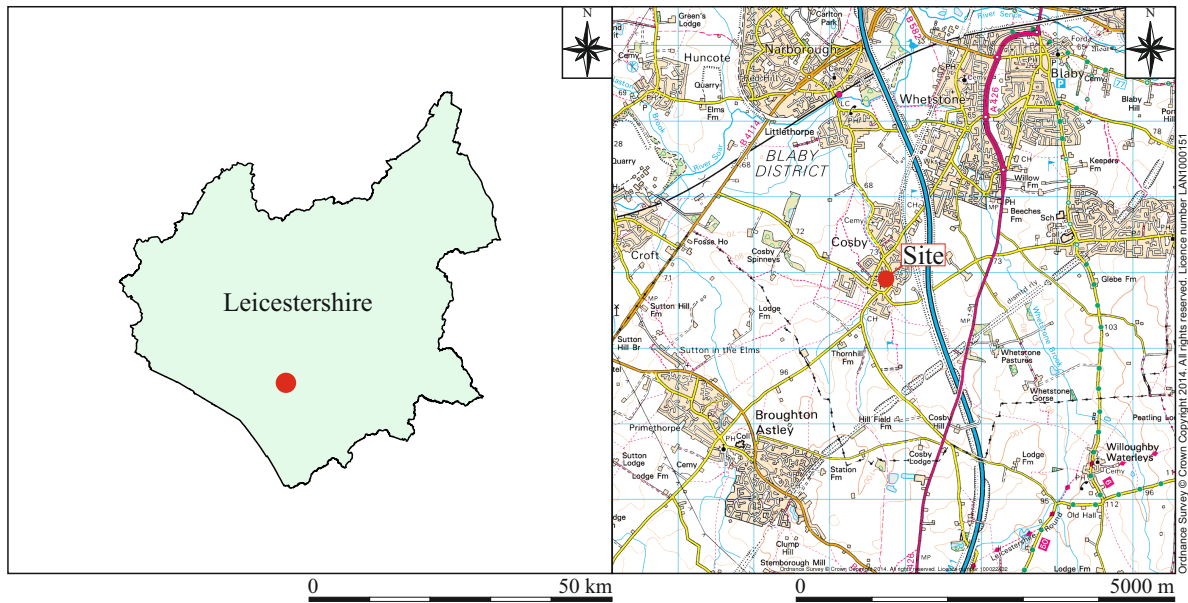
In TP. 1 and TP. 3 were recorded layers (1/02) and (3/06) which were of same composition and colour, and represents bedding for the existing concrete and ceramic tile floor (101) and (3/03) are more likely related to restoration works which took place in 1907 (JHMS 2014, section 1.2).

Slightly different situation was recorded in TP. 2. Cut 2/05 and sandy gravel (2/02) were presumably related to the 20<sup>th</sup> century disturbance, which was also clearly visible on present floor surface (Fig. 2a).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Institute for Archaeologists (2008). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*. Reading: IfA

John Moore Heritage Services (2014). *Church of St Michael and All Saints, Cosby, Leicestershire. Archaeological Field Evaluation. – Written Scheme of Investigation*. Prepared by John Moore. Unpublished document: JMHS



Key  Site boundary  Evaluation area

Figure 1: Site location

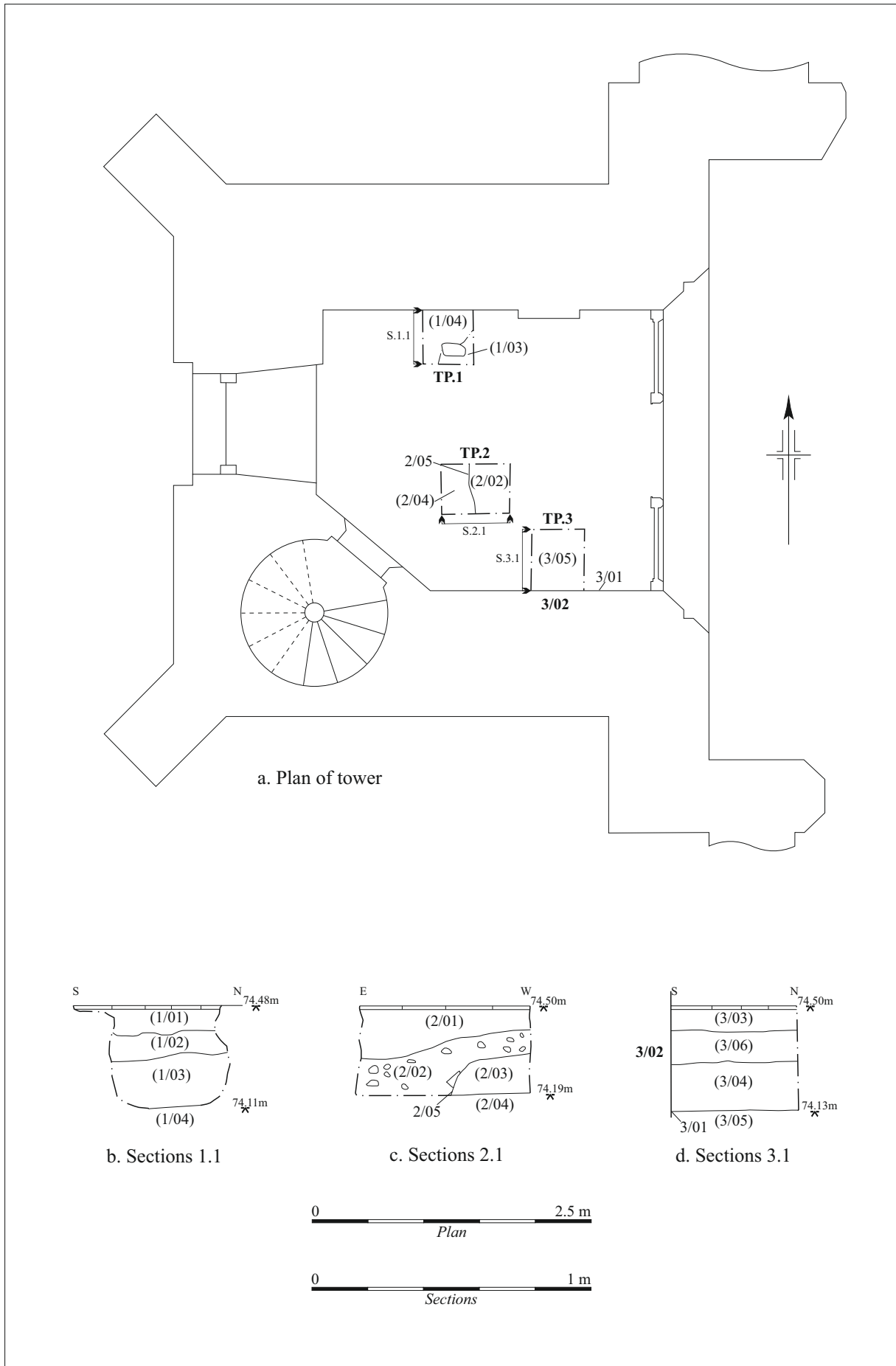


Figure 2: Plan and sections



Plate 1: TP. 1, looking north



Plate 2: TP. 2, general overview



Plate 3: TP. 3, looking south