



prospect archaeology

Client: Ibstock PCC

The Church of St Denys, Ibstock, Leics.

Archaeological Observation and Recording

NGR: SK 40453 09562

PA report no PAL 2013/27

February 2013

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Fig. 1 Location of Ibstock (C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 OS map; © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. PA Licence No. 100049790).

Fig. 2 Ibstock church. Location of area investigated.

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Pl. 2 Pipe trench looking east from the septic tank pit. Scale 1m

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Pl. 5 Septic tank pit, showing natural sand and gravels beneath the graveyard soil, looking south. Scale 1m

Pl. 6 Soakaway trench looking east towards septic tank pit.

**The Church of St Denys, Ibstock, Leics.
Archaeological Observation and Recording
NGR: SK 40453 09562
Site Code IBS13**

Summary

A programme of archaeological observation and recording at the church of St Denys, Ibstock, was undertaken during the installation of a septic tank and associated soakaway, south-west of the church. No archaeological features or artefacts were found. A very small quantity of human bones was found during excavation of the septic tank pit and these were reburied in the pit.

Introduction

An archaeological programme of observation and recording was requested by Gordon Smith Conservation on behalf of Ibstock PCC during installation of a septic tank.

Site Location

Ibstock is a large village situated northwest of Leicester on the A447, between Coalville and Hinckley. The parish church of St Denys is situated at the south-west end of the village close to the manor house on the east side of the A447.

Historical Background

Both prehistoric and Roman sites, including a possible villa, have been discovered in the village. Ibstock is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 when the manor (estate) was held by Ingenwulf one of Count Meulen's men. It had significantly increased in value in the 20 years after the Norman Conquest in 1066.

The parish church is located south-west of the historic core of the medieval settlement as well as being on the edge of the modern settlement. The present fabric of St Denys's church is in early decorated style of early 14th century date, although the font is older and there was presumably a much earlier church on the site. It has a nave of 3 bays with clerestory and aisles and a west tower. There are parapets to nave, aisles and chancel. The chancel contains 2 low-side windows, reinstated in restoration of 1897. Other restoration work included removal of internal plaster, and renewal of some stonework. The church is listed Grade II*.

William Laud, later Archbishop of Canterbury, supporter of the divine right of kings and author of the Laudian reforms held the living here 1617–26. The parish of Ibstock formerly included the dependent chapelries of Donington-le Heath and Hugglescote, but the increase of population led to the establishment of a separate ecclesiastical parish in the 19th century.

Scope of Work

The programme of work comprised

- Installation of a kitchen unit in the south aisle
- Installation of a toilet in the south porch
- Excavation of a new septic tank to the south west of the church

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. Work was carried out on February 12th 2013.

Results

Internal works were not observed. They consisted of installation of a new toilet in the south-west corner of the former vestry. The vestry is a 19th century rebuild of the south porch and set on brick foundations. Parquet blocks were re-used from other parts of the church to extend this surface into the vestry and toilet area. The vestry cupboards were re-installed on the west and east walls.

Trenches were dug outside the building to connect the foul drainage from the toilet and the kitchen sink in the south aisle to the septic tank. These were the subject of the programme of observation and recording.

A machine-excavated trench extended west from the south-west corner of the former vestry

(Pl. 1). It was 15.35m long, 0.30m wide and 0.50m deep (Pl. 1). A shorter trench was dug diagonally from the junction of the vestry west wall with the tile apron at the base of the south aisle south wall to connect the foul water from the kitchen unit in the south aisle to the main trench (Fig. 2, Pl. 2). The Victorian brick foundations of the vestry were revealed (Pl. 3).

The topsoil beneath the turf, **100**, was a mid-dark brown sandy loam and was 0.20m deep. It overlay the graveyard soil **101** which was a mid-brown soil of similar texture to the topsoil. This was seen to the base of the trench, although in one or two areas the underlying natural sand and gravel **102** was visible in the base of the trench (Pl. 4).

A near-square pit measuring 2.27m x 2.35m was excavated at the end of the trench to accommodate the Klargestep septic tank (Pl. 5). The sequence of deposits was the same as observed in the connecting trench. A few pieces of bone were retrieved from the graveyards soil **101** during the excavation but no burials were seen. The bone was reburied in the pit after the septic tank was installed.

Extending west from the septic tank was a trench containing perforated piping which acts as a soakaway for the septic tank (Pl. 6). It was the same dimensions as before and extended to the churchyard boundary, 12.45m west of the septic tank pit.

Conclusion

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

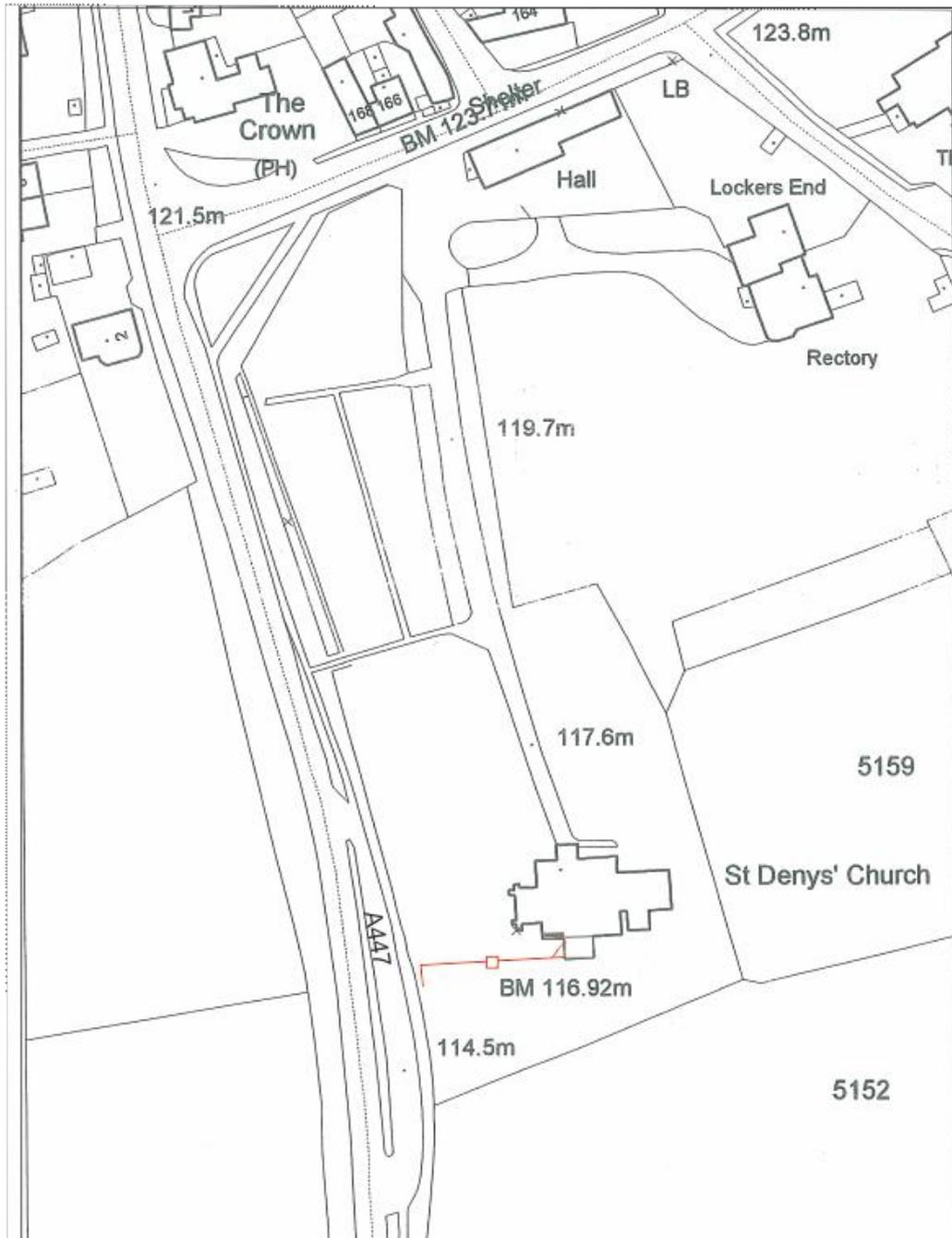
Architect's site location plan and sketch plan of the new toilets

Photographs. Digital images PA Film no 13-10 10 images

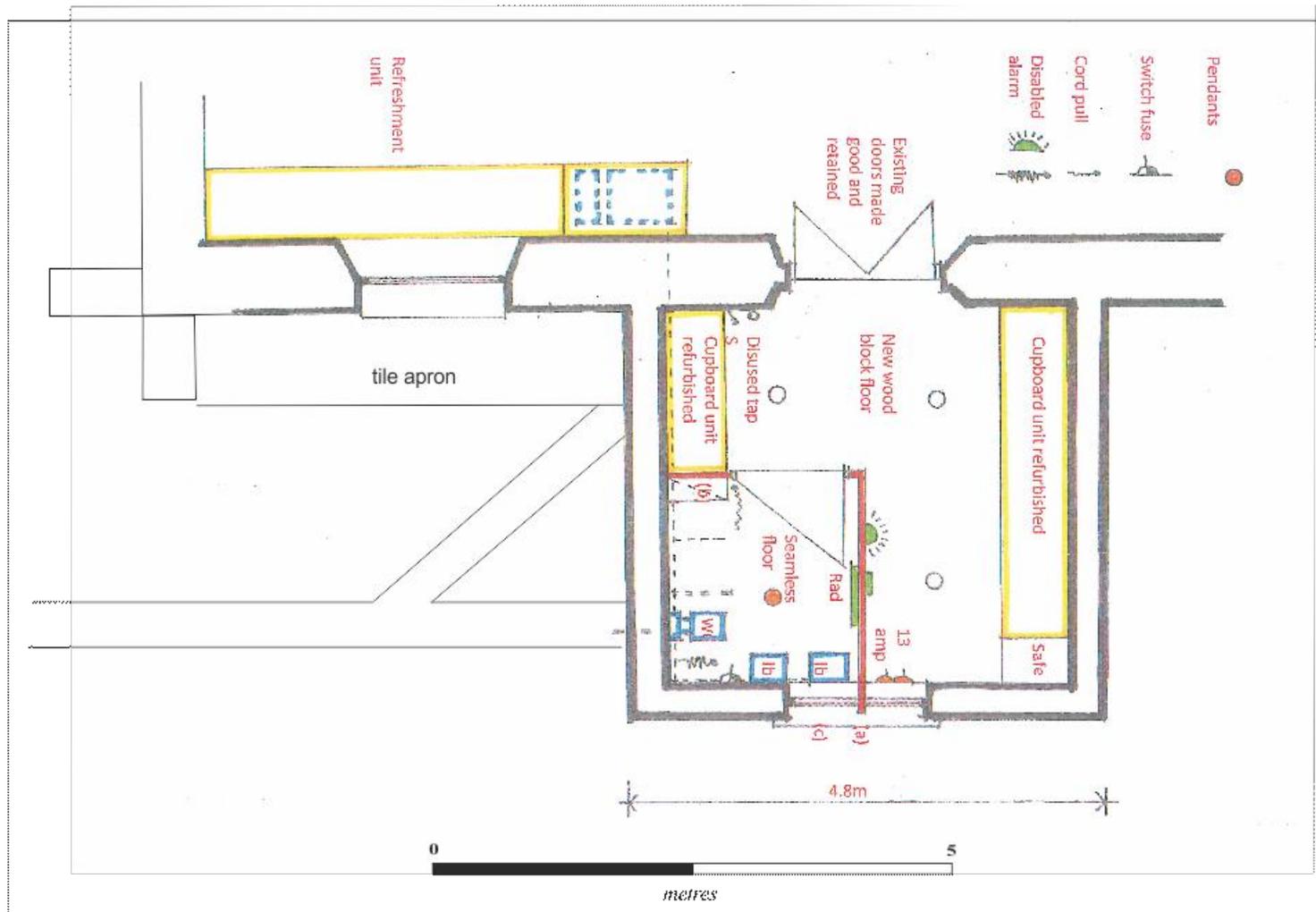
Naomi Field

February 2013

THE FIGURES



Location of Ibstock (C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 OS map; © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. PA Licence No. 100049790).





THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Ibstock St Denys church. View of south elevation looking north-east



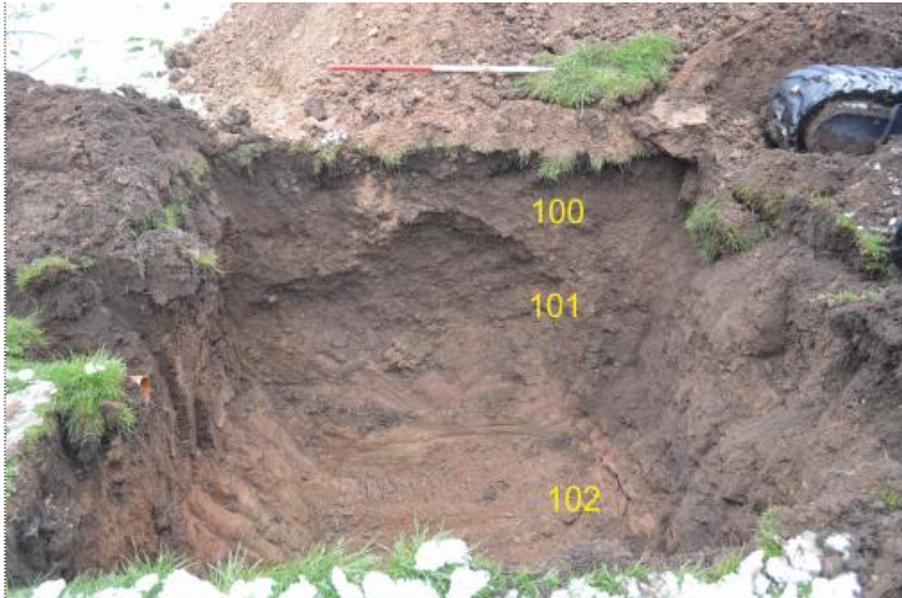
Pl. 2 Pipe trench looking east from the septic tank pit. Scale 1m



Pl. 4 Toilet waste pipe at base of vestry wall, showing brick foundations, looking east. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 3 Pipe trenches next to vestry wall for the kitchen waste (left) and toilet (right) looking east. Scales 0.5m and 1m



Pl. 5 Septic tank pit, showing natural sand and gravels beneath the graveyard soi, looking south. Scale 1m



Pl. 6 Soakaway trench looking east towards septic tank pit.