



prospect archaeology

Client: Strelley PCC

All Saints Church, Strelley, Notts.

Archaeological Observation and Recording

NGR: SK 5065 4209

Site Code STR13

PA report no. LPA-37

June 2014

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All Saints Church, Strelley, Notts Archaeological Observation and Recording

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Summary

A programme of archaeological observation and recording at All Saints Church Strelley was undertaken during the installation of a new septic tank. Three graves were recorded on the edge of the septic tank pit. Three pieces of medieval pottery were found in the subsoil, unassociated with any features.

Introduction

An archaeological programme of observation and recording was requested by Gordon Smith Conservation on behalf of Strelley PCC. The works comprised the installation of a new drainage system leading to a septic tank north-west of the church tower.

Site Location and Description

Strelley is a small hamlet situated between the M1 to the west and the A6002 to the east, on the north western outskirts of Nottingham (Fig. 1). The parish church (Pl. 1) is situated at the southern limits of the village on the east side of the Main Street.

Archaeological Background

Strelley is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when there were three separate manors (estates). A priest is mentioned but not the church, although this just means that it provided no income to the King, not that it didn't exist at that time. The church is built in red Mansfield stone and the three-stage tower has been much repaired. It may originally have been equal-armed in plan with a central crossing, usually indicative of an early date. The transepts and crossing survive but the nave now has aisles to north and south (Fig. 2). An earlier programme of archaeological observation and recording was undertaken inside the church in 2011 in advance of re-location of the font at the front of the nave (Field 2012).

Scope of Work

The programme of work comprised the excavation of a pit for the installation of a new septic tank to the north-west of the church tower. Trenches were also excavated between the north

wall of the tower and the tank pit, and south-west of the tank pit (Fig. 3).

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

Archaeological supervision of all groundworks was undertaken in order to map and record any archaeological remains encountered in the process.

One experienced archaeologist was present on site to observe all groundworks. All finds were retained for specialist examination. Finds located in archaeological features were identified accordingly and a context numbering system for archaeological deposits was used, starting at **100**. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the work, to cover each feature together with general site views.

Results (Fig. 3)

The pit for the septic tank was machine excavated to a depth of 2.6m, and measured c.2.2m SW/NE and c.2.3mNW/SE (Pls 2 and 3). The topsoil (**001**), was a dark brown silty soil, approximately 0.15m deep and overlying a graveyard soil (**002**), comprising a reddish/brown slightly silty clay, with frequent inclusions of sandstone. Fragments of disarticulated human bone were found within (**002**), as well as three sherds of medieval pottery. Two pieces are conjoining rim sherds from a flat-rimmed shelly ware bowl and the third piece is a pale green glazed buff fabric. They were examined by Jane Young, (see Appendix 1). Layer (**002**) was approximately 0.85m deep, and overlay a subsoil (**003**) comprising tabular sandstone in a matrix of compact red/brown clay. This was c.1.15m deep and overlay the natural bedrock (**004**) which comprised layers of tabulated sandstone. Three inhumations were recorded in the sections of the septic tank pit. Two were within grave cuts [**006**] and [**011**], and the third was visible only as a piece of skull (**SK 008**) within the graveyard soil (**002**).

Grave cut [**006**] was identified in the south-west facing section of the septic tank pit, and was cut into natural subsoil (**003**), at a depth of 1.45m from the ground surface (Pl. 4). It had vertical sides and a U-shaped base, and appeared to be aligned east/west, measuring c.0.7m wide. The

only skeletal remains visible was the skull (**SK 007**). The grave fill (**005**) was a firm reddish/brown silty clay, very similar to graveyard soil (**002**).

Inhumation (**008**) was visible in the south-west facing section of the septic tank pit, located to the immediate north-west of grave [**006**] (Pl. 4). Only the skull was visible, at a depth of 0.8m from the ground surface and within graveyard soil (**002**). It was not possible to identify a grave cut or a grave fill.

Grave cut [**011**], was identified in the south-east facing section of the septic tank pit, and was cut into the graveyard soil (**002**), at a depth of 0.95m from the ground surface. It had vertical sides and a broad flat base, and was aligned east/west, measuring approximately 1.75m in length. The skull was partially exposed in the section, as were fragments of bone from the right arm and hand (**010**). The skull came away from the section and was bagged for reburial. The grave fill (**009**) was a firm reddish/brown silty clay, very similar to graveyard soil (**002**).

Two trenches, measuring c.0.35m wide were also excavated by machine. The first was a pipe trench, which ran south-east from the septic tank pit for c.7.2m, to reach the north wall of the tower (Pl. 5). The second was for a soak away, which ran south-west from the septic tank pit for c.3.5m and then turned both north-west for a distance of c.3m, and south-east for a distance of c.5m (Pls 6 and 7). These trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m and did not extend beyond the graveyard soil (**002**). No graves were disturbed by the trenches.

Conclusion

Three graves were disturbed during the excavations for the installation of the septic tank. These were partially exposed in the sections of the septic tank pit. There was no dating evidence for the graves. Finds of disarticulated human bone and 13th century medieval pottery within the subsoil testify to the longevity of its use as a graveyard.

Naomi Field and Kathryn Blythe

June 2014

Contents of the Site Archive

Correspondence
Digital site location plans
Context sheets 11 sheets
1 sheet A3 site drawings

Photographs. Digital images 23 images

Reference

Field, N., 2012 *All Saints Church, Strelley, Notts. Archaeological Observation and Recording*. PA report no. LPA-09

APPENDIX 1: POTTERY ARCHIVE

Pottery Archive for All Saints Church, Strelley, Nottinghamshire (STR 13)

Jane Young

Three sherds in a fairly fresh condition were presented for examination. Two sherds come from a large shell-tempered Potterhanworth jar of 13th century date. The other sherd comes from a Light-bodied Nottingham Green-glazed ware jug of 13th century date. These sherds should be retained for future study.

| context | cname | full name | sub fabric | form type | sherds | vessels | weight | part | description | date |
|---------|-------|--|------------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|----------|--------------------------|------|
| 002 | NOTGL | Light Bodied Nottingham Green Glazed ware | cream | jug | 1 | 1 | 3 | BS | pale green glaze | 13th |
| 002 | POTT | Potterhanworth-type Ware | | large jar | 2 | 1 | 76 | rim & BS | sharp angled everted rim | 13th |

19 June 2014

APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY

THE FIGURES

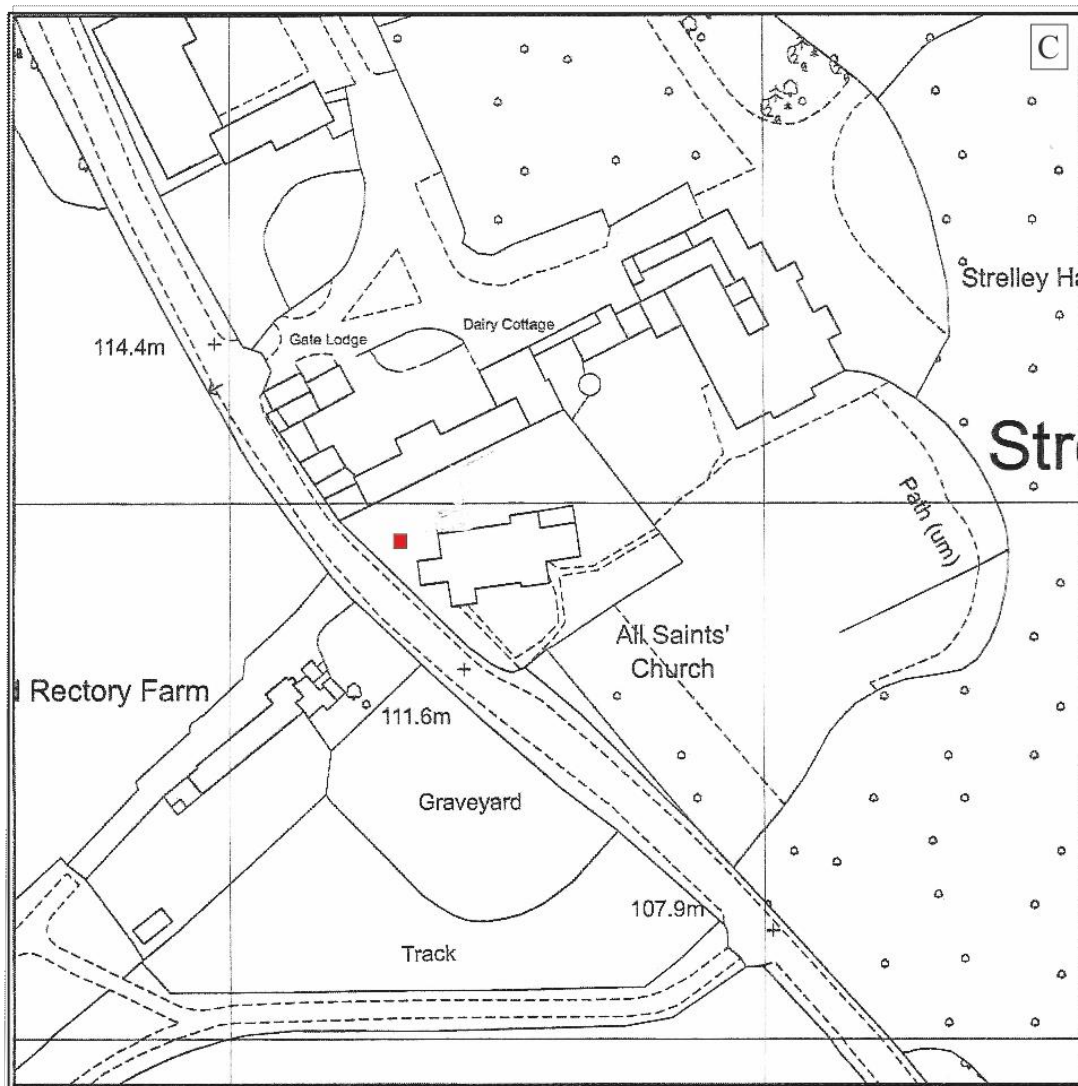
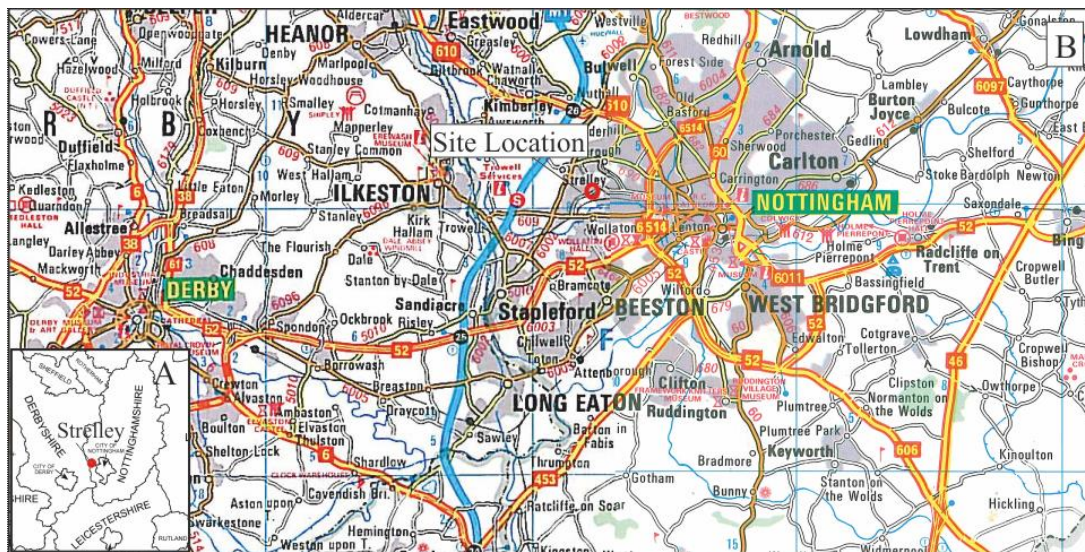


Figure 1 Location of Strelley (C based on the 2008 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map; © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO. PA licence No. 100049790).

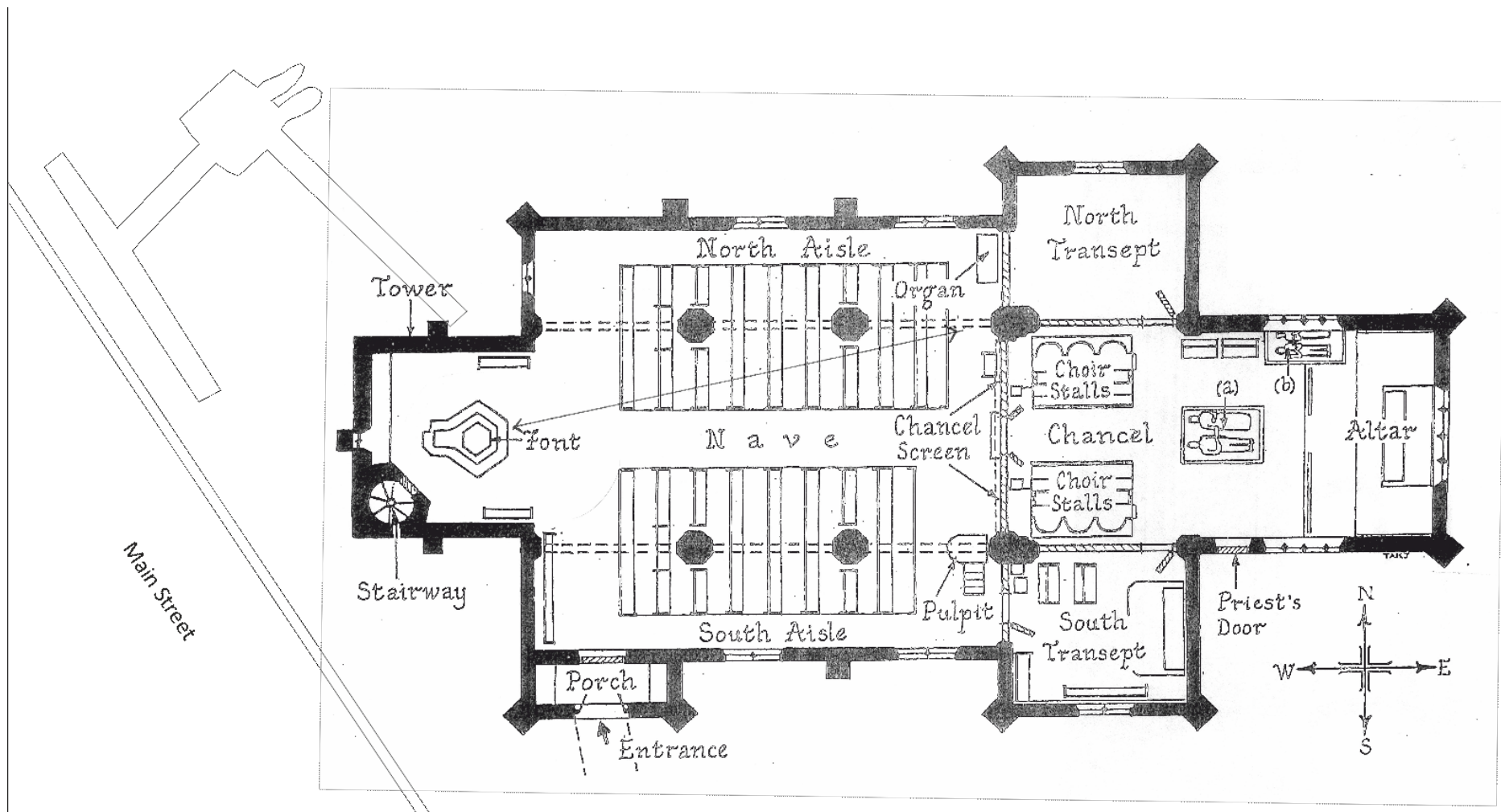


Figure 2 All Saints' Church, Strelley. Location of area investigated.

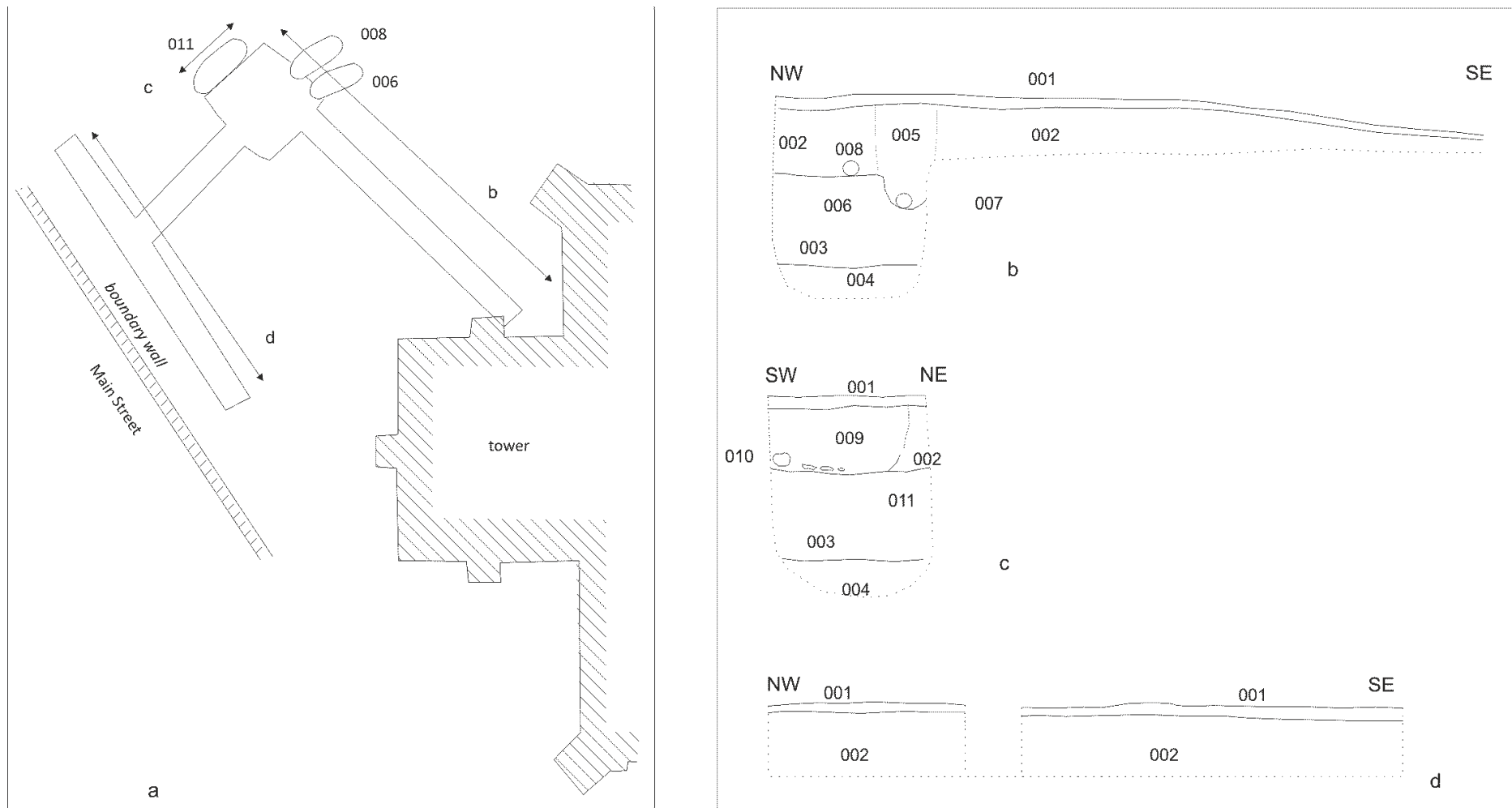


Figure 3 Trench plans and sections.

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 All Saints' Church, Strelley, looking north-east



Pl. 2 Excavation of the septic tank pit and pipe trench to the church tower, looking south-east



Pl. 3 Excavation of septic tank pit, looking north-east



Pl. 4 South-west facing section of septic tank pit, showing burials 007 and 008. Scale 2m



Pl. 5 Pipe trench between tower and septic tank pit, looking north-west. Scales 1m



Pl. 6 Soakaway trench running south-west of the septic tank pit, looking south-east



Plate 7 Section through soakaway trench, looking north-east. Scales 1m