



Church of the Holy Rood Church Lane, Wool, Dorset

Observations and Recording during Construction of New Toilet and Store



Report No. 53376/3/1

December 2012

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Archaeological Observations and Recording during Construction of
New Toilet and Store, September-October 2012

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Client: PCC of Wool and East Stoke

Agent: John Stark and Crickmay Partnership, 13 & 14 Princes Street, Dorchester, DT1 1TW

Report Author: Mike Trevarthen

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Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-139896		
Project Title	New Detached Toilet and Store, Church of the Holy Rood, Church Lane, Wool, Dorset		
Short Description of Project	<p>Terrain Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological observations and recording during groundworks for the construction of a new toilet and store building immediately south of the Church of the Holy Rood, Church Lane, Wool (centred on NGR SY 8463 8644).</p> <p>A single burial, probably uncoffined, and potentially of medieval or early post-medieval date, was discovered in a narrow service trench connecting the new building with the South Aisle of the church. The edge of another undated possible grave was also noted close-by to the southeast. Human remains were entirely absent from the footprint of the new building, indicating that this area has not been used for burial. A boundary ditch exposed at the base of the embanked eastern edge of the churchyard contained finds of primarily 20th century date.</p>		
Project Dates	Start: 26-09-2012	End: 4-10-2012	
Previous/Future Work	No/No		
Project Code	53376		
Monument Type and Period	Grave (Uncertain)		
Significant Finds	Pottery (medieval)		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Dorset/ Purbeck/Wool		
Site Address	Church of the Holy Rood, Church Lane, Wool, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 6HQ		
Site Coordinates	SY 8463 8644		
Site Area	32 m ²		
Height OD			
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator	None		
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Mike Trevarthen		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	PCC of Wool and East Stoke		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	None	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Dorset County Museum.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Dorset County Museum.
Contents	None	Digital photography	context sheets, photographs, plans, report

Church of the Holy Rood, Church Lane, Wool, Dorset

Archaeological Observations and Recording During Construction of New Toilet and Store, September-October 2012

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by John Stark and Crickmay Partnership (JSCP) on behalf of the PCC to undertake a programme of archaeological observations and recording at The Grade II* Listed Church of the Holy Rood, Church Lane, Wool, Dorset (Figure 1), during the conduct of groundworks and service-trenching associated with construction of a new toilet and store building.

'Archaeological observations and recording', also more colloquially known as an archaeological watching brief, is defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) as *"a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive"* (IfA 2008). Its purposes are: *"to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works "* and *"to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard."*

The fieldwork was carried out between the 26th September and the 4th October 2012 by Mike Trevarthen BA (Hons) AlfA, and the project was managed for Terrain Archaeology by Peter S Bellamy (BSc (Hons) MIfA).

Terrain Archaeology wishes to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of Peter James (John Stark & Crickmay Partnership).

1.2 Planning Background

The planning application (Purbeck reference number 6/2010/0555) was registered on 06/09/2010 Full planning permission for the scheme was granted on 1/11/2010.

1.3 Brief

No written brief was issued by, or on behalf of the Diocese of Salisbury or Purbeck District Council.

1.4 Site Location and Topography

The site lies within the eastern part of the churchyard of the Church of the Holy Rood, Church Lane, Wool, to the south of the church, at Ordnance Survey NGR SY 8463 8644 (Figure 1). Ground within the site slopes gently from south to north, and is steeply embanked to the east, atop which is the present boundary fence between the churchyard and the garden of an adjacent property.

1.5 Geology

The bedrock geology is mapped as the Oakdale sand member of the Poole Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Superficial geology is recorded as Quaternary river terrace Deposits 3 – sand and gravel. Within the site itself, these drift deposits comprised pale yellow-brown and grey silty clay.

1.6 Archaeological and Historical Background

The present Church of the Holy Rood, Wool is 13th century in origin, with two arches of the north arcade of the nave surviving. The church was enlarged in the 15th century when the north aisle was rebuilt and extended to the west, and the west tower was added. The chancel was rebuilt and enlarged by John Hicks of Dorchester following a faculty of 1865: the nave and north aisle were extended to the east, and the north chapel, vestry, north porch and south aisle were added or rebuilt (RCHME 1970, 402-3).

The property is Grade II* Listed (National Heritage List entry Number: 1120365).

1.7 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the archaeological works were laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Terrain Archaeology 2012).

The aim of the Archaeological Observations and Recording was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- To observe and record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the groundworks to an appropriate professional standard.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

1.8 Fieldwork

The development comprised the construction of a new single storey store and disabled accessible WC building to the south of the south aisle of the church, together with associated drainage works and new paths. The new building was constructed on strip foundations 600 mm and 450 mm wide and at least 1000 mm deep below existing ground level. The overburden across the whole footprint of the new building was removed down to the top of the natural clay and then the footings were dug from this level.

1.9 Methods

The methodology, scope, aims and objectives of the works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Terrain Archaeology in September 2012 (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3376/0/1).

The work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).

All groundworks were carried out by works contractors, either manually or using a tracked mini-digger with a toothless ditching bucket. The observations of the groundworks was intensive, as defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008), with a suitably qualified archaeologist present during all sensitive ground disturbance.

All features and deposits, regardless of their perceived date and archaeological significance, were recorded using components of Terrain Archaeology's system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records. These have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current guidelines (AAF 2007) and the requirements of the receiving museum. A photographic record of the works was maintained in digital format, and includes aspects of their setting, conduct and technical detail.

All features and deposits, regardless of their perceived date and archaeological significance, were recorded using components of Terrain Archaeology's system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records. These

have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current AAF guidelines (2007), IfA guidelines (2009) and the requirements of the receiving museum.

A photographic record of the watching brief was maintained in digital format. This record includes specific aspects of its technical detail as well as its conduct and wider landscape setting of the project.

1.10 Archive and Dissemination

The project archive, comprising internally cross-referenced written, graphic and photographic records, and appropriate background documentation, is currently stored by Terrain Archaeology under the project code 53376. In light of its low archival or analytical value, all artefacts recovered during the observations and recording have been discarded in accordance with appropriate policies, and following their appropriate quantification and description.

In due course, and subject to the legal agreement of the Diocese to full transfer of title, it is anticipated that the retained archive will be accessioned for long-term curation and storage by the Dorset County Museum, Dorchester.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project (www.oasis.ac.uk) under the reference code *terrains1-139896*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

A brief summary of the fieldwork results will be published by Terrain Archaeology in the next edition of the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*.

2. Results

2.1 Natural Deposits

Natural deposits (107) were observed at about 0.7 m below unembanked ground level, and comprised firm, largely stoneless, pale yellow-brown and grey silty clay, probably of alluvial origin. The thickness of the natural clay was not established, but exceeded 1.0 m where exposed in the soakaway pit.

2.2 Subsoil deposits 103 and 104

Natural deposits were overlain by c. 0.4 m of firm mid yellow-brown silty loam subsoil (103). This thickness increased to about 0.5 m below the embanked boundary. The basal 0.01 m of the subsoil unit (separately recorded as 104) was of lighter yellow-brown silty clay-loam with rare small stones. One flint flake was recovered from layer 103.

2.3 Graves

Parts of two graves were exposed during the fieldwork (Figure 2).

Grave 110

Grave 110 was identified in the narrow service trench, immediately south of the South Door. Most of the grave was removed unrecognised during excavation of the trench, although some human bone was recovered: the partially exposed *in situ* skull (Plate 2) was recognised during hand-digging beneath a modern service cable, and lay at an estimated 0.4m below ground level. An east-west aligned supine adult inhumation is indicated, although body posture and sex could not be determined. There was no clearly defined cut associated with the grave, or clear differentiation of grave fill, nor were there any coffin fittings. Taken together, these factors suggest the burial may have been shrouded, rather than coffined.

Grave 113

Part of the cut and grey-brown fill of another possible grave (113) were seen in the south face of the service trench, just to the south east of grave 110 (Plate 3). This feature was exposed to a maximum observed depth of 0.7m below ground level. No human bone was present, and the feature may represent the edge of a grave. It appears to be sealed beneath makeup deposits associated with the path from the south door, suggesting it pre-dates the mid 19th century construction of the South Aisle.

2.4 Other Features

Ditch 101

A linear ditch (101), possibly marking an earlier iteration of the churchyard boundary, was aligned NNE-SSW, parallel to the current property boundary (Figure 2). This was partly sealed dumped recent soils on the embankment but was over two metres wide in its upper profile, and about 0.85 m deep. It displayed irregular, gently sloping sides and a broad, flattish base. The upper fills of the ditch (102) were of loose, dark grey-brown, commonly humic loamy silt, and contained frequent bottles, jars, and other debris from the late 19th century to the mid 20th century in date. A representative sample of these finds was retained to confirm their date, but this material has not otherwise been quantified, and has been discarded.

A 4 inch (0.12 m) red earthenware drain had been inserted along the ditch, probably also in the early-mid 20th century; its cut backfilled with redeposited yellow clay, and draining into to what may (inconclusively) have been a small rubble-filled soakaway pit.

The approximately 0.75 m wide segment excavated across the lowest 0.1m of the ditch fill (separately recorded as 115) produced four fragments of animal bone, a fragment of roofing slate, a small flint flake and a single abraded (possibly residual) sherd of 17th-18th century glazed earthenware.

Pit 108

Within the limited exposure afforded by excavation of a new soakaway pit, a single irregular small pit was identified, measuring about 0.8 m by 0.6 m (at the level of natural clay) and up to c. 0.9 m deep. Two large undressed limestone pieces (not retained) and a fragment of tiled 19th-20th century church floor were recovered, the latter indicating a relatively modern date.

2.5 Topsoil and overburden

Topsoil across most of the site was about 0.3 m deep, although its depth became irregular on the embanked part of the excavation. It generally comprised loose, dark grey-brown humic silty clay-loam, with occasional small stones.

3. Finds

3.1 Finds Assemblage

A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the observations and recording programme (see Table 1). None of these are of archival value, and all have been discarded in accordance with relevant discard policies.

Context	Pottery	Stone Building Material	Ceramic Building Material	Flaked Stone	Glass	Animal Bone
102	*				*	
103	1/36g			1/20g		
109			*			
115	1/18g	1/30g		1/5g		4/37g
Total	2/54g	1/20g	*	2/25g	*	4/37g

Table 1: Quantification of finds by context (* = present but not quantified)

3.2 Pottery

The small amounts of 20th (and possibly 19th century) glazed industrial wares from the site are not discussed here. A single sherd of regionally produced earthenware (ditch fill 115) is probably an East Dorset/Verwood product. It has dull green internal glaze over pale grey fabric, oxidised to pale orange-pink externally, and is probably 18th century, although it could be as early as 17th century. A plain everted rimsherd (subsoil 103) made in well-fired unglazed sandy fabric with dark grey/buff surfaces is probably medieval, and may be part of a cooking pot/jar.

Three complete stoneware vessels were recovered from the fill of ditch 101 (102): one large jar, one Wm P Hartley's marmalade jar and an blacking bottle, all of late 19th or early 20th century date.

3.3 Stone Building Material

A single piece of silver-grey roof slate (30 g) came from ditch fill 115. The slate is 8 mm thick, and part of a narrow (4-5mm) nail hole survives.

3.4 Ceramic Building Material

A single piece of probable church floor were found in Pit 108. This comprised highly fired (industrial) red and black tiles set in a concrete base. The material is unlikely to pre-date the 19th century, and could be 20th century in date.

3.5 Flaked Stone

Two small unpatinated flint flakes came from subsoil layer 103 and ditch fill 115. A prehistoric date (perhaps Neolithic or Bronze Age) seems likely, and would not be unexpected for the area, although more recent architectural flint-dressing cannot be ruled out as a source.

3.6 Glass

Fifteen glass bottles and jars were recovered as a grab sample from context 102, the fill of ditch 101. These included two meat paste jars, a Virol malt extract jar (mid 20th century?), an ink bottle embossed 'Field's Ink & Gum Rd No 60694' (c. 1920s); a Daddie's Sauce bottle (c. 1930s-40s); an Eiffel Tower lemonade crystals bottle (c. 1930s or later); and a W & A Gilbey Ltd wine bottle.

3.7 Animal Bone

Four pieces of animal bone from ditch fill 115 may all be from the same partial cattle bone – possibly the proximal part of a scapula.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

Human remains were entirely absent from the main area of excavation, suggesting that this part of the churchyard has never been used for burial. No evidence was found to indicate prior truncation of the site, which might have removed earlier graves in the area. Ditch 101 was relatively shallowly cut (about 0.85m below ground level), and is unlikely to have significantly impacted any graves should they have been present. Equally significantly, no disturbed human bone was found.

Part of a single adult inhumation was identified in the service trench somewhat to the north, immediately south of the south aisle, but was much disturbed by the excavation of the trench, and could not be recorded in detail. It appears (circumstantially) to have been uncoffined, suggesting a medieval or early post-medieval date. A second possible grave was identified close-by to the southeast, but also remains undated. Its dark backfill was directly sealed by makeup deposits relating to the present path leading south from the south door, suggesting it pre-dates construction of the south aisle in the 1860s. No skeletal remains were exposed in this feature.

With the exception of two pieces of flaked flint, a single sherd of residual medieval pottery and an abraded sherd of glazed earthenware, production of which might be as early as the 17th century, all of the datable finds seen during the observations and recording programme are probably 20th century in date.

4.2 Conclusions

The construction of the new toilet and store was in an area at the edge of the churchyard that has not been previously used for burial, but did impinge on a former ditch and bank boundary to the graveyard. No traces of earlier graves were observed within the footprint of the new building. Two graves of probable medieval or early post-medieval date were observed closer to the south aisle of the church, partially disturbed by the new service trenches.

5. References

- | | | |
|--|------|--|
| AAF, | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.</i> Archaeological Archives Forum. |
| IfA | 2008 | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> (Revised Edition). Institute for Archaeologists. |
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| [RCHME] Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) | 1970 | <i>An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset, Volume 3: Central Dorset,</i> (London; HMSO) |
| Terrain Archaeology | 2012 | The Church of the Holy Rood, Wool, Dorset: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observations and recording. Terrain Archaeology Document No. 3376/0/1, September 2012. |

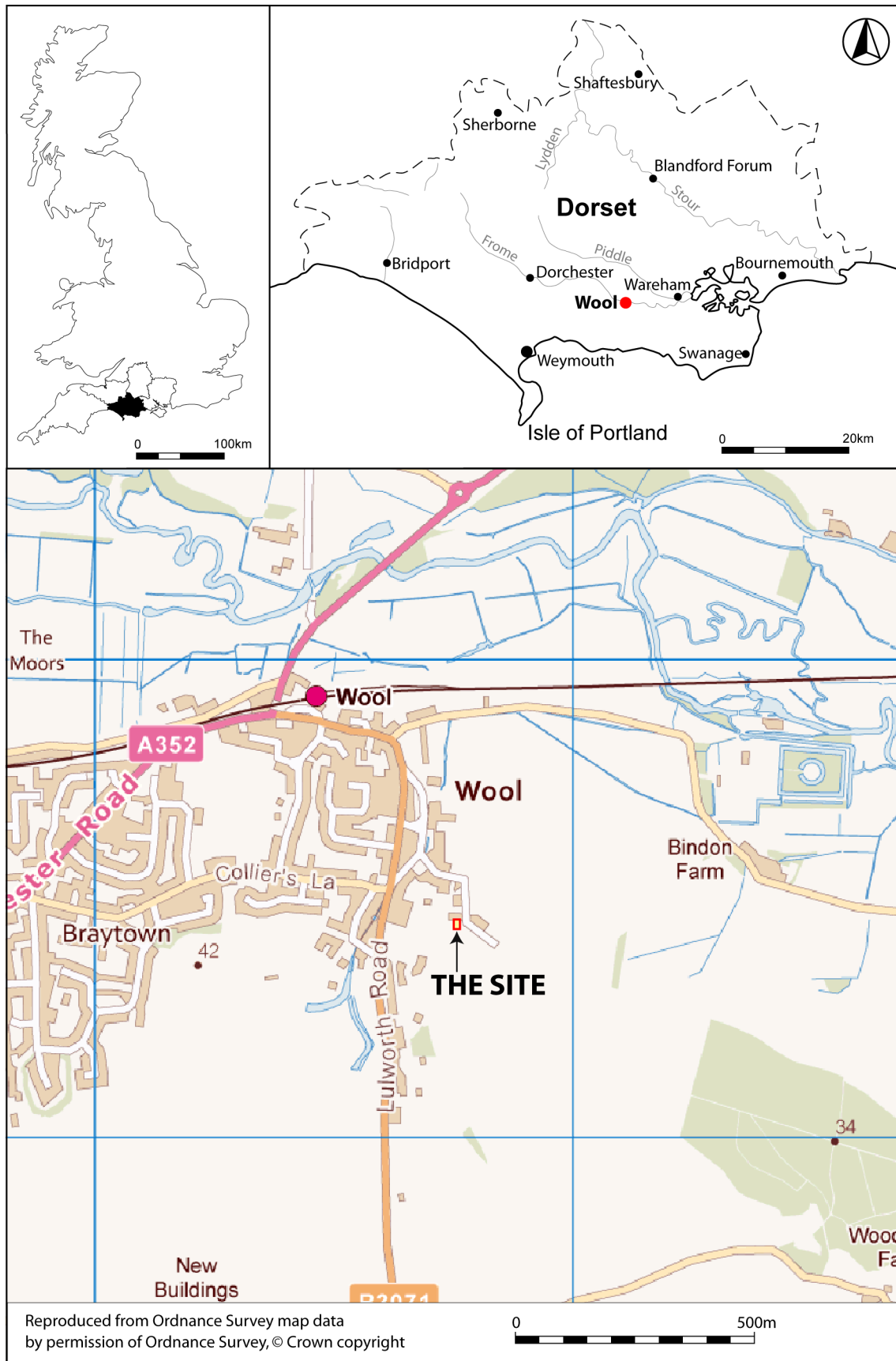


Figure 1: Location map

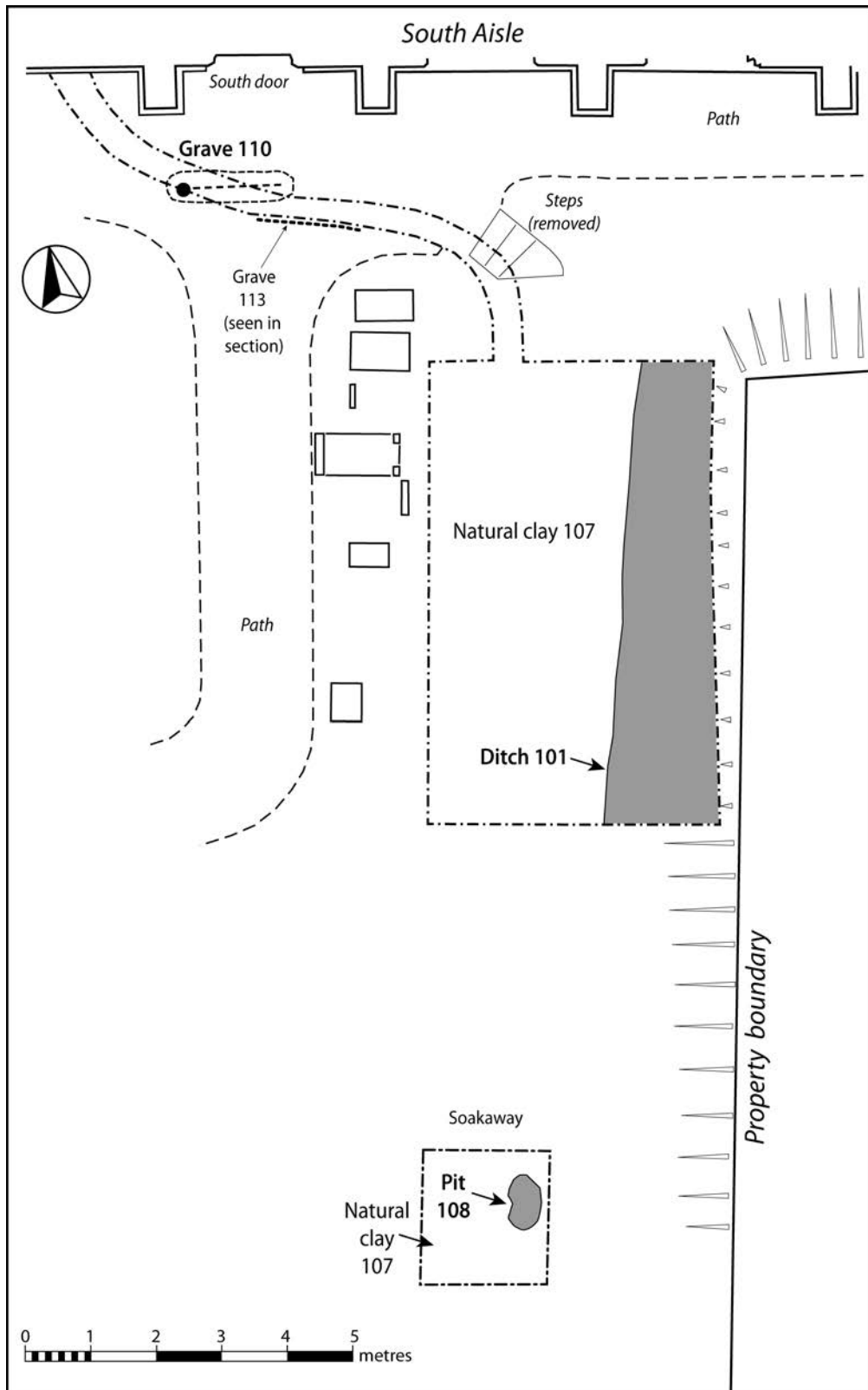


Figure 2: Plan of Archaeological Observations



Plate 1: Excavation of footprint of new building showing ditch 101, viewed from south.



Plate 2: Exposed skull of skeleton 111 (grave 110), from the east.



Plate 3: Possible grave 113, viewed from the north. 50cm scale.