



# All Saints Church, Tarrant Keyneston, Dorset

Archaeological Observations and Recording,  
January 2017



Report No. 53461/3/1

March 2017



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**Client:** The Parochial Church Council, All Saints Church, Tarrant Keyneston, Blandford Forum

**Agent:** Howard Shreeve & Turnbull, 32 Queens Road, Blandford Forum, DT11 7PT

**Report Author:** Mike Trevarthen BA (Hons.), ACIfA.

**Illustrations:** Mike Trevarthen BA (Hons.), ACIfA and Peter Bellamy BSc (Hons) MCIfA

## Document Quality Control

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1	Report 53461/3/1 Draft	M Trevarthen		21/02/2017
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3				

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## Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
<b>OASIS Reference</b>	terraina1-276730		
<b>Project Title</b>	All Saints Church, Tarrant Keyneston, Dorset		
<b>Short Description of Project</b>	<p>Terrain Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological observations and recording during the excavation of a new service trench and soakaway pit immediately adjacent to the North Aisle and Vestry of All Saints Church, Tarrant Keyneston, Dorset.</p> <p>No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified during the works, although part of an older buried corbelled brick soakaway was revealed, sealed below a layer of redeposited soil; these may both relate to extensive church rebuilding works carried out in 1852. Information about the local pre-church soil sequence was also gained.</p>		
<b>Project Dates</b>	Start: 16-01-2017	End: 16-01-2017	
<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	No/No		
<b>Project Code</b>	53461		
<b>Monument Type and Period</b>	None		
<b>Significant Finds</b>	None		
Project Location			
<b>County/District/Parish</b>	Dorset/ North Dorset/Tarrant Keyneston		
<b>Site Address</b>	All Saints Church, Tarrant Keyneston, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 9JB		
<b>Site Coordinates</b>	ST 9251 0406		
<b>Site Area</b>	4.5 m <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Height OD</b>	35.7m aOD		
Project Creators			
<b>Organisation</b>	Terrain Archaeology		
<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	None		
<b>Project Design Originator</b>	Terrain Archaeology		
<b>Project Supervisor</b>	Mike Trevarthen		
<b>Project Manager</b>	Peter Bellamy		
<b>Sponsor or Funding Body</b>	Parochial Church Council, All Saints Church, Tarrant Keyneston		
Project Archive			
<b>Archive Type</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
<b>Location/Accession No</b>	No physical archive	No digital archive	No paper archive
<b>Contents</b>			

# All Saints Church, Tarrant Keyneston, Dorset

## Archaeological Observations and Recording, January 2017

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Howard Shreeve & Turnbull, acting on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, All Saints Church, Tarrant Keyneston, to undertake a programme of archaeological observations and recording during external groundworks made necessary by the installation of a new kitchen and WC at the east end of the North Aisle of the church.

All Saints church is Grade II\* listed (National Heritage List Entry Number 1153944) and some eight tombs within its churchyard are Grade II listed. Archaeological monitoring of the present groundworks was not required by the faculty for the works (No. 3262), but was included in a specification issued by Howard Shreeve and Turnbull.

The fieldwork was carried out on the 16th January 2017 by Mike Trevarthen BA (Hons.), ACIfA.

#### 1.2 Brief

No written brief for the scheme of works was prepared by or on behalf of the client. The scope of works was set out in the specification of the works issued by Howard Shreeve and Turnbull. The programme of archaeological works was discussed in advance with Steve Wallis (Archaeological Advisor to the Diocese of Salisbury).

#### 1.3 Site Location

All Saints Church (ST 9251 0406) lies on the northern side of the Tarrant valley, near the southern end of Tarrant Keyneston village, at about 35.7 m above Ordnance Datum (Figure 1).

#### 1.4 Geology

Bedrock geology is mapped as Chalk of the Tarrant Chalk Member, below superficial Head deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

#### 1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Tarrant Keyneston lies in a small river valley cut into the chalk downland. The surrounding downs contain the extensive remains of prehistoric and Roman landscapes, with a number of Bronze Age round barrows and a complex of prehistoric linear ditches and enclosures, the most well-known being Buzbury Rings (RCHME 1972, 102-5).

The current settlement of Tarrant Keyneston probably originated as a small Saxon settlement, developing into a linear village along the river in the medieval period. The former open fields of the village were inclosed in 1814 (RCHME 1972).

The Church of All Saints is located near the south west end of the village and contains some 15th century work, principally the West Tower. The Chancel, Nave, North Vestry, Aisles and Porch were rebuilt in 1852 to designs by T. H. Wyatt. The walls are of coursed rubble and flint with ashlar dressings, and the roofs are tiled (RCHME 1972, 101-2).

#### 1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

There is no previous archaeological fieldwork recorded within the churchyard or the area immediately adjacent.

## 1.7 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Archaeological Observations and Recording was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site, to place the archaeological results within the local, regional and national context, as appropriate, and advance understanding of the archaeology of the site and its surroundings.

Its objectives were:

- To investigate and record all the in situ archaeological deposits and features revealed during the programme of works to an appropriate professional standard.
- To record recovered artefacts and other materials to an appropriate standard.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

## 1.8 Groundworks

The observed works comprised the excavation of a narrow drainage trench about 0.5 m deep running from the North Aisle into a new soakaway pit about 1.9 m square and over two metres deep.

## 1.9 Methods

All archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014) and the Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Terrain Archaeology in January 2017 (Terrain Archaeology 2017).

A narrow service trench (Figure 2) to accommodate new drainage was manually excavated to a maximum depth of c. 0.5 m. The uppermost part of the adjacent soakaway pit was also hand-dug, pending arrival of tracked mini-digger with a toothed bucket, which was used to excavate the soakaway to full depth. Manual cleaning of key elements of the site was undertaken by the attending archaeologist where safe to do so, in order to establish or clarify aspects of the site's soil sequence and structural detail.

All deposits, irrespective of perceived date and significance, were recorded using elements of Terrain Archaeology's suite of *pro-formae* written and graphic record sheets. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the works, recording aspects of their setting, conduct and technical detail. Key images are reproduced in this report.

The site plan was derived from the contractors' scale site plans and captured by taped measurements from mapped features. The site plan has subsequently been tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

## 1.10 Archive and Dissemination

Owing to the small scale of the works, the negative results obtained and the absence of retained finds, no project archive, other than this report, has been curated for this project.

A copy of this report will be lodged with Dorset County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project ([www.oasis.ac.uk](http://www.oasis.ac.uk)) under the reference code *terrains1-276730*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

A brief report of the project will be published by Terrain Archaeology in the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*.



## 2. Results

### 2.1 Natural Deposits

Natural deposits (108) were encountered at a depth of c. 1.9 m below ground level, and comprised off-white, slightly brashy, soliflucted Coombe Rock, probably of late Pleistocene date. Mechanical excavation ceased at the upper exposure of 108.

### 2.2 Soils

#### 2.2.1 Buried Soil 109

Immediately above 108, layer 109 comprised c 0.25 m thickness of mid-dark reddish brown loamy silt with moderate stones and occasional small nodular flint. The basal interface of the unit was 'wavy' and irregular, whilst the upper interface with overlying soil layer 107 was gradual and poorly defined. No finds were recovered. The deposit may represent initial post-glacial soil formation on the Coombe Rock, albeit perhaps subject to natural, and potentially anthropogenic, reworking.

#### 2.2.2 Colluvial Soil 107

Layer 107 comprised some 0.7 m thickness of developed colluvial or colluvially-derived soil, representing accumulation and re-working of hillwash, perhaps as the surrounding landscape was opened-up for agricultural use, and almost certainly predating the construction of the original church. This was a moderately firm mid orange-brown loamy silt with moderate amounts of small stone. No finds were recovered.

#### 2.2.3 Buried Soil 103

Layer 103 comprised some 0.2 m thickness of uncompacted, slightly humic, mid-dark grey-brown loamy silt, containing scarce small stones. The deposit is interpreted as a former topsoil. It was cut by feature 104 and subsequently buried beneath dumped soil layer 102 (see below). No finds were recovered.

### 2.3 Brick Structure 106

Part of a crudely corbelled lime-mortared red brick structure was encountered in the eastern corner of the new soakaway pit. The exposed structure appeared to be circular and is projected as having a maximum diameter of approximately 1.5 m. A possible base was noted at c. 1.7 m below ground level, giving the structure an overall height of about 1 m. The brickwork structure was set within a vertically-sided construction cut (104) which was also probably circular and c1.7 m deep, and below a backfill deposit (105), comprising loose, mixed mid grey-brown loamy silt, chalk flecks, occasional small flint and fragments of white/pale grey lime mortar. Cut 104 post-dated buried topsoil 103, and the feature as a whole was buried beneath dumped soil layer 102.

The excavation trench was expanded slightly to the west to allow the structure to remain intact.

### 2.4 Made Ground and Modern Deposits

Layer 102 comprised c. 0.6 m thickness of redeposited, mixed mid grey-brown loamy silt with common small stones, occasional larger stone and nodular flint, occasional chalk pieces, ceramic roof tile fragments and broken roof slate, East Dorset glazed earthenware and an adult or sub-adult lower sheep mandible. The deposit is interpreted as a relatively recent (probably 19th century) levelling-up dump.

Layer 102 was overlain by a modern church path, comprising some 20-30 mm of fine-grained tarmac (100) over c 40 mm thickness of medium rounded and sub rounded gravel (101).

### 3. Finds

#### 3.1 Finds Assemblage

Finds were restricted to sporadic occurrences of modern (potentially 18th-20th century) material including East Dorset ('Verwood') earthenwares, ceramic building materials, roofing slate and a single lower mandible from an adult or sub-adult sheep; all from upper redeposited soil unit 102. None of this material was retained or quantified.

### 4. Discussion and Conclusions

#### 4.1 Discussion

No burials or other human remains were encountered during the excavation work, and no features or finds of archaeological significance were identified. Of the contexts recorded, layer 109 appears to represent post-glacial woodland soil formation, later integrating increased amounts of hillwash as layer 107. The formation of these units potentially spans the Early Holocene to medieval times. Above this, buried soil layer 103 appears to be a comparatively modern (medieval or post-medieval) humic topsoil predating construction of brick-lined soakaway 104 and levelling-up deposit 102. The latter may both relate to the extensive programme of church rebuilding carried out in 1852 (RCHME 1972 101-2).

#### 4.2 Conclusions

The archaeological potential of the site was unknown prior to commencement of groundwork. Although no archaeologically significant deposits or features were found, precautionary observations and recording of the site have contributed to understanding of local deposit sequences, and have been successful in offsetting the impact of the development on the site's potential heritage value.

### 5. References

- |                     |      |  |
|---------------------|------|--|
| Brown, D.H.         | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.</i> Second Edition, September 2011. Archaeological Archives Forum.   |
| CIfA                | 2014 | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> December 2014. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.  |
| RCHME               | 1972 | <i>An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset. Volume Four, North.</i> London; HMSO.   |
| Terrain Archaeology | 2017 | <i>All Saints Church, Tarrant Keyneston, Dorset: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Work during the Formation of a new Kitchen and WC.</i> Unpublished client report, reference 3461/0/1 January 2017 |

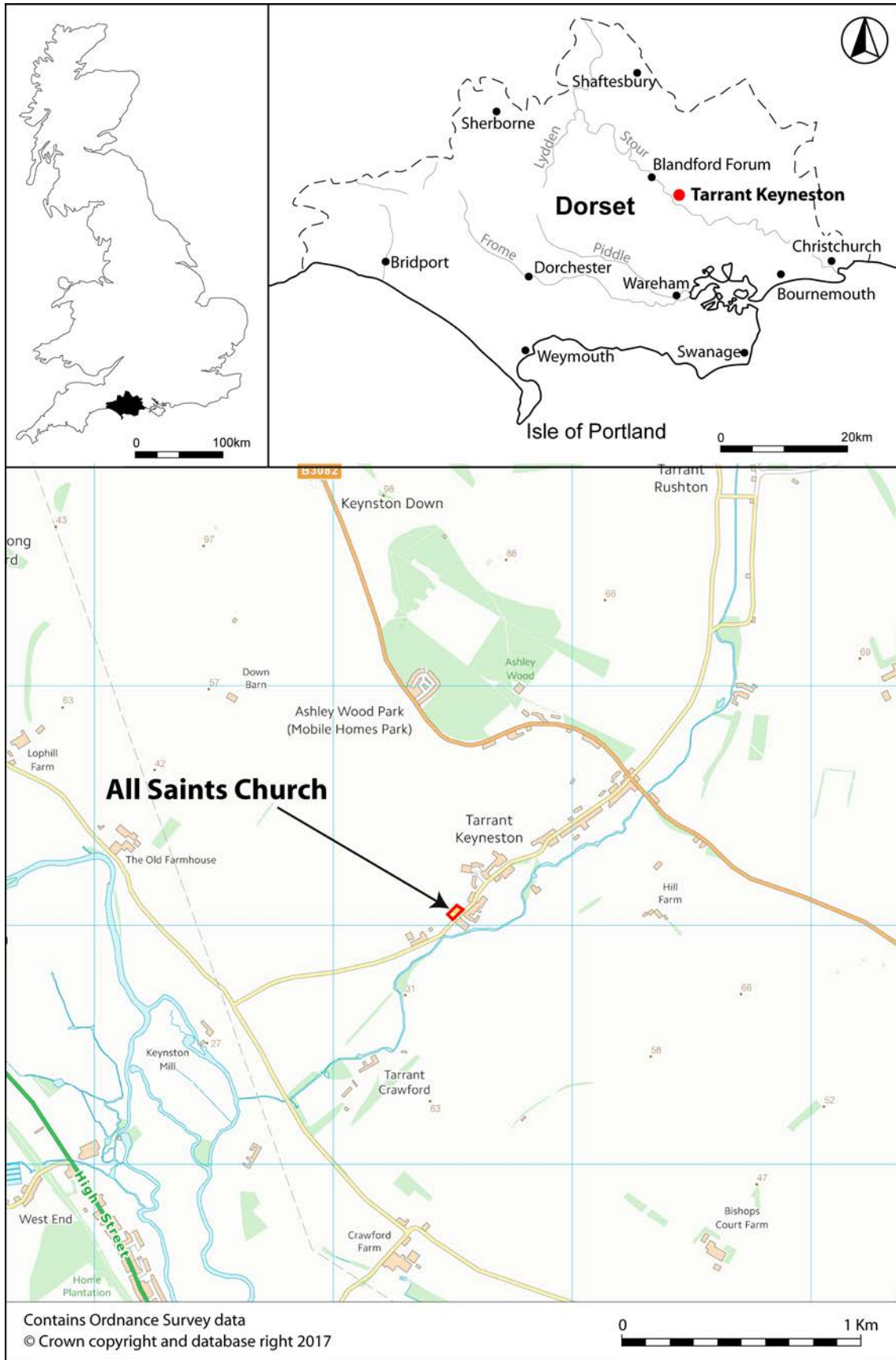


Figure 1: Site Location.

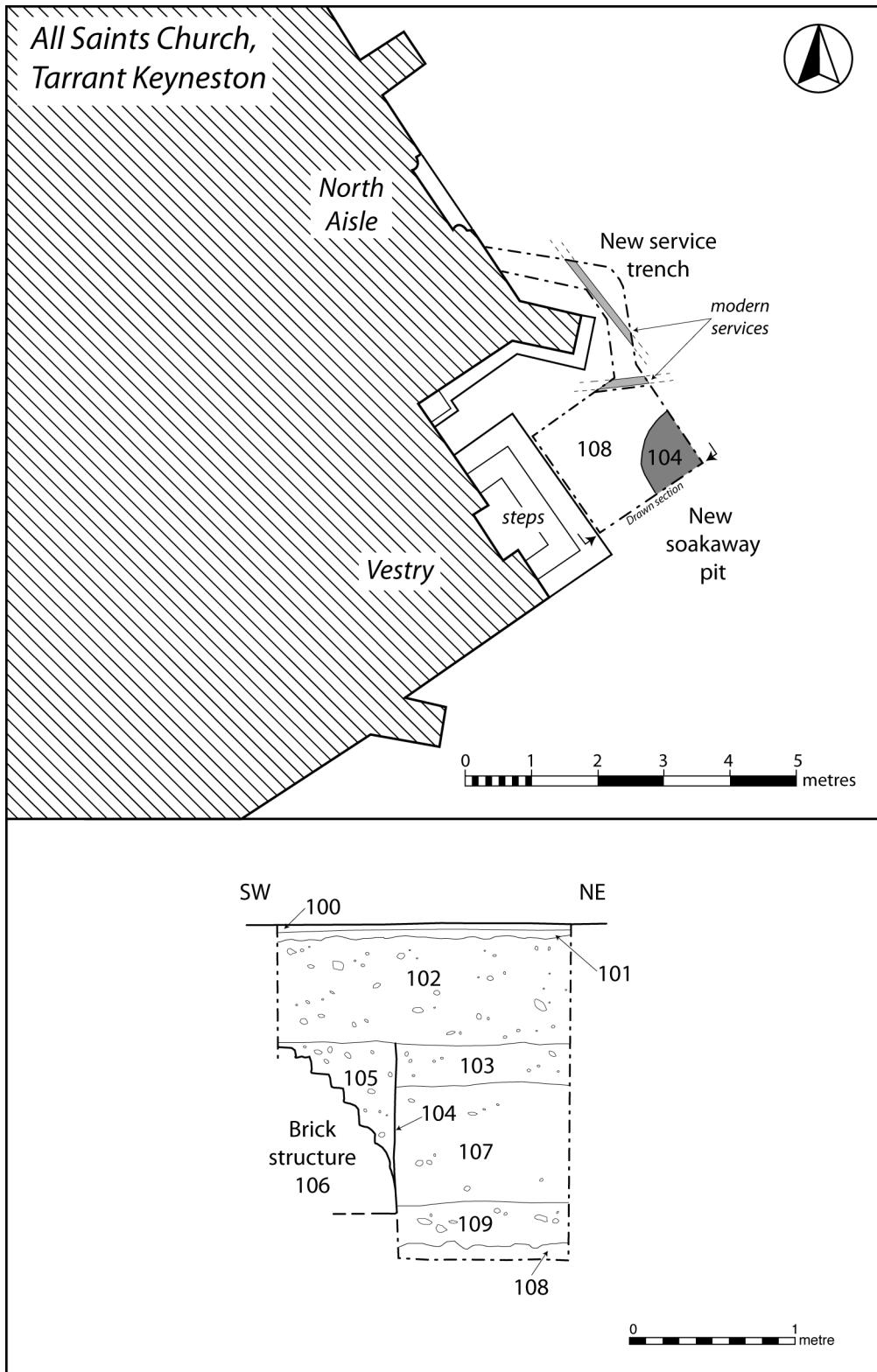


Figure 2: Plan of Observations and Section of new soakaway pit.



*Plate 1: Overview of works showing location of new soakaway pit outside vestry. View from north.*



*Plate 2: Detail of new service trench linking North Aisle to new soakaway. View from east.*



*Plate 3: Exposure of corbelled brick structure 106 in construction cut 104. View from west.*



*Plate 4: Soil sequence exposed in the south west face of the new soakaway pit. View from north east*

## Appendix 1: Context List

Depth measurements are below churchyard ground level

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
100	<b>Modern Tarmac Path:</b> 20-30mm fine tarmac over base 101.	0.00 – 0.03m
101	<b>Path Base:</b> 40mm of medium to fine yellowish-brown sub-rounded flint gravel and sand. Well-defined interface with 102 below.	0.03 – 0.07m
102	<b>Redeposited Soil:</b> Uncompacted mid greyish-brown loamy silt with common small stones, occasional larger stones (up to 70mm), occasional chalk pieces. Contained nineteenth and twentieth century finds including brick and tile, Verwood pottery, slate and animal bone. Overlay soakaway backfill 105. Possibly dating to the time of the church rebuilding in 1852.	0.07 – 0.72m
103	<b>Buried Soil:</b> Uncompacted mid-dark greyish-brown loamy silt containing scarce small stones. No finds.	0.72 – 0.95m
104	<b>Soakaway Pit:</b> Circular or sub-circular cut with vertical sides. Only about 25% of feature exposed in plan and base not exposed. Contains brick structure 106 and fill 105. Possibly dating to the time of the church rebuilding in 1852.	0.70m +
105	<b>Backfill of Soakaway Pit:</b> Loose mixed mid greyish-brown soil, chalk flecks, pale grey/white lime mortar and occasional small flint pieces. Seals brick structure 106 within pit 104.	0.70 – 1.50m
106	<b>Soakaway Structure:</b> Circular brick structure about 1.5m in diameter with crudely corbelled top. Lime mortared red brick. Depth of structure not known but base of brickwork seen at about 1.7m below ground level.	0.70m+
107	<b>Colluvium:</b> Moderately firm mid orange-brown loamy silt with moderate small stones, occasional nodular flint (<150mm). Possibly a developed colluvium or colluvially derived soil, which survives roughly 0.9m thick.	0.95 – 1.65m
108	<b>Coombe Rock:</b> Firm brashy off-white redeposited weathered chalk natural deposit representing top of coombe rock.	1.90m+
109	<b>Buried Soil:</b> Mid to dark reddish-brown loamy silt beneath layer 107. Gradual boundary between 109 and 108. The base of the context is irregular and 'wavy'.	1.65 -1.90m