

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH,  
MORETON CORBET, SHROPSHIRE 2013**

by  
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A report for  
Arrol & Snell Ltd

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**Archaeology Service**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** In April 2013 drainage work was carried out at St Bartholomew's Church, Moreton Corbet, Shropshire (NGR SJ 5611 2324) as part of a programme of repairs to the church.

**1.2** The church has a 12<sup>th</sup> century nave and chancel with a mid-14<sup>th</sup> century south aisle. A tower was added at the west end in about 1539, with a top stage added or rebuilt in 1769. The church was restored in 1883. (Shropshire Historic Environment Record [HER] No. 12286). The church is a Grade II Listed Building (National Ref. 260057), and the churchyard lies immediately adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Moreton Corbet Castle (National Monument No. 27557).

**1.3** The drainage work involved the excavation of two shallow drain runs, one running northeast from the north side of the nave and chancel, the other running east then south from the southeast corner of the nave. A small soak-away pit was to be excavated at the end of each drain run. Because the drain runs ran through the churchyard, it was considered possible that archaeological remains, including human remains, might be encountered within the works area.

**1.4** Because of the potential for archaeological remains it was considered necessary that the groundworks be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief during any ground disturbance. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned to undertake the archaeological work.

**1.5** The aim of the watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains, including human remains, that might be encountered during the groundworks.

## **2 THE WATCHING BRIEF.**

**2.1** A site visit was made before the excavation of the drain runs to agree the best routes for the drain runs and locations for the soak-away pits at the northeast and southeast ends of the church.

**2.2** The drain runs were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m, with the soak-away pits reaching a depth of 1.4m. The excavations revealed a topsoil of 0.25m depth consisting of a very dark greyish brown humic sandy silty loam. This lay over a deposit of dark brown sandy silty loam subsoil at least 1.15m deep.

**2.3** No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered and no finds or fragments of bone were recovered from the excavations.



Photo 1: St Bartholomew's Church, looking NW



Photo 2: The soak-away pit to the SE of the church, looking E

## ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, MORETON CORBET 2013