

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BAKEWELL, DERBYSHIRE

A Report on an archaeological watching brief 2010

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SUMMARY

Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Smith and Roper (Architects) on behalf of Bakewell Parochial Church Council to conduct an archaeological watching brief at All Saints church, during the excavation of a pipe-trench in 2010.

The presence of a church on site is first mentioned by charter in A.D.949. Fragments found during restoration work in the 19th century suggest Bakewell was the centre of a Mercian school of sculpture. The existing church fabric includes the 12th century west facade and south aisle wall, 13th century chancel and north aisle, and 15th century south porch. In the 19th century the nave arcades, spire, octagon tower, and south transept were rebuilt and the vestry added. During this reconstruction a large amount of Anglo-Saxon and Norman worked stone was recovered from the foundations and walls of the church.

During 2001 Trent & Peak Archaeology carried out a watching brief on a pipe trench running from the south transept around the chancel to the east of the north transept and northwards to North Church Street. The pipe trench was 300mm to 500mm wide and up to 900mm deep. Contexts identified (0001-0027) included topsoil 0001, a disturbed subsoil/grave-earth 0002, supplemented by more localised spreads of redeposited material, two unmarked graves/burial shafts (0011/0025) and a number of modern soakaways and drains. Finds included disarticulated human bone and post-medieval artefacts e.g. pottery, nails, coffin studs, shroud pins, clay pipe, lead waste and flashing. Some worked stone fragments from earlier church construction was found apparently re-used as hardcore.

The current groundwork comprised c.74m of pipe trench, c.300mm wide, excavated by hand up to a depth of 450mm. This ran from the south transept around the south, east and north sides of the chancel to the north-east corner of the north transept. To minimise the damage to archaeological deposits present the 2010 pipe was laid largely within the limits of the 2001 pipe trench.

As a result much of the exposed deposits comprised mixed pipe-trench backfill from 2001 e.g. 0034. This was supplemented by the occasional localised layers previously identified in 2001 such as 0016 and 0020 in area 05. Only a small number of localised spreads were identified that were assigned new context numbers, these included 0030, 0031 and 0033. All appear to be redeposited material of late date given their stratigraphic location.

Significant remains included the partially exposed stone slabs 0025 at the east end of the chancel (05), apparently representing kerbing around a recumbent grave-slab/burial shaft. Exposed in 2001 this remained *in-situ* undisturbed by the old trench, although a section of the kerbing 0032 from the adjacent paving at the east end of the chancel was reburied in the trench

The south transept foundation exposed in 07 comprised three courses of ashlar blocks up to 480mm x 320mm in size. Some rough tooling was visible on some stones in contrast to the well dressed chamfered plinth and ashlar courses above. It is likely some of these stones are from earlier fabric reused in the rebuilding of the south transept in the 19th century.

Area 08 excavated inside the church partially exposed a recumbent slate grave-marker (probably 18th-19th century in date) at a depth of 200mm. Unfortunately this was worn with no identifiable inscription but does raise the possibility of further stones surviving below the existing raised floor level.

Artefacts recovered were limited in comparison to 2001 being restricted to three possible coffin nails and one coffin grip (handle), while only a relatively small amount of disarticulated human remains were present.

A significant factor in the lack of more definitive evidence was the limited depth of the groundwork (300mm-450mm) and its route within the limits of the much deeper 2001 pipe-trench. As a result the current programme of groundwork had negligible destructive impact on the archaeological potential of the church and churchyard with any significant deposits largely remaining outside the affected areas.

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BAKEWELL,
DERBYSHIRE**

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Acknowledgements

The project supervisor was L.Platt, assisted in on site by A.Wilson. Project manager was L.Elliott. The report was prepared by L.Platt and P.Webb. Much appreciated help and co-operation was received on site from the contractors and on the project from Ben Roper of Smith & Roper.

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Smith and Roper (Architects), on behalf of the Parochial Church Council to monitor the excavation of a pipe trench through the grounds of All Saints Church, Bakewell during August to September 2010. The pipe was to carry waste water from a new sink unit to be installed inside the South Transept.

1.2 The line of the pipe trench was to re-use one previously excavated in 2001 (Figure 1). This was monitored and reported on by Trent & Peak Archaeology (Elliott, 2001).

2. SITE BACKGROUND.

2.1. All Saints church lies on a steep hillside (SK21566847), overlooking Bakewell town centre and the River Wye to the east, at a height of c.142m O.D. The existing church lies at the west end of a large rectangular graveyard that slopes down sharply to the east. It is largely enclosed by a stone wall bounded in places by a few residential properties, with entrances on all four sides. The underlying geology is Monsal Dale Limestone (OS 1:25000 Geological Sheet.SK26). Documentary evidence for Bakewell first occurs in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in reference to the construction of a burh in A.D.924 (Swanton 2000, 924 A). Evidence possibly more directly associated with the church occurs in a charter of A.D.949 which refers to the existence of a minster or monastery (Hart 1975, 105). While the Domesday Survey c. A.D.1086, records the presence of a church and two priests (Morris 1978, 1,27). In 1192 possession of the collegiate church of Bakewell was given to the dean & chapter of Lichfield (Pevsner 1979, 71).

2.2. The earliest standing structural element within the churchyard is the large Anglo-Saxon cross shaft close to the north wall of the south transept, dated to c.800 A.D or first quarter of the 9th century (Kendrick 1937,164), although Bateman claimed this may have been brought from some other place (Bateman 1848, 189). A second cross shaft to the south of the nave was brought here from Two Dales (Routh 1937, 36-38). Further fragments in the nave and porch found during restoration work suggest Bakewell was the centre of an Anglo-Saxon school of sculpture (Cramp 1977, 219).

2.3. The cruciform ground plan of the church, with its large choir in respect to the nave, has been alluded to as a potentially Anglo-Saxon characteristic encapsulated within the subsequent phases of church building (Taylor 1965, 36). To this may be added the fabric at the west end of the nave arcade which originally contained two narrow windows, potentially Anglo-Saxon in date (Taylor 1965, 37).

2.4. Early surviving fabric includes the 12th century west facade and south aisle wall. Later additions included the construction of the south transept or 'Newark' c.1220-1240, the chancel and widened north aisle in the late 13th century, the octagonal spire, tower, and east aisle of the 'Newark' in the mid 14th century, the clerestory, battlements, and south porch in the 15th century (Knighton 1997, 6-7; Pevsner 1979, 71; Salter 1998, 22).

2.5. In the early 19th century it became evident that the Norman tower piers were insufficient to hold the weight of the successive additions. As a result the spire was taken down in 1825, the octagon tower in 1830, followed in 1841 by the remainder of the tower, both transepts and the Vernon chapel (Plumptre 1847, 46). Along with the south wall of the nave between the Newark and south porch these were reconstructed as, 'a faithful copy of the building taken down with a few judicious alterations' (Plumptre 1847, 46). In 1851 the old nave arches with the exception of the two west end examples were replaced with lighter pointed arches, while in 1897 a vestry was added to the north side of the north transept (Knighton 1997,11-12).

2.6. During the reconstruction work a large amount of worked stone was recovered from the walls of both transepts and the foundations of the tower piers, Vernon Chapel and North Transept, including fragments of Anglo-Saxon sarcophagi, cross shafts, and 12th century cross slabs (Plumptre 1847, 44). Unfortunately, many more were incorporated in the rebuilt walls (Plumptre 1847, 47).

2.7. In 1817 two medieval stone coffins were found during excavations for an abutment near the church wall, one of which contained a lead chalice and paten indicating a priests' burial (Bateman 1848, 187;

Cox 1877, 40). In 1899 the foundations of two west towers projecting from the 12th century west facade were found, although these are thought to have never been completed (Pevsner 1979, 71).

2.8. In 2001 an archaeological watching brief was carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeology on a pipe trench running from the south transept around the east end and north side of the chancel, past the east side of the north transept to North Church Street (Elliott 2001).

2.9. The pipe trench was 300mm to 500mm wide and up to 900mm deep. Twenty-six individual contexts were identified (0001-0027). These comprised a topsoil 0001 and disturbed subsoil or grave-earth 0002, supplemented by more localised spreads of redeposited material, two unmarked graves/burial shafts (0011/0025) and a number of modern soakaways and drains.

2.10. The grave-earth 0002 formed the basal layer of all but one of the recorded trench sections, while at no point was evidence of any underlying natural layers exposed. It contained disarticulated human bone and post-medieval artefacts including pottery, nails, coffin studs, shroud pins, clay pipe, lead waste and flashing. Some stoney layers were found to contain worked stone fragments from earlier church construction apparently re-used as hardcore.

3. METHODOLOGY.

3.1 The current archaeological work was conducted as an intermittent watching brief (to avoid unnecessary duplication of 2001 results), observing the main contractors excavation of the new pipe trench within the limits of the existing 2001 pipe trench. Excavation of the new trench was carried out by hand to avoid damaging the existing pipe within the 2001 trench and included some preliminary de-turfing to detect the presence of the former pipe route.

3.2 On monitoring visits the trench was inspected for archaeological deposits although its narrow width, c.300mm, and depth, c.450mm, limited both hand cleaning and recording of the sections (particularly by photograph).

3.3 The groundwork was numbered in eleven separate stretches and given individual area numbers from 01 to 11, with sample sections (c.1m) recorded for each area by drawing and photograph (and recorded on the site plan). The overall length of trenching inspected was 74m. Areas 09-11 which followed the route of the 2001 trench were not observed beyond the preliminary de-turfing to locate the new trench within the limits of the old.

3.4. Against the south side of the south transept area 07, 800mm x 800mm and 600mm deep, was excavated externally to house a pumping chamber, exposing a section of the transept foundations.

3.5. A further area (08), 800mm x 500mm and 200mm deep, was excavated inside the church to accommodate an outflow pipe into the pumping chamber. The wooden floor was cut through and 200mm of loosely packed rubble (0035) removed exposing the corner of a substantial slate grave slab/marker (left *in-situ*).

3.6. All identified deposits were given individual four digit context numbers e.g. 0001. These were matched with those given during 2001 watching brief. Where they could not be matched with those assigned in 2001 a new context number was given (e.g.0030-0037).

3.7. The spoil was searched for any significant archaeological finds including worked stone.

3.8. Any artefacts recovered from the excavation were given a unique three character finds code, e.g. AAA, AAB, AAC and the find spot marked on the relevant section drawing.

3.9. No articulated human remains were discovered probably due to the shallow nature of the pipe trench and previous disturbance in 2001. Only disarticulated human remains were encountered. These were present in relatively small quantities along most stretches of the pipe-trench. No human remains were removed from the site but were left on site for reburial.

4. RESULTS

4.1. Along most of its length the pipe trench followed the line of the 2001 pipe trench as evident from exposed safety tape and plastic piping. Only two minor variations occurred due to obstructions, both of which are noted on Figure 1.

4.2. Within the confines of the pipe trench sixteen contexts were identified. In order to simplify the stratigraphic sequence the contexts present in each recorded area are summarised below. Where identifiable these are assigned the context number used within the first pipe-trench of 2001.

01 East side of North Transept (Figure 2-3; Plate 1-3)

0001- Topsoil of black humic sandy loam

0030- Brown sandy silt loam with stone fragments, redeposited material.

0031- Yellowish brown sandy clay loam with stone fragments, redeposited material.

02 East side of North Transept (Figure 4; Plate 4-5)

0001- Topsoil of black humic sandy loam

0002 – Grave-earth, comprising dark brown sandy silt loam, with frequent stones and occasional disarticulated bone.

03 North side of Chancel (Figure 5; Plate 6)

0001- Topsoil of black humic sandy loam

0024- Mixed brown sandy clay and yellow brown sand, redeposited material possibly further mixed by 2001 pipe trench.

0023 – Pale brown/yellowish brown sandy clay, redeposited material possibly further mixed by 2001 pipe trench.

04 North side of Chancel (Figure 6-7; Plate 7)

0001- Topsoil of black humic sandy loam

0016- Very mixed brown sandy silt loam and yellow-brown sand, redeposited material further disturbed by the 2001 pipe trench.

0020- Mixed yellow/pale brown sandy clay loam, redeposited material, redeposited material further disturbed by 2001 pipe trench.

05 East side of Chancel (Figure 8-11, 13; Plate 8-10)

0001- Topsoil of black humic sandy loam

0032 - Displaced kerbing stone, disturbed by 2001 pipe trench.

0025 - Stone slabs possibly kerbing around a recumbent grave-slab or burial shaft

0010- Dark brown sandy silt loam with occasional disarticulated bone.

0033- Light greyish silty loam, redeposited spread.

0016- Very mixed brown sandy silt loam and yellow-brown sand, redeposited material further disturbed by the 2001 pipe trench.

0020- Mixed yellow/pale brown sandy clay loam, redeposited material, redeposited material further disturbed by 2001 pipe trench.

06 South side of Chancel (Figure 12; Plate 11-12)

0001- Topsoil of black humic sandy loam

0010- Dark brown sandy silt loam with occasional disarticulated bone.

07 South side of South Transept (Figure 14-15; Plate 13)

0001- Topsoil of black humic sandy loam

0037- South transept south wall foundation.

08 Interior of South Transept (Figure 1; Plate 14)

0035- Loose rubble/hardcore.

0036- Slate Grave-marker, incised linear border, worn surface.

09 South side of Chancel (Figure 1)

0001- Topsoil of black humic sandy loam.

0034- Very mixed from existing pipe-trench back-fill.

10 East side of South Transept (Figure 1)

0001- Topsoil of black humic sandy loam.

0034- Very mixed from existing pipe trench back fill.

11 South side of South Transept (Figure 1)

0001- Topsoil of black humic sandy loam.

0034- Very mixed from existing pipe-trench back-fill.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1. The new pipe trench largely fell within the limits of the existing 2001 pipe trench. As a result much of the exposed deposits comprised mixed pipe-trench backfill from 2001 e.g. 0034. This was supplemented by the occasional localised layers previously identified in 2001 such as 0016 and 0020 in area 05 which had also suffered some disturbance from the 2001 trench.

5.2. Only a small number of further localised spreads were identified that were assigned new context numbers, these included 0030, 0031 and 0033. All appear to be redeposited material of late date given their stratigraphic location.

5.3. It was from the mixed 2001 pipe trench fill and redeposited layers that some disarticulated human remains were recovered. This included some long bones, vertebrae and skull fragments. The quantity was considerably less than that encountered in 2001. This is probably due to the shallow nature of the new trench and its location within the previously excavated limits of the 2001 trench.

5.4. Artefacts recovered were very limited in comparison to 2001 and again is probably due to the new trench following the line of the old trench. Artefacts found comprised three badly corroded nails found in area 02 (possibly coffin nails) and a coffin grip from area 06. No further artefacts were recovered.

5.5. Fragments of stone found during trenching were inspected for any sign of working. Unfortunately, none were identified. This may again be due to the trench lying within the previously excavated limits of 2001.

5.6 Significant remains exposed included the stone slabs 0025 in area 05, apparently representing kerbing around a recumbent grave-slab/burial shaft. Exposed in 2001 this remained *in-situ* undisturbed by the old trench, although a section of the kerbing 0032 from the adjacent paving at the east end of the chancel was reburied in the trench (Figure 13; Plate 9).

5.7. Area 07, excavated to house a pumping chamber exposed a section of the south transept foundation (Figure 14). Similar to 2001 this exposed three courses of ashlar block up to 480mm x 320mm in size. Some rough tooling was visible on some stones in contrast to the well dressed chamfered plinth and ashlar courses above. It is likely some of these stones are from earlier fabric reused in the rebuilding of the south transept in the 19th century.

5.8. Area 08 excavated inside the church partially exposed a recumbent slate grave-marker (probably 18th-19th century in date) at a depth of 200mm. Unfortunately this was worn with no identifiable inscription but does raise the possibility of further stones surviving below the existing raised floor level.

6. CONCLUSION

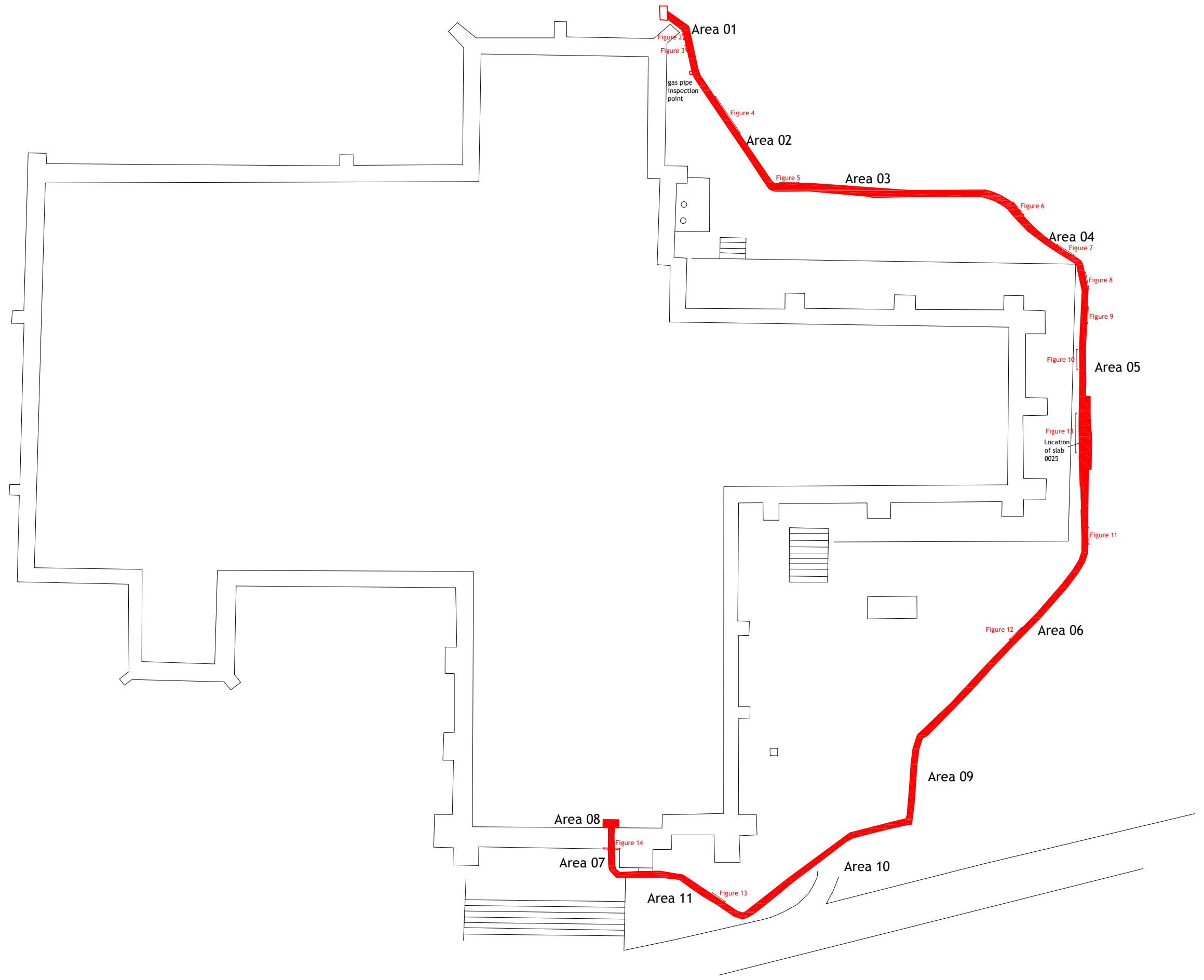
6.1. A significant factor in the lack of more definitive evidence was the limited depth of the groundwork of only 300-450mm and its route within the limits of the much deeper 2001 pipe-trench.

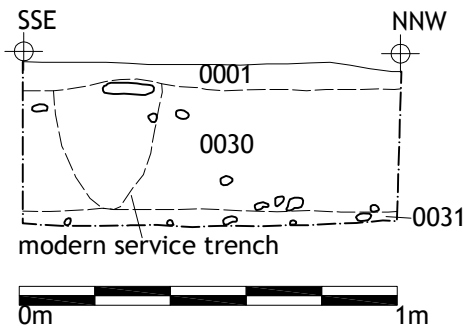
6.2. As a result the current programme of groundwork had limited destructive impact on the archaeological potential of the church and churchyard with any significant deposits largely remaining outside the affected areas.

6.3. It should be noted that outside the limits of the present groundwork, the potential for significant surviving deposits including burials and earlier church fabric remain high both internal and external to the church.

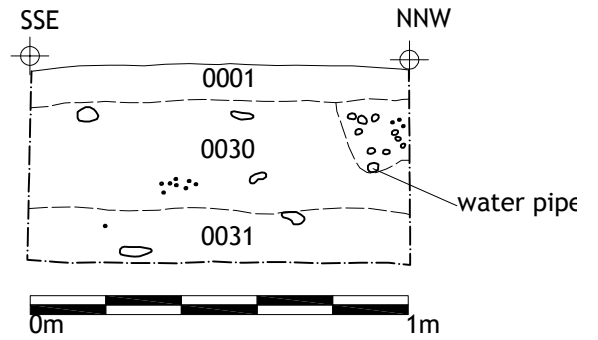
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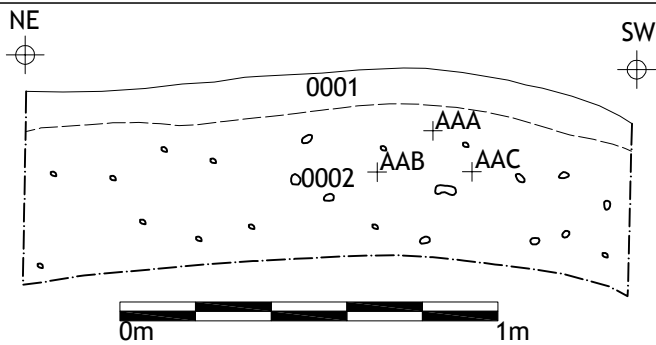




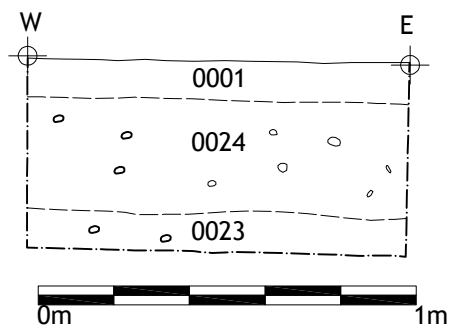
ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell
 Figure 2: North-east facing section Area 01
 Scale at A4 1:20



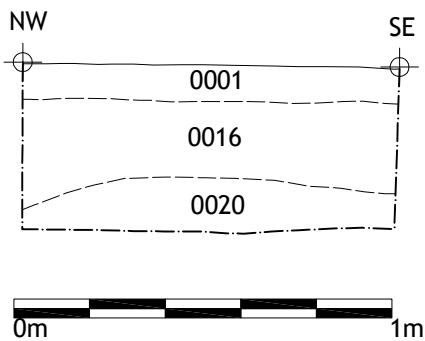
ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell
 Figure 3: North-east facing section Area 01
 Scale at A4 1:20



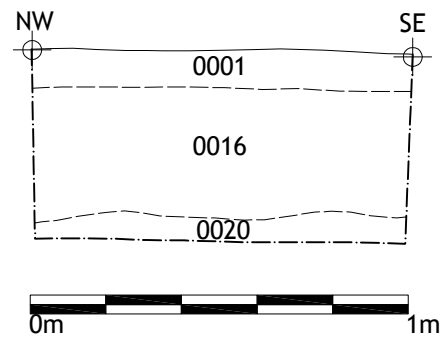
ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell
 Figure 4: North-west facing section Area 02
 Scale at A4 1:20 Finds AAA-AAC = nails



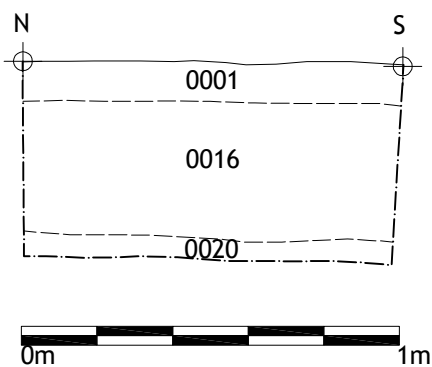
ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell
 Figure 5: South facing section Area 03
 Scale at A4 1:20



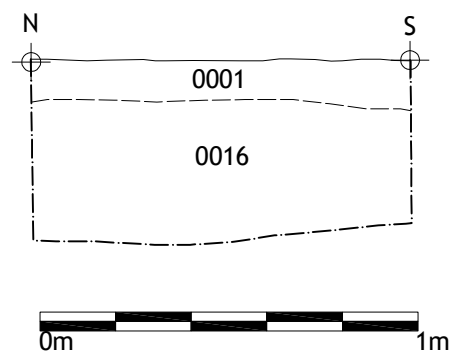
ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell
 Figure 6: South-west facing section Area 04
 Scale at A4 1:20



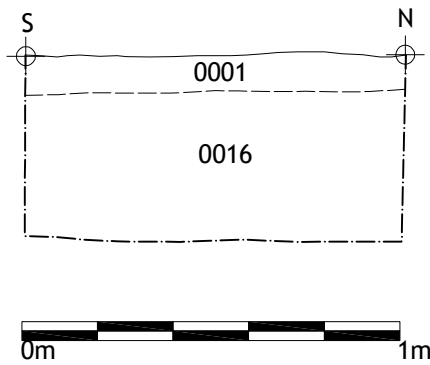
ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell
 Figure 7: South-west facing section Area 04
 Scale at A4 1:20



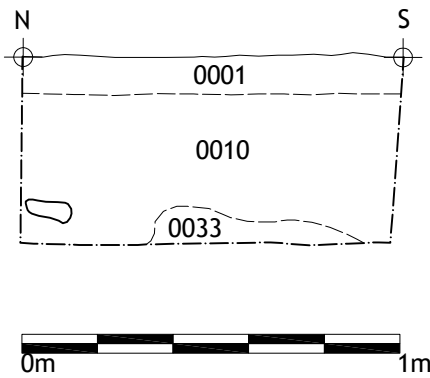
ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell
 Figure 8: West facing section Area 05
 Scale at A4 1:20



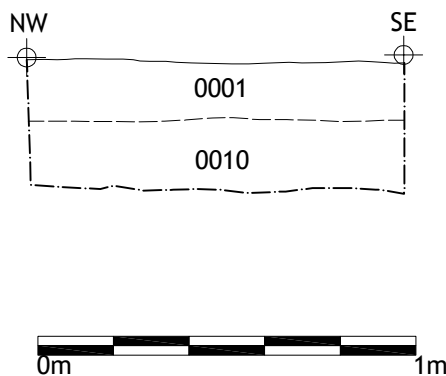
ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell
 Figure 9: West facing section Area 05
 Scale at A4 1:20



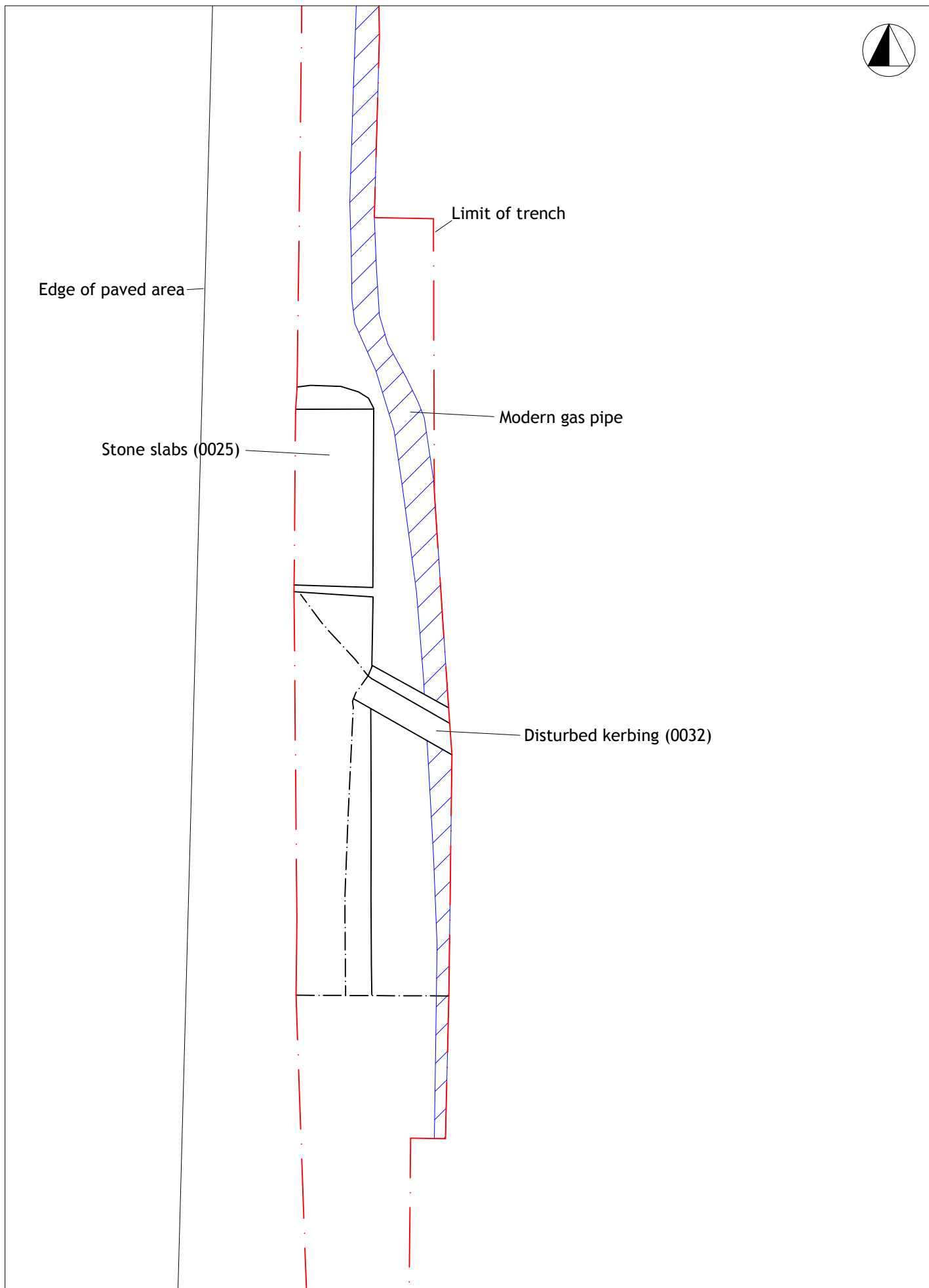
ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell
 Figure 10: East facing section Area 05
 Scale at A4 1:20

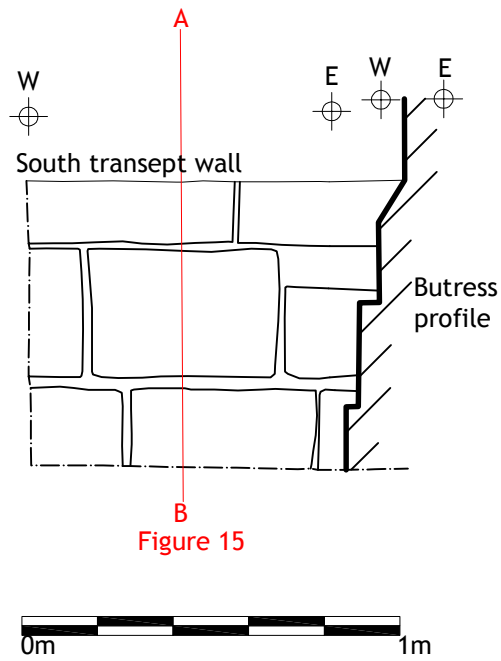


ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell
 Figure 11: East facing section Area 05
 Scale at A4 1:20



ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell
 Figure 12: South-west facing section Area 06
 Scale at A4 1:20





ABC All Saints Church, Bakewell

Figure 14: East facing section Area 07. South transept wall foundation
Scale at A4 1:20

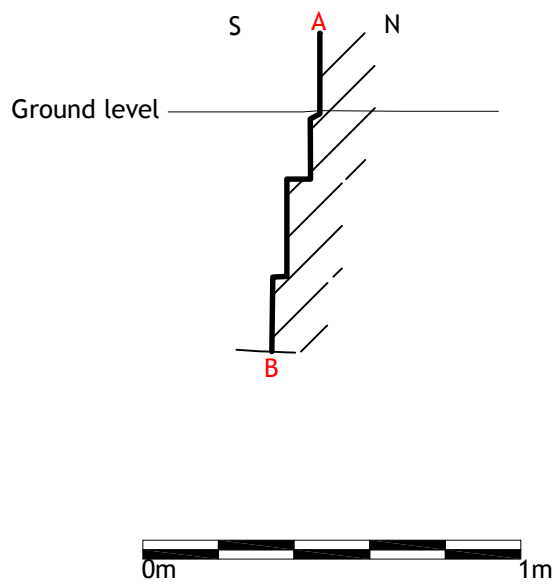




Plate 1: Paving slabs being removed prior to trenching in area 01. Looking north-west.



Plate 2: East facing section of area 01. Looking west.



Plate 3: View of area 01 fully excavated. Looking north-west.



Plate 4: South-west facing section of area 02 with modern material in the section. Looking north-east.



Plate 5: Area 02 fully excavated. Looking south-east.



Plate 6: South facing section of area 03. Looking north. The yellow strip in the base marks the 2001 pipe trench below.



Plate 7: West facing section of area 04. Looking east.



Plate 8: Area 05 during excavation. Looking south.



Plate 9: Area 05 showing 0025 stone slabs, with existing pipe in the trench to the left. Disturbed kerbing 0032 is present with in centre. Looking south.



Plate 10: Area 05 showing stone slab 0025 with existing pipe to side. Looking west.



Plate 11: South-east facing section of area 06. Looking north-east



Plate 12: Area 06 fully excavated. Looking north-east.



Plate 13: Area 07 showing exposed south transept foundations. Looking north.



Plate 14: Area 08 showing exposed slate grave-marker 0036.