

# Test Pit Evaluation at St. Helen's Church, Stapleford, Nottingham



**For Peart Bradley Architects**

Prepared by C. Collins and K. Smart

Report Number: 070/2017

TPA Project Code: SHS

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## Summary

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- This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at the Church of St. Helen, Stapleford, Nottingham (National Grid Reference SK 48856 37363). The work was carried out in April 2017 by Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) on behalf of Peart Bradley Architects prior to the construction of an extension to the church, in line with the Notification of Advice from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).
- St. Helen's Church is a Grade II listed building dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The building occupies a significant place within the historic village core of Stapleford and is the focus of the Church Street Conservation Area. The headstones from the churchyard have been repositioned around the churchyard boundary, meaning that the locations of any burials are no longer known.
- No previous archaeological work has been undertaken in St. Helen's Church or its churchyard.
- The work consisted of a series of five test pits located over various points on the footprint of the proposed construction of a new Community Room building, with a connecting corridor leading to the north-western corner of the church's north aisle.
- Test Pits 01, 02, 04 and 05 contained no archaeological remains, although the sequence of made ground layers below the topsoil indicated a significant amount of landscaping had occurred during the 20th century (probably at the same time that the headstones were repositioned), raising the ground level by around 0.75m. The original ground level, now buried, was identified in Test Pits 04 and 05 at this depth.
- Test Pit 03 was excavated to approximately 0.54m, at which depth two grave markers, probably in situ, were uncovered. These appeared to be a fallen headstone, possibly covered by turf or vegetation when the landscaping activities occurred, and a possible chest tomb or pedestal for a larger monument. No inscriptions were visible.



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## Acknowledgments

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The project was managed by Ed Taylor and the fieldwork was undertaken by Camilla Collins and Marius Ilie. Peart Bradley Architects are thanked for commissioning the work. The project was monitored the Diocesan Advisory Committee of Southwell and Nottingham Archaeological Advisor.

## 1 Introduction

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- 1.1 This report presents the results of a test pit evaluation at St. Helen's Church, Stapleford, Nottingham (National Grid Reference SK 48856 37363) (Figs 1 and 2). The work was carried out in April 2017 by Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) on behalf of Peart Bradley Architects prior to the construction of an extension to the church, in line with the Notification of Advice from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).
- 1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted by TPA (2017) and approved by the DAC of Southwell and Nottingham (Appendix 1). The WSI stated that the watching brief be carried out in accordance with appropriate professional standards, as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).
- 1.3 The overall study employed the methodology developed by TPA for use on similar projects in the region. This methodology conforms to the standard requirements of planning authorities where consent applications are made for development. These follow guidelines presented in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) which replaces conservation planning document *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2010).
- 1.4 The TPA site code is SHS.

## 2 Topography and Geology

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- 2.1 St. Helen's Church sits at an elevation of approximately 47.6m AoD. The site is bounded by Church Lane to the north, Church Street to the east, Isaac's Lane to the south and Frederick Road to the west.
- 2.2 The 1:50,000 British Geological Mapping shows that the site is situated on a sedimentary bedrock of Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation. No superficial deposits have been recorded (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).

## 3 Historical and Archaeological Background

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- 3.1 Stapleford lies six miles to the west of Nottingham on the border of both Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and at a river crossing of the Erewash valley. The town is mentioned in the Domesday book and likely has pre-Norman origins as both a church and priest are recorded by the 1086 survey. Prior to the introduction of the textile industry during the 18<sup>th</sup> century the majority of local industry would have focused around agricultural production. The weaving and textile industry within Stapleford was both industrial and domestic in nature. The area surrounding Nottingham Road retains a number of houses specially constructed for domestic stocking-frame knitting (Pevsner 1979, 337).
- 3.2 St. Helen's Church is a Grade II listed building (LB 1248029) dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The building occupies a significant place within the historic village core of Stapleford and is the focus of the Church Street Conservation Area ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)).
- 3.3 No previous archaeological work has been undertaken in St. Helen's Church or its churchyard.

## 4 Aims and Objectives

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- 4.1 The objectives of the fieldwork were in accordance with the WSI produced by TPA on behalf of Peart Bradley Architects and agreed by the DAC Archaeological Advisor (Appendix 1).
- 4.2 The primary objective of the archaeological work was to establish the depth of any below-ground remains in order to inform an appropriate project design, should further archaeological intervention be required.
- 4.3 The excavations also had the objective of assessing the date, nature and state of preservation of any archaeological remains encountered
- 4.4 Within the limitation of the proposed scheme the evaluation aimed to resolve, where possible, a number of significant questions relating to the use of the church site over time. These included:
  - Determining the existence of any activity pre-dating the known medieval origins for the site.
  - Identifying the presence of archaeological deposits relating to any earlier church structural remains.
  - Determining the presence of any below-ground burial monuments.
- 4.5 All excavation and recording was carried out in line with ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014) and standard archaeological practice.

## 5 Methodology

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- 5.1 Three test pits, each measuring 1m by 0.6m and no more than 1m deep were excavated in the locations indicated in Fig. 2. The test pits were hand-dug by a team of suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists selected from TPA's supervisory staff in accordance with accepted archaeological practice and the 'Standard and Guidance' produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2014).
- 5.2 All exposed surfaces were inspected by a suitably qualified archaeologist and any archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and recorded where appropriate. All contexts were given an individual context number. Plans of all contexts including features were drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20/1:50, and showed context numbers, all colour and textural changes and principal slopes represented as hachures. Sections were recorded at 1:20 and showed context numbers and all colour and textural changes. All levels were shown AOD. Black & White photographs of each context were taken, together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations: these were supplemented by digital colour images for inclusion within the report. B/W images were taken on 35mm print film, using an SLR camera; digital colour images were DSLR at 7 megapixel (minimum) resolution. Written records were maintained as laid down in TPA recording manual.
- 5.3 A full methodology can be found in the WSI (Appendix 1).

## 6 Results

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### 6.1 Test Pit 01 (Fig. 2)

- 6.1.1 Test Pit 01 was situated approximately 0.5m north of the north-western corner of the north aisle of the church, on a north-south alignment. The test pit targeted the proposed western wall of the link corridor between the church and the Community Room building.
- 6.1.2 The most recent layer within the test pit was (1000), a deposit of dark blackish-grey silt topsoil between 0.1 and 0.15m deep, containing occasional inclusions of angular stones less than 0.03m in size.
- 6.1.3 Topsoil (1000) was directly overlying (1001), a deposit consisting of redeposited compact red clay 0.2m deep, containing frequent inclusions of angular stones less than 20mm in size.
- 6.1.4 (1001) directly overlaid (1002), a dark blackish-grey sandy silt 0.1-0.15m deep with moderate inclusions of sub-angular stones 0.05m in size.
- 6.1.5 Directly below (1002) was (1004), a deposit of loose, medium brown sandy material between 0.1 and 0.2m deep. The deposit contained frequent inclusions of sub-angular stones less than 0.01m in size.
- 6.1.6 At the base of the trench, and extending below it, was (1003), a deposit of loose, dark brown silty clay containing frequent inclusions of sub-angular stones less than 0.2m in size.
- 6.1.7 Layers (1001)-(1003) appear to be made ground layers, probably relating to modern or late-post-medieval landscaping of the churchyard, possibly at the same time that the headstones were moved. No finds or features were revealed.

### 6.2 Test Pit 02 (Fig. 2)

- 6.2.1 Test Pit 02 was situated 12.5m immediately north of the north-western corner of the north aisle, over the proposed north-western corner of the Community Room building. The test pit was positioned on a north-south alignment.
- 6.2.2 The most recent deposit within the test pit was (2000), a deposit of dark blackish-grey silt topsoil with the same composition as (1000). The deposit was a maximum of 0.2m deep.
- 6.2.3 (2000) was situated directly above (2001), a deposit of redeposited compact red clay 0.2m deep, containing frequent inclusions of angular stones less than 20mm in size. This deposit is likely the same as (1001)
- 6.2.4 Deposit (2001) was directly overlying (2002), a friable, light grey deposit of sandy silt 0.4m deep and containing frequent inclusions of sub-angular stones and ceramic building material (CBM) fragments. This deposit is interpreted as demolition rubble.
- 6.2.5 Deposit (2002) was situated immediately above (2003), a firm, redeposited brown clay with no inclusions. The deposit was 0.3m in thickness.
- 6.2.6 At the very base of the test pit, and extending below the limit of excavation, was (2004), a deposit of loose, dark brown silty clay containing frequent inclusions of sub-angular stones less than 0.2m in size. This is likely to be the same as (1003).
- 6.2.7 As with Test Pit 01, the layers below the topsoil are likely to be modern or late post-medieval made ground layers. No finds or features were seen.

**6.3 Test Pit 03 (Fig. 2)**

- 6.3.1 Test Pit 03 was situated 8m north of the north-eastern corner of the north aisle, on a north to south alignment. It was positioned in order to target the eastern wall of the proposed Community Room.
- 6.3.2 The most recent deposit within the test pit was (3000), a deposit of dark blackish-grey silt topsoil between 0.1 and 0.14m deep, containing occasional inclusions of angular stones less than 0.03m in size. This is the same deposit as (1000) and (2000).
- 6.3.3 The topsoil deposit (3000) directly overlaid (3005), a weak deposit of mid orangey brown sandy silt up to 0.3m deep. The deposit contained inclusions of rounded stones and it's interface with the deposit below (3001) was slightly unclear.
- 6.3.4 Deposit (3005) directly overlaid (3001), a deposit of dark blackish-grey sandy silt 0.1-0.15m deep with moderate inclusions of sub-angular stones 0.05m in size. This appears to be the same deposit as (1002), with a more irregular profile.
- 6.3.5 (3001) directly overlaid (3002), a redeposited compact red clay 0.2m deep, containing frequent inclusions of angular stones less than 20mm in size. This appears to be the same composition and colour as (1001), but if this is so then the order of deposition of these deposits varied between Test Pit 01 and Test Pit 03. This is consistent with the dumping of discrete deposits.
- 6.3.3 At the base of the test pit, on the northern side, was the base of a large grave marker (possibly a chest tomb or the base of a larger monument), constructed of stone (3003). Part of the top and a small portion of the sides of the marker were visible; however, no inscription was apparent.
- 6.3.4 Likewise, on the southern edge of the test pit, a second grave marker was seen, this time a headstone, toppled, probably with a round top and indented sides. No inscription can be seen, indicating that the marker may have fallen onto its front and the visible portion may be the back of the monument.
- 6.3.5 No further finds or features were uncovered. As with the previous two test pits, it is likely that the deposits between the grave markers and the topsoil consist of made ground layers. This is especially evident in this test pit where the layers overlie grave markers which were, presumably, once at ground level.

**6.3 Test Pit 04 (Fig. 2)**

- 6.3.1 Test Pit 04 was situated approximately 4.6m north of Test Pit 03, and targeted over the proposed north-eastern corner of the Community Room. The test pit was positioned on a north - south alignment.
- 6.3.2 The most recent deposit within Test Pit 04 was (4000), the same deposit as (1000), (2000) and (3000): a dark blackish-grey silt topsoil between 0.14 and 0.18m deep.
- 6.3.3 Topsoil (4000) was situated directly above (4001), a deposit of firm, mid greyish yellow silty clay 0.6m deep, which contained occasional inclusions of rounded stones less than 0.04m in size.
- 6.3.4 Directly below (4001) was deposit (4002), a weak, very dark greyish brown silty clay containing occasional rounded stones and charcoal. This deposit was thin, being only 0.1m deep, and could conceivably be composed of buried topsoil mixed with clay. If so, this would be broadly consistent with the level of the grave markers in Test Pit 03.



6.3.5 At the base of the test pit was deposit (4003), a compact, mid red clay with moderately frequent sandstone inclusions, which extended below the limit of excavation. The nature of this deposit is unclear as so little was exposed, but it is probable that it is a layer of either subsoil or redeposited natural material below the buried topsoil.

6.3.6 No finds or features were uncovered within this test pit.

#### 6.4 Test Pit 05 (Fig. 2)

6.4.1 Test Pit 05 was situated approximately 13.5m north of the centre of the north aisle, 5.9m west of Test Pit 04. It was positioned in order to target the proposed northern wall of the Community Room.

6.4.2 The test pit was sealed by (5000), a deposit of dark blackish-grey silt topsoil between 0.1 and 0.16m deep, the same as the topsoil deposits in the previous test pits.

6.4.3 (5000) was directly above (5001), a firm, light yellow sandy clay containing very occasional charcoal flecks, which was between 0.02 and 0.18m deep. The deposit was far thicker toward the east than the west, and was obviously an attempt to level a dip in the made ground below.

6.4.4 Below (5001) was (5002), a firm, greyish brown silty clay between 0.05 and 0.3m deep. The deposit contained frequent inclusions of charcoal fleck less than 0.02m in size. This deposit was not present in the north-facing section, indicating a very uneven deposition.

6.4.5 (5002) directly overlaid (5003), a deposit of redeposited, compact red clay 0.22m deep, containing frequent inclusions of angular stones less than 20mm in size. This deposit is very similar in composition to (1001), but is seen at a lower level.

6.4.6 Deposit (5003) was situated directly above (5004), a deposit of loose black material showing indications of burning. The deposit contained modern debris such as plastic bags and metal wires, indicating that it may be the level of previous topsoil, later covered by made ground. This concurs with the level of the buried topsoil deposit in Test Pit 04.

6.4.7 Directly below (5004) was (5005), a deposit of loose, dark brown clayey silt containing rare sub-rounded stone less than 0.02m in size. This deposit extended below the limit of excavation, and is likely to be a subsoil deposit below the original topsoil level.

## 7 Conclusion

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7.1 All of the test pits across the excavation area were sealed by the same topsoil deposit, which was situated over series of made ground deposits, likely to be modern in date. This is substantiated by the presence of possible buried topsoil deposits at a depth of around 0.75m in Test Pits 04 and 05, which in Test Pit 05 contained modern debris. It is likely that the made ground deposits are part of a programme of landscaping activity undertaken during the 20th century, during which the headstones of the churchyard were removed and repositioned around the churchyard boundary. Therefore, it is unlikely that any archaeological remains will be encountered down to a depth of approximately 0.75m throughout the proposed construction works.

7.2 Test Pit 03 contained the only archaeological finds from the excavations, in the form of two grave marker: one headstone and one possibly chest tomb or plinth for a larger monument. Neither of these were uncovered to such an extent that any inscriptions could be seen; nor could it be conclusively demonstrated that they were *in situ*, although circumstantial evidence would arguably favour this, and that they were buried by the

landscaping works rather than moved. In the case of the headstone, which could have been more easily moved like those around it, this may be due to it having fallen many years previously and becoming overgrown with turf. If these markers are *in situ*, they may provide a useful indicator of the depth of any burials that may be uncovered during the construction works, although given the variation in burial depths, this should be treated with caution. It does, however, mark the level of the original ground surface prior to the landscaping activities.

- 7.3 No further archaeological finds or features were uncovered, primarily due to the fact that the 1m depth of the test pits did not intrude more than 0.3m below the buried ground surface level.

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## **Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation**

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**St Helen's Church  
Stapleford, Nottingham**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation**

**Prepared for Peart Bradley Architects**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

**Site Name:** St Helen's Church, Stapleford, Nottingham  
**NGR:** SK 48856 37363  
**Client:** Peart Bradley Architects  
**Proposed Development:** Extension to Grade II\* listed church  
**Geology:** Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation  
**Land Use:** Church Yard

Faculty approval has been granted by the Diocesan Advisory Committee of Southwell and Nottingham for an extension to St Helen's Church, Stapleford, Nottingham.

A condition attached to the approval requires that a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation be submitted to the DAC Archaeological Advisor for approval prior to the commencement of groundworks. This document is the required WSI.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

The main objective of evaluation is to establish the depth of any below ground remains in order to inform an appropriate project design should further archaeological intervention be required.

Where possible it may be possible assess the date, nature and the state of preservation of any archaeological remains encountered.

Within the limitations of the proposed scheme the evaluation will look to resolve where possible a number of significant questions in relation to the use of the church site over time including:

- Determine the existence of any activity pre-dating the known medieval origins for the site.
- Identify the presence of archaeological deposits relating to any earlier church structural remains.
- Determine the presence of any below ground burial monuments including stone or lead coffins, brick burial vaults etc.

Of further consideration are elements of the East Midlands Research Agenda (Knight *et al* 2012) including:

### **7.5 Religion**

1. Can we identify additional pre-conquest church.....sites?
4. Can we shed further light upon the distribution and development of early churches or chapel and the origins and growth of the parish system?
6. What may we deduce from scientific analyses of cemetery populations about changes in diet, mortality and other demographic variables, both within the region and between social groups?



### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Proposed Fieldwork

Three test pits, each measuring 1m by 0.6m and no more than 1m deep will be excavated in the locations indicated in Fig 1. The final number and location of test pits will be agreed with the DAC Archaeological Advisor prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

The test pits will be hand-dug by a team of suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist selected from Trent & Peak's supervisory staff in accordance with accepted archaeological practice and the 'Standard & Guidance' produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014 a and b).

In the event that important archaeological remains are uncovered, the client and the DAC Archaeological Advisor will be informed immediately.

Disturbance to human remains will wherever possible be avoided in line with Section 219 of the Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England 2017. (APABE 2017).

Articulated remains will be cleaned and recorded on appropriate skeletal sheets and left in-situ. No human remains will be removed from site.

Disarticulated remains found in the confines of the work will be inspected, recorded appropriately and left on site with the appropriate church representative for reburial.

In order to avoid the inadvertent dispersal of human remains all spoil will subject to regular visual inspection.

Finds coming under the definition of 'treasure' as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to the Coroner and the PAS Finds Liaison Officer and dealt with under the procedures of the Treasure Act and Code of Practice. This includes both precious metals and base metals where they are of prehistoric date.

All finds will be assigned an individual finds code. *In-situ* finds will be recorded three dimensionally, while finds from spoil will be noted in relation to their location within the test pit.

#### 3.2 Sampling (Palaeoenvironmental)

Where appropriate features are identified, soil samples will be retrieved in order to undertake palaeo-environmental sampling. The sampling of features will follow procedures set out within the English Heritage (now Historic England) Guidelines, *Environmental Archaeology* 2011. Samples will generally be 30litres if possible will be processed within the TPA (Trent & Peak Archaeology) Environmental Lab, under the supervision of TPA Environmental Officer Alison Wilson.

Depending on the type of deposits identified, soil samples may also be retained for the purposes of retrieving industrial residues or for the provision of scientific dating (e.g. C14 dating). The range of techniques applicable to differing preservation and depositional environments is set out in Appendix 1.

Where it is deemed necessary to take samples for palaeo-environmental analysis, scientific dating, or to identify and interpret industrial processes, the DAC Archaeological Advisor will be consulted and a contingency cost may need to be enacted with the client.

### **3.3 Monitoring**

A minimum of 2 week prior notice of the commencement of the development is to be given to the archaeological contractor.

All phases of the investigation will be undertaken in line with the relevant '*Standard and Guidance*' documents prepared by the CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists).

TPA will keep the client and the DAC Archaeological Advisor informed of all material facts of the archaeological investigations. This will include agreeing any changes to the approved methodology or programme of works, and invitations to inspect any uncovered remains at appropriate stages in the fieldwork programme.

### **3.4 Welfare, Access and Insurance**

The client will ensure safe access to the ground-works and if possible make toilet and hand-washing facilities available to archaeological staff.

#### *Services Checks*

The client will make available all information relating to buried services prior to the commencement of intrusive groundworks.

#### *Insurance/compensation*

As part of York Archaeological Trust, TPA carries the appropriate public, third party and employee insurances, copies of which are available for inspection if required.

Any compensation claims for disruption to the land should be directly between the client and landowner.

### **3.5 Health and Safety**

TPA will adhere to all relevant health and safety regulations. No archaeological staff will be allowed to enter the site until they have undergone a health and safety induction organised by TPA and/or the principal contractor. TPA will complete a task specific risk assessment safe working method statement before the commencement of the evaluation and copies of this will be made available to the client.

Open excavations will be fenced at all times with Heras-type fencing.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**

Within the confines of site safety, contexts (the smallest usefully-definable unit of stratification) will be cleaned by hand and recorded.

Plans of all contexts including features will be drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and will show at least:

- context numbers,
- all colour and textural changes,
- principal slopes represented as hachures,
- levels expressed as O.D. values, or levelled to permanent features if benchmark absent,
- sufficient details to locate the subject on a 1:500 plot of the area of ground-works and o.s 1:2500 map (i.e the national grid).

Sections will show the same information, but levelling information will be given in the form of a datum line with O.D/arbitrary value; the locations of all sections will be shown on the plan.

Photographs of each context will be taken as monochrome prints and digital images together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations.

Written records will be maintained as laid down in the TPA recording manual (as accepted by all regional county archaeologists).

## **5 POST EXCAVATION PROCESSING, REPORTING AND ARCHIVE**

### **5.1 Processing**

All finds will be stored as recommended in "First aid for finds" (by the Archaeology section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation), and marked with the site and find codes, and relevant accession numbers. These will be deposited with the appropriate organisation on completion of the report, subject to the provisions of the Faculty Jurisdiction.

Depending on availability any Prehistoric pottery will be submitted for assessment to Dr.D.Knight (TPA), Romano-British pottery to (I.M.Rowlandson), Anglo-Saxon/Medieval pottery/tile to (L. Elliot (TPA) or appointed specialist), Industrial Residues (Gerry McDonnell).

### **5.2 Report**

Recording will result in 'the preparation of a report and ordered archive', in line with the guidelines of the CIfA Institute for Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance: for an Archaeological, Field Evaluation 2014b*)

A verbal report and where appropriate textual summary will be provided to the client on completion of fieldwork. Within 10-15 working days from the end of the fieldwork, a final report on results will be completed and copies provided to the DAC Archaeological Advisor.

The final report will include:

- a) cover page;
- b) list of contents, figures, tables, etc;
- c) non-technical summary;
- d) introduction;
- e) planning background;
- f) archaeological and historical background;
- g) methodology;
- h) results;
- i) discussion;
- j) conclusion;
- k) OASIS cover sheet.

#### *Dissemination*

If appropriate, the results will be submitted for publication within an appropriate local archaeological journal. If significant results are discovered then an individual report of an appropriate level of detail, will also be submitted for publication to a suitable academic journal.

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### **5.3 Archive**

The archive will be fully indexed and contain where relevant:

- copies of correspondence relating to fieldwork
- site notebooks/diaries
- original photographic records
- site drawings (plans, sections, elevations)
- original context records, matrix diagrams showing stratigraphic sequence of all

contexts.

- artefacts
- original finds records
- original sample records
- original skeleton records
- computer discs and printout

### **5.4 Archive and Finds Deposition**

Finds will remain the property of the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. Transfer of finds and final storage will be agreed with the Diocese subject to the provision of the Faculty Jurisdiction. The archive will be fully catalogued and prepared to recognised standards (Brown 2007).

Where necessary the documentary archive will be sent to the NMR for copying.

## **6. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

A provisional start date of March 2017 has been set. It is anticipated that the fieldwork should take no more than three days to complete with reporting following 10-15 days from the completion of fieldwork.

## REFERENCES

APABE 2017 *Guidance for best practice for the treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*. Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (2nd edition)

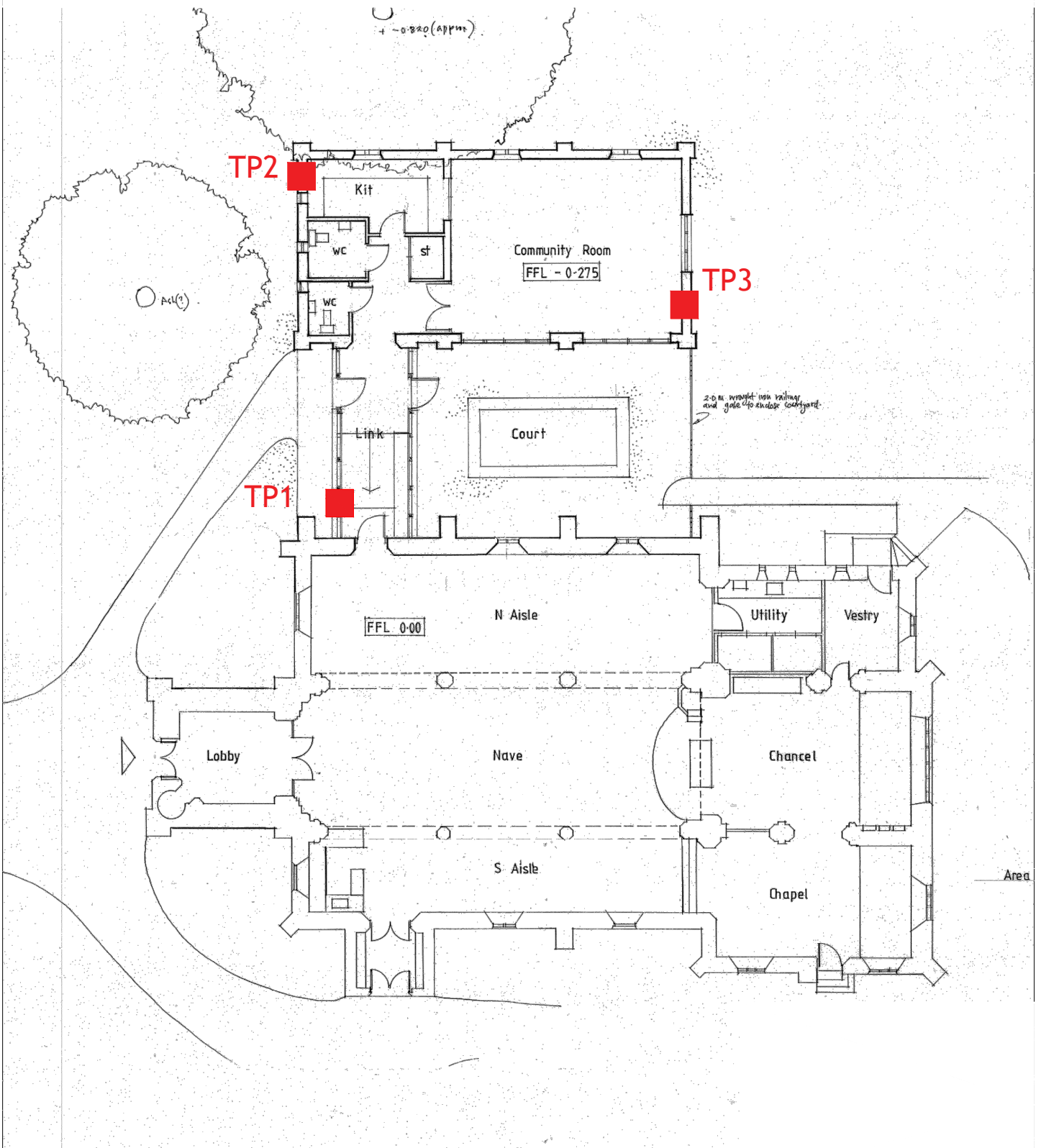
Brown, D. 2007 *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum.

CIfA 2014a *Code of Conduct*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014b *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

English Heritage 2011 *Environmental Archaeology*.

Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012 *East Midlands Heritage An Updated Research Agenda for the Historic Environment in the East Midlands*, Buxton Press





## Appendix 1 – Preliminary Site Sampling Strategy\*

feature type	Sediment condition	Overall scope of sampling	MM	C14	Po/Dm	Ch	BP/BS	Bo	Wd
Sampling method:				A4x1cm (seal)	Film caps or column in gutter + Clingfilm	Min.30L+ Tubs (specialists to advise as to appropriate level of sub sampling of deposit)			wrap each bit sep.
Man-made feature		each occurrence series of samples if thick (>150mm)			*	*	*	*	*
buried soil	Waterlogged organic (looks 'peaty')								
	Dry visible charred material	each occurrence (C14 selected: best is twigs then layer then flecks)		*		*		*	
	Waterlogged organic	each occurrence, at thickest point	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Dry visible charred material	each occurrence, at thickest point, series of samples if thick (>150mm)	*	*	*	*		*	
Any	Wood structure	retain all, keep damp, bag each timber		*					*
Industrial residues / debris etc.		All process stages to be represented					*		
<b>Abbreviations</b> MM Micromorphology C14 Radiocarbon Po/Dm Pollen/diatoms Ch Charred material BP Waterlogged Beetles/Plant remains Bo small bone Wd wood. BS – Bulk Sample (industrial waste/residues/processing debris)									

\*Adjustments to be made following specialist advice and liaison with the DAC where appropriate

## **Appendix 2: OASIS Record**

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# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: trentpea1-285000**

### Project details

Project name	The Church of St. Helen, Stapleford, Nottingham
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology were commissioned to excavate a series of Test Pits on the footprint of a proposed extension to the church, in order to identify the location of any unknown burials or archaeological features. The excavations revealed a large amount of made ground, probably relating to 20th century landscaping activity, at the base of which was a buried modern land surface. A single trench contained archaeological remains in the form of two grave markers, post-medieval in date.
Project dates	Start: 03-04-2017 End: 05-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SHS - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	CHURCH Medieval
Monument type	GRAVE MARKER Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GRAVE MARKER Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Listed Building Consent
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BROXTOWE STAPLEFORD St. Helen's Church
Postcode	NG9 8FN
Study area	400 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 48856 37363 52.931128495311 -1.273085952145 52 55 52 N 001 16 23 W Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeology

Project brief originator Diocesan Archaeologist

Project design originator Edmund Taylor

Project director/manager Edmund Taylor

Project supervisor Camilla Collins

Type of sponsor/funding body Diocese

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Test Pit Evaluation at St Helen's Church, Stapleford, Nottingham

Author(s)/Editor(s) Collins, C.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Smart, K.

Other bibliographic details 070/2017

Date 2017

Issuer or publisher Trent and Peak Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Nottingham

Entered by Kate Smart (ksmart@yorkat.co.uk)

Entered on 15 May 2017

# OASIS:

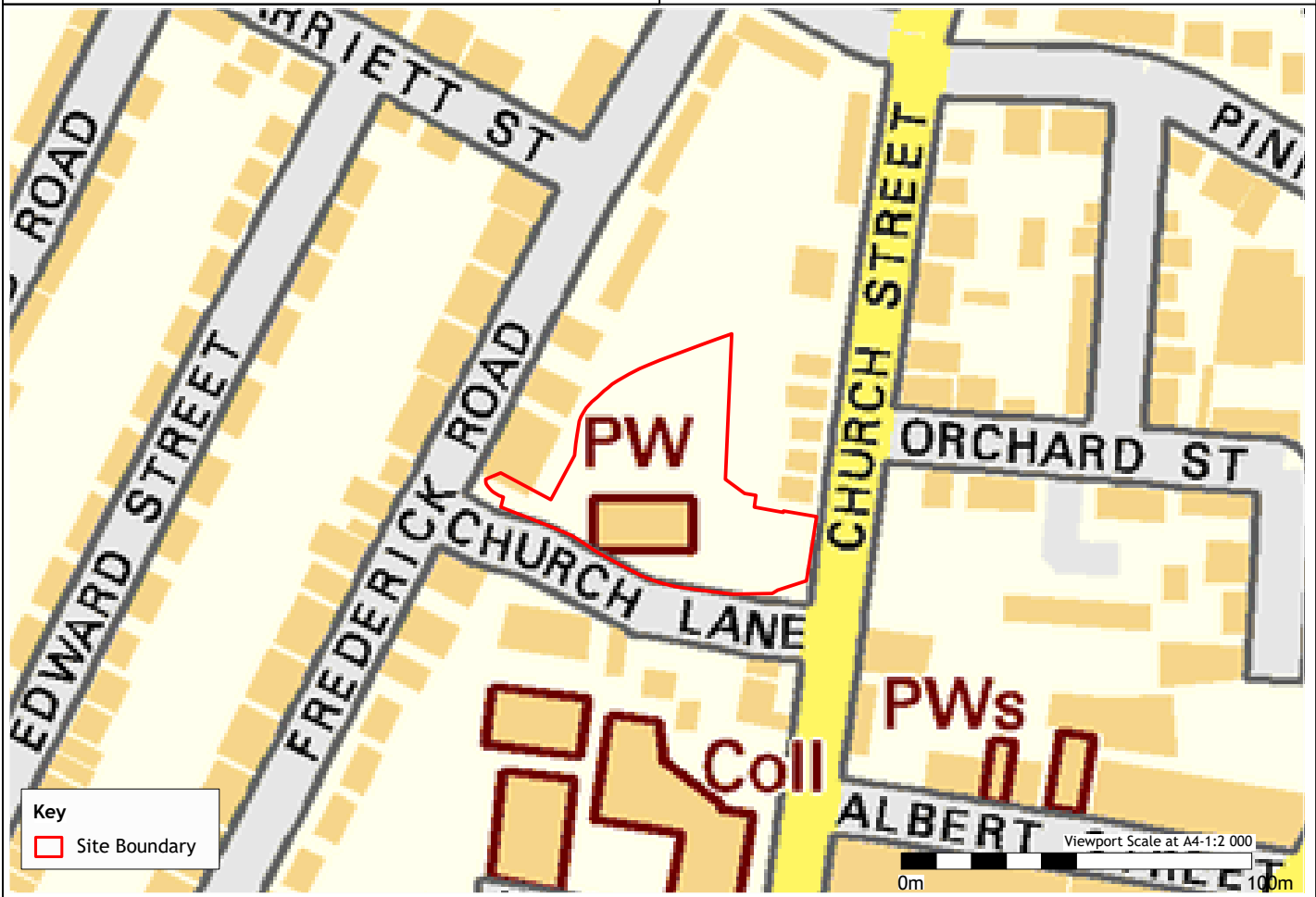
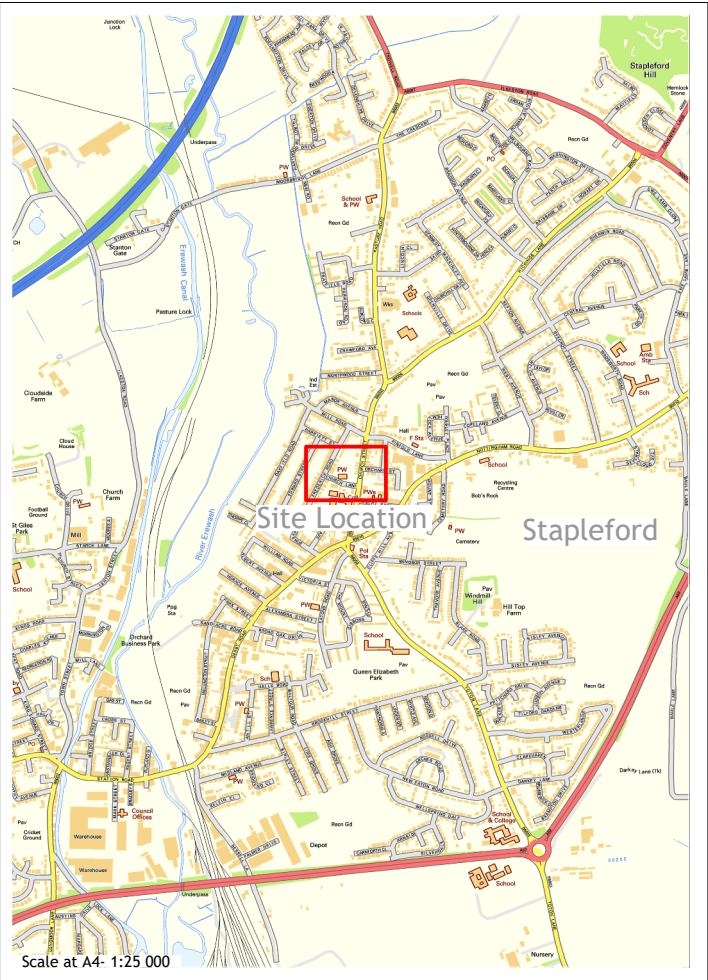
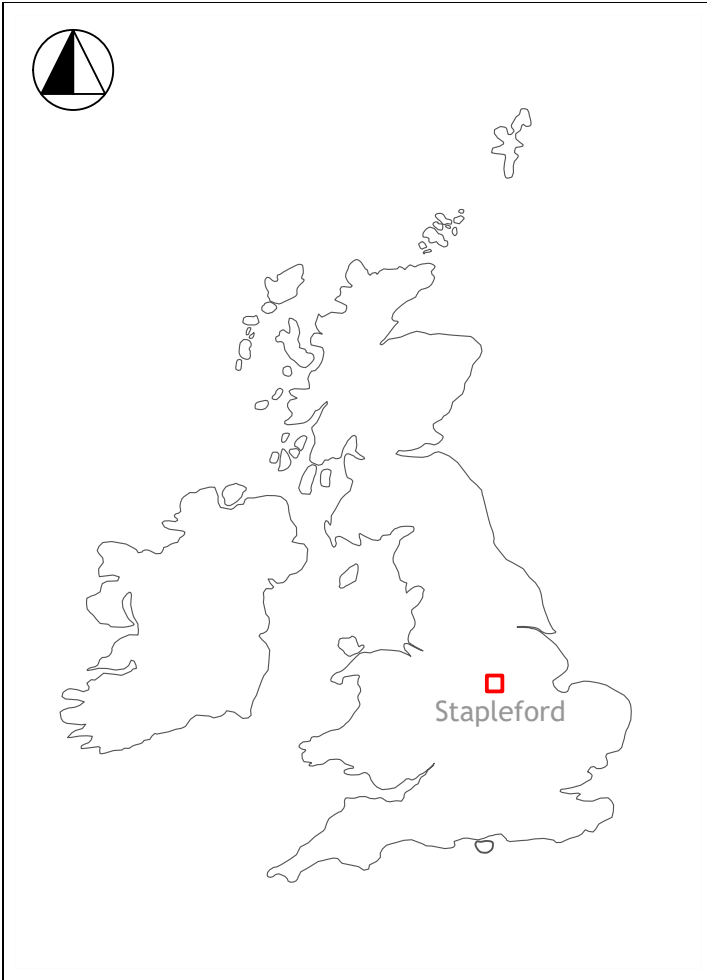
Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice


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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

## Appendix 3: Figures

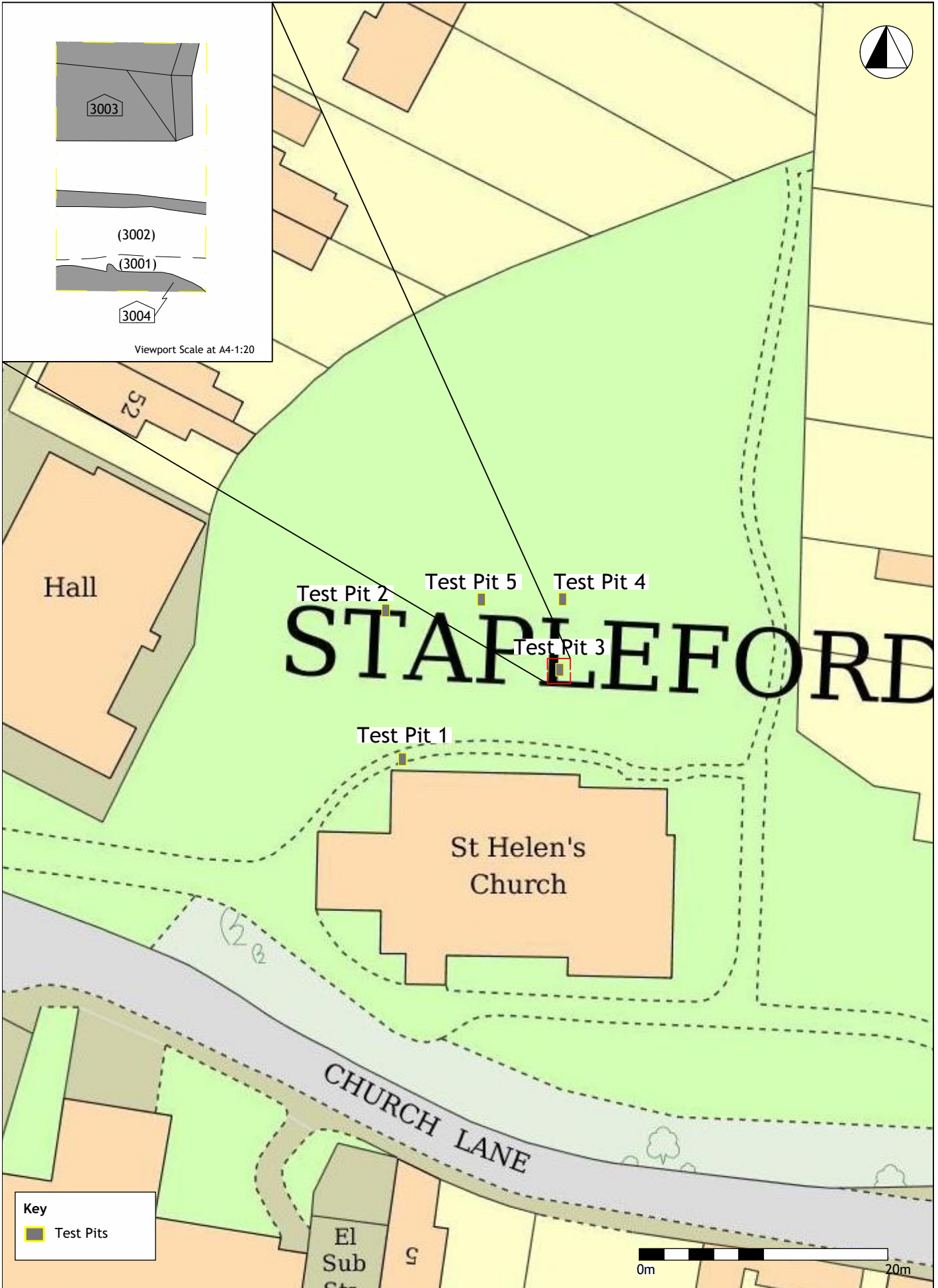
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 SHS  
 Figure 1  
 Scale at A4-varies

St Helens, Stapleford  
 Location Map

(Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618).

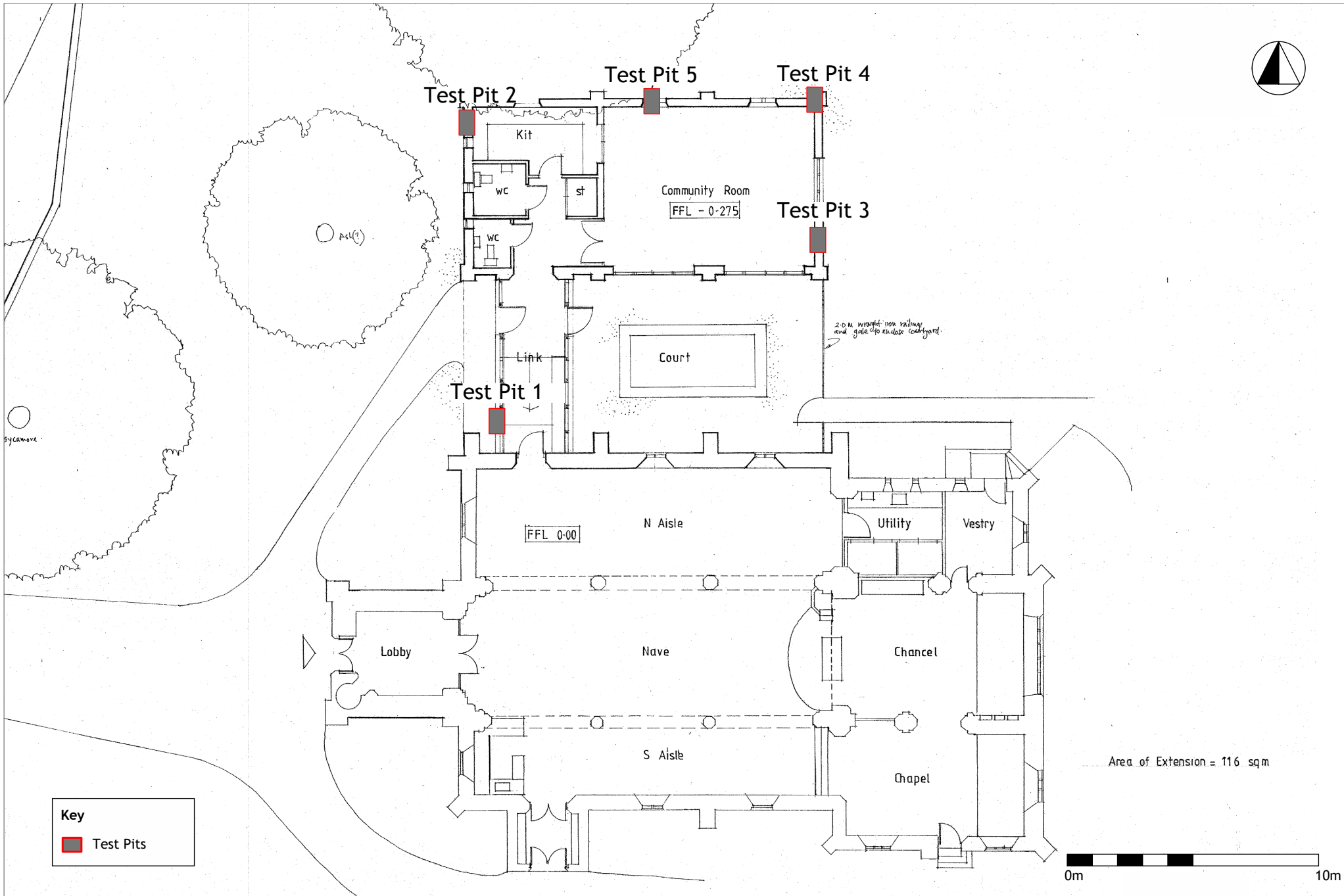




 SHS  
 Figure 2  
 Scale at A4 - 1:400

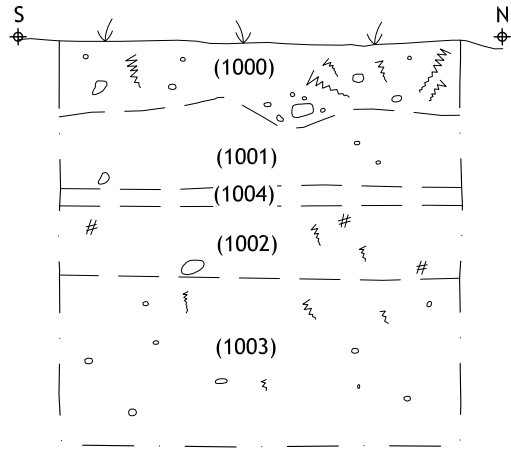
St Helen's, Stapleford  
 Site Plan with Details

(Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618).

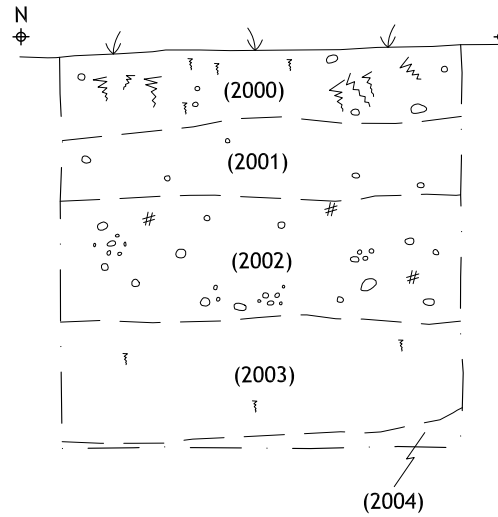




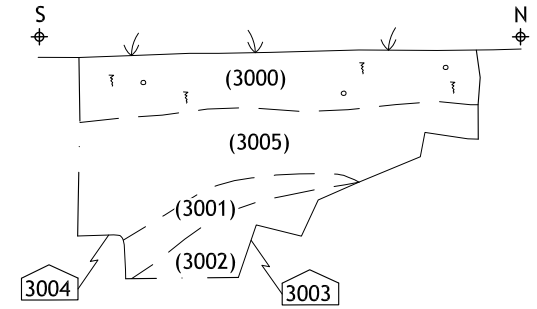
DR#01  
East Facing Section of Test Pit 1



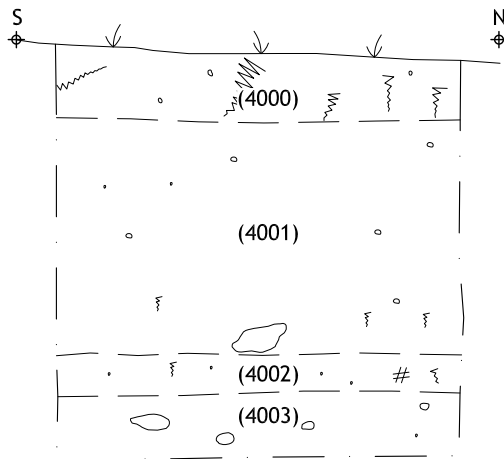
DR#02  
West Facing Section of Test Pit 2



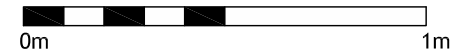
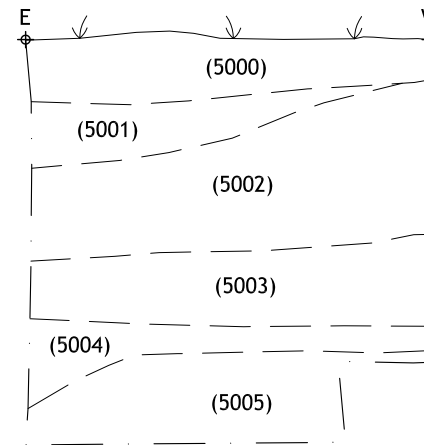
DR#03  
East Facing Section of Test Pit 3



DR#04  
East Facing Section of Test Pit 4



DR#05  
North Facing Section of Test Pit 5



## Appendix 4: Plates

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Plate 1: General view of the excavations, looking south-east



Plate 2: Test Pit 01 looking west. Scale = 1m.





Plate 3: Test Pit 02 looking east. Scale = 1m



Plate 4: Test Pit 03 looking west. Scale = 1m.  
Grave marker 3003 is to the right, while 3004 is to the left.





Plate 5: Test Pit 04 looking west. Scale = 1m.



Plate 6: Test Pit 05 looking south. Scale = 1m.