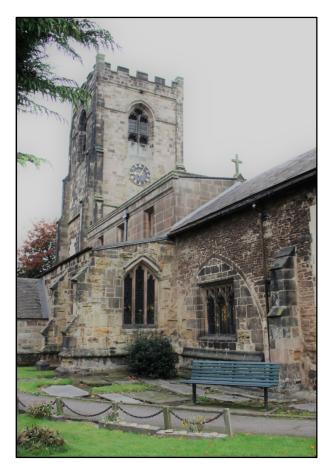
Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Church of St. Helen, Trowell, Nottinghamshire.



Church of St. Helen, Trowell, Nottinghamshire

For: Mark Goodwill-Hodgson LTD

Prepared by: L. Platt and V. Owen

Report Number: 153/2016

TPA Project Code: SHT

Trent & Peak Archaeology © Unit 1, Holly Lane Chilwell Nottingham NG9 4AB 0115 8967400 (Tel.) 0115 925 9464 (Fax.) tparchaeology.co.uk trentpeak@yorkat.co.uk



Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Church of St. Helen, Trowell, Nottinghamshire.

Client Name: Mark Goodwill-Hodgson LTD

Document Title: Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Church of St.

Helen, Trowell, Nottinghamshire

Document Type: Final Report

Issue/Version Number: V1.R1

Grid Reference: NGR SK 48381 39747

Report No. 153/2016

QUALITY CONTROL

Prepared by	Laurence Platt and Victoria Owen Senior Project Archaeologists
Contact	vowen@yorkat.co.uk
Date	
Date	29/01/2018
Checked by	Ed Taylor
Officered by	Project Manager
Signed	
olynou -	Ednivoliglo.
	canusages.
Date	29/01/2018
Approved by	Dr. Gareth Davies Head of Operations
	-
Signed	Cecerlles
	allegari.
Date	13/02/2018
Status	V1.R1

Disclaimer

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited ("YAT") (trading as Trent & Peak Archaeology) YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. Nobody is entitled to rely upon this Report other than the person/party which commissioned it. YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by anybody other than the commissioning person/party.



Trent & Peak Archaeology is the Nottingham office of the York Archaeological Trust, a significant charity with annual turnover of over £7million. Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) was founded in Nottingham in 1967 and became part of YAT in 2011, formalising links that have existed between the two organisations for over 30 years. YAT's **Archaeology and Heritage** division undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for commercial, academic and charitable clients. It can manage projects, provide professional advice and monitor archaeological works to ensure high quality, cost effective archaeology. Its staff have a considerable depth and variety of professional experience and an international reputation for research, development and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology. TPA and the Trust, through its offices in Glasgow, York, Sheffield and Nottingham, offer services throughout Britain and internationally.

York Archaeological Trust's **Attractions and Events** division runs major archaeological tourist attractions including the world-famous *Jorvik Viking Centre* and several large archaeological events including the *Jorvik Viking Festival* and *Yorkshire Medieval Festival*. This unique partnership bridges the gap between archaeological discovery and research, and public participation, educational outreach and inspiring presentation.

Trent & Peak Archaeology ©
Unit 1, Holly Lane
Chilwell
Nottingham
NG9 4AB
0115 8967400 (Tel.)
0115 925 9464 (Fax.)
tparchaeology.co.uk
trentpeak@yorkat.co.uk















Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the lowering of the floor in the chancel of St. Helen's Church, Trowell, Nottinghamshire.
- The floor of the chancel had been raised in the late 19th century for the construction of under floor heating ducts, which have since fallen out of use. The present works sought to reduce the chancel floor level to that currently in the nave.
- An average 0.3m of material was removed from the chancel floor. This comprised a layer of concrete (0002) which overlay a deposit of compacted 20th century rubble and silty sandy material (0003).
- Within the rubble layer, 19th century heating ducts along the north and south walls of the chancel were observed. These, no longer in use, were removed as part of the work to reduce the floor level.
- Within the lower layer, two potentially archaeologically significant features were observed [0011]. These comprised the possible remains of an early packed stone foundation, and the top of a brick lined burial vault [0007]. Unfortunately there was no scope to investigate the possible early foundation, and its possible antiquity remains uncertain.
- Throughout the (0003) rubble layer, a considerable number of disarticulated human remains were observed, principally comprising femora, tibiae and humeri. These suggest the likelihood of a number of earlier burials below the chancel floor, deposited prior to the practice of burials within the church being made illegal in the mid 19th century.
- The disarticulated human remains were collected together and deposited in the church for reburial by diocese.



Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to Mark Goodwill-Hodgson LTD for commissioning the work, and to the diocese of Southwell and Nottinghamshire, for allowing access and aiding the continuation of work within the chancel. The work was supervised by Senior Project Archaeologist Laurence Platt, and managed by Ed Taylor (TPA).



Contents

Sur	ımmary	4
Ack	knowledgements	5
Coı	ontents	6
List	st of Figures	6
List	st of Plates	6
1	Introduction	7
2	Topography and Geology	7
3	Historical and Archaeological Background	7
4	Aims and Objectives	8
5	Methodology	8
6	Results	9
7	Discussion	10
8	Bibliography	11
App	pendix 1: Context Register	12
App	pendix 2: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition	13
App	pendix 3: Plates	14
App	pendix 4: Figures	19
App	pendix 5: OASIS Form	23

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Figure 2: Site Plan

List of Plates

- Plate 1: South facing elevation of St. Helen's Church with the blocked arch and priest's door visible.
- Plate 2: Fragment of c.1973 newspaper discovered beneath (0001).
- Plate 3: Brick grave vault [0007], partially uncovered with low stone and brick wall [0009] laid over top.
- Plate 4: Brick grave vault [0007] completely exposed.
- Plate 5: Stone and brick wall [0010] support for the raised chancel floor.
- **Plate 6**:Brass name plaques located along the South wall window recesses.
- **Plate 7**: Possible remains of an early stone wall foundation [0011] running along the inside of the North wall of the chancel.
- Plate 8: Stone capping [0005] of heating duct [0004], along the North wall of the chancel.



1 Introduction

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was contracted by Mark Goodwill-Hodgson LTD to conduct a watching brief on intrusive ground work associated with the lowering of the chancel floor of St Helen's Church, Trowell, Nottinghamshire centred on SK48381 39747.
- 1.2 The current chancel floor surface had been raised in the late 19th century to allow for the introduction of underfloor heating ducts.
- 1.3 Current ground level in the chancel was to be reduced to the level of the current floor surface within the nave, which would then be replaced. The former 19th century heating ducts would be removed during this course of work.
- 1.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and ClfA *Guidelines* (2014 a and b) with advice from the County Archaeologist and the Diocesan Advisory Committee Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire and Southwell.

2 Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The Church of St. Helen's, Trowell, is located on a mild peak within the parish of Trowell, Nottinghamshire. The Church is surrounded on all sides by residential development, open park land and major roadways. A Victorian Churchyard extends out Southwards from the original Church boundary, which is still in use.
- 2.2 The superficial and bedrock geology of the area around St. Helen's Church consists of Penine Middle Coal Measures Formation, formed of interbedded grey siltstone, sandstone and mudstone containing trace evidence of marine fossils to the lower part set down during the Langsettian Subtage (~314.5Ma). This typically overlies Rossendale Formation Millstone, but remains unrecorded for this area. (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 St. Helen's Church, Trowell currently holds Grade 2* listed building status. Records held at York Minster indicate that a Church was established at the site sometime around 801AD, through "an application by the Lord of the Manor of Trowell, on behalf of the people, for a Church to be established [sic]" (Annals of York Minster, History of St. Helen's Church Building, accessed 29/01/2018) Traces of the original Saxon Church are reputed to have been found underneath the current chancel, though no archaeological evidence has so far supported this. Within the South and North walls of the cancel, a blocked priest's door and arch is still visible, which would have separated an earlier side entrance to the former chapel.
- 3.2 The Church is later mentioned within the Domesday Record (c.1086) as "...a priest and a half church and six acres of meadow [sic]" (Palmer, J.J., 2018), which documents the Church as being shared with another parish, in this case the parish of Cossall, until c.1787.
- 3.3 The present chancel dates to c.1180 and is an early example of English architecture being built of thin courses of untrimmed masonry. The nave and the North and South aisles were added sometime in the c.14th, with the current tower and bells dating to c.1480.
- 3.4 Extensive restoration of the church was carried out in c.1835 when the walls of the nave were thickly plastered, and the oak roof lathed and plastered. Further restoration, with C. Hodgson Fowler as the architect, (Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project) was undertaken in c.1890 during which the floor of the chancel was raised for the institution of underfloor heating. (History of St Helen's Church).



4 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The primary objective of the watching brief was to identify the presence of any archaeological remains likely to be affected by intrusive aspects of the excavation of the c.19th cancel floor surface.
- 4.2 This included an assessment of the overall extent, date and condition of any archaeological remains relating to the building of the chancel in c.1108, or the predecessor Saxon Church.

5 Methodology

- 5.1 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014b) and theCode of Conduct (2014a).
- 5.2 The client made the relevant contractors aware of the archaeological constraints on their operations.
- 5.3 The client was responsible for ensuring that service checks prior to floor surface reduction was completed, and that plans of all services were submitted from within the development area.
- 5.4 The designated archaeological contractor monitored all elements of development groundworks, which included excavation and reduction of the currentchancel floor surface to the depth of the floor level within the nave.
- 5.5 The floor level was reduced using a 360° tracked mini digger. The upper concrete surface was broken up by a jack hammer and the subsequent layers removed to formation by the mini digger using a bladed ditching bucket.
- 5.6 Stratigraphy was recorded, photographed and interpreted, even where no archaeological finds or features were present, in accordance with CIfA *guidelines* (2014).
- 5.7 Relevant stratigraphy was recorded with the use of pro-forma context sheets where appropriate and spot heights were recorded relative to an Ordnance Datum.
- 5.8 All excavations were recorded at an appropriate scale by photography. Site photography was undertaken with the use of a high resolution colour DSLR camera, which included general site shots, shots of individual features, and groups of features.
- 5.9 No artefacts or palaeo-environmental samples were collected.



6 Results

- 6.1 The initial ground works comprised the removal of the existing floor in the chancel. This comprised three distinct layers, (0001), (0002) and (0003) with a total average depth of 300mm.
- 6.2 (0001) comprised a layer of red sand present only at the East end of the chancel. A segment of a newspaper dated c.1973 (*plate 2*) was located at the base of this layer, and represents a separatedepositional event, likely relating to the building of the new chapel porch to the East. This was seen as distinct from the latec.19th rising of the floor level in the chancel.
- 6.3 Beneath (0001), (0002) comprised a layer of concrete which sealed all deposits and features below it. This layer marks the last stage of the c.19th rising of the floor in the chancel.
- 6.4 (0003) comprised a deposit of loosely compacted rubble, made up of building detritus left over from the c.19thraising of the floor along with material including broken sandstone slabs, that may belong to an earlier period of the Church construction. No dating evidence was associated with this layer.
- 6.5 Within (0003), to the base, a large quantity of disarticulated human bone was uncovered. These comprised mainly long bones of femora, humeri, and tibiae relating to an earlier phase of burial inside the original chancel floor, a practice which became illegal during the c.19th. The remains were collected together and left in the Church for re-burial by the Church diocese.
- 6.6 (0003) capped (0008), which comprised a compacted dark grey sandy silt deposit which may reflect deposits associated with the original chancel floor surface prior to the c.19th restorations.

[0011] Earlier Stone Setting (Figure 2; Plate 7)

- 6.7 A line of roughly dressed stones, labelled [0011], was observed set into (0008) towards the North wall. The joints between the stones were packed with smaller pieces of stone rubble. The interpretation of [0011] cannot be stated with any certainty but their position may indicate a roughly organised foundation of an earlier structure on the site of the current chancel.
- 6.8 There were no finds associated with [0011] which would assist in establishing a date for the feature.

[0007] Brick Burial Vault. (Figure 2; Plates 3, 4 and 6)

- 6.9 With the rubble layer, (0003), removed a rectangular brick burial vault, [0007], was observed. Only the existing top course of [0007] was revealed, no further excavation was required.
- 6.10 A burial vault inside the church and indeed inside the chancel suggests that it belonged to a locally important family. There was, however, no plaque or slab present that identified who the vault belonged to. However, the window in the South wall above the vault depicts four brass plaques recording the deaths of the Evans family, (Plate 5 and Appendix 2), and it is possible that they are the occupants of the vault. The plaques date the internments to the late c.18th.
- 6.11 As a point of interest, the first born son of the family, who died at the age of 13, is identified as Robert Hacker Evans, suggesting that the Evans family are connected, probably through the mother, with the Hacker family. No other parish records for the Hacker family survive for this period.



The Heating Ducts; Re-use of Original Stone Fabric. (Figure 2; Plates 3, and 8)

- 6.12 Along both the North and South interior walls of the chancel, heating ducts had been installed [0004], [0006] during the raising of the floor in the late c.19th, over a period of restoration works. These comprised a small brick culvert into which the heating pipe was laid, which were topped off with sandstone slabs [0005], [0011]. The slabs on the north side of the chancel, [0005], were roughly worked and may have been robbed from earlier fabric in the chancel. Those on the south side, [0011], were much more regular in appearance and could conceivably have been brought in during the c.19th restorations.
- 6.13 Two low brick and stone walls, [0009], and [0010], had been constructed across the chancel from the South wall to the North wall. [0009] ran across the upper course of brickwork of the grave vault [0007], and [0010]crossed above the possible foundation of [0011].
- 6.14 The construction of [0009] and [0010] were the same, three courses of roughly workedsandstone, which was then topped by two or three brick courses. There is a possibility that the stone used in these walls, [0009], and [0010], were reused parts of the existing church fabric, but there is no indication of where in the church they may have come from. Their function, as part of the late c.19threstoration, would have been to support the newly raised floor.

7 Discussion

- 7.1 The floor of the chancel had been subjected to a considerable amount of disturbance during the work to raise the floor in the late19th century. This is evidenced by the significant number of disarticulated human remains that were recovered from the layer between concrete, (0002), and rubble, (0003), which overlay (0008). Presumably, these originate from graves that had been situated below the chancel floor sometime before the move to make burial within the chancel floor illegal in the c.19th. They may belong to a similar period as the occupants of the brick burial vault [0007], which probably dated to the latter half of 18th century. There was no evidence for grave cuts within (0008).
- 7.2 There are anecdotal records for the remains of the foundations of an earlier chancel which pre-dates the present c.1180 build. It is a possibility that [0011], the layer of stones along part of the North wall, are a part of these, though it is unlikely that they represent an *in-situ* structure. Such an interpretation can only be tentative since there was no dating evidence associated with [0011] and it did not extend the whole length of the North wall. There were no similar features observed along the South or East walls of the chancel.
- 7.3 The brick grave vault, [0007], can tentatively be dated to the latter half of the 18th century. There was no dating evidence directly associated with the vault, and it may be that any slab covering it was removed during the work to raise the floor in the late19th century. However, in the window recess above the vault on the South wall, there are four brass plaques that record the deaths and burials of the Evans family; the father, mother and two sons who died in childhood (see Appendix 2). The first of the children to die, Robert has the name Hacker inserted between his given name and surname. The Hackers were an important County family in Nottinghamshire in the 17th-18th centuries, and one of the immediate members of the family is commemorated with a memorial in the church. The memorial, now situated in the nave, is thought to have been moved at some point so that the actual site of the Hacker grave is lost. One member of the Hacker family in the17th century had been a colonel in the New Model and had signed to death warrant of Charles Stewart in c.1649. Other members of the Hacker family had fought on the Royalist side in the Civil War. The insertion on the Hacker name in the brass plaque recording the death of Robert Evans suggests that this may have been his mother's maiden name and therefore links the probable occupants of the vault with this important family, which in turn explains the prominent location of the vault in the chancel floor, which had historically been reserved for wealthy patrons and benefactors.



8 Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a. *Code of Conduct*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Reading.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b. *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Reading.

Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework*. Department for Communities and Local Government; London.

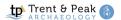
Online sources:

British geological Survey 2017. *Geology of Britain Viewer*. Accessible at: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?). [Accessed 29th January 2018].

History of St Helen's Church; Accessible at: https://www.trowellchurch.com/history-trowell.php [Accessed 29th January 2018]

Palmer, J. J., 2018. *Domesday Records Online*; Accessible at: www.opendomesday.org [Accessed 29th January 2018].

Southwell and Nottingham Church History; Accessible at: http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/trowell/hhistory.php [Accessed 29th January 2018].



Appendix 1: Context Register

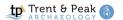
Context	Description	Phase
0001	Red sand at north end of chancel – modern 20 th century	Modern
0002	Concrete floor surface of raised floor – 19 th century	Modern
0003	Loosely compacted granular layer - mixed material, bricks rubble, disarticulated human remains	Post- Medieval/ Modern
0004	Brick lined duct for heating – 19 th century, north side of chancel	Modern
0005	Stone capping for duct 0004	Modern
0006	Brick lined duct for heating – 19 th century, south side of chancel	Modern
0007	Brick lined grave vault – 18 th century, possibly earlier	Modern
8000	Compacted grey silt. Disarticulated human remains at interface with 0003	Post- Medieval/ Modern
0009	Low brick and stone wall supporting raised floor – 19 th century	Modern
0010	Low brick and stone wall supporting raised floor – 19 th century	Modern
0011	Flat undressed sandstone slabs - possible earlier foundation	Undated



Appendix 2: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

Field Records	Description	Number
Watching brief record sheets	Record of visit and work carried out	9
Context register	Register of context numbers and descriptions	1
Context sheets	Record of features and deposits	12
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	1
Digital photographs	All views	30
Site drawings	Plan of site	1
Documents	Description	Number
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Health & Safety	Safe working statement & risk assessment	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the watching brief.	1
Find	Description	Number
Nil	Nil	0

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. A summary of the archive has been deposited digitally via OASIS. As no finds or significant archaeological deposits were retrieved from this watching brief, the archive will remain with Trent and Peak Archaeology.



Appendix 3: Plates

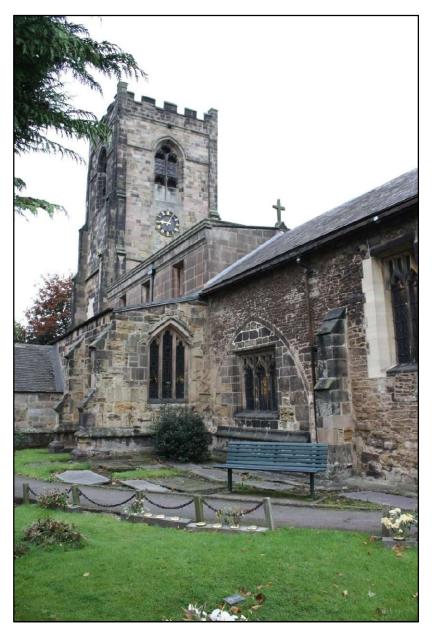


Plate 9: South facing elevation of St. Helen's Church with the blocked arch visible. Looking Northwest.



Plate 10: Fragment of c.1973 newspaper discovered beneath (0001).



Plate 11: Brick grave vault [0007], partially uncovered with low stone and brick wall [0009] laid overtop. Looking East; Scale = 1m.



Plate 12: Brick grave vault [0007] completely exposed. Looking West; Scale = 1m.



Plate 13: Stone and brick wall [0010] support for the raised chancel floor. Looking East; Scale = 1m.

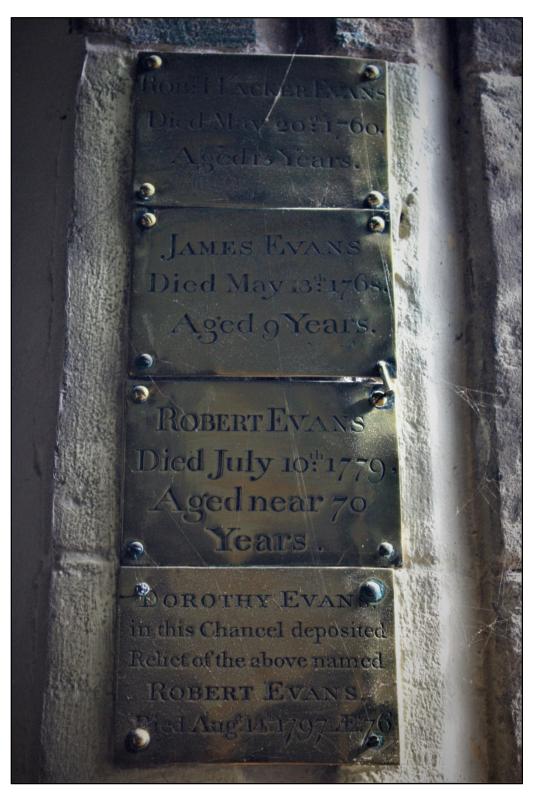


Plate 14: Brass name plaques located along the South wall window recesses. Possibly associated with brick grave vault [0007].



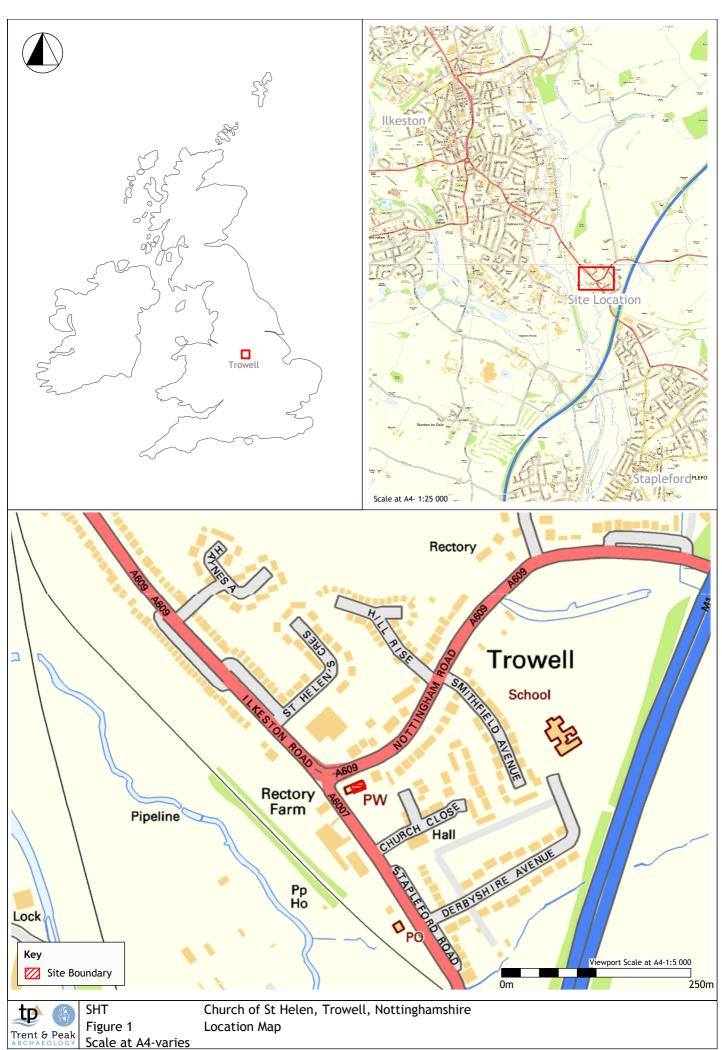
Plate 15: Possible remains of an early stone wall foundation [0011] running along the inside of the North wall of the chancel. Looking West; Scale = 0.5m.

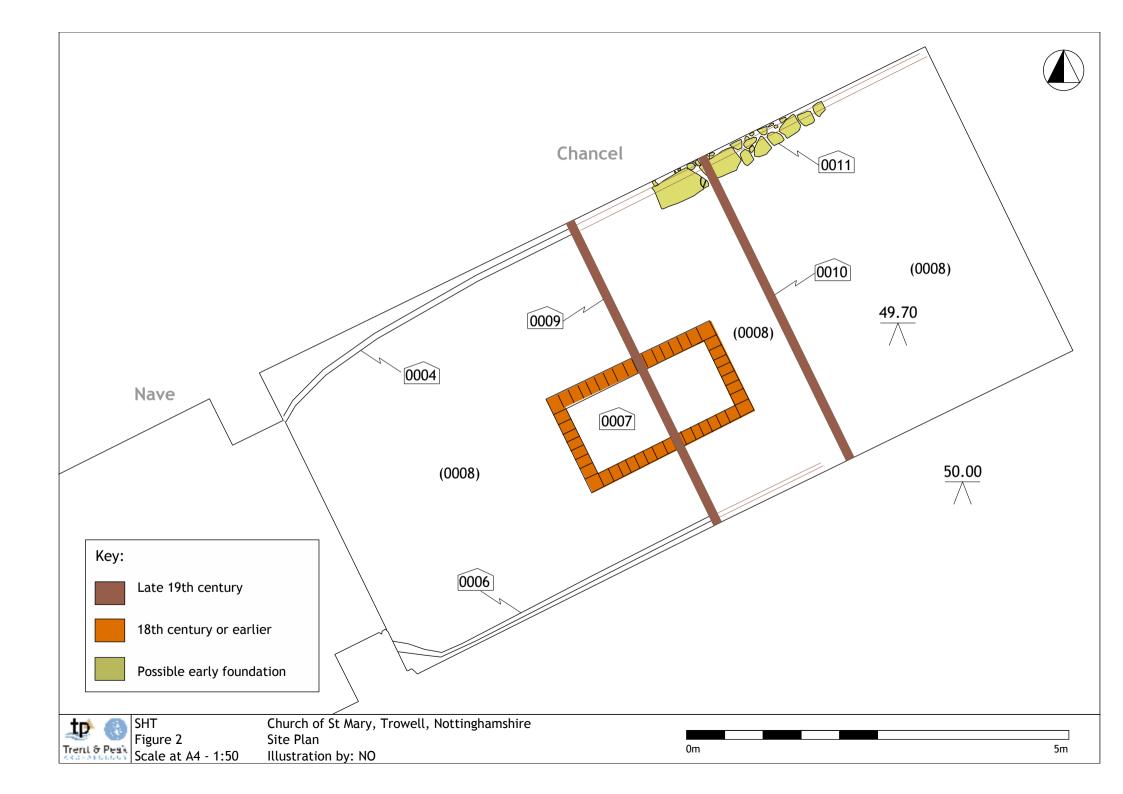


Plate 16: Stone capping [0005] of heating duct [0004], along the North wall of the chancel. Looking East; Scale = 1m.

Appendix 4: Figures







Appendix 5: OASIS Form



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: trentpea1-309105

Project details

Project name ST. HELENS CHURCH, TROWELL, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Short description of the project

An archaeological watching brief was conducted within the chancel of St. Helen's Church, Trowell, Nottinghamshire (SK48381 39747) on the lowering of the current chancel floor to the depth within the nave. The work was necessitated by an archaeological listed buildings planning constraint. There is thought to have been a church on land in this area since 801AD, and remains of the earlier Saxon church or 12th century successor may be visible within the current building footprint. The floor of the chancel had been raised during late 19th century renovations for the placement of underfloor heating ducts along the North and South walls. These were removed during the current phase of work. A possible early foundation wall and a brick burial vault were observed during the levelling of the chancel floor, though neither produced dating evidence. Nearby name plaques suggest that the brick burial vault likely belongs to the Evans family, dating to the mid-late 18th century. Neither burial vault, nor foundation wall were fully excavated, as the development did not damage the features and preservation in-situ was maintained.

Project dates Start: 10-10-2016 End: 19-10-2016

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference

codes

SHT - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project
Site status Listed Building

Current Land use Other 4 - Churchyard

Monument type ANGLICAN CHURCH Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None
Significant Finds NONE None
Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Listed Building Consent

Project location

Country England

Site location NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAM St. Helen's Church

Postcode NG9 3PF

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates SK 4826 3978 52.952910280087 -1.281593070237 52 57 10 N 001 16 53 W Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeology

Project brief originator

Nottingham City Council

Project design

originator

Edmund Taylor

Project

Edmund Taylor

director/manager

Project supervisor Laurence Platt

Project archives

Physical Archive

No

Exists?

Digital Archive recipient

Trent and Peak Archaeology

Digital Contents

"none"

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient

Trent and Peak Archaeology

Paper Contents

"none"

Paper Media available

"Context sheet", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Church of St. Helen, Trowell,

Nottinghamshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Owen, V. Platt, L.

Other

Report number: 153/2016

bibliographic

details

Date 2018

Issuer or publisher Trent and Peak Archaeology

Place of issue or publication

Grey literature

Description

Grey literature, PDF.

Entered by Scott Lomax (scott.lomax@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Entered on 13 February 2018

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice © ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012 Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page