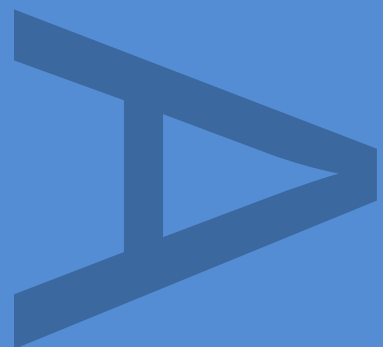


**AN ASSESSMENT OF AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATION AT ST
BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH,
THE CAUSEWAY, LAYSTON,
BUNTINGFORD,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

SITE CODE: HSBB10

REPORT NO: R11089

DECEMBER 2011



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH
LAYSTON
BUNTINGFORD
HERTFORDSHIRE**

EXCAVATION

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**An Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation at St Bartholomew's
Church, The Causeway, Layston, Buntingford, Hertfordshire**

Central National Grid Reference: TL 36940 30110

Site Code: HSBB 10

Report Number: R11089

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December 2011

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1 ABSTRACT

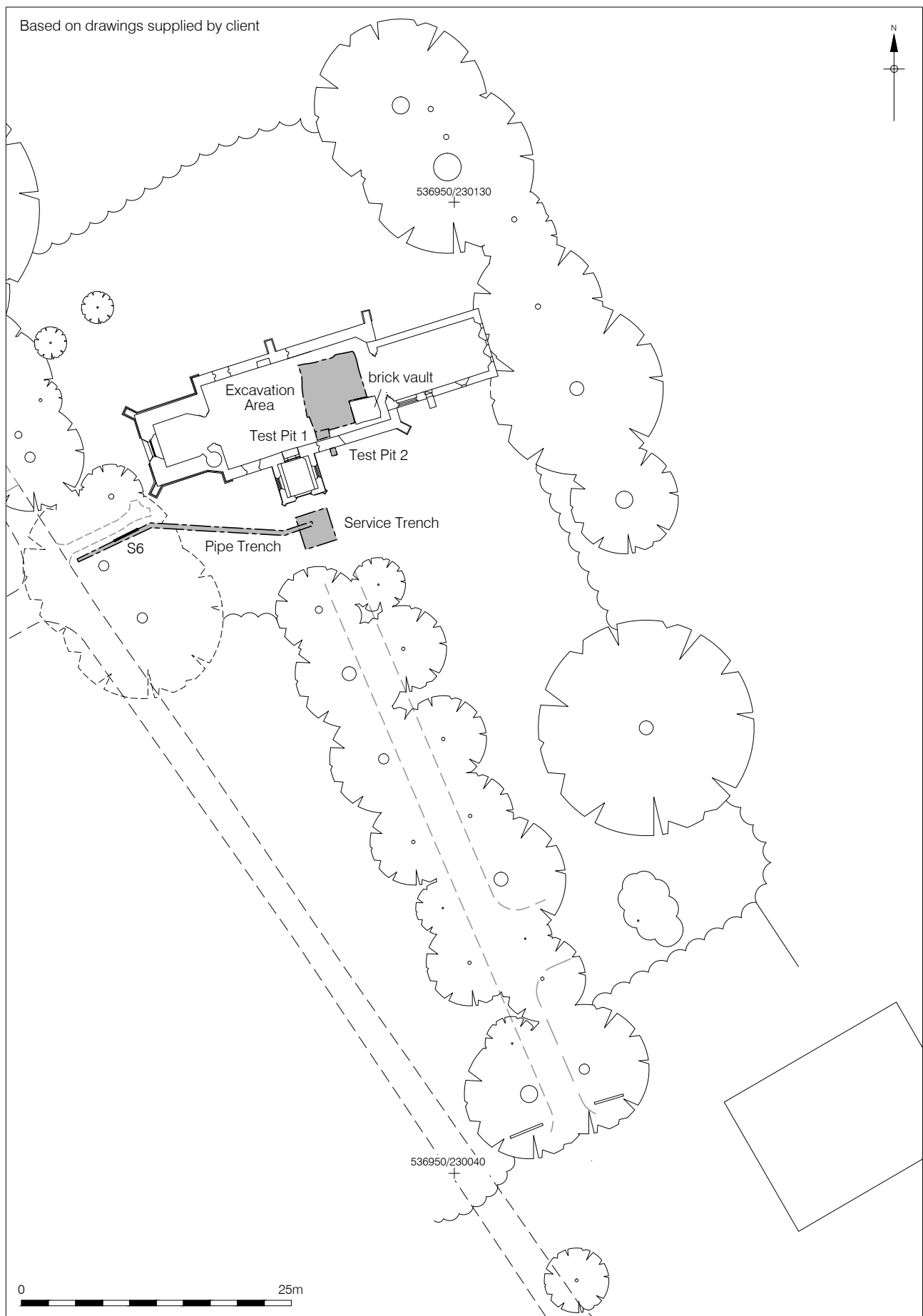
- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological excavation and watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at St Bartholomew's Church, Layston, Buntingford, Hertfordshire. The investigation was undertaken between 11th January and 5th July 2011. The commissioning clients were Mr Martin Coulson and Ms Mandy House.
- 1.2 The investigation comprised several elements: a strip and map investigation to identify grave cuts was followed by a full archaeological excavation within the nave of St Bartholomew's, archaeological monitoring of two test pits against the southern wall of the church (one inside the nave and a complementary one outside in the churchyard), archaeological monitoring and excavation within a substantial service trench and archaeological monitoring of a pipe trench. Both the pipe and service trenches were situated to the south of the church within the churchyard.
- 1.3 The earliest deposits encountered during the investigation were natural clay and clay silts.
- 1.4 The foundations of a structure predating the existing church building were uncovered within the nave. This most likely represents the remains of an earlier church dating to the late 11th or 12th century.
- 1.5 Two postholes, possibly associated with the construction of either the earlier building or the present church, were also revealed in the nave. The foundations of the standing southern wall of the nave were exposed and recorded.
- 1.6 A total of thirty-three articulated burials together with a quantity of disarticulated human bone were excavated. Twenty-one of the burials, which dated from the medieval to the late post-medieval period, were recorded within the nave. Twelve burials were excavated in the churchyard to the south of the church, two of these were radiocarbon dated to medieval and early post-medieval periods. Five lead coffins were also observed within a brick vault in the nave which were removed by specialist contractors and reburied on site together with all other human remains.
- 1.7 A small assemblage of pottery suggests occupation of the site from the 11th/12th century whilst the presence of a large quantity and wide variety of redeposited Roman ceramic building material and painted and moulded *opus signinum* within a layer and structure associated with the earlier church would suggest the presence of a substantial Roman building/settlement nearby.
- 1.8 Floor tiles recovered from deposits across the site indicate that the church was floored with high status Westminster-type tiles in the 13th century and later with glazed Flemish tiles in the Tudor period and later still with plain Flemish tiles.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological site investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between 11th January and 5th July 2011 at St Bartholomew's Church, The Causeway, Layston, Buntingford, Hertfordshire SG9 9EZ (Fig. 1). The site, covering an area of approximately 3000 square metres, was bounded to the north and east by fields, to the south by the disused cemetery of St Bartholomew's and to the west by The Causeway. The central National Grid Reference for this site is TL 36940 30110. The site is currently undergoing renovation and groundworks associated with the conversion of the abandoned church building into a residential property.
- 2.2 The investigation comprised several elements (Fig. 2). A strip and map exercise was undertaken between 11th and 14th January 2011 within the church to identify grave cuts and assess the presence and depth of burials. This exercise revealed the cuts of several burials and also exposed the top of a brick vault. This was followed by a full archaeological excavation within the nave of St Bartholomew's and archaeological monitoring of two test pits against the southern wall of the church (one inside the nave and a complementary one outside in the churchyard), a substantial service trench and a pipe trench. Graves found within the service trench were fully excavated. The main part of the archaeological investigation was undertaken between the 4th May and 5th July 2011. Lead coffins within a brick vault were removed on 5th October 2011 and after photographing were reburied in another location within the church.
- 2.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology also conducted a programme of historic building recording at St Bartholomew's Church which is the subject of a separate report (Thompson & Gould, 2011).
- 2.4 The commissioning clients were Martin Coulson and Mandy House with the archaeological evaluation being undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of James Langthorne and the project management of Helen Hawkins. The archaeological work was monitored by Alison Tinniswood, Archaeological Officer for Hertfordshire County Council. Historical research was carried out by Guy Thompson.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with Hertford Museum
- 2.6 The site was allocated the site code: HSB10.



Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 There is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection of historic buildings and structures within planning regulations as defined under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system and policies for the historic environment are included in relevant regional and local plans.

3.2 Legislation and Planning Guidance

- 3.2.1 Protection for historically important buildings and structures is principally based upon the Planning (Listed and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Guidance on the approach of the planning authorities to development and historic buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and other elements of the historic environment is provided by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2010.

- 3.2.2 Historic buildings are protected through the statutory systems for listing historic buildings and designating conservation areas. Listing is undertaken by the Secretary of State; designation of conservation areas is the responsibility of local planning authorities. The historic environment is protected through the development control system and, in the case of historic buildings and conservation areas, through the complementary systems of listed building and conservation area control.

- 3.2.3 The church was listed Grade II* by English Heritage in January 1967 (Listed Building number 159732) and the site is in an Area of Archaeological Significance No. 9 as identified in the East Hertfordshire District Local Plan. Planning permission (ref. No: 3/10/0972/FP) has been received for the change of use and restoration of the redundant church to a single residential dwelling with a garage/outbuilding located to the east. Condition no. 4 attached to the planning permission states:

'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To secure the protection of and proper provision for any archaeological remains in accordance with policies BH2 and BH3 of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review April 2007.'

- 3.2.4 The archaeological investigation was in accordance with Hertfordshire County Council's Brief for archaeological excavation, archaeological monitoring and recording via 'strip, map and record' (Tinniswood 2010) and national planning policy guidance, specifically Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) and the local authority's policy towards archaeology. It sets out in detail the methodology that was employed by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited which was stated in two Written Schemes of Investigation (Hawkins 2010a; 2010b).

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

- 4.1.1 The site is underlain by grey chalky boulder clay, a deposit that originated during the Anglian Glaciation of 400,000 BP. This boulder clay plateau occupies much of the north-east of Hertfordshire south of the light chalky soils of the Chiltern escarpment and comprises almost a quarter of the area of the county (Williamson 2010, 11-12). The solid geology underlying the boulder clay comprises Upper Cretaceous chalk deposited 100,000,000 BP.
- 4.1.2 The nearest natural watercourses to the site are the Rivers Rib and Quin. The River Rib rises in the chalk hills near Therfield Heath in the far north of the county, while the Quin rises in the chalk uplands to the north-east of the site. The rivers join a short distance to the south of Braughing, a settlement of considerable historical importance situated 3km to the south of the site.

4.2 Topography

- 4.2.1 The study site is situated amidst the rolling hills of the East Anglian Heights, standing on high ground overlooking the valley of the River Rib. At the west end of the church the ground level was at a height of approximately 116.50m OD, while at the east end of the church the ground was significantly higher at over 117.00m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 In order to assess the potential of the archaeological resource within the development area, an examination of all archaeological entries in the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HHER) has been made within a 500m radius from central point TL 36940 30110. The search area is defined as the 'study area' for the purposes of this assessment.
- 5.1.2 The purpose of the HHER search is to identify known archaeological sites and finds in the vicinity in order to predict the likely archaeological conditions within the development area itself. It is important to understand that many of the entries on the HER result from chance discoveries or non-systematic observations, and is therefore at best a small and unrepresentative sample of the total buried heritage.
- 5.1.3 The information derived from the HHER is supplemented by other archaeological, documentary and cartographic resources.

5.2 Prehistoric (450,000 BC to AD 43)

- 5.2.1 The majority of the archaeological evidence of the hunter-gatherer communities of the Palaeolithic period discovered in Hertfordshire has been recovered from the major river valleys. While much of this material is likely to have been redeposited by fluvial action, it is probable that many of the stone tools discovered in the valleys of the Lea and the Colne originated from hunting sites located beside ancient river channels (Williamson 2010, 22). No archaeological evidence of Palaeolithic activity has been discovered in the valley of the River Rib.
- 5.2.2 Following the end of the Devensian glaciation around 8,000 BC, the earliest nomadic groups of the Mesolithic period began to occupy the south and east of Britain, leaving behind archaeological traces of seasonal hunting camps in the valleys of the principal rivers. The river valleys remained the principal focus of settlement activity during the later Mesolithic period in Hertfordshire, although archaeological evidence of hunting sites in the tributaries of the major valleys suggests that exploitation of resources had become more intensive, as groups of settlers concentrated their activities on defined geographical territories (*ibid*, 23).
- 5.2.3 Although hunting and gathering continued into the Neolithic period, the first settled farming communities had begun to appear in the British Isles by c.4000 BC. It is probable that livestock husbandry predominated, though some arable cultivation also took place. Both ephemeral and permanent sites of Neolithic date have been recorded in Hertfordshire, including examples at Gorhambury near St Albans, Letchworth and Oakwood, near Berkhamsted (*ibid*, 23-24). The discovery of the latter site suggests that settlers had begun to exploit areas away from the main river valleys (*ibid*). Despite the expansion of settlement during the period, it is probable that the boulder clay plateau of north-east Hertfordshire proved intractable to the simple technology available to Neolithic farmers. Evidence for Neolithic activity in the east of the county has been mainly confined to the river valleys, where material lost or discarded during seasonal hunting or fishing expeditions has been found (Partridge 1981, 26-27). Flint tools apparently dating from the Neolithic have been found within the vicinity of Buntingford, although the precise location of the finds is not recorded (HER 219; Seddon 1999, 2).
- 5.2.4 Whilst relatively little evidence of Bronze Age settlement has been found in Hertfordshire, evidence for Bronze Age funerary practices has been recorded in the county in the form of ring ditches, which indicate the presence of ploughed-out round barrows. The majority of known barrow cemetery sites in the county have been

observed on lighter soils, such as those of the Chilterns and the East Anglian Heights, where they frequently appear close to the watersheds between rivers, possibly indicative of former territorial boundaries (Williamson 2010, 25-29).

- 5.2.5 Archaeological evidence for activity during the late prehistoric period is comparatively abundant, suggesting that settlement expanded into previously sparsely settled areas of Hertfordshire during the early Iron Age. A number of early and middle Iron Age sites have been discovered on the edge of the boulder clay plateau, including examples at Wood End and Raffin Green (*ibid*, 30).
- 5.2.6 Evidence from fieldwalking surveys suggests that settlement and cultivation extended further into the claylands during the late Iron Age. Settlements dating to this period have been identified on the boulder clays in north-east Hertfordshire, often located at some distance from the principal river valleys. Settlement densities in excess of one per square kilometre have been recorded just over the county boundary in Essex, and it is possible that similar densities were achieved on the more fertile soils in Hertfordshire (*ibid*, 31). Fieldwalking has also revealed large scatters of stray pot sherds on the boulder clay indicative of manuring, suggesting that arable crops were cultivated on the fertile soils of the north-east of the county (*ibid*, 33). By the eve of the Roman conquest a pattern of dispersed settlement, comprising isolated farmsteads, small hamlets and seasonally occupied sites set amidst a landscape of fields, open grazing land and woodland had developed on the boulder clay plateau.
- 5.2.7 Hertfordshire contains only four confirmed Iron Age hillforts, as well as a probable example at Gatesbury, a short distance to the south of the modern village of Braughing. A sub-rectangular earthwork surrounded by banks and ditches, the Gatesbury hillfort is located on a small hill that overlooks the valley of the River Rib from the east (Partridge, 1981: 27). While the site's Iron Age provenance remains unconfirmed, the monument is located in an area that was evidently of considerable significance during the late pre-Roman Iron Age (Williamson, 2010: 34-35).
- 5.2.8 During the last decades of the 1st century BC a settlement was established at Wickham Hill, located on the opposite side of the River Rib from the Gatesbury hillfort (Partridge 1981, 28). Archaeologists have identified this site as an *oppidum*, a new type of settlement which typically comprised an extensive spread of occupation, defined by lengths of discontinuous banks and ditches (Williamson 2010, 42). *Oppida* also exhibited certain 'proto-urban' characteristics, including pottery manufacture, metal-working and the minting of coinage, as well as evidence of trade in the form of large quantities of imported goods. These developments are usually considered to have been associated with the emergence of large and comparatively sophisticated tribal kingdoms in southern Britain, at a time when the region was becoming increasingly engaged with the Roman world. Of the five late pre-Roman Iron Age *oppida* in Hertfordshire¹, the complex that emerged around Braughing and Puckeridge was the largest, eventually spreading over an area of around 200 hectares.
- 5.2.9 While the extent of the tribal territory centred on the Braughing *oppidum* remains a matter of conjecture, archaeological evidence has been discovered which suggests that at around the time that the settlement was at its zenith, activity was also taking place in the vicinity of Buntingford. A single late Iron Age coin has been discovered in the area, although the location of the findspot is unclear (Seddon 1999, fig. 1). A watching brief conducted to the north-west of the town during the construction of the Buntingford bypass in the mid-1980s revealed a possible ditch and an associated spread of material that included late pre-Roman and early Roman (c.AD35-50) pottery, although little dated material was discovered at other sites along the line of the new road (Cave-Penny & Daniells 1988, 13-14). Whilst the function of the ditch is unknown, it is possible that the spread material was associated with the manuring of arable fields on

¹ The others were at Verulamium/Verlamion (St Albans), Wheathampstead, Welwyn and Baldock

the west bank of the River Rib, though no evidence has yet been found of any contemporary settlement in the vicinity.

5.3 Roman (AD43-AD410)

- 5.3.1 Despite the upheavals that occurred elsewhere in Britain in the years immediately following the Roman conquest of AD43, archaeological evidence suggests that many of the economic and territorial arrangements of late pre-Roman Iron Age Hertfordshire survived the arrival of the newcomers, enabling established local elites to flourish under their new rulers (Williamson 2010, 54). The former *oppidum* at Verulamium retained its pre-conquest role as a centre of local power, becoming the cantonal capital of the newly established *civitas* of the Catuvellauni, while the *oppida* at Baldock and Braughing both became the sites of Roman 'small towns'. Although the majority of the buildings of the Roman town at Braughing were of timber construction, several large masonry structures were built in the late 1st century AD (Burnham & Wachter 1990, 109). The presence of such high status buildings suggests that Braughing may have retained its status as an administrative and social centre for the tribal sub-group (*pagus*) that had previously occupied the earlier *oppidum* (Williamson 2010, 60).
- 5.3.2 Shortly after the conquest construction began of Ermine Street, the military road that connected London with Lincoln and York. The new road met an existing trackway known as Stane Street (also remodelled by the Romans) west of Wickham Hill, a short distance to the south of the old Iron Age *oppidum* at Braughing (Burnham & Wachter, 1990: 107). Approaching the junction from the south-west, Ermine Street turned northwards along the western side of Wickham Hill, where a new street grid was established in the second half of the 1st century AD (*ibid*; Williamson 2010, 59).
- 5.3.3 In contrast to the rural landscape of south and west Hertfordshire, which was characterised by large estates managed from complex and sophisticated villas like those found at Gorhambury and Gadebridge Park, the late Iron Age pattern of dispersed small settlements on the boulder clay plateau in the north-east of the county persisted into the Roman period. The largest and most successful of these settlements were concentrated in the river valleys, while isolated hamlets and farmsteads cultivated the land in between (Williamson 2010, 66). While there were fewer villas in the north-east of the county, the fertile soils supported a settlement density of approximately one site per square kilometre, twice that of the Stevenage-Welwyn claylands to the west of the boulder clay plateau (*ibid*).
- 5.3.4 Aside from Ermine Street itself, few Romano-British sites or finds have been identified in the vicinity of the modern town of Buntingford. Roman coins and pottery are recorded as having been found in the environs of Alswick Hall Farm to the south-east of St Bartholomew's church, although a subsequent archaeological evaluation at Alswick Hall Farm appears to have revealed little more than an undated ditch (Seddon 1999, fig. 1; http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=1653241&resourceID=304). A further stray Roman coin is recorded as having been found in the vicinity of Aspenden Hall, approximately 2.25km to the south-west of the present site (Seddon 1999, fig. 1).
- 5.3.5 Little else seems to be known about these finds, or of the context of their deposition, though they do indicate that activity took place in the vicinity of the present site on both sides of Ermine Street during the Romano-British period. Interestingly, both findspots were located close to sites which later became the capital messuages of small medieval manors, both of which built manorial 'hall-churches' during the early medieval period. No evidence has yet been found of Romano-British settlement in the study area.

5.4 Saxon (410-1066)

- 5.4.1 The chronology of the transition from the late Roman to the early Saxon periods in Hertfordshire is as incompletely understood as it is elsewhere in southern Britain. Archaeological evidence has shown that St Albans retained some kind of civil authority well into the 5th century, while place-name evidence strongly suggests that the former Roman town at Braughing remained an important territorial centre during the sub-Roman period and beyond (Williamson 2010, 83).
- 5.4.2 The link between the Roman and later settlements at Braughing is suggested by the place-name of Wickham Hill, where the archaeological remains of the Roman town were discovered. *Wicham*/Wickham is one of the earliest place-names of the Anglo-Saxon period, and one of only three known examples in Hertfordshire (Short 1988, 10; Williamson 2010, 83). *Wicham* settlements are typically found near Roman roads, and it has been suggested that they may be associated with the Latin term *vicus*, the smallest unit of local authority in Roman Britain (Short 1988, 12). The earliest form of the place-name Braughing, which first appeared in an early 9th century charter, comprised two elements; *Breah/Brah* and *-ingas*, meaning the 'people of *Brahha/Breahhu*' (*ibid*, 10). The *-ingas* element ('people of') usually originated during the colonising, Christian phase of the middle Saxon period during the 7th century, and was often applied to settlements on the edge of territories (*ibid*). It has been suggested that the settlement of the *Brahingas* was an outpost of the kingdom of the East Saxons (Essex), one of the smaller regional tribal polities of the period, but which nevertheless controlled eastern Hertfordshire throughout the 7th and 8th centuries (*ibid*, 12; Williamson 2010, 92-93). Whether the *Brahingas* were a group of Saxon incomers, or an existing native community based on the established centre of local authority at Wickham Hill, which was subsequently absorbed by the kingdom of the East Saxons, remains unknown.
- 5.4.3 There is evidence to suggest that the folk territory of the *Brahingas* evolved into a substantial estate centred on Braughing during the middle Saxon period (c. AD600-AD850). The Braughing estate, which was first identified by David Short from study of the earliest known parish boundaries, is believed to have covered nearly 40,000 acres and contained the later parishes of Anstey, Aspenden, Barkway, Barley, Braughing, Buckland, Great and Little Hornead, Layston, Reed, Standon, Throcking, Westmill and Wyddial (Short 1988, 8). Territories of this nature, known to historians as 'multiple estates' were generally royal in origin and contained the full range of natural resources necessary to sustain the estate centre, to which goods or services were supplied by economically specialised farms or hamlets (Williamson 2010, 116). Short observed that the putative outer boundaries of the Braughing estate were regular and 'smooth', especially in the east, where the suggested boundary was the same as that which separated the hundreds of Braughing and Edwinstree in the late Saxon period (Short 1988, 10). In contrast, the arrangement of parish boundaries within the estate was complex and intricate, often following the lines of individual fields and strips, with numerous portions detached from 'their' parishes (*ibid*). This arrangement is indicative of the subsequent fragmentation of the estate, which took place as ownership of parcels of land was granted to ecclesiastical institutions and secular landowners (Williamson 2010, 116). Once in secular hands, these holdings tended to fragment further as they were divided by inheritance or were sold off (*ibid*). Charters indicate that the fission of the Braughing estate was underway by the mid-9th century, although the process continued throughout the late Saxon period until as late as the early 12th century (Short 1988, 14). These subdivided property holdings became the manorial estates recorded in the Domesday Book.

Late Saxon manors, estates and villis

- 5.4.4 Although compiled 20 years after the Norman Conquest, the Domesday Book of 1086 provides a valuable insight into the administrative structures of late Saxon England. Recording both the ownership of property (in terms of estate holdings) and the administrative divisions by which that property was taxed (vills/townships), the

Domesday Book revealed that a complex pattern of landholding and secular and ecclesiastical authority had emerged in Hertfordshire by the end of the Saxon period.

- 5.4.5 The Domesday Book listed four villas in the immediate vicinity of present-day Layston (Icheton, Alfladewick/Beauchamps, Alswick, and Corney), the ownership of which was divided between at least nine estates in 1066 (Bailey 1993, 359)². Since the 18th century, when the antiquarians Henry Chauncy and Nathaniel Salmon wrote the earliest histories of Hertfordshire, historians have generally equated the Domesday vill of Icheton (Ichetone) with the medieval 'village' of Layston (Chauncy 1700, 253; Salmon 1724, 312; Page 1914, 84).³
- 5.4.6 In 1066 Icheton was heavily subdivided, with six separate estates holding land within its boundaries.⁴ Despite the extent of subdivision the vill was fairly small, being assessed at a total of 2 hides, 3 virgates ($\frac{3}{4}$ hide) and 32 acres (Williams & Martin 2002, 374, 380, 385, 389, 391). The largest holding of 1 hide was worth 60s, and was held by four sokemen, who held it of Archbishop Stigand, King Edward and Earl Harold. The next largest holdings, each of $\frac{1}{2}$ hide, were held by Godgyth, described as a 'man' of Esger the Staller and Ælmer of Benington⁵ respectively; the former's estate and worth 40s and the latter's 20s (*ibid*, 380). Godgyth also held a separate estate of 20 acres worth 3s in the vill, while Ealdred, a thegn of Edward the Confessor held 6 acres worth 12d (*ibid*, 380, 385). A further 3 virgates and 6 acres worth 20s were held of the King by two sokemen (*ibid*, 391).⁶ The fact that the vill was so subdivided; that its principal tenants all had the right to sell their holdings, and that these tenants were comparatively prosperous, suggests that the estates of the vill of Icheton had previously been dependent territories of a much larger estate, acquired by neighbouring landowners and subsequently attached to their own estates (Williamson 2010, 198-201).
- 5.4.7 In contrast to subdivided Icheton, the vill of Alswick was a single manorial estate, assessed at 6 hides, worth £8 and held by Almaer, a man of Earl Gyrrh at the eve of the Conquest (Williams & Martin 2002, 383). The land was sufficient to support seven plough teams, with a further two or three in the lord's demesne. The suffix *-wic* suggests that Alswick probably began as an isolated farmstead in the Braughing estate, although it had evidently become a productive economic unit by the end of the Saxon period (Short 1988, 12). The antiquarians Nathaniel Salmon and Robert Clutterbuck maintained that the name of the estate was derived from that of a possible Saxon lady named Alflada; the same derivation they gave to the nearby manor and vill of Alfladewick/Affledawiche (Clutterbuck 1827, 430). In 1066 Alfladewick comprised two hides worth 40s and was held by the prolific Godgyth, who also possessed the right to alienate (Williams & Martin 2002, 380). Place-name evidence suggests that like Alswick, Alfladewick probably originated as an isolated farmstead in the Braughing estate. Perhaps owing to the presumption of a common origin of the names of the two manors, both Salmon and Clutterbuck maintained that Alfladewick was part of the hamlet of Alswick, although there is little evidence from the post-Conquest period that supports this contention (Clutterbuck 1827, 430).
- 5.4.8 In 1066 there were two other small estates in the vicinity of the later parish of Layston. The smallest of these comprised one virgate of arable land, and was held by Alweard, a man of Earl Harold, while the largest covered three virgates and was held by Goda, who

² The manors of 1066 and 1086 were not named in the Domesday Book. Their subsequent names and descent are described in the 'medieval' section of this assessment

³ Rutherford Davis questioned this assumption in 1973, suggesting that there was "some documentary evidence which may point to the contrary" (Rutherford Davis 1973, 3).

⁴ Icheton/ Layston was a vill and *never* a manor

⁵ Godgyth/Godid was apparently a woman (Page 1914, 82), while Ælmer was one of the largest landowners in late Saxon Hertfordshire (Williamson 2010, 120)

⁶ Thegns in late Saxon England were members of the noble class beneath that of the highest non-royal members of society, the ealdormen. Sokemen were members of a middling class of tenant, superior to that of villeins, and possessed limited property rights

was described as being “king Edward’s man”; both men had the right to sell their holdings (Williams & Martin 2002, 380). In the aftermath of the Conquest these holdings were united into the manor of Corney Bury/Cornei (Page 1914, 116).

Late Saxon parishes and churches

- 5.4.9 The process of secular estate fission was mirrored in the ecclesiastical sphere, as the middle Saxon *parochiae* that had ministered to the pastoral needs of the population from central minster churches, fragmented into the complex arrangement of parishes that had become widespread by the 11th century. In addition to serving as the centre of a secular estate, Braughing was home to the minster church of St Andrew mentioned in a number of charters of the 9th and 10th centuries, which originally served the entire estate (Short 1988, 13; Doggett 1988, 24). As the local population and the number of secular landholdings increased, landlords began to build churches on their property for their households and tenants. Endowed by tithes raised from the local population and produce from their glebe-land, these manorial churches were often built close to the owner’s manor house (hence the appellation ‘hall-churches’), many becoming parish churches during the 11th and 12th centuries (Williamson 2010, 204-206). The boundaries of parishes often reflected existing secular territorial boundaries; where manors had detached parts the parishes also often had detached parts, leading to the complex patterns of manorial holdings and parochial boundaries that emerged in the environs of Layston in the Middle Ages.
- 5.4.10 As a record of property and obligations, the Domesday Book was not directly concerned with parochial organisation. However the Domesday scribes did note the presence of priests, 52 of whom were recorded in Hertfordshire (Williamson 2010, 207). It is generally assumed that the presence of a priest in a vill probably indicated the existence of a parish church, although it is likely that others went unrecorded (*ibid*).⁷ Interestingly, none of the records of the manorial holdings in the vills of Icheton, Alswick, Alfladewick and Corney contain any reference to priests, suggesting that the medieval parish of Layston was a post-Conquest foundation. The absence of a strong source of manorial authority in the vill of Icheton may have militated against the establishment of a church there before the Conquest.
- 5.4.11 Two local vills were recorded as having had priests in Domesday; one of whom was based at the post-Conquest manor of Wyddial/Widihale, the other at one of the manorial estates of the subdivided vill of Berkesden in Aspenden (Williams & Martin 2002, 380, 391). The presence of these priests suggests that the manorial ‘hall-churches’ at Aspenden and Wyddial Halls, and the parishes of Wyddial and Aspenden themselves, predated the Conquest. Other local hall churches included examples at Reed, Great Hornead, Cottered and Barkway (Plumb 2003, lxii).

Late Saxon landscape and settlement

- 5.4.12 Analysis of Domesday returns for the north-east of the county suggests a population density of between 50 and 70 people per square mile, figures not far short of the densely populated counties of East Anglia (Williamson 2010, 166). As an administrative subdivision of the hundreds, the use of the term vill in the Domesday Book reveals little about the pattern of settlement in an area, and its use does not denote the presence of nucleated villages. Evidence from the medieval period suggests that settlement in the Domesday vills of north-east Hertfordshire mainly consisted of scattered farmsteads and hamlets (see below).
- 5.4.13 The Domesday descriptions of the landholdings in the vicinity of present-day Buntingford suggest that the area was overwhelmingly arable in 1066, with enough

⁷ However other writers have argued that Domesday was an inadequate guide to the provision of churches in the Early Middle Ages (Doggett 1988, 22)

pasture and meadow to feed the teams of oxen that ploughed the fields, but little else (Williams & Martin 2002, 374-391). Writing in the early 20th century, the local historian William Gerish suggested that the place-name Corney/Cornei meant 'corn-island', "its suitability for growing cereals doubtless being due to the fact that in winter the land became flooded and covered with silt" (Gerish 1906, 149).

- 5.4.14 As was the case elsewhere in north-east Hertfordshire, woodland was in short supply by the end of the Saxon period; in the vicinity of present-day Buntingford the vill of Alswick, Corney and Icheton had sufficient woodland to support ten pigs each, while Alfladewick could support 20 (Williams & Martin 2002, 380, 383, 391). Only Berkesden had a significant quantity of woodland, containing enough to support 30 pigs, in addition to "wood for fences", the latter implying that the resource was managed by coppicing (Williams & Martin 2002, 380; Williamson 2010, 179). In contrast to Berkesden, neither Throcking nor Wyddial had any woodland at all (Rutherford Davis 1973, 9).

5.5 Medieval (1066-1535)

Medieval manors, estates and vills

- 5.5.1 Within 20 years of the Norman Conquest all of the manorial estates with holdings, the vills of Icheton, Alswick, Alfladewick and Corney, had been transferred into the hands of new lords. The continuing process of estate fragmentation in Icheton led to the creation of at least one new manor, which in turn had significant implications for the ecclesiastical organisation of the local landscape.

Icheton

- 5.5.2 During the course of the two centuries after the Domesday survey, all of the estates in the vill of Icheton in 1086 appear to have been absorbed by neighbouring manors, completing the process of estate fragmentation that had begun in the late Saxon period. The vill seems to have ceased to exist as an independent administrative unit by the 14th century, having apparently merged with Alfladewick (see below). By 1086 the largest estate in the vill had become part of the vast estates of the Conqueror's half-brother, Odo Bishop of Bayeux, held of him by a certain Osbern/Osbert (Williams & Martin 2002, 374). This holding descended with the manor of Pope's Hall, Buckland, before disappearing in the 14th century, when it seems to have been absorbed into the manor of Buckland (Page 1914, 84).

- 5.5.3 While the manor house of Pope's Hall was situated at Chipping in the south of the parish of Buckland to the north-west of Layston, the manor of Pope's Hall retained extensive holdings in the medieval parish of Layston, almost certainly including Osbern's former estate (Bailey 1993, 358).

- 5.5.4 Other small estates in Icheton that are assumed to have passed into the possession of neighbouring manors included the 6 acres formerly held by Ealdred, which was granted to a certain Walter by Eudo Fitzherbert, Steward to William I, the subsequent descent of which is unknown (*ibid*, 385). Better understood is the descent of the ½ hide formerly held by Ælmer of Benington, which had been granted by Peter de Valognes to a certain Humphrey by 1086, subsequently becoming attached to the neighbouring manor of Stonbury, which was also held of Peter de Valognes (Page 1914, 84). Similarly, the holding of 3 virgates and 6 acres had become part of the property of Hardwin de Scales, of whom it was held by Theobald of Barley (Williams & Martin 2002, 391). This is likely to have been part of de Scales' holding in the manor and parish of Throcking, with which it subsequently descended (Page 1914, 84).

Alfladewick (Manor of Beauchamps)

- 5.5.5 In 1086 the estate of ½ hide in Icheton previously held by Godgyth was worth exactly half of its pre-Conquest value (Williams & Martin 2002, 380). Since the Conquest it had become part of the fee of Rumold, who in turn held it of Count Eustace of Boulogne

(*ibid*). Rumold also held the manor of Alfladewick of Count Eustace, and the Icheton holding subsequently descended with this manor (*ibid*; Page 1914, 82).⁸ At the end of the 1120s the same Rumold (or his son of the same name) held Alfladewick of William of Boulogne (Count Eustace's grandson). The manor appears to have remained in the hands of Rumold's descendants throughout the 12th century, passing into the possession of the Beauchamps family by the third quarter of the 13th century (*ibid*). Known thereafter as the manor of Beauchamps, the estate descended through the Waleys and Grey families until it passed into the hands of the Walgrave family in the mid-16th century, while the overlordship resided with the de Vere family, Earls of Oxford.

- 5.5.6 Alfladewick was therefore both a vill and a manor by 1086, while the manor house of Beauchamps was built outside the vill in the parish of Wyddial (Hunneyball 2004, 71). Unlike other local landlords, the lords of the manor of Alfladewick do not appear to have built a 'hall-church' for themselves in the latter parish, perhaps because the vill of Alfladewick was served by a church established in the early 12th century on land in the vill of Icheton belonging to the neighbouring manor of Corney (see below). This church (known as Lefstanechirche and Lestonechurch) served the householders of Alfladewick and other nearby vills, subsequently becoming the church of the parish that was known as 'Lestanchurch called Alfladewick' in the mid-14th century, and Layston thereafter (Page 1914, 77).

Alswick

- 5.5.7 By 1086 the manor of Alswick was tenanted by a certain William, who held it of Ralph Baynard (Williams & Martin 2002, 383). The overlordship of the manor passed with the rest of the honour of Baynard to the Crown during the reign of Henry I, when it was granted to Robertson of Richard, son of Gilbert de Clare, before descending with FitzWalter family until the 14th century (Page 1914, 83). Meanwhile the tenancy descended to Richard Fitz William, who may have been the son of William Baynard, from whom the overlordship of the manor had been confiscated by Henry I (Clutterbuck 1827, 430). In the mid-12th century Richard gave the chapel of Alswick in perpetual alms to the priory of Holy Trinity, Aldgate (see below). It is likely that Richard's gift was accompanied by all or part of the manor itself, which was subsequently leased by the priory to a succession of lay tenants until the priory was dissolved in 1531 (Page 1914, 83).
- 5.5.8 The chapel of Alswick almost certainly originated in the decades following the Norman conquest as a manorial 'hall-church' for the household and tenants of Alswick Hall. The suggestion that there was a timber church at Alswick by 1086 is not supported by the Domesday account, although it is likely that the church was in existence soon afterwards (Page 1914, 77; Williams & Martin 2002, 383). As the 'hall-church' of an established unitary manor and vill, it is likely that the church of Alswick predated the nearby church of Lefstanchirche, which was built for a manor that only came into existence after the Conquest (see below). Following the construction of the new church and the subsequent establishment of the ecclesiastical parish of Lefstanchirche / Layston, Alswick was reduced to a subordinate chapelry of the latter (Page 1914, 77). This status was confirmed by the grant by Richard FitzWilliam to the priory of Holy Trinity, which was made in the presence of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, suggesting that the chapel passed into the hands of the priory at some point between 1162 and 1170 (Clutterbuck 1827, 430; Page 1909, 465-475 fn. 147). Both the grant of the chapel and the affirmation of its subordinate status to the church and parish of Lefstanchirche were subsequently confirmed by charter in February 1227 (Hodgett 1971, 199-211(1005)). A reference in a deed of 1255 to a grant of a messuage in the hamlet of Buntingford in 'the parish of Alsewyk' appears to be erroneous, although it is conceivable that there might have been a short-lived parish of that name, dimly remembered as late as the mid-13th century (Maxwell-Lyte 1890, 290 (B.813)).

⁸ Clutterbuck erroneously suggested that this holding descended with the manor of Corneybury (Clutterbuck 1827, 427)

Following the suppression of the priory of Holy Trinity, the Dissolution Survey of 1534 reported that the chapel of St Mary Magdalene at Alswick was decayed (Pollard 1902, 67). During the reign of Edward VI (1547-1553) it was reported that the chapel had been purchased by Sir Henry Parker of Pelham Knight, who pulled it down, took the church plate for himself and sold the bells, lead, timber and stone of the church to two Buntingford tradesmen (Page 1914, 87; Plumb 2003, lxx).

Corney Bury

- 5.5.9 The manor of Corney Bury was formed after the Conquest from the merger of two small estates in Icheton formerly held by Alweard and Goda (Page 1914, 116; Williams & Martin 2002, 380). The new manor was subsequently enlarged by the addition of a third small Icheton estate, which comprised the 20 acres previously held by Godgyth in 1066 and by two unnamed knights in 1086 (Clutterbuck 1827, 427 Williams & Martin 2002, *ibid*). Corney Bury was held by Robert from the ubiquitous Count Eustace of Boulogne (Williams & Martin 2002, *ibid*). This Robert appears to have been the same individual as the Robert Fitz Rozelin who held the manors of Queenbury (Reed) and Berkesden (Aspenden) of the Count, both of which subsequently descended with Corney Bury until the mid 12th century (Page 1912, 247-253; Page 1914, 20).
- 5.5.10 While the overlordship of these estates remained with the honour of Boulogne throughout the 12th century, during the early years of the century Robert Fitz Rozelin's Hertfordshire estates passed to Hugh Triket, who is believed to have been Robert's descendent (*ibid*, 116). Although the precise date is not recorded, at some point either towards the end of the reign of King Stephen (1136-1154), or in the early years of the reign of Henry II (1154-1189) Triket granted in perpetuity all his lands in the manor of Corneybury to the priory of Holy Trinity, Aldgate, and also remitted them all right (including the right of advowson) in the church of Lefstanechirch (Hodgett 1971, 199-211; Page 1914, 87; Page 1909, 465-475; Clutterbuck 1827, 428). Triket's grant to the priory of half a knight's fee in Corney was confirmed in 1166 (Clutterbuck 1827, 428). Shortly before the end of the 12th century the Bishop of London, Richard Fitz Neal, permitted the priors and canons of Holy Trinity to appropriate the vicarage of Layston (Page 1914, 87).
- 5.5.11 The prior and canons of Holy Trinity held the manor of Corney Bury and the right of advowson to the church of Lefstanchirch and its vicarage until the Dissolution (Page 1914, 116). By the beginning of the second decade of the 13th century, the overlordship of Corneybury had passed via a convoluted process to Hugh Triket's grandson Simon. At the same time Simon Triket was also overlord of Berkesden, which was tenanted by the Anstey family, until they too granted that manor to Holy Trinity Aldgate (*ibid*, 20). It is likely that the priory leased these estates to a succession of sub-tenants over the centuries that followed, although their details appear not to have survived (Anon 1936, 389; Gerish 1906, 149).
- 5.5.12 Having been formed from a number of disparate estates in the vill of Icheton, the holdings of the manor of Corney Bury were scattered across the landscape of the pre-Conquest parish of Wyddial and the medieval parish of Layston. The manor house (Corneybury) stood in a detached portion of the medieval parish of Layston approximately 1.6km north of present-day Buntingford; the land upon which it stood presumably having been one of the Icheton estates from which the manor had emerged (Bailey 1993, 358).

Church and parish of Layston

- 5.5.13 As the tenants-in-chief of an estate formed in the years after the Conquest from a number of small and dispersed holdings in the vill of Icheton, the lords of the manor of Corney Bury presumably had the choice of a number of locations at which to establish a manorial church. That they became the patrons of a church built on a portion of their estate closer to the centre of the vill of Alfladewick than it was to the manorial centre at Corneybury is a reflection of the complexity of landholdings in the area in the late 11th

and early 12th centuries, and suggests that other factors may have influenced the decision to build it at that particular location.

'Lefstanechirch'

- 5.5.14 The predecessor of the present church of St Bartholomew, Layston was established at some point between 1086 and c.1160, although antiquarian writers and modern historians have failed to reach agreement regarding the date of its original foundation. H.P. Pollard concluded that the church was granted to the priory of Holy Trinity "about the year 1100"; while Robert Clutterbuck suggested that the church was in existence "as early as the reign of King Stephen" (Pollard 1902, 64; Clutterbuck 1827, 427). More recently, Philip Plumb has suggested a foundation date of c.1100 (Plumb 2003, lxvi).
- 5.5.15 One of the earliest reliable documented reference to the church and parish was dated to February 1227, when Henry III confirmed Triket's gift of 'Lefstanechirch' to Holy Trinity Aldgate, while a record in the Assize Rolls of 1248 made reference to a drowning in Alfladewick "near Lestonechurch" (Hodgett 1971, 199-211 (1004); Plumb 2003, lxvi). The authors of the Victoria County History of Hertfordshire argued that the church and parish subsequently became known as 'Lestanechurch', which was eventually corrupted to Layston (Page 1914, 77). By contrasting this name with the putative 'timber' church at Alswick, the authors invited readers to conclude that it was derived from the masonry from which the new church was built (Page 1914, 77 fn 1; Anon 1936, 392).
- 5.5.16 The suggestion that the church was named after its building material was first made in the 1720s by the antiquarian Nathaniel Salmon, who enquired whether the name might have been chosen in order to distinguish it from "more Antient Churches...built with Wood" (Salmon 1728, 312). Salmon also raised the possibility that the church might have been named after an individual, asking whether it might originally have been built by "some pious Saxon called Leofstan" (*ibid*). The authors of the Victoria County History also noted that Layston was called Leofstanechirche in the 12th century, although they did not indicate from which source this information originated (Page 1914, 77). Salmon proposed that the name of the church might have commemorated Leofstan, Abbot of St Albans from c.1048 to 1066, although this seems highly unlikely, given the probable post-Conquest origin of the church.⁹
- 5.5.17 In recent years, Philip Plumb has suggested that the church might have been founded by Leofstan the Portreeve, one of a handful of English nobles who thrived in the years following the Norman Conquest (Plumb 2003, lxiii). Having held the office of Portreeve of London at the time of the Conquest, Leofstan (Liovestanus) was appointed Reeve of the capital in c.1108 and again in 1114-1115, whilst becoming a founding member of the self-styled *Anglisshe Cnihtengelda/Cnihtegild*, a body of English knights who held extensive estates in east London (*ibid*, lxiv; Hodgett 1971, 167-192 (871), 199-211 (1005)). In 1125 Leofstan's sons Ailwin and Robert were members of a group of descendents of the *Cnihtgild* who granted the entirety of their estates in the capital to the priory of Holy Trinity Aldgate in return for admission into the prior's fraternity (*ibid*). Holy Trinity had been founded in 1108 by the Empress Matilda, daughter of Henry I, and there is no doubt that a close relationship developed between the priory and the landholders of north-east Hertfordshire during the 12th century; by 1227 local lords had granted the priory land in Berkesden, Corney and Wyddial, as well as the churches of Lefstanechirch and Alswick (Hodgett 1971, 199-211 (1004)).¹⁰ However the nature of any relationship between Leofstan of London and the county are not immediately

⁹ Although Salmon could not be certain whether the church was named after the builder or the materials used in its construction, he did propose that it was a post-Conquest foundation which replaced two pre-Conquest churches at Alfladewick (which according to Salmon was demolished) and Icheton, which he suggested "fell to the ground" (Salmon 1728, 315)

¹⁰ The grant of a croft and a piece of land in 'Brambeleg' by Ralph Triket (son of Hugh) to Holy Trinity Aldgate may refer to a place called Bramble Hill in the parish of Layston (Hodgett, 1971, 199-211 (1004); Clutterbuck 1827, 437)

apparent, although Plumb has drawn attention to an annotation to the cartulary of Holy Trinity Aldgate, apparently discovered by the 18th-century antiquarian Peter le Neve, which suggested that Lefstanechirch had been built by Leofstan, grandfather of Henry Fitz Aylwin, first Lord Mayor of London (Plumb 2003, lxiv). Similarly the nature of the relationship, if any, between Leofstan and the Trikets of Corney Bury is unknown. Nevertheless, if Plumb's contention that Leofstan founded the church at Layston is correct, then it is likely that it was established around the first decade of the 12th century.

Dedication to St Bartholomew

- 5.5.18 It is not entirely clear when the church of St Bartholomew acquired its dedication. Identifying the origins of churches from their dedications can be fraught with problems; in many instances dedications were not recorded until the 17th century or later, while they were often changed over the course of earlier centuries (Doggett 1988, 22; Williamson 2010, 209). However sufficient documentary evidence exists to confirm that the present dedication of the church is the same as it was in the 13th century.
- 5.5.19 The dedication to St Bartholomew is of interest because it is one of several popular on the Continent that only became widespread in England after the Norman Conquest (Williamson 2010, 210). However, Nicholas Doggett has cautioned that the practice of formally dedicating a church to a particular saint did not become widespread until the 13th century, and it is therefore uncertain that the present dedication was the original one (Doggett 1988, 28). Nevertheless, evidence that the present dedication was in use in the mid-13th century can be found in the cartulary of the priory of Holy Trinity Aldgate, which recorded that in April 1253 Henry III granted the canons of Holy Trinity Aldgate permission to hold a weekly market and an annual fair for eight days from the vigil and feasts of St Bartholomew (23rd August) in the manor of Corneybury (Hodgett 1971, 199-211 (1005); Page 1914, 116). Given that the prior of Holy Trinity in his capacity as lord of the manor of Corneybury held the right of advowson to the church at Layston, and that such fairs were usually held on the festival of the manorial church's patron saint it is highly likely that the church was already dedicated to St Bartholomew when the market came into being (Doggett 1988, 27).
- 5.5.20 Dedications were often changed when a church was rebuilt or enlarged, a process that necessitated the reconsecration of the building (*ibid*, 24). It is therefore possible that Lefstanechirch was dedicated to St Bartholomew following the rebuilding of the early 12th-century church at some point in the 50 or so years before 1253. This date concurs with H.P. Pollard's opinion that the chancel, the earliest surviving element of the church, dated to "no later than 1240" (Pollard 1902, 66).

The parish of Layston

- 5.5.21 Although the exact date of the foundation of the parish of Lefstanechirch/Layston is not known, it was clearly in existence by the 1160s, when Richard Fitz William granted the dependent chapel of Alswick to the priory of Holy Trinity Aldgate in the presence of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury (Hodgett 1971, 199-211 (1004)). It is possible that the parish already existed when Hugh Triket granted Lefstanechirch to the priory. One of the earliest direct references to the parish was contained in a deed of 1255, which granted "messuages and buildings in the hamlet of Buntingford and parish of Lefstonescherch" to a certain William, son of Thomas de Bordesdene and his wife Isabella (Maxwell Lyte 1890, 290-300 (B.813)). The parish was subsequently described as "Lestanchurch called Alfladewick" in a document of 1341, and Layston thereafter (Page 1914, 77).
- 5.5.22 The boundaries of the new parish mirrored those of the manorial holdings to which the church ministered. This explains how Corneybury house came to be located in a detached portion of the parish of Layston, otherwise surrounded by the parish of

Wyddial. An indication of the complex and fragmented nature of this and neighbouring parishes, formed from numerous intermixed manorial holdings in several vills, is given by a reference in the grant of 1255 to a "field called Defstonescherch" (Lefstonescherch?), which was located not in the parish from which it took its name, but in the parish of Wyddial (Maxwell Lyte 1890, 290-300 (B.813)). Owing to the extent of intermingling of holdings, the boundaries of the parish were so long and complicated that by the 16th century it took two days for parishioners to perambulate them (Plumb 2003, lxx; Favey & Hindle 2003, 153). The parochial boundaries were finally rationalised by the Divided Parishes Act of 1883, which transferred the divided portions of the parish to Wyddial, Aspenden and Throcking (Page 1914, 77).

5.5.23 The vicarage of Layston was ordained and endowed with the small tithes in the time of Richard Fitz Neal, Bishop of London in the 5th year of Richard I (i.e. 1194) (Salmon 1728, 314). The earliest recorded vicar was John de Bergholt, who was instituted in November 1332 (Clutterbuck 1827, 433). De Bergholt resigned less than five years later, to be succeeded by William Botiler (*ibid*). An incomplete list of vicars from de Bergholt to William Young (instituted April 1800) was published by Robert Clutterbuck.

5.5.24 The original medieval and early post-medieval vicarage stood on the moated site a short distance to the south of the church. This site was mistaken by Chauncy and others for the 'deserted medieval village' of Layston, which Clutterbuck described as lying "in the fields near the road leading Northward from the windmill to the Church" (Clutterbuck 1827, 427). However a terrier (a topographical description of a manorial estate) written in 1610 described the vicarage as being "a vicarage house with a barn and stable, and two gardens or backsides, about 49 acres and some rods of Glebe beside the Churchyard, containing about an acre, the Vicarage Close, compass'd with a Moat" (Plumb 2003, lxi). Moated rectories were not uncommon in eastern England during the Middle Ages, when they served as status symbols and provided an income to supplement the tithes paid by parishioners (Shelley 2004, 41). The site was described as 'moat piece' in the tithe schedule of 1844 (TNA IR 29/15/62, 1844).

Landscape and settlement in north-east Hertfordshire in the late Middle Ages

5.5.25 By the end of the first decade of the 14th century a combination of factors, not least the region's heavy dependence upon grain production; had plunged north-east Hertfordshire into a severe agrarian recession (Bailey 1993, 360-361). Analysis of the Lay Subsidy returns of 1307 and 1334 revealed that the vills of Alswick, Wyddial and Throcking each contained only a handful of taxpayers, while in 1341 it was recorded that "much of the arable was left unploughed for lack of man and beasts to work the land" in Alfladewick, Barkway, Barley, Cottered, both Hormeads, Royston and Wyddial (Bailey 1993, 359; Rutherford Davis 1973, 12). The impact of the recession of the first half of the century, intensified by repeated harvest failures and atrocious weather was further exacerbated by the arrival of the Black Death in 1348/9, and subsequent outbreaks of plague throughout the second half of the century.

5.5.26 Given the depth of the economic malaise that gripped the region during the 14th century, it is little wonder that antiquarian writers such as Chauncy and Clutterbuck believed that the remains of "foundations of houses in the fields" close to St Bartholomew's represented the remains of the deserted 'village' of Layston, abandoned in favour of the new roadside settlement at Buntingford (Chauncy 170, : 253; Clutterbuck 1827, 427). While the remains to which Clutterbuck referred were almost certainly those of the moated vicarage, modern historians have argued that the "pattern of dispersed settlement had collapsed" during the period, leading to the contraction and even desertion of medieval settlements at Alfladewick, Corney Bury and Icheton (Rutherford Davis 1973, 2).

The growth of Buntingford in the late Middle Ages

5.5.27 Whatever the true extent of contraction and desertion in the dispersed farmsteads and hamlets of north-east Hertfordshire of the 14th century, the factors that triggered it did

not restrict the development of the roadside settlement of Buntingford. Having first been recorded in a survey of 1185, Buntingford emerged as a small informal trading centre in the early 13th century (Plumb 2003, lxvii; Page 1914, 78). Located at the intersection of five parishes and occupying land belonging to up to a dozen manors, Buntingford was not subject to the intrusive manorial control that stifled the development of formal markets such as those at Corney, Chipping and Standon (Bailey 2008, 51; Bailey 1993, 358). Buntingford grew during the 14th century at the expense of these markets, acquiring a charter and a new market place in the 1360s (Bailey 1993, 365). The town established semi-autonomous governing institutions that went unchallenged by local lords after 1367, and a formal system of self-government was in place by the 1460s. By the end of the Middle Ages Buntingford was enjoying an economic revival that funded the rebuilding of many properties in the town during the late 15th and early 16th centuries, several of which have survived to the present (*ibid*).

- 5.5.28 The growth of Buntingford lay behind the extraordinary changes in the relative wealth of settlements in north-east Hertfordshire that took place between the 14th and early 16th centuries (*ibid*, 360). Having been amongst the smallest and poorest vills in the hundred of Edwinstree in 1307, by 1524 the combined wealth of Layston and Alswick almost equalled that of Barkway, the wealthiest in the hundred (*ibid*). This reflected a significant growth in the number of residents of Layston and Alswick eligible to pay tax, most, if not all of who lived and traded in Buntingford (*ibid*).

The Church of St Bartholomew during the late Middle Ages

- 5.5.29 A chapel of ease dedicated to St John the Baptist had been founded in Buntingford in the late 13th century to enable parishioners of Throcking who lived in the town to attend mass (Plumb 2003, lxviii). However, residents of Buntingford who lived within the boundaries of the parish of Layston were obliged to worship at St Bartholomew's, and it was almost certainly the wealth of these families that paid for the construction of the new nave and west tower of the church during the first two decades of the 15th century (Page 1914, 85).
- 5.5.30 While published sources do not record the names of the benefactors who paid for the grand rebuilding of the early 15th century, records have survived of bequests to the church made during the late 15th and early 16th centuries. The decades between c.1480 and c.1530 saw the flowering of late medieval public piety throughout England, as parishioners spent lavish sums on their churches, both as an act of devotion and in the hope of aiding their own salvation (Smith 1984, 13-16). In 1494 Ellen Barbour bequeathed £3 towards the making of a glass window in the church of St Bartholomew and directed that four timber crosses should be erected over her husband's and her own sepulchre, as well as leaving a further 6s 8d for making a cross in Buntingford (Page 1914, 85 fn. 48). Other contemporary expressions of popular piety included instructions left in the wills of John Donne in 1500, James Pole in 1522 and John Sawyer two years later, that their bodies be buried in the church, while the latter also bequeathed "as much money as it would cost to make a buttress on the north wall of the church" (*ibid*, 85 fn. 48; 87 fn. 56; Anon 1936, 389). It was noted that "an action arose as to the building of the buttress" in the 26th year of the reign of Henry VIII (i.e. c.1534-5), suggesting that the bricks recorded in one or other of the two buttresses of the north wall of the nave may have been part of Sawyer's bequest to the church (Anon 1936, 390; Page 1914, 85 fn. 48).
- 5.5.31 In the late 1520s a brass memorial to John Brande (d. 28th June 1527) and his wife Alys Brande, comprising "a slab with indents of two men, two women and children", was laid "on the floor of the church" (Anon, 1936: 389). A copy of this memorial was exhibited in "the north-west angle of the nave" in 1914 and appears still to have been there in 1936, although it was subsequently moved to the floor of the tower (*ibid*, 390; Page 1914, 86; NADFAS 2008, 16). It is possible that John Brande was related to the Brands of Much Hornead, though the connection of the couple with St Bartholomew's remains unclear (Anon 1936, 390).

- 5.5.32 The tide of bequests that sustained these displays of late medieval religious devotion also funded the renewal of the vestments, altar furnishings and plate used in acts of worship, and St Bartholomew's was no exception (Duffy 2001, 76). When Commissioners sent to enforce new legislation outlawing traditionalist religious practices and symbols visited St Bartholomew's in the early 1550s, they found silver and silver gilt chalices, a blue velvet cope and one of white Bruges satin, and a crimson velvet vestment with an alb (Pollard 1902, 67).¹¹ In the years before the Reformation the parishioners had also endowed their church with a set of four bells, which Edward VI's Commissioners duly recorded in 1552 (Pollard 1902, 64, 67).
- 5.5.33 The most conspicuous manifestation of late medieval piety at St Bartholomew's seems to have been the south porch, built in brick during the early 16th century. Despite having been partly restored in the 18th century, a Tudor Rose observed in the west spandrel of the entrance arch to the porch shortly before the porch was rebuilt in the early 20th century points to a 16th century construction date, while a decorated niche over the centre of the arch apparently designed to accommodate a statue of the church's patron, St Bartholomew, confirms the structure's pre-Reformation origins (Pollard 1902, 66; Page 1914, 85). As the place where the opening ceremonies of the baptismal rite and the wedding service were held, the porch represented not only a significant investment in the fabric of the church but a visible late medieval affirmation of the practical sacraments of baptism and marriage (Duffy 2001, 69).
- 5.5.34 Unfortunately, the rebuilding of the porch during the first decade of the 20th century has removed any evidence in the fabric of the structure that might have identified its original benefactor; while the patchy and incomplete pre-Reformation documentary record give no clues to the date of the bequest or the identity of the benefactor.

5.6 Post Medieval (1536-1900)

- 5.6.1 At the accession of Henry VIII to the throne in 1509 the priory of Holy Trinity was already experiencing serious financial difficulties and was deeply in debt to the crown (Page, 1909, 465-475). Owing to its inability to service its longstanding debts, the priory was exempted from the payment of two-tenths from its estates in Braughing, Layston and Edmonton in 1517 (*ibid*). The priory was finally surrendered to the crown in February 1532, a few years before the Acts of Suppression dissolved monastic foundations altogether.
- 5.6.2 The liturgical revolution brought about by the break with Rome and the establishment of the Protestant Church of England had a transformative effect upon parish churches across the country. Amongst the succession of Acts of Parliament that brought about this transformation, the Injunctions to the Clergy of 1547 proscribed many of the practices and images that had previously been integral to the act of worship. The interior layout of churches was reordered in accordance with the new doctrines; communion tables replaced altars, church plate was sold-off and rood-lofts were torn down. The removal of the rood-loft probably accounted for the blocking of the upper doorway of the rood loft staircase in the north-east angle of the nave at St Bartholomew's, while the lower door remained open when H.P. Pollard visited the church in 1902 (Pollard 1902, 65). Pollard suggested that an iron ring he observed on the north side of the chancel arch (in the nave) about 1 foot above the capital of the arch in 1902 may have been used to hold the Lenten veil, a relic of a pre-Reformation rite whereby the rood was veiled throughout Lent before being revealed at Easter (*ibid*). Alternatively, the ring may have been a post-Reformation feature used to support a sounding board that was suspended above a large carved pulpit that was removed in the 19th century (Anon 1936, 388).

¹¹ The legislation in question was presumably the Injunctions to the Clergy of 1547 and the Chantry Act of 1548

- 5.6.3 In 1936, when stripping paint from an old reading desk that had stood beside the altar table until the restoration of 1904, volunteers discovered that it was made from a number of decorated panels, which featured a carved band with a pomegranate motif, popular during the marriage of Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon (Anon 1936, 388). It is possible that these panels formed part of a rood screen erected shortly before Henry's breach with Rome. While rood screens generally survived the Reformation, albeit often coated in several layers of whitewash, it is not known when it was dismantled or by whom.

The descent of the manors of Corneybury and Alswick, 1530-c.1900

- 5.6.4 In 1534 Henry VIII granted the priory and all its possessions to Thomas, Lord Audley, Lord Chancellor of England and subsequently created 1st Baron Walden. Following Audley's death in 1544 the manor of Corneybury and the Rectory of Layston passed to his daughter and sole heir Margaret, who married Thomas, Duke of Norfolk (Page 1914, 116). Following Margaret's death and the Duke's arrest and trial for treason the manor passed to their son Thomas, Lord Howard (*ibid*, 117).
- 5.6.5 In 1583 Thomas, Lord Howard sold the manor of Corneybury (and the right of advowson to St Bartholomew's) to John Crowch/Crouch, a citizen and clothworker of London (Page 1914, 117; Clutterbuck 1827, 429). As an active member of the local minor gentry, Crouch had set about buying up the rights and titles of the local manors that had become available in the decades following the Dissolution. By the end of the 16th century Crouch had also acquired the lordship of the manors of Alswick and Downhall in Layston (Page 1914, 83, 84, 117).¹² Crouch built a new manor house at Corneybury for his large family in the early 17th century, at which he sought to emulate fashionable Renaissance planning principles by adding a pair of symmetrical projecting wings to the front (Hunneyball 2004, 27; Page 1914, 114).
- 5.6.6 John Crouch died in February 1606 at the age of 86. Crouch left the manor of Corneybury to his second son Thomas, who held it until his death ten years later, after which it passed to Thomas' son John (d.1649), and thence to his third son Charles, who embellished and extended Corneybury house in the early 1680s (Page 1914, 114, 117; Hunneyball 2004, 177). Charles Crouch's second son Thomas sold the manor to Ralph Hawkins, a London brewer in 1690, who was succeeded by his son John, who was in turn succeeded by his brother Thomas (Page 1914, 117). In 1742 the manor descended to Thomas' niece, Catherine Woolball, after whom it descended to her daughter, Catherine, Lady Berney. Catherine Berney sold the manor to William Butt in 1790 (*ibid*). William Butt held the manor until his death in 1806, after which it descended to his son, also named William, who died in 1841 (Gerish 1906, 151; Page 1914, 117). Memorials to William Butt senior, and to his wife Ann, who predeceased him were erected on the south wall of the chancel of St Bartholomew's, where they remain to the present (Clutterbuck 1827, 436).
- 5.6.7 John Crouch left the manor of Alswick and the sum of £600 to his eldest son John, who died in 1615 (Page 1914, 83,; Will of John Crouch, 16/08/1605). The manor was passed down to his son John, descending via another John to Pyke Crouch, who died in 1712 (Page 1914, *ibid*). Pyke Crouch passed the manor to his son, who conveyed it to Jacob Houblon in 1720. A funeral monument commemorating Pyke Crouch, his wife Catherine and their daughter Katherine was erected against the north wall of the chancel of St Bartholomew's by their son Thomas (who changed his name to Pyke), who died in 1773 (Clutterbuck 1827, 436). The manor of Alswick subsequently descended through

¹² The VCH suggests that Downhall may have comprised "lands held by the convent of Holy Trinity in the neighbourhood of St Bartholomew's Church" (Page 1914, 84). Downhall subsequently descended with Alswick, and the VCH records that it was last mentioned in 1720 (*ibid*).

several generations of the Houblon family until it was sold to a local farmer in the early 20th century (*ibid*).

17th century funerary monuments at St Bartholomew's

- 5.6.8 John Crouch was commemorated by an imposing and ostentatious alabaster monument erected on the north wall of the chancel, where it still stands (NADFS 2008, 8). Sir Henry Chauncy, who took careful note of the funeral monuments he saw on his perambulations around the county, described the Crouch memorial as 'fair' (Chauncy 1700; Hunneyball 2004, 44). The social dominance of the lords of the manor of Corneybury in the locality was reflected by the sheer number of memorials to members of their families erected on the walls of the chancel of St Bartholomew's between 1605 and the mid-19th century.
- 5.6.9 Although the lords of the manor of Corneybury retained the sole right to erect funeral memorials in the chancel of the church, other families erected memorials to their dead in the nave. A memorial erected in 1665 to the memory of Dr William Slatholme was originally placed on the south wall of the nave; this has since been moved to the south wall of the chancel, presumably since the removal of the roof of the nave in the 1950s (Anon 1936, 389; NADFS 2008, 2). Slatholme was a Doctor of Physics and author of the book *De Febris* (on Fevers), published in 1657 (Anon 1936, *ibid*). Slatholme's memorial also commemorates his three children, John Sennock, "an ingenious lovely pious youth", who died aged 17 in 1662, Susanna, who died an infant and Sarah, "a virgin beautiful of countenance but of a more beautiful soul", who died "for grief" aged 12 shortly before the death of her father. The memorial was erected by Slatholme's widow Anne, and appears to reflect not only her grief at the loss of her family, but perhaps also fear of the imminent extinction of the family name.

The Church of St Bartholomew during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries

- 5.6.10 In April 1604 the Rev. Alexander Strange was appointed vicar of St Bartholomew's. Born in London in the mid-1570s, Strange was educated at Peterhouse College Cambridge, following which he served as a prebend at St Paul's Cathedral (Hindle 2004, xiv). Strange's long career as rector, which spanned the reigns of James I, Charles I and the earliest years of the Commonwealth, was characterised by energetic social activism characteristic of godly mainstream puritan clergymen of the period (Hindle 2003, xiv).
- 5.6.11 Strange arrived at his new living only to find a fractious and discontented parish, divided between the gentry residents of the upland estates of Alswick, Beauchamps, Corneybury and Owles on the east bank of the river Rib, and the inhabitants of Buntingford on the west bank. The latter were prevented from worshipping in the town owing to the dilapidation of the chapel of St John, and were unable to reach St Bartholomew's when the River Rib flooded, a frequent occurrence in the early 17th century (Anon 1936, 389; Hindle 2004, xv). Throughout his term as rector Strange was obliged to mediate in disputes that arose between the two parties over the relative distribution of the parish rates. Tensions between these groups frequently arose over the cost of maintaining St Bartholomew's and of the cost of repairing the bridge over the River Rib. The parish memorandum book indicates that the latter was repaired c.1585, c.1623, c.1638 and again in 1664 (Falvey & Hindle 2004, 30, 58, 59).
- 5.6.12 Strange's energetic approach to his ministry enabled him to raise the sum of £418 13s 8d from his parishioners in the two years after 1614 in order to fund the construction of the chapel of St Peter, Buntingford, which was built between 1614 and 1626 at a cost of £418 10s 1d (Pollard 1902, 66; Hindle 2004, *ibid*). Having arranged the provision of a new place of worship for the residents of Buntingford, Strange turned his attention to the parish church at Layston. In 1633 he oversaw the recasting of the four pre-Reformation church bells into five bells, the work carried out either by John Clifton, or by James Butler of Bishop's Stortford (Pollard 1902, 64; Anon 1942; HER 4351). The recast bells

bore the names of Strange ('Strayng') and his churchwardens Sennocke and Garrett (Anon 1936, 389).

- 5.6.13 Strange continued to hold the living of Layston throughout the English Civil War, during which it has been suggested that "many old stones here [presumably the nave] were robbed of their inscriptions" (Pollard 1902, 65; Chauncy 1700). Published sources reveal little about the extent of any damage caused during the conflict
- 5.6.14 In January 1701 Thomas Heton was instituted vicar of Layston, where he remained until his death in 1748 (Falvey 2003, xlviii). Heton was also rector of Wyddial from 1718 (Anon 1936, 388). Although relatively little is known regarding Heton's character or doctrinal inclinations, he kept detailed records of his parishioners' tithe obligations, perhaps because as vicar (rather than rector) of Layston, he was only entitled to a fraction of the total tithe income (Falvey 2003, lvi). It was during Heton's tenure (c.1714) that the new Royal Arms of George I were erected in the church, although it is not clear whether they were originally placed over the blocked-up door of the rood staircase, where they were found by Pollard in 1902 (Pollard 1902, 65).
- 5.6.15 Heton was briefly succeeded by his son Charles, who served as vicar until 1754 (Clutterbuck 1827, 435). Charles was vicar when the body of Captain Roger Hale of the East India Company was interred in 1749. The mid-18th century vicars of Layston seem to have left little mark upon the fabric of the church, although his successor Jonathan Gilder was responsible for erecting a memorial recording the death from a stroke of the curate Richard Codrey in 1762 (Anon 1936, 388). It was also during Gilder's ministry that the fifth (tenor) bell was recast by Pack & Chapman of the Whitechapel foundry in 1776; the bell bears the name of William Seamer, a churchwarden of St Bartholomew's (Pollard 1902, 64; Page 1914, 86; Anon 1936, 388).
- 5.6.16 The early 19th century saw the number of small memorials in the church increase considerably; while the lords of Corneybury continued to commemorate their dead in the chancel, monuments to other local families began to appear in numbers in the nave; including those of the Saunders of Little Court which was erected at the west end of the nave and of the Bunyans of Royston, which was placed by the blocked up north doorway (Anon 1936, 388).
- 5.6.17 As the first half of the century progressed new memorials commemorating deceased members of the Goode, Macklin, and Butt (of Corneybury) families were erected in the chancel. Other new families to be commemorated were the Wogdons, who were related to the Butts and whose house became the vicarage when the Rev. J.H. Butt came to the living in 1853 (Anon 1936, 388). Amongst the members of the Wogdon family buried and memorialised in the church was the London duelling pistol maker Robert, who died at Corneybury in 1813 aged 79 (HER4351).
- 5.6.18 A number of repairs and renovations to the interior fabric of the church were carried out during the 19th century, although the published sources provide scant information about exactly when they occurred, who was responsible and why they took place. These included the removal of the carved pulpit with panelled back and sounding board, which had presumably been inserted at some point during the preceding two centuries. In order to insert the pulpit and its fittings a 4 foot long section of the chancel arch about 4 feet from the ground had been cut out and replaced by a wooden pilaster; the latter remained *in-situ* in 1902 (Pollard 1902, 65).
- 5.6.19 By the end of the century the church was only used for occasional services in the summer months, its condition described variously as "deplorable" in 1900 and "dilapidated" in 1902 (Page 1914, 87; Kelly's Hertfordshire 1902, 64). A set of elevations of the church prepared by the practice of the architect William Alfred Pite (1860-1949) dated to November 1897 suggest that formal renovations were under consideration at

the time, although Pite's preparatory work does not appear to have resulted in a commission.

5.7 Modern (1901 to present)

- 5.7.1 In 1900 Alexander Strange's chapel of St Peter, Buntingford was "thoroughly restored" at a cost in excess of £2,000 (Kelly's Hertfordshire Directory 1914: 74). Whilst St Peter's was an active church with a congregation of nearly 300, concerns were also raised about the condition of the largely disused church of St Bartholomew. When the local historian H.P. Pollard visited the church in 1902, he noted that only one of the bells could be rung, that the slated roof of the nave (itself a replacement of the earlier lead roof) was "in a very bad state", and that the porch was "rapidly falling into ruin" (Pollard 1902, 64-66).
- 5.7.2 In 1904 the architect Arthur Conran Blomfield, younger brother of the church architect Charles James Blomfield and cousin of the acclaimed Edwardian architect Reginald Blomfield, was commissioned to restore the chancel of St Bartholomew's (Stuart Gray 1985, 112-115). The extent of Blomfield's restoration is not altogether clear and further research may be necessary to understand exactly what it entailed. An inspection of the church carried out in 1910 noted that the roofs of the church were 'modern', and it is likely that Blomfield was responsible for the tiled roof of the chancel (Martin 1951, Appendix 1).
- 5.7.3 Two years after Blomfield's restoration work, the local builder and brick maker Thomas Nevett rebuilt the porch out of his own funds as "a personal gift" to the parish (Anon 1936, 387-388; Pollard 1902, 66; Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire 1902: 64).¹³ Nevett replaced the 16th century brickwork, renewed much of the old stonework and faced the walls with knapped flint (Page 1914, 85). The HER entry for St Bartholomew's records that the same year that Nevett rebuilt the porch, the tower was restored (HER 4351).
- 5.7.4 In 1910 the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (RCHM) inspected the church as part of the fieldwork for its occasional series of county inventories (Martin 1951, Appendix 1). The inspectors reported that the central and easternmost of the three windows in the north wall of the nave had lost their original moulded mullions, which had been replaced by timber frames; this may have been a temporary measure during repairs, as replacement stonework was recorded in the early 1950s (*ibid*).
- 5.7.5 The process of informal restoration appears to have continued at an even slower pace after 1910, presumably organised by the vicar of Layston and his parishioners (Anon 1936, 387; Martin 1951, 2). At some point before 1936 a new pulpit was donated to the church by Sir Charles Heaton Ellis of Wyddial Hall, while the timber element in the north side of the chancel arch was replaced with stone around the same time (Anon 1936, 388).
- 5.7.6 It seems likely that the ongoing restoration was intended simply to permit occasional services to be conducted in the summer months, when the lack of electric light and heating would pose less of a hindrance to modern worship. Occasional summer services were being conducted in 1936, although the church fell out of use altogether at the beginning of the Second World War (Martin 1951, 1).
- 5.7.7 By the early 1950s the church was in a state of near-dereliction, the haunt of vandals who had broken windows, damaged the interior fabric of the church, torn tiles and parapet stones from the roof of the tower and stolen the lead from the roof of the south porch (Martin 1951, 1-2). In June 1951 Charles Cockbill, the Archdeacon of St Albans,

¹³ 'Nevett, Thomas, builder, brick maker & insurance agent' (Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire, 1902, 65). Nevett was listed as the private resident of 'The Bowling Green' in 1914, by which date it seems he had retired (Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire 1914, 76)

suggested that the roof might be removed from part of the church, the rest being converted into a cemetery chapel (Eeles to Dance, 02/11/1951). Although the vicar of Layston, the Rev. Herbert S. Jackson, was initially unresponsive to the proposal, a parishioner subsequently left a bequest of £3,590 for the restoration and repair of the church, prompting Jackson to approach the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) two months later for advice regarding the future of the "old ruined church" (Jackson to SPAB, 24/08/1951).

- 5.7.8 In October the architect David G. Martin, a partner in the firm of David Evelyn Nye & Partners of Victoria Street SW1 prepared a report on the condition of St Bartholomew's. Martin concluded that while the building had no future as a parish church, the proposal to convert it into a cemetery chapel was viable (Martin 1951, 3). Martin recommended that the chancel be used for this purpose; the tiled roof was in reasonably good order and it required less maintenance than the slated roof of the nave, which he recommended be removed, "both to avoid costly maintenance and to prevent further damage to the masonry" (*ibid*). Martin suggested that the removal of the roof of the nave presented an opportunity to convert the open interior into "a pleasant formal garden of Rest and Remembrance", although it would be necessary to relocate the funerary monuments to the chancel (*ibid*). To convert the chancel into a cemetery chapel necessitated a number of repairs to the internal plasterwork and the internal render, the removal of the choir stalls, the re-opening of the south door and the provision of large folding doors in the chancel arch, which could be opened fully in the summer (*ibid*: 4). Martin also recommended that the roof covering of the south porch be replaced and the bells be removed from the tower.
- 5.7.9 Martin was asked to proceed with the proposed restoration work the following January (SPAB to Jackson, 28/01/1952). During the repair of the internal walls of the nave, a number of carved alabaster fragments were found to be built into the fabric of the north wall (Anon 1962, 3). When reassembled they were found to be a representation of the Crucifixion, presumably broken up around the time of the Reformation and used for repairs at some point in the century or so afterwards.
- 5.7.10 Despite the apparent success of the conversion, reports of inspections of the fabric of the church carried out in the late 1990s highlighted continuing deterioration, some of which had been exacerbated by repairs and general maintenance work carried out in the decades since the creation of the cemetery chapel (Barrett 1998, 1). Damp penetration and general wear had affected the interior of the chancel, while the heavy oak doors within the chancel arch had become a problem in their own right, leading to fears that if they were opened they might affect the unstable masonry on the parapet above. Half a century of unsympathetic repairs and insufficient maintenance appears to have returned the church to a condition not dissimilar to that found by David Martin back in 1951.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The strategy for the archaeological excavation and monitoring was outlined in two Written Schemes of Investigation; one for an Archaeological Excavation within the church (Hawkins 2010a) and one for an Archaeological Watching Brief on service runs within the churchyard (Hawkins 2010b).
- 6.2 There were five areas on site where it was felt that groundworks associated with the building's change of use would have an adverse impact upon archaeological deposits. These were:
- Ground reduction in the eastern end of the nave of an area measuring c.54m², to a depth of c.1.2m (The Excavation Area)
 - Two test pits of approximately 1m² on site to investigate the foundation of the current nave walls (Test Pit 1 within the nave and Test Pit 2 situated in the churchyard). Test Pit 1 was approximately 1.40m deep and Test Pit 2 2.10m deep
 - Excavation of a large square pit, approximately 9m² and 2.50m deep, in the churchyard outside the porch to accommodate a new waste management plant (The Service Trench)
 - Excavation of an east-west running pipe trench, approximately 0.45m wide and 2.15m deep, in the churchyard to be connected to the plant in the Service Trench (The Pipe Trench)
 - Stripping of the area of a new garage in the churchyard.
- 6.3 Within the Excavation Area the ground was reduced under archaeological supervision using a mini digger 360° type machine until the tops of grave cuts were exposed. All archaeological deposits, principally graves, were then cleaned and excavated by hand.
- 6.4 Test Pits 1 and 2 and the Pipe Trench were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision, after which all faces of the trench that required examination were cleaned by hand.
- 6.5 The Service Trench was excavated by machine under archaeological supervision until the presence of graves became apparent. Graves were then cleaned and excavated by hand until it was apparent that all human remains had been recovered from the trench.
- 6.6 The new garage area was stripped to c.0.10m below ground level by machine using a flat bladed bucket. No archaeological remains were identified.
- 6.7 All deposits were then recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of either 1:10 or 1:20, depending on which was deemed to be more appropriate, and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in black and white, colour slide and digital formats.
- 6.8 Articulated human remains were encountered both in the Excavation Area and the Service Trench and following cleaning rectified photography was used to provide an accurate record of the disposition of the skeleton in the ground prior to lifting. After the individual had been lifted the skeletal elements were assessed on site, the methodology used is detailed in Appendix 3. The skeletons were then placed within large bags for re-burial on site within a custom designed facility at a later date. The disarticulated human remains found in all of the investigation areas with the exception of Test Pit 1 were treated in a similar manner although rectified photography was not required for these random assemblages of bone.

- 6.9 Five lead coffins were uncovered within the brick vault. Due to the inherent dangers of dealing with sealed lead coffins these were removed by specialist contractors. Records and photographs of these coffins and coffin plates were taken by Martin Coulson and Mandy House and are included as Appendix 9.
- 6.10 A temporary benchmark was established within the nave using a Leica 1200 GPRS, it had a value of 116.76m OD.
- 6.11 Four of the skeletons (two each from within the church and service trench) were sampled for radiocarbon dating. The results are presented in Appendix 10.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1 - Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest archaeological horizon, a compact, mid orangey yellow brown clay [148], was recorded in the Service Trench at a height of 114.28m OD.
- 7.1.2 A further natural deposit, a firm, light yellow brown clay silt with frequent chalk flecks and occasional small-medium angular and subangular pebbles [147] was seen to overlie natural clay [148] in the Service Trench. The same natural deposit was also encountered in the Excavation Area and Test Pit 1 [91]. Within Test Pit 2 [103], it was encountered at a maximum height of 116.51m OD.

7.2 Phase 2 – Early Medieval Church (Figs. 3 & 7 and Plate 1)

- 7.2.1 Sealing natural clay [91] within the Excavation Area and the same layer [103] in Test Pit 1 was a 0.75m thick layer of fairly soft, mid reddish brown clay silt with occasional small-medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded flint pebbles and very occasional CBM flecks, recorded as [22] in the Excavation Area and [102] in Test Pit 1. Both the natural clay [91] and subsoil [22]/[102] were heavily truncated by later activities that occurred within the Excavation Area.
- 7.2.2 Subsoil [22] was cut by two substantial east-west aligned wall foundations [1] and [2] within construction cuts [24] and [25] respectively. These wall foundations are believed to represent the church that predated the present structure.
- 7.2.3 Both wall foundations were constructed of three separate layers of masonry. The lowest portion, approximately 0.30m thick, was composed of rounded flint cobbles in a firm mid brown silty clay matrix. Overlying this was a middle portion comprising 0.15m thick layer of poorly consolidated light brown sand with very occasional flint cobbles. The uppermost, and most structured, portion of the wall foundations was built from rounded and sub-rounded flint cobbles in a light reddish brown poorly made sandy mortar with chalk flecks and occasional smaller flint pebbles. CBM recovered from foundation [2] including moulded and possibly painted *opus signinum* adhered to a worked fragment of millstone grit dated to AD100-400 which could indicate that this wall is potentially Roman. However, Roman material was frequently re-used during the Saxon period and the alignment of the foundations which were reflected by those of the current church and the use of *opus signinum* which had possibly been painted would have originally been used as the presentable face of a wall rather than part of a foundation implied a later, Saxon date, rather than an earlier Roman one. It would indicate though that there was a substantial Roman structure in the immediate vicinity from which this building material was sourced. The dimensions of the wall foundations are summarised in the table below:

Context number	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m OD)
1	0.48	0.75	0.92	116.55
2	3.82	1.50	0.93	116.54

7.2.4 The gap between the construction cuts [24] and [25] and the wall foundations [1] and [2] was backfilled with fairly soft, mid reddish brown clay silt with frequent pea grit, occasional sandy patches and small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and chalk pebbles [92]/[93].

7.2.5 A 0.05m thick layer of loose, light yellow brown coarse silty sand [89] was seen to seal construction cut backfill [92] and [93] within the Excavation Area. This layer was interpreted as a possible levelling layer for a floor surface, perhaps a temporary surface associated with the construction of the church. Pottery recovered from this deposit included early medieval shell and sand ware and early medieval sandy gritty ware which dated this deposit to c. AD1000-1200.

7.3 Phase 3 – Medieval/Early Post-Medieval Church (Figs. 3, 4 & 7 and Plate 2)

7.3.1 The construction of the current church walls was the most significant activity dating to this phase of the site's development and was observed in the Excavation Area and Test Pits 1 and 2.

7.3.2 The foundation of the southern wall of the church nave, structure [90] was composed of two main elements whose construction cut [96] truncated subsoil [22]/[102]. The lower part of the foundation [105] was fashioned from 1.10m of randomly bonded unshaped chalk and flint cobbles in a compact mid grey clay matrix which was encountered at a height of 116.27m OD. The 0.50m deep upper portion of the foundation [104] was constructed from roughly shaped flint cobbles in a random bond with badly degraded sandy lime mortar and was encountered at a height of 116.77m OD.

7.3.3 Within Test Pit 2 wall foundation [90] was sealed by a firm 0.75m thick layer of firm light brown silty clay with very occasional pot and CBM fragments [102]. The pottery extracted from layer [102] dated to AD1000-1200 and the CBM from AD1180-1800.

7.3.4 Two postholes, [82] cut into subsoil [22] at a height of 116.32m OD, and [85] cut into sandy bedding layer [89] at a height of 116.36m OD, were interpreted as being part of the construction of the church walls. Posthole [82] was 0.14m in diameter, 0.35m deep and filled with loose light yellow brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sized angular and sub-angular flint pebbles [81] while posthole [85] was 0.34m in diameter, 0.24m deep and was filled with loose mid grey brown clay silt with frequent angular and sub-angular flint nodules and occasional chalk flecks [84].

7.3.5 Posthole [85] was sealed but two successive layers of made ground, [83] and [3]. Made ground layer [83] was a 0.15m thick layer of compact brown clay silt with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks and sub-angular rounded flint pebbles which was in turn sealed by a 0.13m thick layer of soft light greyish chalky plaster with occasional pea grit and flint pebbles [3]. These layers abutted wall foundations [1] and [2] and both deposits were considered to have been the result of the demolition of the earlier church walls.

7.4 Phase 4 – Medieval/Post-Medieval Cemetery (Figs. 5 & 6 and Plates 3, 4 & 5)

7.4.1 Following the construction of the present incarnation of St Bartholomew's Church, the next major phase of activity recorded within the Excavation Area, the Service and Pipe Trenches and Test Pit 2 concerned the burials both within and outside the walls of the church. A total of thirty-three skeletons were found, twenty-one within the church and twelve within the churchyard to the south. The table below summarises the graves from which articulated human skeletons were encountered:

Skeleton	Grave Fill	Description of Fill	Grave Cut	Length of cut (m)	Width of cut (m)	Depth of cut (m)	Height (m OD)
27	6	Loose, light yellowish brown clay silt with frequent chalk flecks and angular and subangular flint pebbles and occasional disarticulated human bone	7	1.50	0.50	0.71	116.27
28	4	Fairly loose light yellow brown silty sand with frequent subangular pebbles and occasional CBM flecks and fragments	5	2.22	0.70	0.69	116.31
32	30	Compact brown silty clay with frequent subangular pebbles and chalk flecks	33	1.14	0.60	0.68	116.25
35	16	Firm and fairly friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional CBM flecks and fragments and occasional small-medium sized angular and subangular flint pebbles	17	1.84	0.60	0.84	116.32
36	8	Soft mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional CBM tile and small-medium sized chalk pebbles	9	2.10	0.60	0.80	116.30
38	20	Loose grey brown clay silt with frequent subangular pebbles	21	1.04	0.48	0.35	115.88

Skeleton	Grave Fill	Description of Fill	Grave Cut	Length of cut (m)	Width of cut (m)	Depth of cut (m)	Height (m OD)
		and occasional CBM fragments					
40	47	Firm light grey brown clay silt with occasional pea grit, chalk flecks and angular and subangular flint pebbles	42	1.38	0.50	0.15	115.66
41	48	Firm light grey brown clay silt with occasional CBM fragments, disarticulated human bone, angular and subangular flint pebbles and very frequent chalk flecks	43	1.44	0.40	0.09	115.56
45	44	Compact yellow brown silty clay with frequent flecks of chalk and CBM	46	2.60	0.86	0.90	116.31
49	14	Soft light brown clay silt with frequent small chalk pebbles, disarticulated human bone and occasional CBM tile	15	2.20	0.52	0.96	116.30
51	10	Soft light yellow brown clay silt with occasional small angular and subangular flint pebbles	11	1.00	0.54	0.82	116.32
52	18	Firm mid grey brown clay silt with frequent	19	1.78	0.50	0.46	116.95

Skeleton	Grave Fill	Description of Fill	Grave Cut	Length of cut (m)	Width of cut (m)	Depth of cut (m)	Height (m OD)
		fragments of disarticulated human bone and occasional CBM fragments, chalk flecks, and small-medium sized angular and subangular flint pebbles					
55	54	Compact brown clay silt with frequent chalk fragments, CBM fragments and mortar fragments	56	2.10	0.64	0.19	116.23
57	23	Soft light brown silty clay with occasional CBM, small-medium sized flint and chalk pebbles and disarticulated human bone	58	2.30	0.60	0.96	116.34
60	59	Soft mid grey brown clay silt with frequent small-medium sized flint pebbles, occasional chalk flecks, CBM fragments, Fe nails and disarticulated human bone	61	1.94	0.64	0.52	116.30
63	62	Compact yellow brown clay silt with frequent small subangular chalk pebbles and mortar fragments and occasional CBM fragments	64	1.22	0.60	1.32	116.90

Skeleton	Grave Fill	Description of Fill	Grave Cut	Length of cut (m)	Width of cut (m)	Depth of cut (m)	Height (m OD)
66	65	Soft light brown silty clay with occasional small-medium sized chalk and flint pebbles, CBM fragments and disarticulated human bone.	67	1.20	0.60	0.80	116.34
69	68	Firm mid grey brown clay silt with occasional small-medium sized angular and subangular flint pebbles, chalk flecks and frequent disarticulated human bone	70	1.90	0.70	0.45	116.05
74	73	Firm mid grey brown clay silt with occasional small-medium sized angular and subangular flint pebbles and chalk fragments and frequent disarticulated human bone	75	1.90	0.48	0.25	116.19
79	78	Fairly firm mid-light mottled grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, very occasional CBM flecks and fragments and moderate pea grit and small subangular and subrounded pebbles	80	1.32	0.54	0.08	115.44
87	86	Fairly loose light	88	1.92	0.38	0.52	116.26

Skeleton	Grave Fill	Description of Fill	Grave Cut	Length of cut (m)	Width of cut (m)	Depth of cut (m)	Height (m OD)
		yellow brown silty sand with occasional subangular and subrounded flint pebbles and very occasional CBM and mortar flecks					
106	123	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small- medium sized pebbles and moderate root activity	135	0.70	0.44	0.70	116.63
107	124	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small- medium sized subangular and subrounded pebbles and moderate root activity	136	1.34	0.60	0.35	116.63
108	125	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small- medium sized subangular and subrounded pebbles and moderate root activity	137	0.80	0.65	0.84	116.63
109	126	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small- medium sized subangular and subrounded pebbles and moderate root	138	0.96	0.58	0.86	116.63

Skeleton	Grave Fill	Description of Fill	Grave Cut	Length of cut (m)	Width of cut (m)	Depth of cut (m)	Height (m OD)
		activity					
110	127	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small-medium sized subangular and subrounded pebbles and moderate root activity	139	1.40	0.62	0.70	116.63
116	128	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small-medium sized subangular and subrounded pebbles and moderate root activity	140	2.46	0.70	0.98	116.63
117	129	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small-medium sized subangular and subrounded pebbles and moderate root activity	141	1.80	0.60	0.92	116.63
118	130	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small-medium sized subangular and subrounded pebbles and moderate root activity	142	1.30	0.62	0.95	116.63
119	131	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small-	143	1.54	0.50	0.97	116.63

Skeleton	Grave Fill	Description of Fill	Grave Cut	Length of cut (m)	Width of cut (m)	Depth of cut (m)	Height (m OD)
		medium sized subangular and subrounded pebbles and moderate root activity					
120	132	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small- medium sized subangular and subrounded pebbles and moderate root activity	144	1.34	0.44	0.62	116.28
121	133	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small- medium sized subangular and subrounded pebbles and moderate root activity	145	1.12	0.40	1.00	116.63
122	134	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small- medium sized subangular and subrounded pebbles and moderate root activity	146	1.04	0.30	1.00	116.63

- 7.4.2 Grave cuts [72], [77], [95], [9], [88], [17], [80], [75], [67] and [15] truncated subsoil [22]. No bodies were recovered from grave cuts [72], [77] or [95] due to their proximity to the western limit of excavation, they were backfilled by [71], [76] and [94] respectively. Grave cuts [9], [5] and [15] contained coffins [37], [34] and [50], and skeletons, [36], [28] and [49] as well as grave fills [8], [4] and [14] respectively. Grave cut [5] also partially truncated construction cut backfill [92].
- 7.4.3 Grave cut [88] containing skeleton [87] and filled by [86] which was truncated by grave cut [33] containing skeleton [32] and filled by [30] which was itself cut by grave cut [7] containing skeleton [27] and filled by [6]. Skeleton [87] was radiocarbon dated to Cal AD1290-1420 (95.4% probability).
- 7.4.4 Grave cut [17] containing skeleton [35] was filled by [16] which was cut by grave cut [42] containing skeleton [40] and filled by [47]. Grave [42] was subsequently sealed by charnel pit [13] and filled by [12]. Charnel pit [13] also overlay graves [11] and [43] which contained skeletons [41] and [51] and filled by [48] and [10] respectively which have in turn truncated posthole [82]. Skeleton [51] was carbon dated to Cal AD1320-1440 (95.4% probability).
- 7.4.5 Grave cut [67] containing skeleton [57] was filled by [23] and both cut [67] and [75] were truncated by grave cut [73] which contained skeleton [67] and was filled by [68] and was in turn overlain by grave cuts [64] and [19] which contained skeletons [63] and [52] and filled by [62] and [18] respectively. Grave cut [64] also truncated grave cut [80] containing skeleton [79] and filled by [78]. Grave cut [80] was also truncated by grave cuts [21] and [56] containing skeletons [38] and [55] and filled by [20] and [54] respectively. Grave cut [21] also contained coffin [29].
- 7.4.6 Grave cut [56] also truncated grave cuts [70], [46] and [61]. Grave cut [46] contained skeleton [45] and filled by [44] while grave cut [61] contained skeleton [60] and filled by [59]. Grave cut [61] was also truncated by construction cut [53] for brick vault [26]. Grave cuts [58] and [46] were also sealed beneath a layer of worked stone demolition rubble [39].
- 7.4.7 Grave cut [145] contained skeleton [121] and filled by [133] which was overlain by grave cut [146] containing skeleton [122] and filled by [134]. Grave cut [140] contained skeleton [116] and filled by [128] which was overlain by grave cut [135] containing skeleton [108] and filled by [123].
- 7.4.8 Grave cut [144] contained skeleton [120] and filled by [132] which was overlain by grave cut [136] containing skeleton [107] and filled by [124]. Grave cut [137] contained skeleton [108] and was filled by [125]. Grave cut [141] contained skeleton [117] and filled by [129] which was overlain by grave cut [138] containing skeleton [109] and filled by [126]. Skeletons [120] and [107] were subject to radiocarbon dating producing calibrated results of Cal AD1150-AD1270 (95.4% probability) for individual [120] and Cal AD1440-1640 (95.4% probability) for skeleton [107]. This indicated a long period of use for the churchyard cemetery.
- 7.4.9 Grave cuts [142] and [143] contained skeletons [118] and [119] and filled by [130] and [131] respectively. Both of these grave cuts were truncated by grave [139] containing skeleton [110] and filled by [127].
- 7.4.10 Four of the burials contained recognisable coffins: [34] in grave cut [5], [37] in grave cut [9], [50] in grave cut [15] and, most significantly, [29] in grave cut [21]. While coffins [34], [37] and [50] were composed of fragments of very badly degraded wood with heavily corroded iron studs, grips and fixing nails. Coffin [29] was a mostly complete, if rather battered, lead lined coffin with an outer shell of decomposed wood. The bulk of the coffin furniture from casket [29] was manufactured from iron which was severely rusted

however the coffin plate was made of lead on which the following inscription was still legible:

*Capt.
Roger Hale
Died June 4 1749
Age 64*

- 7.4.11 The burial of Captain Hale indicated that burials within the church occurred into the post-medieval period, indeed it is a reasonable conclusion that the majority if not all of the burials encountered within the walls of the nave dated from this period. However, it is not possible to identify the date of the first burial within the church due to the heavy re-use of the internal cemetery.
- 7.4.12 A large brick vault [26] occupied the south-eastern corner of the Excavation Area. This structure contained five lead coffins. Due to possible health and safety risks associated with uncompromised or partially compromised lead coffins the contents of these caskets were not investigated by the archaeological team but removed to a new vault by specialist contractors. The vault itself was constructed of unfrogged London 'Tudor' Red brick and hard greyish white lime mortar in an irregular bond, it measured 1.50m north-south by 2.50m east-west and reached a height of 116.58m OD. Brick samples taken from the outer part of the vault and the vaulted roof indicated an 18th or 19th century date of original construction, as the London "Tudor" Red bricks recovered appeared to be well made and not the 'crinkly' red bricks associated with 1450-1700 in central London. The internal walls of the vault had been rebuilt in the 1950s, presumably to stabilise it.
- 7.4.13 The inhumations within the vault had been moved from their original resting place in London and the coffin plates (Appendix 9) indicated they were the coffins of James Fitzgerald Villiers (died 1732), his sisters Mary (died 1745) and Frances (died 1732) and his infant son John (died 2nd October 1732/3 aged 9 months and 17 days). The parish register for 1748 states that Mary Butler was buried in the vault and the coffin without name plate is likely to be hers.
- 7.4.14 That the cemetery within the church walls had been re-used was apparent from several intercutting grave cuts, for example grave cut [7] completely truncated the body of skeleton [32] leaving little more than the skull, the cervical vertebrae and the lower right leg and foot, and the large amount of disarticulated human material recovered from the grave fills which did not relate to the present incumbent. This redeposition of disarticulated human material was particularly evident in cut [13], a charnel pit which lay above burials [42] and [43], whose fill [12] contained the remnants of at least four other individuals.
- 7.4.15 While pottery was recovered from the fills of the burials within the Excavation Area including post-medieval glazed redware dating to 1450-1700 in fill [18] and 12th-13th century Oxford medieval ware in fill [62]. The frequent disturbance of the cemetery soil caused by the re-use of the internal cemetery does not allow for this material to be used to securely date the burials.
- 7.4.16 A similar situation is apparent within the burials encountered within the Service Trench. While less intercutting of the inhumations was immediately apparent, the poor definition of the grave cuts and similarity of the fills within the surrounding cemetery soil [111] a 1.30m deep layer of compact, mid yellow brown silty clay with small-medium sized flint and chalk pebbles and moderate root activity and the presence of large amounts of disarticulated human bone within that layer indicated a fair degree of re-use of this part of the cemetery, as did the date range of 450 years indicated by the carbon dating between skeletons [107] and [120]. Pottery recovered from layer [111] dated from AD950-1100 which, in addition to the radiocarbon date of Cal AD1150-AD1270 from

individual [120] might suggested that the earlier burials in this part of site pre-dated those from inside the church, although CBM recovered from the same context was of a later date AD1180-1800 and the one of the later burials from the churchyard was dated to Cal AD1440-AD1640.

7.4.17 Due to the limited dimensions and access issues associated with Test Pit 2 and the Pipe Trench it was unclear whether the human material recovered from these areas of the archaeological investigation was articulated or not. Material from these layers [101] in Test Pit 2 and [200] in the Pipe Trench, was accordingly treated as disarticulated bone in order to retain as much information from the individual elements as possible. The cemetery soil [101] and [200], in both investigation trenches was of the same description as that in the Service Trench [111].

7.4.18 The burial deposits in Service Trench and the Pipe Trench were sealed beneath a layer of subsoil, recorded as [113] and [202] respectively. This was a layer of fairly firm, mid brownish grey silty clay with moderate CBM flecks and fragments, occasional-moderate flint and chalk flecks and occasional mortar flecks. The subsoil was 1.04m thick in the Pipe Trench and 0.30m deep in the Service Trench.

7.5 Phase 5 – Modern

7.5.1 Sealing all deposits in the exterior investigation trenches was a layer of topsoil and in the case of the Service Trench a 0.10m thick layer of tarmac [114] which was overlain by topsoil. The table below summarises the description, height and thickness of the topsoil in the exterior investigation trenches:

Investigation Trench	Context Number	Description	Thickness (m)	Height (m OD)
Test Pit 2	100	Fairly firm dark brown silty clay with frequent root activity and small flint pebbles	0.30	117.52
Service Trench	113	Fairly firm mid brown grey silty clay with moderate CBM flecks and fragments, occasional mortar flecks and occasional-moderate flint pebbles	0.30	116.98
Pipe Trench	201	Fairly firm dark brown silty clay	0.20	117.23

		with frequent root activity and occasional small flint pebbles		
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- 7.5.2 Within the church all deposits were sealed by a 0.20m-0.50m thick layer of mixed modern made ground [+] which was encountered at a maximum height of 116.83m OD.

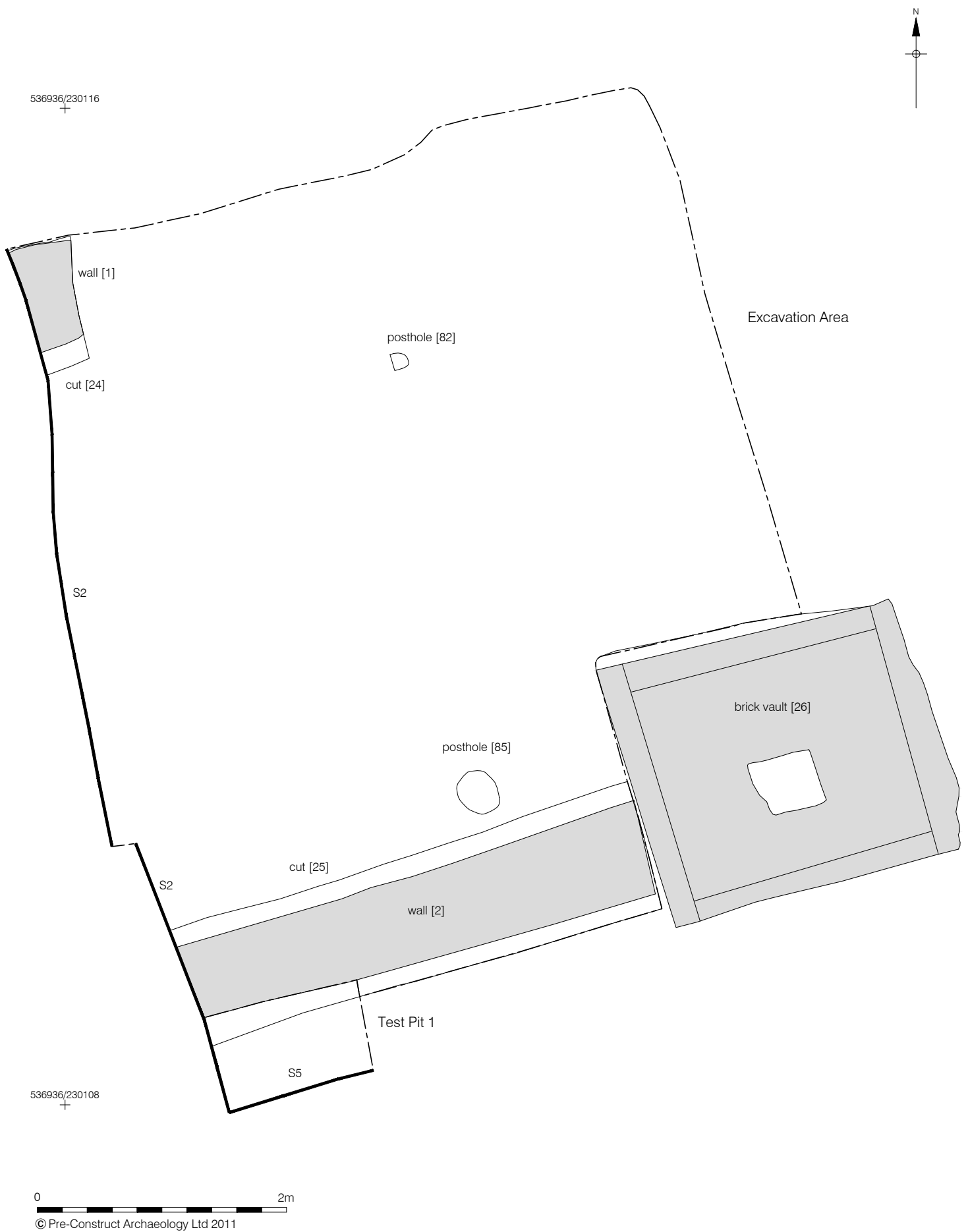
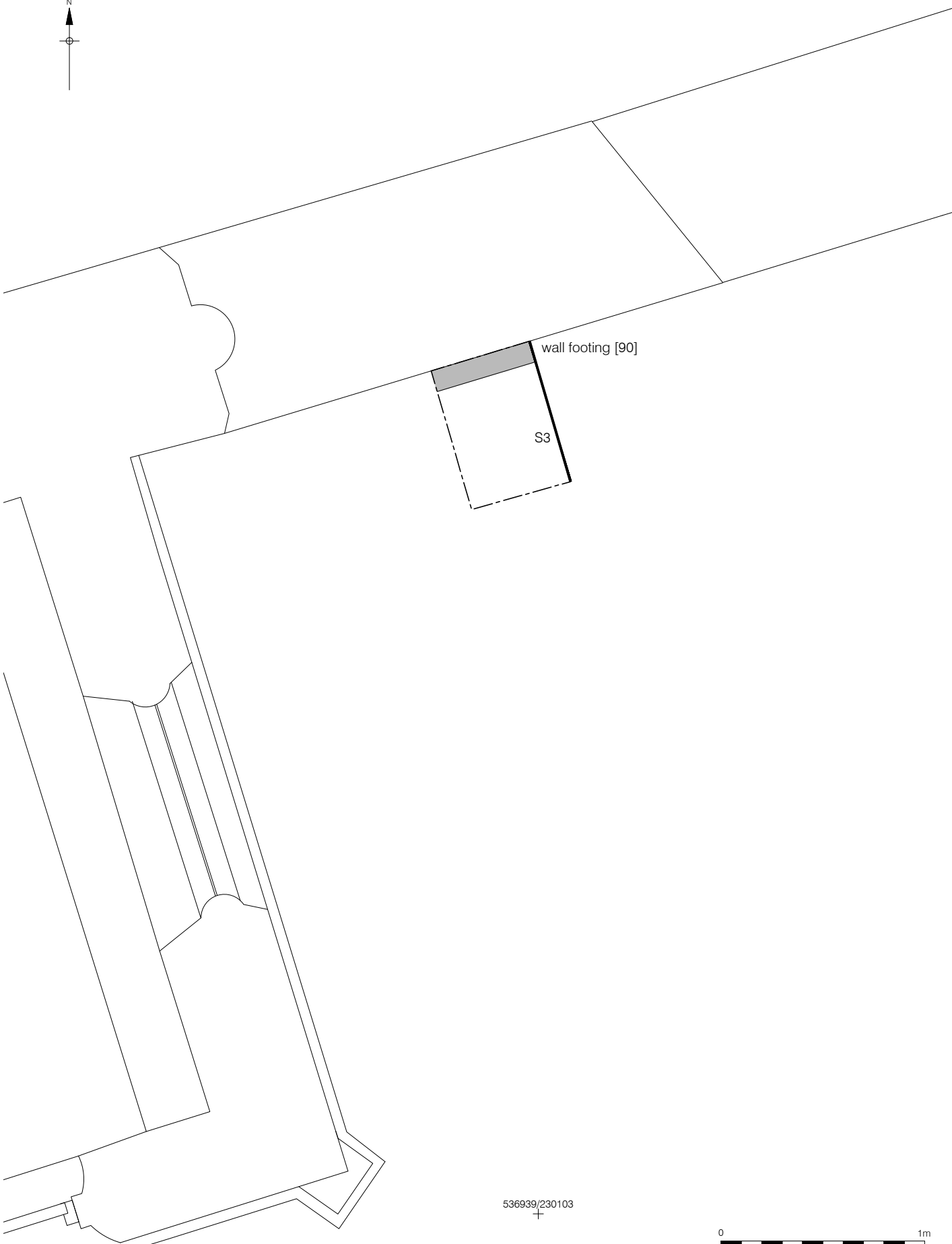


Figure 3
Plan showing the Masonry in Excavation Area and Test Pit 1
1:40 at A4

536939/230109
+



536939/230103
+



Figure 4
Test Pit 2
1:25 at A4

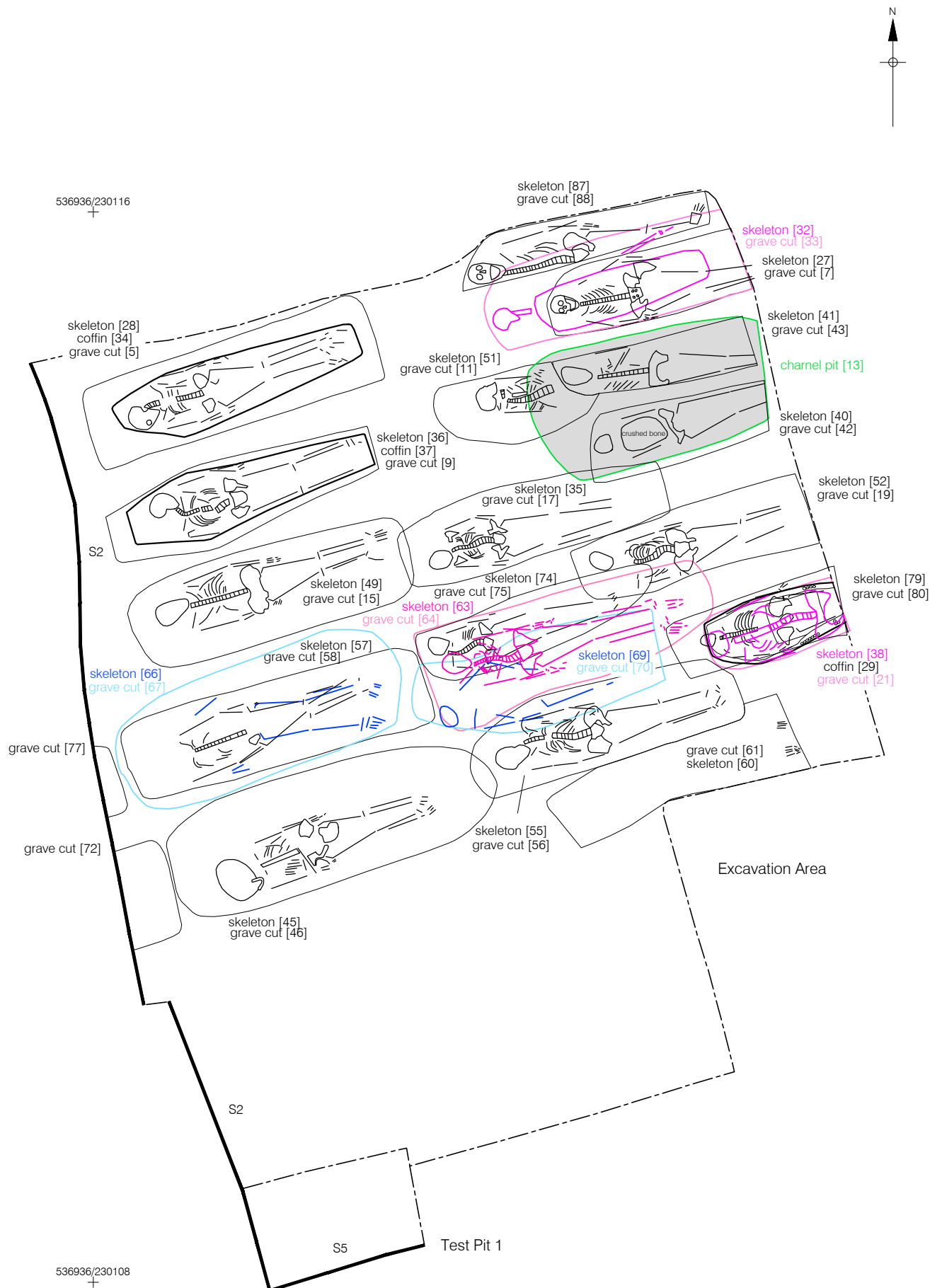


Figure 5
Excavation Area Skeletons
1:40 at A4

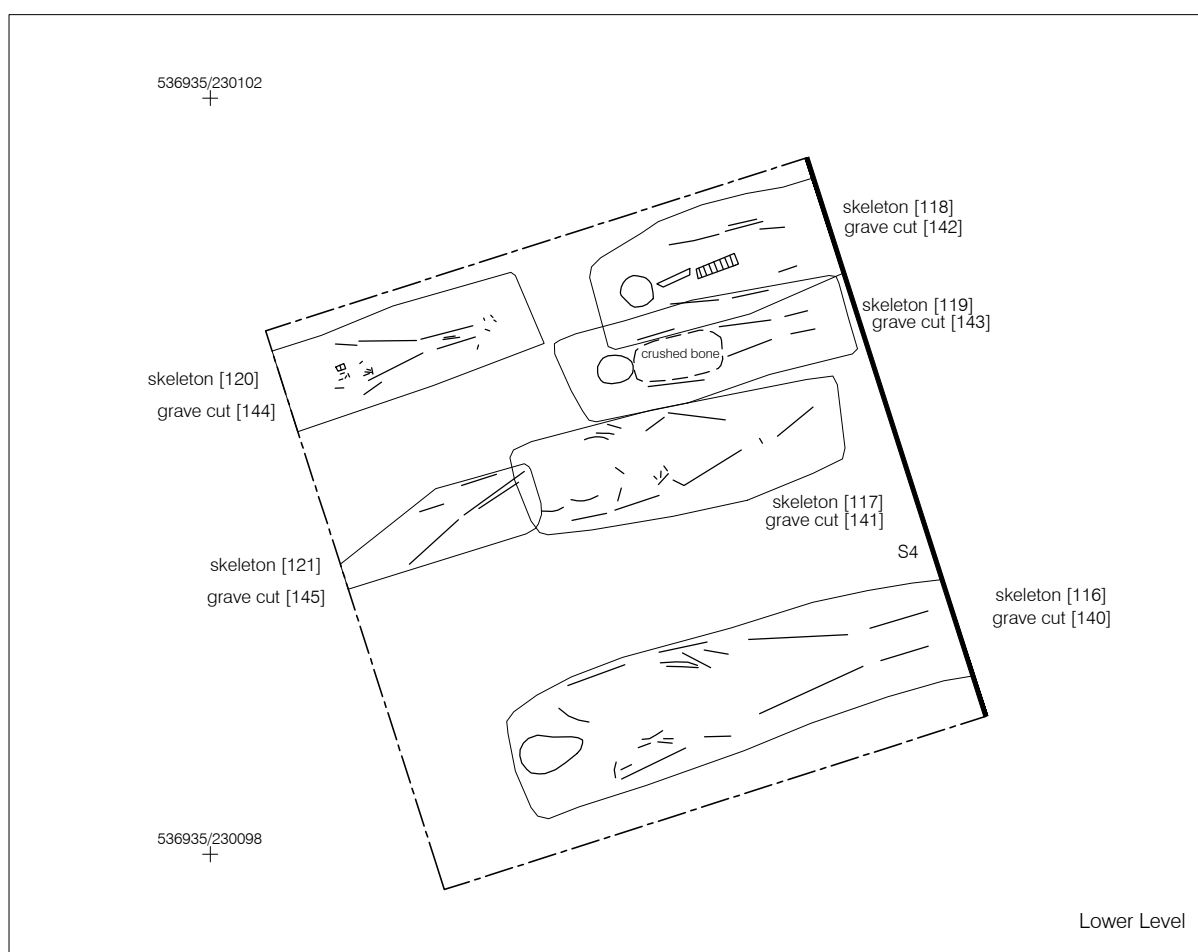
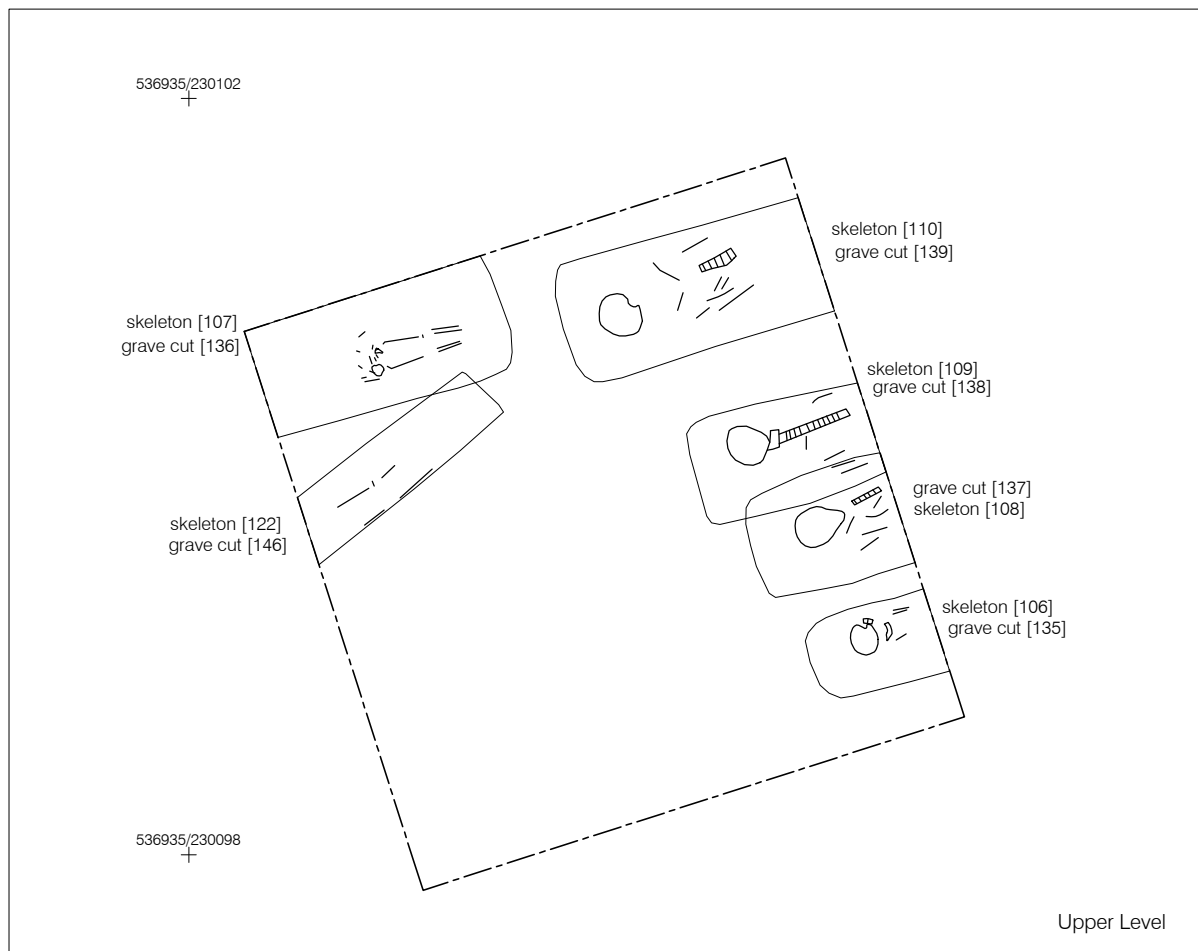


Figure 6
Service Trench Skeletons
1:40 at A4

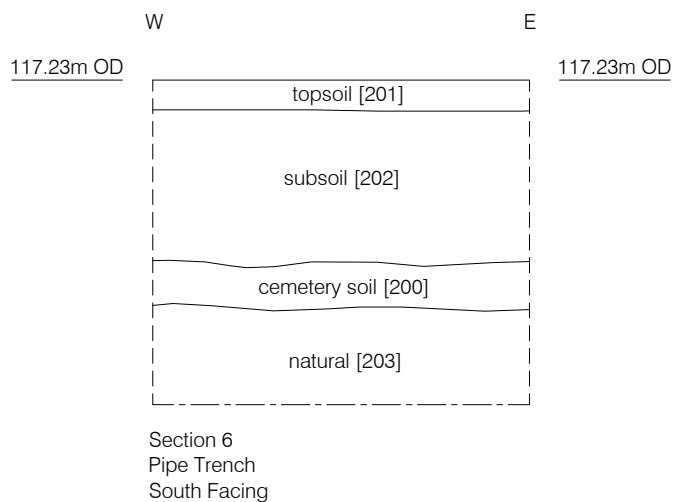
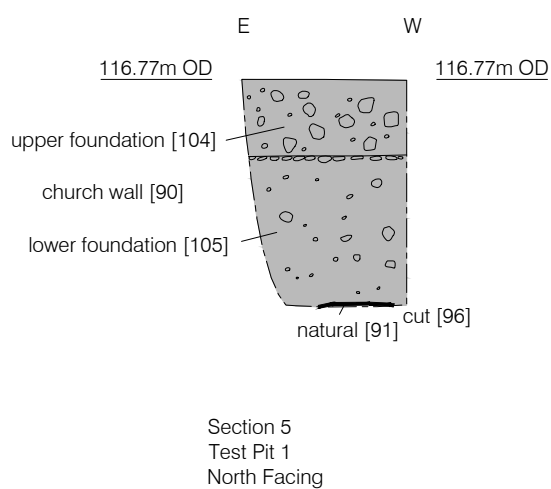
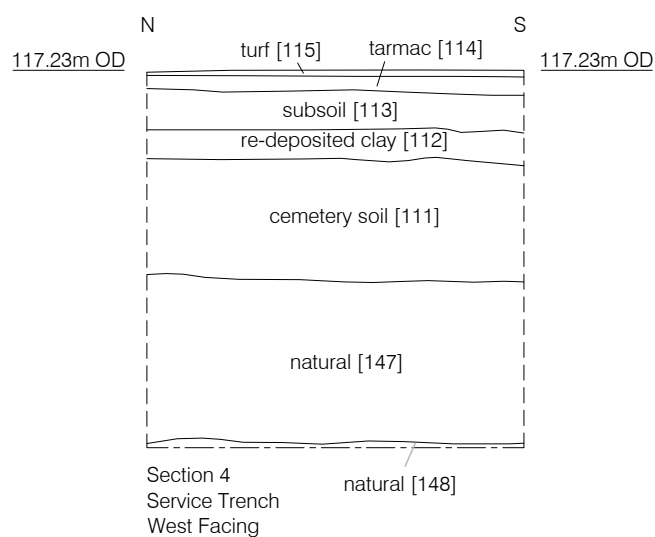
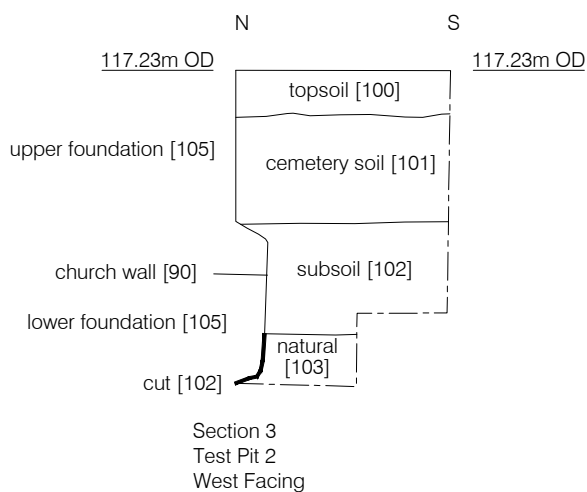
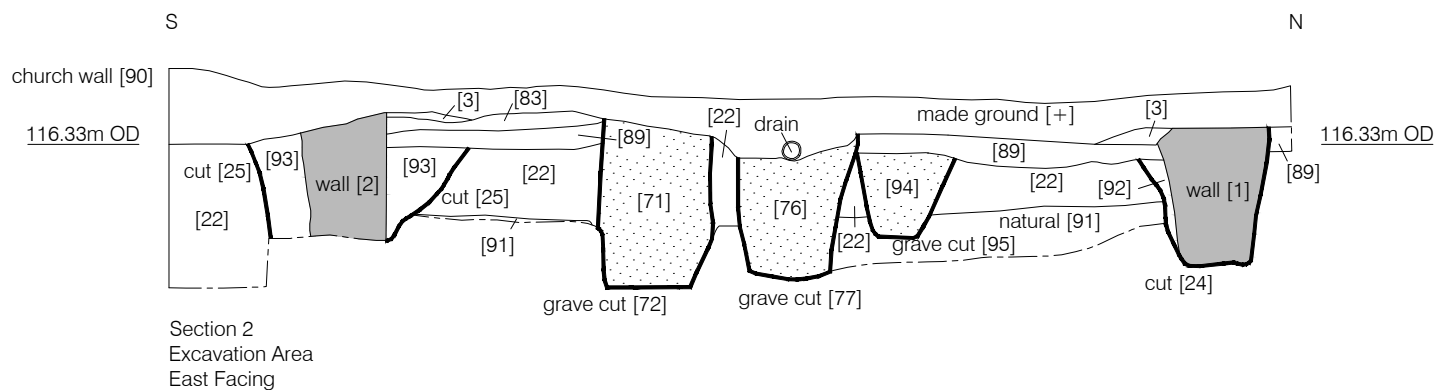


Plate 1: Section through wall foundation [2] (West facing)



Plate 2: Section through wall foundation [90] (South facing)



Plate 3: Skeleton of Captain Roger Hale (West facing)



Plate 4: Truncated Skeleton [87] (South facing)



Plate 5: General view of Excavation Area (East facing). Vault in top right of photo



8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Interpretation

- 8.1.1 The earliest deposits on the site were layers of natural clay revealed in all investigation areas.
- 8.1.2 There were three distinct phases of activity identified during the investigation:
- The construction of the early medieval church
 - The construction of the current medieval/post-medieval church
 - The post-medieval cemetery
- 8.1.3 The two parallel walls aligned east-west just within the walls of the existing church contained reused Roman building material but most likely represent the walls of an earlier Late Saxon or early medieval slightly smaller church. Large quantities of Roman tile, brick and box-flue recovered from the consolidation layers above wall foundation [2] may indicate that this structure was Roman rather than of Saxon/early medieval date. However, the presence of early medieval pottery (1000-1200) from the same layer [89] suggested that the Roman material was redeposited and the wall foundation was Saxon/early medieval in date, particularly as generally there is no influx of new ceramic building material fabrics in Saxon and early medieval buildings and the tendency was to reuse existing fabric. The volume of reused Roman fabrics was highly suggestive of there being a substantial Roman building nearby. Furthermore the variety of fabrics dating to a period of two hundred years (AD50-AD250) suggests substantial occupation in this area with materials being sourced from a multitude of locations due to the site's proximity to Ermine Street.
- 8.1.4 The two postholes found within the church might be associated with the construction of either the earlier church or the existing structure.
- 8.1.5 The foundations of the southern wall (the nave) of the existing church were uncovered. As these foundations were only recorded in section, no datable finds were recovered from the walls themselves and no datable finds were found within the backfill of their construction cut. From the building material found in various deposits across the site it was apparent that there were at least three types of flooring of the church at different times in the building's history. In the 13th century the church was floored with small, thin glazed Westminster-type tiles. Late in the Tudor period black and green glazed Flemish floor tiles were used and later still in the 17th / 18th century unglazed Flemish floor tiles were utilised (see Appendix 4).
- 8.1.6 Although the pottery assemblage recovered from the site was small it does suggest occupation from the late 10th/11th century which suggests that the earliest walls on site might be the remains of an earlier church dating to this period.
- 8.1.7 The investigation of the inhumations at the church yielded a high level of intercutting grave cuts and a large amount of disarticulated human bone including a charnel pit within the church itself. This led to the conclusion that the cemetery both within and outside the walls of the church had been used and re-used frequently prior to its closure.
- 8.1.8 Thirty-three skeletons, all laid west-east, were recovered during the archaeological investigation. The bulk of the skeletons were young or mid adults with a slight prevalence of male individuals than female. The most prevalent pathology seen involved the spine with nine individuals, just over a quarter of the population, affected (see Appendix 3). The skeletal assemblage recovered from St Bartholomew's cemetery and nave as a whole was fairly small and thus would not provide a statistically

significant population to compare with other groups of skeletons. However, those recovered from within the nave alone may be comparable with other assemblages recovered from similar locations of the same date.

- 8.1.9 The presence of intercutting graves within the nave of the church might suggest that the inhumations cover a relatively large period of time. Only two sherds of pottery were recovered from the grave fills which were dated to the 12th/13th century and 1450-1700 respectively. The ceramic building material dated mostly from the post-medieval period up to the end of the 18th century. However, graves are notoriously difficult to date from finds because of the mixing of deposits caused by the cutting of graves through earlier burials. The date of only one burial is known for certain, that of Captain Roger Hale who died in 1749. However, radiocarbon dates on two skeletons were recorded as Cal 1290-1420 and Cal 1320-1440. It would appear that that the burials in the church are of mixed date with a number of medieval burials still surviving.
- 8.1.10 The graves from the churchyard contained no datable finds with the only artefacts recovered from the cemetery soil. These consisted of two sherds of pottery dated 950/70-1100 and two fragments of tile dating to the period 1180-1800, which might possibly suggest an earlier date for the inhumations. However, radiocarbon dating of two skeletons were recorded as Cal 1150-1270 and Cal 1440-1640 suggesting mixed medieval and early post-medieval burials with the later burials interred on the earlier medieval graves.

8.2 Conclusions

- 8.2.1 It has been clearly shown by this investigation that there were archaeological deposits relating to the Saxon/early medieval church, the later medieval/post-medieval church currently standing on the site and the post-medieval cemetery still extant on the site.
- 8.2.2 Furthermore the presence of a large quantity and wide variety of Roman ceramic building material and painted and moulded *opus signinum* within a layer and structure associated with the Saxon/early medieval church would suggest the presence of a substantial Roman building nearby from which material was re-used during the construction of the church.
- 8.2.3 Finally though the skeletal assemblage was small, only thirty three individuals, it may be possible to compare those skeletons discovered within the nave to populations encountered in similar locations as at least a third of the nave was excavated during the archaeological investigation.

9 ORIGINAL AND ADDITIONAL RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

9.1 Original Research Objectives

9.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2010a), prepared before archaeological work commenced at St Bartholomew's Church, highlighted a number of research objectives to be addressed by the investigation:

- **What date are the burials given the history of the church?**

It was considered that the burials were post-medieval. The only precisely dated burial dated from 1749 due to a breast plate affixed to the coffin. The others contained post-medieval pottery and CBM but due to the amount of intercutting burials, particularly within the nave, it was not possible to accurately date individuals based on the material culture. Carbon dating of selected individuals [120], [107], [87] and [51] gave a more accurate date range for the burials both within and outside the church specifically [120] and [107] gave a date range of Cal AD1150-AD1270 and Cal AD1440-AD1640 in the churchyard and [87] and [51] gave a date range of AD1290-AD1420 and Cal AD1320-AD1440 from those inside the nave, although the breast plate from Captain Hale expands this considerably further to AD1749 as does the 18th/19th century construction date for the brick vault.

- **How does the existing documentary research and church memorial information relate to the remains recovered from the excavation?**

Only one individual among the cemetery population, Captain Roger Hale, has so far been identified and no memorial within the church or documentary evidence has yet been acquired relating to this individual. Four further individuals were identified after their removal from the brick vault: James Fitzgerald Villiers, his sisters Mary and Frances and an infant, his son John Villiers all of which dated from the 18th century.

- **What evidence is there for the presence of an earlier church or settlement on the site?**

Wall foundations and deposits were encountered relating to the earlier church and due to the amount and variety of redeposited Roman CBM and painted *opus signinum* found within these structures and layers it was indicative of a substantial Roman building within the immediate vicinity and one that survived for a considerable period of time.

- **Is there a pattern of disease within the assemblage, and if so, how does the pattern of disease compare to what we know about the aetiology of diseases and the history of dentistry and medicine?**

The most prevalent diseases seen within the skeletal assemblage were those relating to the dentition, particularly calculus and socket resorption and in the post-cranial skeleton the vertebral column including schmorls nodes, osteoarthritis and osteophytosis. The small size of the assemblage means that it is not possible to draw specific conclusions about the aetiology of diseases or the history of dentistry and medicine.

- **Are the diseases affecting the groups of people they would be expected to? Is there any evidence for the intervention, successful or not, of dental or medical treatment or care?**

There does not appear to be any variance from the norms of the period for individuals with pathology. There were no clear indications of medical intervention seen on any of the skeletons.

- **How does diet vary amongst the assemblage both over time and within social groups?**

Traces of enamel hypoplasia, which results from dietary deficiencies, were seen in five individuals within the nave. The small size of the assemblage does however prevent wider conclusions being drawn.

- **What are the patterns of dental pathology and dental treatment within the assemblage?**

The most prevalent diseases encountered on the dentition were: calculus, caries, enamel hypoplasia and socket resorption. A single instance of an abscess was also encountered and two individuals, both male, had pipe facets. No evidence was encountered that suggested medical intervention. Roughly equal numbers of male and female adult individuals were seen to have been affected with the exception of the pipe facets which only males were seen to have had. Again the small size of the assemblage means that precise conclusions cannot be made.

- **What can we learn from coffin furniture about the social status of those buried, when compared to published catalogues of coffin furniture from previous archaeological excavations and also from the periods themselves?**

The majority of metal objects found during the investigation related to coffins, although in five cases this were only identifiable in the form of fragmented iron coffin nails and in one burial only an incomplete bracket or staple was present. Comparisons of the coffin grips and grip plates were made with sites at Christchurch Spitalfields, the Quaker cemetery at Kingston-upon-Thames, the domed upholstery pins with those from Kingston-upon-Thames and a near-complete iron hinge with trapezoid plates with those of the Quaker cemetery at Coach Lane on North Tyneside. These comparisons suggest relatively high status individuals, as already indicated by their interment within the nave but no spectacular variations within the small assemblage of coffin furniture distinguished any particular individual.

- **What does the coffin furniture inform us about the design, typology and chronological development of coffins over time? Does the quality and design of the coffin reflect the status of the individual?**

While a certain amount of coffin furniture was encountered on the site as discussed in the question above it is not a large enough sample or from a wide enough date range to suggest a developmental shift in coffin design over time or distinctive enough to reflect the status of particular individuals.

- **Any named individuals create an invaluable opportunity to test and advance osteological methods used for aging and sexing. How reliable are these methods and how can they be improved?**

The only individual for which precise data was known was Captain Roger Hale (skeleton [38]). The results of his osteological assessment supported current demographic methodologies. Due to health and safety issues the named individuals within the brick vault were not osteologically examined.

- **How do the remains compare to other contemporary Hertfordshire church excavations in terms of demography, status and pathology?**

The cemetery population as a whole is not represented by the assemblage recovered during the excavation. However it may be possible to compare those individuals from inside the nave with those in similar locations found in Hertfordshire. This question will be more thoroughly addressed by the publication.

9.2 Additional Research Questions-Archaeology

9.2.1 The results of the archaeological investigation and documentary research carried out have led to the following additional research questions being proposed:

- What is the date of the masonry which predates the existing church?
- What might the source of the Roman building material be?
- Can the date of the burials within the nave be refined?

- Can the date of the burials within the churchyard be refined?
- How do the remains compare to other contemporary Hertfordshire church excavations in terms of demography, status and pathology?
- What information can be learnt regarding Captain Roger Hale?

9.3 Research Questions arising from the Documentary Research

Roman

- Are there examples in north-east Hertfordshire of Roman occupation sites that subsequently became the sites of early medieval manorial complexes and/or churches?

Medieval

- Can additional documentary research reveal any further information regarding the sub-tenants of the manors of Corney Bury and Alswick during the period these manors were owned by Holy Trinity Aldgate?
- Can further documentary research reveal what, if anything, was the relationship between Leofstan the port reeve and the Trikets of Corney Bury? What relationship, if any, did Leofstan have with north-east Hertfordshire?
- Can further documentary research reveal any information regarding the benefactors who paid for the rebuilding of St Bartholomew's Church during the early 15th century?
- Can further documentary research reveal any information regarding the identity of the benefactor who paid for the porch of the church in the early 16th century?
- Can further research into the Brand family reveal more about John and Alys Brande, and their relationship with St Bartholomew's?

Post Medieval

- Is there any documentary material available regarding the impact of the Reformation upon the fabric and internal arrangement of St Bartholomew's?
- Can documentary research reveal what impact the English Civil War had upon the fabric of the church, as suggested by Chauncy in 1700?
- What else can we discover about the mid-19th century repairs to the church?
- Who commissioned W.A. Pite to prepare architectural drawings of the church, and why did he not gain the commission to restore the church?

10 IMPORTANCE OF THE RESULTS, PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER WORK AND PUBLICATION OUTLINE

10.1 Importance of the Results

- 10.1.1 The results of the archaeological investigation have shown that structures and deposits related to an earlier medieval church, the later medieval/post-medieval church and the post-medieval cemetery were present on the site. It is the consideration of this report that these results are of local and potentially regional importance although not necessarily of national significance, particularly since the proximity of Ermine Street and the presence of so much redeposited Roman material encountered on the site indicated that there could be a substantial Roman building in the immediate vicinity of St Bartholomew's.

10.2 Proposals for Further Work

Human remains

- 10.2.1 A comparison of St Bartholomew's Church skeletons within the nave with similar populations from similar locations in Hertfordshire and possibly further afield will be made where possible. A comparison with other contemporary Hertfordshire church excavations in terms of demography, status and pathology of skeletal remains will be attempted. In order to try and refine the dating of burials both within the church and from the churchyard it was proposed that radiocarbon dating of four skeletons (two from inside the nave and two from outside) be undertaken to obtain a more accurate date range for the burials. The results of the radiocarbon dating indicated a date range of Cal AD1150-AD1270 and Cal AD1440-AD1640 in the churchyard and a date range of AD1290-AD1420 and Cal AD1320-AD1440 from those inside the nave, although the breast plate from Captain Hale expands this considerably further to AD1749 as does the 18th/19th century construction date for the brick vault.
- 10.2.2 Further documentary work is proposed to determine if anything can be learnt of the life and career of Captain Roger Hale and any of the burials within the vault which may have name plates inscribed on the lead coffins.

Coffin furniture

- 10.2.3 The coffin fittings provide vital information of the burials at St Bartholomew's and should be included in any further publication of the site.

Roman Ceramic Building Material

- 10.2.4 It is proposed that the Roman building material assemblage from the site be published and comparison be made with assemblages from other sites in this part of Hertfordshire (Skeleton Green, Baldock, and Braughing) to define how peculiar it is to this location. The painted and moulded *opus signinum* will be re-examined and parallels in Roman Britain sought. Comparing the Roman ceramic building material assemblage with the much larger MOLA Reference Collection would help to verify and identify the impact of local and London/Wealden tileries in this area of north Hertfordshire. In order to understand how important Roman activity was in this area an examination of the fabric of the standing St Bartholomew's Church could be made specifically to identify the range of Roman ceramic building material and stone fabrics.

Pottery

10.2.5 A short publication text is proposed for the small pottery assemblage which would be supplemented by one illustration.

10.3 Publication Outline

10.3.1 It is proposed that the results of this investigation will be published as part of Martin Coulson's book on St Bartholomew's Church.

11 CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

11.1 The contents of the archive are:

The paper archive:

	Drawings	Sheets
Context Sheets	*	148
Plans 1:20	91	101
Plans 1:10	1	1
Sections 1:10	6	9

The photographic archive:

Black and White print film -35mm	144 frames
Colour Slide film -35mm	144 frames
Digital Images	139 frames

The finds archive:

Building Material	2 boxes & 2 crates
Pottery	1 box
Coffin Furniture	0.5 box (select examples; the bulk was reburied)
Human bone	33 skeletons and disarticulated bone (all reburied beneath the church)

12 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 12.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Martin Coulson and Mandy House for commissioning the work and Alison Tinniswood, HER Officer for Hertfordshire County Council, for monitoring the work.
- 12.2 The authors would like to thank Helen Hawkins for project managing the site and Jon Butler for managing the post-excavation and editing this report, Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations, Sophie White for Logistics, Chris Jarrett for analysing the pottery, Kevin Hayward for analysing the masonry and CBM samples and Märit Gaimster for analysing the coffin furniture that was recovered from the site. Matt Edmonds, Alexander Pullen and Joe Brooks are thanked for their hard work on site.

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Will of John Crouch, 16/08/1605

Supplied by Client

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APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
HSBB10	1	1	S2	Masonry	Wall foundation	Early Medieval	2
HSBB10	2	2	S1 & S2	Masonry	Wall foundation	Early Medieval	2
HSBB10	3	3	S2	Layer	Plaster/chalky wall finish remnant	Medieval/Early post-medieval	3
HSBB10	4	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	5	5	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	6	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	7	7	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	8	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	9	9	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	10	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	11	11	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	12	N/A	N/A	Fill	Charnel pit fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	13	13	N/A	Cut	Charnel pit cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	14	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	15	15	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	16	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	17	17	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	18	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	19	19	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	20	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill 'Capt Roger Hale'	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	21	21	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	22	22	S2	Layer	Subsoil	Early Medieval	2
HSBB10	23	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	24	24	S2	Cut	Wall foundation [1] construction cut	Early Medieval	2
HSBB10	25	25	S1 & S2	Cut	Wall foundation [2] construction cut	Early Medieval	2
HSBB10	26	26	N/A	Masonry	Brick Vault	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	27	27	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [7]	Post-medieval	4

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
HSBB10	28	28	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [5]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	29	29	N/A	Coffin	Coffin of 'Capt Roger Hale'	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	30	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	31	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
HSBB10	32	32	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [33]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	33	33	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	34	34	N/A	Coffin	Coffin for skeleton [28]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	35	35	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [17]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	36	36	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [9]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	37	37	N/A	Coffin	Coffin for skeleton [36]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	38	38	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton of Capt Roger Hale	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	39	39	N/A	Deposit	Rubble backfill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	40	40	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [42]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	41	40	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [43]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	42	42	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	43	43	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	44	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	45	45	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [46]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	46	46	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	47	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	48	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	49	49	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [15]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	50	50	N/A	Coffin	Coffin for skeleton [49]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	51	51	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [11]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	52	52	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [19]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	53	N/A	N/A	Cut	Brick vault construction cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	54	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	55	55	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [56]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	56	56	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
HSBB10	57	57	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [58]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	58	58	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	59	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	60	60	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [61]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	61	61	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	62	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	63	63	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [64]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	64	64	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	65	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	66	66	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [67]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	67	67	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	68	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	69	69	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [70]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	70	70	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	71	N/A	S2	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	72	72	S2	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	73	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	74	74	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [75]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	75	75	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	76	N/A	S2	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	77	77	S2	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	78	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	79	79	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [80]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	80	80	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	81	N/A	N/A	Fill	Posthole fill	Medieval/Early post-medieval	3
HSBB10	82	82	N/A	Cut	Posthole cut	Medieval/Early post-medieval	3
HSBB10	83	83	S2	Layer	Made ground	Medieval/Early post-medieval	3

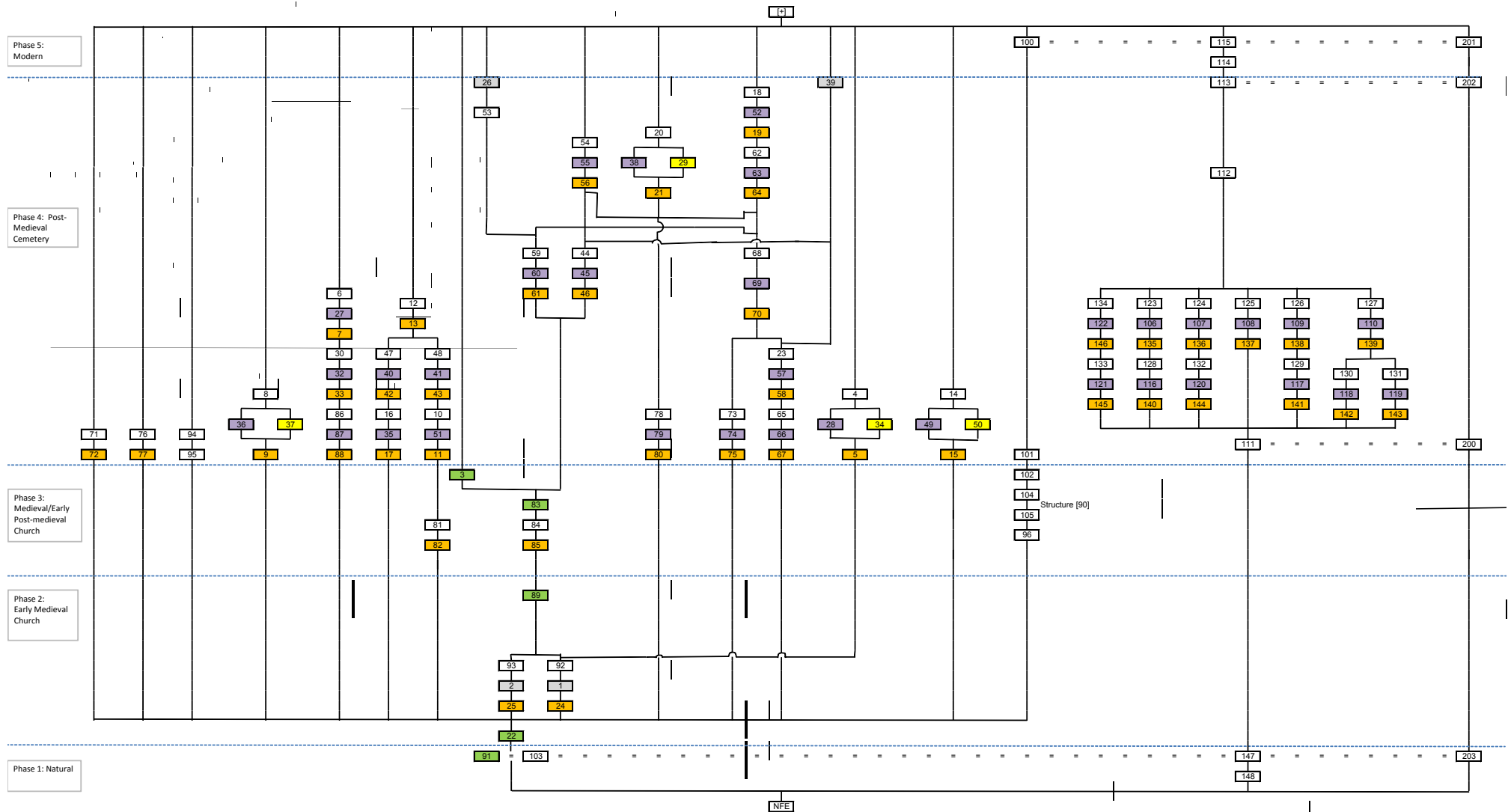
Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
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HSBB10	85	85	N/A	Cut	Posthole cut	Medieval/Early post-medieval	3
HSBB10	86	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	87	87	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [88]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	88	88	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	89	89	S2	Layer	Sandy construction layer	Early Medieval	2
HSBB10	90	N/A	S2 & S3	Masonry	Structure number - St Barts Church wall foundation	Medieval/Early post-medieval	3
HSBB10	91	91	S2	Layer	Natural clay	N/A	1
HSBB10	92	N/A	S2	Fill	Backfill in construction cut [24]	Early Medieval	2
HSBB10	93	N/A	S2	Fill	Backfill in construction cut [25]	Early Medieval	2
HSBB10	94	N/A	S2	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	95	N/A	S2	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	96	N/A	S3	Cut	Construction cut for wall foundation [90]	Medieval/Early post-medieval	3
HSBB10	100	N/A	S3	Layer	Topsoil	Modern	5
HSBB10	101	N/A	S3	Layer	Cemetery soil	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	102	N/A	S3	Layer	Subsoil	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	103	N/A	S3	Layer	Natural clay	N/A	1
HSBB10	104	N/A	S3	Masonry	Upper part of St Barts Church wall foundation	Medieval/Early post-medieval	3
HSBB10	105	N/A	S3	Masonry	Lower part of St Barts Church wall foundation	Medieval/Early post-medieval	3
HSBB10	106	Skeleton positions 1	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [135]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	107	Skeleton positions	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [136]	Post-medieval	4

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
		1					
HSBB10	108	Skeleton positions 1	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [137]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	109	Skeleton positions 1	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [138]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	110	Skeleton positions 1	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [139]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	111	N/A	S4	Layer	Cemetery soil	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	112	N/A	S4	Layer	Redeposited natural clay	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	113	N/A	S4	Layer	Subsoil	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	114	N/A	S4	Layer	Tarmac path	Modern	5
HSBB10	115	N/A	S4	Layer	Turf	Modern	5
HSBB10	116	Skeleton positions 2	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [140]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	117	Skeleton positions 2	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [141]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	118	Skeleton positions 2	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [142]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	119	Skeleton positions 2	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [143]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	120	Skeleton positions 2	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [144]	Post-medieval	4

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
HSBB10	121	Skeleton positions 2	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [145]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	122	Skeleton positions 2	N/A	Skeleton	Skeleton in [146]	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	123	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	124	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	125	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	126	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	127	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	128	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	129	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	130	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	131	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	132	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	133	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	134	N/A	N/A	Fill	Grave fill	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	135	Cuts I	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	136	Cuts I	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	137	Cuts I	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	138	Cuts I	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	139	Cuts I	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	140	Cuts II	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	141	Cuts II	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	142	Cuts II	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	143	Cuts II	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	144	Cuts II	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	145	Cuts II	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	146	Cuts II	N/A	Cut	Grave cut	Post-medieval	4

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
HSBB10	147	N/A	S4	Layer	Natural clay	N/A	1
HSBB10	148	N/A	S4	Layer	Natural clay	N/A	1
HSBB10	200	N/A	S6	Layer	Cemetery soil	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	201	N/A	S6	Layer	Topsoil	Modern	5
HSBB10	202	N/A	S6	Layer	Subsoil	Post-medieval	4
HSBB10	203	N/A	S6	Layer	Natural clay	N/A	1

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN BONE

Introduction

A total of 33 articulated burials were excavating during the archaeological investigation. Of these 21 were recovered from the Excavation Area within the walls of the nave and 12 were exhumed from the Service Trench within the cemetery proper on the southern side of the church. This appendix contains the results of an assessment of the skeletal remains from these burials. A skeletal catalogue of the remains is included at the end as is a list of contexts from which disarticulated human bone was recovered.

Methodology

The skeletal remains from the inhumation burials were analysed to assess the condition of the remains and where possible the age, sex and stature of the individual, any gross pathology present was recorded to site and morphological changes described.

The condition and completeness of a skeleton affects the amount of data that can be recorded. The condition of the bone was recorded according to the stages of surface preservation suggested by McKinley (2004) and the completeness of the skeleton was based on a complete skeleton consisting of:

Skull 20%
Torso 40%
Arms 20%
Legs 20%

Age was assessed using the stages of epiphyseal fusion, measurement of long bone length, dental development and eruption, dental attrition (Brothwell 1981), changes within the pubic symphysis (Brooks and Suchey 1990) and the auricular surface (Lovejoy 1985). All individuals where ageing data could be collected were placed into one of the following age ranges:

Neonate	0-1 month
Infant	birth - one year
Juvenile	1 - 12 years
Adolescent (Adol)	12 - 20 years
Young Adult (YA)	20 – 35 years
Middle Adult (MA)	35 – 50 years
Old Adult	50 + years
Adult	>20 years
Undetermined	

Sexually dimorphic traits in the pelvis and skull were used to ascertain the sex of the individual. Each individual was placed into one of the following categories; male, female (positive identification), male?, female? (compares favourably to a sex but not conclusive), "I" (indeterminate) and '?' (inconclusive).

The living stature of the skeletons was, where possible, calculated from the long bone lengths using the regression equations devised by Trotter and Gleser (1958). The choice of long bones used was based on the preservation of the skeleton and the order of preference suggested by Brothwell and Zakrzewski (2004) for the regression equations.

The dentition was recorded in the following way: -

	Right								Left							
Maxilla	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mandible	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

/	lost post-mortem	X	lost ante-mortem
-	tooth present but jaw missing	U	present
NP	not present	PE	partially erupted
O	tooth erupting	B	broken
V	tooth unerupted	--	tooth and jaw not present
PU	pulp exposed	R	root only

Dental pathology was recorded to site and severity. Brothwell (1981) devised the scoring system used for calculus and the following grading system of severity was used for caries:

- 1 Pit/fissure
- 2 <half crown destroyed
- 3 >half crown destroyed
- 4 All crown destroyed

Results – Excavation Area

Completeness

There is a wide range of skeletal completeness within the Excavation Area burials, varying from 5% to 95%. Two thirds of the group, 66.7%, had more than 75% of the skeleton surviving, while a fifth (19.0%) had less than 25% of the skeletal elements present. The high level of completeness within the cemetery indicated that the majority of the recovered skeletons were probably among the last to be buried within the nave.

Skeletal Completeness within the Excavation Area

Completeness	Number of skeletons	Percentage
<25%	4	19.0

<50%	0	0
<75%	3	14.3
>75%	14	66.7

Demography

Almost all of the burials within the Excavation Area were of adult individuals, the remaining burials were of undetermined age. Amongst the adults most were of middle or young adult age.

Age distribution of skeletons within the Excavation Area

Age	Number of skeletons	Percentage
Infant	0	0
Juvenile	0	0
Adolescent	0	0
Young adult	5	23.8
Middle adult	6	28.6
Older adult	3	14.3
Adult (unspecified)	4	19.0
Undetermined	3	14.3
Total	21	100

The table below demonstrates that the majority of the adult individuals that could be sexed were male or possibly male.

Sex distribution of the burials within the Excavation Area

Sex	Number of skeletons	Percentage
Male	5	23.8
Possible male	3	14.3
Indeterminate	8	38.1
Possible female	2	9.5
Female	3	14.3
Inconclusive	0	0
Total	21	100

Stature

Stature could be estimated for the majority of the burials. The stature is shown in the following table, and all fall within the range of height found within post-medieval individuals.

Estimated Stature of the skeletons within the Excavation Area

Skeleton no.	Element used	Sex	Stature estimation (cm)	Error (cm) +/-
28	Femur	Male?	167.08	3.27
32	Tibia	?	168.08	3.37
35	Humerus	Male	170.40	4.05
36	Femur	Male	163.51	3.27
38	Femur	Male	171.37	3.27
41	Femur	?	167.56	3.27
45	Femur	?	160.66	3.27
49	Femur	Male?	175.89	3.27
51	Humerus	Male?	169.63	4.05
52	Femur	Female	162.29	3.72
55	Femur	Female	162.04	3.72
57	Femur	Female?	167.47	3.72
63	Femur	Male	172.32	3.27
66	Tibia	?	163.29	3.37
69	Humerus	?	170.86	4.05
87	Femur	Male	170.41	3.27

Pathology

A variety of pathologies was evident on the skeletons, particularly those from inside the nave. Seventeen skeletons of the twenty one found inside the nave (81%) were recorded with pathologies. From this group dental pathology was found in twelve skeletons, degenerative changes were identified in nine and a single skeleton with a fracture. The tables below summarise the nature of the changes according to age and sex:

Dental pathology within male skeletons

Context Number	Age	Calculus	Enamel Hypoplasia	Caries	Socket resorption	Other
28	Young Adult	Yes			Yes	Pipe facet
63	Young Adult	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pipe facet
49	Young-Mid Adult	Yes				

35	Mid Adult	Yes				
87	Mid-Old Adult	Yes	Yes			

Dental pathology within female skeletons

Context Number	Age	Calculus	Caries	Socket resorption	Abscess	Other
55	Young Adult	Yes	Yes			
27	Mid-Old Adult	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Overcrowding
74	Old Adult			Yes		

Dental pathology within indeterminate skeletons

Context Number	Age	Calculus	Enamel Hypoplasia	Socket resorption
41	Young Adult	Yes		
45	Mid Adult			Yes
32	Unspecified Adult		Yes	
40	Indeterminate			Yes

Within the Excavation Area there were ten individuals that exhibited post-cranial pathology the bulk of which manifested on the vertebrae, the table below summarises these details according to age and sex:

Cervical vertebrae

Context	Sex	Age	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
63	Male	Young Adult							
51	Male	Young-Mid Adult							SN, OP, OA
32	Male	Mid Adult				OP, SN	OP, SN	OP, SN	OP, SN
35	Male	Mid Adult							
87	Male	Mid-Old Adult			OA	OA	OA		
38	Male	Old Adult							
52	Female	Mid Adult							
27	Female	Mid-Old Adult							
74	Female	Old Adult	F	F		OP	OP	OP	OP

Thoracic Vertebrae (T1-T6)

Context	Sex	Age	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6
63	Male	Young Adult						
51	Male	Young-Mid Adult	SN, OP, OA	SN, OP, OA	SN, OP, OA	SN, OP, OA	SN, OP, OA	SN, OP, OA
32	Male	Mid Adult						
35	Male	Mid Adult			OA	OA	OA	OA
87	Male	Mid-Old Adult						
38	Male	Old Adult			DISH	DISH	DISH	DISH
52	Female	Mid Adult						
27	Female	Mid-Old Adult						
74	Female	Old Adult						
Context	Sex	Age	T7	T8	T9	T10	T11	T12
63	Male	Young Adult		SN		SN		
51	Male	Young-Mid Adult	SN, OP, OA	SN, OP, OA	SN, OP, OA	SN, OP, OA	SN, OP, OA	SN, OP
32	Male	Mid Adult						
35	Male	Mid Adult						
87	Male	Mid-Old Adult			SN	SN, OP, PF	SN, OP, PF	SN, OP, PF
38	Male	Old Adult	DISH	DISH				
52	Female	Mid Adult			SN	SN, OP		SN
27	Female	Mid-Old Adult		OP	SN	OA		
74	Female	Old Adult		OA, BC				

Thora
cic
Verte
brae
(T7-
T12)

Lumbar Vertebrae

Context	Sex	Age	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5
63	Male	Young Adult					
51	Male	Young-Mid Adult	SN, OP		OP		
32	Male	Mid Adult					
35	Male	Mid Adult					
87	Male	Mid-Old Adult	SN, OP, PF	SN, OP, PF	SN, OP, PF	SN, OP, PF	SN, OP, PF
38	Male	Old Adult					
52	Female	Mid Adult	SN	SN	SN		
27	Female	Mid-Old Adult				SN	
74	Female	Old Adult					

Key: SN-Schmorls nodes, OP-Osteophytosis, OA-Osteoarthritis, PF-Partial fusion of selected vertebrae, F-Complete fusion of selected vertebrae, BC-Collapse of vertebral body, DISH-Diffuse Ideopathic Skeletal Hyperostosis.

Further pathologies found on the skeletons within the nave included ossification of soft tissue on the sternum of young-mid adult male [51] and mid adult female [52], the left first rib, left tibia and left fibula of mid-old adult female and the left patella and manubrium of mid-old adult male [87]. There were only two cases of osteoarthritis on the acromion processes of the left and right scapulae of mid-old adult female [27] and increased porosity within the right acetabulum and right femoral head in addition to severe osteophytic lipping within the left acetabulum

and on the femoral head of old adult female [74]. The only trauma seen was a badly healed fracture of the right clavicle of indeterminate individual [79].

Service Trench

Completeness

The skeletal completeness ranged from 20% to 75%, with over half of the skeletons having less than 50% of the skeleton surviving. The low skeletal completeness was principally due to the limited size of the trench.

Skeletal Completeness within the Service Trench

Completeness	Number of skeletons	Percentage
<25%	1	8.3
<50%	7	58.4
<75%	3	25.0
>75%	1	8.3

Demography

As in the Excavated Area the majority of the burials in the Service Trench were adults although most of these could not be more precisely aged.

Age distribution of the burials in the Service Trench

Age	Number of skeletons	Percentage
Neonate	0	0
Infant	0	0
Juvenile	2	16.8
Adolescent	1	8.3
Young adult	1	8.3
Middle adult	1	8.3
Older adult	1	8.3
Adult (unspecified)	6	50.0
Undetermined	0	0
Total	12	100

Two of the burials could not be sexed because they were juveniles. The distribution of males to females within the group was 1.33: 1. However due to the high number that could not be sexed this does not necessarily accurately reflect the distribution of men and women amongst this group.

Sex distribution of the skeletons in the Service Trench

Sex	Number of skeletons	Percentage
Male	2	20.0
Possible male	2	20.0
Indeterminate	3	30.0
Possible female	3	30.0
Female	0	0
Inconclusive	0	0
Total	10	100

Stature

Of the twelve skeletons stature could be estimated for three, of these two were male and one was of indeterminate sex. The stature is shown in the following table, and all fall within the range of height found within post-medieval individuals.

Estimated Stature of the skeletons within the Service Trench

Skeleton no.	Element used	Sex	Stature estimation (cm)	Error (cm) +/-
116	Femur	Male	173.98	3.27
120	Tibia	Male	166.57	3.37
121	Tibia	?	180.18	3.37

Pathology

Within the Service Trench only two individuals of the twelve encountered exhibited dental pathology, [109] and [116], both were mid-old adult males and both suffered resorption of either the maxillary molar sockets, in the case of [109], or mandibular molar sockets in the case of [116].

There were three cases of post-cranial pathology in the Service Trench including a healed right metatarsal fracture of young adult male [120], a case of non-specific infection, probably osteitis, of the left tibia of indeterminate adult individual [121] and a single case of vertebral pathology, osteophytosis, on late adolescent-young adult female [118].

Disarticulated Bone

Disarticulated human bone was present in twenty sealed contexts of which sixteen were from grave cuts, one the fill of a charnel pit and three from undifferentiated cemetery soil. The list of contexts is included at the end of this report. The following table summarises the minimum number of individuals encountered within each context:

Context number	Type	Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI)
6	Grave fill	3
12	Charnel pit fill	4
14	Grave fill	3
16	Grave fill	1
18	Grave fill	2
20	Grave fill	1
23	Grave fill	2
30	Grave fill	1
44	Grave fill	3
47	Grave fill	1
54	Grave fill	2
59	Grave fill	1
62	Grave fill	6
71	Grave fill	3
73	Grave fill	2
77	Grave fill	1
86	Grave fill	1
101	Cemetery soil	2
111	Cemetery soil	5
200	Cemetery soil	6

Disarticulated bone of particular note included a proximal and mid hand phalanges fused together and a neonate long bone shaft with rickets in context [6] and a fused humerus and ulna and fused calcaneus and talus in context [12].

Recommendations for further work

The skeletal assemblage recovered from St Bartholomew's cemetery and nave as a whole is fairly small and thus would not provide a statistically significant population to compare with other groups of skeletons. However, it may be possible to compare the burials within the nave alone with other assemblages recovered from similar locations of the same date.

Due to the lack of datable material recovered from the graves themselves, particularly those found in the Service Trench, carbon dating was performed on two of the earliest burials inside the nave in order to give an approximate start date for burials in that location. Additionally two burials from the Service Trench, one from the upper layer and one from the lower layer, helped to date that area of the cemetery. The selected individuals were [51], [87], [107] and [120]. The results of the carbon dating are detailed in the report above.

Due to the restrictions on reburial of the skeletal assemblage no further recording can be performed on either the articulated or disarticulated bone.

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APPENDIX 4: BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

Kevin Hayward

Introduction and Aims

Two shoe boxes and two crates of ceramic building material, stone and mortar were retained from the excavation of the site of St Bartholomew's Church, Buntingford, Hertfordshire.

This moderate assemblage (119 examples 71.8Kg) was assessed in order to:

- Identify (under binocular microscope) the fabric and forms of the medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material examples, roofing tile, floor tile, brick and associated mortar examples in order to understand in greater depth the development of the Church including its post-medieval use.
- Identify (under binocular microscope) the fabric and forms of the stone to determine the geological character and source (where possible) of the stone in the walling of Buntingford, Hertfordshire.
- Produce a list of spot dates for each context.
- Make recommendations for further study.

Methodology

Of the few intact structures e.g. vault [26] two whole brick samples were retained in order to determine their construction date. Where the walls were earlier, e.g. [2] a range of stone and early ceramic building materials were recovered for this purpose. The remaining contexts especially from the earlier medieval and Roman features had tile, brick, stone, plaster, mortar which were retained and sampled.

Although the site lay outside the area for the London system of classification for ceramic building materials, there were nevertheless a number of comparable fabrics that justified hand specimen comparative analysis. Fabric numbers were allocated to each object. The application of a 1kg mason's hammer and sharp chisel to each example ensured that a small fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10).

Consultation of the local 1:50000 geological maps and memoirs for Biggleswade (No. 204) (Moorlock *et al* 2003), Hitchin (No. 221) (Hopson *et al* 1996) and Leighton Buzzard (No. 222) (Shephard-Thomas *et al* 1994) ensured not only an understanding of both the local geology but also the types of worked stone that were being exploited locally for construction.

Ceramic Building Material 97 examples 34.9kg

On the basis of form and fabric, It has been possible to subdivide the assemblage into three chronological groupings – Roman, late medieval and post-medieval.

Roman 50 examples 8.05kg

Quantities of Roman ceramic building material are present at Buntingford with a mixture of tile, brick and box flue tile made from a variety of both early and later Roman fabrics.

Nearly all (80% - 6.5kg) came from a possible phase 2 construction layer [89]. Elsewhere there is a background scatter of materials in a possible phase 2 wall [2], a phase 3 made ground [83] and posthole fill [81] and phase 4 grave fill [86]

Fabrics

As many as 12 fabric types have been identified from this assemblage, the significance of which will be covered in the phase summary. Most of these are comparable with the PCA reference collection, with at least two (each given the suffix BUNT (5 and 6)) having no match. It is likely that these were manufactured in local kilns.

Early Radlett Iron Oxide Fabric Group 3023; 3060 (AD50-120)

As expected, the most common (13 examples) Roman fabric identified at Buntingford was the "local" Hertfordshire, Radlett Group. This early fabric (AD50-120) is characterised by bright orange tile and brick with numerous black iron oxide and silty lenses (fabric 3023). Those with numerous red iron oxide fragments have been assigned a sub-grouping (fabric 3060).

Late Radlett Iron Oxide Fabric Group 3023b; 3060b (AD170-AD230)

A much coarser variant with essentially the same ingredients is the late 2nd early 3rd century Radlett group 3023b and 3060b. Examples (10) are intermixed with the earlier version of this fabric [89].

Early London Sandy Fabric Group 2815 (AD50-AD160)

At sites in London this is by far the most common fabric type. Here, just two vitrified examples from [89] [102] are represented.

Late (London?) Sandy Fabric Group 2459b; 2459c (AD120-AD250).

A small group (6 examples) of mid 2nd to mid 3rd century sandy fabrics characterised by either a very fine moulding sand (2459b) or chaff moulding (2459c) have been identified principally from [89]. This group had initially been grouped as a sandy London fabric but with much higher quantities of mica – these have now been assigned a Hertfordshire source.

Wealden Silty Fabric Group 3018 (AD100-AD120) 3238 (AD71-100)

Occasional chunks of silty Roman ceramic building material from [89] characterised either by a bright orange fabric with a lot of lenses of red iron oxide, silty lenses and laminae and coarse scattered quartz (fabric 3238) or very fine laminae in a much finer matrix (fabric 3018) indicate that material from the Weald had been brought up this far.

Possible Sussex Fabric 3054 (AD70-140)

A large brick fragment included within masonry wall [2] had large chunks of flint, light grey grog and silt maybe comparable with the East Sussex fabric 3054 although further analysis is required.

Local Fabrics *BUNT5* – a common pale orange brown fabric with abundant fine (0.2mm) quartz, numerous black iron oxide very occasional red iron oxide 2-3mm across and a large burnt flint – this could be a variant of the local Radlett (3023) group.

BUNT 6 – a rare pale orange fabric with a reduced core and numerous shell and quartz fragments. Quite different from the shelly, very late (AD270-AD350) Roman Harrold fabric 2456 manufactured nearby in Bedfordshire (Unger 2009), although of course it could be a variant.

Brick 10 examples 2.6kg

With the exception of a sizeable brick fragment (45mm) used in wall [2] much of the assemblage is in too much of a degraded and broken up state to link it to a particular size or function. Part of a large signatory mark was identified in one example

Roofing Material 37 examples 5.2kg

Tegulae and Tile 26 examples 4kg

The fragmentary tegulae are characterised either by the very common straight sided (type 1) or angled (type 2) flange profile, although the depth of some (as little as 25mm) may suggest later 2nd to 3rd century manufacture.

Imbrex 11 examples 1.2kg

A feature of the imbrices is their manufacture in the coarser later Roman Radlett fabric (AD170-AD230).

Cavity Walling 2 examples 138g

Two very small examples of a medium toothed curved combed box flue tile from [3] and [89] were both made of local Radlett fabric and attest to a heated building in the vicinity.

Unknown function 1 example 126g

It has not been possible to identify what a finger pressed (decorated?) slightly curved piece of tile would have originally been used for [89]. Finger pressed decoration is a common feature of chimney lids but it was not possible to ascertain any form from this object.

Medieval 9 examples 1.1kg

Small quantities of glazed roofing bat and peg tile and the occasional small glazed floor tile provide a clear indication of medieval occupation.

Peg Tile 7 examples 400g

Two local roofing peg tile fabrics prefixed by *BUNT* (fabrics 3 and 4) and local variants of the London sandy fabrics 2271 (fine sandy reduced core) and 2272 (coarse quartz) have been grouped together because of their occasional “splash” glaze and/or coarse moulding sand

2271 (1180-1800)

2272 (1135-1220)

BUNT 3 (unknown)

BUNT 4 (unknown)

They occur in phase 4 cemetery sub soil [102] [111] and grave fill [6] but also phase 3 medieval wall fill [6]. Important are two very thick glazed bat tile fragments in the early fabric 2272 (1135-1220); these forms of curvilinear peg tile were common throughout the medieval period.

Floor Tile 2 examples 594g

2194 Westminster Type Floor Tile Fabric (1225-1275)

Local sandy fabric

Two examples of small, thin glazed floor tile from post-medieval phase 4 [18] [23] predate the more common glazed Flemish silty fabric (see below). The example from [23] is only 130mm by 130mm by 26mm thick and is very similar to the fine red sandy fabric 2194 common in Westminster floor tile. The other example, a coarser sandy fabric [23] is probably a local tile.

Early-Late Post-Medieval 30 examples 23.7kg

A feature of the post-medieval building material assemblage at Buntingford is the large quantities of dumped glazed Flemish silty floor tile. These were manufactured between 1450 and 1600 providing a fine late medieval – Tudor timeline for much of the activity associated with church construction of St Bartholomew's. Furthermore, some of the local red bricks are very shallow, 45-55mm, and wide, 115mm, and poorly made, typical of the 16th-early 17th century

Brick 17 examples 14.1kg

BUNT 1 (1450-1800)

BUNT 2 (1664-1900)

Local variants of the red London brick 3033 (1450-1700) and post-Great Fire 3032 (1664-1900) are prefixed by *BUNT* (1 and 2 respectively); these are common in the phase 4 vaults [26] and grave fills. Some caution, however, needs to be placed on the dating of the red bricks. Outside of London, the use of red bricks continued after 1700 (the latest date assigned to fabric 3033 in London). Thus the vaulting could be 18th century rather than Tudor in date. This seems likely given that some of the bricks are well made with sharp arrises and are thick (62-64mm). Some of the other red bricks however from the grave fill [14] are poorly made, very thin (45mm) and wide (115mm) typifying Tudor use. Indeed it is possible that some were in contemporary use with the glazed silty floor tile (see below). One possible place of manufacture was the nearby kiln at Hare Street using Glacio-lacustrine clays (Hopson *et al* 1996).

Floor Tile 18 examples 11.5kg

Flemish silty Glazed (1450-1600) 8 examples

1977; 2318; 2850

From the phase 4 grave fills [14] [23] are dumped quantities of black and green glazed Flemish floor tiles that would have been used to adorn the Tudor flooring of St Bartholomew's Church.

Flemish silty unglazed (1600-1800) 10 examples

1977; 2318; 2850

From the phase 4 grave fills including complete 250mm x 250mm 25mm [54] are unglazed versions of the same Flemish Fabrics. These were manufactured in the 17th and 18th century.

Peg Tile 3 examples 141g

2276 (1480-1900)

Small quantities of the common London sandy fabric were found in phase 4 grave fills.

Mortar, Opus Signinum, Wall Plaster and Daub 13 examples 3.3kg

Opus signinum 3104

Included (reused) within the walling [2] in separate chunks and attached to the Millstone grit fragment (see below) are quantities of hard pink Roman concrete or *opus signinum*. The material attached to the stone is significant for two reasons. Not only is it moulded (curvilinear) in form it is also painted red. This would indicate that it once adorned the interior of a structure, possibly even a burial such as a mausoleum, where examples of painted *opus signinum* have been identified at Great Dover Street (Mackinder 2000) and Tabard Square (Hayward 2011).

Daub 3102

Small chunks of orange-brown daub from [89] attest to the construction of a Roman timber and wattle-lined building nearby.

Wall Plaster 3100

Moulded stepped wall plaster with pink salmon coat from the phase 4 vault [26] may relate to the interior of the vault.

Mortar 3101

Attached to brick, glazed and unglazed Flemish Floor tile is a soft fine white mortar with numerous quartz inclusions. This type of mortar is typical of 17th-18th century construction and is consistent with the types of material with which it is attached.

Stone 9 examples 33.7kg

Just three rock-types of worked stone and a fossil belemnite have been identified, which is not surprising given the site's locality in an area of the British Isles characterised by geologically recent, soft Upper Cretaceous-Tertiary sediments capped by Till deposits of the Anglian Glaciation (Hopson *et al* 1996; Moorlock *et al* 2003). Although these local till deposits contain occasional examples of harder metamorphic and igneous stone from western and northern Britain suitable for whetstone or quernstone production (Hopson *et al* 1996, 78), none were identified in the assemblage.

Millstone Grit 3120 White-grey, coarse open grained sugary quartz sandstone from a reused block possibly a quernstone incorporated into the fabric of the phase 2 wall [2]. Geological source: Upper Carboniferous – Namurian South Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

Flint 3117 Four examples of large hard nodular flint with a white cortex were recovered from the same phase [2] wall as the millstone grit. Geological source: Large nodules of flint would have been obtained from local fields due to the weathering out of the underlying Upper Chalk which lay directly beneath the till. It is the Upper Chalk from where most chalk walling material was used (Roberts 1974, 85).

Totternhoe stone 3120. Two examples of ashlar and a curved window moulding made from Totternhoe stone¹⁴ were recovered from post-medieval rubble back fill [39]. This muddy grey-green fine chalky limestone with a fragment of the pectinid bivalve *Inoceramus* is identical to massive units of this freestone from the Lower Chalk. Geological Source: The thickest (6 metre) units of Totternhoe stone (Lower Chalk) lie 10 miles due west of Buntingford at the type locality of the Green Lagoon Pit near Totternhoe (Hopson 1996, 33). However, from this point the Lower Chalk outcrop arcs to the east with further exposures lying some 8 miles north of Buntingford at the point where Ermine Street cuts through the Totternhoe escarpment. Given that the examples recovered from the post-medieval backfill [39] are in such good condition it seems unlikely they could have once come from a Roman building. This stone readily decomposes (spalls) with prolonged external contact (Hopson 1996, 120) and use and would have undoubtedly been restricted to the interior of the church, where numerous extant examples are present throughout Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire including the local church at Wyddial (Roberts 1974, 71). Indeed, the curvilinear (tracery) form of the moulding merely verifies a medieval (probably perpendicular style).

Phase Summary

Phase 2

Large quantities of just Roman tile, brick and box-flue recovered from the consolidation layers [89] above wall [2] may indicate that this structure is Roman rather than Saxon/Early Medieval. Some caution, however must be placed with dating the structure to this period. There is no influx of new ceramic building material fabrics in Saxon and Early medieval buildings and the tendency was to reuse existing fabrics. Indeed, the presence of early medieval pottery (1000-1200) from [89] (see Appendix 5) may indeed place a Roman date for this wall in some doubt.

What is clear, however, from the quantity (20kg) and range of reused Roman fabrics is that there was a substantial Roman building nearby.

The variety of fabrics too (12) dating to a period of two hundred years (AD50-AD250) suggests substantial occupation in this area and/or the reflects the availability of fabrics from a wide range of sources due to its proximity to Ermine Street and the important nodal point of Braughing.

Of interest too is the reuse of painted moulded *opus signinum* attached to a worked fragment (quern?) of millstone grit in this wall [2]. Painted moulded *opus signinum* would have been use to coat the interior walling of a building of some importance e.g. villa or the interior of a mausolea as in examples from Tabard Square (Hayward 2011) and Great Dover Street (Mackinder 2000) in Roman Southwark. Millstone grit from Derbyshire and South Yorkshire has been identified in whetstones and quernstones in some quantity at Roman sites along Ermine

¹⁴ Other local chalk rocks including Melbourne Rock (base of Middle Chalk) and Chalk Rock/Top Rock (base of Upper Chalk) are too blocky and hard to be worked into dimension stone or moulding (Moorlock 2003).

Street including nearby Skeleton Green (Partridge 1981) and up towards Earith and Langdale in the Fens (Hayward 2006a; 2006b).

Phase 3 Medieval/Early post-medieval

The small quantities of medieval building material recovered such as a glazed roofing tile (Bat and Peg tile) and small Westminster-type glazed floor tiles are an indication of later medieval activity on site – in relation to the construction of the St Bartholomew's. Unfortunately it was not possible to sample from walling structures [90] [96] [104] [105] to verify the dating here. Whether the quantities of Totternhoe moulded stone and ashlar stone recovered from the phase 4 rubble fill [39] were from this phase is unclear. Totternhoe stone was however used in medieval Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire churches including the nearby church at Wyddial (Robert 1974).

Phase 4 Post-medieval

A large part of the assemblage consisted of early red brick, glazed and unglazed Flemish floor tile that show a Tudor – 17th century rebuilding programme around the church. These turned up in the grave fills [14] [23]. The brick vault [26] probably dates to a later 17th or 18th century period, as the red bricks here are thicker and well made.

Distribution

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date
2	3117 3120 3104 3054 3101	Flint Nodules, opus signinum, Millstone Grit quern and mortar	9	1500bc	1664	100	400	100-400+
3	1977 2271 2276 3023	Unglazed local floor tile and peg tile; Roman Box flue tile	5	50	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700
6	2272 2271 BUNT1	Glazed and unglazed peg tile	3	1135	1800	1180	1800	1180-1700
8	2850	Glazed Flemish Silty Floor Tile	2	1450	1600	1450	1600	1450-1600+
12	2271 2318	Glazed Flemish Silty Floor Tile and peg tile unglazed fossil belemnite	2	1180	1800	1180	1800	1450-1600+
14	BUNT 1 BUNT 2	Poorly made Post Great Fire or paving	17	1180	1850	1660	1850	1660-1800

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material	Latest dated material	Spot date
	1977	brick Glazed and unglazed Flemish Floor Tile local peg tile				
18	Early Westmini nster? Type Floor Tile and BUNT1	Local peg tile and early Westminster Type floor tile	2	1180	1800	1180 1800 1225-1700
23	Westminster Floor Tile – Glazed and unglazed Flemish Floor Tile	Glazed and unglazed Flemish Floor Tile Westminster Floor Tile	8	1225	1850	1600 1850 1600-1750
26	3104 BUNT1	Painted wall plaster – Post-medieval Local red fabrics	1	1060	1800	1060 1800 1650-1850
39	3107	Reigate moulding and ashlar	3	1060	1660	1060 1660 1300-1600
54	2850	Two complete Flemish unglazed Floor Tile	2	1600	1850	1600 1850 1700-1800
59	2459b	Later Roman Tile	1	120	250	120 250 120-250+
81	3023	Early Roman Tile	1	50	120	50 120 50-120+
83	3023; 3054; 3104	Opus signinum and early Roman Brick	3	50	400	100 400 100-400
86	3023; 3104	Opus signinum and Roman Tile	1	50	400	100 400 100-400
89	3018; 3238; 3023;	Early and Late Roman Tile, Tegulae, Brick and Box Flue; Daub	41	1500bc	250	120 250 170-230+

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material	Latest dated material	Spot date		
	3023a; 3060a; 2815; BUNT4-5; 2459b; 2459c							
102	BUNT3 2815	Abraded peg tile Roman Brick	1	50	1800	1180	1800	1180-1800
111	BUNT3 2272	Early abraded peg tile and glazed bat tile	2	1135	1800	1180-	1800	1180-1800

Recommendations

Significance/Summary

Our understanding of Roman activity along this stretch of Ermine Street has been enhanced by both the large quantity of dumped Roman material found in a construction layer [89] and its use in a possible earlier Saxon/early medieval wall. The admixture of 12 fabric types of Roman brick, tile and box flue tile spanning two hundred years (AD50-AD250) reflects either a continuum in occupation in and around this part of north Hertfordshire or merely the site's position just three miles north of the important Roman nodal point of Braughing (Bunham & Wachter 1990) including Skeleton Green (Partridge 1981). Fabrics from the Weald, London and Radlett were all recovered from this point.

It is not clear whether the early wall [2] is of Saxon or early medieval age, reusing large chunks of Roman *opus signinum*, stone or brick or is in fact a Roman structure. Either way, the size of the blocks would indicate salvage from a Roman structure nearby. The identification of reused moulded *opus signinum* from this structure with a plaster layer and paint would indicate original use in the interior of either a high status building or some sort of mausoleum nearby. The use of millstone grit from Derbyshire/South Yorkshire attached to a fragment of *opus signinum* is also revealing. A whetstone of millstone grit has also turned up nearby at Skeleton Green (Partridge 1981, 114) and further up Ermine Street towards the Fens at Langdale and Earith (Hayward 2006) vast quantities of millstone grit quern were being supplied along this route.

Another interesting feature of the assemblage was the large quantity of glazed Flemish silty floor tile (1450-1600). These Low Country tiles are normally restricted in their use to London and so to find them up to 30 miles north of the capital would indicate how much in demand these tiles were.

The use of Totternhoe stone in Hertfordshire churches has been commented on elsewhere (Robert 1974), but it is of interest to note that like its use in the nearby church at Wyddial (Robert 1974) it lies some distance from the main outcrop 10-15 miles at Totternhoe. With the absence of a suitable navigable river, this is a surprisingly long

way to haul heavy stone overland. Clearly the use of good quality building material, also shown by the glazed Flemish floor tile assemblage would indicate a rich ecclesiastical concern in this area.

Further Research

This building material assemblage warrants further investigation at publication stage.

- Comparing the Roman ceramic building material assemblage with the much larger MOLA Reference Collection to verify and identify the impact of local and London/Wealden tileries from this part of north Hertfordshire.
- Re-examine the (painted?) moulded *opus signinum* and look for parallels in Roman Britain. Suggest illustration.
- Examine the use of millstone grit quern at Roman sites along Ermine Street.
- Compare the Roman building material assemblage with other sites in this part of Hertfordshire (Skeleton Green, Baldock, and Braughing) to see how unique it is.
- In order to understand how important Roman activity was in this area – it is suggested that an examination of the fabric of the standing St Bartholomew's Church be made specifically to identify the range of Roman ceramic building material and stone fabrics.

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APPENDIX 5: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (one box). The pottery dates from the Late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval periods. Very few sherds show evidence for abrasion and so were probably deposited fairly rapidly after breakage. The fragmentation of the pottery ranges from sherd material to identifiable forms and one vessel is represented by a complete profile, although no intact items are recorded. Pottery was recovered from five contexts and individual deposits produced small (fewer than 30 sherds) groups of pottery.

All the pottery (ten sherds or 6 ENVs and none are unstratified) was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in an ACCESS 2007 database, by fabric, form, decoration, sherd count and estimated number of vessels (ENVs). The fabrics have been designated mnemonic codes expanded below in Table 1. The pottery is discussed by types and its distribution.

THE POTTERY TYPES

Fabric Common name	Date range	Sc	ENV	Form
Late Saxon-early medieval				
EMSC Early medieval sand calcareous ware (Turner-Rugg 1995, 46)	1000-1200	4	1	Jar: small globular
EMS Early medieval sandy gritty ware (Turner Rugg 1995, 48)	1000-1200	2	2	Jar
NEOT St Neots-type ware (Vince and Jenner 1991, 54-6)	950/70-1100	2	1	Jar
Medieval				
OXY Oxford ware (Mellor 1994, 63-71)	12th-13th century	1	1	Jug
Post-medieval				
PGR Post-medieval glazed redware (Turner Rugg 1998/99, 75-6)	1450-1700	1	1	Jug?

Table 1. HSB10: pottery types, their date ranges, sherd counts (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENVs) and the forms present in each pottery type.

DISTRIBUTION

Table 2 shows the contexts containing pottery, the number of sherds, the pottery types in the deposit and a spot date for the group. The pottery was recovered from phases 2 and 4.

Context	Phase	SC	ENV	Date Range of the pottery type	Date range of the latest pottery type	Pottery type	Spot date
18	4	1	1	1450-1700	1450-1700	PGR	1450-1700
62	4	1	1	12th-13th C.	12th-13th C.	OXY	12th-13th C.
89	2	5	2	1000-1200	1000-1200	EMS, EMSC	1000-1200

Context	Phase	SC	ENV	Date Range of the pottery type	Date range of the latest pottery type	Pottery type	Spot date
102	4	1	1	1000-1200	1000-1200	EMS	1000-1200
111	4	2	1	950/70-1100	950/70-1100	NEOT	950/70-1100

Table 2. HSB10: Distribution of pottery types showing individual contexts containing pottery, what phase the context occurs in, the number of sherds, the date range of pottery and the date range of the latest type, the fabrics present and a suggested deposition date.

Phase 2

From context [89] are four sherds from a small globular jar in an early medieval shell and sand ware (EMSC). The vessel is similar in profile to the early medieval German *kugeltopf* form having a short neck, except that the rim has a bevelled cordon giving an external lid-seated appearance. The vessel is externally sooted. Also present is a small, single sherd of early medieval sandy gritty ware, which is also sooted. The pottery indicates deposition between c.1000-1200.

Phase 4

Deposit [18] produced a single sherd of post-medieval glazed redware surviving as a possible jug neck with internal and external glaze. It dates the context to 1450-1700.

Deposit [62] is dated to the 12th-13th centuries by a single glazed jug rim sherd in Oxford medieval ware.

A single shoulder sherd of a jar in early medieval sandy gritty ware was recorded in context [102] and indicates deposition between 1000-1200.

Two shoulder sherds of a wheel-thrown jar were noted in deposit [111] and this dates the context to between 950/70-1100.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLLECTION

The pottery has some significance at a local level. The assemblage reflects activity on the site from possibly the Late Saxon period to the 17th century. The pottery is in keeping with the ceramic profile for the South Hertfordshire area. Other medieval assemblages have been excavated nearby in Buntingford (Jarrett 2010).

POTENTIAL

The pottery has the potential to date the features in which it was found and to provide a sequence for them. One vessel merits illustration.

Recommendations for further work

A short publication text should be undertaken on the pottery and supplemented with one pottery illustration. Any pottery recovered from future archaeological work would necessitate reviewing the assemblage as a whole.

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APPENDIX 6: COFFIN FURNITURE ASSESSMENT

Märit Gaimster

Metal objects were retrieved from twelve burials, with additional finds from two cemetery soils; the objects are listed in the table below. The majority clearly relate to coffins, although in five cases this is only identifiable in the form of fragmented iron coffin nails (Skeletons [35], [44], [52], [55] and [60]). In one burial only an incomplete bracket or staple was present (Skeleton [6]), while the fill around Skeleton [57] contained what appears to be two household-related fittings rather than coffin furniture. They comprise a near-complete vertical iron door handle and a perforated lead disc (sf 1), most probably the strainer from a kitchen sink or the rose from a watering can.

The most complete set of coffin fittings was associated with Skeleton [38], marked out with the depositum plate of Captain Roger Hale. The set comprised seven iron coffin grips of two different designs, and nearly 100 domed upholstery pins of copper alloy. Three of the grips were of Christ Church Spitalfields (CCS) Type 1, curved with a thickened centre; at Spitalfields these grips had a date range of 1747–1847, which corresponds well with Captain Hale's death in 1749 (cf. Reeves and Adams 1993, 144). The other four grips are angled rather than curved, and correspond better to coffin grips recovered from the Quaker cemetery at Kingston-upon-Thames (Bashford and Sibun 2007, fig. 14 type IV). Further parallels to the Kingston coffin grips can be seen in five grips from the coffin of Skeleton [28], two from Skeleton [49] and one from cemetery soil [200], all with characteristic rectangular grip plates decorated with two horizontally placed heart-shaped perforations (Bashford and Sibun 2007, fig. 14 type IVa–b). A further angled grip from the cemetery soil has a grip plate similar to another Kingston type, with trilobe finials (Bashford and Sibun 2007, fig. 14 type IVd). Angled grips of Kingston Type IV dominate the finds from St Bartholomew's, with a further five from the burial of Skeleton [36] and one from cemetery soil [101], representing 19 out of a total of 24. At Kingston, these angled grips were in use from the earliest phase of the cemetery in 1664 to 1796 (Bashford and Sibun 2007, 125). The only curved grips at St Bartholomew's, beside those from the coffin of Captain Hale, were two of CCS Type 2a from cemetery soil [200]; at Spitalfields these grips had a date range of 1763–1837 (Reeves and Adams 1993, 144).

Coffin grips served above all as a decorative element; coffins were not generally lifted or carried by the grips, although the normal pattern for an adult-sized coffin would have been three on each side and one each at the head and foot. The number and type of grips on an individual coffin may have differed for various reasons, and may also be caused by the degree of preservation; some coffins undoubtedly had no grips at all.

Besides grips, the only other decorative element from coffins were domed upholstery pins, recovered in some numbers from the burials of Skeletons [36] and [38]. Single upholstery pins were also retrieved from Skeleton [63] and cemetery soil [200]. Made of iron or copper alloy, these short-shanked nails were used to fix the cloth covering to the coffin, a tradition introduced in the 17th century (Janaway 1993, 100). However, they also had a decorative function, outlining patterns on the lid and sides of the coffin, and could be used in place of depositum plates, to spell out the initials, date of death and age of the deceased (cf. Bashford and Sibun 2007, 128–29). While no other coffin decorations were noted at St Bartholomew's, the presence of a near-complete iron hinge with trapezoid plates, from the cemetery soil [200], is intriguing. Identical hinges were retrieved from numerous burials in the Quaker cemetery at Coach Lane on North Tyneside; their position, in pairs across the shoulder of

the coffin, suggests the top part of the lid was hinged and perhaps intended to be open as part of the preparation for the funeral (Gaimster forthcoming).

With the exception of a copper-alloy shroud pin from Skeleton [55], no other objects than coffin fittings were present in the burials; the metal objects associated with Skeleton [57], above, are most likely to have been residual in the soil when the grave was backfilled.

All the coffin fittings and associated finds will be reburied with the skeletons in a purpose built vault beneath the church.

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context	description
6	iron angled ?bracket or staple; incomplete; W 40mm

context	description
34	one complete and five near-complete iron coffin grips with rectangular grip plate; Kingston Type IVa-b; full W 205mm; grip W 125mm

context	description
16	ten iron coffin nails

context	description
37	five iron coffin grips; Kingston Type IV; W 115mm
	52 domed copper-alloy upholstery pins; diam. 14mm
	nine iron coffin nails

context	description
20	two near-complete iron coffin grips; similar to Kingston Type IV but with angled arms and narrow oval grip plate with ?arrow-shaped finials; grip W c. 120mm
	99 domed copper-alloy upholstery pins; diam. 14mm
	30 x 130mm piece of lead sheet coffin lining
	four iron coffin nails
29	rectangular lead depositum plate with decorative border and incised inscription; W 305mm; Ht. 420mm+: CAP. ROGER HALE. DIED JUNE 4 1749. AGE 64
	three iron coffin grips; Christ Church Spitalfields (CCS) Type 1; W 140mm
	iron coffin grip; similar to Kingston Type IV but with angled arms; W c. 170mm
	one incomplete iron coffin grip; Kingston Type IV; W c. 115mm

context	description
44	c. 70 incomplete or fragments of iron coffin nails

context	description
50	two small and delicate iron coffin grips with rectangular grip plate; Kingston Type IVa-b; full W 140mm; grip W 90mm
	five iron coffin grips; Kingston Type IV; W 140mm

context	description
18	37 incomplete or fragments of iron coffin nails

context	description
54	copper-alloy shroud pin; complete; L 23mm
	c. 60 incomplete or fragments of iron coffin nails

context	description
23	sf <1>: oval lead sheet with concentric rings of perforations; 60 x 70mm
	iron ?coffin grip or reused vertical door handle; expanded plates for fixing; ht. c. 100mm

context	description
59	thirteen iron coffin nails

context	description
62	domed copper-alloy upholstery pin; diam. 11mm
	two fragments of iron coffin ?grip plate
	c. 60 incomplete or fragments of iron coffin nails

context	description
101	one incomplete iron coffin grip; Kingston Type IV; W 120mm+
	two fragments of iron coffin grip plate
	three incomplete iron coffin nails

200	one complete but twisted iron coffin grip with rectangular grip plate; Kingston Type IVa-b; full W 230mm; ht. 60mm; grip W 140mm
	one Kingston Type IV iron coffin grip; W 140mm; fragments of grip plate with ?trilobe finials (cf. Kingston Type IVd)
	two incomplete iron coffin grips; CCS Type 2a; W 110mm
	incomplete iron hinge with expanded ends; ht. c.35mm; W 60mm
	domed iron upholstery pin; diam. 14mm
	two incomplete iron coffin nails

APPENDIX 7: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-105784

Project details

Project name	St Bartholomew's Church, Layston, Buntingford, Hertfordshire
Short description of the project	The investigation comprised full archaeological excavation within the nave of St Bartholomew's, and archaeological monitoring and excavation of a service trench, two test pits against the southern wall of the church and a pipe trench. The earliest deposits encountered during the investigation were natural clay and clay silts. The foundations of a structure predating the existing church building was uncovered within the nave. This most likely represents the remains of an earlier church dating to the 11th or 12th century. Two postholes, possibly associated with the construction of either the earlier building or the present church, were also revealed in the nave. The foundations of the standing southern wall of the nave were exposed and recorded. A total of thirty-three articulated burials together with a quantity of disarticulated human bone were excavated. Twenty-one of the burials, which date from the medieval to the late post-medieval period, were recorded within the nave. Twelve burials were excavated in the churchyard to the south of the church. A number of lead coffins were also observed within a brick vault. These were removed by specialist contractors and reburied on site together with all other human remains. A small assemblage of pottery suggest occupation of the site from the 11th/12th century whilst the presence of a large quantity and wide variety of redeposited Roman ceramic building material and painted and moulded opus signinum within a layer and structure associated with the earlier church would suggest the presence of a substantial Roman building/settlement nearby. Floor tiles recovered from deposits across the site indicate that the church was floored with high status Westminster-type tiles in the 13th century and later with glazed Flemish tiles in the Tudor period and later still with plain Flemish tiles.
Project dates	Start: 11-01-2011 End: 05-07-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HSBB10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DRAIN PIPE Modern
Monument type	BRICK VAULT Post Medieval
Monument type	BURIALS Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLES Medieval
Monument type	CHARNEL PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATIONS Early Medieval
Monument type	CHURCH WALL FOUNDATIONS Medieval
Monument type	CHURCH Post Medieval

Monument type	BURIALS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COFFIN FURNITURE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	METAL OBJECTS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE (ARTICULATED) Post Medieval
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE (DISARTICULATED) Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Full excavation', 'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE BUNTINGFORD St Bartholomew's Church, Layston
Postcode	SG9 9EZ
Study area	3000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 36940 30110 51.0534341051 -0.04592975450220 51 03 12 N 000 02 45 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 115.26m Max: 116.51m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project originator	brief Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project originator	design Helen Hawkins
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	James Langthorne
Project supervisor	Alexander Pullen
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private Client

Name of Martin Coulson & Mandy House
 sponsor/funding
 body

Project archives

Physical Archive Hertford Museum
 recipient

Physical Archive ID HSBB10

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Human Bones','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'

Physical Archive All human bone was reburied and only a selection of coffin furniture was retained.
 notes

Digital Archive Hertford Museum
 recipient

Digital Archive ID HSBB10

Digital Contents 'Ceramics','Human Bones','Metal','other'

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography'
 available

Paper Archive Hertford Museum
 recipient

Paper Archive ID HSBB10

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media 'Context sheet','Map','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Section','Unpublished Text'
 available

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief at St Bartholomew's Church, Layston, Buntingford, Hertfordshire.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Langthorne, J.Y.

Date 2011

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Place of issue or London
 publication

Description A4 softcover grey literature report.

Entered by Jon Butler (jbutler@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 14 November 2011

APPENDIX 8: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<u>Site name and address:</u> St Bartholomew's Church, The Causeway, Layston, Buntingford, Hertfordshire		
<u>County:</u> Hertfordshire		<u>District:</u> East Hertfordshire
<u>Village/Town:</u> Buntingford		<u>Parish:</u> Layston
<u>Planning application reference:</u> 3/10/0972/FP		
<u>HER Enquiry reference:</u> 170/10		
<u>Client name, address, and tel. no.:</u> Chams restoration Ltd 2 Ravensquay Business Centre Cray Avenue Orpington Kent BR5 4BQ 0870 2365012		
<u>Nature of application:</u> Change of use and restoration of church to residential dwelling with garage/outbuilding		
<u>Present land use:</u> redundant church		
<u>Size of application area:</u> 373m ²		<u>Size of area investigated:</u> 45m ²
<u>NGR (to 8 figures):</u> TL 3694 3011		
<u>Site code (if applicable):</u> HSBB 10		
<u>Site director/Organization:</u> James Langthorne, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd		
<u>Type of work:</u> Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief		
<u>Date of work:</u>	<u>Start:</u> 11 th January 2011	<u>Finish:</u> 5 th July 2011
<u>Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum:</u> At PCA until deposition with Hertford Museum		
<u>Related HER Nos:</u> HER 435		<u>Periods represented:</u> Medieval & Post-medieval
<u>Relevant previous summaries/reports</u>		
<u>Summary of fieldwork results:</u> The earliest deposits encountered during the investigation were natural clay and clay silts. <u>Roman</u> The presence of a large quantity and wide variety of redeposited Roman ceramic building material and painted and moulded <i>opus signinum</i> within a layer and structure associated with the earlier church would suggest the presence of a substantial Roman building / settlement nearby. <u>Medieval</u> The foundations of a structure predating the existing church building were uncovered within the nave. This most likely represents the remains of an earlier church dating to the 11th or 12th century. Two postholes, possibly associated with the construction of either the earlier building or the present church, were also revealed in the nave. The foundations of the standing southern wall of the nave were exposed and recorded. A total of thirty-three articulated burials together with a quantity of disarticulated human bone were excavated. Twenty-one of the burials, which most likely date to the late post-		

medieval period, were recorded within the nave. Twelve burials were excavated in the churchyard to the south of the church. Two burials within the nave and one in the churchyard were radiocarbon dated to Cal AD1150-AD1270, Cal AD1290-AD1420 and Cal AD1320-AD1440, which suggests that many of the burial excavated were of medieval date.

A small assemblage of pottery suggest occupation of the site from the 11th/12th century.

Floor tiles recovered from deposits across the site indicate that the church was floored with high status Westminster-type tiles in the 13th century.

Post-medieval

A burial within the churchyard was radiocarbon dated to Cal AD1440-AD1640 and one within the church had a nameplate with a date of 1749. This suggests that several of the burials were of post-medieval date. A number of lead coffins dating to the first half of the 18th century were also observed within a brick vault. These were removed by specialist contractors and reburied on site together with all other human remains.

A small assemblage of pottery suggest occupation of the site from the 11th/12th century whilst

Floor tiles recovered from deposits across the site indicate that the church was floored with glazed Flemish tiles in the Tudor period and later with plain Flemish tiles.

Author of summary: Jon Butler

Date of summary: November 2011

APPENDIX 9: COFFIN PLATES AND PHOTOS FROM VAULT

A total of four coffins were found in the vault located beneath the floor of the church. The vault had been rebuilt in the 1950s, presumably to restabilise it. The coffins were moved by a professional exhumation team into a new vault located directly to the side of the previous one. The coffin plates were photographed and transcribed by the client (see below). All relate to members of the Villiers family.

*The Rt Hon
Miss Mary
Villiers died
27 august 1745
aged 14 years
5 months
& 4 days*



The R^t Hon^{ble}
John Fitzgerald
Lord Villiers Son &
heir of the late R^t Hon^{ble}
James Fitzgerald
Lord Villiers & Heir
apparent of R^t Hon
xxx Earl of Grandison
of the kingdom of Ire-
land died 2 Feb
1732 2/3
aged 9 months and 17 days

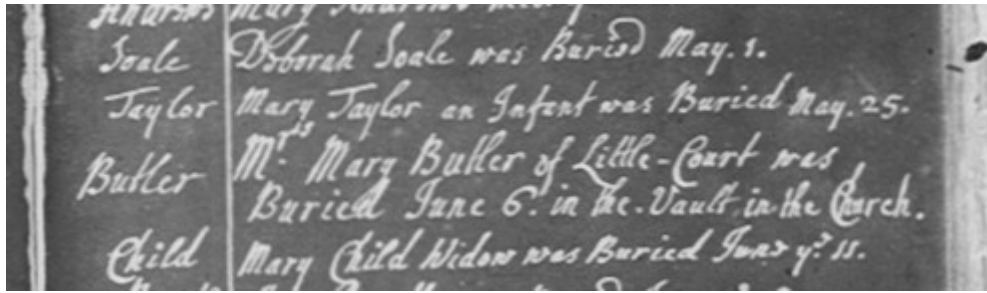


The R^t Hon^{ble} James
Fitzgerald Lord
Villiers Son and heir
apparent of the R^t
Hon^{ble} John Earl of
Grandison of the
Kingdom of Ireland
Died December 13 1732
aged 21 years
5 months
& 5 days



*The Hon Miss
Frances Villiers
Died May 21
1732
aged 9 years
& 3 weeks*





We also know from the parish register for 1748 (see above) that Mary Butler was also buried in the vault – but there is no coffin plate for her... Mary is James' mother-in-law. James' wife is not buried in the vault as she went on to remarry and presumably is buried with that family.

APPENDIX 10: RADIOCARBON DATING



Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre

Director: Professor A B MacKenzie Director of Research: Professor R M Ellam
 Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park,
 East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF, Scotland, UK
 Tel: +44 (0)1355 223332 Fax: +44 (0)1355 229898 www.glasgow.ac.uk/suerc

RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

Laboratory Code	SUERC-36235 (GU-24956)
Submitter	Jon Butler Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Park 96 Endwell Road, Brockley London SE4 2PD
Site Reference	St Bartholomew's Church, Layston
Sample Reference	HSBB10 (120)
Material	Human Bone : Femur
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ relative to VPDB	-19.6 ‰
$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ relative to air	11.9 ‰
C/N ratio(Molar)	3.6
Radiocarbon Age BP	840 \pm 30

- N.B.**
1. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD). The error, which is expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.
 2. The calibrated age ranges are determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal3).
 3. Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. Any questions directed to the Radiocarbon Laboratory should also quote the GU coding given in parentheses after the SUERC code. The contact details for the laboratory are email g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk or Telephone 01355 270136 direct line.



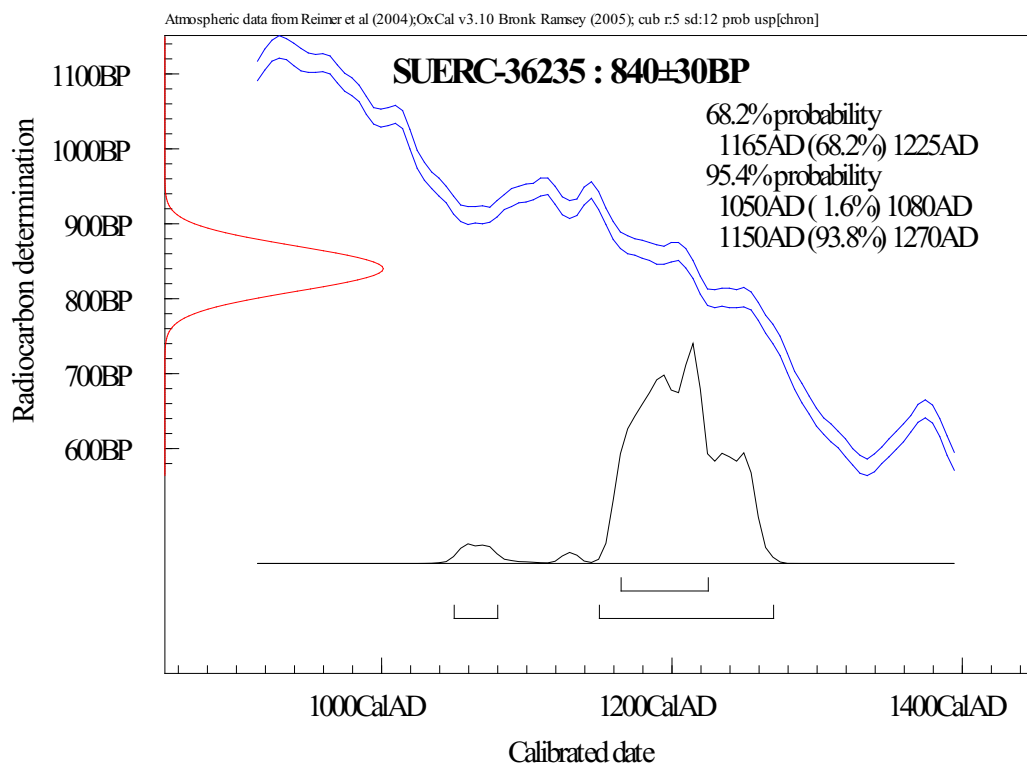
University
of Glasgow

The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401



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Calibration Plot





Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre

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East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF, Scotland, UK
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RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

Laboratory Code	SUERC-36236 (GU-24957)
Submitter	Jon Butler Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Park 96 Endwell Road, Brockley London SE4 2PD
Site Reference Sample Reference	St Bartholomew's Church, Layston HSBB10 (107)
Material	Human Bone : Humerus
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ relative to VPDB	-19.6 ‰
$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ relative to air	11.9 ‰
C/N ratio(Molar)	3.7
Radiocarbon Age BP	380 \pm 30

- N.B.**
1. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD). The error, which is expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.
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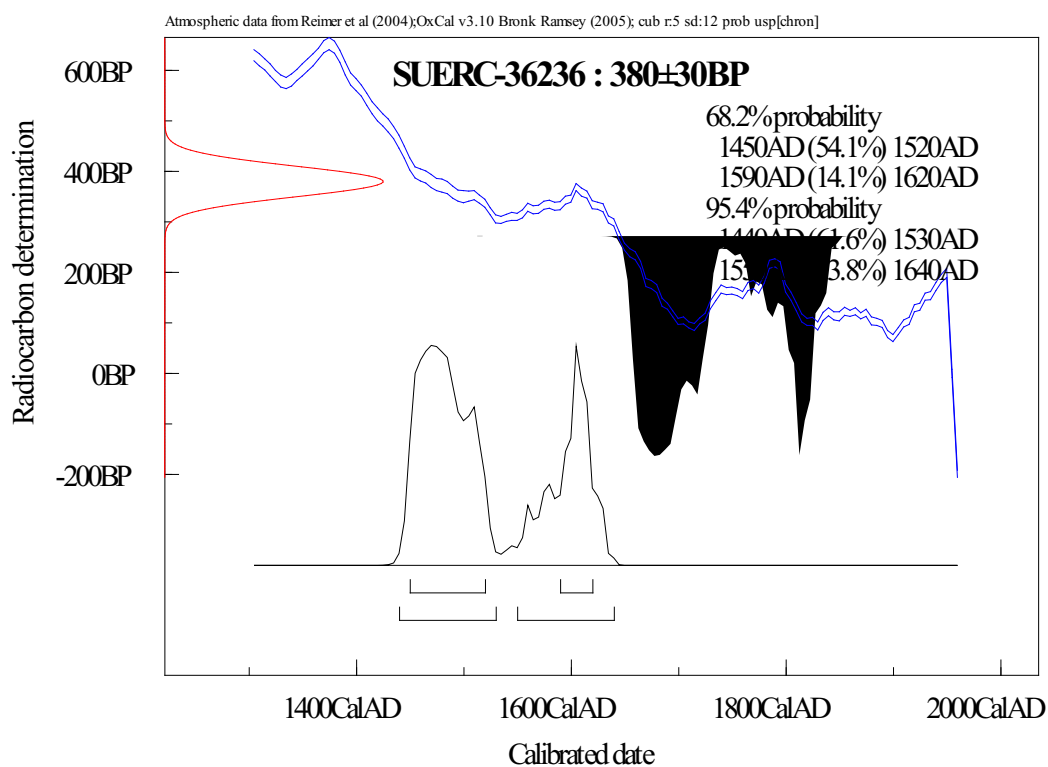


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RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

Laboratory Code	SUERC-36240 (GU-24958)
Submitter	Jon Butler Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Park 96 Endwell Road, Brockley London SE4 2PD
Site Reference Sample Reference	St Bartholomew's Church, Layston HSBB10 (87)
Material $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ relative to VPDB	Human Bone : Femur -18.8 ‰
$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ relative to air	13.1 ‰
C/N ratio(Molar)	3.5
Radiocarbon Age BP	580 \pm 30

- N.B.**
1. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD). The error, which is expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.
 2. The calibrated age ranges are determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal3).
 3. Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. Any questions directed to the Radiocarbon Laboratory should also quote the GU coding given in parentheses after the SUERC code. The contact details for the laboratory are email g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk or Telephone 01355 270136 direct line.

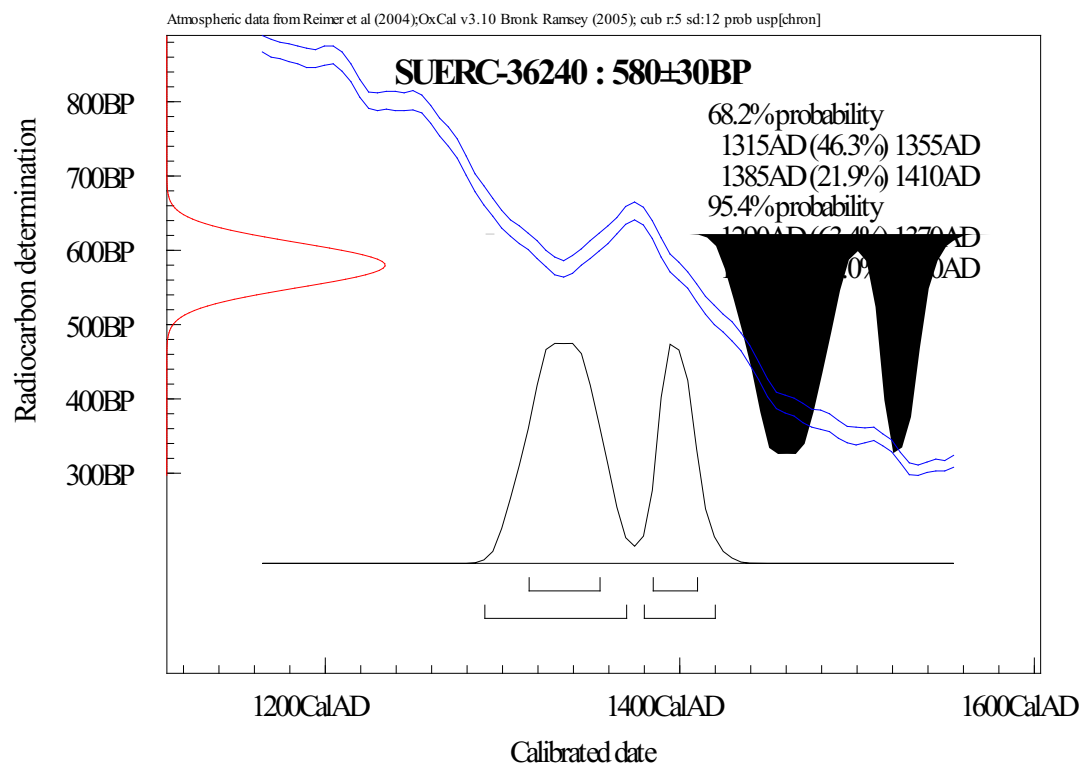


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RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

Laboratory Code	SUERC-36241 (GU-24959)
Submitter	Jon Butler Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Park 96 Endwell Road, Brockley London SE4 2PD
Site Reference Sample Reference	St Bartholomew's Church, Layston HSBB10 (51)
Material $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ relative to VPDB	Human Bone : Femur -19.1 ‰
$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ relative to air	12.5 ‰
C/N ratio(Molar)	3.4
Radiocarbon Age BP	535 \pm 25

- N.B.**
1. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD). The error, which is expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.
 2. The calibrated age ranges are determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal3).
 3. Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. Any questions directed to the Radiocarbon Laboratory should also quote the GU coding given in parentheses after the SUERC code. The contact details for the laboratory are email g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk or Telephone 01355 270136 direct line.

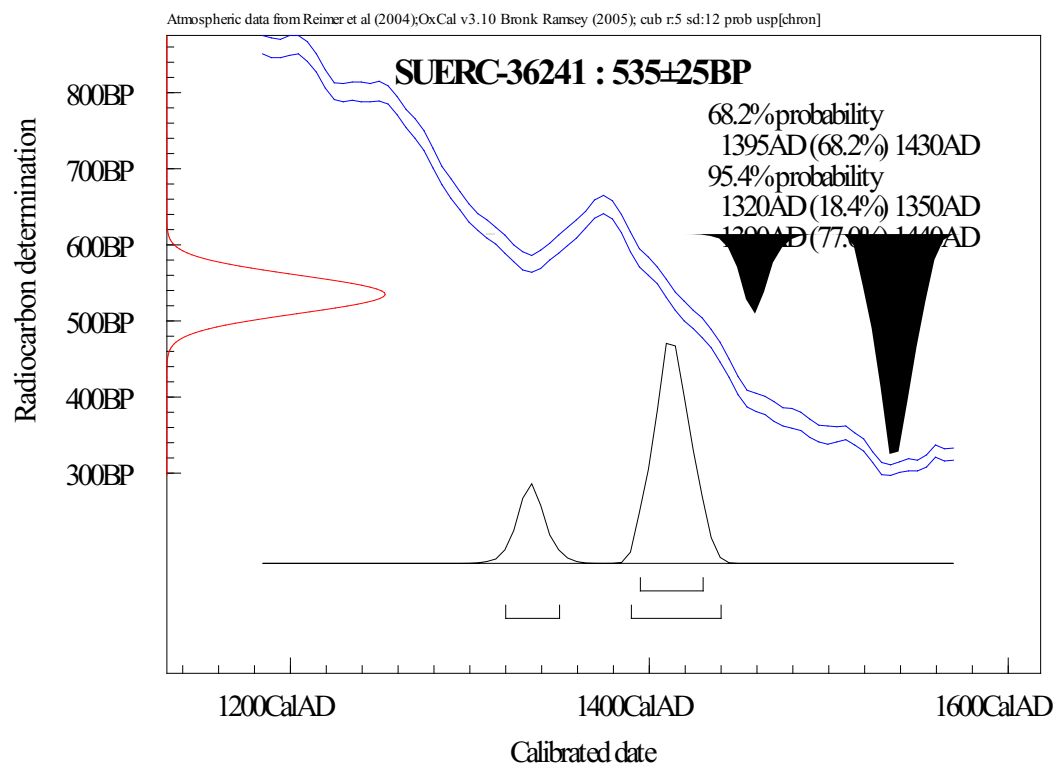


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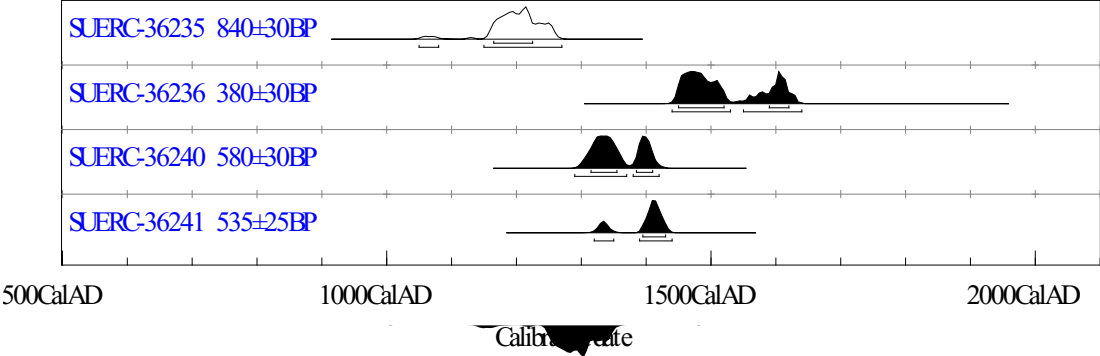


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Atmospheric data from Reimer et al (2004); OxCal v3.10 Bronk Ramsey (2005); cub r:5 sd:12 prob usp[chron]



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