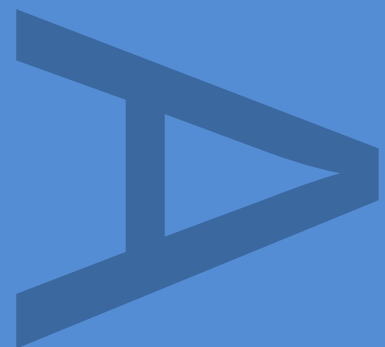


**HOLY ROOD CHURCH,
OLD SCHOOL LANE,
BAGWORTH,
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION**

June 2015

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
R12135**



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

HOLY ROOD CHURCH, OLD SCHOOL LANE,
BAGWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Quality Control

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION**

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Central National Grid Reference: NGR SK 4494 0794

PCA Site Code: HCBL15

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Abstract

An archaeological observation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on the site of the former Holy Rood Church, Old School Lane, Bagworth during the removal of concrete flooring and slabs associated with the church. The church itself had been surveyed by PCA prior to its demolition. The observation was commissioned by Andrew Granger, an estate agent acting on behalf of the Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance. No archaeological features, layers, structures or finds were encountered during the archaeological observation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd were originally commissioned by Andrew Granger, an estate agent acting on behalf of the Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance, to undertake a level 3 historic building survey prior to the demolition of Holy Rood Church, Old School Lane, Bagworth (Garwood 2014). Following this survey and in the final stages of demolition, this current action took place, in the form of an archaeological observation, during the removal of concrete and slabs that formed the floor of the aforementioned church. This area was then to be re-turfed following the removal.

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The study area, centred on NGR SK 4494 0794, covers the exact footprint of the former 1968 church and tower that were on location until their demolition. The site is situated within the Leicestershire village of Bagworth. The former church is situated on the southern edge of the village with agricultural land to the east and, beyond the graveyard, to the south. To the west and north are domestic dwellings. The site is accessed via Old School Lane.

1.3 Topography and Geology

1.3.1 Topographically the site lies on a small rise to the rear of dwellings in Bagworth village at a height of c.168m above sea level.

1.3.2 The British Geological Survey website shows the study site characterised by the bedrock of the Edwalton Member Mudstone Group - Mudstone of the Carnian Age. The superficial deposits are Mid-Pleistocene, glacio-fluvial deposits of sand and gravel.

1.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

1.4.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (LRHER) shows very little known prehistoric activity in the area. The only finds from this period are two pieces of probable Neolithic flint that were discovered in a garden in 1999 and 2001 respectively. Evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity is even more ephemeral and is limited to a single find of a possible lead fishing weight which may be Roman.

1.4.2 The first clear evidence of settlement in the area comes from the medieval period with a settlement at Bagworth recorded in the Domesday Book (1086). At this time it had a population of 35 and incorporated neighbouring Thornton as part of the local manor. The medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village appears to have been focused either side of the Main Street, in the area of the Square and Old School Lane, the latter up leading to the church. However, evidence of medieval settlement in the form of earthworks, including enclosures, a lane and house platforms, are present beyond the present village boundary, to the east of the Main Street and in the area of Manor Farm (Garwood 2014).

1.4.3 The study area itself consists of the demolished remains of a 1968 pre-fabricated CLASP (Consortium of Local Authorities Special Programme) building constructed for the Coal Board by Brockhouse to the designs of architects Blockley, Goodwin & Warner. The foundation stone, set into a concrete panel along the northern elevation, was laid and dedicated to the Venerable H. Lockley Ph.D., Archdeacon of Loughborough on the 6th July 1968.

- 1.4.4 This building is thought to be pre-dated by Medieval, possibly even Saxon church. In c.1800, Nichols (1807) records Saxon features – ‘A most beautiful Saxon arch, in high preservation. Above this arch, rather inclining to the left side, are placed in the wall six regular stones about six inches square, with capitals in Saxon characters embossed, and very thick, but so obliterated by age as not to be legible’. Reference is also made of a Saxon door to the church and a date stone of 1637 within the church wall.
- 1.4.5 The squat medieval church tower (see Plate 1) formed the principal remains of the preceding medieval church to be incorporated into Victorian renovations of 1872-3 by Millican and Smith (Plate 1). The new church incorporated a large nave and chancel with a northern transept and a un-porched entrance toward the south-western angle. It was built with granite walls and used limestone for all window and door dressings. A First World War memorial was built adjacent to the east end window and next to the path leading to the church entrance on the south side (Garwood 2014). This church was damaged by subsidence and was demolished to be replaced by the 1968 CLASP building which has now also been demolished and is the subject of this report.

2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the investigation were as follows:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the investigation.
- To assess where appropriate the ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.

In addition, the archaeological Observation will seek to address the following research questions:

- To set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape.
- To confirm the presence or absence of any activity that may pre-date the known Medieval Church on the site
- To confirm the presence or absence of medieval activity relating to the medieval church that predates the modern church.
- To confirm the presence or absence of any post medieval activity.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A layer of slabs and concrete forming the main floor of the church and surrounding the church tower (See Plates 5 and 6) were removed by demolition company Pro-Dem using a breaker. The removal of 75% of this layer was done under constant archaeological supervision however, the remaining 25% was not as the underlying surface was truncated by visible modern service drains (see **Figure 2**).
- 3.1.2 All exposed deposits/layers were cleaned using hand tools and recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Contexts were recorded according to PCAs fieldwork manual approved for use in Leicestershire, including written, photographic and drawn records.
- 3.1.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded utilising PCAs printed *pro forma*.

3.2 Post Fieldwork Methodology

- 5.2.1 English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (EH 2006) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.
- 5.2.2 No finds were recovered from the fieldwork phase, although a paper and digital archive was produced that will be transferred to the receiving museum with the agreement of the landowner.

3.3 The Contexts

- 3.3.1 A unique context number was assigned to each distinguishable depositional event. Context numbers will be discussed in greater detail in Section 4 and will be given in bold.
- 3.3.2 Three context numbers were allocated to layers whilst another three were given to the remaining upstanding structure of the church. They are presented in the Appendix (see Table 1).

4 THE RESULTS

4.1 Natural deposits

4.1.1 Due to the nature of the work, no natural deposits were encountered during demolition.

4.2 Modern (1800 - Present)

4.2.1 A thin layer of topsoil/turf that surrounded the original structure of the church (context **102**) is presumed to have been laid when the church was built. The layer of concrete that formed the main floor of the church was allocated context number **100**. This layer was removed and monitored and modern service drains were exposed within it (**Figure 2**). This covered the western area of the site (see plan) and was approximately 20m x 30m, to a depth of 0.2m.

4.2.2 Context number **101** was a demolition/levelling layer beneath the concrete floor of the church. There were no visible features of finds within this layer although there were occasional burnt stone and brick fragments; the layer was only exposed to be covered with topsoil and turf so an in depth exploration of it did not take place.

4.2.3 The remaining upstanding structure of the church was left *in situ* due to the fact that material from the original medieval church had been incorporated into the modern walls. This remaining structure was allocated the following context numbers: **103** and **105** for the remaining *in situ* structure and **104** for the surviving war memorial.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The observation fulfilled the aims and objectives of the monitoring of demolition by identifying and recording a limited sequence of modern events associated with the construction of the modern church building. No archaeological stratigraphy or finds were noted on this site however this is perhaps unsurprising as the work was simply the demolition of an existing structure, the construction of which would have removed any existing archaeology. The only visible archaeological remains at the time of the observation were the modern war memorial and the elements of the medieval church that had been incorporated into the 1968 building.
- 5.2 Due to the nature of the work, no natural deposits were reached or recorded during the archaeological observation.
- 5.3 No evidence of any Prehistoric, Roman and Post-Roman activity was present on this site. The incorporation of elements of the medieval church into elements of the 1968 construction (Plates 3 and 4) represent the only visible archaeology from this period and these were left *in situ*.
- 5.4 Modern activity on the site comprised the *in situ* remains of the church and memorial that were left upstanding, the concrete layer that was demolished, the thin layer of topsoil/turf surrounding the church and the demolition layer that underlay the concrete. Modern service drains were also visible when the church flooring was removed.

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7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PLATES



Plate 1: Holy Rood church of 1873 showing medieval tower



Plate 2: Holy Rood Church pre-demolition. Southern elevation looking NE



Plate 3: Re-used Fleuron blocks



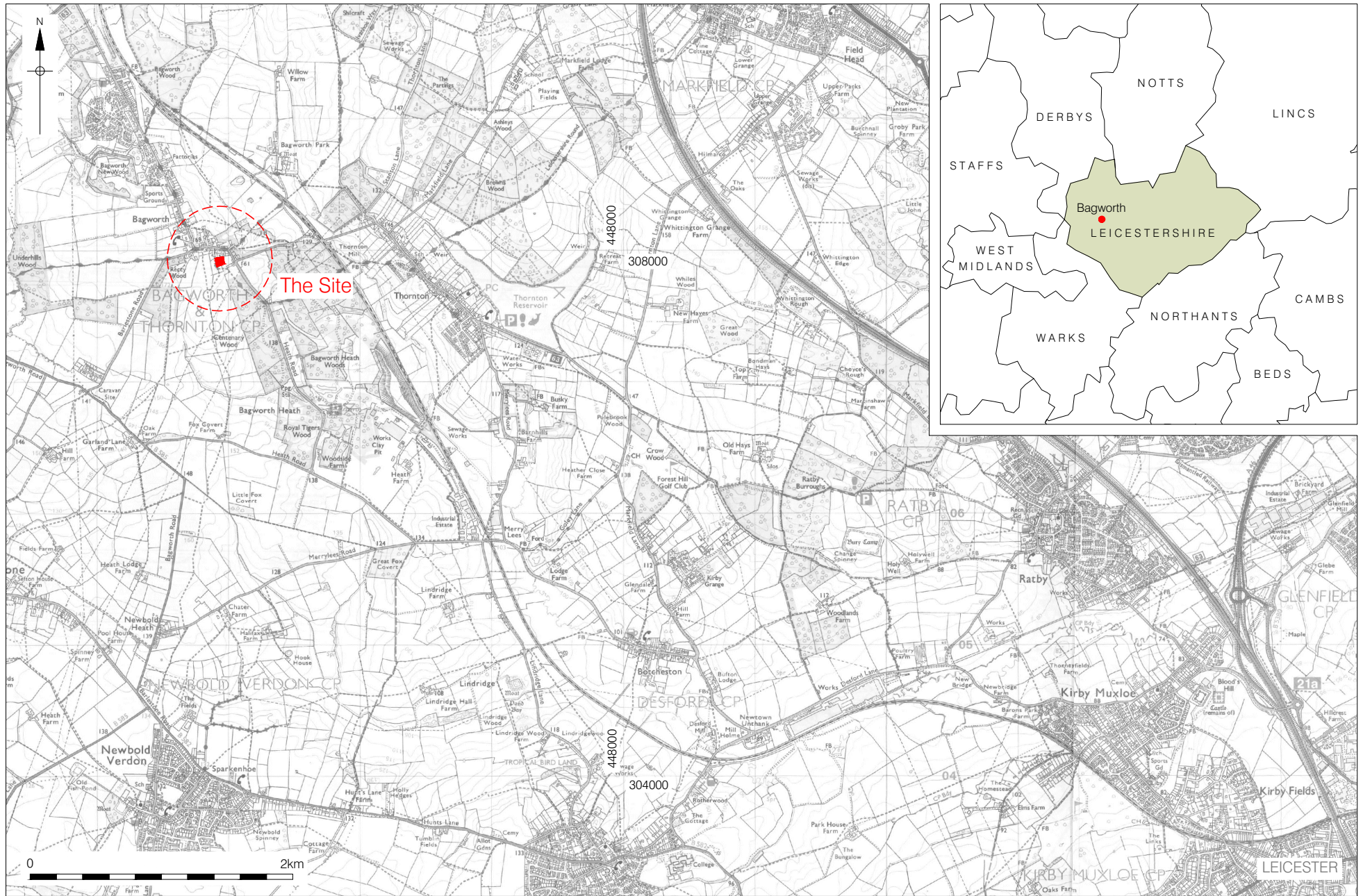
Plate 4: Re-sited Norman arch in utility range of 1968 church



Plate 5: Study Area under demolition. From SE; context **101** exposed.



Plate 6: Additional working shot of demolition with the elements of the church left *in situ* visible. From E; contexts **101**, **103** and **105** are visible.

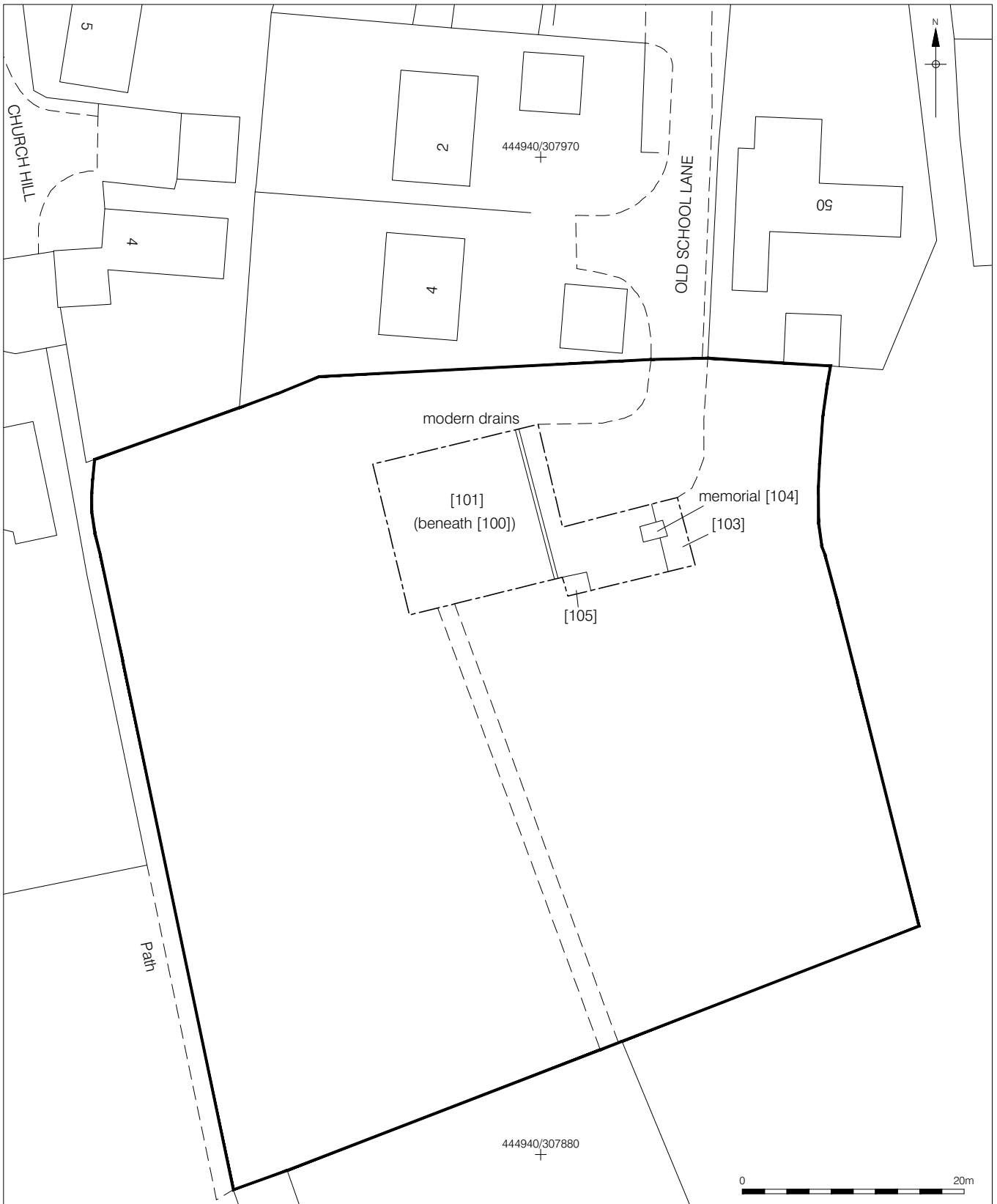


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27/05/15 JS & HB

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000 & 1:40,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Location of Stripped Area Monitored
 1:500 at A4

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Abbreviations: UE means 'unexcavated'; N/A means 'not applicable'; > means 'greater than'; < means 'up to'; Context numbers are followed by a brief description and interpretation; their dimensions in metres (in the order length x width x depth; or diameter x depth); and their critical stratigraphic relationships.

Context	Category	Description			Interpretation	Dimensions (m)	Below	Above
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions				
100	Layer	Pale Whitish Grey	Hard - concrete		Concrete layer forming main floor of church	20m x 30m x 0.2m	102	101
101	Layer	Mixed – Orangey Brown/Pale Grey	Firm – Sandy Clay & Mortar	Mortar/Concrete fragments	Demolition/Building layer for concrete floor of church	Covered exposed area: 20m x 30m – see site plan.	100	-
102	Layer	Dark Greyish Brown	Friable – Silty Clay	Occasional very small stones	Thin layer of top soil surrounding church. Laid and levelled after structure was built.	0.1m deep. Surrounds church.	-	100
103	Structure	n/a			<i>In situ</i> church structure	n/a		
104	Structure	n/a			Memorial structure	n/a		
105	Structure	n/a			<i>In situ</i> church structure	n/a		

APPENDIX 2: OASIS SHEET

OASIS ID: preconst1-215348

Project details

Project name	Hoyy Rood Church, Bagworth
Short description of the project	An archaeological observation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on the site of the former Holy Rood Church, Old School Lane, Bagworth during the removal of concrete flooring and slabs associated with the church. The church itself had been surveyed by PCA prior to its demolition. The observation was commissioned by Andrew Granger, an estate agent acting on behalf of the Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance. No archaeological features, layers, structures or finds were encountered during the archaeological observation.
Project dates	Start: 25-03-2015 End: 23-06-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	HCBL15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BAGWORTH HOLY ROOD CHURCH, OLD SCHOOL LANE, BAGWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE,
Postcode	LE67 1DB
Site coordinates	SK 4494 0794 52.6669604924 -1.33539112035 52 40 01 N 001 20 07 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Kevin Trott
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Steve Jones

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive ID	X.A77.2014
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A77.2014
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	HOLY ROOD CHURCH, OLD SCHOOL LANE, BAGWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE67 1DB: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION
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