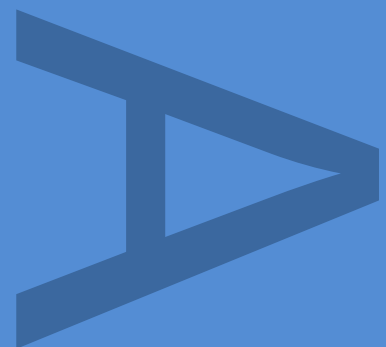


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MONITORING AT ALL SAINTS  
CHURCH, HUNTINGDON,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**June 2016**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY  
R12414**

# ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HUNTINGDON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

### Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K4405
Report Number	R12414

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Rev. 1	June 2016	<i>Taleyna Fletcher</i>	June 2016

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## Archaeological Monitoring at All Saints Church, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

**Local Planning Authority:** N/A (ecclesiastical land)

**Planning Reference:** N/A

**Central National Grid Reference:** TL 23775 71846

**Site Code:** ECB4652

**Report No.** R12414

**Written and researched by:** Mary-Anne Slater  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

**Project Manager:** Taleyna Fletcher

**Commissioning Client:** Purcell UK on behalf of All Saints Church Huntingdon  
PCC

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**June 2016**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at All Saints Church, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 23775 71846) in March and June 2016. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by Purcell UK. The aim of the monitoring was to record any archaeology revealed by the ground works.*

*The monitoring mainly identified disarticulated human remains within modern made ground which had previously been disturbed by earlier drains. An undisturbed layer was seen in the deeper drain trenches, containing a human skull and potentially articulated remains which were left in situ.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at All Saints Church, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 23775 71846) in March and June 2016 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site was located in the northern side of All Saints churchyard, along with a small area of monitoring in the west tower and south aisle.
- 1.3 The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.4 Narrow trenches, measuring c.0.4m wide, for new drain pipes were monitored in the northern part of the churchyard. Ground between the buttresses of the northern bays was sloped to provide additional drainage. A small trench in the west tower and a soakaway for the font were also monitored.
- 1.5 This report describes the results of the monitoring. The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 2.1 The geology of the site is Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone (British Geological Survey; Website 1). In the trenches the natural geology was not reached.
- 2.2 The superficial deposits are River Terrace Deposits – Sand and Gravel (BGS; Website 1). Formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the environment was dominated by rivers.
- 2.3 The site is located in the Market Square and lies at an elevation of c. 18m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

### **3      ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1      The following material has been derived from the Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Record (Reynolds 2016) as well as a search of the Cambridgeshire HER.
- 3.2      The earliest part of All Saints Church is the south tower arch, which dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and the tower dates to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of the church dates from the late 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The tower was repaired in brick in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.3      There is evidence of an earlier church in Huntingdon, with records stating that a church was given to Thorney Abbey in the late 10<sup>th</sup> century. 12<sup>th</sup> century fragments were also found during a restoration of All Saints Church in the 1950s. During this restoration the 19<sup>th</sup> century furnishings were removed and a concrete bed, damp proof course and concrete capping were laid.
- 3.4      Three test pits were excavated in 2013 to explore the depth of the concrete bed and survival of archaeological deposits. Both test pits 2 and 3 (located in the nave and north aisle) were excavated to a depth of 0.27m and did not go deeper than deposits associated with the 1950s works. Test pit 1 (in the south aisle) revealed the remains of a young child, comprising fragments of skull, ribs and long bone.



## **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The archaeological monitoring observed the excavation of a shallow trench in the northern churchyard, measuring 0.4 to 0.5m wide and 0.4 to 0.7m deep (Figure 2; Plates 1-3). Six small spurs off the main trench, 0.4m wide, were monitored. Five additional areas of ground removal were monitored between the buttresses on the northern elevation. A small area of concrete removal was monitored in the tower and in the south aisle, but it did not impact on archaeological deposits.
- 4.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 5-tonne tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.4m-wide bucket. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.
- 4.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector.
- 4.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.
- 4.5 Any human remains or coffin fittings disturbed during excavation were retained by All Saints Church for reburial.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 Archaeological monitoring mainly identified disarticulated human remains within modern made ground which had previously been disturbed by earlier drains. The trenches for the new drains generally followed the line of the old drains to minimise disturbing archaeological remains. An undisturbed layer was seen towards the west tower in which a potentially articulated skull was seen in the section of the trench (Plate 4). It was left in situ and covered up.

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 6.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Purcell UK for commissioning the work on behalf of All Saints Church Huntingdon PCC. The project was managed by Taleyna Fletcher and PCA's CAD departments produced the figures.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **7.1 Printed Sources**

Reynolds, T. 2016 Brief for Archaeological Monitoring & Recording.

Report on a Watching Brief Undertaken at the Church of All Saints,  
Huntingdon

### **7.2 Websites**

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Date accessed 17/03/2016

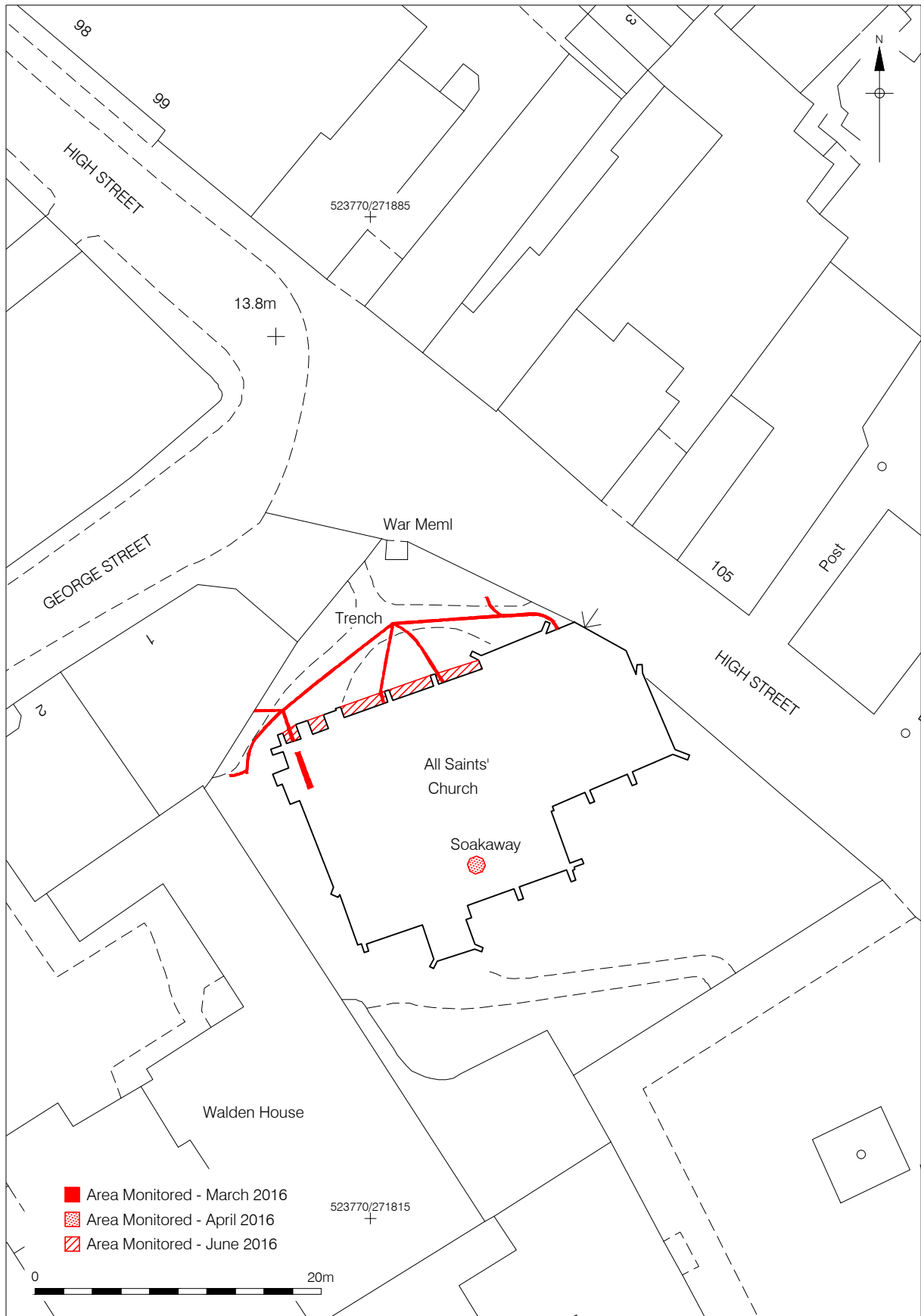


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014

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31/03/16

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:2,000,000 & 1:20,000 at A4



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13/06/16 JS\_revision 2

Figure 2  
Areas Monitored  
1:400 at A4



**8 APPENDIX 1: PLATES**



Plate 1: The site after removal of the concrete path, view north-east



Plate 2: Excavation of the trench, view north





Plate 3: Drain trench, view south-west





Plate 4: Skull left in situ, view south-east



Plate 5: Ground reduction between buttresses on northern elevation, view south-east

## 9 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-246066

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring at All Saints Church, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at All Saints Church, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 23775 71846) in March 2016. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by Purcell UK. The aim of the monitoring was to record any archaeology revealed by the ground works. The monitoring mainly identified disarticulated human remains within modern made ground which had previously been disturbed by earlier drains. An undisturbed layer was seen in the deeper drain trenches, containing a potentially articulated skull which was left in situ.
Project dates	Start: 02-03-2016 End: 14-03-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4652 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE HUNTINGDON All Saints Church, Huntingdon
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 23775 71846 52.330323827799 -0.183376084276 52 19 49 N 000 11 00 W Point

### Project creators

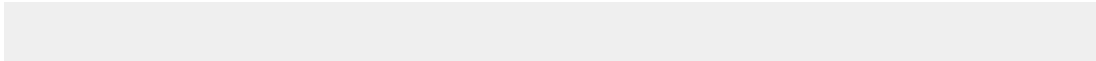
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Tim Reynolds
Project director/manager	Taleyna Fletcher
Project supervisor	Mary-Anne Slater

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store



Digital Archive ID	ECB4652
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB4652
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Plan","Report"



### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring at All Saints Church, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Slater, M.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge



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