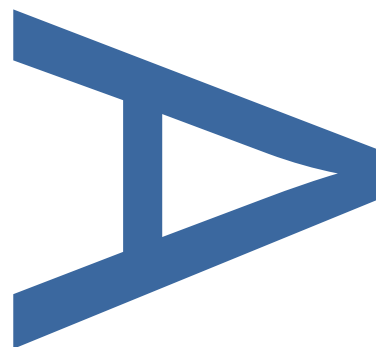
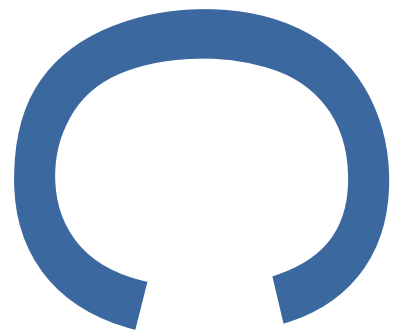


**ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH,  
ST. SAVIOURS ROAD,  
LEICESTER,  
LE5 3HD:**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
OBSERVATION REPORT**

**PCA Report No. R12625**

**September 2016**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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**St Saviour's Church, St. Saviours Road, Leicester, LE5 3HD:  
An Archaeological Observation Report**

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**Local Planning Authority:** Leicester City Council

**Central National Grid Reference:** SK 60391 04860

**Written and Researched by** Donald Sutherland

**Project Manager:** Kevin Trott

**Commissioning Client:** Andrew Granger & Co. Ltd. on behalf of the Leicester Diocese

**Site Code:** SSCL16

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**September 2016**

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**PCA Report Number: R12625**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This report describes the results of an archaeological observation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at St. Saviour's Church, St. Saviour's Road, Leicester, LE5 3HD (NGR SK 60391 04860). The observation occurred on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2016 as part of exploratory subsidence works. The archaeological work was commissioned by Andrew Granger & Co. Ltd. on behalf of the Leicester Diocese.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were encountered which did not directly relate to the church building itself. The only finds recovered were a sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and an iron nail of a similar date and these were recovered from a probable subsoil layer beneath the church.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 An archaeological observation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) as part of exploratory subsidence works at St Saviour's Church, Leicester (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 60391 04860). The observation took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2016 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Andrew Granger & Co. Ltd. on behalf of the Leicester Diocese. Three area of subsidence have been identified within the church, the diocese would like to lift the floor in these area to assess the cause of the subsidence. PCA have been request to have a presence during the works to record any archaeological features or layers encountered during the works.

1.1.3 The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Kathryn Brook of Pre Construct Archaeology Ltd (Brook 2016).

### 1.2 Topography

1.2.1 The Church is located adjacent to St Saviour's Road, within a gently sloping landscape. The works consisted of three Test Pits which were all located within the Church (**Figure 2**). A spot height taken at the entrance to the church was recorded at 75.384m AOD.

### 1.3 Geology

1.3.1 The subject site is characterised by the bedrock formation of Blue Anchor Formation - mudstone formed during the Triassic periods in a local environment previously dominated by lakes (British Geological Survey 2016). No superficial deposits were recorded by the British Geological Survey for this area however the soilscape is identified as consisting of slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage ([magic.defra.gov.uk](http://magic.defra.gov.uk)).

1.3.2 The only probable natural deposit visible on the site was a firm, greenish grey-brown sandy clay which was visible in Test Pit 2, in the southwest of the church (context **06**); the deposit lay approximately 0.2m below the floor of the church and was >0.58m deep (see Section 1, **Figure 3**).

### 1.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

1.4.1 St Saviour's Church was built in 1875-7 by the famous architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, who also built three other churches in Leicester. The church is a Grade II\* Listed Victorian gothic style building constructed of red brick with a slate roof and is thought to be the most successful of all Scotts Leicester churches. The church is laid out in a cruciform plan with 5-bay aisled nave, transepts, south-west tower and apse chancel with flanking chapels. The church was closed for services in 2005.

- 1.4.2 Adjacent to the south side of the church is a former Church of England School which catered for boys, girls and infants and was linked to St Saviour's Church. After the School closed it served as a community centre, but is now derelict along with the church.
- 1.4.3 There is very little archaeological evidence within the Spinney Hill area of Leicester. The majority relates to chance find of prehistoric flint work including a leaf shaped arrowhead (MLC641), a barbed & tanged arrowhead arrow head (MLC666) and a Flint Scraper (MLC884). A single sherd from a Roman Grey Ware jar (MLC1221), is thought to have been found near Humberstone Road.

## **2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The aims and objectives of the investigation were:

- To establish the location, nature, extent, date and state of preservation of any archaeological or geo-archaeological deposits or features within the site, to recover any associated objects and to record the surviving evidence.
- To analyse and interpret the site archive and to disseminate the results to promote local and national research objectives.
- To deposit the site archive with the Leicester Museum Service for long term conservation.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 On the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2016 an archaeological observation was undertaken as part of exploratory subsidence works at St. Saviour's Church, St. Saviours Road, Leicester (**Figures 1 and 2; Plates 2, 3 and 4**).
- 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**

- 3.2.1 Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.
- 3.2.2 Only late post-medieval material was recovered from the fieldwork phase. A single 19<sup>th</sup> pottery fragment and a nail of similar date has been retained for future study (**Appendices 3 and 4**). In addition, 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 Five context numbers were allocated to layers/deposits whilst additional two context numbers were given to surfaces and another was allocated to a wall/modern footing. The eight distinct contexts observed during the works are presented in **Appendix 1**.



## **4 THE RESULTS**

### **4.1 Natural Deposits**

4.1.1 As mentioned previously the only probable natural deposit visible on the site was a firm, greenish grey-brown sandy clay (context **06**) which was visible in Test Pit 2, in the southwest of the church; the deposit lay approximately 0.2m below the floor of the church and was >0.58m deep.

### **4.2 The Archaeological Sequence**

4.2.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the observation which did not directly relate to the church itself. Subsidence was clearly observed in all test pits however, there appeared to be greater levels in the northeast than the southwest (see **Figure 3**).

4.2.2 In Test Pit 1, in the northeast of the church, a void was visible beneath a wooden pew base; the Victorian tiled floor which ran across the church to a depth of c.0.02m (context **01**) was also visible in this test pit. Beneath the tiled floor was a pale grey mortar/concrete bedding c.0.04m deep (context **02**). In the northeast of the church an exposed cellar wall was observed which underlay both the floor bedding and a void beneath the church pews. The wall consisted of smooth bricks c.0.18m x 0.1m, bonded with a firm, yellowish sandy mortar and was exposed on a northeast facing section (context **05**). In the same area of the church, adjacent to the church the floor bedding overlay a shallow void (c.0.03m deep), below which was a layer of mid-yellowish white mortar c.0.1m deep (context **03**). Another, wider void (c.0.09m deep) lay beneath this mortar layer and beneath this was a possible subsoil layer which will be discussed later (context **04**).

4.2.3 In the southwest of the church the tiled flooring and bedding (contexts **01** and **02**) overlay a make-up layer of pale grey concrete/mortar c.0.05m deep (context **07**) below which was a layer of bright whitish grey concrete/mortar with common brick fragments. This lower layer is interpreted as a general floor bedding/levelling layer and was approximately 0.1m deep (context **08**). Beneath this was a shallow void c.0.01-0.02m deep which overlay the probable natural ground (context **06**).

#### **4.2.4 Additional Deposits**

4.2.5 The only further context encountered was a possible subsoil layer which was observed in Test Pit 1, in the northeast of the church. This layer consisted of compact/friable, pale mid-grey silty clay with occasional small-medium rounded stones, very occasional brick fragments, a single pottery sherd and nail (context **04**). The pottery sherd was the foot ring with internal splashed brown glaze and derives from a creamware vessel dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (**Appendix 3**). The nail, which was of a similar date, consisted of the broken head and shank from a timber-type nail. This was in good condition despite some surface corrosion on all sides and an antiquated break on the shank (**Appendix 4**).

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The observation fulfilled the aims and objectives of monitoring the exploratory subsidence works.
- 5.1.2 The only probable natural deposits recorded on the site consisted of a firm, greenish grey-brown sandy clay (context **06**). These deposits have been discussed in greater detail above, with reference to the British Geological Survey.
- 5.1.3 No evidence of any Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity was identified on this site.
- 5.1.4 No further archaeological features or deposits were identified on the site other than those relating to the church itself. The only finds which were collected dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and came from a probable subsoil layer which underlay the church (context **04**).

## **6 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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### **6.2 Websites**

British Geological Survey Map (BGS) - <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>  
Accessed August 2016

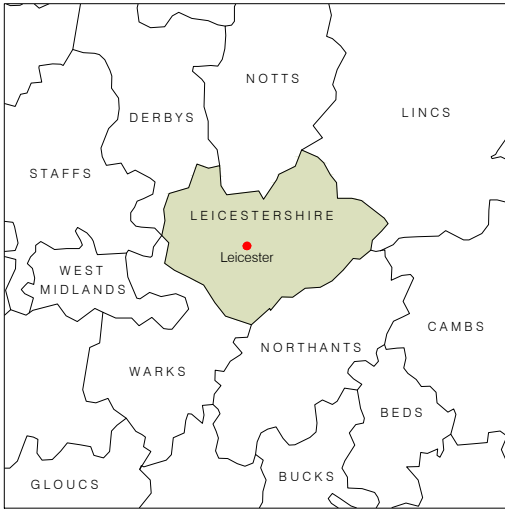
Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2014a, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2014b, *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation and research of archaeological materials*

<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Pre-construct Archaeology ltd would like to thank Andrew Granger and Co. Ltd. for commissioning the work on behalf of the Leicester Diocese. The observation was carried out by Steve Jones of PCA Midlands. Project management undertaken by Kevin Trott of PCA Midlands. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Ray Murphy of PCA's CAD department. Thanks to Jane Young and Kevin Trott for their specialist reports.



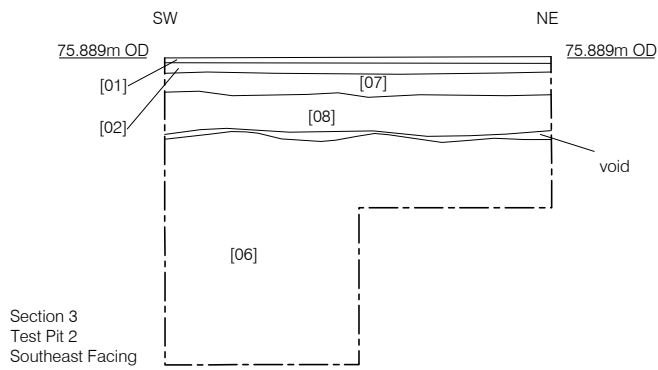
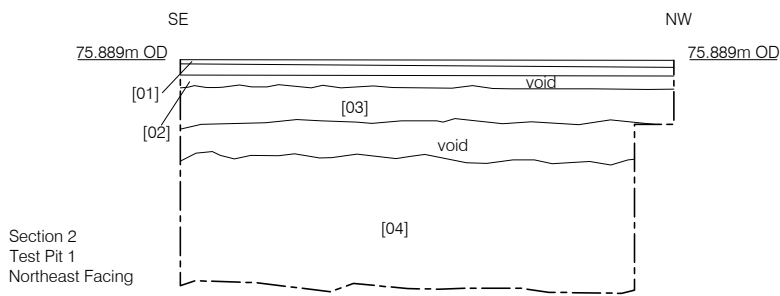
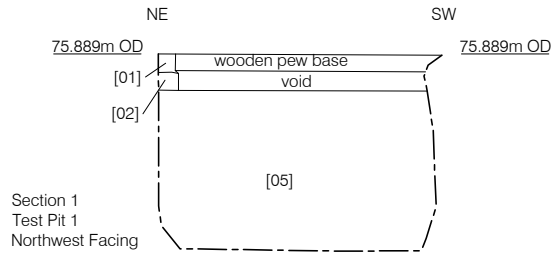
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26/08/16 RM

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:2,500,000; 1:25,000 at A4





## Appendix 1: Site Photographs



**Plate 1:** View of the church aisle, taken from north-east.



**Plate 2:** View of Section 1, taken from north-east.





**Plate 3:** View of Section 2, taken from west.



**Plate 4:** View of Section 3, taken from east-south-east.

## Appendix 2: Context Index

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)	Above	Below
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions				
01	Surface	Smooth glazed clay tiles c.0.1m x 0.1m x 0.02m. Single course bonded with firm grey mortar.			Victorian tiled floor of church	Across church floor; c.0.02m deep	02	
02	Surface	Pale grey	Compact/firm mortar/ concrete	-	Mortar/concrete bedding of tile floor (01)	c.0.04m deep	03	01
03	Layer	Mid yellowish white	Compact/hard sandy mortar	Frequent small pebbles	Layer of hard mortar below concrete floor (02)	c.0.1m deep	04	02
04	Layer/ Deposit	Pale mid-grey	Compact/friable silty clay	Occasional small/medium rounded stones; very occasional brick fragments; single pottery sherd and nail.	Earth layer exposed below concrete and mortar. Possible subsoil? Void above suggests subsidence has occurred.	>0.34m deep	-	03

05	Wall	Smooth bricks c.0.18m x 0.1m. 5 courses exposed on a northeast facing; bonded with firm, yellowish, sandy mortar.			Exposed cellar wall seen below floor layers. No construction cut visible within earth layer (04).	>0.43m deep	-	03 + void
06	Layer/ Deposit	Mid Greenish grey brown	Firm sandy clay	Very occasional small stones	Earth exposed below tile floor and concrete to southwest of church, in Test Pit 2. Firmer and slightly greener in colour than earth (04) seen in TP1 and TP3; likely to be natural. Less subsidence than in TP1	>0.58m deep	-	08 + void
07	Layer	Pale grey	Compact/hard concrete/mortar	-	Make up of floor levels to southwest of church	c.0.05m deep	08	02
08	Layer	Bright whitish grey	Firm concrete/mortar	Common brick fragments	Layer of concrete/mortar exposed below floor in southwest of church. Phase of general floor bedding/levelling	c.0.10m deep	06	07

### Appendix 3: Ceramics Report

By Jane Young

Context	Leicestershire	Full name	Form	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	Part	Description	Date	Action
04	EA8	Cream ware	Bowl	1	1	40g	Base	Foot ring with internal basel splashed brown glaze	19 <sup>th</sup>	Retain

### Appendix 4: The Iron Nail

By Kevin Trott

A single broken rectangular head & shank from a timber nail was recovered from Context (04). Nail Head 0.10 x 0.6mm. Shank 0.7 x 0.5mm & 0.30mm surviving length. The nail is in good condition with some surface corrosion on all surfaces including antiquated break on shank.

## Appendix 5: Oasis Form

**OASIS ID: preconst1-262838**

### Project details

Project name	St Saviour's Church
Short description of the project	The observation occurred on the 9th of August 2016 as part of exploratory subsidence works. The archaeological work was commissioned by Andrew Granger and Co. Ltd. on behalf of the Leicester Diocese. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered which did not directly relate to the church building itself. The only finds recovered were a sherd of 19th century pottery and an iron nail of a similar date and these were recovered from a probable subsoil layer beneath the church.
Project dates	Start: 09-08-2016 End: 16-09-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SSCL16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"
Prompt	Listed Building Consent

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE LEICESTER LEICESTER St Saviour's Church, St. Saviours Road, Leicester,
Postcode	LE5 3HD
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 60391 04860 52.637770417248 -1.107479645787 52 38 15 N 001 06 26 W Point

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Leicester Diocese
Project design originator	Kathryn Brook
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Steve Jones

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Leicester City Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Leicester City Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicester City Museum
Paper Contents	"none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	St Saviour's Church, St. Saviours Road, Leicester, LE5 3HD: An Archaeological Observation Report
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Entered on	16 September 2016

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