

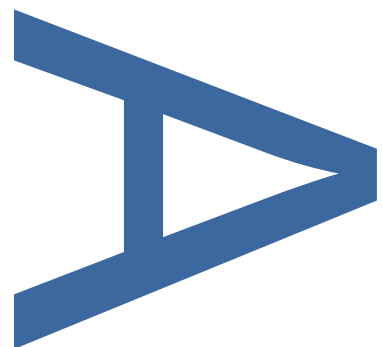
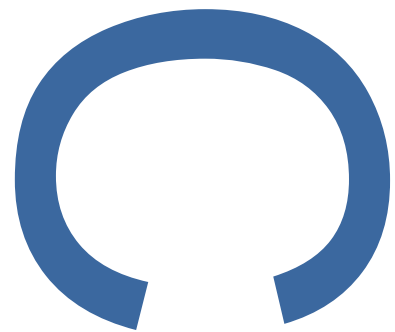
**ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,
WESTMINSTER ABBEY,
LONDON**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

PCA REPORT NO: 12704

SITE CODE: MCH15

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, WESTMINSTER
ABBEY, LONDON

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, London

An Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: MCH15

Central NGR: TQ 30107 79537

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out during ground works for the installation of new drainage pipes around the perimeter of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, London SW1P 3PA (central National Grid Reference: TQ 30107 79537) in the City of Westminster. The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. and was commissioned by the Dean and Chapter. The project was managed by Chris Mayo and supervised by Leonardo Penades and Corso Dominici, both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in two phases, with the first phase taking place between 30th November and 15th December 2015 and the second phase between 24th August and 1st September 2016.
- 1.3 During the work, a number of phases of archaeological activity were recorded. Generally, these related to the construction of the church and its various extensions from the 15th century to the modern day. Evidence for the churchyard was also seen in the form of a single 17th century burial.
- 1.4 With few exceptions the finds recovered during the watching brief were of post-medieval date with only a few residual medieval finds.

2 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. during ground works ahead of the installation of new drainage pipes around the perimeter of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, London SW1P 3PA in the City of Westminster (Figures 1 and 2). The watching brief was conducted on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey over two phases, firstly between 30th November and 15th December 2015 and secondly between 24th August and 1st September 2016.
- 2.2 The site comprises the external perimeter to St. Margaret's Church, within the grounds of Westminster Abbey. The central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 530107 179537.
- 2.3 The project was monitored by Professor Warwick Rodwell, OBE, Archaeological Consultant to Westminster Abbey. It was project-managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited by Chris Mayo and supervised by Leonardo Penades and Corso Dominici.
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited with the Westminster Abbey Museum under the site code MCH15.
- 2.5 The site is located within the World Heritage Site of the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including St. Margaret's Church (number 426, designated inscription in 1987). Development within the World Heritage Site is guided by Policy DES 16 within the former City of Westminster's Unitary Development Plan (adopted 24 January 2007)
- 2.6 The site is also located within an Area of Archaeological Potential as defined by the local authority.
- 2.7 The objectives of the archaeological investigation, as outlined in the WSI were:
- 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.
 - To report on the results of the Watching Brief.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Geology

- 3.1.1 Westminster Abbey, St Margaret's Church and Westminster Palace were all constructed on what has historically been called Thorney Island, a former gravel eyot defined by two branches of the river Tyburn at its confluence with the river Thames. The idea of Thorney Island thus formed betwixt twin branches of the river Tyburn stems from the 'clumsy and long-winded' (Robinson 1909) 15th century history of Westminster Abbey by John Flete and has been perpetuated by later authors as factual. A recent study of the geology of the area has suggested that Thorney Island did not exist as a natural island during the medieval period, but rather that the area interpreted as the "eyot" was defined by manmade channels drawing water from the Tyburn to the monastery (Donovan 2016).
- 3.1.2 The British Geological Survey records the bedrock geology of the site as Eocene London Clay, a marine deposit laid down some 34-56 million years ago. This is overlain by the Quaternary sand and gravel of the Kempton Park Gravel Formation, a river lain deposit of sand and gravel detrital material laid down up to 2 million years ago (British Geological Survey 2016).
- 3.1.3 Boreholes carried out in 1960 approximately 60m to the east of the site identified the top of the London Clay at between -4.92m OD and -6.54m OD (BGS ID: 597380). Recent archaeological work carried out by PCA in Poets' Corner Yard, some 60m to the south of the site recorded the top of the superficial sand and gravel deposits at a maximum height of 4.18m OD (Jorgensen in prep.).

3.2 Topography

- 3.2.1 The study site the external perimeter of St. Margaret's Church located to the northeast of the Abbey church.
- 3.2.2 The area was generally flat and located at c. 4.60 m OD, having been levelled during the post-medieval period.
- 3.2.3 The north-flowing River Thames is located beyond the Houses of Parliament, some 200m east of the site.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric

4.1.1 An archaeological excavation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology during 2009 towards the north of Dean's Yard, recovered a struck flint of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date (Jorgensen 2010). Archaeological investigations undertaken prior to the extension of the Jubilee Line between 1991 and 1998 revealed evidence for Bronze Age activity along the east side of Thorney Island in the form of a timber revetment along the river as well as possible boundary fences. Environmental data collected during investigation in the 1990s indicated the presence of cereal pollen, suggesting arable cultivation in the vicinity during this period. Although there may have been significant human activity on the island from the Late Neolithic and through much of the Early Bronze Age, there appears to have been a much-reduced presence by the later Bronze Age (Thomas *et al.* 2006).

4.1.2 Evidence for Iron Age occupation is limited and has almost exclusively been recorded in the more elevated areas of the island. It has been suggested that this may have been due to a major flooding event during the middle of the 11th century AD, which resulted in extensive truncation of Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman deposits along the peripheral areas of Thorney Island (Thomas *et al.* 2006). However, the 2009 excavation in Dean's Yard revealed a single pit that contained a small assemblage of Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery (Jorgensen 2010).

4.2 Roman

4.2.1 The Roman settlement of *Londinium* was centred upon the modern day City of London, some distance to the east of Westminster. Whilst no definite Roman features have been recorded during excavations on the former island, artefacts dating to this period have been recovered from a number of excavation sites. In the vicinity of the Abbey itself a number of antiquarian discoveries have been reported including a Roman sarcophagus found on the north side of the Abbey (Poole 1870). Although the sarcophagus itself was probably of Roman origin, it is likely that it was brought to the island and reused during the Saxon period.

4.2.2 Part of a Roman hypocaust and walls are reported to have been observed below the floor of the nave of the Abbey church and two fragments of Roman concrete floor have been recorded near the south side of the cloister and infirmary cloister (Thomas *et al.* 2006). Some accounts of the origins of Westminster Abbey claim that a temple dedicated to Apollo was constructed on Thorney Island in the second century AD., and when it was destroyed by a violent earthquake, King Lucius built the island's first church in its place (Morley 1890). However, no archaeological evidence exists to substantiate these suggestions.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon

4.3.1 The main Saxon settlement of *Lundenwic* was focussed on the area between present day Charing Cross and Aldwych to the north-east of the site. During the late Saxon period Westminster became an important religious centre. This is reflected by the place name

'Westminster', which derives from the Saxon word 'minster', referring to either the monastery church built on the island by Edward the Confessor or an earlier church on the site. It was consecrated prior to the Norman invasion of 1066.

- 4.3.2 One of the earliest references to a church derives from Offa's Charter, c. AD 785, which refers to 'St. Peter and the people of the Lord dwelling in Thornea at the awesome place called Westminster' (Barton 1992). The authenticity of this charter has been brought into question by various 20th century scholars and it seems likely that it is a later forgery.
- 4.3.3 It is more likely that the foundation of the abbey dates to the reign of King Edgar (959-75) who granted a foundation charter to St Dunstan. The church founded by St. Dunstan was described as a *monasteriolum*, or little monastery, and was inhabited by twelve monks and an abbot (Thomas et al. 2006).
- 4.3.4 Under Edward the Confessor the abbey was refounded and a new church built in stone to replace the earlier building. The anonymous 11th-century biographer of the Confessor stated in *Vita Ædwardi* that Edward's motives for founding a great Abbey church at Westminster were not only in his piety and devotion to St. Peter, the favourable location of the place, on the river and close to London, but principally because he wished for himself to be buried there (Field 1996).
- 4.3.5 Work on the new church commenced in 1045 and, although not completed in its entirety, was consecrated in December 1065. *Vita Ædwardi* states that the new church was built far enough to the east of the existing one to enable services to continue in it; whilst Sulcard in his *History of Westminster* (written in the 11th century) states that the old church was demolished to make room for the new (Field 1996).

4.4 History of St Margaret's Church

- 4.4.1 Considering the antiquity of St Margaret's church, little has been written about its history. There has been a church on the site since at least late 11th century. Although nothing survives of this church, it can be presumed that it was built in the Romanesque style. This church was dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch and was constructed by the monks of the adjacent monastery to serve the needs of the growing population of the parish (Thornbury 1878).
- 4.4.2 In 1248, Henry III granted the monks of Westminster the right to hold an annual fair dedicated to St Edward. It was initially held in St Margaret's churchyard and was to last 15 days, during which no other fair was to be held in London. This appears to have been relatively short-lived and the fair was soon removed to Tothill Fields where, in addition, the king granted the monks the right to hold another three-day long fair dedicated to St Mary. Even after the fair had been relocated to Tothill Fields, the monks retained the right to hold a smaller fair, dedicated to St Peter, in St Margaret's churchyard (Timbs 1868, pp. 144-5).
- 4.4.3 It seems that the old Romanesque church of St Margaret survived until the mid 14th century, when all but the chancel, which was still in good repair, was demolished and then rebuilt. By the end of the 15th century, however, the church had fallen into a state of disrepair and a decision was made to heavily reconstruct it. The work of rebuilding the church was started in 1482 by Robert Stowell, one of the masons at Westminster Abbey, but progress was slow

- and the new church was not consecrated until 9 April 1523 (Atkins 2007).
- 4.4.4 While the consecration of the new church did not occur until 1523, construction of the nave and aisles was finished in 1504. After this, construction of the tower started in 1515, followed by the rebuilding of the old chancel, which commenced in 1518 during the tenure of Abbot Islip. The walls of the church were constructed of ragstone, although the exterior was faced with Portland stone in 1735 at which time the upper part of the tower was also rebuilt by John James. During the same century, the east wall of the chancel was demolished and an apsidal end added. This was, however, removed in the early 19th century when the east end wall was brought back to its original alignment. The old vestry was demolished in 1776 and rebuilt in its present position near the southeast corner of the south aisle (Royal Commission on Historic Monuments 1925).
- 4.4.5 The stained glass of the east window of the chancel, which depicts the crucifixion, was purchased by the churchwardens of St Margaret's in 1758. It was most likely commissioned by Waltham between 1517 and 1526. Stylistically the stained glass reflects the style of Leiden in present day Holland. The acquisition of the window led to a dispute between the churchwardens and the Dean and Chapter, who questioned the suitability of the window as it was considered to be too 'high church' (Wayment 1981).
- 4.4.6 As evident by John Rocque's 1746 *A Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster, and Borough of Southwark* the area surrounding the church to the north, south and east had, by this time, been developed. A number of shops and dwellings lined St Margarets Lane (now St Margaret Street); these backed directly onto the church. These are shown in some detail on a survey carried out by John Vardy in 1752 (MPE 1/489) prior to the widening of St Margaret's Lane. Some of these buildings, including Mr Chaire's shops¹, which butted against the east end of the church, had been demolished and the street widened by the final decade of the 18th century as can be seen from the time of Richard Horwood's 1792-9 *Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Borough of Southwark*. The map shows the new vestry (constructed 1776-1777) adjoining the south side of the church, as well as the Ordnance Office, which had by then replaced Mr Chaire's shops. A view of the facades of the buildings is presented in Thomas Malton's 1792 coloured aquatint entitled *St Margaret Street* and his 1793 aquatint entitled *Old Palace Yard, Westminster*.
- 4.4.7 In 1806 an act of parliament (46 Geo. III. c.89) consolidated three earlier acts from the years 1800, 1804 and 1805 regarding improvements to the streets and places near the Westminster Palace. The act of 1806 granted the Commissioners authority to acquire and demolish a number of buildings in the area, including the buildings surrounding St Margaret's church. In their report to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury on 12 April 1808 the Commissioners state that the buildings along the west side of St Margaret Street have been

¹ "Mr Chaire's shops" is a reference to Sir Henry Cheere's sculpture workshop. Henry (1703-81) and his brother were sculptors of international renown, whose premises were on the east side of St Margaret's beneath the modern road (*pers comm* W. Rodwell, 30/11/16).

cleared. They also mentioned the need for repairs to be carried out to the east wall of the church and vestry following the removal of the Ordnance Office and other buildings (House of Commons 1811). The *Picture of London for 1807* (Feltham 1807) still listed the Board of Ordnance in Margaret Street, so it seems likely then that the clearance of the buildings surrounding the church took place in either 1807 or early in 1808. An engraving entitled *Parliament Square, Westminster* published in 1812 by Laurie & Whittle clearly shows this area now cleared of buildings.

- 4.4.8 John Loughborough Pearson designed the current east and west porches between 1892 and 1894 (Reynolds 2011) and in 1905-6 the east end of the chancel was once again altered. This time the east wall was demolished and rebuilt six feet further to the east (Royal Commission on Historic Monuments 1925).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

5.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the excavation of groundworks to facilitate the construction of a new drainage pipes in the southeast corner of St. Margaret's Church. The watching brief aimed to identify and quantify any archaeological remains and assess the nature of any disturbances or intrusions.

5.2 A total of seven trenches (A-F and L) were investigated. The trench labelling system used followed one proposed by the groundworks contractors. In the end proposed trenches G-K were not undertaken.

5.3 Excavation was carried out by hand to the formation level. Where archaeological features were identified these were cleaned and examined using hand tools. The trenches had the following details:

- Trench A the largest of the trenches excavated during the watching brief, against the southern side of the church. It measured approximately 6.00m east-west by up to 1.50m north-south by 0.70m in depth (Figures 2 and 4).
- Trench B was placed close to the south-eastern corner of the church. Its measurements are 1.10m east-west by 1.05m north-south and was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.95m (Figure 2). This trench was excavated in order to repair the collapsed junction between two of the drain pipes taking the rainwater discharge from the roof.
- Trench C was excavated along the east wall of the vestry and the south wall of the south aisle of the church (Figure 2). It measured approximately 4.00m in length by 0.50m in width by 0.30m in depth. The reasons for excavating this trench were to check the depth of the foundation for the vestry access stairs and to repair a collapsed rainwater drain.
- Trench D was located at the northern end of the east wall of the early 16th century tower at the northwest corner of the church. The purpose of the trench was to explore the condition of the drain taking the discharge from the tower roof. In plan the trench measured 2.00m in length by 1.50m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m.
- Trenches E & F were located on the external side of the north aisle wall. Both measured 0.80m east-west by 0.80m north-south and were excavated to a depth of 0.60m (4.21m OD) in order to investigate the condition of the ground electrode of the lightning conductor adjacent to the trenches.
- Trench L was excavated from the corner formed by the south wall of the tower and the west wall of the church. From here, it ran southwest to intercept an existing drain.

5.4 Works were carried out under archaeological supervision and once excavation of each trench was completed, written, drawn and photographic records were made of the trench base plan, depth of excavation and any deposits of potential archaeological interest.

5.5 The recording systems were fully compatible with those used elsewhere in the City of

Westminster. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10. A digital photographic record was made of the investigations as they progressed. Levels were derived from spot heights recorded on Ordnance Survey plans and earlier surveys.

- 5.6 Upon completion of all phases of the work the completed archive will be deposited with the Westminster Abbey Museum under the unique site code MCH15.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Trench A



Plate 1: Overview of Trench A, looking northwest

Phase 3

- 6.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of cemetery soil, [35], first seen at a height of 4.34m OD. It comprised soft mid-yellowish brown slightly sandy silty clay. To the north and west it had been truncated by the cut for a modern ceramic drain pipe and in the southeast corner of the trench it had been cut by grave cut [39]. As the cemetery soil was not excavated, no finds were retrieved from the deposit. Grave cut [39] was only partially contained within the excavated trench. Judging from the excavated portion of the cut, which represents the northwest corner, it was aligned along a roughly east-west axis and had vertical sides with a sharp break of slope at the base. The exposed part of the cut measured 0.70m east-west by 0.15m north-south by 0.24m in depth. Part of the base board of a timber coffin, [40], was visible at the base of the cut. It was heavily decayed and only survived as dark stained organic soil. Along the perimeter of the coffin were a series of ferrous metal coffin nails as well as a few copper alloy coffin pins. The only exposed part of the skeleton, [41], was part of the left side of the skull, so it was not possible to determine the attitude of the body, arms, legs, etc. although it was evident that the head was at the west end of the grave cut. Once the coffin had been interred, the grave cut was backfilled with deposit [42]. The backfill comprised loose mid-blackish brown sandy silty clay with frequent mortar and CBM flecks, occasional CBM fragments and small sub-rounded stones. In addition to these inclusions, the fill also yielded pottery sherds, copper alloy coffin pins and an iron strap fragment. The pottery was consistent with a date between 1500 and 1630, while the coffin pins, which were used to fix cloth to the

outside of the coffin, could be dated to the 17th century at the earliest. It therefore seems likely that a date of 1600-1630 is appropriate for the deposit.

Phase 4

6.1.2 As previously mentioned, the cemetery soil was truncated by the cut for a modern ceramic drain pipe. To the north, the cut had removed both the fill, [37], and construction cut, [34], associated with an east-west aligned footing, [27]. The footing, which was exposed to a length of 3.10m, had been constructed using roughly hewn blocks of Reigate stone of varying sizes. These were bonded with a yellowish brown sandy lime mortar with frequent white flecks. Due to the limited depth of the trench, only the upper 80mm of the footing were exposed; the top of the footing was first seen at a height of 4.56m OD. It is likely that this forms the footing for a building constructed after 1731 and before 1746 as it does not appear on Hawkesmoor's 1731 plan of the Abbey, but it is depicted on John Rocque's map of 1746.

6.1.3 Sitting atop footing [27] was the footing, [38], for the southwest buttress of the vestry of 1778. It was constructed using red unfrogged bricks measuring 230mm x 100mm x 70mm and bonded with pale to mid grey lime mortar with occasional white flecks. The footing for the buttress measured 0.80m northwest-southeast by at least 0.80m northeast-southwest by at least 0.37m in height. At 4.64m OD, it stepped back towards the buttress proper and above this point was faced with Portland stone. It was clear from the excavation that the buttress had been built on top of the earlier footing, although it extended south over the edge of it. Later truncation had removed both the fill, [32], of the construction cut, [33], for the wall had been removed entirely by later truncation caused by the installation of the modern ceramic drain pipe.

Phase 5

6.1.4 Laid down directly on top of footing [27] and against the buttress footing, [27], was a layer of hard mid-grey lime mortar with occasional white flecks, [29]. This acted as the bed for the footing, [28], for the current vestry office. Cartographic evidence suggests that this was constructed as an extension to the vestry between 1873 and 1877. Footing [28] was constructed using frogged red post great fire bricks measuring 230mm x 120mm x 60mm. These had been laid in stretcher bond bonded with hard mid-grey gravel mortar with frequent shell and brick flecks. As exposed, the footing measured 3.10m in length by 0.24m in width by 0.15m in height and was first seen at 4.69m OD. However, the length only represents the length of the excavated section as the masonry did extend beyond the western limits of the trench. The wall, [24], of the vestry extension was set back 0.24m from the edge of the footing and had been clad with Portland stone, like the rest of the church and vestry. While the bricks of the footing were dated 1750-1900, a more refined date of 1850-1900 could be ascertained from the mortar. Sealing the footing, and filling the upper part of its construction cut, [30], was a soft deposit, [36], of mid-greenish yellow silty sandy clay. Excavation of the backfill produced

residual fragments of late medieval and early post medieval peg tiles, pan tiles, post great fire bricks, a single shard of post medieval window glass and sherds of pottery dated 1670-1926. In addition to these finds, the deposit also yielded a single oyster shell with two circular punched holes (SF 1). Part of the fill of the construction cut, as well as the upper course of the vestry footing had been removed by robber cut [31], which was filled with a loose deposit of mid greenish yellow silty sandy clay, [26], with frequent pockets of brick and mortar rubble.

6.1.5 Sealing the demolition deposit was a layer of made ground comprising friable mid-brownish grey silty sand, [23], with occasional Portland stone chips. It was first encountered at a height of 4.73m OD and was sealed by the modern topsoil horizon of St Margaret's churchyard.

6.2 Trench B



Plate 2: Trench B, view west

Phase 5

6.2.1 The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of demolition rubble, [20], recorded at a maximum height of 3.87m OD. It comprised loose brick and mortar rubble in a mid-grey fine grained silty sand matrix with occasional mollusc shell flecks. This was sealed by additional and contemporary demolition deposits, [17]-[19]. The top of the demolition sequence was recorded at 4.29m OD and culminated with the deposition of layer [17]. This sequence could be dated to the mid-18th/early 19th century based on the pottery recovered from its deposits. Cartographic evidence shows that from at least the middle of the 18th century the area between the east end of the church and Margaret Street was occupied by buildings. These were cleared sometime between 1806 and 1808 (Thornbury 1878). The artefactual evidence from the demolition sequence fit within the period of the clearance of the buildings and it is probable that the layers can be attributed to this event.

- 6.2.2 Two successive layers of made ground, [13] and [16], sealed the demolition sequence with the top of the upper layer seen at a height of 4.56m OD. Both of these produced finds dated to the late 19th century. The upper layer, [13], was cut by a small 0.25m deep pit, [15], with vertical sides and a flat base. Due to later truncation the shape of the pit could not be determined. The pit was filled with [14], which comprised loose dark brownish black silty sand with occasional small sub-angular stones.
- 6.2.3 The archaeological features and deposits were only seen along the east and west sides of the trench as the junction of the two drain pipes targeted by the trench was located in the centre of the excavated area. As such, the construction trench for the drains had cut through all of the archaeological deposits.

6.3 Trench C



Plate 3: Overview of Trench C, looking north

Phase 3

- 6.3.1 The earliest deposit exposed within Trench C was a layer of soft mid-brownish black silty clay, [2], first seen at a height of 4.46m OD.

Phase 4

- 6.3.2 This had been truncated by the construction cuts for the east wall of the vestry, [21], and the access stairs, [4] to the west and north respectively. Of these, the construction cut for the vestry was the earliest. It had been truncated by a later construction cut, [9], to the south and to the east by a modern drainage trench. The foundation, [12], of the vestry occupied the western part of the construction cut. Like foundation [38] in Trench A, it was constructed using red unfrosted bricks measuring 230mm x 100mm x 70mm and bonded with pale to mid-grey

lime mortar with occasional white flecks.



Plate 4: Overview of Trench C, looking west

Phase 5

- 6.3.3 To the south, the footing was abutted by [9], which formed the construction cut for the southeast buttress of the vestry, [10]. The buttress was stood on a foundation of red bricks bonded with hard mid-grey lime mortar. It is probable that the buttress and the footing are contemporary although they seem to be contained within separate cuts. Cartographic evidence seems to confirm this. Filling the construction cut for the buttress and sealing both footings [10] and [12] was a deposit of loose fine grained mid-reddish brown sandy silt, [8].
- 6.3.4 At the northern end of the trench, layer [2] had been truncated by the construction cut, [4]/[6], for the foundation for the access stairs to the vestry, [11]/[5]. The cut, which was seen at a maximum height of 4.49m OD, measured 0.80m in width by 0.34m in length by 0.23m in depth. It was much wider than the footing for the stairs, indicating that this had been constructed freestanding within the cut. The footing, [11]/[5], had been constructed using roughly hewn blocks of Kentish ragstone laid in regular courses bonded with mid-grey lime mortar. While the exact date for the construction of the access stairs at the east end of the vestry is not known, it can be gathered from historic maps of the area that they must have been constructed between 1878 and 1895. Filling the construction cut was a friable deposit of dark blackish brown clayey silt and ragstone rubble, [3]. Excavation of the fill produced a few residual sherds of pottery dated 1740-1830.
- 6.3.5 The backfill of the construction cut was truncated by a square pit, [7], by the southeast corner of the vestry stairs. It was not fully exposed in plan, nor was the base reached during the investigation. As exposed, it measured 1.15m north-south by 0.32m east-west by 0.10m deep and it was first seen at 4.47m OD. It was filled with moderately compact mid- to dark reddish

yellow silty sand, [1], with no noticeable inclusions.

Phase 6

- 6.3.6 Sealing this, and the rest of the trench, was the current topsoil horizon of St Margaret's churchyard.

6.4 Trench D

Phase 2

- 6.4.1 The earliest feature encountered here was the footing for the early 16th century tower, [44], which was first encountered at a height of 4.60m OD. It had been constructed from Kentish ragstone, which at the top had been faced with Portland stone, although the latter was added during the 18th century refacing of the tower. The ragstone footing is likely to represent the original building phase of the tower, which commenced in 1515.

Phase 6

- 6.4.2 Sealing the footing was 0.48m thick deposit of construction rubble, [43], in a matrix of friable mid-greyish brown silty sand with frequent small sub-rounded stones, angular Portland stone chips, occasional concrete fragments and very occasional plastic fragments. It is probable that this deposit relates to either the refacing of the north aisle of the church in 1988, or the installation of rainwater pipes to take the discharge from the tower roof. This deposit was sealed by the modern topsoil horizon.

6.5 Trenches E and F

Phase 1

- 6.5.1 In both these trenches the 15th century footing of St Margaret's church was exposed. It had been constructed of roughly hewn blocks of Kentish ragstone and Reigate stone. The footing was recorded as [56] in Trench E and [57] in Trench F.

Phase 6

- 6.5.2 The footings were sealed by a 0.50m thick layer of construction rubble, [45] and [46], identical to deposit [43] in Trench D.

6.6 Trench L

Phase 1

- 6.6.1 The earliest feature exposed was the late 15th century Kentish ragstone footing for the west wall, [55], of St Margaret's church. This extended below the base of the excavation (4.41m OD), so only the upper 0.40m of the footing were exposed. Even so, this was enough to show

the transition between the Portland stone facing and the roughly hewn blocks of ragstone. If the exposed area is representative of the west wall as a whole, then the 18th century refacing of the wall started only 80mm below the current ground surface.



Plate 5: North end of Trench L, looking east

Phase 2

- 6.6.2 To the north, the ragstone footing was abutted by the footing, [53], for the 16th century tower. Like the footing for the west wall of the church, the footing for the tower extended below the base of the excavation. Only one course of stonework, which could be attributed to the 16th century work, was exposed. The highest visible point of the footing was 4.48m OD; above this, during the 18th century, the footing had been faced with Portland stone. Only a small length of the tower footing was exposed within the trench, so it was not possible to provide a definitive list of the building stones used. The visible stone blocks consisted of a mixture of roughly hewn blocks of Reigate stone and Kentish ragstone. These were bonded with a sandy, soft, pale yellow lime mortar with frequent small white flecks. It is interesting to note that the top of the footing also contained a shallow layer of identical mortar slight depressions where stones had been removed. This indicates that at least one course of stonework was removed – presumably during the refacing of the tower in the 18th century.

Phase 4

- 6.6.3 Directly south of the stone footing was a deposit of stone rubble, [54], comprising large fragments of broken up Reigate stone and Kentish ragstone blocks. It is likely that this deposit represents the partial demolition of the stone footing in preparation for the refacing of the tower. At least one of the Reigate elements was derived from a moulded block, presumably part of a door jamb with a single vertical roll. Unfortunately, the block extended too far into the section of the trench and could not be removed without risking the collapse of the trench. Because of the confined conditions and the depth of the block, a detailed moulding profile drawing could not be made either.
- 6.6.4 Directly on top of footing [53] was a second phase of masonry, [57]. Rather than a complete rebuild, it is likely that it represents alterations made to the original footing during the refacing of the tower in 1735. This second phase of masonry consisted of finely dressed blocks of Portland stone bonded with hard mid-grey mortar. To the east, the Portland stone blocks butt against not only the ragstone footing of the west wall of the church, but also against the phase of refacing of this wall.
- 6.6.5 The Portland stone blocks used to reface the tower were partially covered, to a height of 4.55m OD, with a loose 0.10m thick deposit of light to mid-grey lime mortar and light greyish brown sand, [51], with frequent small Reigate stone and Kentish ragstone chips. This deposit also sealed the demolition rubble butting against the earlier stone footing. It is probable that it represents a masons' working surface formed by mortar and stone chips collecting on the ground below where the masons were working during the refacing of the tower.

Phase 5

- 6.6.6 To the north, the masons' working deposit had been truncated by the construction cut, [50], for a roughly northeast-southwest aligned brick built drain, [49]. Only a small length of the drain was exposed within the trench, so it was not possible to measure the gradient of the base to determine which direction it would have drained towards. However, based on its juxtaposition with the church and the tower it can be assumed that it would have drained towards the southwest, away from the church walls. Only the northern wall of the drain survived; the southern wall had been removed by later truncation. The drain itself had a base formed of broken up York stone slabs while the surviving wall had been built using largely narrow fragmented red post great fire bricks (dated 1780-1900). While the bricks retained some residual light grey lime mortar with coal and brick fragments, the bricks, in their later use, had been laid without the use of any bonding material. To the north of the surviving wall, the construction cut had been backfilled with a friable deposit of dark brown sandy silt, [48]. The only datable material from the backfill were a few clay tobacco pipe fragments dated 1730-1910. It is likely that the drain and the associated contexts are of mid- to late 19th century date considering the residual coal rich Victorian mortar on the bricks of the drain.
- 6.6.7 Sealing the backfill of the drain construction cut, and extending across the entire trench, was

a 70mm thick masons' floor, [47], consisting of loose light greyish brown mortar and dark brown silty sand with frequent brick fragments and Portland stone chips. Excavation of the deposit yielded fragments of post-medieval peg and pan tiles, clay tobacco pipe fragments and sherds of post-medieval pottery. In addition to these, a single copper alloy wire fragment (SF 3), possibly part of a mechanical device such as a bell system, was also found. From the finds alone the date of the deposit can be considered 1700-1900. However, as it is sealing the Victorian drain, it must be late 19th century at the earliest. Considering the location of the trench, it is possible that the masons' floor represents the construction of the west porch by John Loughborough Pearson between 1892 and 1894.

Phase 6

- 6.6.8 At the southern end of the trench, the later masons' floor was truncated by the cut for a modern ceramic drain running roughly east-west. Sealing the drain cut and extending across the entire trench was the modern topsoil horizon.

7 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSION

Phase 1

7.1 Construction of St Margaret's Church (1482-1505)

- 7.1.1 The church, as it stands today, has been subject to many alterations and additions throughout its existence. A good example of this is the east end, which has been rebuilt on several occasions, most recently in 1905. In 1735 the exterior of the church was refaced with Portland stone, and the interior was subject to many changes throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Externally nothing remains visible of the original fabric above ground. The current investigation included the excavation of several trenches immediately against the north and west walls of the church (Trenches E, F and L). These allowed for examination of the footings of church, albeit in a very limited extent. Where the footings were exposed, these were constructed of roughly hewn blocks of Kentish ragstone with the occasional use of reclaimed Reigate stone blocks. This fits with the description of the church presented by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (1925), which states that "the walls are of rag-stone, with Portland and other lime-stone dressings". The exposed sections of the footing are likely associated with the work carried out by Robert Stowell between 1482 and 1505.

Phase 2

7.2 Construction of the tower (1515)

- 7.2.1 Like the church, the original fabric of the tower is concealed behind the Portland stone cladding the building. In two of the excavated trenches (Trenches D and L) the footing for the tower was exposed. Like the footing for the church, the footing for the tower had been constructed using roughly hewn blocks of Kentish ragstone as well as occasional reclaimed Reigate stone blocks. In Trench L, the relationship between the church and the tower could be seen. This trench clearly showed that the tower footing had been built against the church footing, indicating that the church footing had already been completed by the time construction of the tower footing began. Again, this is consistent with the building sequence presented by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (1925), which indicates that construction of the tower started in 1515, ten years after the completion of the nave and aisles.

Phase 3

7.3 Cemetery (1600-1630)

- 7.3.1 It is known that the ground surrounding the church was in use as a cemetery from the medieval period onwards. The only evidence for this use seen during the current investigation was a single burial only partially uncovered by the excavation of Trench A. Considering the limited size and depth of the excavated trenches, as well as the fact that these were generally targeting areas that had already been disturbed by recent services, it is not surprising that more burials were not uncovered. Generally, the archaeological and modern deposits

contained small amounts of disarticulated human bone, which was reburied on site as the trenches were backfilled. The *in situ* burial, which was partially exposed, could be dated to the first half of the 17th century based on the finds recovered from the backfill. Unfortunately, because the burial was only minimally exposed, it is not possible to present an analysis of the skeleton.

Phase 4

7.4 Former vestry and vicarage house (1731-1746)

7.4.1 The excavation of Trench A identified the footing of a building predating the present vestry. This earlier building stood on a footing of roughly hewn Reigate blocks bonded with yellowish brown sandy lime mortar. A building is shown in the location of this footing on Rocque's 1746 map, but not on the earlier 1731 plan of the abbey by Hawksmoor, so it can be assumed that construction of this building occurred between these dates. This building was probably demolished ahead of the construction of the present vestry in 1778. A plan by John Vardy dated 1753 and entitled *Plan of Land between Westminster Hall and St Margaret' Church and the Old and New Palace Yards* (MPE 1/489) identifies this building as the 'vestry & vicarage house'.

7.5 Refacing of the church and tower in Portland stone (1735)

7.5.1 In 1735, the upper part of the tower was rebuilt by John James and the church and tower clad in Portland stone. While no direct evidence was seen for the rebuilding of the tower, the excavation of Trench L did show evidence for the refacing of the church and tower. The west wall of the church had been refaced with Portland stone to just below the current ground surface, while the refacing of the tower was carried on to a much lower level. In fact, there seem to have been alterations made to the southwest corner of the tower footing, with blocks from the old Kentish ragstone footing being removed and the footing then rebuilt in Portland stone. It is likely that this relates to the works being carried out to the upper parts of the tower at this date. The refacing of the church and tower appears to have taken place in two phases, with the cladding of the church first and then the tower. This is noticeable in the fact that the horizontal joints of the stone courses of the tower are at different heights from those of the church. Also, as seen in Trench L, the Portland stone blocks of the church extend in behind those of the tower. This may suggest that the refacing of the church had been completed while the church tower was still being rebuilt.

7.6 New vestry (1778)

7.6.1 The building of the present vestry, adjoining the church at the eastern end of the south aisle, started in 1778 following the demolition of the anchor-hold and the old vestry. In Trenches A and C the brick footings for the 1778 vestry were exposed. It had been constructed using red unfrogged bricks measuring 230mm x 100mm x 70mm and bonded with pale to mid grey lime mortar with occasional white flecks. In Trench A, the southwest buttress of the vestry had been constructed directly atop the footing for the earlier vestry while no evidence was seen

for the earlier footing in Trench C. Like the rest of the church, the vestry building was faced with Portland stone. It is tempting to suggest that the vestry walls are constructed of bricks, like the footing, and then faced with Portland stone, but unfortunately no opportunity to examine the wall behind the stone face arose.

Phase 5

7.7 Demolition of the buildings surrounding St Margaret's Church (1807-1808)

7.7.1 From at least the middle of the 18th century, the east end of the church had been surrounded with dwellings and shops. Some of the shops to the east and southeast of the church had been demolished by the final decade of the century to widen St Margaret Street to improve access to the old Westminster palace. After the street was widened, the new Ordnance Office was built to the southeast of the church. This only remained standing for a short period and was demolished in 1807-1808 by an act of parliament, which also saw the other buildings crowding the church cleared. Evidence for the clearance of these buildings was seen in Trench B in the form of successive demolition deposits dated to this period.

7.8 Construction of the vestry office (1873-1877)

7.8.1 Sometime between 1873 and 1877 an extension was added to the west side of the vestry. This now houses the vestry office although it is uncertain if this was the intended function at the time of construction. The footing for this extension was exposed in Trench A, where it was sitting directly atop the footing for the earlier vestry, which was demolished in 1778. Here the footing consisted of post great fire bricks bonded with a hard gravel mortar with frequent brick and shell inclusions. While the production period for the relevant brick fabric covered a wide date range (1664-1900), the mortar was more diagnostic and could be dated to the period 1850-1900. This fits well with the suggested construction date of the vestry office between 1873-1877.

7.9 Later works

7.9.1 In Trench L, a brick lined drain had been constructed in the later part of the 19th century. Its position in the corner formed by the south wall of the tower and the west wall of the church suggests that it may have functioned as a rainwater drain to remove discharged rainwater from the roof of the tower and church. In this trench was also seen evidence of a masons' floor, which probably represents the working surface during the construction of the west porch by John Loughborough Pearson between 1892 and 1894. In Trenches D, E and F evidence was seen for the refacing of part of the north aisle wall in 1988.

Phase 6

7.10 Modern landscaping

7.10.1 Evidence for the modern landscape around the church was seen in Trenches D, E and F.

7.11 Conclusion

- 7.11.1 While the scope of the watching brief was somewhat limited and the size of the trenches excavated relatively small, it has still been a very beneficial exercise in terms of furthering our understanding of the development of St Margaret's church and the area immediately surrounding it. It has, for example, been possible to identify the building materials used in the construction of the 15th century church and show how the use of materials have changed over the centuries.
- 7.11.2 The archive arising from the project will be deposited with the Westminster Abbey Museum referenced with the site code MCH15.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

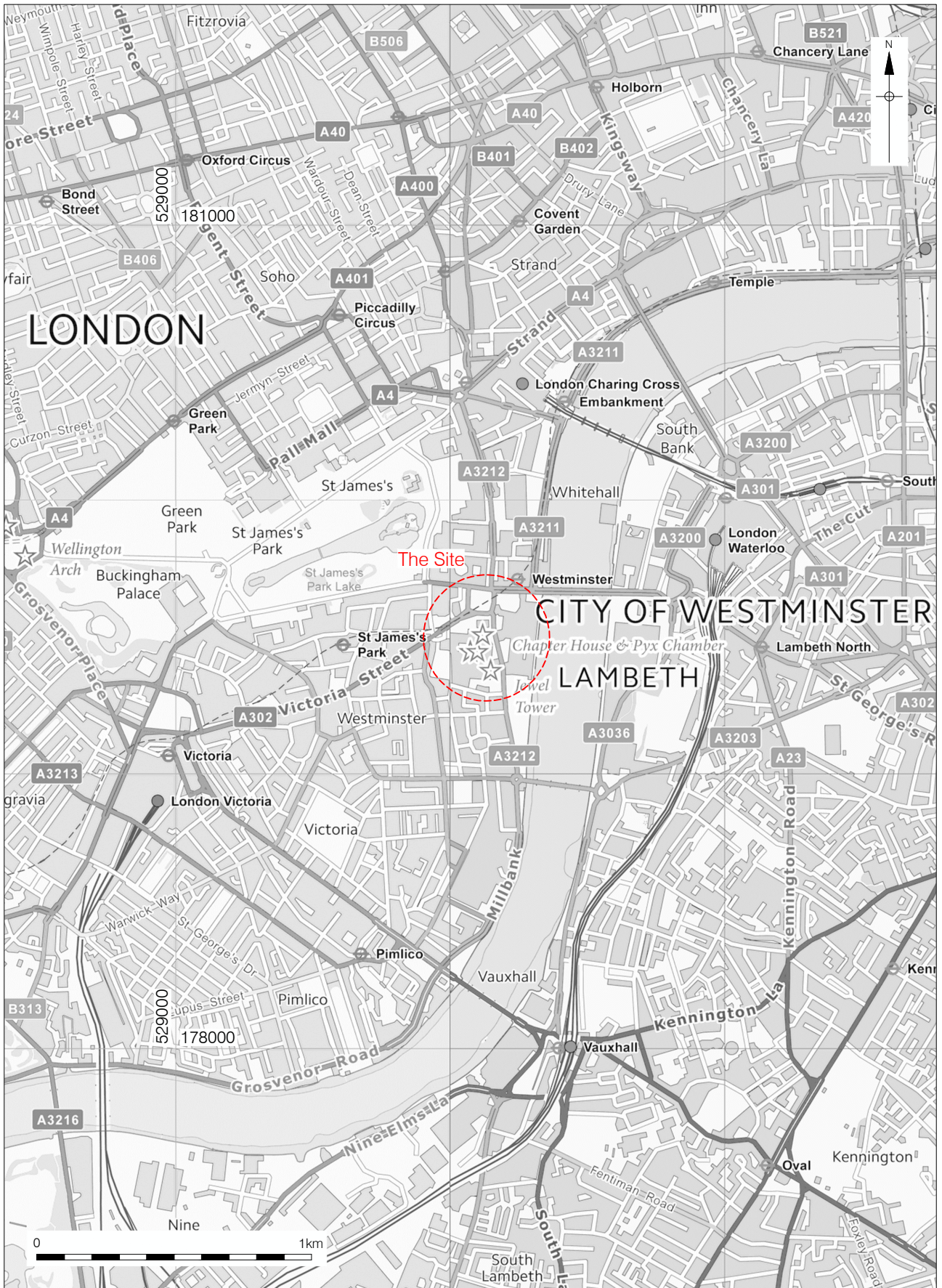
- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Ptolemy Dean Architects for commissioning the project on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey. PCA would also like to thank the staff of Daedalus Conservation, in particular Kevin Oultram, who managed the site and supervised the excavation of the trenches.
- 8.2 The authors would also thank Professor Warwick Rodwell, OBE, for monitoring the project on behalf of Westminster Abbey and Chris Mayo for his project management. Additionally, thanks go out to Kevin Hayward, Chris Jarrett and Märit Gaimster for analysing the finds and producing the specialist reports presented in the appendices of this report and Ray Murphy for producing the illustrations.

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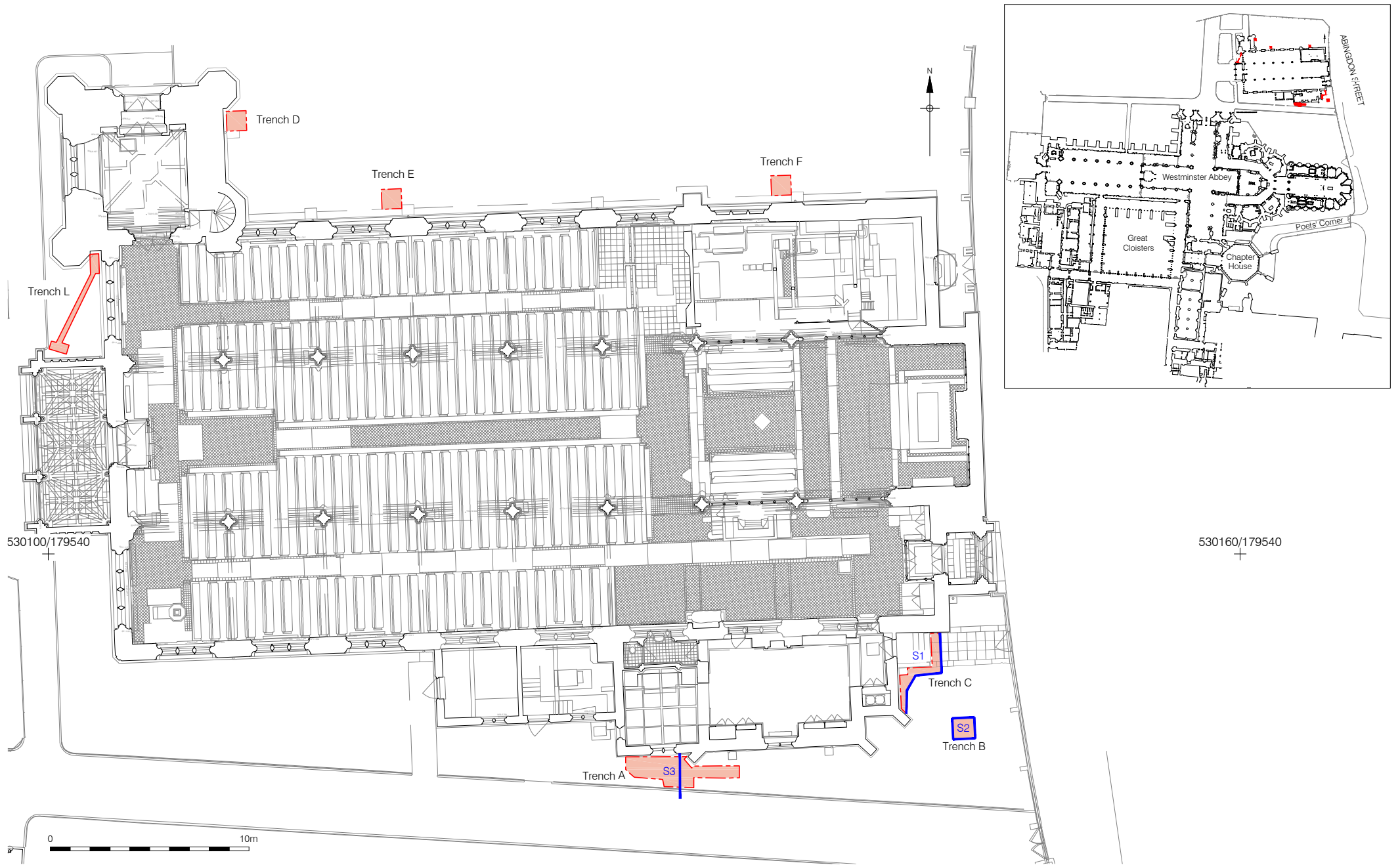


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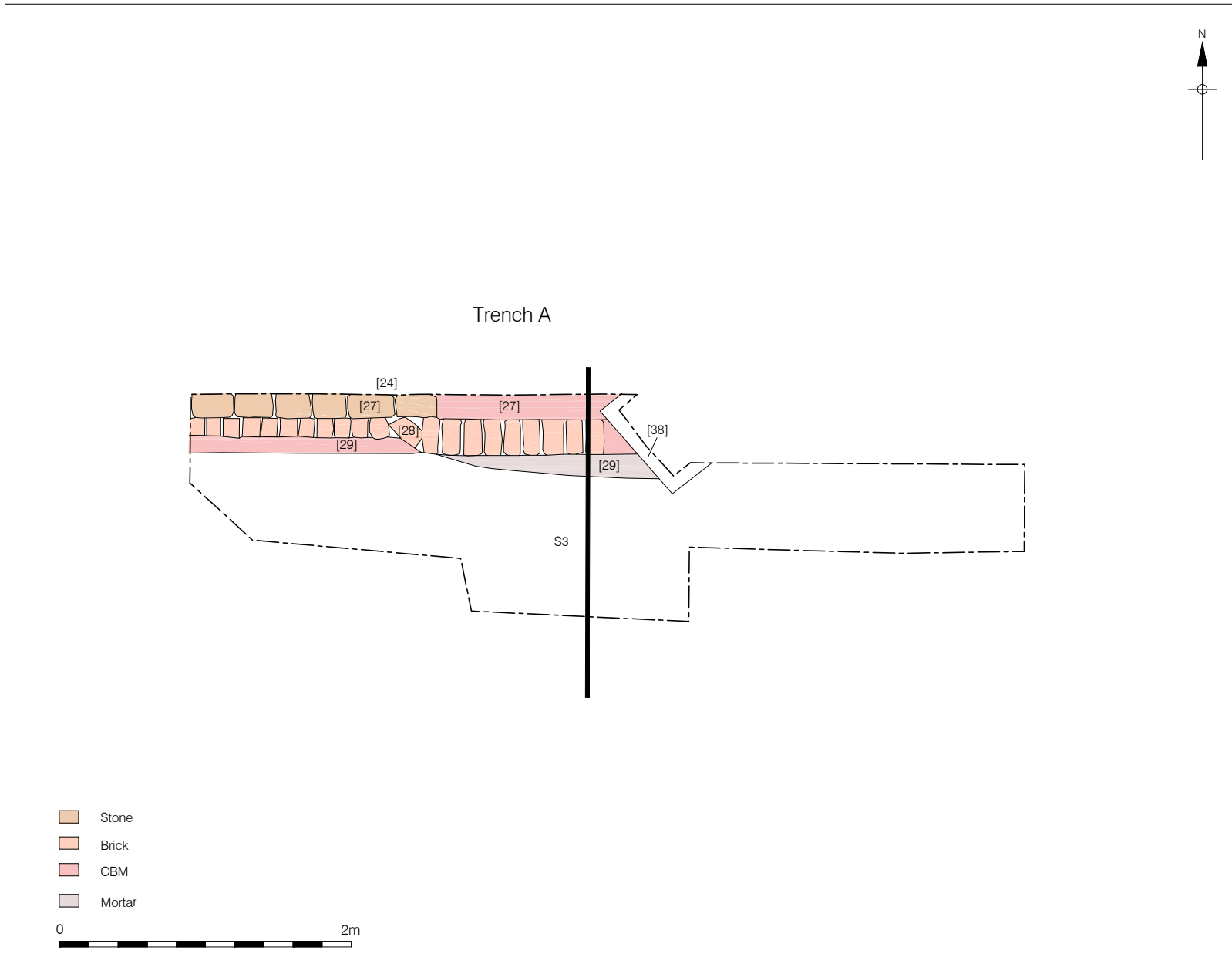
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



Based on survey drawing WMA-GFP-PS supplied by The Downland Partnership, 2015
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 08/11/16 RM

Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:250 at A4



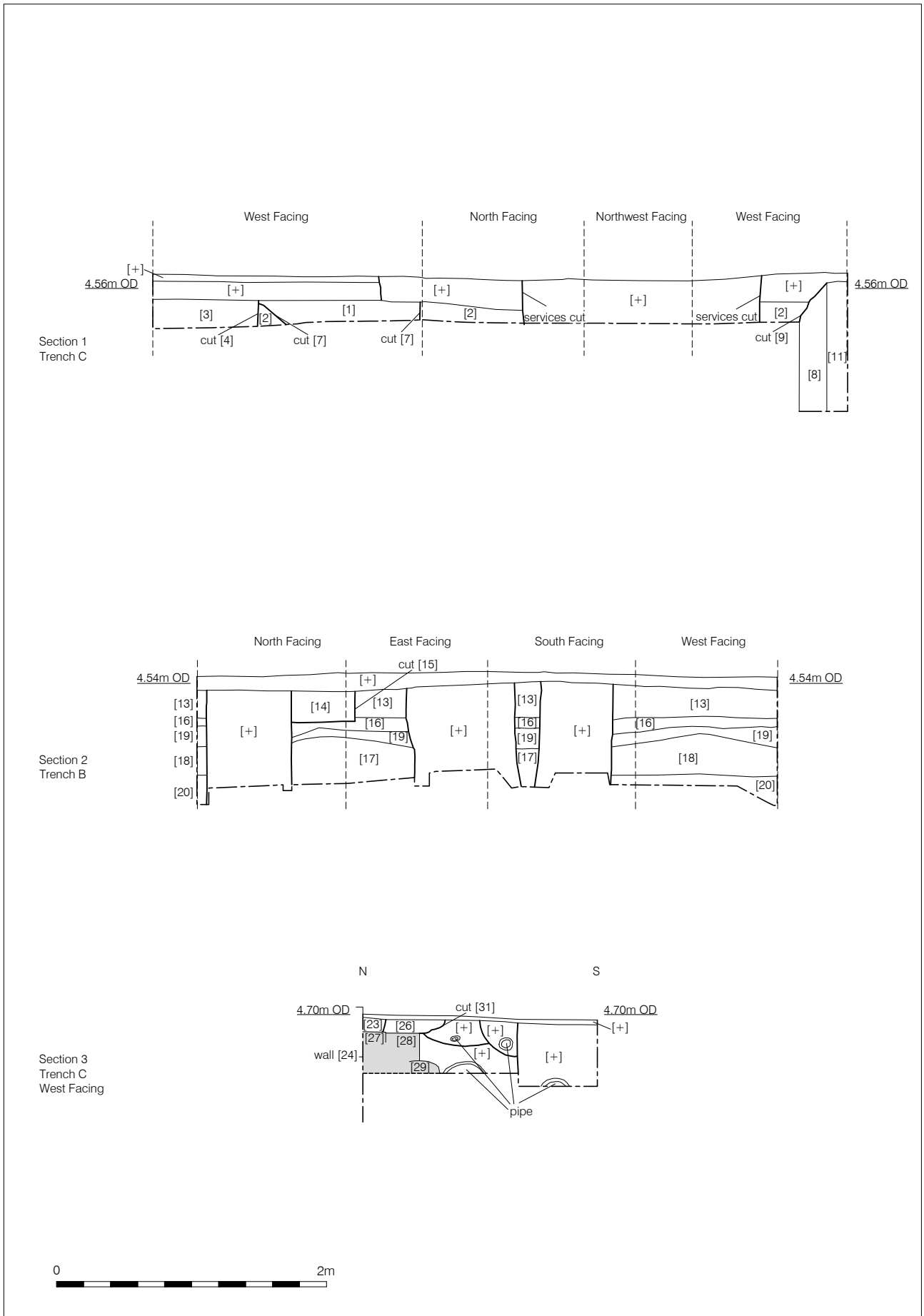
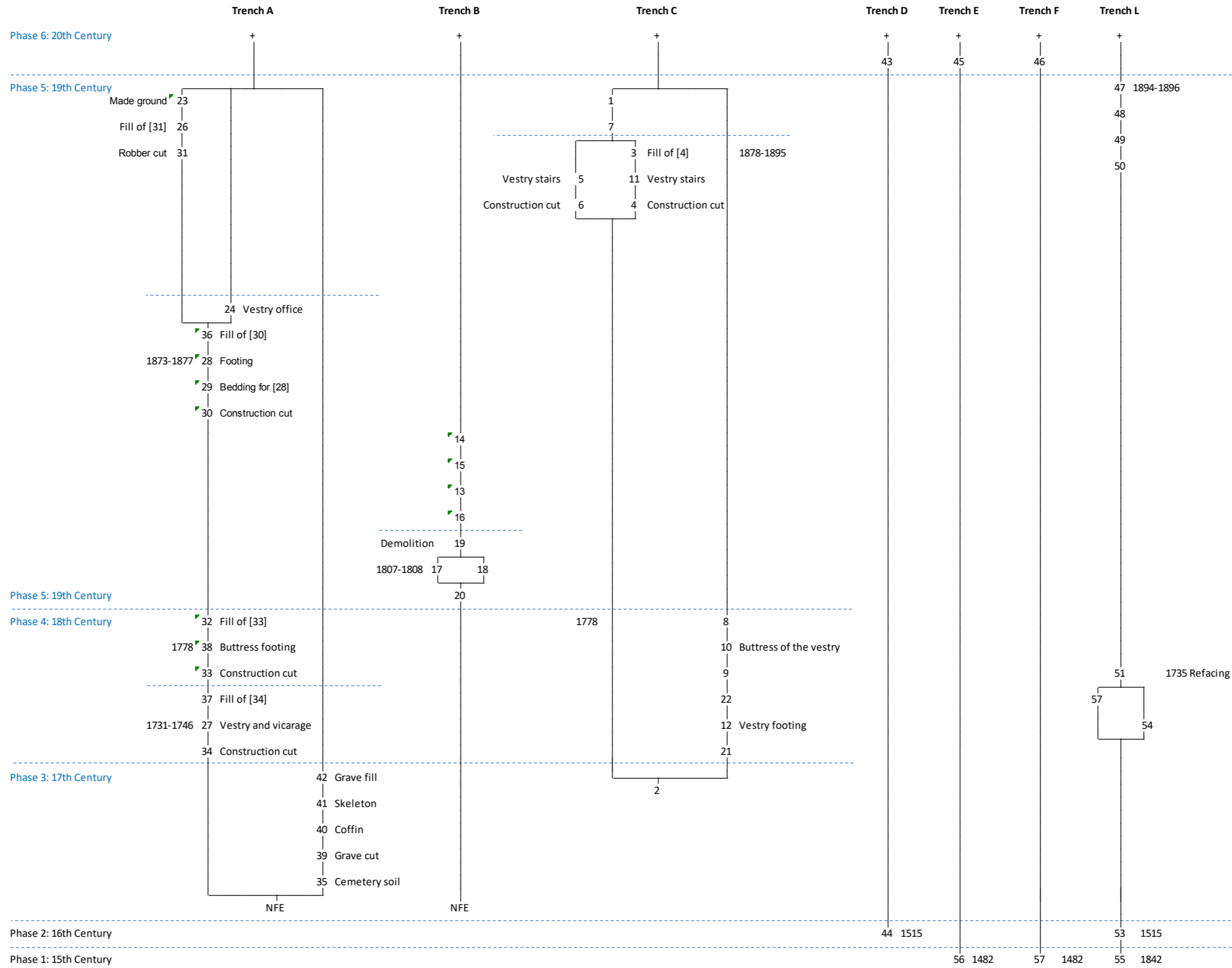


Figure 4
Sections
1:40 at A4

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Grid Square/Trench	Type	Description	Phase	Small Finds	Section
1	TR.C	Fill	Fill of [7]	1		1
2	TR.C	Layer	Made ground	2		1
3	TR.C	Fill	Fill of [4]	2		1
4	TR.C	Cut	Construction cut for [11]	2		1
5	TR.C	Masonry	Eastern stairs acces foundation	2		
6	TR.C	Cut	Construction cut for [5]	2		
7	TR.C	Cut	Cut of pit	2		1
8	TR.C	Fill	Backfill of [9]	2		1
9	TR.C	Cut	Construction cut for [10]	2		1
10	TR.C	Masonry	Brickwork foundation buttress	2		1
11	TR.C	Masonry	Stone foundation	2		
12	TR.C	Masonry	Brickwork foundation wall	1		
13	TR.B	Layer	Made ground	2		2
14	TR.B	Fill	Fill of [15]	2		2
15	TR.B	Cut	Cut of pit	2		2
16	TR.B	Layer	Debris layer	2		2
17	TR.B	Layer	Debris layer	1		2
18	TR.B	Layer	Debris layer	2		2
19	TR.B	Layer	Dump layer	2		2
20	TR.B	Layer	Rubble layer	2		2
21	TR.C	Cut	Construction cut for [12]	1		
22	TR.C	Fill	Backfill of [21]	1		
23	TR.A	Fill	Backfill of [25]	2		3
24	TR.A	Masonry	Refacing of wall	2		3
25	TR.A	Cut	Construction cut for [24]	2		3
26	TR.A	Fill	Fill of [31]	2		3
27	TR.A	Masonry	Stone foundation	1		3
28	TR.A	Masonry	Brickwork foundation	2		3
29	TR.A	Fill	Bedding for [28]	2		3
30	TR.A	Cut	Construction cut for [28]	2		3
31	TR.A	Cut	Demolition cut	2		3
32	TR.A	Fill	Fill of [33]	2		
33	TR.A	Cut	Construction cut for [38]	2		
34	TR.A	Cut	Construction cut for [27]	1		
35	TR.A	Layer	Graveyard ground	1		
36	TR.A	Fill	Backfill of [30]	2	1	3
37	TR.A	Fill	Backfill of [34]	1		
38	TR.A	Masonry	Brickwork foundation buttress	2		
39	TR.A	Cut	Cut of grave	2		
40	TR.A	Coffin	Timber coffin	2		
41	TR.A	Skeleton		2		
42	TR.A	Fill	Fill of grave [39]	2		

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-268461

Project details

Project name	St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, London: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground works for the installation of new drainage pipes around the perimeter of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey A number of phases of archaeological activity were recorded. Generally, these related to the construction of the church and its various extensions from the 15th century to the modern day. Evidence for the churchyard was also seen in the form of a single 17th century burial. With few exceptions the finds recovered during the watching brief were of post-medieval date with only a few residual medieval finds.
Project dates	Start: 30-11-2015 End: 01-09-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MCH15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	World Heritage Site
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	BURIAL Uncertain
Monument type	WALLS Post Medieval
Monument type	SURFACE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	METAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CTP Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER WESTMINSTER St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey
Postcode	SW1P 3PA
Study area	1500 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 30107 79537 51.499279385654 -0.125377003746 51 29 57 N 000 07 31 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Landowner
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Corso Dominici
Project supervisor	Leonardo Penades
Type of sponsor/funding body	Church

Name of sponsor/funding body	The Dean and Chapter, Westminster Abbey
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Westminster Abbey Museum
Physical Archive ID	MCH15
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Westminster Abbey Museum
Digital Archive ID	MCH15
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Westminster Abbey Museum
Paper Archive ID	MCH15
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Section"
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10 APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

By Kevin Wayward, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

10.1 Quantification and Spot-Dating

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
0 Trench A	3110; 3114PM; 2276; 3032nr3065; 3108	Victorian Carrara Marble paving, Portland stone shaft, post medieval peg tile, post great fire brick Large Grave slab in York stone Victorian inscribed <i>Beneath Remains</i>	9	148 0	1900+	1700	1900	1800- 1900+	No mortar
28	3101; 3032	Post great fire brick bonded in a hard shell, brick gravel mortar T1	2	166 4	1900	1664	1900	1750-1900	1850-1900+
29	3101; 3032	Post Great fire brick bonded in a hard shell brick gravel mortar T1	2	166 4	1900	1664	1900	1750-1900	1850-1900+
36	2271; 2276; 2279; 3046	Late medieval to early post medieval peg tile, pan tile and early post great fire brick	7	180	1900	1480	1900	1630- 1800+	No mortar
43	3126	Purbeck limestone cornice mould quite worn	1	150 0	1900	1500	1800	1500- 1800+	No mortar
45	3108; 3261	Drain Pipe Victorian and York stone mouldings shafts Victorian	3	170 0	1950+	185-0	1950+	1850- 1950+	No mortar
47	2276; 2279	Peg tile and pan tile	2	148 0	1900	1480	1900	1630- 1850+	No mortar
49	3101; 3032; 3035	Loose light grey lime mortar with brick and coal fragments T2 attached to narrow post great fire brick and yellow Estuarine	3	166 4	1940	1780	1940	1780-1900	1750-1900
51	2587; 3034R	Medieval peg tile and post great fire brik	2	124 0	1900	1664	1900	1664- 1800+	No mortar

10.2 Review

10.2.1 The small building material assemblage (33 fragments 13.9kg) from St Margaret's Church, Westminster is dominated by late post medieval stone, ceramic building material and mortar types. The coal rich mortar types (1 and 2) associated with post great fire brick structure [28] and brick drain [49] are Victorian. The unstratified stone types from a column shaft in Portland Whit Bed and a white marble paving slab and a York stone grave marker inscribed *BENEATH REMAINS* as well as a curious York stone Gothic replacement shaft [45] are Georgian-

Victorian in date and are associated with the late post medieval development of St Margaret's Church. The earliest example of stone moulding is probably a small worn cornice in Purbeck limestone (note not marble) from [43] this may be early post medieval in date.

10.3 Recommendations

- 10.3.1 The building material assemblage very much reflects the later post medieval structural development of St Margaret's church including the graveyard. The only materials of particular artistic or intrinsic interest are a York grave marker from Trench A unstratified and perhaps the York stone column mould from [45], a curious choice given that it is used mainly as a paving material.. The value of the assemblage mainly lies in its ability to date the Victorian structural development. Apart from the York stone column segments and the Purbeck limestone cornice, All the material should be discarded.

11 APPENDIX 5: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 A total of 28 fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recorded in five contexts. The material consists largely of stems and a mouth part, besides three bowls.

11.2 Quantification and Spot-Dating

Context [16], spot date: ?1770–1780

Latest bowl types: x1 OS12 bowl (1730–1780), marked ?J ? on the heel, x1 AO27 (1770–1845), marked on the heel G B

Context [46], spot date: c. 1730–1910

Latest datable item: stems with fine bores

Context [47], spot date: 18th century

Latest datable item: stems with a medium sized bore

Context [48], spot date: 1730–1910

Latest datable bowl/item: x1 AO22 bowl (probably residual) stems and a nib with fine bores

Context [51], spot date: 1580–1740

Latest datable item: thick stem with fine bores

11.3 Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

11.3.1 The clay tobacco pipes have little significance as the material is often fragmentary and occurs as bowl types commonly found in the London area. The assemblage has little meaning. The G B marked pipe could refer to one of three pipe makers called George Benson working during the late 18th and early 19th century in the City, Lambeth and Pentonville Road. The only potential of the clay tobacco pipes is to date the contexts it was found in. There are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage.

12 APPENDIX 6: GLASS ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

- 12.1 A single fragment of stratified glass was recorded and this was found in context [36]. The item consists of the fire rounded edge of a probable crown window pane made in green-tinted soda based glass and this can only be broadly dated to the post-medieval period. The glass has no significance, it has only the potential to broadly date the context it was found in and there are no recommendations for further work on the item.

13 APPENDIX 7: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

13.1 Introduction

13.1.1 A total of 98 sherds of pottery in a fragmentary state were recovered from eight contexts. The pottery was recovered from eight contexts.

13.2 Quantification and Spot-Dating

Context [3], spot date: 1740–1830

Latest pottery type: creamware

Context [5], spot date: 1740–1830

Latest pottery type: creamware

Context [16/19], spot date: late 19th century

Latest pottery type: refined white ware with chrome decoration and present as plates with late 19th-century dated rim borders

Context [18], spot date: 1740–1830

Latest pottery type: creamware

Context [36], spot date: 1670-1926

Latest pottery type: London stoneware

Context [42], spot date: 1500–1630

Latest pottery type: salt-glazed Siegburg stoneware

Context [47], spot date: 1580–1900

Latest pottery type: London area post-medieval redware

Context [59], spot date: 1550–1700

Latest pottery type: Surrey-Hampshire border whiteware with clear (yellow) glaze.

Residual with 19th-century stoneware drain pipe

13.3 Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

13.3.1 The pottery has little significance as it occurs as pottery types and forms commonly found in the London area and it is present as fragmentary, small groups without much meaning. The only potential of the pottery is to date the contexts it was found in. There are no recommendations for further work on the material.

14 APPENDIX 8: SMALL FIND ASSESSMENT

By Märit Gaimster, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

14.1 Introduction

14.1.1 Fifteen metal and small finds were recovered from the excavations; they are listed in the table below.

14.2 Quantification and Spot-Dating

context	SF	description	pot date	recommendations
0		Iron nails; two incomplete and heavily corroded	n/a	discard
36	1	Oyster shell; punched through twice with circular holes; hole diam. 6 and 9mm respectively	1670-1926	
		Iron nail; incomplete and heavily corroded	1670-1926	discard
42		Copper-alloy coffin pins; six with domed heads; head diam. 15mm	1500-1630	
		Copper-alloy coffin pins; two in-situ in coffin wood	1500-1630	
		Iron strap; incomplete; W 20mm; L 115mm+	1500-1630	x-ray
47	3	Copper-alloy wire with hooked end; gauge 1.8mm; L 77mm+	1580-1900	
51		Iron nail; incomplete and heavily corroded	n/a	discard

14.3 Discussion

14.3.1 Besides a handful of iron nails, the finds notably include copper-alloy coffin pins, with two in-situ in a coffin wood fragment, that would originate from burials at St Margaret's. Consisting of short-shanked nails with domed heads, coffin pins served to fix the cloth that covered the outside of the coffin, a tradition introduced in the 17th century (Janaway 1993, 100). Other, less diagnostic metal finds are presented by a fragment of iron strap, and a copper-alloy wire with hooked end (SF 3). The latter may originate from a mechanical device such as a bell system. Of interest is an oyster shell with two circular punched holes of differing size (SF 1). Oyster shells with round, square or rectangular perforations are known from both Roman and medieval finds contexts, but are rarely included in finds reports. In medieval contexts, they have been discussed as possible pilgrim badges (Foreman 1996, 164 and fig. 83 no. 960; cf. Margeson 1993, 8 and Fig. 2 no. 20; Egan 2001, 107 and Fig. 38 no. 193). However, the position of the perforations rarely supports a suspension as pendant or badge and an alternative interpretation could be that the shells were perforated in order to obtain mother-of-pearl for inlays, including jewellery and furniture. This would explain also perforated shells from Roman contexts, as mother-of-pearl was used for inlays and mosaics during the Roman period (Gaimster forthc.).

14.4 Significance of the finds and recommendations for further work

14.4.1 The metal and small finds from St Margaret's Church, beyond reflecting the presence of burials, are of limited interest, and no further work on this assemblage is recommended. Iron nails have been discarded, and also the other metal objects may be discarded at archive stage. The perforated shell is of some interest, however, as further research into this category

might bring more insight into its use and meaning.

14.5 References

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