

## Archaeological Watching Brief held at St Giles Church, Shipbourne

Stuart Holden, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007

On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief of the digging on a geological test pit positioned external to the church and in the corner to the west of the south transept at the junction with the nave. The test pit was positioned to investigate the foundations of the church to elucidate to the cause of the subsidence of the southwest corner of the south transept whilst the archaeological instruction was emplaced to ascertain the presence or absence of earlier church structures and/or unrecorded crypts/burials.

The church, built in 1880 of Kentish Ragstone, was founded upon a brick foundation with four vertical courses on top of four stepped courses. The brickwork was constructed atop a loose ragstone 'cut and fill' trench foundation at least 0.40m thick. Evidence of cracking running through the west wall of the south transept also continued through the upper courses of brickwork. Originally measuring 1.3m E-W by 0.70m N-S, the test pit was extended to the south to be 1.20m in order to investigate the drainage from the down pipe positioned in the centre of the wall. This appeared to lead into a concrete encased drain running towards the west.

During the course of the excavations, occasional fragments of Kent Peg Tile and of post-medieval brick together with a single piece of clay tobacco pipe stem were observed. Two fragments of bone, possibly a human clavicle and a fragment of a long bone were also observed and re-interred during backfilling.



# OASIS Report Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-29513

## Project details

Project name	St Giles Church, Shipbourne
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the digging of a geotechnical test pit to investigate subsidence of the south transept as part of repairs to the church. No significant archaeological remains were observed.
Project dates	Start: 31-07-2007 End: 31-07-2007
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KSGS 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING HILDENBOROUGH St Giles Church, Shipbourne
Postcode	TN11
Study area	1.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 5910 5210 51 14 43 N 000 16 47 E

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Cameron Taylor
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Stuart Holden
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architectural Practice
Name of sponsor/funding body	Thomas Ford & Partners

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	St Giles Church, Shipbourne
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	St Giles Church, Shipbourne
Paper Media available	'Plan', 'Unpublished Text'

Entered by	Stuart Holden (sholden@pre-construct.com)
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