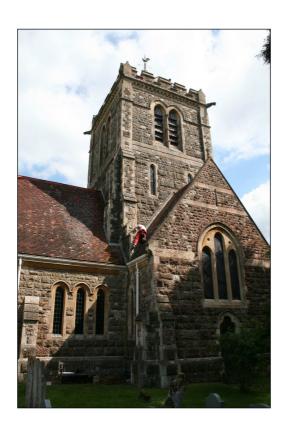
## Archaeological Watching Brief held at St Giles Church, Shipbourne

Stuart Holden, 1st 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.

Start: 31-07-2007 End: 31-07-2007 Project dates

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 TQ 5910 5210 Site coordinates

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** 

body

Name of sponsor/funding Thomas Ford & Partners

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient St Giles Church, Shipbourne

'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text' Digital Media available

Paper Archive recipient St Giles Church, Shipbourne Paper Media available 'Plan', 'Unpublished Text'

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

Entered on 1 August 2007