

**Archaeological Watching Brief at the Church of St Peter and St Paul,
Swanscombe Street, Swanscombe, Kent.**

Site Code: KSPP 08

**Written and researched by Guy Seddon
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, January 2009**

Project Manager: Tim Bradley

**Commissioning Client: Thomas Ford & Partners on behalf of The
Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul Church, Swanscombe**

Contractor :

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Park
96, Endwell Road
Brockley
London, SE4 2PD**

Tel. 0207 732 3925

Fax 0207 732 7896

E-mail: tbradley@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
January 2009**

The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

1	Abstract	3
2	Introduction	4
3	Planning Background	7
4	Geology and Topography	8
5	Archaeological and Historical Background	9
6	Archaeological Methodology	11
7	The Archaeological Sequence	12
8	Phase Sequence	15
9	Conclusions	21
10	Acknowledgements	22
11	Bibliography	23

Appendices:

1	Context Descriptions	24
2	OASIS form	25

Illustrations:

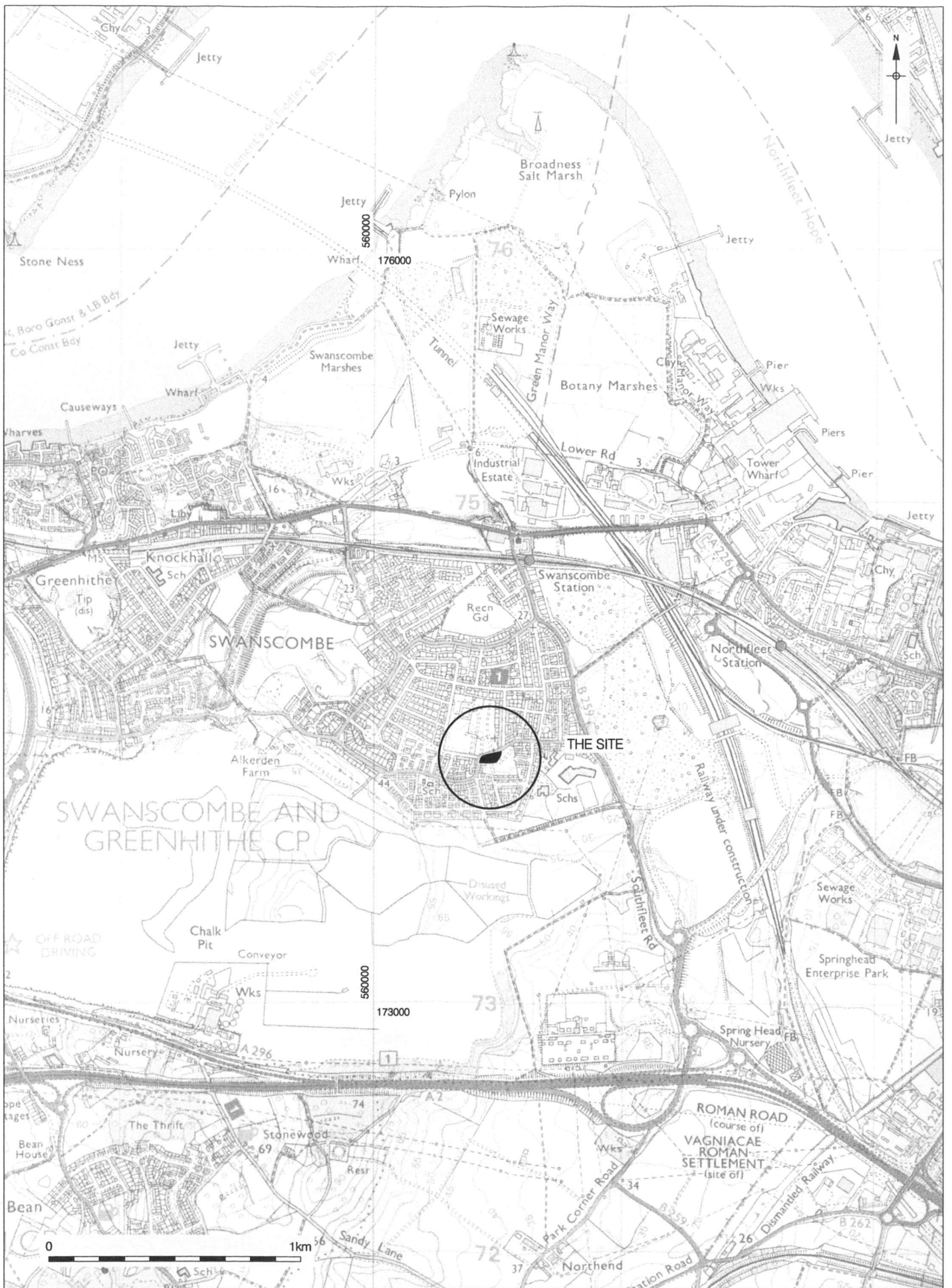
Figure 1	Site Location	5
Figure 2	Trench Location	6
Figure 3	Trench B – Phase 2	16
Figure 4	Trench C – Phase a	17
Figure 5	Trench A – Phase 3	18
Figure 6	Trench B – Phase 3	19
Figure 7	Trench C – Phase 3	20

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd within the graveyard of the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Swanscombe Street, Swanscombe, Kent (Fig 1). The central National Grid Reference for this site is TQ 604 739. The fieldwork was undertaken between 9th September – 11th November 2008. The commissioning client was Thomas Ford & Partners on behalf of The Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul Church, Swanscombe.
- 1.2 The archaeological programme consisted of careful excavation of the footprint of proposed soak-aways and drainage channels, locating, cleaning, recording and lifting, with respect and care, any inhumations revealed. After the completion of the soak-aways the burials were re-interred with due ceremony.
- 1.3 The earliest deposit encountered during the excavation was natural brickearth, which was consistent with the underlying geology of the area. A total of 50 inhumations were excavated and recorded, with charnel from another 20+ bodies. The majority of the burials appeared to date to the late post-medieval period with 3 probable medieval burials. The remains of a possible late-Saxon baby were also discovered buried at the base of the tower church tower. The graves reached a depth of between 1m and 2.10m beneath the ground surface of the graveyard. Many of the graves encountered were inter-cutting and one contained a 3 deep, stacked burial. No other archaeologically important features were located in the study area.
- 1.4 Due to the nature of the excavation, (on Church land), the bodies were safely stored on site and re-interred as soon as the work was concluded. For that reason no further assessment was carried out on the skeletons other than examination at the time of the disinterment. The assemblage consisted of 5 infants and 45 adults from within the soak-aways and the remains of another infant, located at the base of the northern side of the church tower.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between 9th September – 11th November 2008, as part of the restoration of the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Swanscombe Street, Swanscombe, Kent (Fig 1). The study site covered the area of three soak-aways, drainage channels around the perimeter of the church and pipe trenches linking these together (Fig 2).
- 2.2 The drainage around the church had to be rectified as efforts in the past had resulted in excessive moisture being locked into the fabric of the church itself, resulting in serious degeneration of the church walls. Running alongside the drainage works, teams were also repairing and restoring the tower, re-plastering the interior of the church and laying under-floor heating to keep the damp out. As these works did not impact on the archaeological integrity of the church or its grounds and no monitoring of these aspects of the restoration project were required.
- 2.3 The commissioning client was Thomas Ford & Partners on behalf of The Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul Church, Swanscombe. The archaeological investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of Guy Seddon and the project management of Tim Bradley.
- 2.4 The site was allocated the site code KSPP 08.



© Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. License number 36110309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2009

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

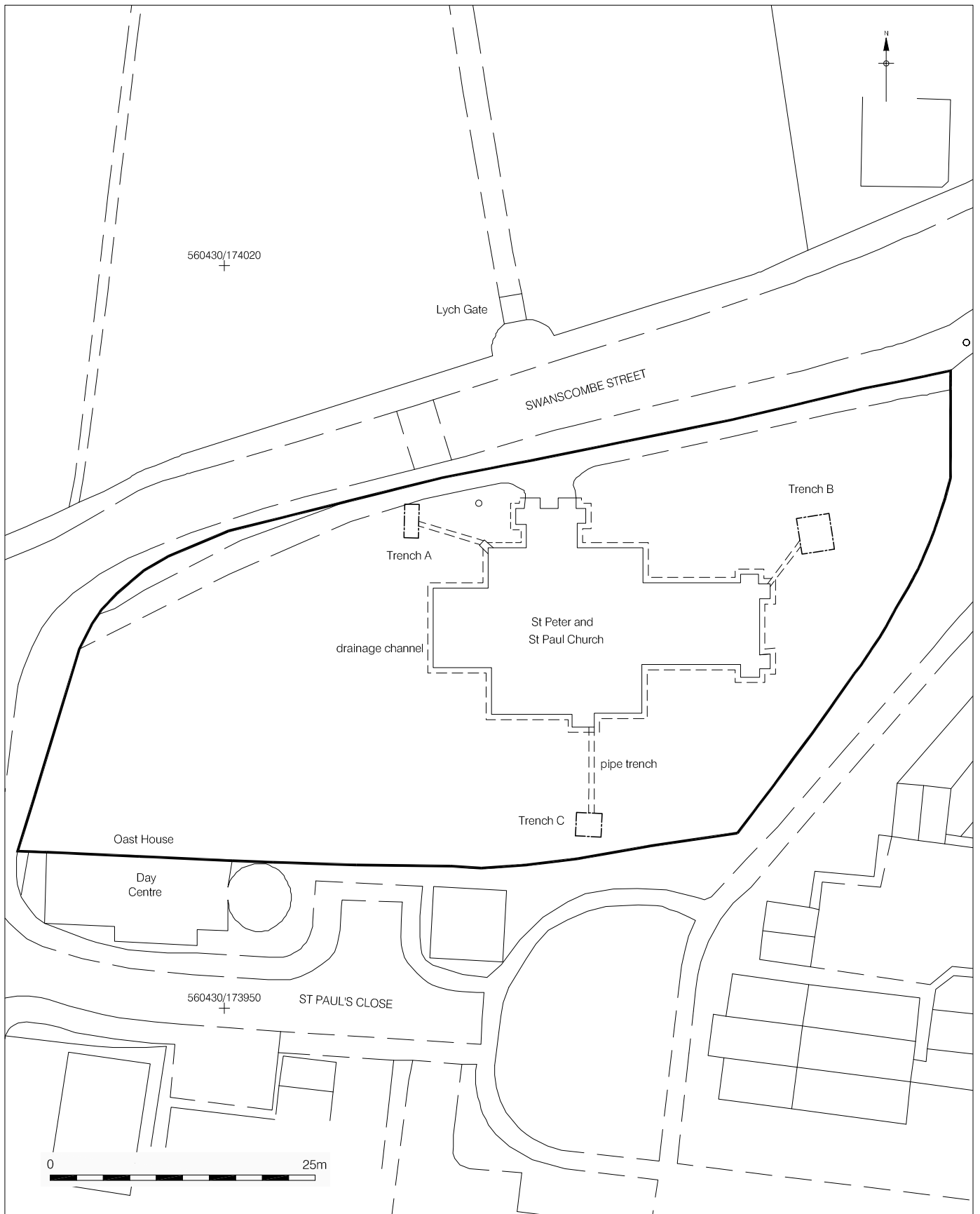


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The work carried out at the Church of St Peter and St Paul complied to the Rochester Diocesan Advisory Committee Certificate, signed on the 13th March 2008 and the Faculty issued by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Rochester, signed on the 30th March 2008.

3.2 The scheme of investigation also followed the parameters and methodologies set out in:

- Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists 2004, "Guidance Note 1: Archaeological requirements for works on churches and churchyards".
- Church of England / English Heritage, 2005, "Guidance For Best Practice For Treatment Of Human Remains Excavated From Christian Burial Ground In England"
- Rochester Diocesan Advisory Committee Certificate: 13th March 2008
- English Heritage, 1990, "Management of Archaeological Projects"
- English Heritage (GLAAS), revised June 1998, Archaeological Guidance Papers:
 - "3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork In London",
 - "4: Archaeological Reports",
 - "5: Watching Briefs"
- Institute of Field Archaeologists, revised 2001, "Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs".

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The underlying geology of the site is a clay-silt brickearth deposit overlying Seaford Chalk.

- 4.2 The ground level on site is approximately 40m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 PALAEOLITHIC

5.1.1 The earliest archaeological deposits found in the vicinity of Swanscombe are Clactonian artefacts dating to the Hoxnian Period, 300,000-200,000 yrs BP. Clactonian tools were made by *Homo erectus*, with whom modern humans share a common ancestry, but no direct evolutionary link, and thousands of their stone tools, including axes, have been found in the oldest deposits at Barnfield Pit, Craylands Lane, Swanscombe.

5.1.2 Three substantial and perfectly matching pieces of a 300,000 year old Swanscombe Skull were also found at Barnfield Pit in the 1930s and 1950s. Evidence suggests that Swanscombe Man, actually a woman in her early twenties, represents a slightly primitive form of modern man (*Homo sapiens*).

5.2 BRONZE AND IRON AGE

5.2.1 Iron Age field systems and enclosures were discovered during archaeological fieldwork associated with the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). It is also hypothesized that the confluence of the Thames and Ebbsfleet may have been a focus of Bronze Age ritual activity, while the marshland environment of the floodplain may have been exploited for wildfowling and summer pasture.

5.3 ROMAN

5.3.1 Excavations by Canterbury Archaeological Trust at Swanscombe Thameside Community School, about 300m to the east of the study site, revealed a ditch, a wall and a segment of road dated to the Roman period.

5.3.2 Situated at the source of the River Ebbsfleet (a springline at the head of the Ebbsfleet Valley) is the small Roman town and probable religious center "Vagniacis", on the line of Watling Street (the Roman Road from London to Canterbury and Dover). Recent archaeological excavations associated with the Channel Tunnel Rail Link also uncovered a series of Roman buildings further up the Ebbsfleet Valley, to the north of "Vagniacis" and to the south of the study site. The Ebbsfleet Valley therefore seems to have been a centre of activity in the Roman period.

5.4 SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

5.4.1 In the Domesday Book, Swanscombe is referred to as Suinescamp and at later dates Sweinscamp and Swanscamp, the name deriving from the Viking king Sweyn

Forkbeard, the father of Cnut, who became King of England in 1013, and supposedly burnt an earlier church on the site to the ground.

- 5.4.2 Archaeological work associated with the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and the Ebbsfleet “Springhead Quarter” development has identified an extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery and a Horizontal watermill at the southern end of the Ebbsfleet valley. The place names Ebbsfleet, Northfleet and Swanscombe all have Anglo Saxon elements.
- 5.4.3 The Church of St Peter and St Paul is a Domesday church. The south wall of the tower is the only remaining part of the original Saxon church, being built around 1050 AD, with the rest of the church dating to rebuilds in the 12th and 13th centuries.
- 5.4.4 After the Norman Conquest King William gave Swanscombe Manor to his half brother Bishop Odo. The Bishop took great interest in the church and presented it with a finger bone of Saint Hildefrith, the Bishop of Meux, who died in 680. The relic was thought to be endowed with miraculous qualities to ease suffering from melancholia. The shrine at the church therefore became a popular pilgrimage site on the way to Canterbury.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The methodology for the excavation of the site was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief prepared by Tim Bradley of Pre-Construct Archaeology¹. The principle aim of the excavation was to record all the burials within the footprint of the new drainage system and respectfully remove all skeletal remains that were under threat. The remains would then be put into secure storage until reburial.
- 6.2 The upper layers in the areas of the proposed soak-aways consisted of turf over a much dug and homogenised soil containing charnel, which measured approximately 1m thick. This soil was carefully excavated with a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket in spits of between 150mm and 200mm, under the supervision of an archaeologist, until the highest burial horizon was encountered.
- 6.3 Archaeologists then cleaned this horizon using hand tools to define the burials and any other features found at this level. The locations of all features, grave cuts, inhumations and limits of the excavation (LOE) were then surveyed.
- 6.4 The existing drainage runs around the perimeter of the church were removed by machine and pneumatic hammer drill. These were then dug to depth by hand for the installation of the new drainage.
- 6.5 All deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches. Skeletal remains were placed into safe storage whilst other finds (such as coffin furniture) were collected according to standard retrieval methods.

¹ Bradley 2008

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Trench A

7.1.1 Trench A was located to the northwest of the church and measured 3.16m north-south by 1.36m east-west. The earliest deposit seen was natural brickearth, [67], at a depth of 1.46m from the surface.

7.1.2 The remains of 20 burials were located within the trench:

Context No	Length	Width	Depth	Type	Truncated
35	>1.14m	0.38m	1.04m	Adult	Yes
36	>1.09m	0.39m	1.10m	Adult	Yes
37	>0.32m	0.09m	1.03m	Adult	Yes
38	0.23m	0.10m	1.10m	Adult	Yes
39	>0.79m	0.29m	1.12m	Adult	Yes
40	>1.18m	0.24m	1.15m	Adult	Yes
41	>1.01m	0.48m	1.27m	Adult	Yes
42	>0.48m	0.31m	1.20m	Adult	Yes
43	>0.99m	0.22m	1.46m	Adult	Yes
44	>1.29m	0.46m	1.46m	Adult	Yes
45	>0.56m	0.28m	1.52m	Adult	No
46	0.98m	0.32m	1.55m	Adult	Yes
47	>0.97m	0.32m	1.62m	Adult	No
48	0.75m	0.22m	1.71m	Adult	Yes
49	>0.44m	0.31m	1.70m	Adult	Yes
50	>1.10m	>0.38m	1.85m	Adult	No
51	>1.04m	0.37m	1.70m	Adult	No
52	>0.40m	0.20m	1.63m	Adult	Yes
53	>0.69m	0.22m	1.46m	Adult	Yes
54	>0.37	>0.23m	1.48m	Child	Yes

7.1.3 All burials were aligned east-west with the heads towards the western end of the graves.

7.1.4 Burials [35], [36] and [41] were stacked on top of each other, possibly indicating a family burial plot.

7.2 Trench B

7.2.1 Trench B was located to the northeast of the church and measured 3.40m north-south by 3.10m east-west. The earliest deposit seen was natural brickearth, [69], at a depth of 1.35m from the surface.

7.2.2 The remains of 22 skeletons were recorded in the trench:

Context No	Length	Width	Depth	Type	Truncated
7	0.85m	0.38m	1.02m	Adult	Yes
8	0.66m	0.37m	1.05m	Adult	Yes
9	1.70m	0.23m	1.10m	Adult	No
10	1.33m	0.27m	1.16m	Adult	Yes
11	1.61m	0.34m	1.15m	Adult	No
12	1.50m	0.35m	1.16m	Adult	Yes
13	>0.65m	>0.29m	1.17m	Adult	No
14	0.39m	0.33m	1.17m	Adult	Yes
15	0.34m	0.35m	1.23m	Adult	Yes
16	>0.36m	0.27m	1.25m	Adult	Yes
17	0.25m	0.06m	1.26m	Adult	Yes
18	0.37m	0.10m	1.27m	Adult	Yes
19	0.49m	0.17m	1.27m	Adult	Yes
24	1.26m	0.28m	1.50m	Adult	Yes
26	1.41m	0.27m	1.20m	Adult	Yes
28	1.54	0.44m	1.30m	Adult	No
30	>0.45m	0.36m	1.35m	Adult	No
31	>0.31m	0.39m	2.10m	Adult	No
32	>0.24m	0.30m	1.40m	Adult	Yes
33	>1.11m	>0.28m	1.56m	Adult	No
34	0.30m	0.22m	1.72m	Child	Yes
55	>0.34m	0.17m	1.72m	Child	No

7.2.2 All the burials were on an east-west alignment with their heads at the western end of the graves with the exception of child burial [34], which had its head at the eastern end of the grave cut.

7.2.3 Burial [24] was within an anthropomorphic grave cut, [74], a cut that incorporates a head niche.

7.2.4 Burial [11] was within a coffin, [22], which displayed the remains of ornate plating.

7.2.5 A possible love token was recorded with burial [33].

7.2.6 Burial [30] was stacked directly on top of burial [32], possibly signifying a family burial plot.

7.3 Trench C

7.3.1 Trench C was located to the south of the Church. It measured 2.22m north-south by 2.41m east-west. The earliest deposit seen was natural brickearth at a depth of 1.27m from the surface.

7.3.2 The remains of 6 burials were observed in the trench:

Context No	Length	Width	Depth	Type	Truncated
20	1.51m	>0.30m	1.13m	Adult	No
21	>0.85m	0.36m	1.17	Adult	No
23	0.67m	0.24m	1.25m	Child	No
25	>0.75m	0.30m	1.27m	Adult	No
27	>0.62m	0.41m	1.80m	Adult	No
29	>1.07m	0.35m	1.80m	Adult	No

7.3.3 All the graves were laid out on an east-west alignment with the heads positioned to the west.

7.3.4 Burial [21] was within an anthropomorphic grave cut, [75].

7.4 The Drainage Channels

7.4.1 The fact that the drainage channels did not reach significant depth would indicate that any of the bones removed would have been charnel, however, due to the size of the drainage channels being severely restricted, (c. 0.5m wide), there was little scope to investigate whether the bones recovered were charnel or from burials.

7.4.2 The partial remains of an infant burial were recovered from the drainage channel to the north of the church tower.

8 Phase Sequence

8.1 Phase 1: Natural

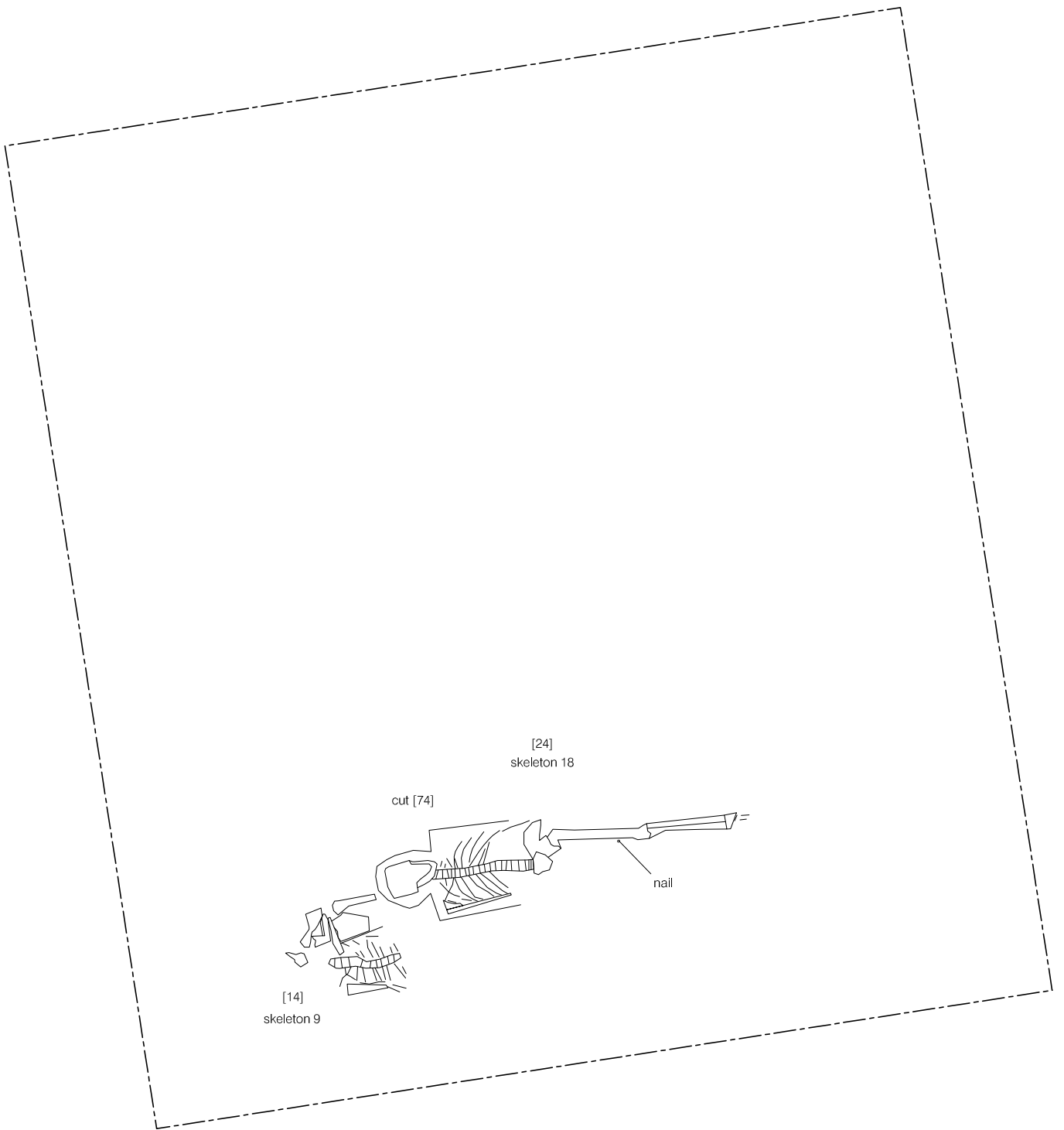
- 8.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the excavation was natural brickearth, which was consistent with the underlying geology of the area.

8.2 Phase 2: Medieval

- 8.2.1 Three burials, [14], [21] and [24] have been tentatively phased to the medieval period as [21] and [24] appeared to be within anthropomorphic graves, which are indicative of medieval burial practices. Burial [14] was cut by burial [24] and was therefore of an earlier date.

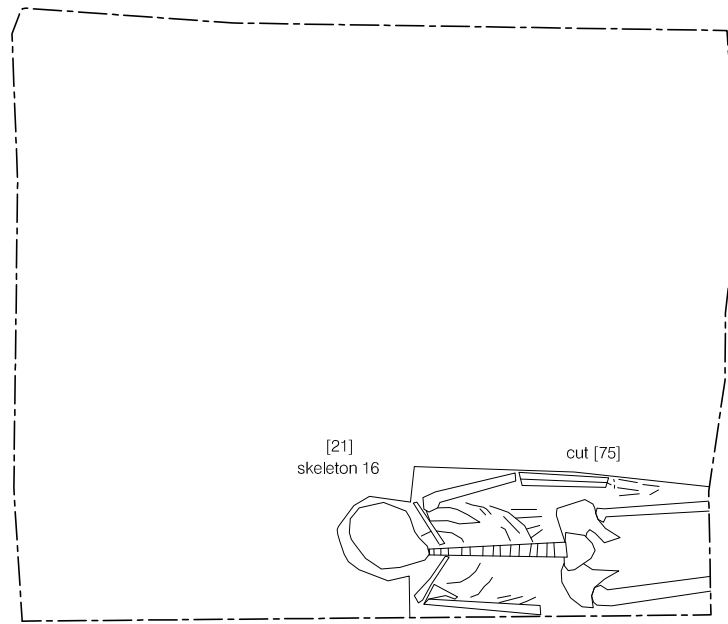
8.3 Phase 3: Post-Medieval

- 8.3.1 Forty-six of the burials have been phased to the post-medieval period. It is possible that a number of these may actually belong to the medieval phase though due to lack of any dating evidence to corroborate this they have been placed in the post-medieval phase.



© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2009

Figure 3
Trench B - Phase 2
1:20 at A4



© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2009

Figure 4
Trench C - Phase 2
1:20 at A4

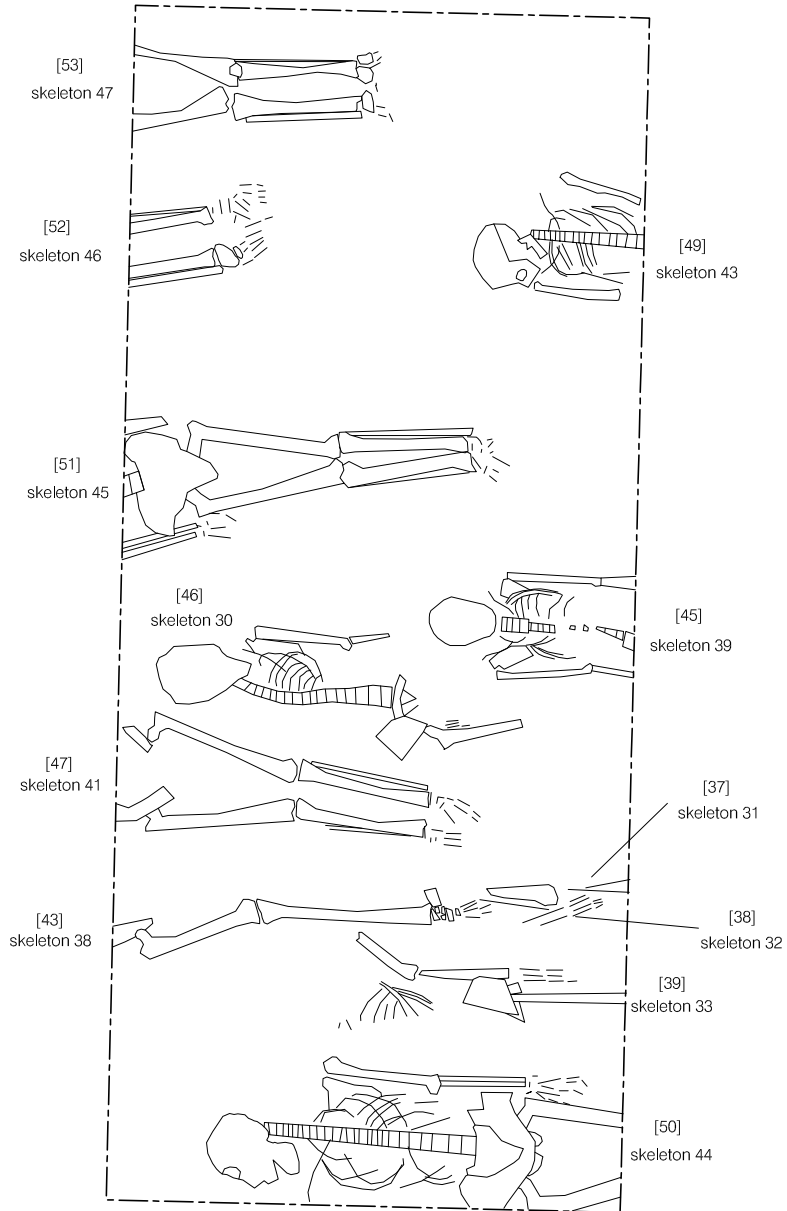
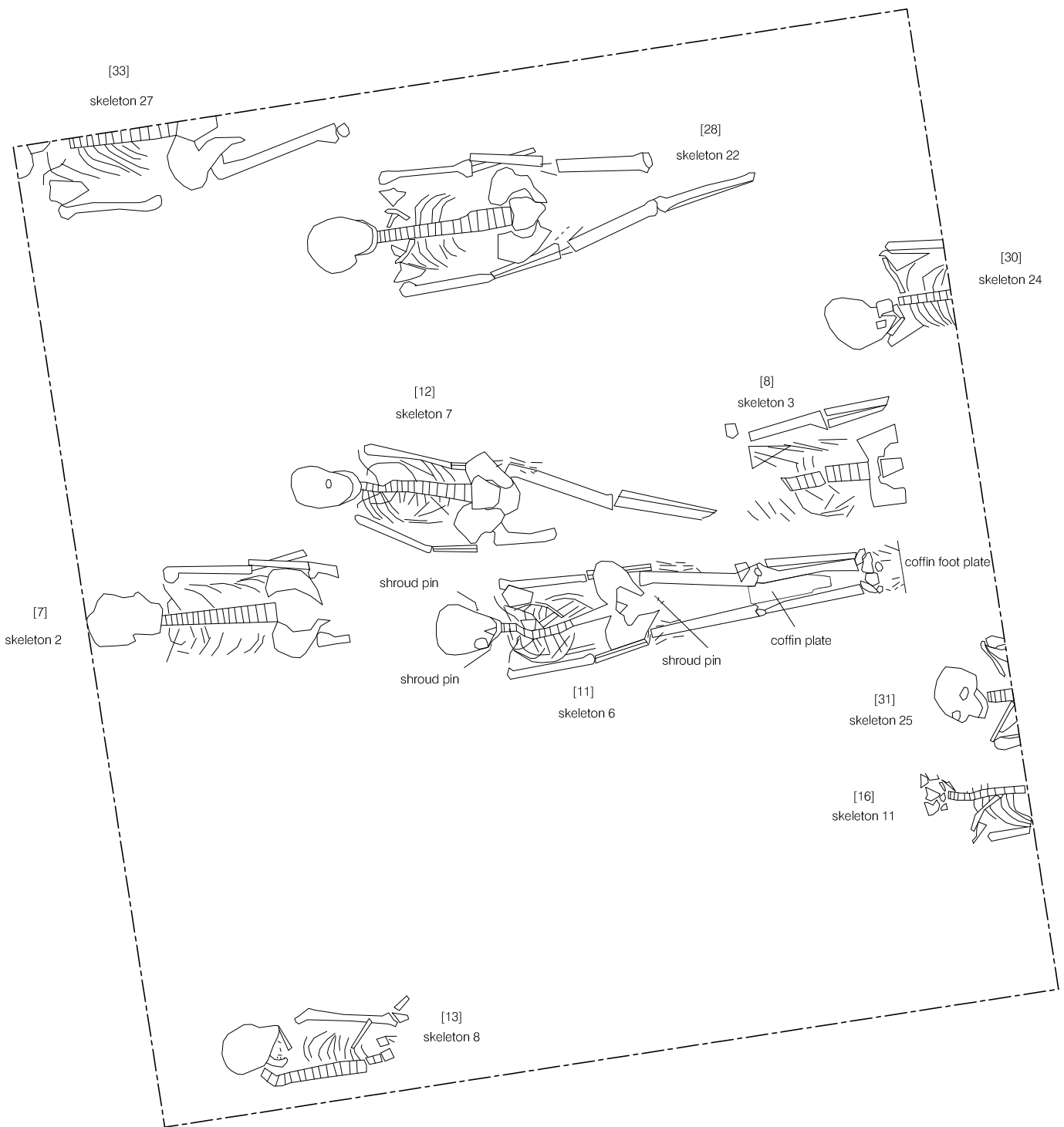
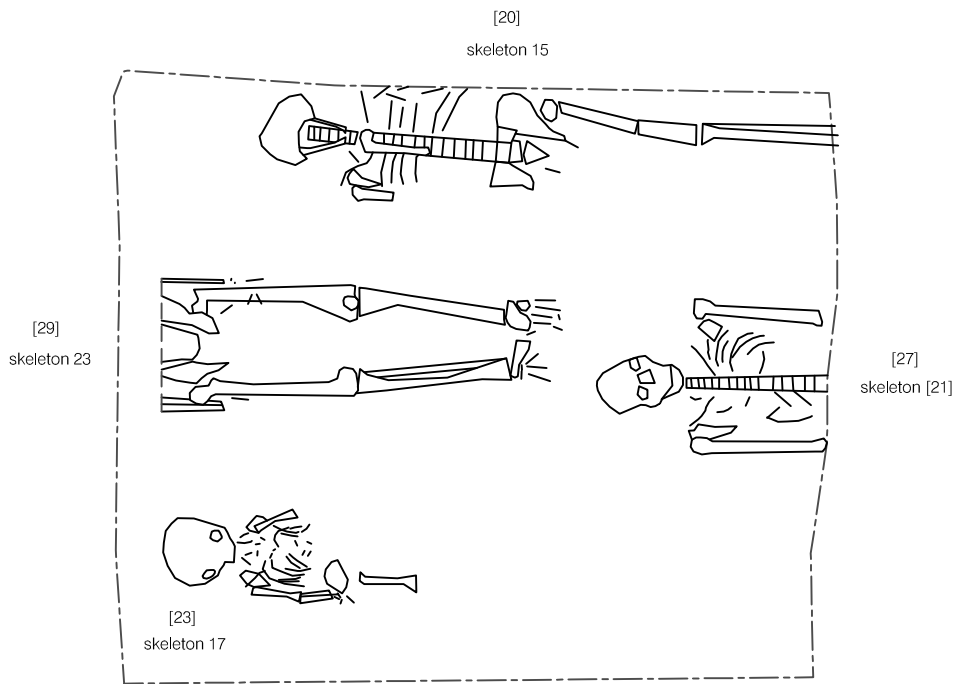


Figure 5
Trench A - Phase 3
1:20 at A4



© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2009

Figure 6
Trench B - Phase 3
1:20 at A4



© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2009

Figure 7
Trench C - Phase 3
1:20 at A4

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 Documentary evidence states that The Church of St Peter and St Paul, Swanscombe was in use since before the Norman Conquest. The infant burial from the drainage channel north of the church tower was indicative of Late Saxon practice. Un-baptised children were sometimes buried against the church walls and it is thought that the Saxons believed that when rain fell on the church roof it would turn into Holy Water, then run off and baptise the infants in the ground². Such a practice would certainly explain the location of the infant burial in the vicinity of the church tower, although this interpretation remains tentative.
- 9.2 The anthropomorphic type of grave, as identified in burial [21] in Trench C and [24] in Trench B, is known to exist after the Norman Conquest, with the earliest group recorded in Battle Abby chapter house, dated 1080-1200, whilst no cemeteries that entirely post-date the mid 14th century have provided any examples at all. It is thought that this type of grave shape may have conveyed a holy, sanctified quality to the body³. Again, this form as recorded in two individuals at The Church of St Peter and St Paul, has allowed a tentative medieval date to be assigned to these burial, along with an earlier burial [14], which was truncated by, and therefore earlier than, burial [24].
- 9.3 The fact that 50 burials were exhumed from three small trenches indicates how densely the burials lie within the graveyard. However, given the extended history of the church, providing the only burial ground in Swanscombe from the 11th century until the cemetery opened in 1885, this density of burial activity is not unusual.

² Gilchrist and Sloane 2005

10 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Rena Pitsilli Graham of Thomas Ford and Partners for commissioning the work on behalf of The Church of St Peter and St Paul. The author would like to thank The Reverend David Scott for his help and hospitality, Josephine Brown for the illustrations, Tim Bradley for project management and editing and the crews of Groundwise Ltd and CWO Ltd for their assistance on site.

³ Ibid

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brickley, M. & McKinley, J. (eds) 2004 *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* IFA Paper No. 7

Gilchrist, R. & Sloane, B. 2005 *Requiem The Medieval Monastic Cemetery in Britain*. Museum of London Archaeology Service

Bradley, T. 2008 *Written Scheme of investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at The Church of St Peter and St Paul, Swanscombe, Kent*. PCA Unpublished Report

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase	Photos No.
KSPPO8	1	*	*	Layer	Topsoil	29/08/2008		*
KSPPO8	2	*	*	Layer	Burial Soil	29/08/2008		*
KSPPO8	3	TP1	*	Burial	Skull, sk 1	29/08/2008		Film 1, shot 5
KSPPO8	4	*	*		Void	*		*
KSPPO8	5	6	*	Fill	Fill of Pit [6]	16/09/2008		Film 1, shots 8, 12, 13 & 14
KSPPO8	6	6	*	Cut	Cut of Charnal Pit	16/09/2008		Film 1, shots 8, 12, 13 & 14
KSPPO8	7	7	*	Burial	Sk 2	22/09/2008		Film 1, shot 15
KSPPO8	8	8	*	Burial	Sk 3	23/09/2008		Film 1, shot 16
KSPPO8	9	9	*	Burial	Sk 4	23/09/2008		Film 1, shot 17
KSPPO8	10	10	*	Burial	Sk 5	24/09/2008		Film 1, shot 18
KSPPO8	11	11	*	Burial	Sk 6	25/09/2008		Film 1, shots 19, 20, 21 & 22
KSPPO8	12	12	*	Burial	Sk 7	25/09/2008		Film 1, shots 19, 21 & 23
KSPPO8	13	13	*	Burial	Sk 8	29/09/2008		Film 1, shot 24
KSPPO8	14	13	*	Burial	Sk 9	29/09/2008		Film 1, shot 24
KSPPO8	15	15	*	Burial	Sk 10	30/09/2008		Film 1, shot 25
KSPPO8	16	16	*	Burial	Sk 11	01/10/2008		Film 1, shot 26
KSPPO8	17	17	*	Burial	Sk 12	02/10/2008		Film 1, shot 27
KSPPO8	18	17	*	Burial	Sk 13	02/10/2008		Film 1, shot 27
KSPPO8	19	17	*	Burial	Sk 14	02/10/2008		Film 1, shot 27
KSPPO8	20	20	*	Burial	Sk 15	02/10/2008		Film 1, shot 28
KSPPO8	21	20	*	Burial	Sk 16	02/10/2008		Film 1, shot 29
KSPPO8	22	11	*	Coffin	Coffin for Sk 6, (11)	03/10/2008		Film 1, shot 30
KSPPO8	23	23	*	Burial	Sk 17	03/10/2008		Film 1, shot 31
KSPPO8	24	24	*	Burial	Sk 18	03/10/2008		Film 1, shot 32
KSPPO8	25	25	*	Burial	Sk 19	06/10/2008		Film 1, shot 33
KSPPO8	26	26	*	Burial	Sk 20	06/10/2008		Film 1, shot 34
KSPPO8	27	27	*	Burial	Sk 21	07/10/2008		Film 1, shot 35
KSPPO8	28	28	*	Burial	Sk 22	07/10/2008		Film 1, shot 36
KSPPO8	29	29	*	Burial	Sk 23	07/10/2008		Film 2, shot 2
KSPPO8	30	30	*	Burial	Sk 24	09/10/2008		Film 2, shot 3
KSPPO8	31	31	*	Burial	Sk 25	10/10/2008		Film 2, shots 4, 5 & 10
KSPPO8	32	32	*	Burial	Sk 26	13/10/2008		Film 2, shot 6
KSPPO8	33	33	*	Burial	Sk 27	15/10/2008		Film 2, shot 7
KSPPO8	34	34	*	Burial	Sk 28	16/10/2008		Film 2, shot 8
KSPPO8	35	35	*	Burial	Sk 29	24/10/2008		Film 2, shot 9
KSPPO8	36	36	*	Burial	Sk 30	24/10/2008		Film 2, shot 9
KSPPO8	37	37	*	Burial	Sk 31	27/10/2008		Film 2, shot 12
KSPPO8	38	37	*	Burial	Sk 32	27/10/2008		Film 2, shot, 12
KSPPO8	39	37	*	Burial	Sk 33	27/10/2008		Film 2, shot 12
KSPPO8	40	40	*	Burial	Sk 34	28/10/2008		Film 2, shot 13
KSPPO8	41	41	*	Burial	Sk 35	29/10/2008		Film 2, shot 14
KSPPO8	42	42	*	Burial	Sk 36	29/10/2008		Film 2, shot 15
KSPPO8	43	43	*	Burial	Sk 37	30/10/2008		Film 2, shot 16
KSPPO8	44	43	*	Burial	Sk 38	30/10/2008		Film 2, shot 16
KSPPO8	45	45	*	Burial	Sk 39	31/10/2008		Film 2, shot 17
KSPPO8	46	46	*	Burial	Sk 40	03/11/2008		Film 2, shot 18
KSPPO8	47	47	*	Burial	Sk 41	03/11/2008		Film 2, shot 18
KSPPO8	48	48	*	Burial	Sk 42	04/11/2008		Film 2, shot 19
KSPPO8	49	49	*	Burial	Sk 43	05/11/2008		Film 2, shot 20
KSPPO8	50	50	*	Burial	Sk 44	05/11/2008		Film 2, shot 21
KSPPO8	51	51	*	Burial	Sk 45	07/11/2008		Film 2, shot 22
KSPPO8	52	52	*	Burial	Sk 46	07/11/2008		Film 2, shot 23
KSPPO8	53	53	*	Burial	Sk 47	10/11/2008		Film 2, shot 24
KSPPO8	54	54	*	Burial	Sk 48	11/11/2008		Film 2, shot 25
KSPPO8	55	55	*	Burial	Sk 49	08/12/2008		Film 2, shot 8
KSPPO8	56	47	*	Cut	Grave cut for (47)	11/12/2008		Film 2, shot 18
KSPPO8	57	48	*	Cut	Grave cut for (48)	11/12/2008		Film 2, shot 19
KSPPO8	58	49	*	Cut	Grave cut for (49)	11/12/2008		Film 2, shot 20
KSPPO8	59	50	*	Cut	Grave cut for (50)	11/12/2008		Film 2, shot 21
KSPPO8	60	51	*	Cut	Grave cut for (51)	11/12/2008		Film 2, shot 22
KSPPO8	61	52	*	Cut	Grave cut for (52)	11/12/2008		Film 2, shot 23
KSPPO8	62	53	*	Cut	Grave cut for (53)	11/12/2008		Film 2, shot 24
KSPPO8	63	*	*	Layer	Natural	11/12/2008		*
KSPPO8	64	12	*	Cut	Grave cut for (12)	11/12/2008		Film 1, shots 19, 21 & 23
KSPPO8	65	30	*	Cut	Grave cut for (30)	11/12/2008		Film 2, shot 3
KSPPO8	66	31	*	Cut	Grave cut for (31)	11/12/2008		Film 2, shots 4, 5 & 10
KSPPO8	67	32	*	Cut	Grave cut for (32)	11/12/2008		Film 2 shot 6
KSPPO8	68	34	*	Cut	Grave cut for (34)	11/12/2008		Film 2, shot 8
KSPPO8	69	*	*	Layer	Natural	11/12/2008		*
KSPPO8	70	27	*	Cut	Grave cut for (27)	11/12/2008		Film 1, shot 35
KSPPO8	71	29	*	Cut	Grave cut (29)	11/12/2008		Film 2, shot 2
KSPPO8	72	*	*	Layer	Natural	11/12/2008		*
KSPPO8	73	11	*	Cut	Grave cut for (11)	11/12/2008		Film 1, shots 19 & 20
KSPPO8	74	24	*	Cut	Grave cut for (24)	11/12/2008		Film 1, shot 32
KSPPO8	75	20	*	Cut	Grave cut for (21)	11/12/2008		Film 1, shot 29

APPENDIX : OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-53678

Project details

Project name	The Church of St Peter and St Paul, Swanscombe, Kent
Short description of the project	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd within the graveyard of the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Swanscombe Street, Swanscombe, Kent between 9th September - 11th November 2008. The archaeological programme consisted of careful excavation of the footprint of proposed soak-aways and drainage channels, locating, cleaning, recording and lifting, with respect and care, any inhumations revealed. After the completion of the soak-aways the burials were re-interred with due ceremony. A total of 50 inhumations were excavated and recorded, with charnel from another 20+ bodies. The majority appeared to date to the late post-medieval period with 3 probable medieval burials. The remains of a possible late-Saxon baby were also discovered buried at the base of the tower church tower. Many of the graves encountered were inter-cutting and one contained a 3 deep, stacked burial. No other archaeologically important features were located in the study area. As the excavation was conducted on Church land the bodies were safely stored on site and re-interred as soon as the work was concluded. The assemblage consisted of 5 infants and 45 adults from within the soak-aways and the remains of another infant, located at the base of the northern side of the church tower.</p>
Project dates	Start: 09-09-2008 End: 11-11-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KSP08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	BURIAL Early Medieval
Monument type	BURIALS Medieval

Monument type BURIALS Post Medieval

Investigation type 'Part Excavation','Watching Brief'

Prompt Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT DARTFORD SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE The
Church of St Peter and St Paul

Postcode DA10 0XX

Study area 13.83 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 604 739 51.440826 0.308190515102 51 26 26 N 000 18 29 E
Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 38.54m Max: 38.73m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Thomas Ford and Partners

Project design originator Tim Bradley

Project director/manager Tim Bradley

Project supervisor Guy Seddon

Name of sponsor/funding body The Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul Church,
Swanscombe

Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	Local museum
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Human Bones','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Unpublished Text','Context sheet','Drawing','Matrices','Plan'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Assessment of an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Swanscombe Street, Swanscombe, Kent.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Seddon, G
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Entered by	Guy Seddon (gseddon@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	9 January 2009