

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS'**

**CHURCH, MICKLEHAM**

**SURREY**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

**SSMM09**

**JUNE 2010**

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**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS' CHURCH,  
MICKLEHAM  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

QUALITY CONTROL

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited			K2044
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Stuart Watson		May 2010
Text Checked by:	Tim Bradley		June 2010
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		May 2010
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		May 2010
Project Manager Sign-off:	Tim Bradley		June 2010

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

**A Summary Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief during Reburial  
at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Mickleham, Surrey**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 1706 5339  
Site code: SSMM 09**

**Written by Stuart Watson  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2010**

**Project Manager: Tim Bradley**

**Commissioning Client: Mr Mark Day on behalf of St Michael & All Angels  
Church PCC**

**Contractor:  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Unit 54  
Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
Brockley  
London  
SE4 2PD**

**Tel: 020 7732 3925  
Fax: 020 7732 7896  
E-mail: [tbradley@pre-construct.com](mailto:tbradley@pre-construct.com)  
Web: [www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)**

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June 2010**

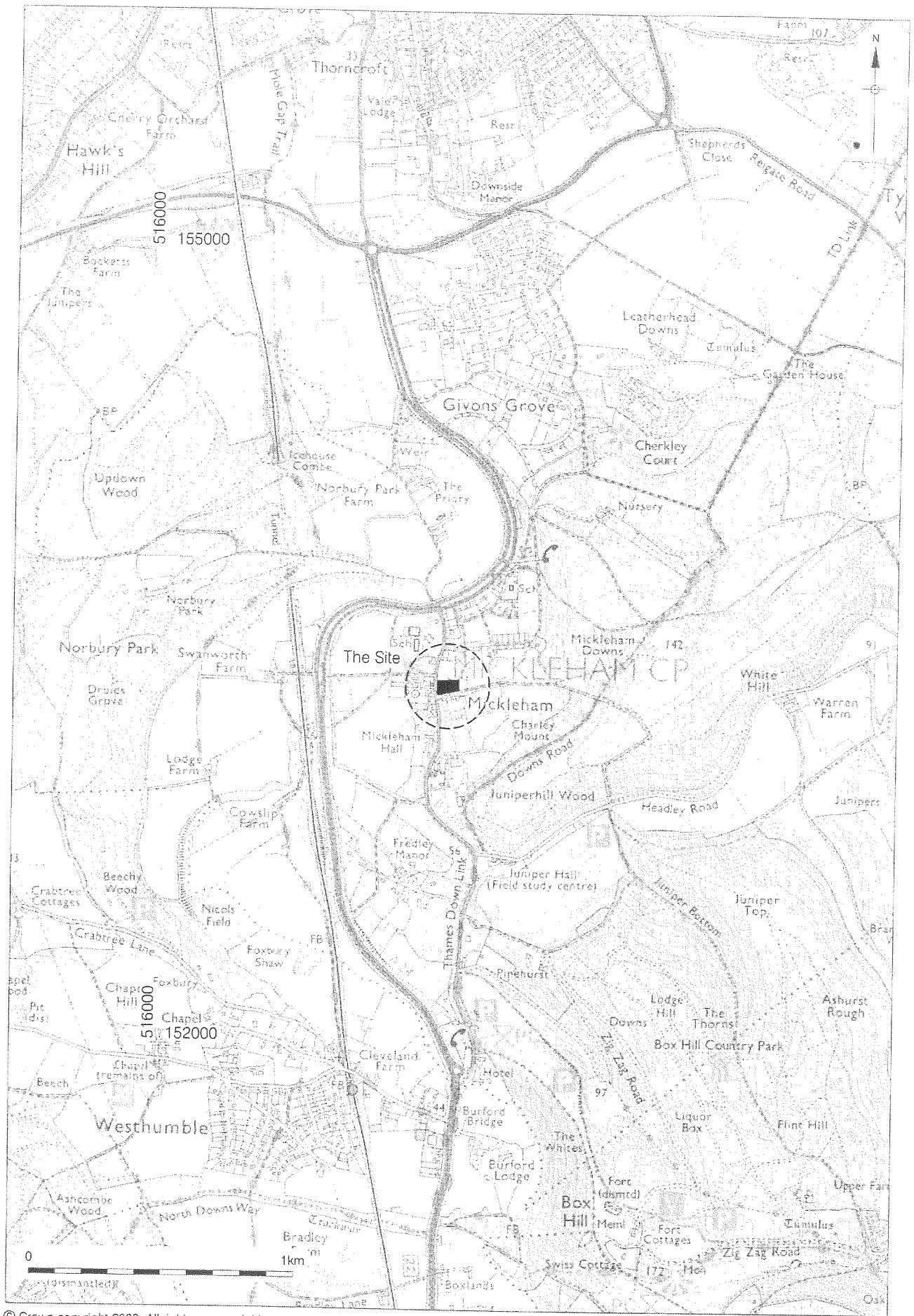
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is a summary report outlining the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Mickleham, Surrey. The archaeological work was undertaken during the excavation of a burial plot for the reburial of human remains removed during an earlier phase of archaeological work.
- 1.2 The earlier phase of work, an Archaeological Watching Brief, was undertaken during the redevelopment of the church vestry in May and October 2009<sup>1</sup>. During these works a high density of post-medieval inhumations was encountered, and it is these human remains that are to be reburied.
- 1.3 The investigation was conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2010 and was commissioned by Mr Mark Day on behalf of St Michael & All Angels' Church PCC.
- 1.4 The site is located at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Old London Road, Mickleham, Surrey.
- 1.5 The National Grid Reference of the site centre is TQ 1706 5339.
- 1.6 The site continued with the code SSMM09, originally issued for the earlier phase of work.
- 1.7 The investigation was supervised by the author, and the project was managed by Tim Bradley for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The site was monitored by Mr Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer, Surrey County Council.

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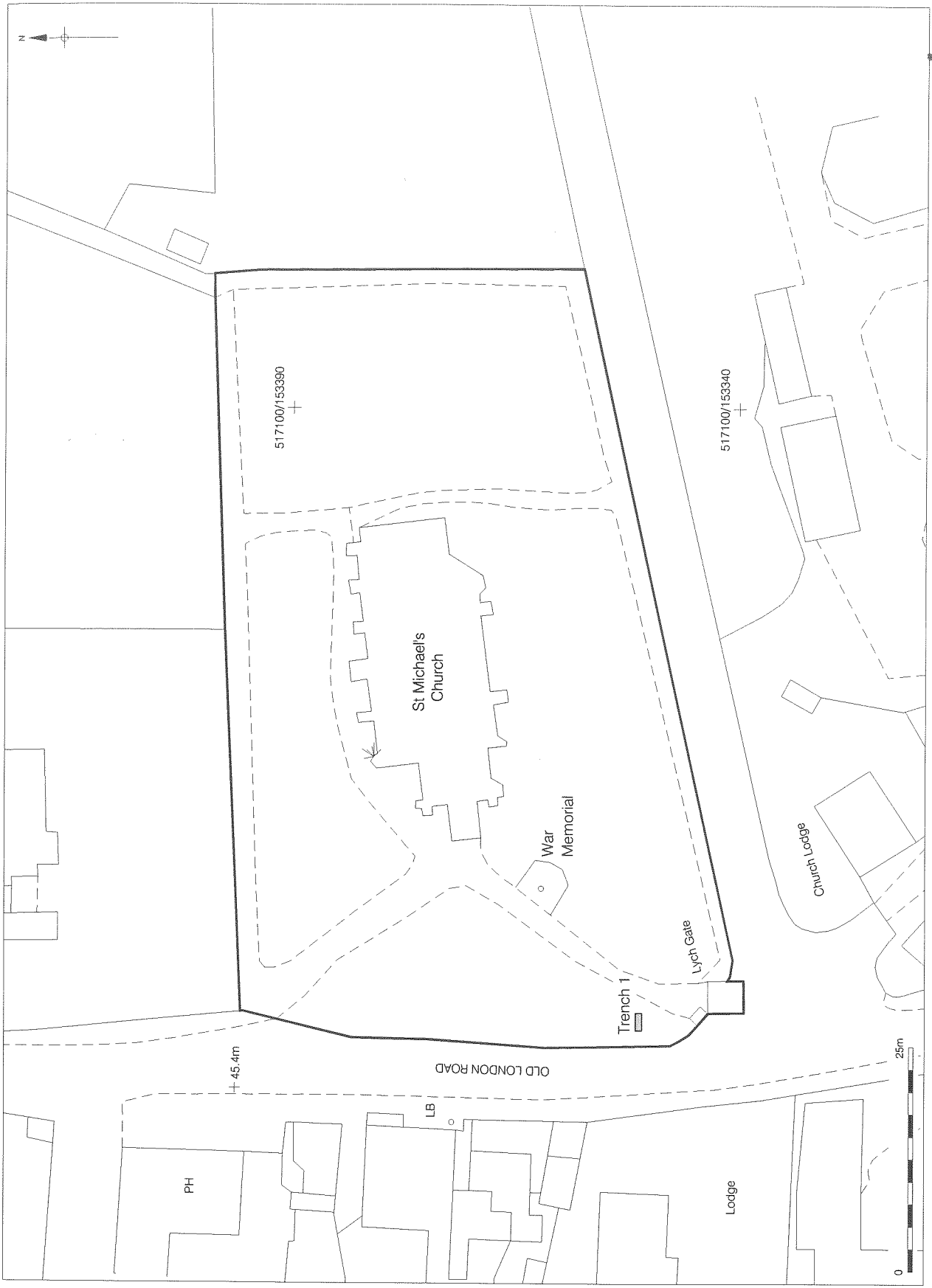
<sup>1</sup> Watson, S. 2009. *An Archaeological Investigation at St Michael and All Angles' church, Mickleham, Surrey*. PCA unpublished report.



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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:625 at A4

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 St Michael and All Angels' Church, Mickleham is a Grade II\* listed building.
- 2.2 Listed building consent for the proposed development was granted by Mole Valley District Council on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008 (ref: MO/2008/0462). An archaeological condition was added to the planning consent, and the previous programme of archaeological work was in response to that planning condition.
- 2.3 Following the completion of that work it is now intended that the human remains removed during the previous archaeological investigation are to be reinterred in the churchyard. The Archaeological Officer of Surrey County Council has requested that the grave excavated for the reburial be archaeologically monitored.
- 2.4 The work was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared for this current phase of work<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.5 The site comprises a Church of England churchyard and falls under the terms of the Pastoral Measure of 1983.

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<sup>2</sup> Bradley, T. April 2010. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief during Reburial at St Michael and All Angels' church, Mickleham, Surrey.*  
PCA unpublished report.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The proposed location of the reburial area had been identified following a programme of radar survey undertaken by Cobham Technical Services. Six locations were scanned for the presence of burials, with the location immediately to the northwest of the Lych Gate at the south western corner of the churchyard identified as the area at least risk of encountering further burials.
- 3.2 The reburial plot (Trench 1) was hand excavated under archaeological supervision by gravediggers from Sherlock and Sons. The trench measured 1.95m east-west by 0.76m north-south and was excavated to a depth of 1.05m.
- 3.3 The final dimensions of the trench and its precise location remained flexible during the work, to avoid any *in-situ* burials.
- 3.4 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10. All written data was entered on *pro-forma* sheets following standard recording methods, and a photographic record using a digital camera was made as appropriate.
- 3.5 Levels were calculated from an Ordnance Survey benchmark located on the north face of the western buttress of the church (value: 48.15mOD).
- 3.6 Where encountered, charnel was collected for reburial in the excavated area along with the human remains from the earlier investigation.
- 3.7 The human remains were interned in a specially made casket and were reburied with an appropriate Church of England service, on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010.
- 3.8 The study area is currently a Church of England Church set within an active graveyard. The ground surface is laid to grass and is generally level. The ground level adjacent to the top of the trench was estimated to be 48.00m OD.
- 3.9 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series Sheet 286 (Reigate) indicates that the underlying drift geology at the site consists of a narrow band of recent River Gravels; Higher Terrace. However no natural geological deposits were encountered during this investigation.



## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

4.1 Only one trench (TR1) was excavated during this investigation. The following is a description of the stratigraphic layers that make up Trench 1. Further information regarding the contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Phase 1: Post-Medieval

4.2.1 The earliest feature encountered in Trench 1 was context [32], a layer of dark reddish brown sandy silt sub-soil approximately 0.30m thick to the base limit of excavation. The top of this layer, encountered at 0.70m below ground level, was recorded at 47.27m OD and the base at 46.95m OD. It is likely that the top of this layer represents the burial horizon as an inhumation was noted, but not recorded, in the south-eastern corner of the trench. Some small fragmented iron plates were recovered from this layer which was identified as embossed coffin plates with a spot date of late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>3</sup>. A small amount of disarticulated human bone was also present. This context is similar to layers [26] and [27] described during the 2009 investigation.

4.2.2 Sealing [32] was layer [31], a mid brown garden soil deposit of silty sand measuring 0.50m thick with a highest level of 47.80m OD. This deposit contained occasional small fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material and one fragment of Clay Tobacco Pipe with a spot date of 1730-80. Some small abraded sherds of Orange Sandy Ware (fabric OQ) from a Green Glaze jug with incised wavy line decoration were also recovered, which date to 1150-1400 and are typical of the Reigate area<sup>4</sup>. A small amount of disarticulated human bone was also recovered from this context.

### 4.3 Phase 2: Modern

4.3.1 Sealing the post-medieval layers was layer [30], a dark grey brown silty sand deposit 0.20m thick, interpreted as topsoil. This layer was topped by grass and formed the current ground level at 48.00m OD. No archaeological deposits were present in this layer.

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<sup>3</sup> M. Gaimster, PCA finds specialist.

<sup>4</sup> C. Jarrett, PCA finds specialist.

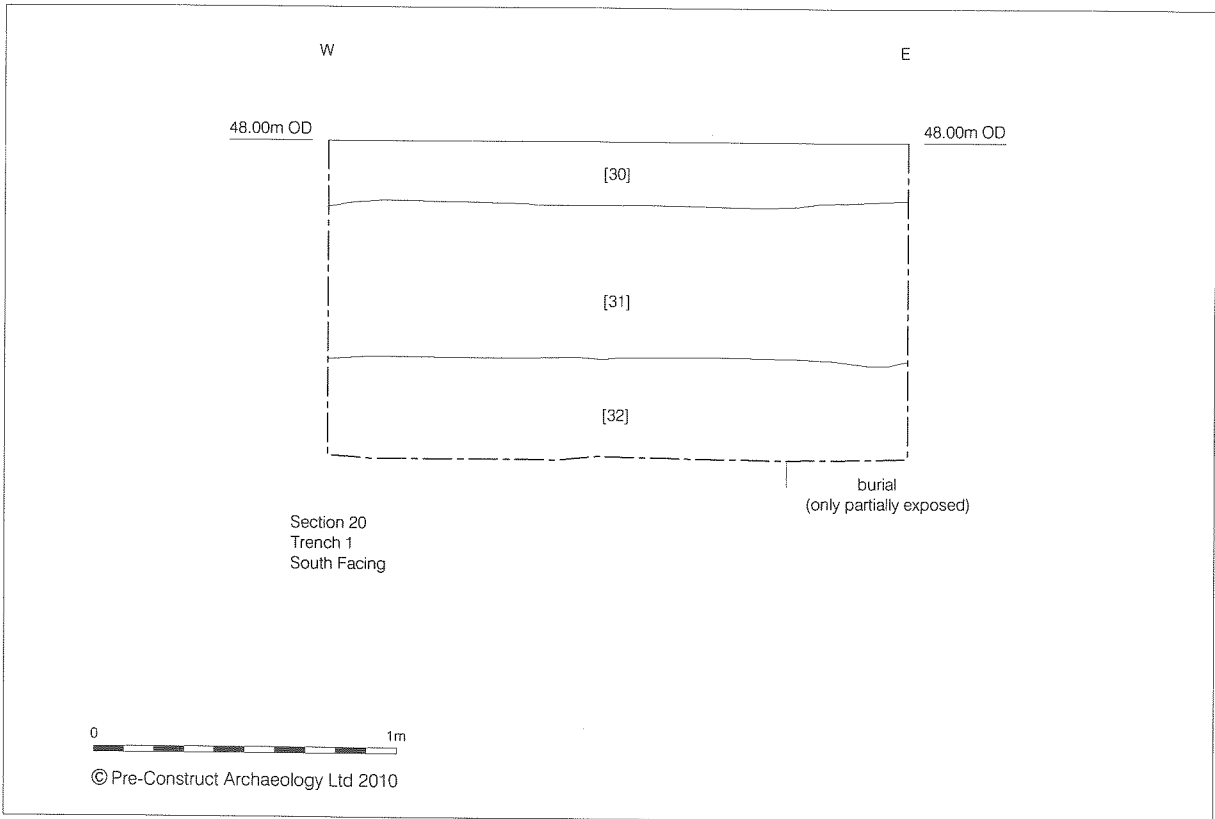
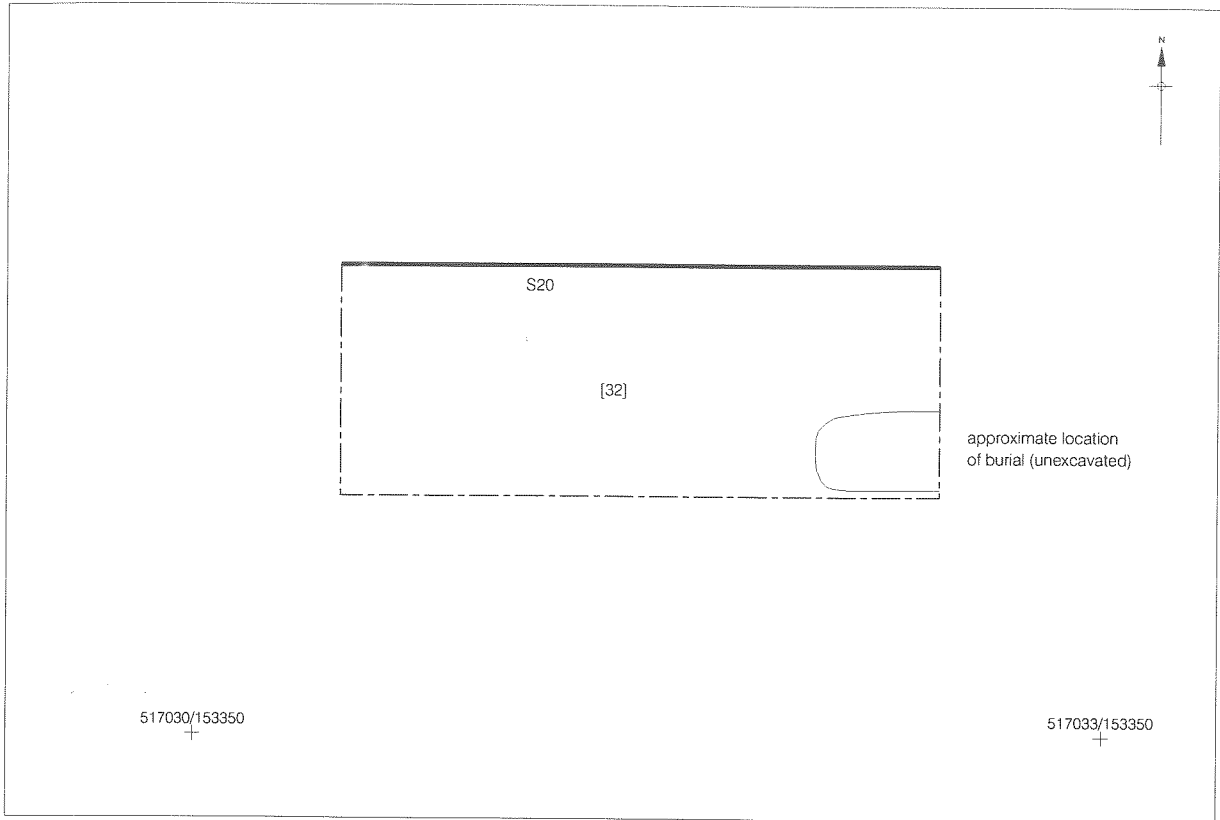


Figure 3  
Trench 1 Plan and Section  
1:25 at A4

## 5 CONCLUSION

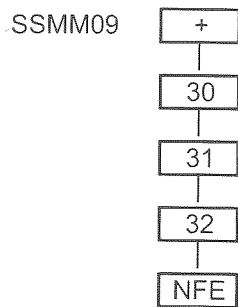
- 5.1 The watching brief encountered at least one inhumation (at the head end) cut into the subsoil layer [32] at 1.00m below the current ground surface. The compaction of the soil in this deposit was quite loose and can be taken as evidence that the layer had been disturbed by past episodes of grave digging. It is therefore likely that the top of this layer represents the upper burial horizon. The human remains encountered were left undisturbed and *in-situ*.
- 5.2 The remaining sequence of the trench comprised a post-medieval layer [31] overlain a modern layer of topsoil [30] to the current ground level at c.48.00m OD. Small amounts of charnel were present in the lower layer [31], probably re-distributed from earlier grave digging. The presence in layer [31] of post-medieval ceramic building material, 18<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe and sherds of medieval pottery indicate that this layer too has been continuously dug over and the earlier finds can be classified as residual within a post-medieval context.
- 5.3 While the radar survey indicated that the location chosen for the trench was clear of any burials, it was evident that further inhumations were present in this location, indicative of a high density of burials across the entire churchyard.
- 5.4 No evidence of any Roman remains was found during this current investigation, which may suggest that Roman activity is concentrated more to the northern part of the churchyard where Roman pottery and ceramic building material were recovered during the 2009 investigation.
- 5.5 The small amount of disarticulated human bone uncovered was retained by the gravediggers and will be reburied along with the human remains from the 2009 investigation.

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

\*Context numbers 1-29 relate to the 2009 phase of work

SITE: SSMM 09					
CONTEXT	TYPE	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	DATE
30*	Layer	TR 1	Topsoil	2	Modern
31	Layer	TR 1	Garden soil	1	Post-med
32	Layer	TR 1	Sub-soil	1	Post-med

## APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



### APPENDIX 3: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking north-east, scale is 1.0m. Mickleham Church is in background.



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking north-west. Scale is 1.00m

## APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief during Reburial at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Mickleham, Surrey
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Mickleham Church during the excavation of a grave for the reburial of human remains uncovered during an earlier investigation at the same location in 2009.
Project dates	Start: 24-05-2010 End: 24-05-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	SSMM09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CTP Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	COFFIN FITTINGS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches','Visual Inspection'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location SURREY MOLE VALLEY MICKLEHAM St Michael and All Angels'  
Church, Mickleham, Surrey

Postcode RH5 6

Study area 1.52 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 1706 5339 51.2671076514 -0.321890325636 51 16 01 N 000  
19 18 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project design originator Tim Bradley

Project director/manager Tim Bradley

Project supervisor Stuart Watson

Type of sponsor/funding body Brewer Jewel Architects

Name of sponsor/funding body Mickleham PCC

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Reburial

Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Human Bones','Metal'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Reburial
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Human Bones','Metal'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Section','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	A Summary Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief during Reburial at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Mickleham, Surrey
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