

# *Marches Archaeology*

## **St Kenelm's Church Upton Snodsbury Worcestershire**

### **Report on archaeological building recording**

September 2004

*Marches Archaeology Series 352*

**This report is produced by**

## ***Marches Archaeology***

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**St Kenlem's Church,  
Upton Snodsbury,  
Worcestershire**

**A report on archaeological building recording**

**NGR: SO 942 543**

**Report by  
Susan Fielding**

**Contents**

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Aims and objectives .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Methodology .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Site description .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Archaeological and historical background.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>The recording .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>References.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Archive.....</b>	<b>3</b>

Figures and plates

September 2004

*Marches Archaeology Series 352*

### **List of illustrations**

Figure 1: Location of the site

Figure 2: Location of the buttress

Figure 3: Elevations of the buttress

### **List of plates**

Plate 1: St Kenelm's Church from the south

Plate 2: The south-east buttress of the south aisle from the east

Plate 3: The south-east buttress of the south aisle from the south-east

Plate 4: Capping stones of the south-east buttress showing grooves

**St Kenelm's Church,  
Upton Snodsbury,  
Worcestershire**

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**A report on archaeological building recording**

*Summary*

*Marches Archaeology were commissioned to carry out a stone by stone record of a buttress at St Kenelm's Church, Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire, which is to be taken down and rebuilt as part of an ongoing programme of repair works. The buttress is a diagonal buttress at the south-east corner of the south aisle and is constructed of ashlar sandstone blocks, capped with sloping stones. It is contemporary with the south aisle which is 15<sup>th</sup> century in date.*

**1 Introduction**

Marches Archaeology was commissioned by Stainburn Taylor Architects, on behalf of Upton Snodsbury PCC to undertake archaeological recording of a stone buttress at St Kenelm's Church, Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire.

The church is undergoing a programme of repair works which is granted aided by English Heritage, and which includes the dismantling and rebuilding of the south-east corner buttress of the south aisle. The Schedule of Works states that a full record of the stonework was to be made prior to the stonework being dismantled. The project proposal submitted by Marches Archaeology formed the written scheme of investigation for the project.

**2 Aims and objectives**

The object of the archaeological recording was to provide:

- A full stone by stone drawing of each elevation of the buttress prior to dismantling
- A photographic record of the buttress

### **3 Methodology**

#### *Documentary research*

No documentary research was undertaken for this project, as it was not deemed necessary within the Schedule of Works, due to the limited nature of the project.

#### *Fieldwork*

The record consisted of written, drawn and photographic elements. Each elevation of the buttress was drawn at a scale of 1:10, each appropriately annotated. A full photographic survey was carried out using 35mm colour slide and black and white negatives.

#### *Office work*

On completion of the fieldwork the written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced, and a site archive prepared. This report was prepared which includes a non-technical summary.

### **4 Site description**

The site lies in the centre of the village of Upton Snodsbury, which is located some 7 miles to the east of Worcester on the south side of the A 422. The church is situated in the centre of a larger plot of land, with the graveyard being situated to the north and south of the church building.

### **5 Archaeological and historical background**

The earliest masonry in St Kenelm's Church is recorded as 13<sup>th</sup> century, with later phases of alterations and enlargements occurring within the medieval period, including the south aisle which dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. An extensive phase of re-working took place in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **6 The recording**

The buttress recorded is located at the south-east corner of the south aisle of the church (Figure 2). It is a diagonal buttress set at 135° to the walls of the south aisle and is constructed of coursed, ashlar, local grey sandstone blocks laid with lime mortar with narrow horizontal joints and slightly wider vertical joints. The buttress has a wider plinth, the top course of masonry of this plinth being hollow chamfered, and the top of the buttress is capped with two sloping stones. A groove 3-5cm deep has been carved down the northern side of the top of the capping stones, possibly to act as a small drainage channel for water.

On the south-west side of the buttress the stones are bonded straight back into the main body of the south aisle wall, but on the north-east side the bonding is provided by angled stones

which continue into the line of the north wall of the south aisle. The buttress is contemporary with the construction of the south aisle of the church, dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

## **7 Acknowledgements**

Marches Archaeology was commissioned by Ian Stainburn of Stainburn Taylor Architects and Upton Snodsbury Parochial Church Council. Copies of existing site drawings were provided by Stainburn Taylor Architects. The contractors were William Sapcote & Son, and the onsite workers are thanked for their help and co-operation during the work.

## **8 References**

### *Maps*

1:50 000 Ordnance Survey Map Sheet 150

## **9 Archive**

The site code is KUS 04A The archive consists of:

- 1 drawing index sheets
- 3 field drawings on 1 sheet
- 1 sheets of site diary and notes
- 3 photo record sheets
- 2 films of black and white photographic negatives
- 1 film of colour photographic transparencies

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to Worcestershire County Museum.



Plate 1: St Kenelm's church from the south



Plate 2: The south-east buttress of the south aisle from the east





Plate 3: The south-east buttress of the south aisle from the south-east



Plate 4: Capping stones of the south-est buttress showing grooves

# *Marches Archaeology*

St Kenelm's Church  
Upton Snodsbury  
Worcestershire

## Project Proposal for Building Recording

### **Introduction**

A programme of repair works at the church of St Kenelm, Upton Snodsbury is to include rebuilding of the south-east buttress of the south aisle. The site is situated at NGR: SO 942 543. The project is to be grant aided by English Heritage. The Schedule of Works includes provision for recording of the buttress stonework prior to dismantling.

This proposal forms a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological works. Any subsequent alterations will be agreed in writing between Marches Archaeology and English Heritage.

### **Archaeological and Historical Background**

The earliest masonry in St Kenelm's church is 13<sup>th</sup> century, with later medieval alterations and enlargements. The church was extensively reworked in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Scope and aims of the project**

The archaeological recording will consist of:

- 1 a full stone by stone drawing of each elevation of the buttress prior to dismantling
- 2 a photographic record of the buttress
- 3 a short report on the work

The Institute of Field Archaeology (IFA) defines Building Investigation and Recording as “a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, or structure, or complex and its setting, including its buried components on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater”.

The purpose of Building Investigation and Recording is defined by the IFA as “to examine a specified building, structure, or complex, and its setting, in order to inform [either] the formulation of a strategy for the conservation, alteration, demolition, repair or management of a building, or structure, or complex and its setting [or] to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results”.

### **Methodology**

### *Building Recording*

The record will consist of written, drawn and photographic elements. It is assumed that full and free access to all areas will be made available by the client before the main repair is commenced.

A full set of relevant drawings (plans, elevations, sections etc.) has been provided to Marches Archaeology by the client. Copies of any amendments or revisions to such drawings and of any additional drawings will be provided as the project continues. Copies will also be provided to Marches Archaeology of any additional relevant historical, archaeological, structural or other information held by the client.

### *Office work*

On completion of fieldwork a site archive will be prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data will be catalogued and cross-referenced. Analysis will be based on the site archive. As the project is of such limited scope no desk based assessment will be carried out.

An illustrated client report will be produced which will detail the aims, methods, and results of the project. A non-technical summary and details of the location and size of the archive will be included. Copyright of any reports is vested in Marches Archaeology.

The client will be provided with two copies of the report. Further copies will be sent to the Local Planning Authority and to the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor (one copy each). One copy will be deposited with the local Sites and Monuments Record and another with the National Archaeological Record.

The archive will be donated to an appropriate repository. Marches Archaeology will arrange for such deposition.

### **Management of the Project**

Marches Archaeology recognises the Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, By-Laws, Standards and other documents produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The project will be managed by a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The Safety Policy and General Risk Assessment operated by Marches Archaeology will be implemented. Copies of these documents are available on request. A risk assessment specific to this project will be carried out before commencement of fieldwork to identify any risks not noted in the General Risk Assessment. If another body is responsible for Health and Safety on the site Marches Archaeology will conform to any policy which may be in force. If costs accrue due to Health and Safety issues not made apparent to Marches Archaeology by the time of submission of this Project Proposal these costs will be additional to any costs identified in the estimate. The requirements of Health and Safety legislation are deemed to take precedence over archaeological requirements.

Appropriate insurance cover will be held throughout the project.

Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor shall at any reasonable time be granted access to the site, with prior notice, for the purpose of monitoring the fieldwork.

### **Timetable**

The timetable is not finalised at this stage. This document will be submitted for approval to the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.

The report will be presented to the client within one month of the completion of the fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed. The results will be reported to the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor and the local Sites and Monuments Record within one month of presentation, unless otherwise agreed. A summary report will be submitted for publication in an appropriate medium within one year of completion of all fieldwork.

### **Resources**

Building recording	1 day
Report preparation	2 days

28 May 2004