

Church of the Holy Trinity, Preston Wynne Herefordshire, A Desk Based Assessment



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Herefordshire Archaeology is Herefordshire Council's county archaeology service. It advises upon the conservation of archaeological and historic landscapes, maintains the county Sites and Monument Record, and carries out conservation and investigative field projects.

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Summary:

This Desk Based Assessment was produced in order to set the Church of the Holy Trinity, Preston Wynne, Herefordshire, within its landscape context and to record the church fabric, and provide information concerning the development of the church yard. This information is required as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant, which will conserve the church and upgrade the church facilities including the construction of a toilet and kitchen comprising a new build within the church yard.

The Church and church yard were surveyed by UAV providing detailed, photogrammetric images of all elevations, a vertical plan of the church and church yard and a Structure from Motion, 3 Dimensional model.

The church yard was subject to geophysical survey in order to attempt to record the extent of burials and therefore provide options for the exact location for the new build and associated drainage.

Map regression analysis was undertaken in order to document the development of the church yard and an Historic Environment Record Search carried out.

The Documentary and digital search showed that the church yard has been extended to the south and west at some time post the 4th Edition Ordnance survey Map (1948) by approximately 5m in each direction so that the church no longer appears to be located within the centre of the grave yard, (as originally planned).

The Geophysical survey has identified a possible buried cist to the north of the church and some possible wall or drain lines which are not aligned with the church within the southern portion of the church yard.

Disclaimer: It should not be assumed that land referred to in this document is accessible to the public. Location plans are indicative only. NGRs are accurate to approximately 10m. Measured dimensions are accurate to within 1m at a scale of 1:500, 0.1m at 1:50, and 0.02m at 1:20.

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Introduction

This report (EHE 80194) provides an account of a Desk Based Assessment, detailed digital survey and geophysical survey of the Church of the Holy Trinity and its associated Church Yard.

This document has been prepared in response to a request from Robert Lister, Senior Architect, Caroe & Partners. A Method Statement and costings were provided to Caroe & Partners in order to describe the methodology and price for the provision of archaeological works associated with the provision of toilet and kitchen facilities, to include a rainwater storage tank, to Holy Trinity Church, Preston Wynne, in advance of the construction of toilet facilities. It is understood that a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant has been approved in order to fund these works.

The archaeological elements of the project will be undertaken in two stages:

Stage 1 will comprise the preparation of a Desk Based Assessment, geophysical survey and detailed 3 dimensional digital survey of the church and church yard.

Stage 2 will comprise the excavation of two trenches within the church yard which will be located using the information gathered during Stage 1.

Background:

Holy Trinity Church (HER 8258), sits at the northern end of what is believed to be the earthwork remains of the shrunken or deserted Medieval village of Preston Wynne (HER 6532) and is the only standing building directly associated with the historic village.

The earthworks relating to the village are generally very well preserved having historically been under traditional orcharding and permanent pasture. They cover approximately 10 acres to the north of the present road, however additional areas of earthworks are apparent on the southern side of the road. Surprisingly, given their accessibility and preservation, these earthworks were not designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and have not been the subject of any professional or scholarly research or survey. It is understood that the current land owner of the fields in which these earthworks lie, does not want these fields to be included as part of the archaeological / historical elements of this project and therefore all survey and remote sensing will be confined to the church and churchyard.

Geology and soils

The bedrock geology comprises Raglan Mudstone Formation - Siltstone And Mudstone, Interbedded. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 419 to 424 million years ago in the Silurian Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers.

Project Aims: Proposals and methodologies agreed within a Written Scheme of Investigation.

Stage 1: Methods and scope

Desk based assessment

Existing Aerial Photographs, LiDAR data and HER data will be assessed in order to establish a desk-based context for the study area. This will include map regression analysis, checking of historic Aerial Photographs, the amalgamation of historic references and the detailed study and manipulation of the available LiDAR data.

Aerial survey

It is proposed that remote imagery is undertaken in order to record the church and its setting. Particular attention will be paid to the church roof in order to provide data concerning its condition. This will take the form of photogrammetry (by remotely controlled drone), also known as Structure from Motion (SfM). The results, like laser scanning, provide a very accurate three dimensional representation of the subject which is proportionally correct and can be scaled and/or georeferenced. This technique will provide a 3 dimensional model of the ground surface and also the standing building, (together with grave stones and other structures). As the resolution of this type of survey (approx. 50mm) is far greater than LiDAR, even small scale earthworks will be recorded. Full colour photographic data will also be recorded in order to provide a point in time record of the church and the earthworks.

Geophysical Survey

TigerGeo Ltd will be sub-contracted by Herefordshire Archaeology to undertake a geophysical survey of the churchyard. This will initially take the form of a detailed Magnetometer survey covering areas of the churchyard that do not have a high density of grave markers and other monuments. Depending upon the Magnetometry results, a small scale Ground Penetrating Radar survey may also be undertaken to help confirm depths of buried features. These survey techniques will provide information regarding the presence and extent of possible burials and will help inform the location of the new building and the water storage tank.

Post Fieldwork and reporting

A report will be produced which will include the desk based assessment, aerial imagery and geophysical and detailed survey imagery, together with a commentary concerning the archaeological and historic interpretations and implications of this data.

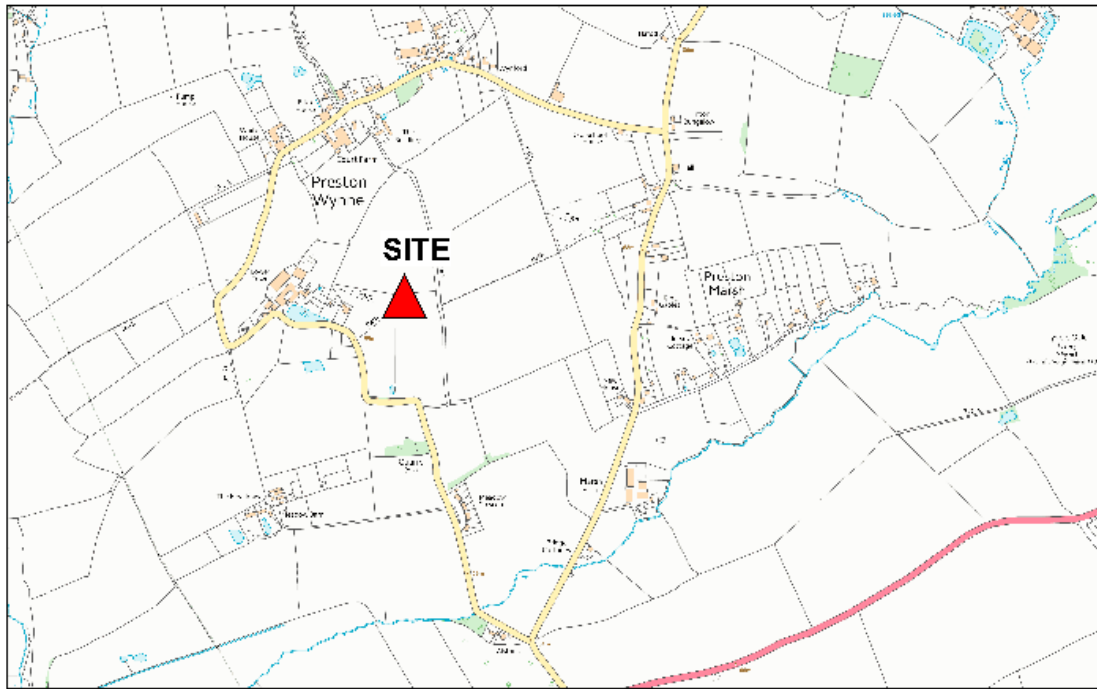


Figure 1: Site location Plan. © Crown copyright and database rights (2013) Ordnance Survey (100024168)

Documentary and digital evidence:

There is very little documentary evidence concerning the Church of the Holy Trinity, Preston Wynne. The Historic Environment Record identifies the church as a listed building together with two graves stones. The Historic England listing for the site comprise:

Site Details

Designated Site Name: Church of the Holy Trinity

Heritage Category: Listed Building grade II*

List Entry Number: 1302088

Local Planning Authority: Herefordshire, County of (UA)

Site Type: Religious ritual and funerary > Church

Location

Building Name: Church of the Holy Trinity

Unitary Authority: Herefordshire, County of (UA)

Parish: Preston Wynne

Parliamentary Constituency: North Herefordshire

Region: West Midlands

Assessment Information

Assessment Type: Place of worship

Condition: Poor

Priority Category: C - Slow decay; no solution agreed

Previous Priority Category: C

Owner Type: Religious organisation

Designation: Listed Place of Worship grade II*

New Entry: No

Detailed Listing description (compiled in 1967):

Parish church. "1727" incised on keystone over west door, consecrated 1730, altered in mid-C19. Sandstone, ashlar, plain tiled roof. Provincial Baroque- style west tower, four-bay gothicised nave. West tower: three stages, embattled top with pyramidal corner pinnacles. Oeil-de-boeuf to west side at first stage, another to south side between first and second stages; semi-circular headed. arch to north in first stage; bold string course separates top from second stage; top stage has semi-circular headed arches with dropped keystones, one each to south and north and a round-headed lancet to east and north., Nave: formerly had four semi-circular headed windows with dropped keystones to each side (scars visible in south, but not north wall), replaced in mid-C19 by two 2-light trefoiled windows and two lancets to south and only two windows to north. Three-light mid-C19 east window. Entry from west by double early C18 doors each having five fielded panels under segmental moulded arch with dropped keystone set beneath a cornice supported by two pilasters. Interior: C19 arch-brace collar trusses supported from corbels; c18 communion table and contemporary font with hexagonal basin; moulded stem and base; front C19 pews inscribed with names of important parochial residences, the rear ones being numbered for poorer persons of the parish according to conditions specified on board under tower. C18 board also under tower gives list of benefactors towards the building of the church, eg "Most Noble Ja Duke of Chandos 5.5.0", under a painting of the church, by Wick of Hereford as it then was. The building is conspicuous in the landscape, yet sited away from present roads and houses amid fields which bear the undulations of a deserted, probably medieval village.

Map Regression Analysis

The earliest map extract available is the 1841 Tithe map (Figure 2). The map shows the church, centrally placed within the church yard and surrounded by Chapel Meadow, Little Chapel Orchard, Churchill, Upper Chapel Orchard and Lower Chapel Orchard. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1887, (Figure 3) shows the extent of orcharding and the five footpaths that converge upon the church. The later Ordnance survey mapping, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Editions show little change, however, the modern mapping when overlaid clearly shows that the church yard has been extended by approximately 4m to the west and 6m to the south. (Figure 4). It is not known when this was done but cannot be before the late 1940's as I must post date the 4th Edition Ordnance Survey Map.

The available LiDAR data (Figure 5) is unfortunately the 2m data and therefore only shows the largest of surface features. Even this however begins to show the complexity of earthworks to the south and south west of the church.

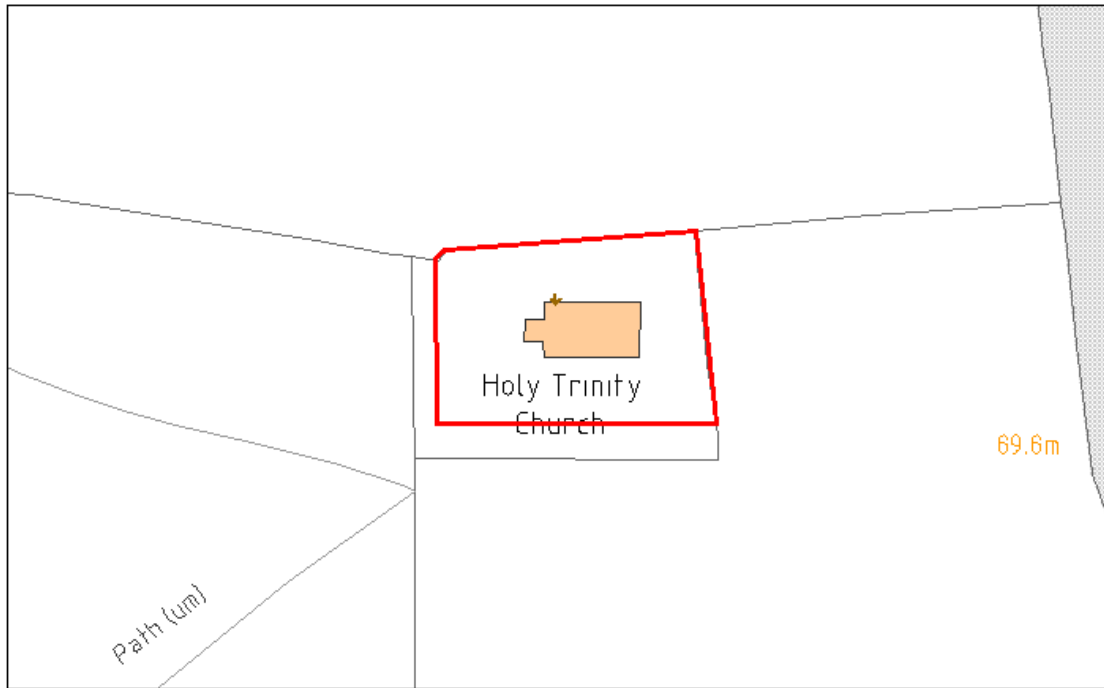


Figure 4: Modern Ordnance Survey Mapping with 1st Edition church yard boundary in red. © Crown copyright and database rights (2013) Ordnance Survey (100024168)



Figure 5: 2m LiDAR data, the church is outlined in blue. © Crown copyright and database rights (2013) Ordnance Survey (100024168)

Detailed Survey

A detailed survey of the fabric of the building and its church yard was undertaken using a UAV. This comprised photogrammetry (by remotely controlled drone), also known as Structure from Motion (SfM). The results, like laser scanning, provide a very accurate three dimensional representation of the subject which is proportionally correct and can be scaled and/or georeferenced. A 3 dimensional model of the church and church yard were also produced.



Church of the Holy Trinity, Preston Wynne, West elevation



Church of the Holy Trinity, Preston Wynne, vertical plan



Church of the Holy Trinity,
Preston Wynne, East elevation



Church of the Holy Trinity, Preston Wynne, North elevation



Church of the Holy Trinity, Preston Wynne, South elevation



3 dimensional images (screenshots) of the modelled data.

The survey data and images provide significant detail concerning the coursing, insertion of windows, condition of masonry and pointing and the condition of the main roof and tower roof. The scarring on the southern elevation in particular shows the size of the original windows.

Geophysical Survey

A Geophysical Survey was undertaken of the “quieter” areas of the church yard, in order to ascertain whether buried monuments were present within the northern and southern portions of the church yard. At the time of writing this report the data has only been partially looked at but despite this, Figure 6 clearly shows a large anomaly showing as a white area on the northern side of the church. The size, shape and alignment would suggest that this is either a single but large buried cist or perhaps a number of smaller cists within a family plot. There does not appear to be any other burials associated with monuments to the north of the church, however unmarked interments cannot be ruled out.



Figure 6: Resistivity Plots.

The area to the south of the church shows more disturbance – much of this may be due to rabbit burrowing, which is prevalent within this part of the church yard. However, there does appear to be a clear, hard, linear anomaly forming a 90 degree corner close to the western end of the plot. This feature is not aligned with the church or the lines of graves and appears to represent either wall lines or possibly drainage runs.

In terms of the proposed construction of the toilet and kitchen and the provision of rainwater harvesting, the western half of the plot to the north of the church appears to be the least problematical in terms of headstones, kerbed plots and chest tombs / cists.

Conclusions

The map regression analysis has shown that little has happened to the church yard between 1841 and at least the mid 1940's but that the graveyard was enlarge to the west and south soon after that.

The detailed survey has provided much useful information regarding the fabric of the building, the state of the roof, and has even shown that the tower hatch is not sitting correctly! The data from this survey should prove very useful during future works to the church.

The geophysical survey has provided at least an indication of the least problematical area for the siting of the new building and rain water tank and has also recorded potentially interesting features to the south of the church.

Bibliography

British Geological Survey (Website) <http://bgs.ac.uk>.

Historic England website for listed buildings data historicengland.org.uk/listing/thelist