



Plate 6 Context 1008

3.2 Observations of the new drainage channel around the chancel and grading down of the cemetery soils to the north and east of the chancel

These works were carried out using a Kubota mini digger with a toothed bucket. The new drainage cut, which was located immediately adjacent to context 1000 around the chancel, was c.0.30m wide with vertical sides and a flat base. The trench was 0.32m deep adjacent to context 1000, and between 0.40m and 0.60m deep adjacent to the cemetery soils. On the northern and eastern sides of the chancel an area c.2.00m wide of cemetery soils was graded down to create a gentle slope leading to the new drain.

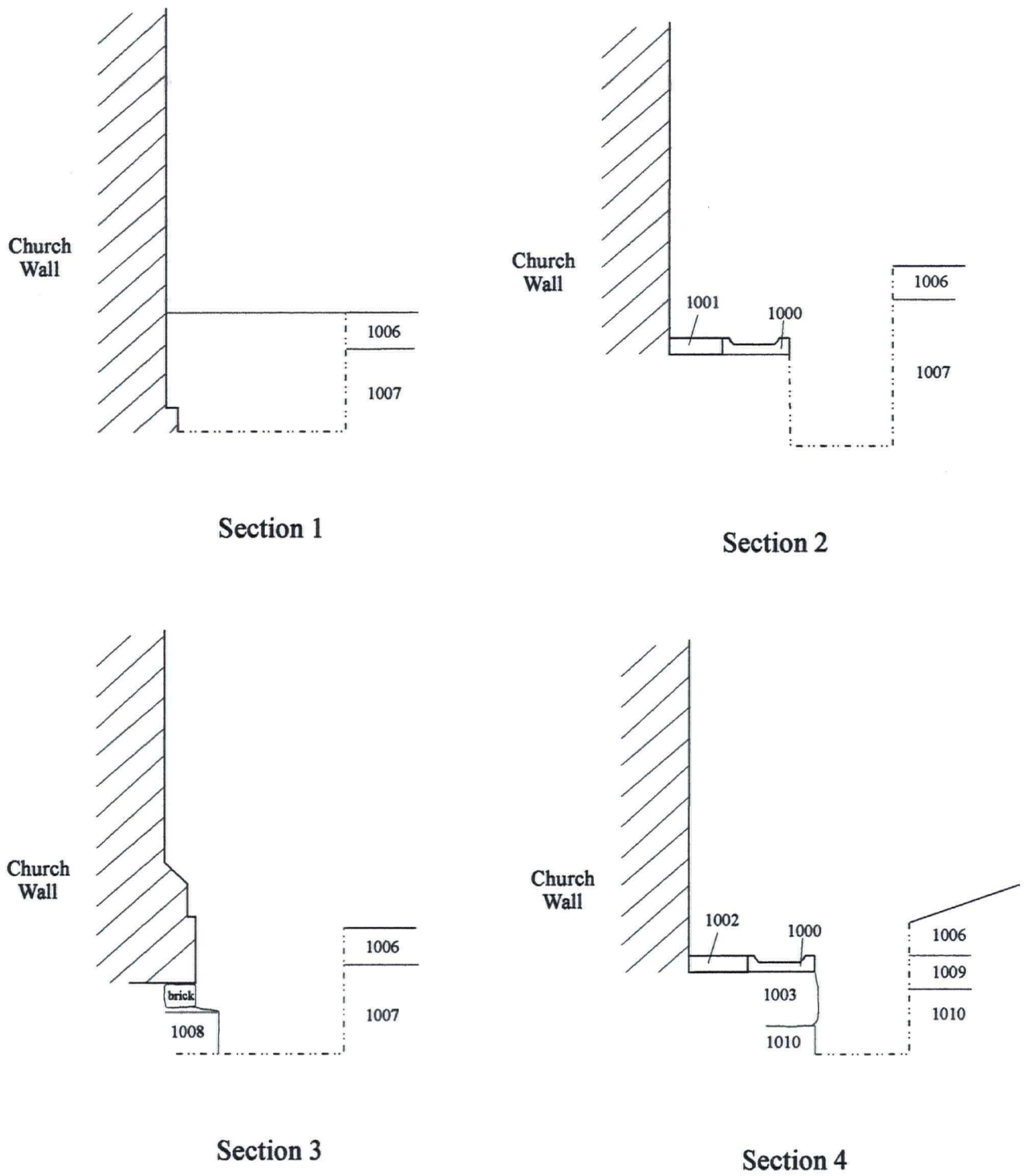


Figure 3 Recorded sections 1 to 4

0 1 metre

3.2.1 The southern side of the chancel (Figure 2 and 3 Sections 1, 2 and 3)

The earliest deposit, which was between 0.30m and 0.50m thick, was mid-brown slightly silty-clay with moderate flecks of mortar, tile and angular pebbles (context 1007). Context 1007 was a build-up of cemetery soil, which seems to have been constantly re-cut and re-deposited during the lifespan of the cemetery. It was not possible to see any distinct grave cuts within the deposit, but the workmen did recover a number of human bones, the majority of which came from the area immediately adjacent to the south door of the chancel. All human bones were placed in two plastic bags 0.25 x 0.25 x 0.20m in size. The bones were from at least two adults and a child. The bones recovered were:-

- 1 adult skull (fragmented) and jaw
- 5 adult vertebrae or vertebrae fragments
- 1 fragment of adult clavicle
- 19 rib fragments, three of which were from a child/children
- 16 fragments of adult arm bone shafts
- 1 adult humerus (distal end) and 1 child humerus (distal end)
- 3 adult radii (distal ends) and 1 child radius (distal end)
- 3 adult ulnae (distal ends)
- 7 adult hand bones
- 7 adult pelvis fragments
- 4 adult femurs (distal end) and 2 adult femurs (proximal ends)
- 5 fragments of adult leg bone shafts
- 2 adult ankle bones
- 17 assorted tiny fragments

Sealing cemetery soil 1007 was a layer of mid grey-brown topsoil and turf 0.10m thick (context 1006) into which were set three grave stones. These consisted of a very small undated slab bearing the letters RH, a horizontal tomb (which was covered with spoil at the time of the watching brief) and a large vertical slab bearing the dedication:

“Here lies the body of Ann
the wife of William Abba
of Follifoot she died may 18 1780
Aged 32 years”.

3.2.2 The drainage channel and grading down of the cemetery on the northern and eastern sides of the chancel (Figure 3 Section 4).

The earliest deposit was orange-brown slightly silty sandy-clay, in excess of 0.25m thick, with occasional angular limestone fragments up to 0.04 x 0.04 x 0.015m in size, occasional rounded pebbles up to 0.06 x 0.04 x 0.03m, and frequent flecks of degraded limestone (context 1010). Above this was a 0.08m thick deposit of mid brown silty-sand with frequent limestone fragments, mortar flecks and tile fragments (context 1009), which seems to equate to context 1007 to the south of the chancel. Human bones were recovered from both contexts 1010 and 1009, but no grave cuts were observed, probably due to constant re-cutting. The only human bone recovered from the northern side of the church was the proximal end of an adult ulna. The workmen recovered a number of human bones from the eastern side of the chancel, which were from at least three adults, an infant and a child. The human bones were placed in two plastic bags which measured 0.25 x 0.25 x 0.20m in size. The bones recovered were:-

- 53 small fragments of skull bones
- 13 adult vertebrae or vertebrae fragments
- 3 fragments of adult clavicle
- 53 rib fragments
- 16 fragments of adult arm bone shafts
- 5 scapula fragments
- 6 adult humerus (5 distal ends, 1 proximal end), 2 infant humerus, 1 child humerus (distal end)
- 3 adult radii (1 distal end) 2 infant radii
- 3 adult ulnae
- 27 adult hand or foot bones
- 16 adult pelvis fragments
- 4 adult femurs (distal end) 1 infant femur and 1 child femur (proximal end)
- 2 adult tibia (proximal ends)
- 3 adult ankle bones
- 33 assorted small fragments of bone

Sealing context 1009 was a layer of mid grey-brown topsoil and turf 0.10m thick (context 1006).



Plate 7 Grading down of cemetery soils to north of chancel



Plate 8 Grading down of cemetery soils to east of chancel

3.3 Excavation of the soakaway and associated drainage channel SE of the chancel

A trench aligned roughly south-east, c.6.5m in length and between 0.30m and 1.00m in depth, was excavated from the south-eastern corner of the chancel. The trench was excavated to full depth by machine from the north-western end, for a distance of about 0.70m, at which point the mini-digger was moved to the south-east and the process was repeated. This drainage channel fed into a soakaway pit 1.75m x 1.75m in size and 1.85m deep. The uppermost 0.80m of this pit were excavated on one day, and it was deepened to 1.85m on the following day.

The earliest deposit was a degraded block of limestone in the north-eastern corner of the soakaway (context 1017). This was sealed by pale-brown to yellow sandy clay with occasional large irregular limestone fragments and frequent small limestone fragments (context 1016). Context 1016 was sealed in the south-eastern quarter of the soakaway by a deposit of very clean mid brown medium grained sand (context 1018). No human remains were recovered from these deposits, and they probably pre-date the foundation of the church. The upper surfaces of these deposits were at c.1.50m below present ground level.

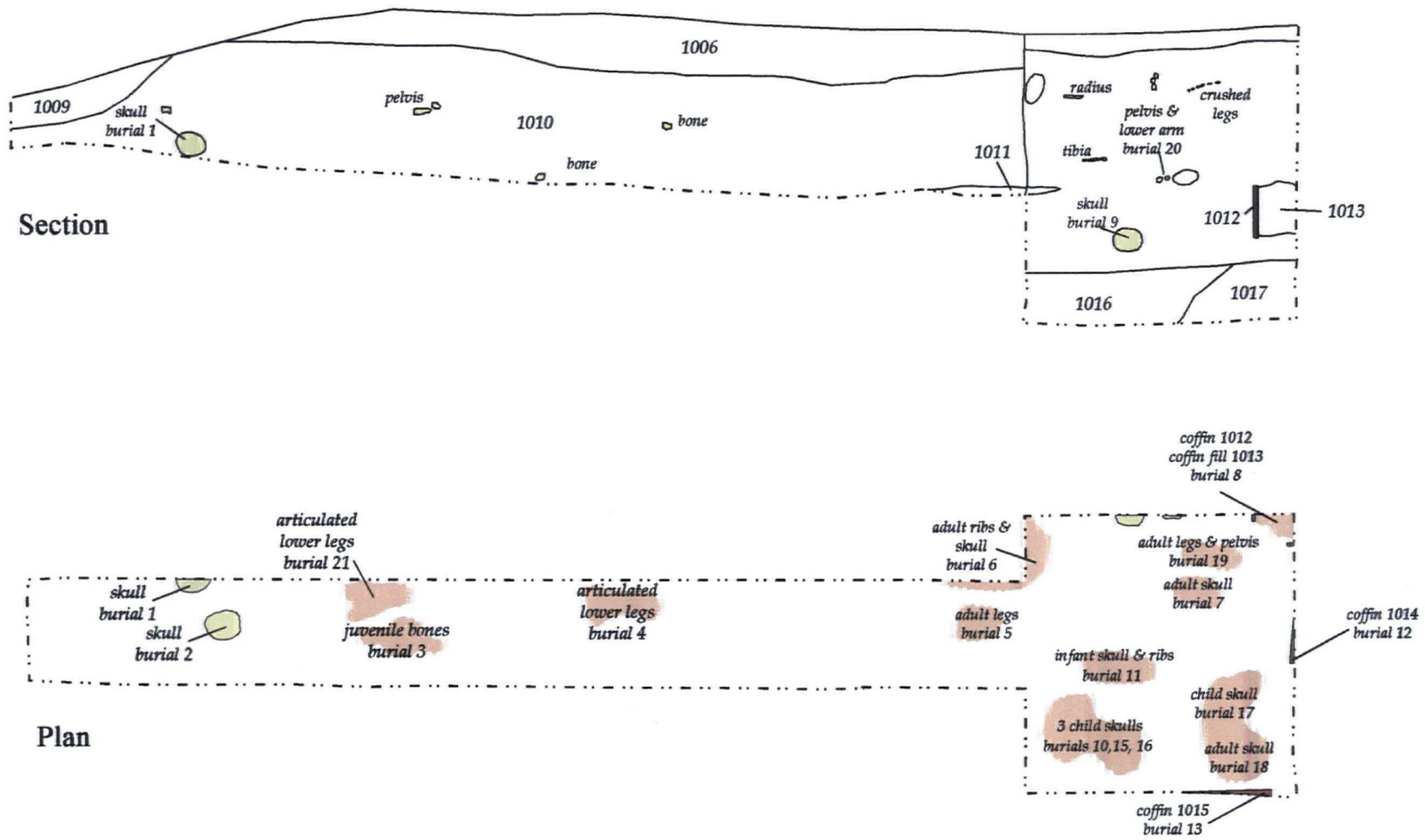


Figure 4 Section 5 and associated plan

