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# St Oswald's Church, Malpas SY14 8PA.

March 2017  
V 1.0



aeon archaeology



Archaeological Evaluation  
Project Code: A0106.1  
Report no. 0118

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## **March 2017 V 1.0**

Report no. 0118 v1.0

Archaeological Evaluation

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Project Code: A0106.1

Date: 06/03/2017

Client: St Oswald's Church

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## **1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Aeon Archaeology in partnership with Nexus Heritage was commissioned by St Oswald's Church, Malpas to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation of a proposed toilet block extension to the Church, in advance of planning application.

Three 1.2m square test pits were excavated which uncovered ten burials all aligned east-west. Three of the graves were almost certainly of post-medieval date, two of which are depicted on the 1884 graveyard plan.

The remaining seven graves were of a shallow depth suggesting that they predated the 19<sup>th</sup> Century anti-grave robbing law, with at least four of them cut into the natural sandstone bedrock. None of the seven graves appeared to contain any grave goods or coffin remains, although it was not within the remit of the evaluation to fully excavate the burials. Bone preservation varied between very low and high. One grave located in test pit 1 produced a shroud pin during cleaning, suggesting tentatively that it was of medieval date. The shallow depth of all of the seven graves hints at a possible medieval origin and the discovery of skeletal remains beneath the church buttress confirms that at least one grave was of pre-15<sup>th</sup> Century date.

A single rim sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> Century medieval ceramic was recovered from the topsoil horizon in test pit 1 which is likely associated with domestic activity related to the nearby medieval motte.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology in partnership with Nexus Heritage was commissioned by St Oswald's Church, Malpas (hereafter the Client) to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation of a proposed toilet block extension to the Church, in advance of planning application. The proposed extension location is to be sited at the west end of the northern elevation of the Church of St Oswald's, Cheshire SY14 8PA (centred on **NGR SJ 48630 47195**) (figures 1 and 2).

The Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader (hereafter DMA) at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (hereafter CAPAS) of Cheshire Shared Services considers that construction of the extension at this location has the potential to disturb significant archaeological remains which are likely to consist primarily of burials dating from the medieval period onwards. He also considers that it is also possible that structural features associated with earlier phases of the church and, perhaps, the castle may be present within the footprint of the proposed extension.

Further, the DMA notes that the precise impact of the proposed extension on archaeological assets, however, cannot be gauged at present as the depth, nature, preservation, and extent of archaeological deposits are unknown. It is possible that more recent burials, from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, have truncated and disturbed earlier remains down to bedrock. Conversely, some or part of the footprint of the proposed extension may have escaped this relatively recent disturbance, in which case early burials and other archaeological deposits may be present.

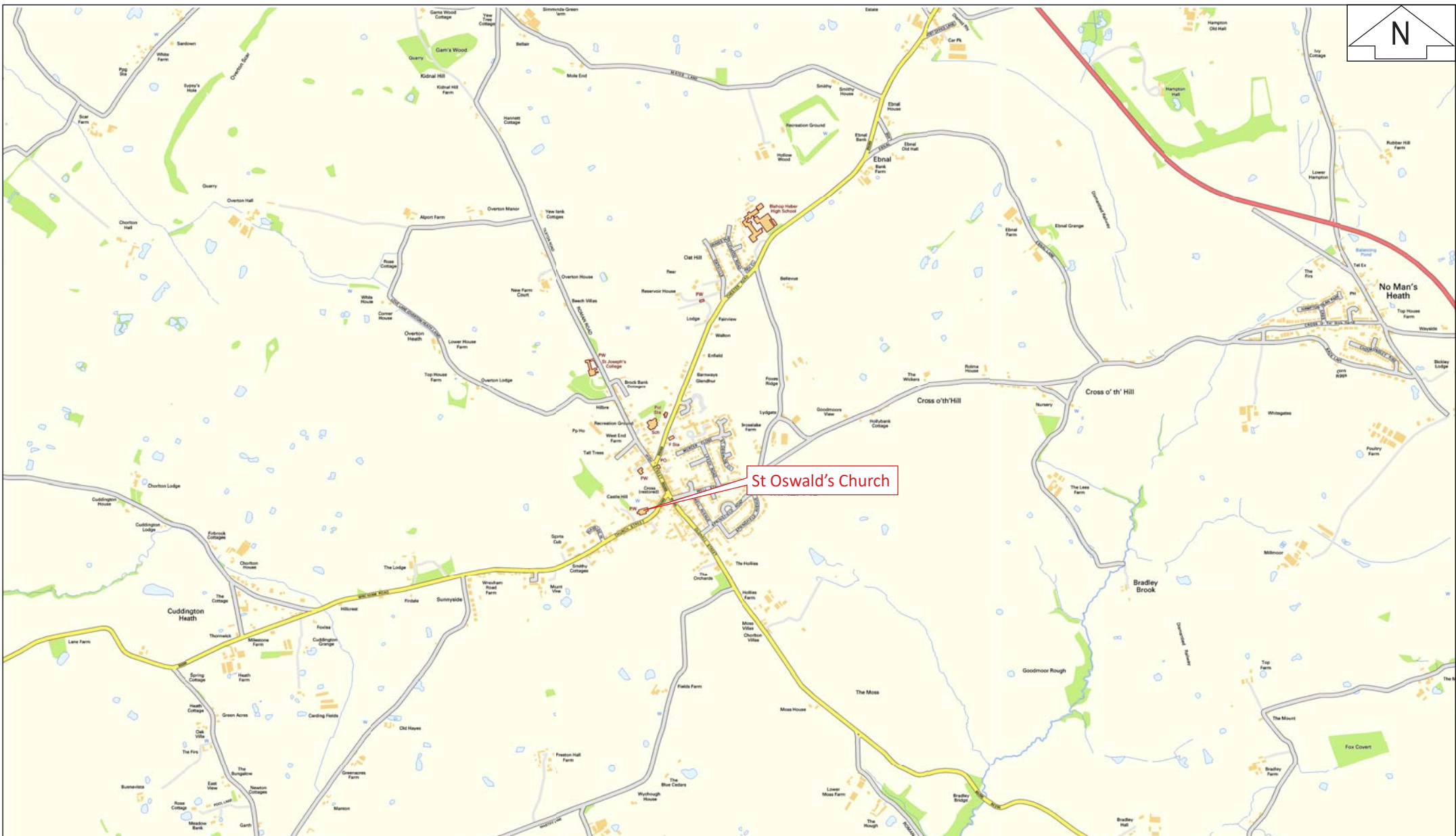
Cheshire West and Chester Council (hereafter the Council), as advised by the CAPAS, considers the site of the proposed extension is of potential archaeological interest and wishes to secure satisfactory treatment of the archaeological remains, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework (hereafter NPPF) and local policy provision.

A written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was undertaken by Nexus Heritage in January 2017 (3341.RO1a) (appendix II) which outlined the principle aims of the evaluation and the methods by which they would be met. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with this document. The assessment of the site through three (1.2m x 1.2m) archaeological evaluation test pits was deemed adequate for the purposes intended as represented in the test pit array reproduced in figure 3.

The aim of this programme of archaeological evaluation was to establish the archaeological significance of the site, to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving monuments or remains, and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and further potential mitigation strategies. This report includes an assessment of the potential for further investigative work if required, and where relevant give recommendations for an appropriate mitigation strategy.

This report conforms to the guidelines specified in the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014).





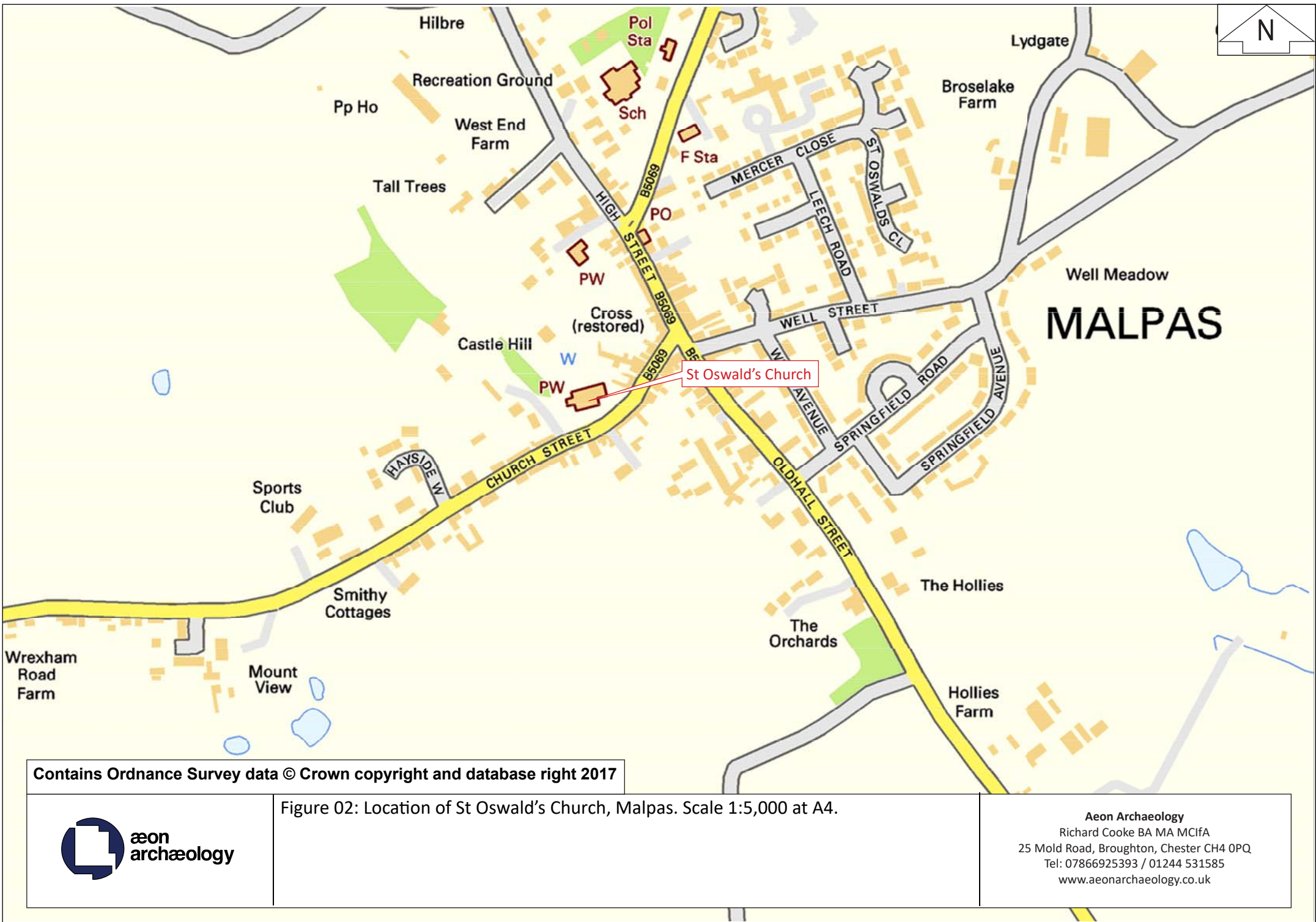
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Figure 01: Location of St Oswald's Church, Malpas. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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Figure 02: Location of St Oswald's Church, Malpas. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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Figure 03: Location of Test Pits 1-3 (TP 1-3) at St Oswald's Church, Malpas overlain on the 1884 Graveyard Plan. Scale 1:100 at A4.

### 3.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the evaluation work was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during the excavation of the archaeological evaluation test pits.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation test pits were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow the DMA to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation test pits were:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Cheshire.

The broad characteristics of the number, size, orientation and distribution of the test pits were considered to be appropriate and were agreed with the Client and DMA. The test pit array was proposed as part of the WSI prepared by Nexus Heritage and was designed to identify and characterise the archaeological features within the proposed development area, with a contingent test pit facility designed for site characterisation, the characteristics of which were insufficiently resolved within the core test pit provision. Contingent evaluation was optional, upon the discovery of archaeological artefacts, deposits, features or structures the characteristics of which could only be sufficiently determined upon further spatial investigation.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the *CIFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Chartered Institute For Archaeologists, 2014). Five stages are specified:

Phase 1: project planning

Phase 2: fieldwork

Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design

Phase 4: analysis and report preparation

Phase 5: dissemination

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. In this instance it was not necessary to prepare a revised project design as alluded to in Phase 3; as there was a paucity of evidence recovered in Phase 2 in terms of archaeological features

and the recovered artefacts only offered minimal potential for analysis and therefore did not warrant any alteration to the initial project design.

The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by the Cheshire Historic Environment Record and the Oasis database so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the material and documentary records from the project.



## **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

Before the archaeological evaluation commenced an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface re-instatement and health and safety protection measures were agreed with the Client, and the DMA.

### **4.1 Evaluation test pits**

The evaluation test pit array was designed to investigate areas that may contain archaeological features. There was latitude on the location of each test pit and slight repositioning to take account of buried services and other constraints was acknowledged as a possibility within the WSI.

The test pits were excavated by hand with topsoil and overburden removed in spits of 0.3m down to archaeological deposits or natural sub-soils, whichever were encountered first. All uncovered archaeological features were to be cleaned and excavated by hand.

A written record of the deposits and all identified features in each evaluation test pit was completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas. All subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations. The photographic record was completed using a digital SLR camera (Canon Eos 600D) set to maximum resolution.

Contingency provision was made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of test pit limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core area.

The archaeological works were surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches and archaeological features within them were accurately located on a site plan prepared at the most appropriate and largest scale.

All excavations were backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure the site was left in a safe and tidy condition.

### **4.2 Data Collection from Site Records**

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that they can be archived with the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

### **4.3 Artefact Methodology**

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Finds numbers would be attributed and they would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the evaluation trenching. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and DMA. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

#### **4.4 Environmental Samples Methodology**

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts including bone, and evidence for metalworking.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs would be obtained from Oxford Archaeology if required.

#### **4.5 Report and dissemination**

A full archive including plans, photographs and written material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced.

Upon approval from the Client copies of the report will be sent to the Cheshire Historic Environment Record, the DMA, and the Oasis database.

## **5.0 SITE LOCATION**

(Reproduced from Nexus Heritage report 3341.RO1a)

Malpas lies in south-west Cheshire close to the Welsh border, c. 17km south of Chester. This historic settlement is located at c. 120m AOD on a ridge of high ground which forms a southern extension of the Mid-Cheshire Ridge. The underlying solid geology is Malpas Sandstone, which is overlain by glacial sand and gravel. The surrounding gently undulating landscape comprises mainly boulder clay (British Geological Survey 1967). The overlying soils are brown earths, with stagnogleys in the surrounding area (Furness 1978, 209).

St Oswald's church (National Grid Reference: SJ 48640 47196) is a large structure with a nave, chancel, western tower, and north and south aisles with chapels attached, set in a generous church yard. The Church contains work from the 14th century but was largely remodelled in the second half of the 15th century (Richards 1947, Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 2003). The church had two rectors from 1285 to 1885, perhaps as a result of the splitting of the lordship, and consequently there are two rectories - Upper and Lower. (ibid 224). It has been suggested that the existence of two rectors in the medieval period and the dedication of the medieval church to St. Oswald may indicate that there was an early minster church and cult centre at Malpas (Harris and Thacker 1987, 269).

## **6.0 HISTORY OF THE SITE**

(Reproduced from Nexus Heritage report 3341.RO1a)

There is no available Archaeological Assessment for the Site but the general historic archaeological background to Malpas is summarised in the Cheshire Historic Towns Survey – Malpas: Archaeological Assessment (Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 2003a) and there is a concise treatment of St. Oswald's Church (Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 2003, 6).

In addition, the Council is guided by the document Cheshire Historic Towns Survey – Malpas: Archaeological Strategy (Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 2003b) in which an Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) has been identified at Malpas, comprising two Archaeological Character Zones (ACZs). Each Zone is identified by its defining archaeological or historical characteristics, or Primary Characteristics. The Historic Core (Archaeological Character Zone 1), contains defining characteristics which include the site of the medieval castle, the medieval church of St. Oswald and the extent of medieval settlement.



## **7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

### **7.1 The Documentary Archive**

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological evaluation:

Test pit sheets	3
Digital photographs	74
Context Sheets	42
Drawings	1 on 1 sheet
Photogrammetry photographs	763

### **7.2 Environmental Samples**

One environmental bulk sample (01) was taken from grave fill (1010) in test pit 3. This sample remains unprocessed and is stored in-house at Aeon Archaeology but is available for future investigation if deemed appropriate.

No other bulk samples were taken as no suitable secure contexts were encountered.

### **7.3 Artefacts**

Three sherds of post-medieval ceramic; three fragments of post-medieval pipe stem; one sherd of medieval ceramic; two iron coffin nails; four fragments of slag; and one iron shroud pin of probable medieval date were recovered during the evaluation. These were cleaned and identified in-house at Aeon Archaeology and are described in section 8.0.

## 8.0 ARTEFACT ANALYSIS

### 8.1 Ceramics

The artefacts, according to their test pit, context and type are quantified in the table below.

Test Pit	Context	Artefact Type	Quantity	Weight (g)
1	1014	Red stoneware (brown glazed) ceramic	1 x sherd	15
1	1014	White china ceramic	1 x sherd	2
1	1014	Clay pipe stem	3 x sherds	5
1	1014	Iron-rich sandy-ware ceramic	1 x sherd	9
1	1014	Iron coffin nail	1	4
1	1015	Slag	4	34
1	1015	Iron coffin nail	1	7
1	1015	Red stoneware (yellow glazed) ceramic	1 x sherd	3
1	1017	Shroud pin	1	1

#### The Post-medieval pottery (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century)

A sherd of red stoneware (brown glazed) and white china were recovered from the topsoil horizon (1014), and a sherd of red stoneware (yellow glazed) ceramic was recovered from the subsoil (1015) horizon in test pit 1. All were sherds from small jars and date to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, most likely having functioned as graveyard paraphernalia.

#### The medieval pottery (13<sup>th</sup> Century)

A single rim sherd of medieval ceramic was recovered from the topsoil horizon (1014) in test pit 1. It was of an iron-rich sandy-ware and would have formed part of a cooking jar, having been produced either in the Midlands or Cheshire area. A date of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century is proposed for this ceramic type.

#### Clay Pipe

Three ceramic pipe stem fragments were recovered from the topsoil horizon (1014). An internal bore of 2mm suggests a mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century onwards date.

#### Iron

One iron coffin nail was recovered from the topsoil horizon (1014) and one from the subsoil horizon (1015) in test pit 1.

In addition an iron shroud pin, possibly of medieval date, was recovered while cleaning burial (01) (1017) in test pit 1.

#### Slag

Four fragments of slag were recovered from the subsoil (1015) in test pit 1 and are of unknown date.

## Discussion.

The recovered artefacts from the archaeological evaluation phase at St Oswald's Church are surprisingly few. Despite centuries of grave digging at the site only four ceramic sherds were recovered, although one of these is likely to be of 13<sup>th</sup> Century date. This sherd represents a cooking jar or pot and is likely associated with domestic activity from the nearby medieval motte.

The two recovered coffin nails are of probable post-medieval date and are likely to have been redeposited through later grave digging. The iron shroud pin was recovered while cleaning an articulated burial and is quite likely to be medieval in date.

The slag fragments suggest metal working at the site although as the graveyard has seen a plethora of activity over the centuries it is not clear whether these fragments have been redeposited from elsewhere and what time period they originate from.

## 9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TEST PITS

The evaluation test pits were designed to evaluate and characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains. Each test pit is described and discussed separately. The location of the test pits can be found on figure 3 where they are overlain on the 1884 graveyard plan. The location and orientation of photographs is shown on figure 14.

Where relevant context numbers have been assigned and are shown enclosed within brackets. Details of all contexts used can be found in appendix I.

### **Test Pit 01** (Plates 1-9, figures 4-6)

NGR SJ 48630 47199

#### *Discussion*

Test Pit 1 measured 1.2m in length by 1.2m in width and was located at the north-western part of the proposed development footprint targeting a grave location marked on the 1884 graveyard plan but no longer visible at ground level.

The test pit was excavated through a 0.25m deep soft dark red-brown silt-clay topsoil (1014) deposit which at the north-eastern corner overlaid the structural remains of an in-situ grave marker (1016). This consisted of dark-grey machine-cut stone measuring >0.64m in length by >0.34m in width by 0.12m deep and continued into the northern and eastern limits of excavation. The grave marker was sited at 123.66m OD (0.28m BGL) and included at least two stone sections butting up against one another and orientated east to west. There was no inscription visible upon the section of marker revealed and several associated grey-stone slabs had been toppled on to the grave marker, most likely from an upstanding associated stone.

At the southern end of the test pit the topsoil overlaid a modern service trench [1041] which measured >1.2m in length by >0.43m in width by 0.42m in depth, orientated east to west. This cut was difficult to discern in the test pit section but appeared to have steep, concaved sides and a flat base, and was filled with a soft mid/light red-brown silt-clay (1042) overlying a modern gas, electric and water utility pipe.

The service trench had cut through a >0.35m deep soft mid red-brown silt-clay deposit (1015) which appeared to be a general mixed graveyard soil. The test pit was excavated through this deposit to a maximum depth of 123.31m OD (0.6m BGL) where excavation was halted due to the uncovering of two in-situ articulated human burials (skeletons 01 and 02).

The first grave cut [1037] was located at the southern end of the test pit and consisted of a sub-rectangular cut orientated east to west and measuring >0.85m in length by approximately 0.35m in width, which continued into the eastern limit of excavation. The base and sides of the grave cut were not revealed as it was not within the remit of the evaluation to exhume human remains. As such the grave was cleaned to reveal the skull, clavicle and ribs of a well preserved skeleton (01) situated at 123.31m OD (0.58m BGL). The skeleton had a full complement of teeth and a small cranium size suggesting that it was that of a child individual. Although not visible in the test pit section the grave almost certainly cut through deposit (1015) and had been infilled upon interment with a soft mid red-brown silt-clay (1017). This deposit also produced an iron shroud pin while cleaning.

At the western end of the test pit a second burial was found which consisted of a sub-rectangular grave cut [1040] orientated east to west and measuring >0.2m in length by 0.51m in width, which continued into the eastern limit of excavation. As before, the grave cut sides and base were not revealed but the feature was cleaned to reveal the metatarsals, tarsals and tibias of an adult skeleton (02) situated at 123.38m OD (0.51m BGL). The grave cut was not visible in the test pit section due to

having being infilled upon internment with a soft mid red-brown silt-clay (1018) identical to the surrounding general graveyard soil, but almost certainly cut through this deposit.

During the excavation one hundred and forty-one fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered and reburied prior to backfilling. The test pit was recorded using digital photographs, context sheets and a trench sheet pro-forma and backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.





### *Interpretation*

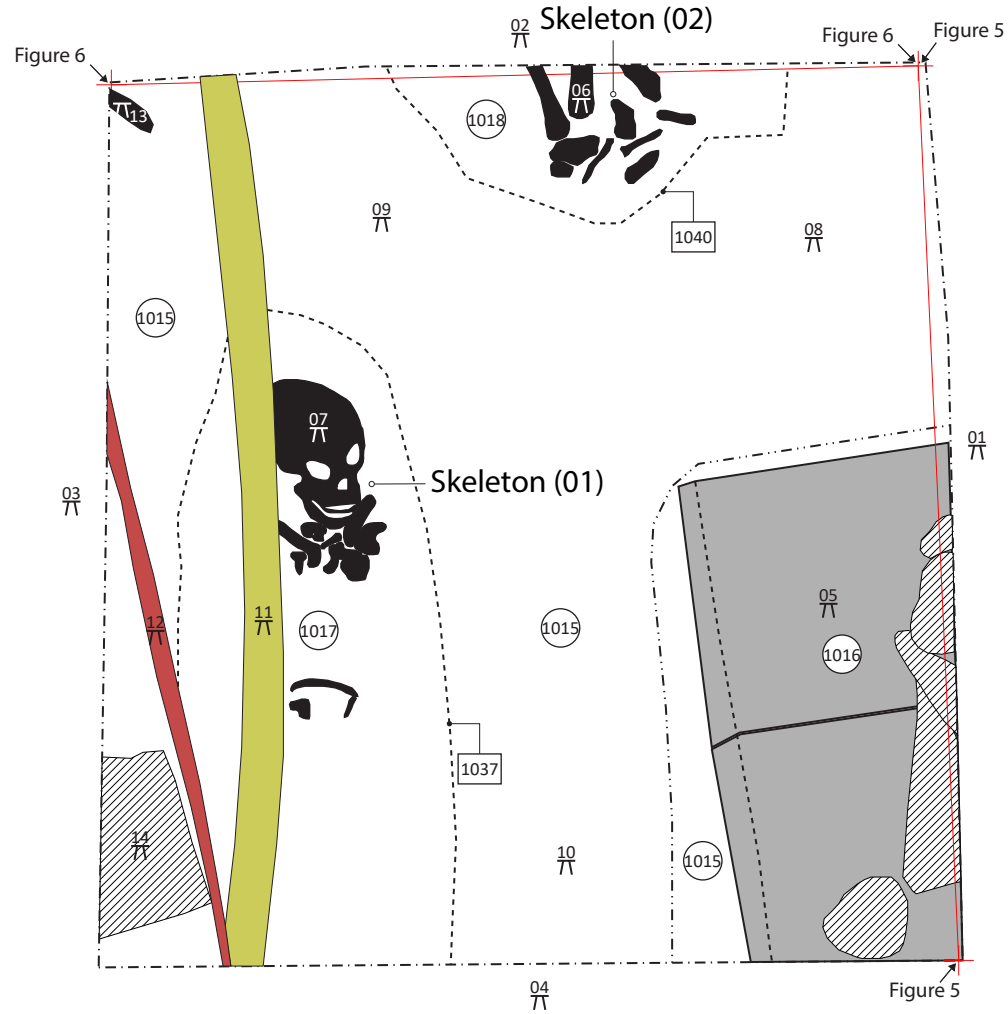
At the north-eastern corner of the test pit a stone grave marker was uncovered which corresponds with the burial depicted on the 1884 graveyard plan. This marker was in-situ and had originally laid on the ground surface before having been covered over with 0.25m of topsoil, presumably in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. During these works an upstanding grave marker, probably from the same grave, was toppled on to the slabs before also being covered over. The burial for the marker was not encountered but was almost certainly at a much lower depth than the test pit limits.

Test pit 1 also uncovered the in-situ articulated remains of two skeletons (01 and 02), both aligned east to west and located at 0.51m and 0.58m BGL respectively. The shallow depth of both burials, especially considering the deposition of topsoil across the site in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, indicates that they predate the 19<sup>th</sup> Century anti-grave robbing law and the discovery of an iron shroud pin during the cleaning of skeleton (01) suggests that at least that individual had been interred wrapped in a burial shroud secured by pins. The practice of placing the corpse within a shroud prior to burial is common throughout the medieval period but also continues sporadically into the early post-medieval period. As such it seems likely that at least one of the burials is tentatively of a medieval date, and by association of the shallow grave depth it is probable that the second burial originates from this time period also.

Spot Heights - OD (m)

- 1 = 123.93
- 2 = 123.89
- 3 = 123.80
- 4 = 123.86
- 5 = 123.66
- 6 = 123.38
- 7 = 123.31
- 8 = 123.29
- 9 = 123.29
- 10 = 123.31
- 11 = 123.44
- 12 = 123.57
- 13 = 123.60
- 14 = 123.72

-  Stones
-  Gas Utility
-  Electric and Water Utility
-  Bone



Located on figure 03.

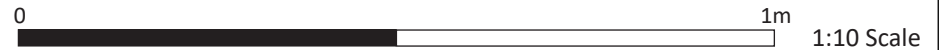


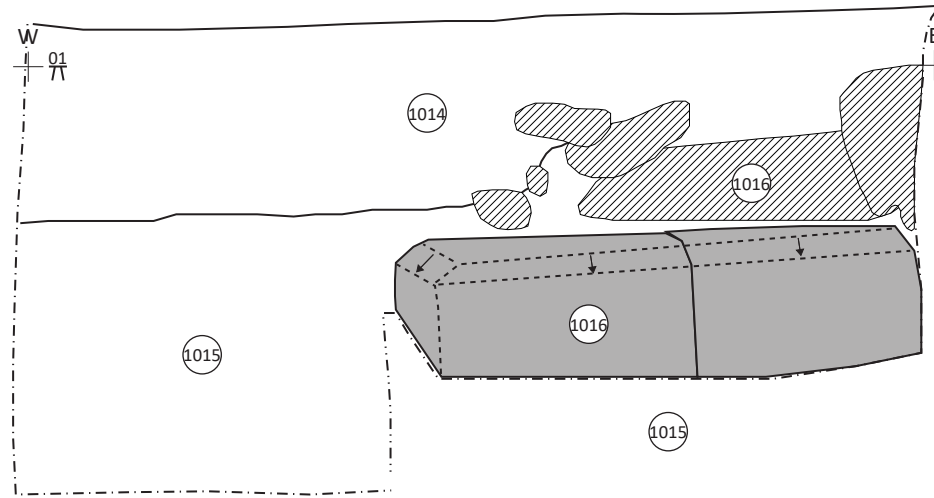
Figure 04: Plan of Test Pit 1. Scale 1:10 at A4.



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Spot Heights - OD (m)

1= 123.88



Located on fig. 04

0 1m 1:10 Scale



Figure 05: South facing section of Test Pit 1. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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**Plate 01:** Test Pit 1, from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 02:** Test Pit 1, from the south. Scale 0.5m.





Plate 03: Test Pit 1, from the west. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 04:** Test Pit 1, from the north. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 05:** Test Pit 1 showing skeleton (01), from the north. Scale 0.05m.



**Plate 06:** Test Pit 1 showing skeleton (02), from the east. Scale 0.05m.





**Plate 07:** Test Pit 1 showing grave marker (1016), from the south. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 08:** Test Pit 1 east facing section, from the east. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 09:** Test Pit 1 south facing section, from the south. Scale 0.5m.

## **Test Pit 02** (Plates 10-22, figures 7-9)

NGR SJ 48633 47199

### *Discussion*

Test Pit 2 measured 1.2m in length by 1.2m in width and was located at the north-eastern part of the proposed development footprint targeting a grave location marked on the 1884 graveyard plan but no longer visible at ground level.

The test pit was excavated through a 0.14m deep soft dark red-brown silt-clay topsoil (10149) deposit and a 0.17m deep soft dark red-brown silt-sand subsoil (1022) which at the southern end of the test pit had been cut by a modern service trench [1020] which measured >1.2m in length by >0.57m in width by 0.25m in depth, orientated east to west. This cut was difficult to discern in the test pit section but appeared to have steep, concaved sides and a flat base, and was filled with a soft mid/light red-brown silt-clay (1021) overlying a modern electric and water utility pipe.

The service trench had cut through a >0.47m deep soft mid red-brown silt-clay deposit (1033) which appeared to be a general mixed graveyard soil. The test pit was excavated through this deposit to a maximum depth of 123.09m OD (0.6m BGL) where sandstone bedrock (1038) was encountered.

At the southern end of the test pit a sub-rectangular grave [1032] was found cut into the sandstone bedrock (1038). The grave was orientated east to west and measured >0.56m in length by >0.12m in width by >0.07m in depth, and continued into the southern and western limits of excavation. The grave had steep, almost vertical sides with a flat base located at 123.14m OD (0.63m BGL) and was filled with a soft mid red-brown silt-clay (1039) with no trace of any bone fragment inclusions.

To the immediate east of grave [1032] a second grave was encountered [1029] which had been cut into the general graveyard soil deposit (1033) but not into the sandstone bedrock (1038). This grave was orientated east to west and measured >0.25m in length by >0.2m in width by >0.06m in depth, and continued into the eastern limit of excavation. The base and sides of the grave cut were not revealed as an in-situ articulated tibia and fibula (skeleton 04) were encountered at 123.41m OD (0.37m BGL) within a soft mid red-brown silt-clay (1030) fill. The bones were of a poor level of preservation and had been partially truncated by the service trench [1020] and also partially cut through on the northern limit by later grave cut [1025] (see below).

At the western end of the test pit a third grave cut [1034] was encountered that had been cut into both the general graveyard soil (1033) and the sandstone bedrock (1038). This grave was orientated east to west and measured >0.46m in length by >0.37m in width by >0.08m in depth, and continued into the western limit of excavation. The base and sides of the grave cut were only partially revealed as an in-situ articulated fibula (skeleton 05) was encountered at 123.22m OD (0.56m BGL) within a soft mid red-brown silt-clay (1035) fill. The bones were of a poor level of preservation and had been partially cut through on the southern limit by later grave cut [1025].

Grave [1025] was located at the eastern end of the test pit and had been cut into both the general graveyard soil (1033) and the sandstone bedrock (1038), as well as cutting through the fills of earlier graves [1029] and [1034]. This grave was orientated east to west and measured >0.8m in length by 0.36m in width by >0.18m in depth, and continued into the eastern limit of excavation. The sides of the grave cut were vertical but the base was not revealed as an in-situ articulated burial (skeleton 03) was encountered at 123.01m OD (0.77m BGL) within a soft mid red-brown silt-clay (1026) fill. The skeleton appeared to be complete, albeit in a poor level of preservation, and measured 0.48m in length suggesting that the individual was approximately three to four months of age at time of death. The remains of a poorly preserved wooden coffin (1028) was visible around the skeletal remains which

measured 0.58m in length by 0.22m in width, and the remains of a copper alloy plaque was located over the rib cage which was too degraded to carry any inscription.

At the northern end of the test pit a fifth grave cut [1023] was encountered which had been cut into both the general graveyard soil (1033) and the sandstone bedrock (1038). This grave was orientated east to west and measured >1.2m in length by 0.46m in width by >0.14m in depth, and continued into the eastern and western limits of excavation. The sides of the grave cut were vertical but the base was not revealed as the safe depth limit of the trench had been encountered and the grave was continuing deeper beyond 122.87m OD (1.06m BGL).

During the excavation three hundred fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered and reburied prior to backfilling. The test pit was recorded using digital photographs, context sheets and a trench sheet pro-forma and backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

### *Interpretation*





Test pit 2 uncovered five burials, all orientated east to west, and at least three of which contained in-situ articulated human remains (skeletons 03, 04 and 05).

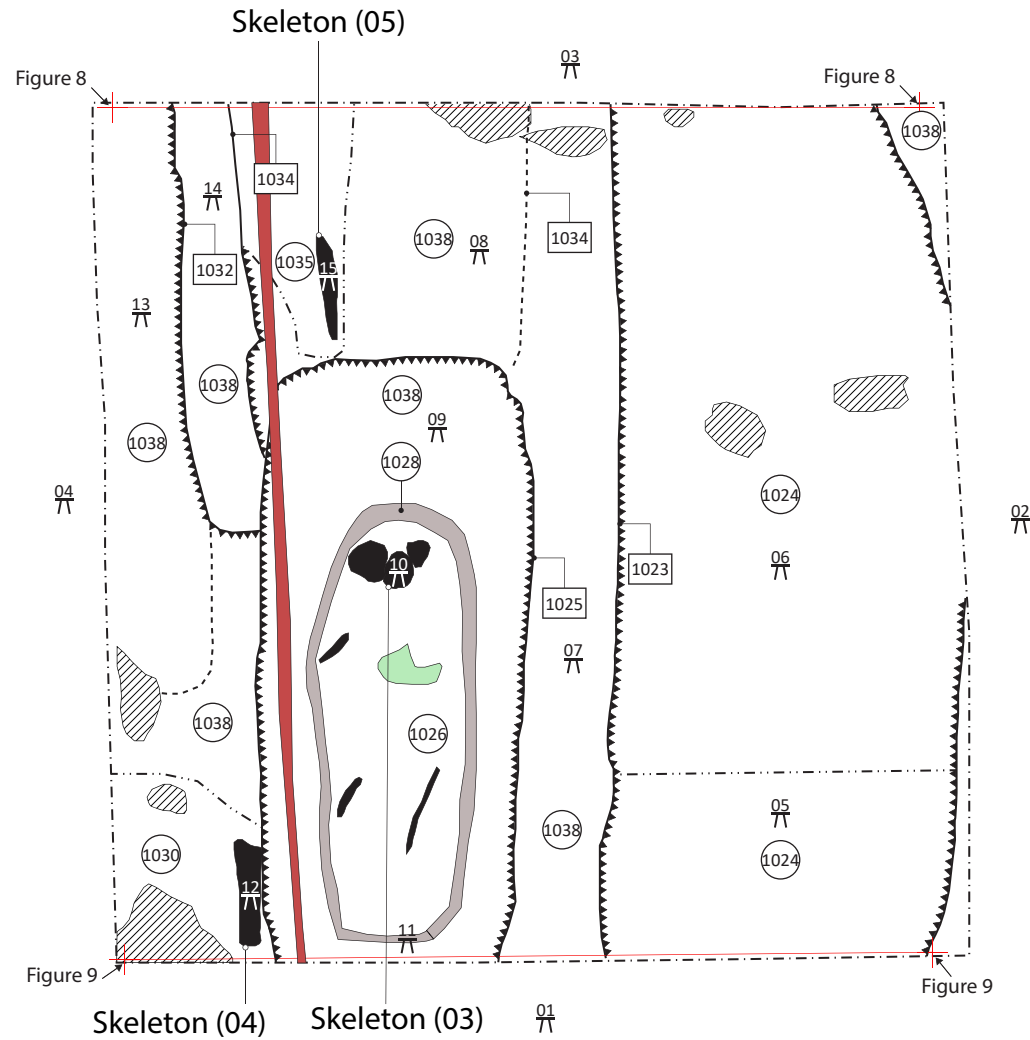
Burial cuts [1029], [1034] and [1032] were located at only 0.37m BGL, 0.56m BGL, and 0.53m BGL respectively and therefore predate the 19<sup>th</sup> Century anti-grave robbing law. There were no burial artefacts, coffin nails, or shroud pins found although the shallow depth would suggest a possible medieval date. The skeletal remains in both graves [1029] and [1034] had been cut by later infant burial [1025] which despite being only located at 0.77m BGL retained the poorly preserved remains of a wooden coffin and copper alloy plaque suggesting that it dates to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Burial [1023] corresponds with the grave shown on the 1884 graveyard plan and the fact that the base of the grave was not encountered suggests that it post-dates the 19<sup>th</sup> Century anti-grave robbing law.

Spot Heights - OD (m)

- 1 = 123.93
- 2 = 123.93
- 3 = 123.91
- 4 = 123.77
- 5 = 123.03
- 6 = 122.87
- 7 = 123.09
- 8 = 123.14
- 9 = 122.97
- 10 = 123.01
- 11 = 123.00
- 12 = 123.41
- 13 = 123.14
- 14 = 123.25
- 15 = 123.22

-  Stones
-  Electric and Water Utility
-  Bone
-  Cu alloy plaque



Located on figure 03.

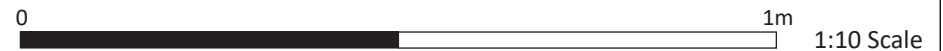




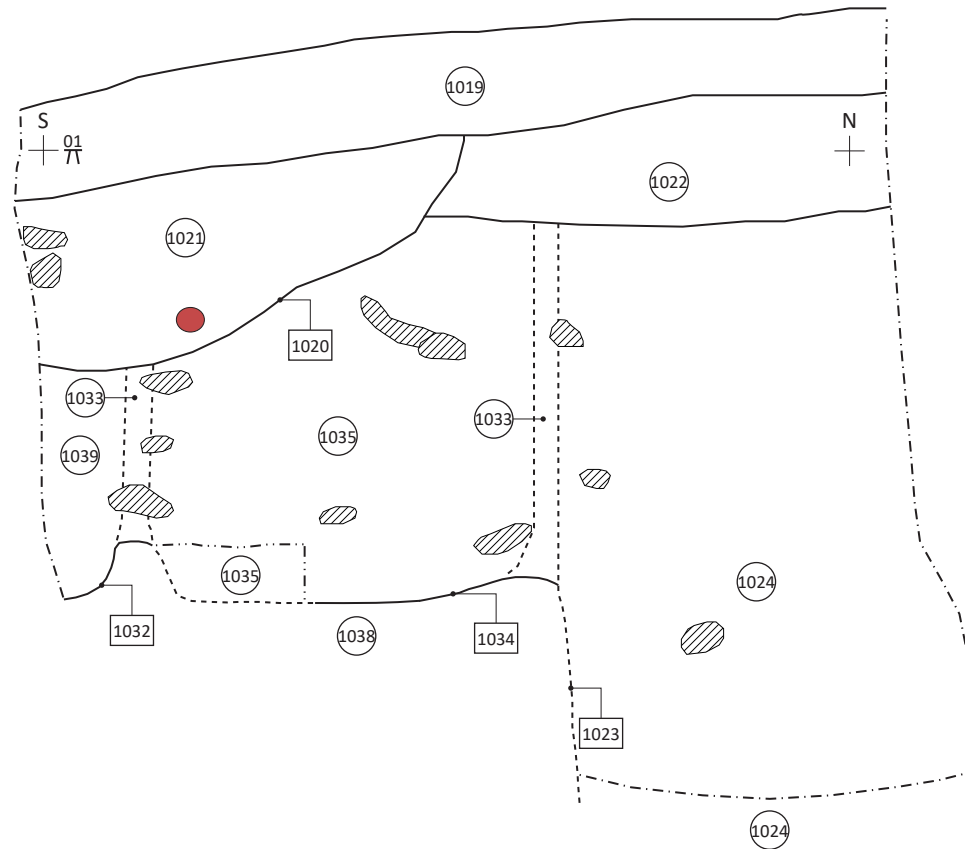
Figure 07: Plan of Test Pit 2. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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Spot Heights - OD (m)

1= 123.75

-  Stones
-  Electric and Water Utility



Located on fig. 06


0  1m 1:10 Scale



Figure 08: East facing section of Test Pit 2. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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Plate 10: Test Pit 2, from the west. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 11:** Test Pit 2, from the east. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 12:** Test Pit 2, from the south. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 13:** Test Pit 2 showing skeleton (04), from the west. Scale 0.05m.





**Plate 14:** Test Pit 2 grave cut [1032], from the west. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 15:** Test Pit 2 showing skeleton (05), from the north. Scale 0.05m.





**Plate 16:** Test Pit 2 grave cut [1025] showing skeleton (03), coffin (1028) and copper alloy plaque (1027) from the west. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 17:** Test Pit 2 grave cut [1025] showing skeleton (03), coffin (1028) and copper alloy plaque (1027) from the north. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 18:** Test Pit 2 grave cut [1025] showing skeleton (03) skull, from the north. Scale 0.05m.





**Plate 19:** Test Pit 2 grave cut [1025] showing copper alloy plaque (1027), from the north. Scale 0.05m.



**Plate 20:** Test Pit 2 grave cut [1023], from the east. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 21:** Test Pit 2 east facing section, from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 22:** Test Pit 2 west facing section, from the west. Scale 0.5m.

### **Test Pit 03** (Plates 23-29, figures 10-13)

NGR SJ 48630 47195

#### *Discussion*

Test Pit 3 measured 1.2m in length by 1.2m in width and was located at the southern part of the proposed development footprint against the Church wall and buttress.

Once the existing stone slab pathway (1001) was lifted the test pit was excavated through a 0.15m deep friable light grey-white gravel and silt substrata (1002), which overlaid a 0.08m deep soft mid/light orange bedding sand (1003) laid down as part of the path construction. Beneath the sand a general graveyard soil of 0.34m deep moderate/soft mid red-brown silt-clay-sand (1004) was encountered which directly overlaid the sandstone bedrock (1012) at 123.59m OD (0.59m BGL) and produced fifteen fragments of disarticulated human bone.

At the northern end of the test pit a sub-rectangular grave [1005] was found cut into the sandstone bedrock (1012). The grave was orientated east to west and measured >1.2m in length by >0.3m in width by 0.23m in depth, and continued into the eastern and western limits of excavation. The grave had steep, almost vertical sides with a slightly concaved base located at 123.21m OD (0.97m BGL) at the eastern end and rising to 123.38m OD (0.8m BGL) at the western end. The grave cut was filled with a moderate/soft mid red-brown silt-clay (1010) which when excavated revealed the poorly preserved remains of an in-situ jaw bone and fibula (skeleton 06), the former lying at 123.42m OD (0.76m BGL). The fibula was located within the eastern limit of excavation and continued beneath the stone rubble foundations (1009) thus predating the church buttress.

At the southern end of the test pit a second sub-rectangular grave [1006] was found, also cut into the sandstone bedrock (1012). The grave was orientated east to west and measured >1.2m in length by >0.6m in width by 0.05m in depth, and continued into the western limit of excavation. The grave had steep, almost vertical sides with a gently north-south sloping base, and was located at 123.5m OD (0.69m BGL). The grave cut was filled with a soft mid red-brown silt-clay (1011) which when excavated revealed the poorly preserved remains of two in-situ femurs (skeleton 07) that continued into the western limit of excavation. The femurs measured 0.2m apart from their outside edge suggesting that the interred individual was a child, and lay at 123.55m OD (0.64m BGL).

The test pit enabled the stratigraphic relationship between the church wall and buttress to be investigated and showed that the buttress masonry was not keyed into the church wall masonry, having been added at a later date.

The test pit was recorded using digital photographs, context sheets and a trench sheet pro-forma. The test pit was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.




#### *Interpretation*

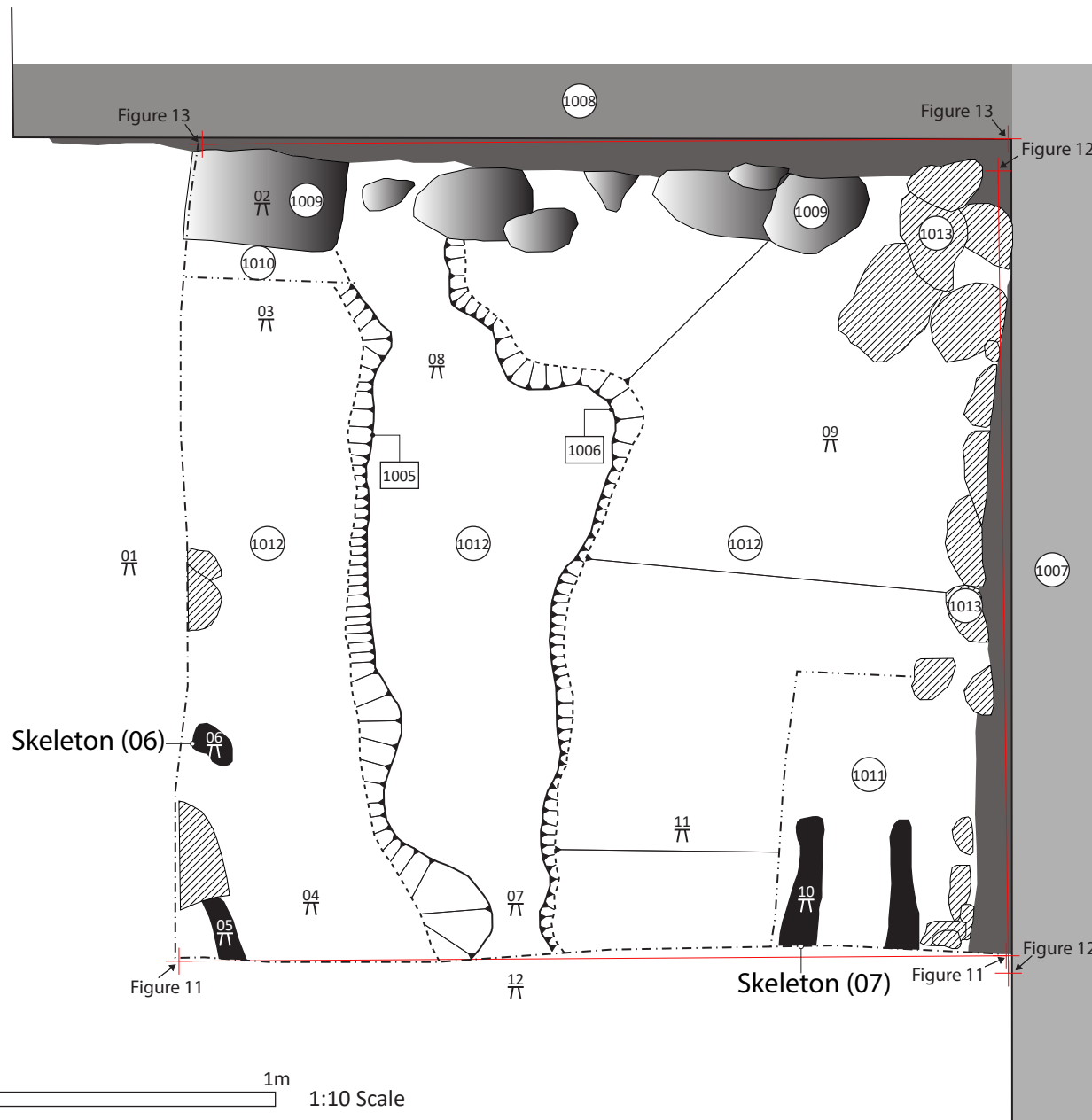
Test pit 3 uncovered two graves [1005] [1006] cut into the natural sandstone bedrock that had poorly preserved human remains lying at 0.76m BGL and 0.69m BGL respectively and therefore predating the 19<sup>th</sup> Century anti-grave robbing law. There were no burial artefacts, coffin nails, or shroud pins found although the shallow depth would suggest a possible medieval date. This hypothesis is supported by the continuation of the human femur in grave [1005] beneath the church buttress foundations which are believed to have been constructed in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century (Rylands, Cn.T.M.). Indeed, the test pit allowed the church wall and buttress to be inspected and showed that the buttress had been added to the church wall proper at a later date.



Spot Heights - OD (m)

- 1 = 124.18
- 2 = 123.95
- 3 = 123.21
- 4 = 123.38
- 5 = 123.64
- 6 = 123.42
- 7 = 123.58
- 8 = 123.59
- 9 = 123.50
- 10 = 123.55
- 11 = 123.50
- 12 = 124.19

-  Stones
-  Bone
-  Church upper and lower wall



Located on figure 03.






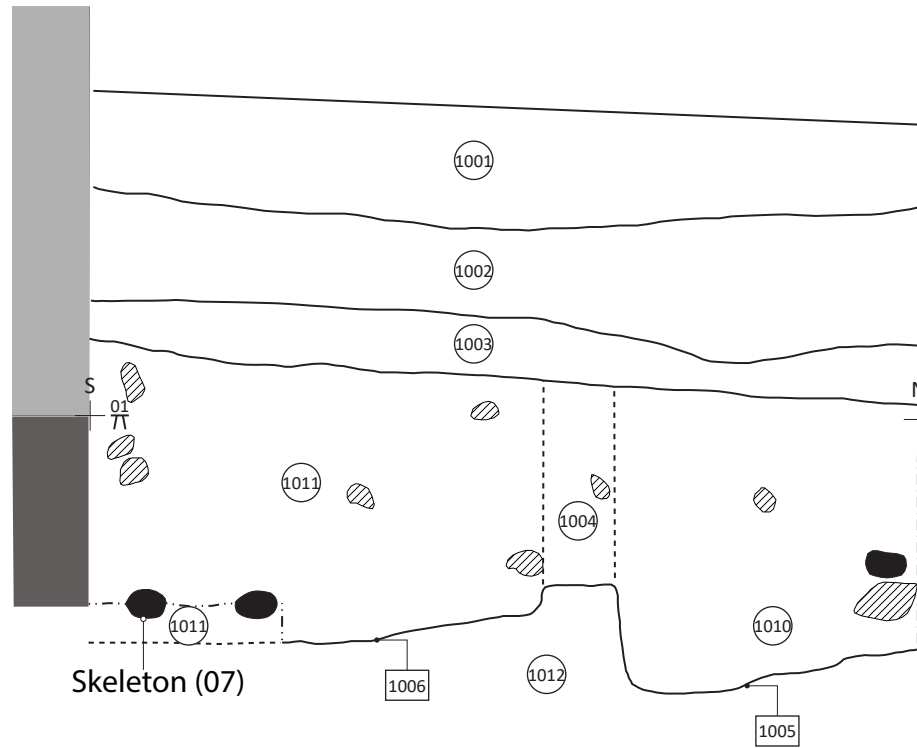
Figure 10: Plan of Test Pit 3. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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Spot Heights - OD (m)

1= 123.81

-  Stones
-  Church upper and lower wall
-  Bone



Located on fig. 10

0 1m 1:10 Scale






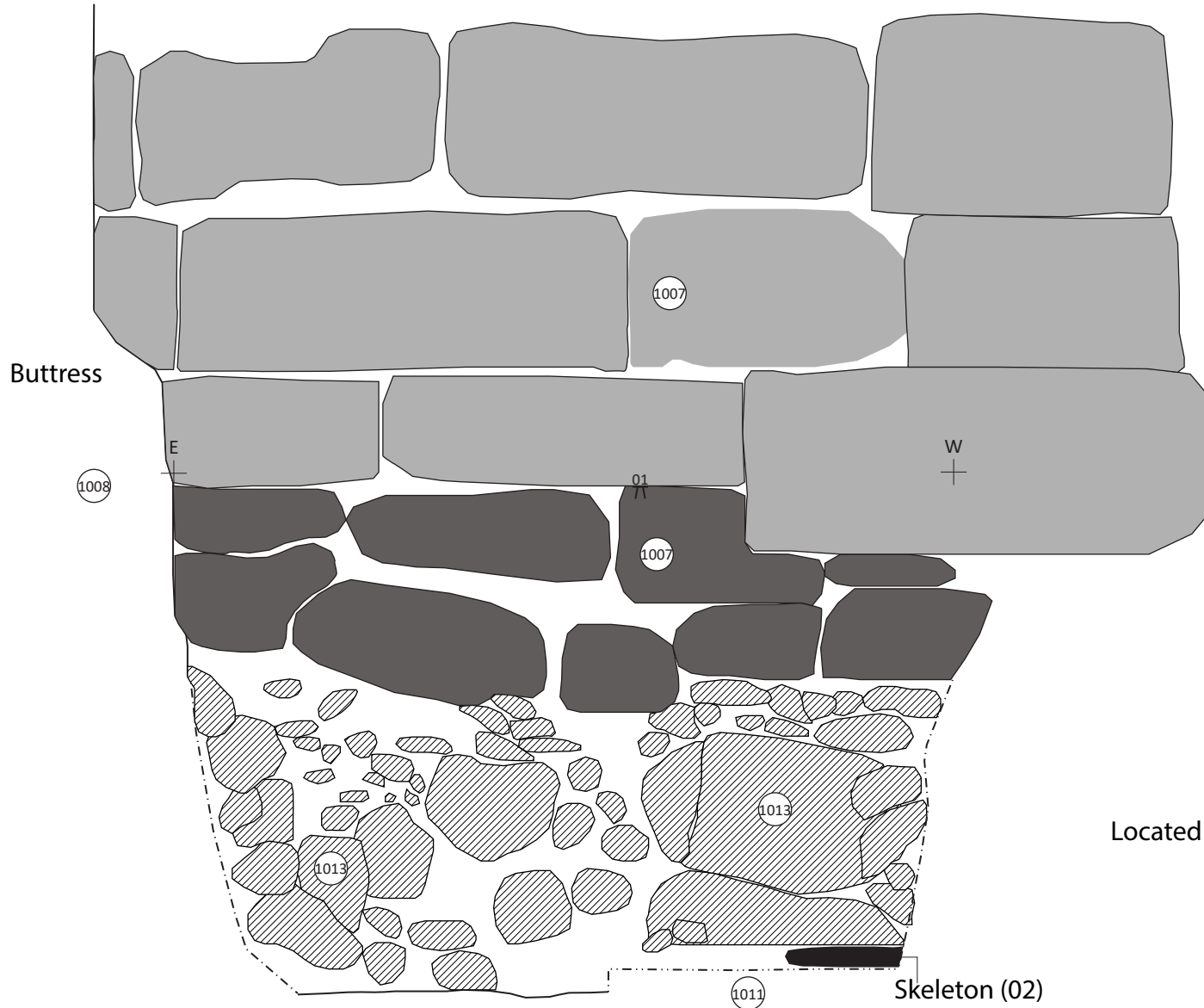
Figure 11: East facing section of Test Pit 3. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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Spot Heights - OD (m)

1= 124.26

-  Stones
-  Bone
-  Church upper and lower wall



Located on fig. 10

0 1m 1:10 Scale




Figure 12: North facing section of Test Pit 3. Scale 1:10 at A4.



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Spot Heights - OD (m)

1= 124.26

-  Stones
-  Bone
-  Church upper and lower wall

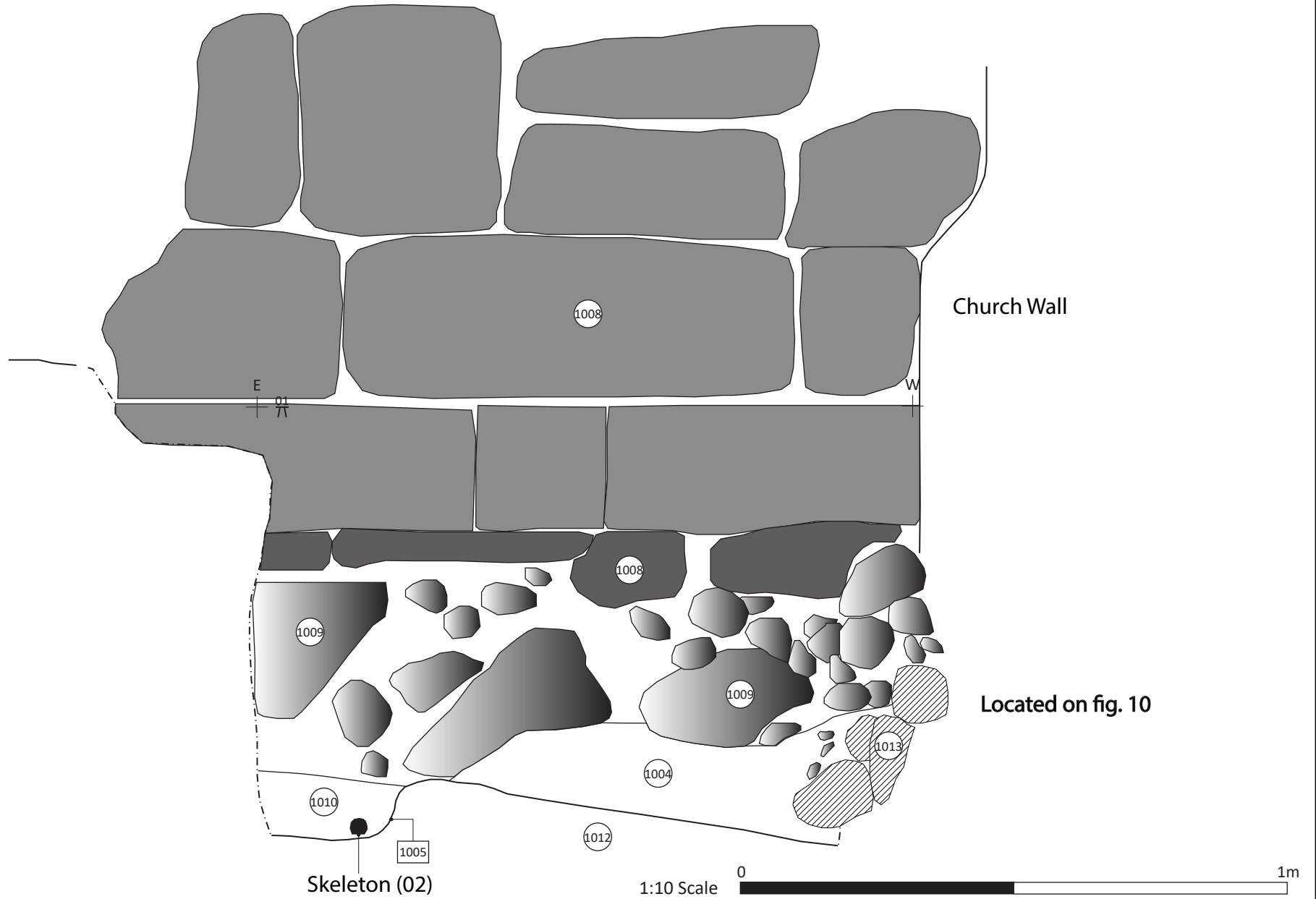


Figure 13: East facing section of Test Pit 3. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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Plate 23: Test Pit 3, from the west. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 24:** Test Pit 3, from the north. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 25:** Test Pit 3 grave cut [1005] showing skeleton (06), from the west. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 26:** Test Pit 3 showing skeleton (07), from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 27:** Test Pit 3 grave cut [1006] and east facing section, from the east. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 28:** Test Pit 3 north facing section, from the north. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 29:** Test Pit 3 west facing section, from the west. Scale 0.5m.

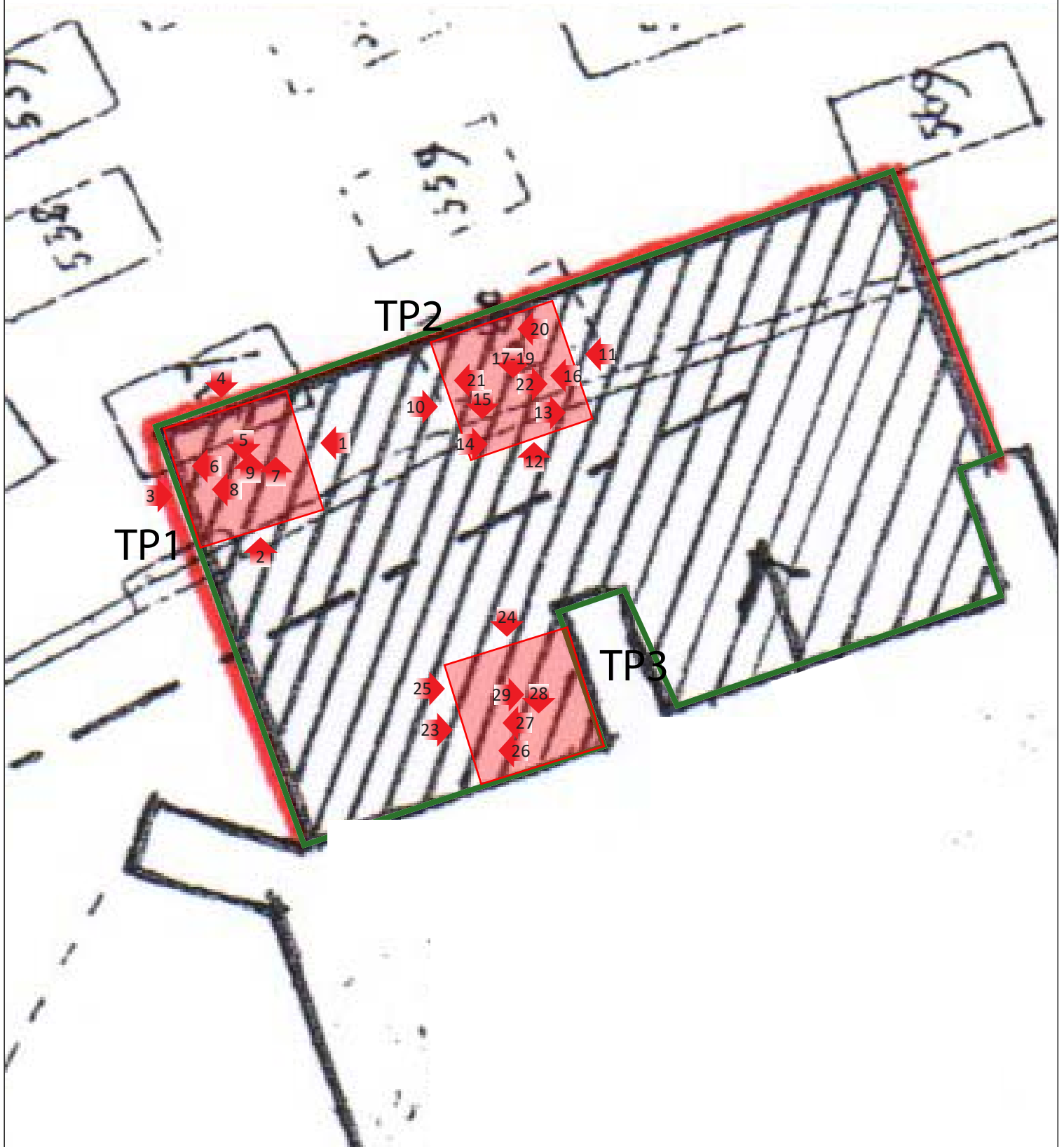


Figure 14: Location and orientation of photographs. Scale 1:50 at A4.

## 10.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation phase at St Oswald's Church, Malpas uncovered ten burials spread across three 1.2m square test pits. Two of these burials correspond with two grave markers shown on the 1884 graveyard plan and are thought to be 19<sup>th</sup> Century in date. Furthermore, a child's grave found in test pit 2, although at a relatively shallow depth, retained the remains of a wooden coffin and copper alloy plaque and as such is also thought to date to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The remaining seven burials were all found between 123.14m OD and 123.55m OD (approximately between 0.37m BGL and 0.8m BGL) suggesting that they predate the 19<sup>th</sup> Century anti-grave robbing law, with at least four of them cut into the natural sandstone bedrock. All of the graves were aligned east-west and none of the seven appeared to contain any grave goods or coffin remains, although it was not within the remit of the evaluation to fully excavate the burials. The preservation of bone within the graves varied from very poor to high. One grave [1037] located in test pit 1 produced a shroud pin during cleaning, suggesting tentatively that it was of medieval date. This hypothesis is supported by the shallow depth of the seven graves and as well by the discovery of a femur in grave [1005] continuing beneath, and thus predating, the 15<sup>th</sup> Century church buttress foundations.

A single rim sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> Century medieval ceramic was recovered from the topsoil horizon in test pit 1 which is likely associated with domestic activity related to the nearby medieval motte.

This evaluation enables an informed, sustainable and responsible approach to the development of a new toilet block extension at St Oswald's Church, Malpas. The information provided meets the expectations of legislation in that the applicant has evaluated the presence of archaeological assets that may be affected by proposed development. It is considered that the level of detail provided is proportionate to the assets' importance and provides sufficient information to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of archaeological remains. Ultimately, therefore, and without prejudice to the findings of any future archaeological, or other investigations at the Site, it is considered that the archaeological interest at the Site is of a high importance level due to the presence of in-situ burials of probable medieval date. The information gained from the evaluation should be used by the appointed architect to establish a design solution to avoid or bridge the shallow burial depth. If this cannot be achieved then a programme of mitigation would be required to excavate, record and lift all of the burials within the proposed development footprint. This recommendation is in line with relevant policy provisions.

## 11.0 SOURCES

### *OS Maps*

1<sup>st</sup> edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1879.

2<sup>nd</sup> edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1891.

4<sup>th</sup> edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1901.

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## APPENDIX I – DETAILS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

<b>Context</b>	<b>Test Pit</b>	<b>Description</b>
1001	3	Pathway slabs
1002	3	Hardcore substrata
1003	3	Levelling sand
1004	3	General graveyard soil
1005	3	Cut of north grave
1006	3	Cut of south grave
1007	3	Church wall masonry
1008	3	Church buttress masonry
1009	3	Church buttress rubble foundations
1010	3	Fill of [1005]
1011	3	Fill of [1006]
1012	3	Sandstone bedrock
1013	3	Church wall rubble foundations
1014	1	Topsoil
1015	1	General graveyard soil
1016	1	Grave marker
1017	1	Fill of [1037]
1018	1	Fill of [1040]
1019	2	Topsoil
1020	2	Cut of service trench
1021	2	Fill of [1020]
1022	2	Subsoil
1023	2	Cut of northern grave
1024	2	Fill of [1023]
1025	2	Cut of eastern grave
1026	2	Fill of [1025]
1027	2	Infant skeleton no 03
1028	2	Wooden coffin remains in [1025]
1029	2	Cut of eastern upper grave
1030	2	Fill of [1029]
1031	2	Skeleton no 04
1032	2	Cut of southern grave
1033	2	General graveyard soil
1034	2	Cut of western grave
1035	2	Fill of [1034]
1036	2	Skeleton no 05
1037	1	Cut of southern grave
1038	2	Sandstone bedrock
1039	2	Fill of [1032]
1040	1	Cut of western grave
1041	1	Cut of service trench
1042	1	Fill of [1041]



**APPENDIX II – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**



**NEXUS**  
HERITAGE

# **St. Oswald's Church, Malpas**

## **Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation**



**Document No: 3341.R01a**

**January 2017**

**Nexus Heritage  
Commercial-in-Confidence**

Nexus Heritage Controlled Document – Commercial-in-Confidence

Document Number	3341.R01a	
Document Status	2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>DRAFT</b>	
Prepared by:	Anthony Martin	Date: 23.01.17
Checked by:	Gerry Wait	Date: 23.01.17
Approved by:	Gerry Wait	Date: 23.01.17
Revision Record		
Revision No.	Date	Details
a	25.01.17	Minor edit to Fig. 3 showing relocated Test Pit 3 (due to presence of temporary lavatory facility)

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## INTRODUCTION

St. Oswald's Church, Malpas (hereafter the Client) is seeking planning consent for construction of an extension to the Church in order to provide toilet facilities.

The Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader (hereafter DMA) at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (hereafter CAPAS) of Cheshire Shared Services considers that construction of the extension at this location has the potential to disturb significant archaeological remains which are likely to consist primarily of burials dating from the medieval period onwards. He also considers that it is also possible that structural features associated with earlier phases of the church and, perhaps, the castle may be present within the footprint of the proposed extension.

Further, the DMA notes that the precise impact of the proposed extension on archaeological assets, however, cannot be gauged at present as the depth, nature, preservation, and extent of archaeological deposits are unknown. It is possible that more recent burials, from the 19th century onwards, have truncated and disturbed earlier remains down to bedrock. Conversely, some or part of the footprint of the proposed extension may have escaped this relatively recent disturbance, in which case early burials and other archaeological deposits may be present.

Cheshire West and Chester Council (hereafter the Council), as advised by the CAPAS, considers the site of the proposed extension is of potential archaeological interest and wishes to secure satisfactory treatment of the archaeological remains, as required by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (hereafter NPPF) and local policy provision.

This document provides details of a programme of archaeological work (the excavation of a number of test pits) proposed for the Site in response to the Council's considerations.

Discussions have been held with the DMA to discuss the aims of the archaeological works, and the methods to be employed, in order to ensure that the archaeological works meet the expectations of the Council. The DMA wishes it to be stressed that in the event that archaeological remains are present, the nature of the foundation solution for the proposed extension will need to be taken into account and depending on the characteristics of any archaeological remains a design solutions resulting in the preservation *in situ* of the remains, archaeological excavation in advance of construction (achieving 'preservation by record') or a combination of both approaches. With this in mind if the evaluation finds significant archaeological remains that will be destroyed by development ground works then satisfactory treatment of the archaeological interest represented may be required by the Council and secured by means of a suitably worded condition applied to any consent.

Nexus Heritage is appointed as the Archaeological Consultant for this project and has prepared this document, which acts as a Written Scheme of Investigation (hereafter WSI) for a programme of archaeological works. This WSI is designed to comply with the spirit and intent of the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*, 2012 to achieve an investigation of archaeological remains, and to record and advance understanding of their significance before they are impacted upon by construction works. The results of the investigative works will be reported and submitted to the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). If merited the results of the archaeological works would be published in a local or national journal, as appropriate. The records generated during the fieldwork (paper, photographic and digital) will be offered to a local museum or other public depository willing to receive them.

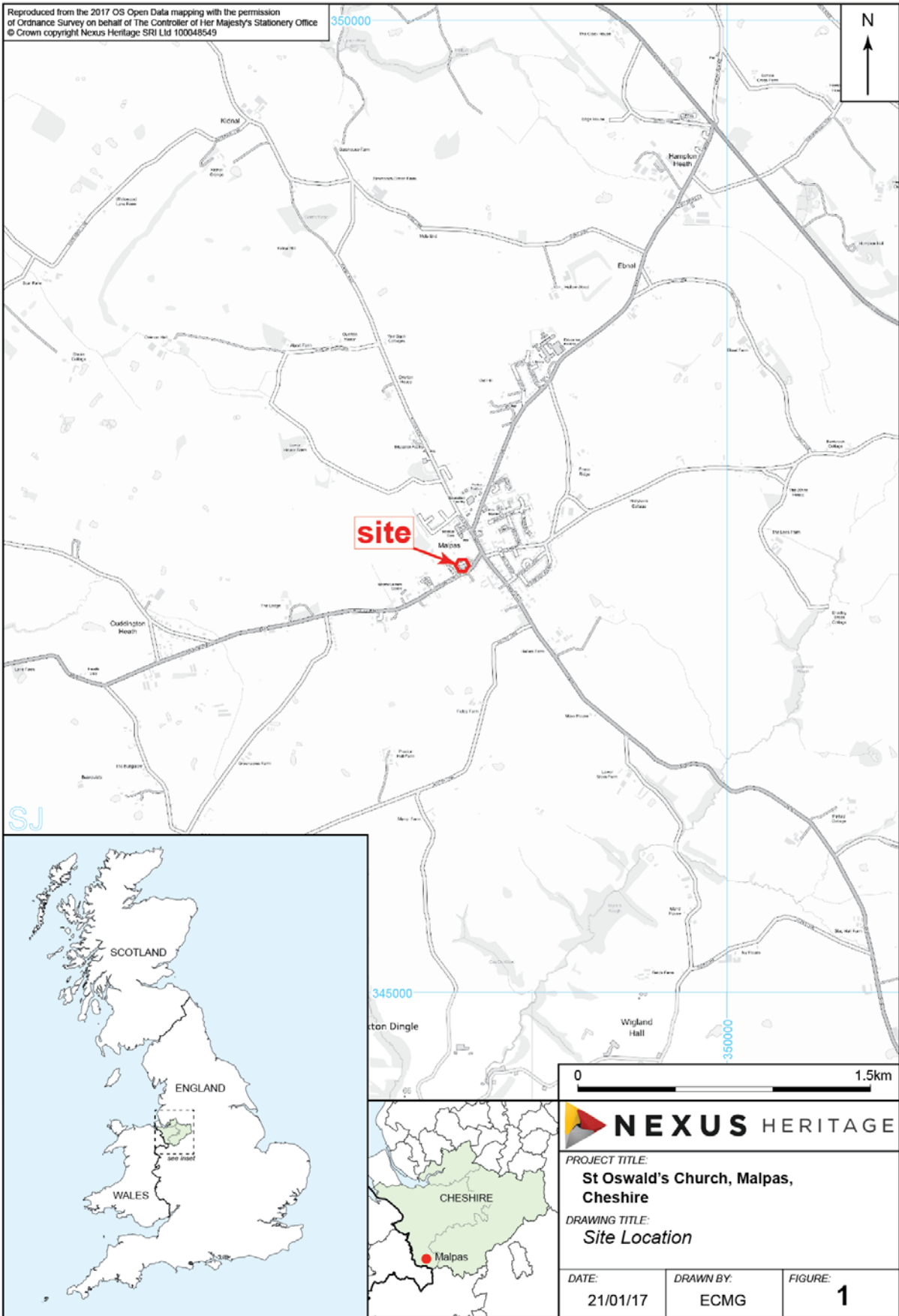
A draft version of this document is offered for consideration to the Client and the Project Architect (Mr. T. Ratcliffe of Tim Ratcliffe Associates) and the Council for verification with reference to the relevant provisions in *NPPF*.

## **LOCATION AND SITE INFORMATION**

Malpas lies in south-west Cheshire close to the Welsh border, *c.* 17km south of Chester (Fig. 1). This historic settlement is located at *c.* 120m AOD on a ridge of high ground which forms a southern extension of the Mid-Cheshire Ridge. The underlying solid geology is Malpas Sandstone, which is overlain by glacial sand and gravel. The surrounding gently undulating landscape comprises mainly boulder clay (British Geological Survey 1967). The overlying soils are brown earths, with stagnogleys in the surrounding area (Furness 1978, 209).

St Oswald's church (National Grid Reference: SJ 48640 47196) is a large structure with a nave, chancel, western tower, and north and south aisles with chapels attached, set in a generous church yard (Fig 2). The Church contains work from the 14th century but was largely remodelled in the second half of the 15th century (Richards 1947, Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 2003). The church had two rectors from 1285 to 1885, perhaps as a result of the splitting of the lordship, and consequently there are two rectories - Upper and Lower. (ibid 224). It has been suggested that the existence of two rectors in the medieval period and the dedication of the medieval church to St. Oswald may indicate that there was an early minster church and cult centre at Malpas (Harris and Thacker 1987, 269).

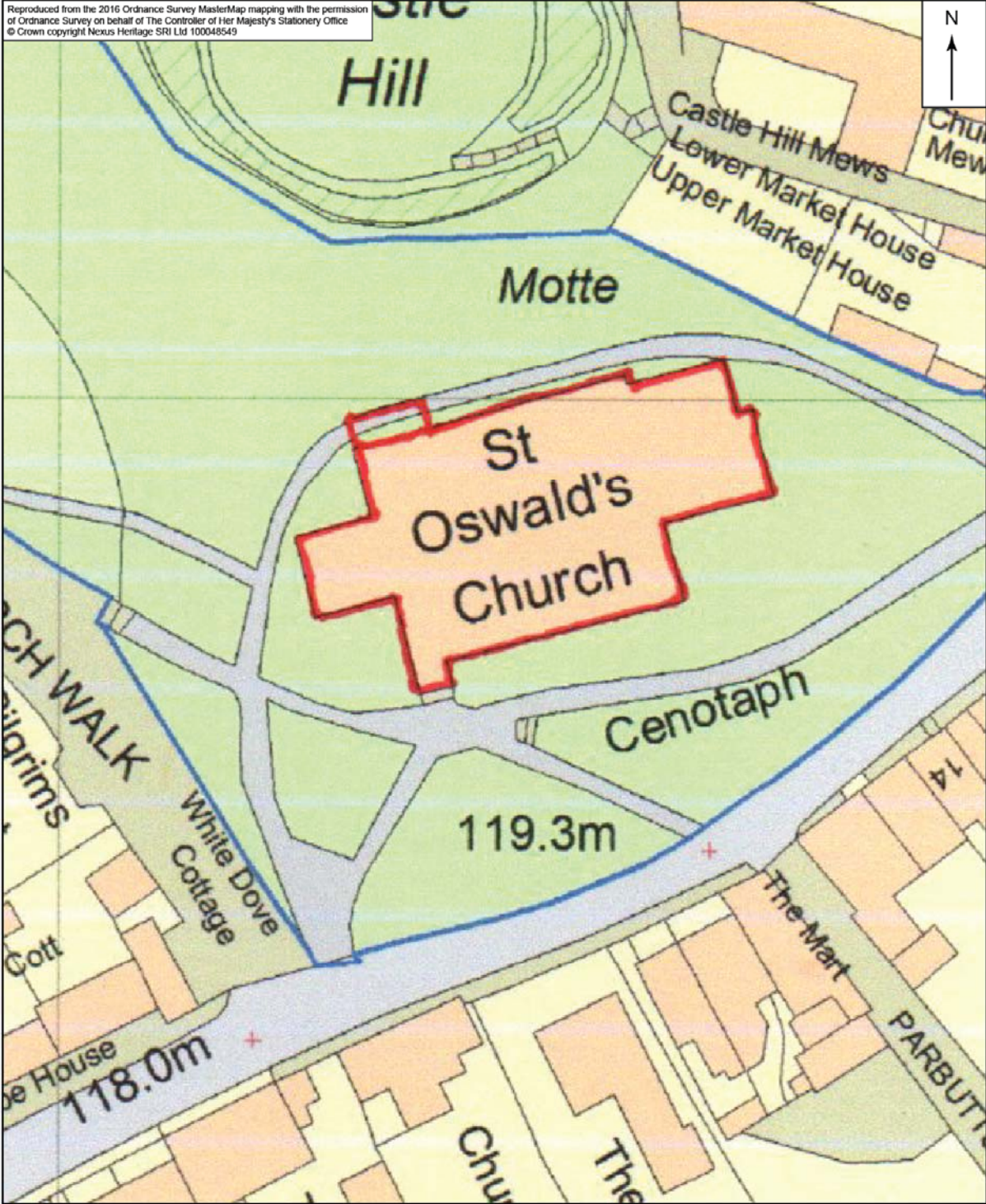
The Church a Grade I Listed Building and the list entry from the National Heritage List is provided at Appendix A. The proposed extension is on the northern side of the nave, towards its western end at National Grid Reference: SJ 48626 47200).



**Fig. 1: Site Location Map (reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO © Crown Copyright Nexus Heritage-SRI Licence No. 100048549)**



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<p> Proposed Works</p> <p> Trial Pits</p>			
	<p><b>NEXUS HERITAGE</b></p> <p>PROJECT TITLE: St Oswald's Church, Malpas, Cheshire</p> <p>DRAWING TITLE: Site Plan</p>		
DATE:	DRAWN BY:	FIGURE:	
23/01/17	ECMG	2	

Fig. 2: Site Plan (reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO © Crown Copyright Nexus Heritage-SRI Licence No. 100048549)



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There is no available Archaeological Assessment for the Site but the general historic archaeological background to Malpas is summarised in the *Cheshire Historic Towns Survey – Malpas: Archaeological Assessment* (Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 2003a) and there is a concise treatment of St. Oswald's Church (Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 2003, 6).

In addition, the Council is guided by the document *Cheshire Historic Towns Survey – Malpas: Archaeological Strategy* (Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 2003b) in which an Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) has been identified at Malpas, comprising two Archaeological Character Zones (ACZs). Each Zone is identified by its defining archaeological or historical characteristics, or *Primary Characteristics*. The Historic Core (Archaeological Character Zone 1), contains defining characteristics which include the site of the medieval castle, the medieval church of St. Oswald and the extent of medieval settlement.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Nexus Heritage acts as Archaeological Consultant to the Client. The archaeological evaluation will be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological organisation, partnering with and contracted to Nexus Heritage.

Nexus Heritage operates in accordance with:

- The Institute for Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct* (2014 edition).
- The Institute for Archaeologist's *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2014 edition).
- The Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014 edition).
- The European Association of Archaeologists *Principles of Conduct for Archaeologists Involved in Contract Archaeological Work* (1998).
- The Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2014 edition).
- The Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014 edition)

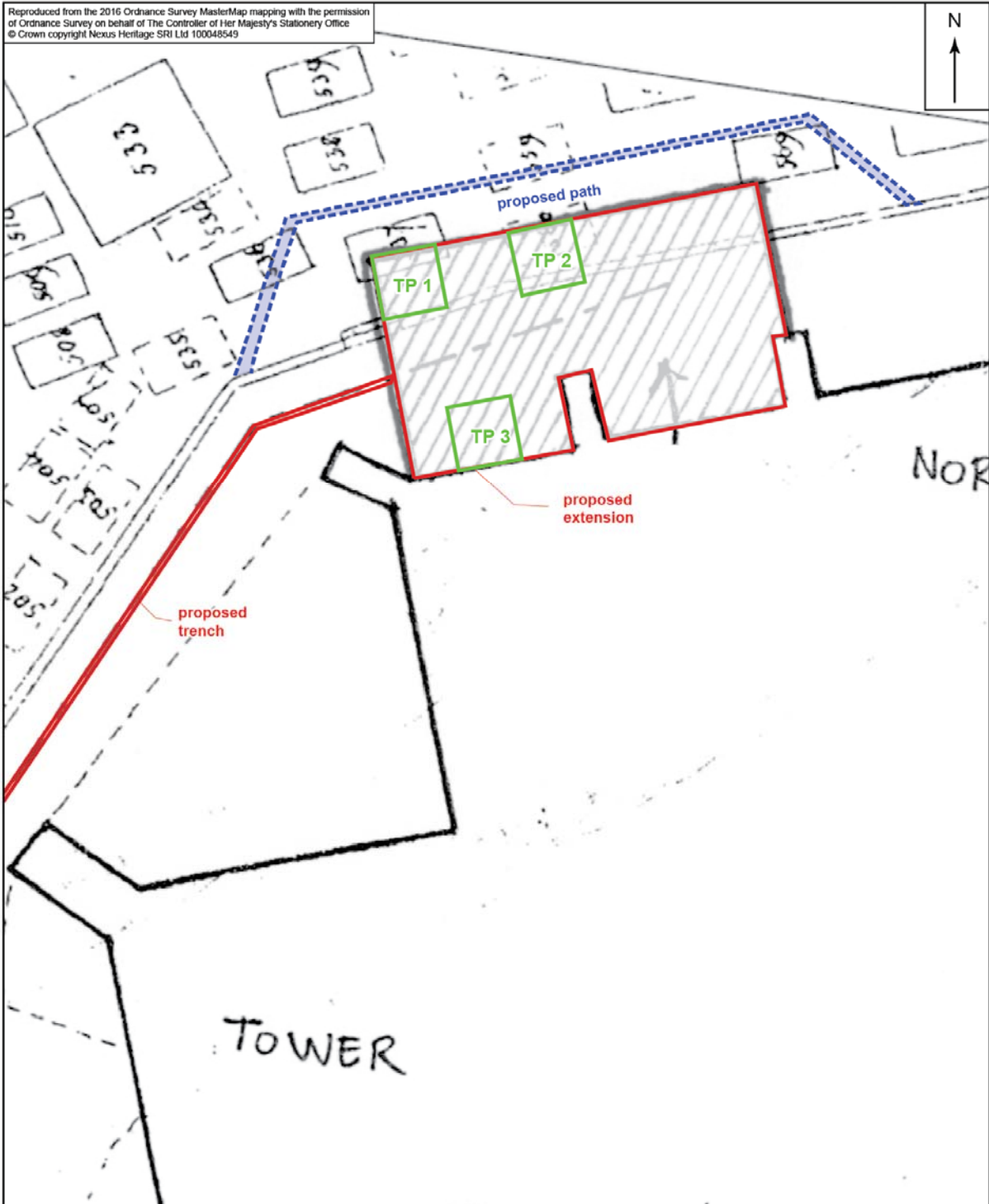
## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHING





The rationale underpinning the evaluative archaeological works at the Site involves the recovery of archaeological information from the excavation of x3 archaeological test pits located in an array as shown on Figure 3. The broad characteristics of the number, size, orientation and distribution of the trenches are considered to be appropriate and have been agreed with the DMA. The trench array has been designed to determine feature presence/absence, with a contingent extension facility designed for site characterisation should features be present, the characteristics of which are insufficiently resolved within the core test pit provision. Contingent extensions will be optional, upon the discovery of archaeological artefacts, deposits, features or structures the characteristics of which can only be sufficiently determined upon further spatial

investigation. The contingent excavation of trenches is limited to a further 1 m<sup>2</sup> of excavation or reasonable additional depth.

Groundwater may be present at the Site and localised pumping or de-watering may be required in order to expose the deposits which may contain archaeological evidence. The control of water during the excavation works will be the responsibility of the Client or its agents/contractors.

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<p> Proposed Works</p> <p> Archaeological Test Pits</p>				
	<p>PROJECT TITLE: <b>St Oswald's Church, Malpas, Cheshire</b></p> <p>DRAWING TITLE: <i>Location of Archaeological Test Pits</i></p>			
<p>0  5m</p>		DATE: 25/01/17	DRAWN BY: ECMG	FIGURE: <b>3</b>

**Fig. 3: Location of Test Pits (reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO © Crown Copyright Nexus Heritage-SRI Licence No. 100048549)**

The test pits will be opened by means of manual excavation and any topsoil and vegetation cover will be removed in spits of no more than 0.3m in thickness. After the pits have been opened, excavation will continue by hand. Surfaces will be cleaned and prepared as appropriate in order to allow visual inspection for the presence/absence of archaeological remains, deposits, features and structures. All test pits will conform to the stated dimensions at their base (subject to the presence of sub-surface services and any other insurmountable obstructions) shoring/stepping will be employed as appropriate.

The archaeological works will be surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The test pits, and any artefacts deposits, features and structures within them will be accurately located on a site plan prepared at an appropriate scale.

Archaeological artefacts, deposits, features and structures will be excavated manually using best-practice techniques and in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project. An appropriate level of sample excavation in order to determine and demonstrate the presence/absence of archaeological remains and their state of preservation adequate to provide a site-wide deposit model to inform the targeted area excavation and recording will be undertaken. With this in mind it may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficiently and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable. The cessation of excavation in any trench prior to the establishment of the level at which geologically lain material survives may be agreed with the Client and DMA during the course of the field work.

The method of recording will adopt best-practice techniques and the stratigraphy of each trench will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The drawn record will comprise plans of the site at an appropriate scale, e.g. trench plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10. Electronic hardware and software may be used to prepare site drawings as appropriate.

The aims, objectives and expectation of a palaeoenvironmental strategy will parallel the overarching goals for the project (English Heritage, 2011). The sampling and assessment strategy will address the project goals. Should appropriate deposits be present addressing such questions would be attempted by recovering a sufficient sample of remains such that the activities on the Site can be further interpreted and compared with other similar sites in the region.

Residue samples secured from key stratified deposits will be collected processed and analysed. The retention and analysis of samples will only take place where appropriate measures are in place to mitigate the risks and hazards associated with toxic, chemical or biohazard contamination. Staff and/or sub-contractors with appropriate specialist knowledge of the relevant types of deposit likely to be encountered will be deployed (English Heritage 2006).

If any identified features or deposits are appropriate for environmental sampling a strategy and methodology will be developed. Preparation for, taking of, processing of and assessment of environmental samples will be in accordance with current best practice. Should a range of features represent multiple feature types, areas within the Site and stratigraphic/chronological phases be present a sample will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well-sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.

Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located. Waterlogged remains, if present,



will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and metallic residues provided that they are uncontaminated. If buried soils are encountered sampling for micromorphological/phosphate analysis by taking monoliths with sub-samples for soil chemistry composition will be considered.

Reservoirs of palaeo-environmental data, including alluvial sequences and palaeo-channels, which may be of intrinsic interest, should be identified and sampled on site subject to health and safety considerations and where contamination does not prohibit retrieval.

All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers. Appropriate contexts will be bulk sampled (50 litres or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.

Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs will normally be achieved through processing other bulk samples although other samples may be taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.

Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

Recommendations for discard/further analysis (including the sub-sampling volumes) will be made in accordance with the English Heritage guidance (2012) and *Geoarchaeology – Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (2007). It is expected that the scientific sampling strategies will evolve subject to the requirements of the project's aims and objectives but in the first instance the environmental and scientific sampling regime will proceed in accordance with the latest guidelines. The proposed environmental and scientific sampling regime will be agreed between Nexus Heritage and the DMA in advance of implementation. Any deviation from the sampling procedures outlined in the above guidance documents will be discussed and agreed with Nexus Heritage and the DMA in advance of implementation.

Human remains, if encountered, will be left *in situ* and protected. Nexus Heritage will notify the Client and the appropriate authorities of the presence of human remains at the earliest opportunity. If removal is necessary and mandated by the relevant regulatory authorities the remains would be excavated archaeologically in accordance with the English Heritage document *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (2005) and any conditions imposed by the Church Diocese, the Ministry of Justice and/or the Local Planning Authority Environmental Health Directorate. Any assessment and reporting work on recovered human remains would be undertaken in accordance with the English Heritage document *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (2005) and any conditions imposed by the Church Diocese, Ministry of Justice, the Home Office and/or the Local Planning Authority Environmental Health Directorate. In the first instance it is to be understood that all the archaeological works will be undertaken with due care and attention to decency and the area in which the remains are discovered will be screened from public view whilst archaeological excavation and recording is in progress.

The photographic record will meet the requirements of the designated local archive repository, whether 35mm film-based or digital in origin or both media. It is understood that the minimum requirement for photographic media for archival purposes in Cheshire is digital images of 12mb or greater.

Soil excavated from the trenches will be scanned for ferrous and non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making the necessary discrimination and operated by an experienced metal detector user under constant supervision. The metal detector operative will waive all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the *Treasure Act* (1996).

Contingency is allowed for the recovery and processing of sufficient C<sup>14</sup> and/or archaeomagnetic samples in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the project. In the event that discoveries during excavation warrant refinement of the overall C<sup>14</sup> dating strategy a sampling strategy should be agreed with a suitably qualified and experienced dating specialist. The archaeomagnetic dating strategy will follow English Heritage's 2006 *Archaeomagnetic Dating Guidelines on producing and interpreting archaeomagnetic dates*.

In the event of significant archaeological discoveries the treatment of which (either arising from the volume/quantity of material and/or the complexity/importance of the material) is beyond the reasonable expectations arising from a duly diligent approach to the evaluative approach detailed here or which would constitute remains for which preservation *in situ* should be considered, Nexus Heritage will notify the Client and arrange a site meeting with the DMA and a representative of the Council. Any such remains will be protected from deterioration.

An archaeological risk schedule and strategy for the use of the contingent response will be provided. These responses may be deployed, when appropriate, to provide for excavation and recording and for the cleaning, processing, conservation of artefacts/ecofacts, and the identification analysis, cataloguing and archiving of those artefacts/ecofacts which may need to be recovered either to meet the objectives of the project and/or for the safety and security of the archaeological resource.

The Client will be responsible for securing information on known services within the excavation areas and providing such information to Nexus Heritage who will take all reasonable precautions to avoid damage to such services. Nexus Heritage will undertake a scheduled works enquiry with The National Grid Electricity and Gas Enquiry System (EAGLES) website prior to the commencement of archaeological work on site. The location and extent of all intrusive archaeological excavations would be advised utilising the information from the enquiry and follow the requirements of the HSE Guidance Notes HSG47 - 'Avoiding Danger from Underground Services' and GS6 - 'Avoidance of danger from overhead electric power lines'. However, Nexus Heritage accepts no liability for any costs incurred through the partial or complete exposure or rupture of any utilities.

Nexus Heritage will be responsible for securing the site during the evaluation works and fencing off the working easements associated with the works. Nexus Heritage will be responsible for maintaining and locking any fencing/gates etc around the archaeological excavations within the site in accordance with health and safety provisions.

Every effort will be made by the Client and Nexus Heritage to allow public engagement with the archaeological resource. Nexus Heritage recognises that opportunities for members of the public to participate in archaeological fieldwork are a useful tool for training, engaging interest and increasing an appreciation of the historic environment. Therefore, with reference to the CIfA's policy statement on the use of volunteers (CIfA 2016), volunteers can be involved in archaeological projects managed by Nexus Heritage. However, due to operational constraints at

the Site, and other factors it may not be possible to allow members of the public to participate in the on-site archaeological works. However, where feasible the works and their results will be transmitted to the public by the use of outreach strategies such as newspaper and radio interviews and lectures to local societies. Nexus Heritage will manage, on behalf of the Client, all matters pertaining to publicity and outreach arising from the archaeological works and for any public education/outreach events or matters, as appropriate.

At or towards the conclusion of the archaeological evaluation a site meeting will be convened at which the works can be inspected with a view to confirming completion of the evaluative archaeological excavations and compliance with the approved archaeological strategy. Upon such confirmation the test pits can be handed over to the Client or Client's Agent for treatment in accordance with the ongoing obligations of this document. It is understood that the Client wishes the pits to be filled with the material arisings. There is no provision for reinstatement of the existing surface treatment or removal of arisings off-site.

At the conclusion of the fieldwork, a brief summary of the results will be prepared. This summary will be prepared after the retained artefacts have been cleaned, identified, labelled, assessed and dated. The artefacts will be packed and stored in appropriate materials and conditions to ensure that no deterioration occurs. All artefact/ecofact processing/storage will be carried out in accordance with UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation) guidelines and should accord with the Institute for Archaeologists document *Guidelines on Finds Work*. Soil or other samples recovered will be processed as appropriate by a qualified and experienced bio-archaeological scientist. Where the need for dating of individual contexts/features arises, material suitable for dating will be identified as well as the most appropriate chronometric techniques(s).

After the completion of the evaluative archaeological fieldwork a report will be prepared. The report will, as appropriate, contain the following:

- A non-technical summary
- A table of contents
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site
- A statement of the project aims and objectives
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site
- A summary description of the investigation results including any archaeologically significant features/deposits identified within the proposed development site. A brief description of the stratigraphy of each test pit will be given, even where no archaeological features or deposits are identified
- A discussion of the location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition, and significance of any archaeological deposits/features uncovered, together with a discussion of their relationship with known archaeological features and/or historic buildings in the vicinity
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the test pits and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the evaluation
- Test pit plans at appropriate scales. Each test pit in which archaeological remains were discovered will be presented in the report with at least one plan (scale 1:50 or 1:20) and section (scale 1:20 or 1:10) as well as appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid

- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive, a statement on its location/proposed repository and an OASIS report.

One digital .PDF copy of a draft version of the report will be made available by Nexus Heritage to the Client for comment within two weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. Nexus Heritage will forward the draft report to the DMA for review. Nexus Heritage will take into account any observations on the content of the draft report made by the Client and the DMA during preparation of the final version of the report.

Should the delivery of the report depend on the incorporation of reports arising from specialist and/or laboratory work then a revised timetable for delivery of the draft report may be agreed upon conclusion of the fieldwork stage.

Report copies in the appropriate numbers, formats and media (e.g. digital .PDF/A format generated using Adobe Acrobat) of the final report will be prepared and submitted the Client, the Council, the archive repository, the NMR, and the GMHER.

As part of a commitment to reducing carbon emissions, one digital .PDF copy (PDF/A format generated using Adobe Acrobat) of the final report will be prepared and submitted to the Client and the Council. Paper copies are available upon request at cost. Hard copies of the report will be provided to the archive repository, the NMR and the CHER.

## **COPYRIGHT**

Copyright to any commissioned reports and any other project documents prepared by the appointed service providers will be retained by the appointed service providers under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988; excepting that an exclusive licence will be provided to the Client, the Council and CAPAS for the use of such documents by the Client, the Council, and CAPAS in all matters directly relating to the project.

The copyright of this document remains with Nexus Heritage, subject to the same exclusive licence.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors will treat as confidential all information obtained directly or indirectly from the Client in connection with the archaeological works and will not, without the prior consent of the Client, disclose any information relating to the project or publicise the project in any way. Nexus Heritage will manage, on behalf of the Client, all matters pertaining to publicity arising from the archaeological works and for any public education/outreach events or matters, as appropriate.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Nexus Heritage responsible for obtaining all relevant certification regarding Health and Safety prior to any site works. Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors will adhere to all relevant health and safety legislation and be guided by, *inter alia*, the *Health and Safety at Work Act* (1974),



*Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations (2002), Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations (2007), Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999), the Work at Height Regulations (2005), the Confined Spaces Regulations (1997) and the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (2002).*

While carrying out the archaeological works Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors will operate in accordance with all applicable Health and Safety Legislation.

Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors will provide its staff and site visitors with all necessary protective clothing and equipment.

Where contaminated material is present in the surface or sub-surface deposits at the site appropriate measures will be taken by Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors will to ensure the health and safety of its staff which may come into contact with contaminants. In case of encountering contaminated soil, Nexus Heritage will inform the Client immediately.

In the event of encountering contaminated material, it may be necessary for Nexus Heritage to produce a revised method statement. Nexus Heritage will forward the revised method statement to the Client, the Council, and CAPAS.

Nexus Heritage will submit a Health and Safety Plan (including a Risk Assessment) to the Client before site works commence.

## **ARCHIVE**

The anticipated recipient organisation for the project archive is West Cheshire Museums.

Nexus Heritage will conform to the arrangements for archive preparation and submission prior to commencing the works and provide copies of the relevant correspondence and accession number to the CHER.

Nexus Heritage will maintain the archive until the period of report preparation is complete.

The archive is to be prepared, compiled and presented by Nexus Heritage for long term storage according to the format requirements of the recipient organisation and as set out relevant standards including

- The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2014 edition).
- The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014 edition)

Nexus Heritage will be responsible for the security of the project archive. An indexed project archive will be prepared. The project archive will comprise all primary written documents, maps, plans and plots, unprocessed raw data and photographs.

Any artefacts or other items identified and/or recovered during the archaeological works remain the property of the land owner. Nexus Heritage will, however, request deposition of the artefact archive along with the remainder of the archive by means of an agreement to transfer legal title to the artefacts from the landowner to the archive repository.

The archive will comprise the stratigraphical/structural, artefact, environmental and other catalogues and all other records as well as details of the methods employed. Each separate data group should be cross-referenced to related data groups, to the final publication, and if necessary to a general context index to allow users maximum accessibility to the contents. The archive will contain some or all of the following elements:

- context information: recording (on duplicate copies) any amendments to original field records resulting from analysis
- photographic catalogue: listing all photographs taken during fieldwork, assessment and analysis
- digital photographs
- drawing index
- drawings, sketches, plans, sections, artefact drawings
- artefact catalogue and x-ray catalogue and x-rays
- conservation records: details of conservation undertaken during analysis, cross-referred to objects conserved
- soil sample catalogues: details of samples selected for analysis
- human bone catalogues: details recorded for analysis
- animal bone catalogues: details recorded for analysis
- a copy of the site narrative and copies of artefact, ecofact and scientific dating reports
- hard and digital copies of the final report

A synopsis of the archive would be lodged with CAPAS

## **MONITORING**

The Client, or an agent of the Client will monitor the works for the Client's benefit and the DMA will act on behalf of the Council. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of the archaeological evaluation will be given by Nexus to the DMA so that arrangements for monitoring can be made. The DMA is advised that it is intended to commence the evaluative works on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2017.

Reasonable access to the site works will be provided by Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors to representatives of the Client, the Council and CAPAS in order to monitor the works. A site tour and opportunity to scrutinise site records will be provided to the monitors.

Nexus Heritage will ensure that any significant results recovered during the archaeological investigations are brought to the attention of the Client who will notify the relevant organisations/authorities as soon as is practicably possible, and certainly within 24 hours.

Any monitoring visits or communications will be documented by Nexus Heritage and copied to the Client.

Consultations between the Nexus Heritage, the Client and the DMA will be convened periodically during the project. The purpose of these consultations is to advise the monitors on the manner in which the objectives of the project have been addressed and secure agreement that the milestone elements of the project have been concluded to the satisfaction of the Client and the Council. A series of consultations are suggested in the table below with potential outcomes.

Milestone	Purpose of Consultation	Participants	Format	Outcome
Draft of WSI	To discuss draft WSI, areas of excavation, timetable, etc.	Nexus Heritage Client Tim Ratcliffe Associates DMA	Telephone/e-mail/	Authorisation of WSI and issue of final WSI. Authorisation to begin evaluation.
At half-way point of test pit excavations	To confirm compliance with WSI	Nexus Heritage Client Tim Ratcliffe Associates DMA	Site meeting	Continuation of archaeological investigations
Upon completion of test pit excavations	To review results	Nexus Heritage Client Tim Ratcliffe Associates DMA	Site meeting	Confirmation of completion of archaeological excavations and compliance with the WSI. Authorisation to commence reporting.
Production of the draft evaluation report.	To review results of data assessment and to authorise continuation to next stage	Nexus Heritage Client Tim Ratcliffe Associates DMA	Telephone/e-mail	Authorisation to commence production of final report
Production of final evaluation report	To review results	Nexus Heritage Client Tim Ratcliffe Associates DMA	Telephone/e-mail	Confirmation of completion of reporting in compliance with the WSI.
Submission of project archive	To confirm that all tasks have been completed with reference to the WSI and to formally close the project	Nexus Heritage Client Tim Ratcliffe Associates DMA	Telephone/e-mail	Submitted archive
Discussion	To determine need for and scope of archaeological mitigation works	Nexus Heritage Client Tim Ratcliffe Associates Huxtable Hodgson DMA	Telephone/e-mail	Conclusion of project or mobilisation for mitigation works in the form of further archaeological attendances and/or establishment and design of engineering solutions to allow preservation <i>in situ</i> of archaeological assets and human remains.

## RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

The archaeological works will be undertaken by a team of demonstrable competence and the names, qualifications and experience of the Competent Persons, relevant to a successful completion of the works, are provided below.

The project will be managed by Anthony Martin, a Director of Nexus Heritage with over 25 years' experience in the heritage and archaeology sector. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Mem. No. 1091) and has a BA (Hons) in History and an MA in Scientific Methods in Archaeology.

Nexus Heritage is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

The evaluation will be carried out by a field team with relevant experience and qualifications and is drawn from Aeon Archaeology - one of the regional archaeological contractors routinely working in Cheshire. The field team will not be deployed until confirmed as appropriate by the DMA.

## COMMUNICATION PATHS

Anthony Martin is identified as the Project Manager on behalf of Nexus Heritage. He is to be the main point of contact between the Client, the DMA and representatives of the Council. In Anthony's absence contact should be made with Gerry Wait of Nexus Heritage ([gerry.wait@nexus-heritage.com](mailto:gerry.wait@nexus-heritage.com), telephone 07500 527110).

Any questions or requests for clarification arising from examination of this document are to be submitted in writing to Nexus Heritage.

## SOURCES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: UK

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014c, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014d, *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014e, *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2016, *Policy Statements*

Cheshire County Council and English Heritage, 2003a, *Cheshire Historic Towns Survey – Malpas: Archaeological Assessment*

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- Cheshire West & Chester Council, 2015, *West Cheshire Museums - Collections Management Policies 2015-2020*
- English Heritage, 2005, *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England*
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- European Association of Archaeologists, 1998, *Principles of Conduct for Archaeologists Involved in Contract Archaeological Work*
- Harris, B. E. and Thacker, A. T, (eds), 1987, *The Victoria History of the County of Chester: Vol I*, Oxford University Press
- McKinley, J. I., & Roberts, C. (1993). *Technical paper No 13, Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains.* Institute for Archaeologists.
- Ossafreelance. (2012). *BAJR Practical Guide Series: Guide 13 - A Basic Overview for the Recovery of Human Remains from Sites*
- Richards, R. 1947, *Old Cheshire Churches*

## **APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A**

**St. Oswald's Church, Malpas – National Heritage List Entry**



Historic England

# CHURCH OF ST OSWALD

## List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: CHURCH OF ST OSWALD

List entry Number: 1135959

## Location

CHURCH OF ST OSWALD, CHURCH STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County:

District: Cheshire West and Chester

District Type: Unitary Authority

Parish: Malpas

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: **I**

Date first listed: 01-Mar-1967

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.



## Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 55570

## Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

## List entry Description

### Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### Details

MALPAS C.P. CHURCH STREET SJ 44 NE (North Side) 2/27 Church of St.Oswald  
1/3/1967 GV I

Church. Late C14 largely rebuilt above cill level late C15. Red sandstone with lead roofs. West tower, aisled nave with south porch, chancel with cross-axial crypt or treasury, north vestry and organ-chamber. East bay of south aisle is the Brereton Chapel; east bay of north aisle the Cholmondeley Chapel. Massive 3-stage tower has diagonal west buttresses and angle east buttresses, south-east octagonal turret, bands above bell chamber and at base of crenellated parapet with crocketed corner pinnacles, round-arched west door, C14 reticulated 5-light west window and simple 2-light reticulated

bell-openings; an empty niche to each side of west window. The aisles have C14 east windows and C15 4-light panel-traceried, segmental-arched west, north and south windows; the Tudor-arched clerestorey windows have 4 lights. Tower, nave and aisles have gargoyles. Small doorway under west window of north aisle. 2-storey south porch has priest's chamber with a loophole to east and west and a window of 2 trefoil-headed lights to south, and wall sundial dated 1819. Crenellated parapets to nave, aisles and porch have crocketed pinnacles. Aisle buttresses have gables with crockets and finials. Chancel has 5-light panel-traceried basket-arched east window and 4-light north and south windows. Vestry added in 1717; C19 organ chamber between north aisle and vestry. Interior. A springer north of chancel arch, gable marks on west and east walls and possibly the chancel arch show that C14 church was much lower, with separate ridges over nave and aisles. Rib-vaulted baptistry in west tower. Nave of 6 bays with wide aisles has slender lozenge-shaped piers with half and three-quarter shafts. Fine late C15 camber-beam panelled roofs with ornate bosses and angels (restored) on corbels, to nave and (with simpler detail and quatrefoil panels) to aisles. Chancel of 3 bays has canted south side and camber-beam roof with carved bosses. Cross-axial crypt of 2 bays has quadripartite rib-vault. Vestry (1717) has round-headed windows and oval plaster ceiling-panel. 4 cusped recesses in north aisle wall. 3 sedilia in south aisle, with 2-arched piscina east; 4 sedilia in south wall of chancel. Brasses to Philip de Egerton and family circa 1400 and to Urian Davenport, rector of Malpas, 1495, in stones in north aisle and south of pulpit, moved in 1950 from Cholmondeley Chapel. The Brereton Chapel, shortened to 1 1/3rd bay of south aisle in 1717, has traceried oak screen, 17 panels replaced (fascimile) in cast iron 1717(?). Inscription on head-beams of screen. The Brereton monument, outstanding, is to Sir Randal, baronet, and his wife Eleanor, erected circa 1522 with admirable naturalistic effigies on a chest tomb. The Cholmondeley Chapel, shortened to 1 1/3rd bays of north aisle in 1717, has 4 panels of traceried oak screen replaced (fascimile) in cast iron 1717(?), Latin inscription on head-beams and monument (1605) to Sir Hugh Cholmondeley and his 2nd wife Mary, similar in form to Brereton monument, but stiffer. Glass includes medieval fragments in south aisle next to porch; roundels of 16th/17th century Flemish painted glass depicting Biblical scenes (formerly at Cholmondeley Castle and given by Marquess of Cholmondeley 1847 and 1956) in west window of north aisle and north window of Cholmondeley Chapel; east windows of the Chapels, 1845, by Warrington; 2 windows in south aisle by Kempe; east window a memorial to Bishop Heber, born in Malpas Rectory (q.v.). Beam of former rood-loft in chancel arch; C15 octagonal font with 1627 oak cover; C13 wrought-iron-bound oak chest; 9 C15 stalls with misericords, 6 much

restored; 6 box pews (from Brereton Chapel) at west end of south aisle, with the armorial bearings of their owners removed to screens at west end of nave and within north porch. Picture of St.Peter's denial, mid C18, by Hayman, above chancel arch; 3 pairs of hatchments (Dod family of Edge Hall; Tarletons of Bolesworth Castle; Cholmondeleys of Cholmondeley Castle. Much of the church's furnishing was lost in Kenyon's restoration of 1880-90. The church is one of the best examples in Cheshire of late C15/early C16 work, prolific in the county; the nave roof and the memorial chapels are very fine and the effigies of Sir Randal and Lady Eleanor Brereton are outstanding. The vestry 1717, by Gardner.

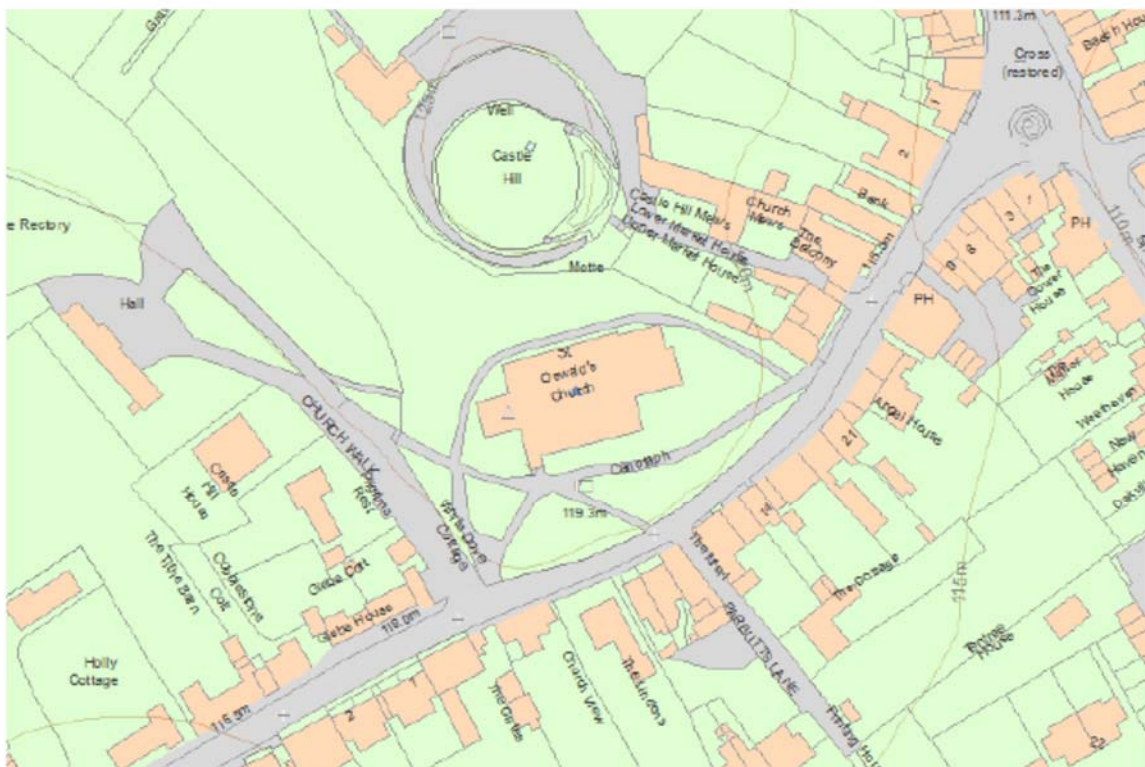
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## Selected Sources

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details

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## Map



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