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

February 2018  
V 1.0



aeon archaeology



Archaeological Excavation  
and Watching Brief  
Project Code: A0106.2  
Report no. 0158

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## **February 2018 V 1.0**

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Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief

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Project Code: A0106.2  
Date: 07/02/2017  
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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 excavation and watching brief of a proposed toilet block extension to the Church, as part of full planning permission.

A total of 4,441 pieces of disarticulated human bone were recovered during the works, as well as 11 articulated human skeletons. All of the bone and skeletons were analysed as part of the archaeological mitigation and reburied on site, aside from three of the skeletons which lay below the required excavation depth limit and as such were retained in-situ.

There were no structural remains uncovered by the works, aside from three 19<sup>th</sup> Century grave markers, one of which overlaid a brick-built burial vault which was also retained in-situ.

The St. Oswald's Church finds assemblage comprised the following range of artefacts: 12 fragments of medieval ceramic floor tile, 31 sherds of post-medieval pottery, 16 fragments of clay tobacco pipe, one fragment of post-medieval floor tile, three fragments of lead window comes, a single piece of metal slag, a single piece of vitrified glass, a fragment of coal, a complete roof slate, a single copper-alloy shroud pin, and a variegated clay marble.

## 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 excavation and watching brief as part of a proposed toilet block extension to the Church, as part of planning permission **16/04641/FUL**. The proposed extension location is 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.

In the light of this potential and with benefit of the information generated during an archaeological evaluation undertaken in March 2017 (Aeon Archaeology 2017. Report 0118) a condition (no. 5) has been placed on the consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.*

The archaeological work mentioned in the condition is identified as a programme of mitigation to include archaeological excavation, archaeological watching brief, assessment, analysis, reporting, dissemination and archive preparation/submission. However, in addition to this, and in order to mitigate the impact to archaeological remains, the design intent for the extension is to avoid, as far as reasonable and practicable, direct impact on archaeological remains and human remains and therefore the mitigation strategy is a combination of preservation by record and preservation in situ.

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 October 2017 (3375.RO1a) which outlined the principle aims of the excavation and the methods by which they would be met. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work. The archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with this document.

This document reports on the results of a programme of archaeological excavation work at the Site in response to the spirit and intent of condition no. 5. It should also be noted that the programme of archaeological work was undertaken under the authority of a faculty licence (**ref. 041/17 2017-007373**) which required that the archaeological work proceeded in accordance with The Nexus Heritage WSI and in compliance with the following conditions:

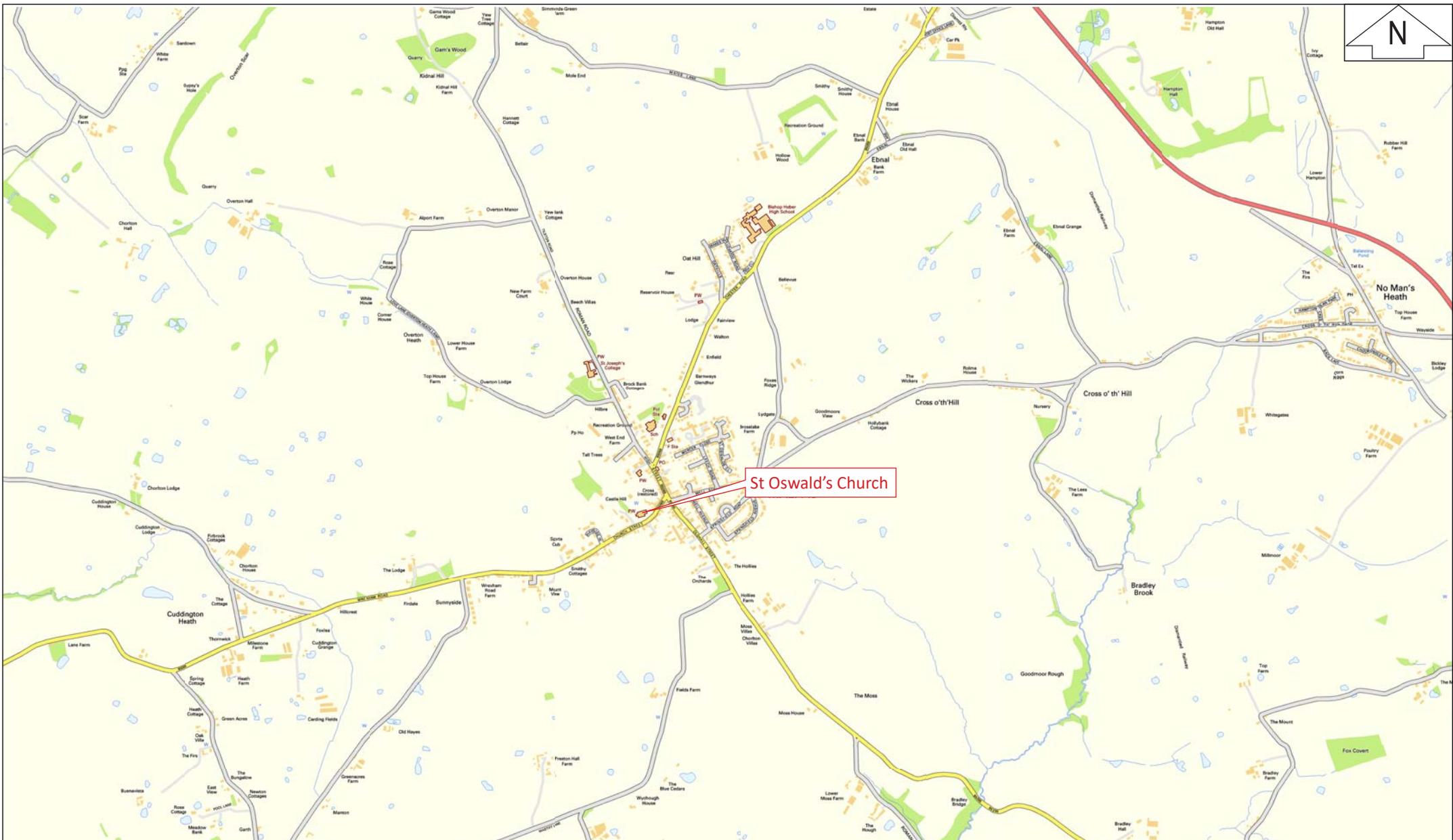
If any human remains become exposed or are otherwise encountered during the course of the work:

- All work in the vicinity must stop immediately
- The remains must be lightly covered with soil
- The Diocesan Registrar (or in her absence the Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee) must be notified

- The directions of the Diocesan Registrar must be followed.

During the archaeological excavation and watching brief all uncovered bone was analysed by Dr. Geneviève Tellier (North Wales Osteology) the results of which are reported in *Osteological Analysis of Human Bones from St Oswald Church, Malpas, Cheshire* – report NW01702 (2018) which should be read in conjunction with this report.

This report conforms to the guidelines specified in the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014). All human remains were recorded and excavated in accordance with guidelines specified in the *CIfA Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2017).

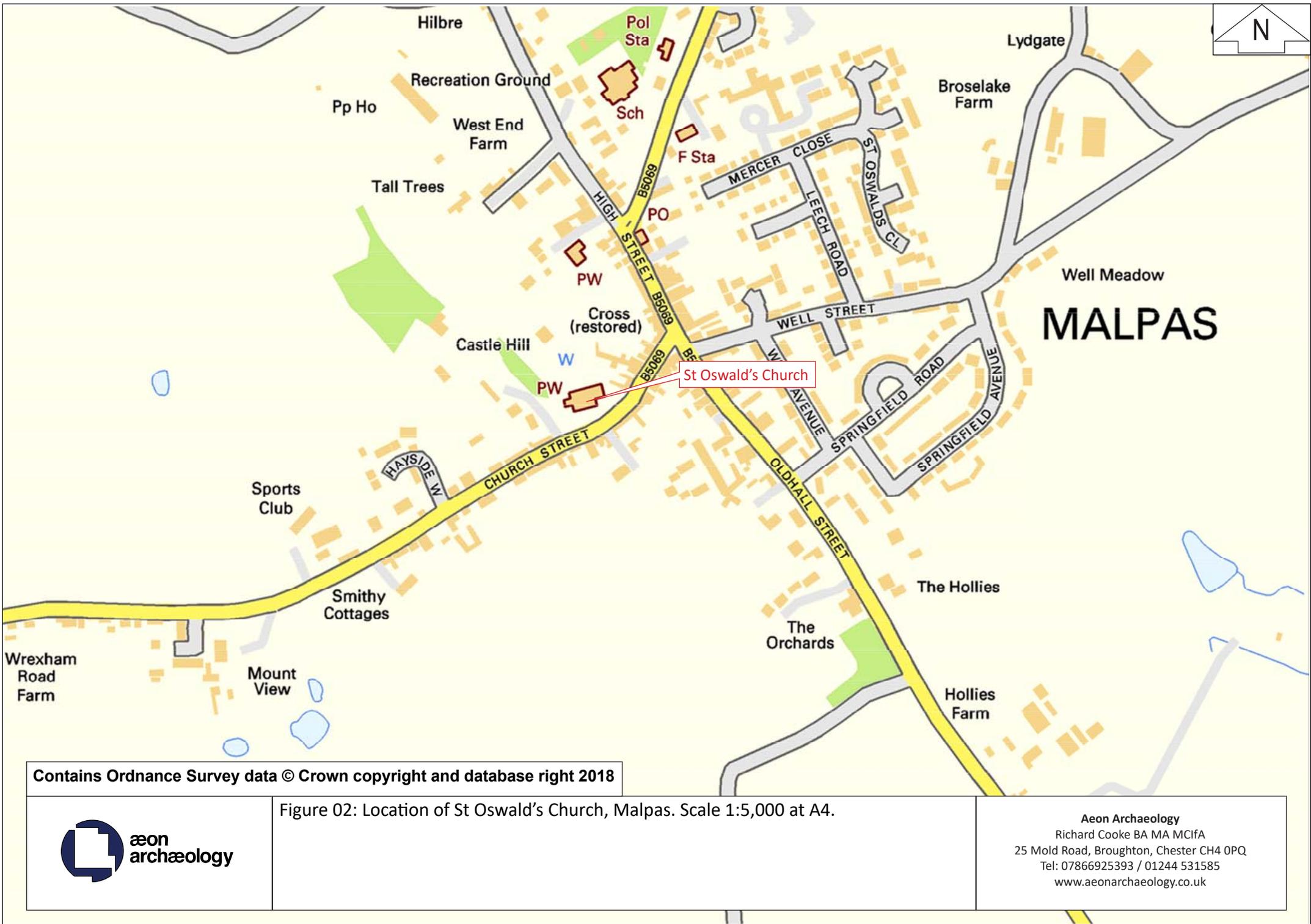


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Figure 01: Location of St Oswald's Church, Malpas. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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

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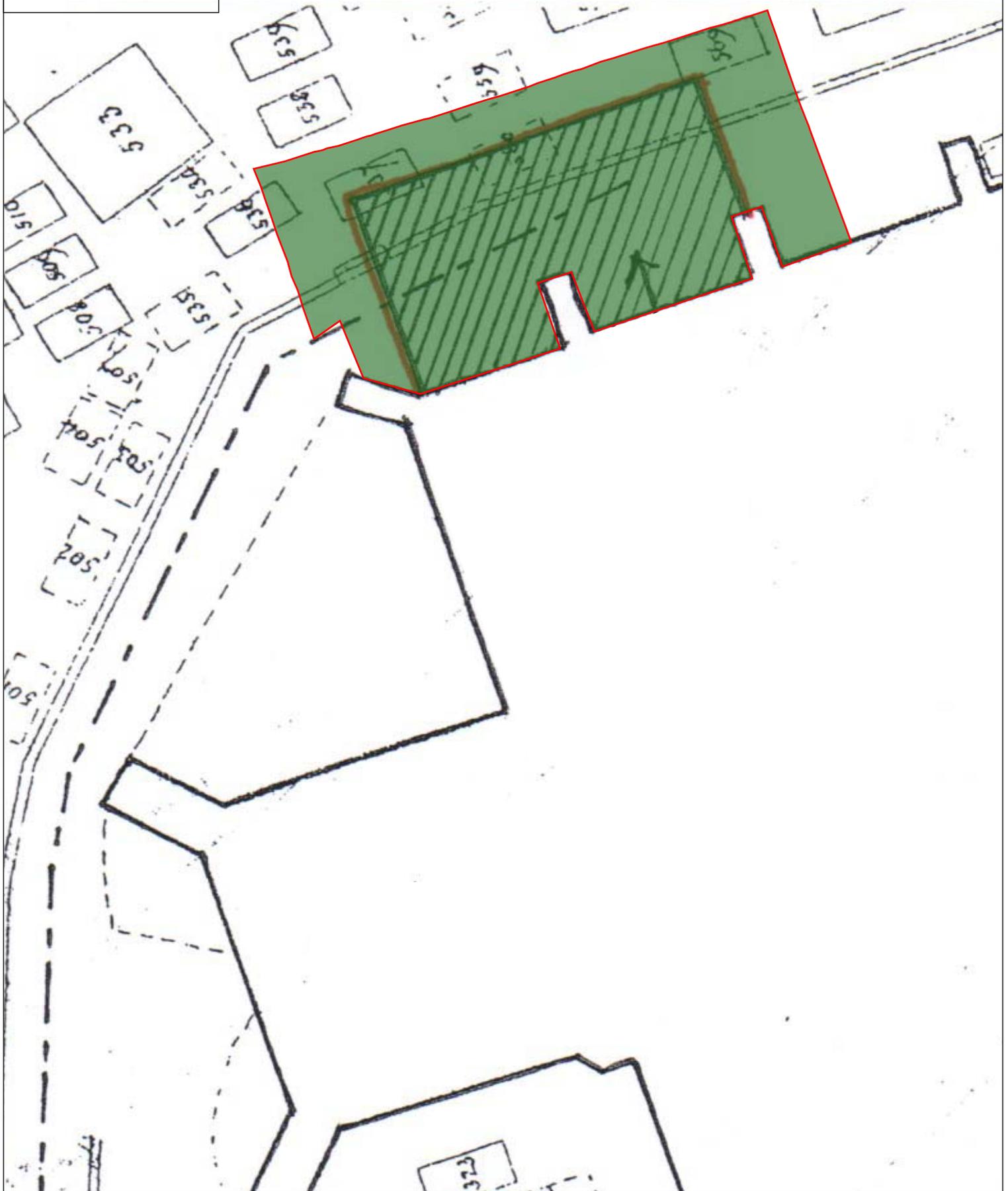


Figure 03: Location of extension footprint at St Oswald's Church, Malpas overlain on the 1884 Graveyard Plan. Scale 1:100 at A4.

### 3.0 PROJECT AIMS

The rationale underpinning the archaeological mitigation works at the Site involved a programme of area excavation, watching brief and recording. The broad strategy was to investigate areas of potential archaeological interest within the Site in line with the relevant condition on planning permission.

The broad aims of the archaeological works were:

- to enhance knowledge and understanding of the historic environment of Malpas in particular, and north-western England in general;
- to effectively and rapidly disseminate the results of the project, and to archive them, enabling the project findings to be widely and readily accessed by professional and non-professional audiences alike
- to ensure that professional expertise and experience is advanced by the continual improvement of archaeological method and practice

The detailed objectives of the archaeological excavation were:

- to make a full and proper record of any archaeological structures, deposits, features, artefacts, ecofacts and palaeoindustrial items within the relevant areas of the Site, permitting a reconstruction of the Site's history and formation processes. To recover all artefact and palaeoindustrial samples from deposits of potential
- to analyse the Site records, artefacts and ecofacts to produce a report on the archaeology of the site, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Cheshire in particular and north-west England in general.

The archaeological works are to be implemented with reference to a research design which reflects the ambitions of the North-West England Regional Research Agenda (2007). The parish church is the most common extant monument from the medieval period and is a primary indicator of the significance of organised religion in medieval life (Newman and Newman 2007, 105).

Research topics that may be able to be addressed:

The recovery of human skeletal material must be treated as a priority for all periods for the study of burial and funerary rites, demographic, anatomical, gender and pathological studies.

The principal archaeological and historic interest at the Site during this period relates to the foundation and use of the Church of St. Oswald from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Where appropriate efforts should be focused on discovering more about the character and function of the region's medieval settlements in the immediate post-conquest period. And should include provision for adequate palaeoenvironmental and bulk soil sampling strategies.

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 Excavation* (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

### 4.1 Excavation and Watching Brief

The engineering requirements for the construction of the extension demand an average depth of ground disturbance to establish a formation level of about 220mm bgl, with potentially isolated requirements for a depth of dig extending to about 495mm bgl. The shallowest depth at which human skeletal material was identified during the evaluation was 370mm bgl. This suggested that the principal excavation may not encounter human remains, but any isolated deeper digging to 495mm bgl (required for the establishment of foundations) may well encounter some human remains. Such an encounter would either trigger the relocation of the foundation elements requiring the dig depth of 495mm bgl or the disinterment of the human remains which represented an obstacle.

Initially works will comprise the mechanical removal of non-archaeologically significant material, under constant archaeological supervision, using an appropriately configured mechanical excavator.

All machining will be conducted under archaeological supervision and will cease when the first archaeological horizon or the target level is revealed (whichever is encountered first). The mechanical removal of non-archaeologically significant material and/or hand-cleaning will proceed to depths which equate to the maximum depth required for construction works in order to ensure that any and all sub-surface strata in which archaeological remains may be present can be examined for archaeological remains and such remains, if present, shall be identified and recorded.

At no stage will machinery (excavators or dumpers) be driven over the cleared areas. Due to the sensitive nature of the work the machine operator will be properly trained and experienced. The operator will be capable of producing a clean, level surface at precisely the correct level under direction from an archaeologist.

Upon exposure of the first horizon exhibiting archaeological deposits, features or structures the use of the mechanical excavator will cease. Under no circumstances will the mechanical excavator be used to excavate archaeological deposits features or structures, unless extraordinary circumstances apply associated with large-scale homogenous and/or modern deposits in which case dispensation may be provided to permit selective and controlled excavation with a mechanical excavator. 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. After the areas have been opened, there will be a visual inspection of the exposed surface by the Client and representatives of the Council. If any archaeological features are present they will be investigated by means of manual excavation by qualified and experienced archaeologists.

All archaeological deposits, features and structures will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project. All excavated areas will conform to the stated dimensions at their base and provision will be made for safe systems of work to be deployed. 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 sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

The cessation of excavation prior to the establishment of the level at which geologically lain material survives may be agreed with the Council during the course of the field work. The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The drawn record will comprise plans of the site at a suitable scale, area plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10. Drawing conventions should follow accepted conventions. Proprietary electronic hardware and software may be used to prepare site drawings as appropriate.

#### **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 WSI report 3375.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.

An archaeological evaluation at the Site was undertaken in March 2017 (Aeon Archaeology 2017) which indicated that conditions prevail on site for the existence of archaeological remains which were categorised as a non-designated heritage asset.

Three 1.2m square test pits were excavated under controlled archaeological conditions. A total of ten inhumation burials were encountered. Three of the graves are very likely to be of post medieval date and two of these three correlate with grave plots depicted on the 1884 graveyard plan. The third, a child’s grave 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 19th century.

The remaining seven inhumations were of a shallow depth (between 0.37m BGL and 0.8m BGL) suggesting that they may predate the Anatomy Act of 1832, with at least four of the graves excavated into the natural sandstone bedrock. The human skeletal remains in one of the graves extended beneath the church buttress confirming that at least one grave was of pre-15th century date.

One grave produced an iron shroud pin suggesting tentatively that it was of medieval date. In addition the artefact assemblage included three sherds of post-medieval ceramic; three fragments of post-medieval pipe stem; one sherd of medieval ceramic; two iron coffin nails and four fragments of slag.

A single rim sherd of a medieval ceramic vessel is likely to date to the 13th century and this artefact is probably associated with domestic activity related to the nearby medieval motte. The agency by which this sherd was deposited in the graveyard is not known.

Preservation of human skeletal material was variable.

## **7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

### **7.1 The Documentary Archive**

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological evaluation:

Digital photographs	147
Context Sheets	50
Drawings	12 on 6 sheets

### **7.2 Environmental Samples**

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

### **7.3 Artefacts**

12 fragments of medieval ceramic floor tile, 31 sherds of post-medieval pottery, 16 fragments of clay tobacco pipe, one fragment of post-medieval floor tile, three fragments of lead window comes, a single piece of metal slag, a single piece of vitrified glass, a fragment of coal, a complete roof slate, a single copper-alloy shroud pin were recovered during the excavation and watching brief. These were cleaned and identified in-house at Aeon Archaeology and are described in section 8.0.

## 8.0 ARTEFACT ANALYSIS

### Summary

The St. Oswald's Church finds assemblage comprised the following range of artefacts: 12 fragments of medieval ceramic floor tile, 31 sherds of post-medieval pottery, 16 fragments of clay tobacco pipe, one fragment of post-medieval floor tile, three fragments of lead window comes, a single piece of metal slag, a single piece of vitrified glass, a fragment of coal, a complete roof slate, a single copper-alloy shroud pin, and a variegated clay marble.

The finds span approximately a 500 year period between the late medieval period through to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Artefact Category	Medieval Floor Tile		Post-Medieval Pottery		Clay Tobacco Pipe		Post-Medieval Floor Tile		Lead		Other Finds
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	
(1001)			8	44	3	5					Slag
(1002)	8	569	12	179	10	19			1	7	
(1008)			1	2							
(1009)	1	31	7	75	1	4			2	14	Vitrified Glass Coal Frags.
(1014)	3	344	2	16	2	3	1	238			Slate
(1030)											Shroud Pin
(1032)			1	1							
(1050)											Variegated marble
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>

Table 1: Quantification of all finds by category and context

### Medieval Floor Tiles

There were 3 examples of medieval floor tiles exhibiting a clear glaze over a white slip, light green glaze over a white slip and a dark green glaze over a darker slip. Seven of the tiles were green glazed with three clear glazed over a white/brown slip, none of the examples have any decorations and appear to be blank. These all share a similar sandy red fabric, reminiscent of those from religious buildings within the city of Chester and the wider county of Cheshire (Axworthy-Rutter 1990, Cootes 2009, Keen 2008).

Ware Groups	White/Brown Slip		Light Green Glaze		Dark Green Glaze		Unglazed	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
(1002)	1	139	3	150	2	144	2	136
(1009)	1	31						
(1014)	1	13	1	247	1	84		

Table 2: Quantification of medieval floor tiles by glaze/slip type and context

### Context (1002)

This context produced nine sherds of medieval floor tile; white/brown slip, light green glaze, dark green glaze and unglazed variants were all present. The tiles all shared the same sandy red fabric. The unglazed floor tiles had straight cut sides and were corner fragments, the depth of these tiles were

2.20cm and 1.80cm respectively, on the base of the thicker tile there was the remnant of a lime mortar. The single white/brown tile was 2.40cm deep and had bevelled sides suggesting production in a mould. The two fragments of dark green glazed tile were approximately 1.90cm deep and well covered in glaze which extended down the sides whereas the light green glazed fragments were shallower at 1.70cm deep. One fragment of the light green glaze appeared to be the result of frost damage, as none of the profile of the tile is visible. None of these tile fragments exhibited design of any type impressed or otherwise.

#### Context (1009)

The single fragment of medieval floor tile that came from this context was of a sandy red fabric and had a white/brown slip covered in a clear glaze. The fragment appeared to come from a corner of a tile and was square cut. None of these tile fragments exhibited design of any type.

#### Context (1014)

This context produced three medieval tile fragments which shared the same sandy red fabric. The white/brown slip, light and dark green glaze variants were all present. The white/brown tile, although fragmentary in state the width and depth of the original was evident from its profile; the tile was 1.90cm deep and 11.80cm wide. The upper face of the tile appeared to have been subject to frost damage as it appeared abraded and partially laminated; visible in the upper corner was a fragment of white slip and clear glaze however on one side of the tile there was a remnant of dark green glaze. The dark green glaze fragment had glaze on the majority of its upper face and almost covering one of its sides. The light green glaze fragment appeared to be the result of frost damage, as none of the profile of the tile is visible. The two examples of the tile where the profile is visible exhibit square cut edges alluding to a method of production where the tiles were probably cut as opposed to being moulded. None of these tile fragments exhibited design of any type.

### Post-Medieval Pottery

The post-medieval pottery comprised of a rather limited range of wares, largely products of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries comprising of blackware, brownware, willow pattern, transfer ware, bone china, porcelain and English Stoneware. The forms were primarily those for the table along with utilitarian jars and bottles.

Wares	Blackware		Brownware		Staffordshire Slipware		Willow pattern		Transfer ware		Bone China		Porcelain		English Stoneware	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
(1001)	1	5	1	14			1	8	1	5	2	4	2	8		
(1002)	3	107	1	3	2	25	2	14	1	6	2	17				
(1008)			1	2												
(1009)	4	65														
(1014)	1	12	1	4							4	17				
(1032)															1	5

Table 3: Quantification of post-medieval pottery by ware group and context

#### Context (1001)

This context produced single sherds each from a blackware, brownware, willow pattern and transferware ceramics. The blackware sherd was a body sherd from an unknown vessel – it was an example from the production centre at Buckley, the iridescent black lead glaze is suggestive of a later date (late 18<sup>th</sup> century) whereas the brownware has a white body and is a base from a jar, which probably originates from a production centre in the North Midlands from sometime in the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Staffordshire slipware is also comprised from a white firing clay found in the north midlands and exhibits a combed trail decoration; its production date is dated at some time during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The willow pattern found on the bone china fragment can be reliably dated to between

1790-1870 and is almost certainly from an English production centre. The transferware fragment was in grey and a body sherd from a plate probably from the 1830/40's.

#### Context (1002)

The blackware sherds in this context are more examples from the Buckley production centre – with a robust base sherd perhaps an example of pancheon ware (late 18<sup>th</sup> century). The same examples of Staffordshire slipware and brownware pottery sherds were found in this context. There were two varieties of willow pattern porcelain in this context extending the date range to 1890.

#### Context (1008)

This context produced a single body sherd from a brownware plate a date within the second half of the 18th century is suggested.

#### Context (1009)

The blackware sherds in this context are more examples from the Buckley production centre – these were of a thinner profile to those found in context (1002). These constituted of three body sherds with a base sherd dated to the (late 18<sup>th</sup> century).

#### (1032)

A single body sherd from an English stoneware ceramic of unknown vessel type was found in this context, possibly a finer piece owing to the profile of the section. Salt glaze stoneware production began in England during the second part of the 17th century centred on Lambeth in London, however the manufacture of mass produced salt glaze pottery continued in Britain until the middle part of the 19th century.

### **Other Finds**

#### *Clay Tobacco Pipe fragments (1001), (1002), (1009) & (1014)*

Contexts Along with the post-medieval pottery, these context produced several fragments of clay tobacco pipe stems and although not closely datable these can be dated c. 1800–1910.

#### *Metal Slag (1001)*

An amorphous piece of slag was found; this was porous with a single smoothed side and appeared to be a composite of a light grey, light brown and red brown materials.

#### *Vitrified Glass (1009)*

A dark blue black piece of vitrified glass was found; its shape was amorphous and it had no defining characteristics.

#### *Lead Cames (1002) & (1009)*

A few pieces of lead were found; these were amorphous and may represent the cast remnants of solder from lead window cames.

#### *Slate (1014)*

A roof slate with two fixing holes at one end was found it measured 25.50cm long by 15.50cm wide.

#### *Shroud Pin (1030)*

A copper alloy shroud pin was found in association with the neo natal burial (Skeleton 01) (1030); this provides a tentative medieval date, however a more accurate date is difficult to procure.

#### *Variegated Marble (1050)*

Buried in association with Skeleton 12 (1050) was an example of a variegated clay marble. It was recovered from near the sternum of the individual. Clay marbles are common grave goods which have been discovered in association with burials from the Bronze Age to the end of the Post-Medieval

period. The marble comprised of a very hard ceramic and was mainly terracotta in colour with variegated or *marbled* colours of yellow/white clay; the marble was perfectly spherical and had a rough diameter of 1.85cm. Comparative examples recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme are all of modern or post-medieval date, aside from some Roman examples which are generally larger in size ([www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk)). The shallow depth of the burial at approximately 0.52m BGL suggests that it predates the Anatomy Act of 1832 and as such a 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> Century date is postulated for this find.

## 9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

The location of the excavation area can be found on figure 3 where it is overlain on the 1884 graveyard plan. The location of all excavations associated with the toilet extension are shown on figure 4 and the archaeological excavation was carried out between the 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The location and orientation of photographs is shown on figure 19.

Where relevant context numbers have been assigned and are shown enclosed within brackets.

### **Toilet Extension Footprint** (Plates 1-16, figures 4-10)

The excavation footprint measured 11.25m in length by 5.5m in width orientated east to west. Upon arrival the existing stone flag footpath at the southern limit of the footprint had been lifted by the Site contractor, revealing the crushed stone hardcore sub-base beneath. A tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was then utilised to remove the hardcore sub-base material on to a firm, mid red-brown silt-sand deposit (1004). The excavator was then used to remove the turf and topsoil layer (1001) from the northern two-thirds of the excavation footprint which produced 8 sherds of post-medieval ceramic, 3 fragments of ceramic pipe stem, and 1 piece of slag. The topsoil was removed on to a firm, mid/dark red-brown silt-sand deposit (1002). Deposits (1002) and (1004) appeared very similar in appearance with only a slightly darker colouring to deposit (1002) and lying either side of a modern utility trench [1011] measuring 0.4m in width, running east to west across the extension footprint and filled by a soft, dark grey-brown sand-silt (1012). It is probable that exposure and compaction of deposit (1004) during the laying down of the churchyard footpath in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century resulted in a modified version of deposit (1002) and that these two deposits were originally one and the same.

The excavation was continued by hand starting with a 2.6m wide strip running west to east along the southern limit of the extension footprint, and being the area formerly located beneath the churchyard pathway. Deposit (1004) was removed to a depth of 0.4m deep beneath finished floor level (123.94m OD) however the limit of deposit (1004) was not encountered.

Deposit (1002) was then reduced by hand to the required 0.4m beneath finished floor level (123.94m OD), without the limit of (1002) being encountered, but produced 8 fragments of medieval floor tile, 12 sherds of post-medieval ceramic, 10 fragments of clay pipe stem, and 1 piece of lead came.

During the reduction works at the northern part of the excavation a 75-100% complete articulated skeleton (SK01) of a 38+/- 2 weeks old foetus or neonate baby was encountered at 0.32m beneath finished floor level (124.02m OD / approximately 0.5m BGL). This individual was in an extended supine position orientated east to west, and of indeterminable sex. The grave cut and fill were not discernible due to the immediate backfilling of the grave utilising the same material excavated, however for proper recording methods the context number [1029] was assigned to the cut and (1030) for the fill. A single copper-alloy shroud pin was recovered during cleaning of the skeleton suggesting tentatively that it was of medieval date. Moreover, the relatively shallow burial depth would suggest that it did indeed predate the Anatomy Act of 1832. The skeleton lay within the extension depth limit and as such was carefully lifted and reburied within vault (1015) – see below.

At the eastern limit of the strip, and within the easternmost bay formed by the buttresses within the extension footprint, a charnel pit [1023] measuring 2.85m in length by 1.63m in width orientated east to west was uncovered lying beneath the hardcore sub-base material and cut into deposit (1004). This pit was roughly ovoid in plan and was filled with a soft light red-brown silt-sand (1009) with very frequent disarticulated human bone inclusions. The pit was reduced of its fill until the required 0.4m beneath finished floor level (123.94m OD) was encountered revealing a sharp break of slope and mildly concaved sides. An exploratory section was excavated within the western half of the pit to a depth of 0.59m beneath finished floor level (123.75m OD) however the base of the charnel pit was not encountered.

In total 1,527 pieces of disarticulated human bone were recovered from the charnel pit fill (1009) as detailed in the human bone report (Tellier, G. 2018). In addition one fragment of medieval floor tile, seven sherds of post-medieval ceramic, one fragment of ceramic pipe stem, one piece of lead came, one piece of vitrified glass, and one fragment of coal was recovered from the fill. Moreover, the distal end of a right adult humerus was found stuck in the mortar of the western church buttress, suggesting that the charnel pit pre-dates an episode of construction work associated with this buttress - which is thought to have been built in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. It is however possible that the buttress was repaired at a later date or indeed that the single humerus was part of an earlier burial that became incorporated into the western limit of the charnel pit due to having been secured within the mortar. It is therefore possible that the charnel pit is of more modern origin, as alluded to by the recovered finds assemblage, and perhaps having been excavated to rebury remains disturbed during groundworks associated with the construction of the churchyard path in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

At the north-western edge of the charnel pit but seemingly lying beneath the limit of the pit's fill and base, an articulated skeleton (SK02) was found in extended supine position and orientated east to west at 0.44m beneath finished floor level (123.9m OD / approximately 0.24m BGL). Approximately 25-50% of the skeleton remained of a 12-16 year old individual of indeterminable sex. The upper half of the skeleton lay within the area of the charnel pit however the lower half was uncovered during the excavation of the drain sondage – see below. As with skeleton 01 no grave cut or fill was discernible however the context numbers [1031] and (1032) were assigned, the latter of which produced one sherd of post-medieval ceramic. The relatively shallow burial depth would suggest that it predated the Anatomy Act of 1832 and assuming that the post-medieval ceramic is not a residual find then a date within the 18<sup>th</sup> Century is proposed for this individual. The skeleton lay below the required extension depth limit and as such was left in-situ.

At the eastern edge of the extension footprint a third articulated skeleton (SK04) was encountered at 0.32m beneath finished floor level (124.02m OD / approximately 0.4m BGL). This individual was also in extended supine position, orientated east-west, and consisted of <25% of a >40 year old female. Grave cut [1033] and fill (1034) were assigned to the burial however neither context was visible in plan. There were no artefacts recovered from the skeleton or within close proximity, however the relatively shallow burial depth would suggest that it predated the Anatomy Act of 1832. Only the skull of SK04 protruded into the required depth limit of the extension and as such the skull was lowered by approximately 0.08m so that the skeleton could remain in-situ.

At the north-western edge of the site two flat rectangular sandstone grave markers (1007) and (1017) were photographed and located on a site plan, prior to careful lifting by the site contractor. The westernmost marker (1017) consisted of at least three stone slabs individually measuring 1.0m in length by 0.75m in width by 0.11m in depth orientated north to south, the westernmost of which continued into the western limit of excavation. There was no inscription on any of the visible stones however the marker corresponded with plot 536 on the graveyard plan of 1884. Upon removal the grave marker was found to overlie a sub-rectangular grave cut [1020] measuring 1.8m in length by 0.52m in width, orientated east to west and filled by a soft mid grey-red silt-sand (1021). The limits of the grave were not encountered within the 0.4m beneath finished floor level (123.94m OD) excavation limit.

The second grave marker (1007) consisted of four rectangular slabs of sandstone measuring 1.85m in length by 0.93m in width by 0.2m in depth in total, orientated east to west. Upon these were the broken fragments (1008) of a sandstone grave marker which bore an inscription but was too fragmentary and eroded to be legible. Upon removal this deposit produced a single sherd of post-medieval ceramic. The grave marker corresponded with plot 560 on the graveyard plan of 1884. Upon removal there was no visible sign of a cut or fill due to the similarity of the surrounding deposit (1002), however a grave cut [1018] and fill (1019) were found in the base of foundation pit 01 cut into the natural bedrock (1022) – see below.

To the immediate south of grave marker (1007) a fourth articulated skeleton (SK08) was encountered at 0.47m beneath finished floor level (123.87m OD / approximately 0.5m BGL). This individual was also in extended supine position, orientated east-west, and consisted of <25% of a 2-3 year old of indeterminable sex. Grave cut [1041] and fill (1042) were assigned to the burial however neither context was visible in plan. There were no artefacts recovered from the skeleton or within close proximity, however the relatively shallow burial depth would suggest that it predated the Anatomy Act of 1832. The upper part of the skeleton had also been removed by the modern utility trench [1011]. The skeleton lay below the required extension depth limit and as such was left in-situ.

At the north-eastern end of the extension footprint a third grave marker (1006) was photographed and located on a site plan, prior to careful lifting by the site contractor. The marker consisted of a single sandstone slab measuring >1.07m in length by 1.0m in width by 0.15m in depth, orientated east to west but without any visible inscription. The slab was laid horizontally but had been covered over with approximately 0.1m of topsoil deposit (1001). Beneath the slab was a 0.46m deep soft, light pink-brown sand-clay deposit (1014) that directly lay above the sandstone capstones (1015) of a burial vault located at 0.36m beneath finished floor level (123.9m OD). The capstones consisted of four individual stones measuring 2.34m in length by 1.08m in width (west end) / 0.7m width (east end), by 0.14m in depth and resting upon walls constructed from machine-cut unfrogged red-brick bonded by mortar (1016). These walls had been internally white washed and measured 0.11m in width by >1.35m in depth. The vault had been constructed within a cut measuring 2.5m in length by 1.15m in width which had been cut through sandstone bedrock (1022) on its southern side and deposit (1002) on its eastern, northern and western sides. At the northern end the red-brick wall was of double-skin construction suggesting either that a second vault was located to the immediate north or perhaps as an attempt to provide stability to the vault edge that hadn't been constructed against bedrock. Upon construction of the red-brick vault walls within the cut a backfill material of soft mid grey-brown clay sand-silt (1024) had been added as a packing material to create stability. The exact depth of the vault and the number of individuals it contained could not be ascertained due to an accumulation of soil debris within the vault cavity and it was beyond the requirement of the excavation to remove the contents of the burial vault.

During the ground reduction works of deposit (1002) and (1004) a total of 2,914 disarticulated human bones were recovered in addition to those found within the fill of the charnel pit [1023]. After these had been catalogued and analysed they were reburied within vault (1015).



**Plate 01:** Pre-excitation photograph of toilet extension footprint, from the west. Scale 1.0m.



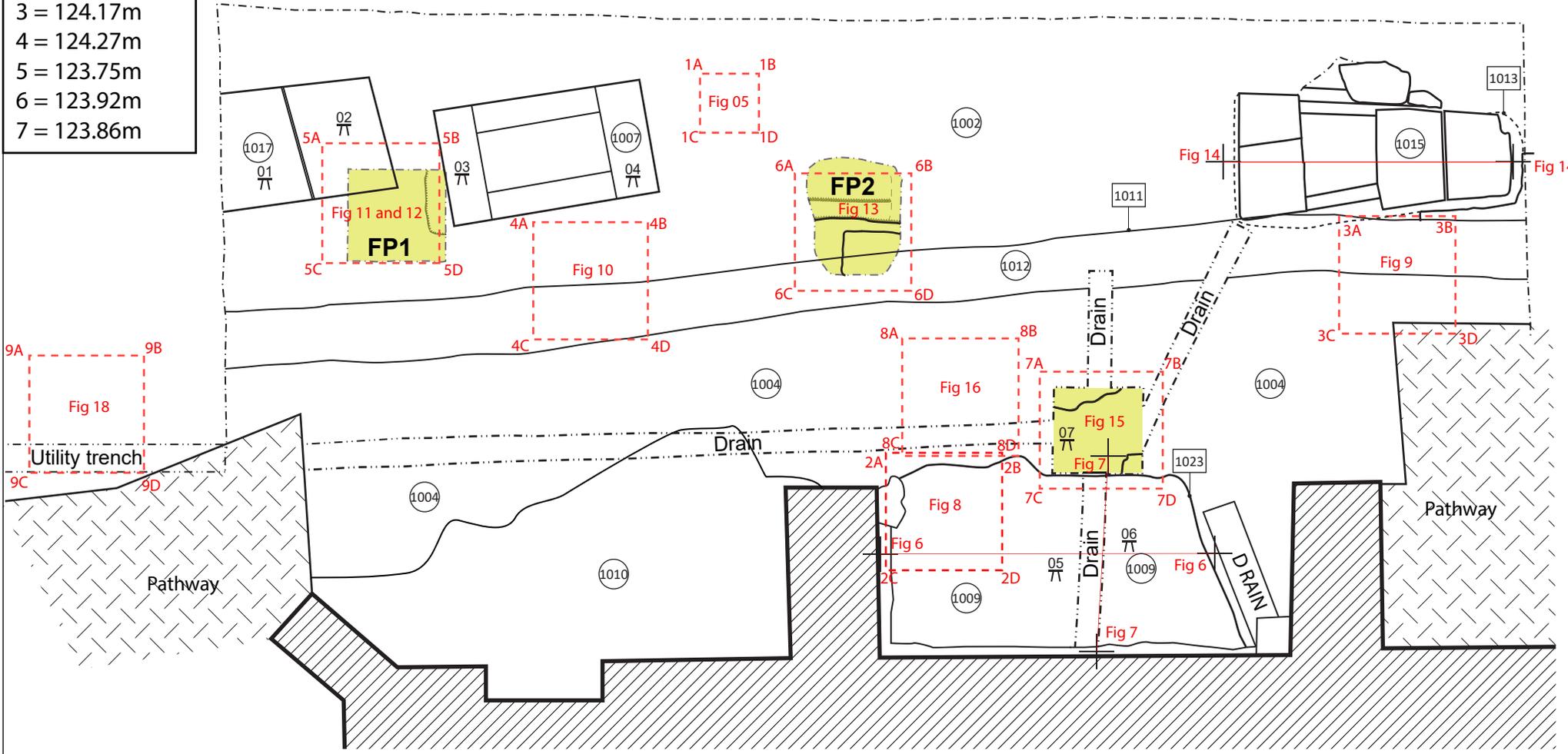
**Plate 02:** Pre-excitation photograph of toilet extension footprint, from the east. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 03:** Pre-excitation photograph of toilet extension footprint, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



TBM = 124.34m  
 BS = 1.62m  
 IH = 125.96m  
 1 = 124.34m  
 2 = 124.43m  
 3 = 124.17m  
 4 = 124.27m  
 5 = 123.75m  
 6 = 123.92m  
 7 = 123.86m



## St. Oswald's Church, Malpas

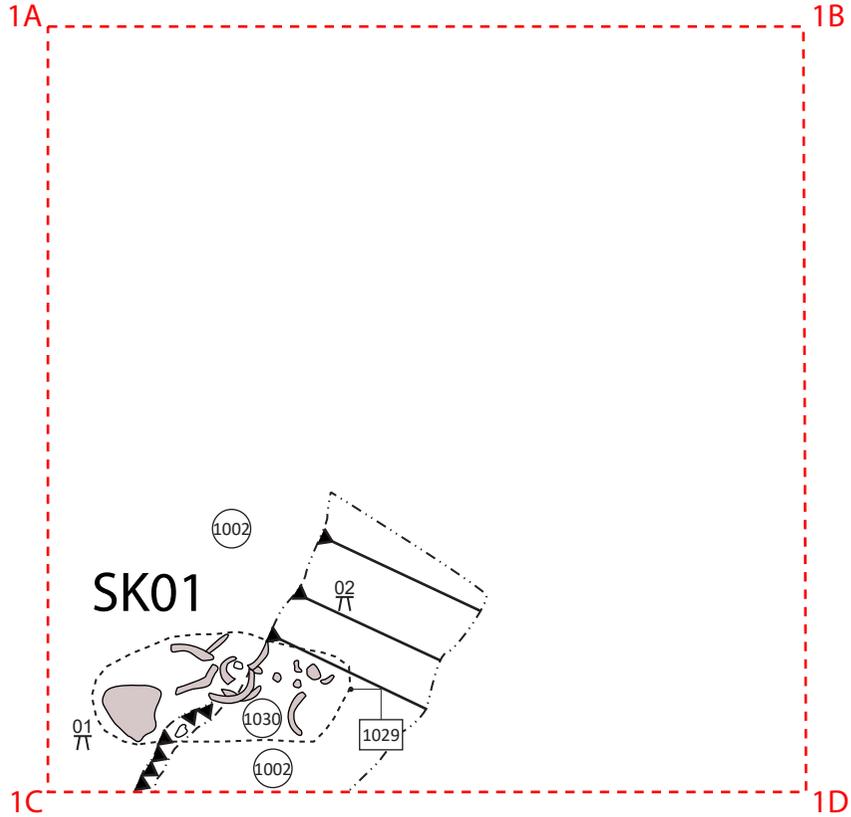
Figure 04: Plan of extension footprint at St Oswald's Church, Malpas. Scale 1:50 at A4.



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**Skeleton 01**  
TBM = 124.34m  
BS= 1.61m  
IH = 125.95m  
1 = 124.02m  
2 = 123.93m



Located on figure 04



Figure 05: Plan of Skeleton 01. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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Plate 04: Skeleton 01, from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 05:** Pre-excavation photograph of charnel pit [1023] and fill (1009), from the north. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 06:** Pre-excitation photograph of charnel pit [1023] and fill (1009), from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 07: West facing section across charnel pit [1023] and fill (1009), from the west. Scale 0.5m.



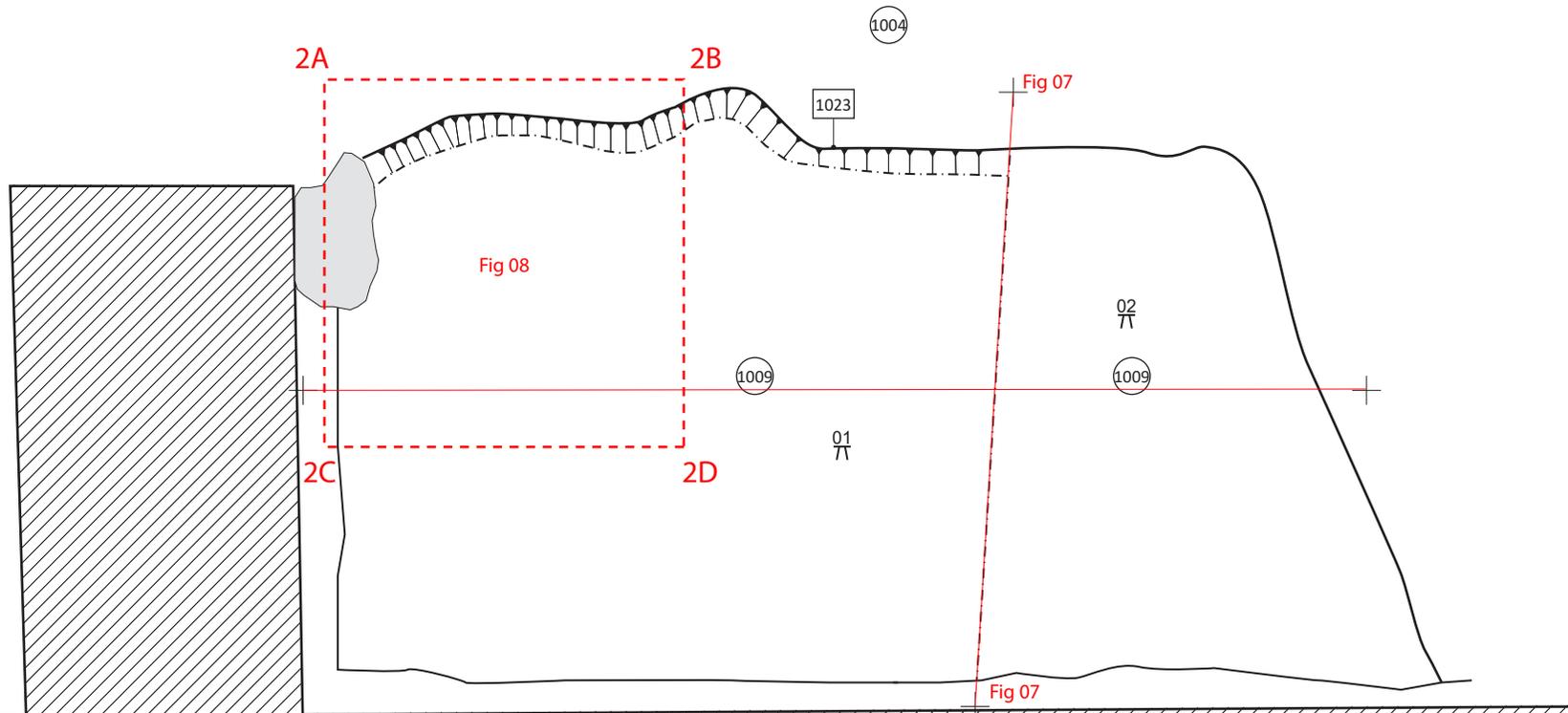
Plate 08: Skeleton 02 lying beneath charnel pit cut [1023], from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 09:** Skeleton 02 lying beneath charnel pit cut [1023], from the south. Scale 0.5m.



TBM = 124.34m  
 BS= 1.69m  
 IH = 126.03m  
 1 = 123.82m  
 2 = 123.99m



St Oswald's Church

Figure 06: Plan of chanel pit [1023]. Scale 1:20 at A4.



 Unidentified  
RockType

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TBM = 124.34m  
BS= 1.69m  
IH = 126.03m  
1= 124.05m

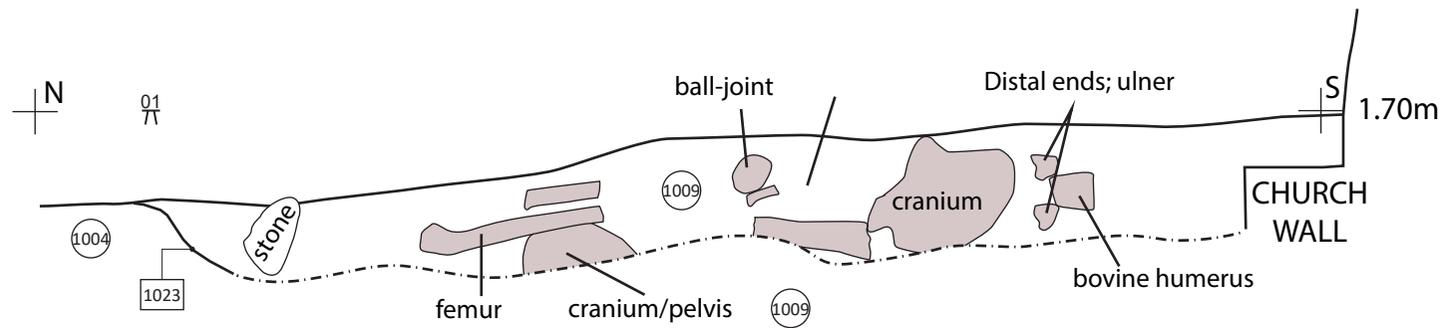


Figure 07: West facing section of channel pit [1023]. Scale 1:10 at A4.

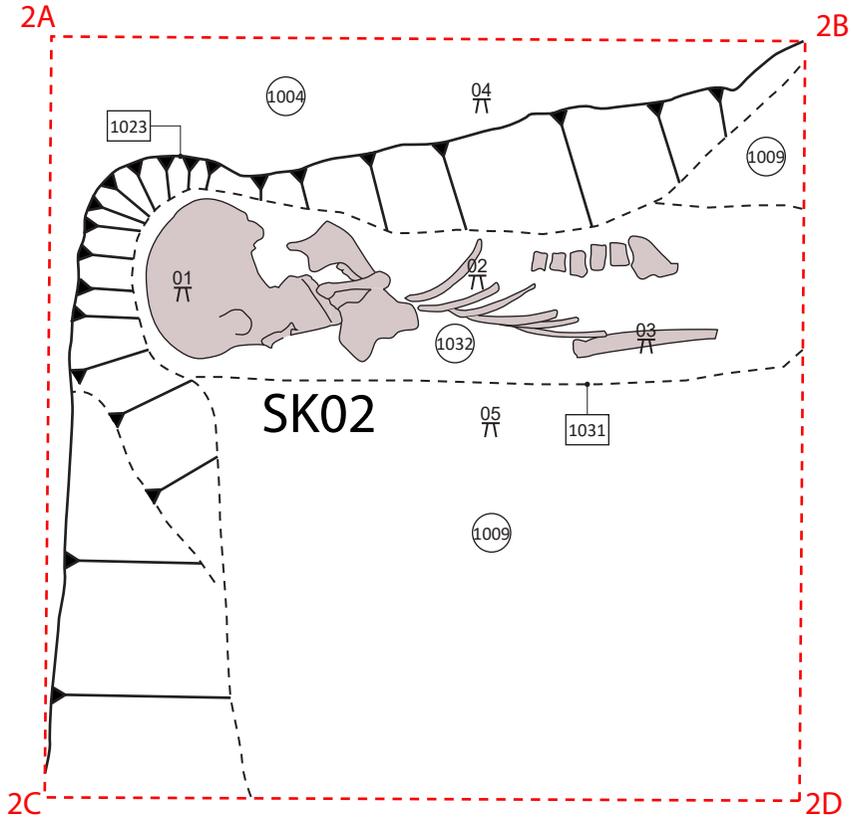


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**Skeleton 02**

TBM = 124.34  
BS= 1.66m  
IH = 126.0m  
1 = 123.9m  
2 = 123.8m  
3 = 123.82m  
4 = 123.91m  
5 = 123.79m



Located on figure 04 and 06



Figure 08: Plan of Skeleton 02. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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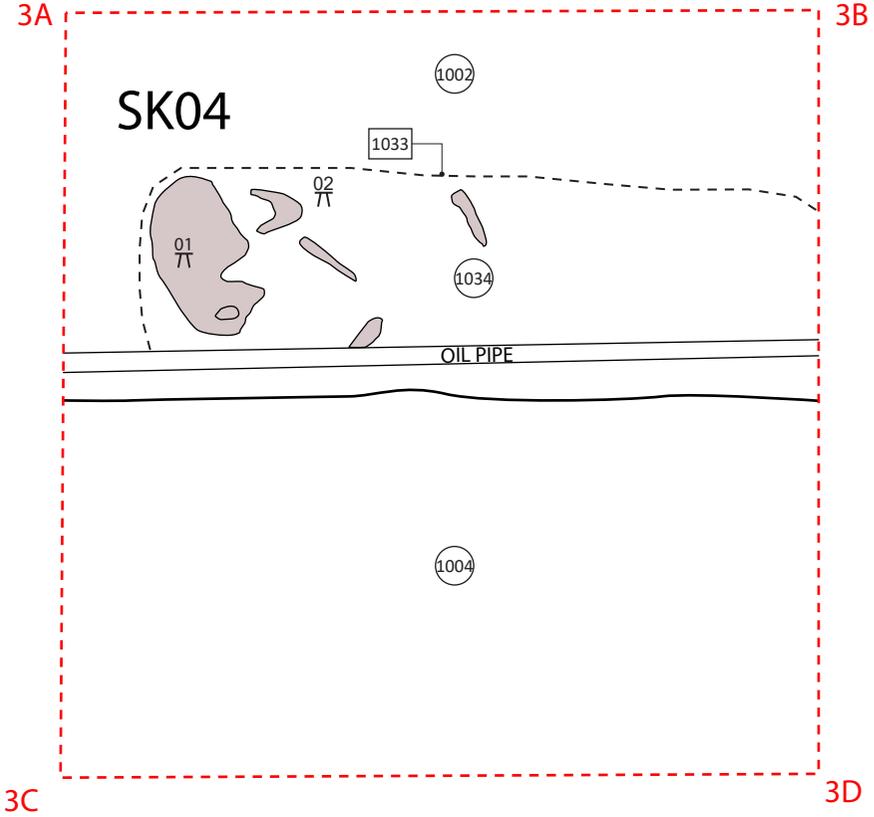
Plate 10: Skeleton 04, from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 11:** Skeleton 04, from the south. Scale 0.5m.



**Skeleton 04**  
TBM = 124.34  
BS= 1.66m  
IH = 126.0m  
1 = 124.02m  
2 = 123.95m



Located on figure 04



Figure 09: Plan of Skeleton 04. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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Plate 12: Grave markers (1007) and (1017), from the east. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 13: Grave markers (1007) and (1017), from the south. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 14: Grave marker (1007), from the east. Scale 1.0m.



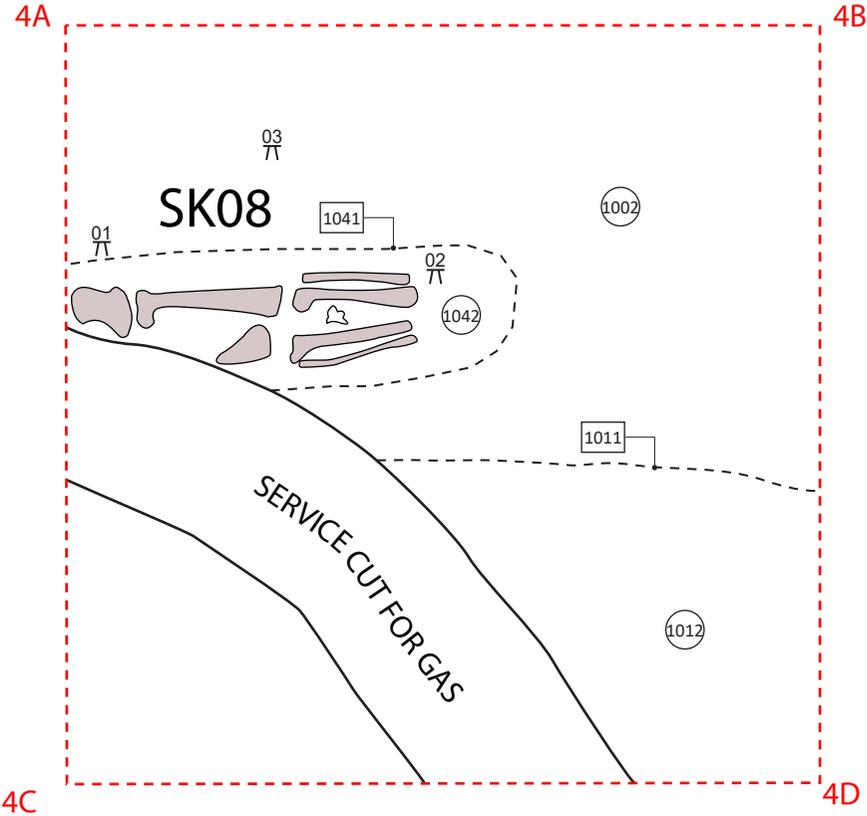
Plate 15: Grave marker (1017), from the east. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 16: Skeleton 08, from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Skeleton 08**  
TBM = 124.34m  
BS= 1.66m  
IH = 126.0m  
1 = 123.88m  
2 = 123.87m  
3 = 123.88m



Located on figure 04



Figure 10: Plan of Skeleton 08. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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## **Foundation Pits** (Plates 17-31, figures 11-14)

Once the extension footprint was excavated to 0.4m deep beneath finished floor level (123.94m OD) three foundation pits measuring 0.75m square were required to be excavated on to bedrock so that suitable foundation pads could be cast at the northeast and northwest corners, and halfway between the northernmost extension elevation.

Foundation pit 1 was located in the northwest corner of the elevation footprint and cut through 0.54m of deposit (1002) on to sandstone bedrock deposit (1022). During the excavation of the foundation pit three articulated skeletons were encountered. Skeleton 05 (SK05) was orientated east to west and located at 0.49m beneath finished floor level (123.85m OD / approximately 0.53m BGL). Less than 25% of the skeleton remained of an approximately 18 years old individual of indeterminable sex. The lower half of the skeleton lay within the area of foundation pit 1 and as such was recorded and removed during the works. There was no grave cut or fill discernible however the context numbers [1035] and (1036) were assigned. There were no artefacts recovered from the skeleton or within close proximity, however the relatively shallow burial depth would suggest that it predated the Anatomy Act of 1832.

Skeleton 06 (SK06) was orientated east to west and located at 0.62m beneath finished floor level (123.72m OD / approximately 0.66m BGL). Less than 25% of the skeleton remained of an approximately 18 years old individual of indeterminable sex. The lower half of the skeleton lay within the area of foundation pit 1 and as such was recorded and removed during the works. There was no grave cut or fill discernible however the context numbers [1037] and (1038) were assigned. There were no artefacts recovered from the skeleton or within close proximity, however the relatively shallow burial depth would suggest that it predated the Anatomy Act of 1832.

Skeleton 07 (SK07) was orientated east to west in extended supine position and located at 0.64m beneath finished floor level (123.7m OD / approximately 0.68m BGL). Less than 25% of the skeleton remained of an approximately 16-17 years old individual of indeterminable sex. The lower half of the skeleton lay within the area of foundation pit 1 and as such was recorded and removed during the works. There was no grave cut or fill discernible however the context numbers [1039] and (1040) were assigned. There were no artefacts recovered from the skeleton or within close proximity, however the relatively shallow burial depth would suggest that it predated the Anatomy Act of 1832.

Once foundation pit 1 was excavated on to bedrock a grave cut [1018] measuring >0.18m in length by >0.55m in width, orientated east to west was located in the north-eastern corner of the pit and continued into the northern and eastern limits of excavation. The cut was filled by a firm, mid/dark red-brown silt-sand (1019) but this was left in-situ and the base of the grave cut was not encountered. The cut lay directly beneath grave marker (1007) and was almost certainly the burial cut associated with it. The increased depth of the burial coupled with the fact that it was excavated into bedrock and had a stone marker suggests that it post-dated the Anatomy Act of 1832.

Foundation pit 2 was located towards the central-northern part of the extension footprint and cut through 0.29m of deposit (1002) on to sandstone bedrock deposit (1022). The foundation pit laid directly over test pit 2 as excavated in the evaluation phase (see Aeon Archaeology report 0118) and uncovered a neonate skeleton (SK09) (referred to as skeleton 03 in the evaluation report). This grave was orientated east to west at the southern end of the pit and measured >0.8m in length by 0.36m in width by approximately 1.03m in depth cutting into deposit (1002) and bedrock (1022), and continued into the eastern limit of excavation. The sides of the grave cut [1043] were vertical with the skeleton lying at 0.87m beneath finished floor level (123.47m OD / approximately 0.97m BGL) within a soft mid red-brown silt-clay (1044) fill. The skeleton was in a poor level of preservation and the remains of a poorly preserved wooden coffin 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. The upper two-thirds of the skeleton lay within the area of foundation pit 2 and as such was recorded and removed during the works.

At the northern end of the pit a second grave cut [1045] measuring >0.81m in length by >0.4m in width by approximately 0.93m in depth was located, orientated east to west and cut into the deposit (1002) and sandstone bedrock (1022). The grave was filled with a soft mid red-brown silt-clay (1046) and continued into the northern, eastern and western limits of excavation. The grave required emptying in order to expose the sandstone bedrock for the foundation pad, however it extended beyond safe working limits and as such it was not possible to expose the skeletal remains (SK10) in-situ. Therefore the grave was emptied using hand tools and analysis of the skeletal remains carried out once removed. The flat base of the grave cut was found at 1.35m beneath finished floor level (122.99m OD / approximately 1.48m BGL) and no artefacts were recovered from the grave fill.

The location of the third foundation pit at the north-eastern part of the site lay directly above vault (1015). After consultation with the Client it was established that the foundation pad could be cast partially within the vault chamber, and partially bridging it. As such there was no requirement to excavate foundation pit 3.



Plate 17: Foundation pad 01 showing skeletons 05, 06, and 07, from the east. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 18: Foundation pad 01 showing skeletons 05, 06, and 07, from the south. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 19: Skeleton 05, from the south. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 20: Skeleton 06, from the south. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 21: Skeleton 07, from the south. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 22: Post-excavation foundation pad 01 showing grave cut [1018], from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 23:** North facing section of foundation pad 01, from the north. Scale 0.5m.



### Skeletons 05-07

- TBM = 124.34m
- BS = 1.74m
- IH = 126.08m
- 1 = 123.85m
- 2 = 123.87m
- 3 = 123.72m
- 4 = 121.95m
- 5 = 123.70m
- 6 = 123.72m
- 7 = 123.88m
- 8 = 123.89m
- 9 = 123.88m
  
- BS2 = 1.66m
- IH = 126.0m
- 10 = 123.41m
- 11 = 123.33m

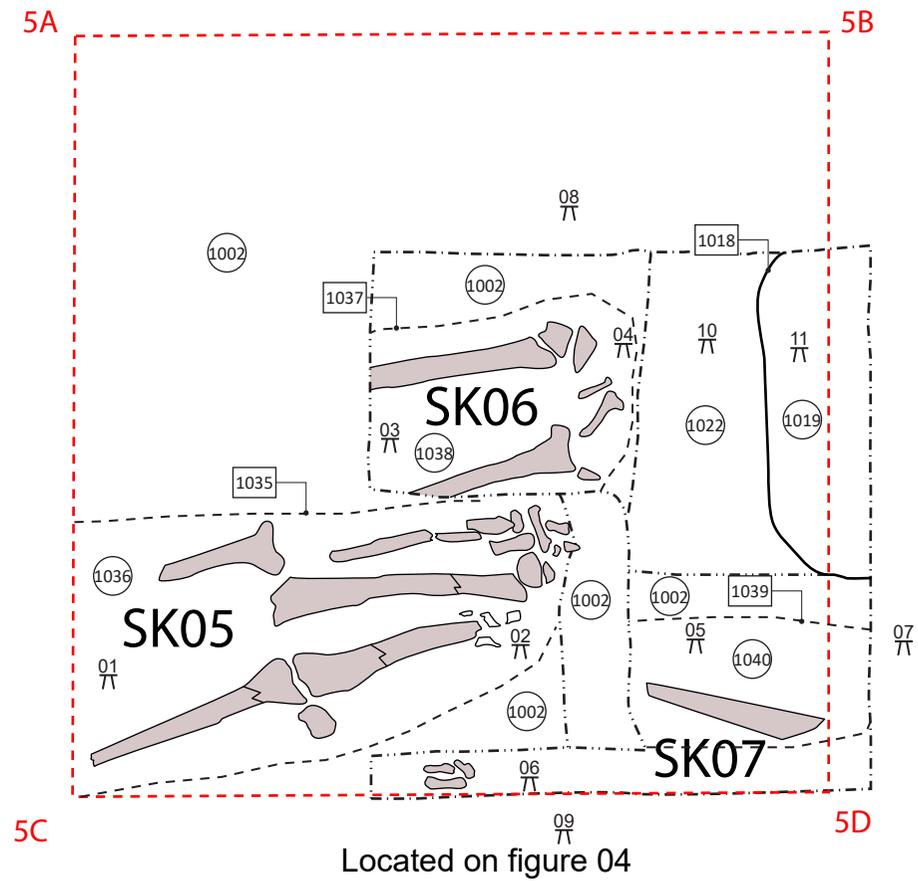


Figure 11: Plan of Foundation Pit 01 Skeletons 05, 06 and 07. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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**Foundation  
Pit 1**

TBM = 124.34m  
BS= 1.62m  
IH = 125.96m  
1= 123.38m  
2 = 123.40m  
3 = 123.33m

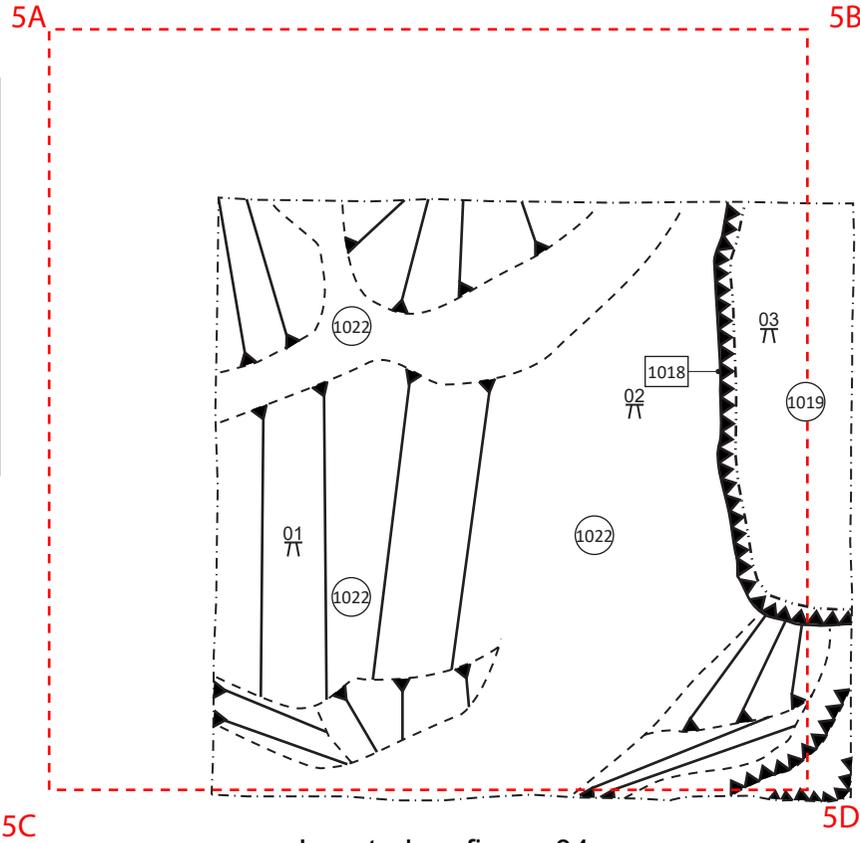


Figure 12: Post-excitation plan of Foundation Pit 01. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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**Plate 24:** Photograph of test pit 2 evaluation phase showing skeleton 09 and grave cuts [1025] and [1026], from the east. Scale 0.5m.



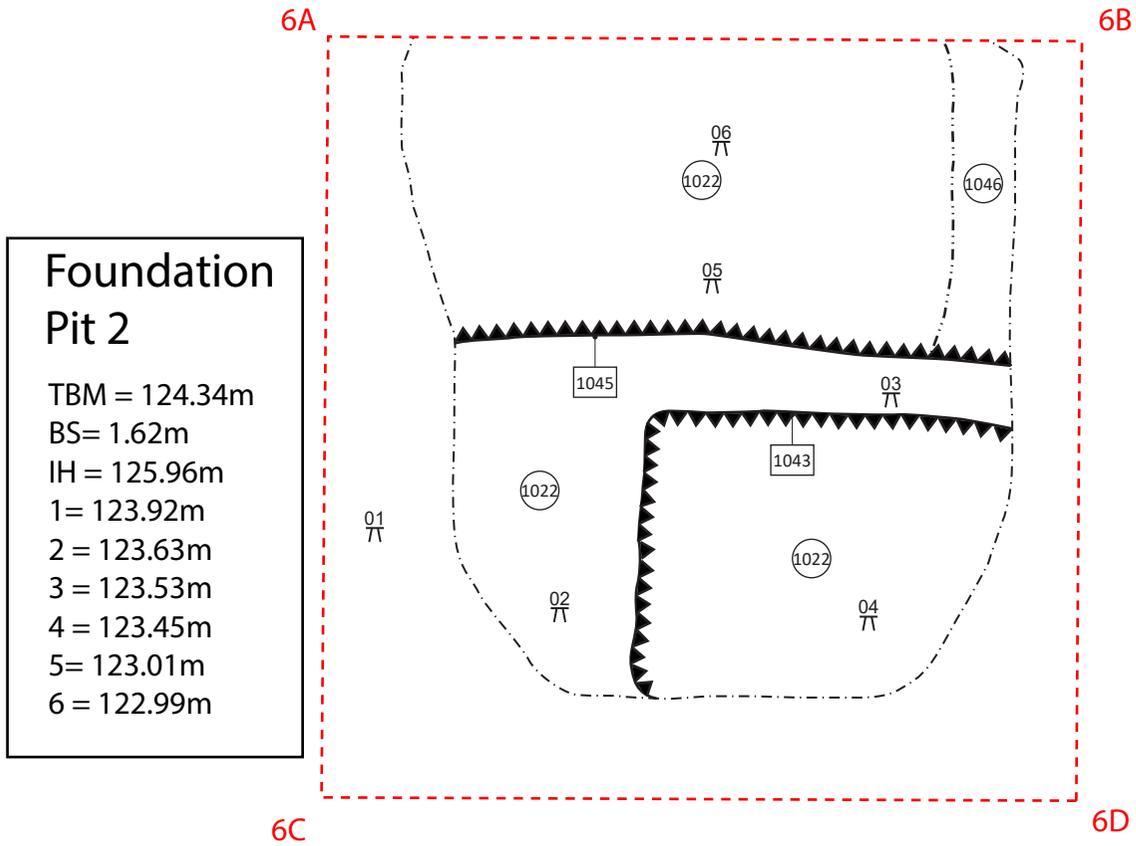
**Plate 25:** Photograph of test pit 2 evaluation phase showing skeleton 09, from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 26:** Post excavation foundation pad 2 showing grave cuts [1025] and [1026], from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 27:** East facing section of foundation pad 2, from the east. Scale 0.5m.



Located on figure 04



Figure 13: Post-excitation plan of Foundation Pit 02. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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Plate 28: Grave marker (1006), from the west. Scale 0.5m.



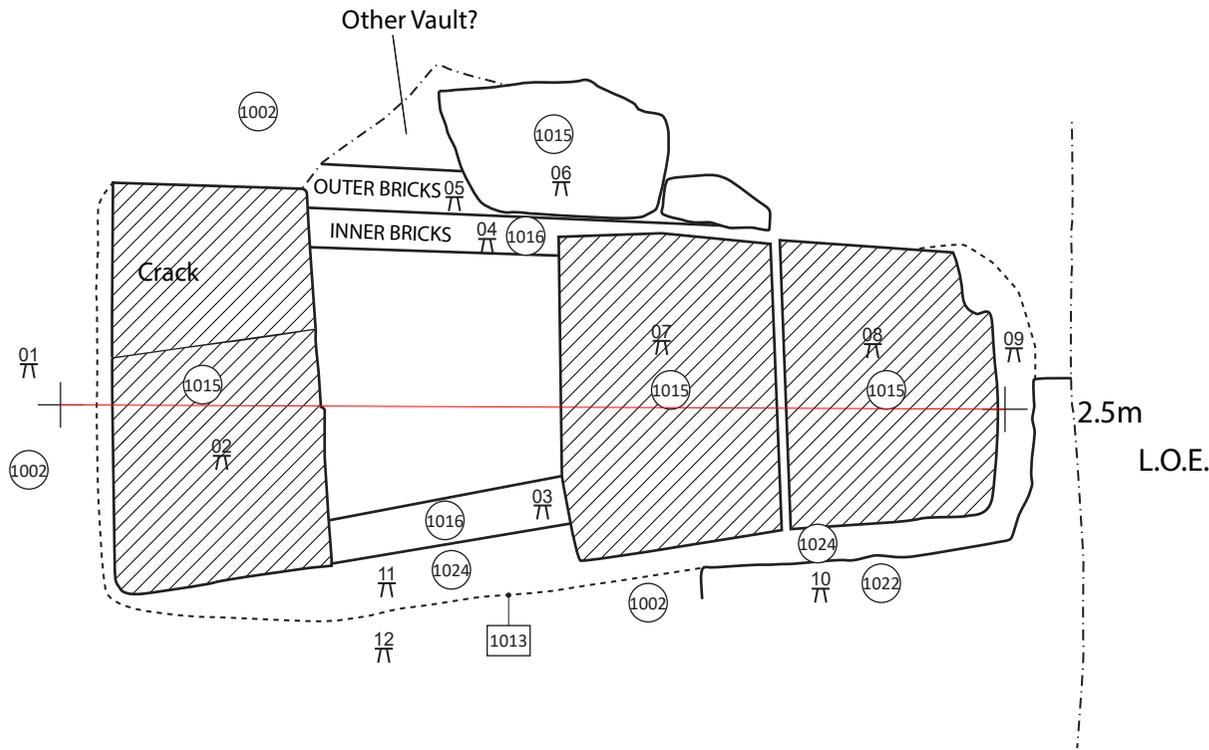
Plate 29: Vault (1015) (1016) beneath grave marker (1006), from the west. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 30: Vault (1015) (1016) beneath grave marker (1006), from the east. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 31:** South facing elevation of vault (1015) (1016) beneath grave marker (1006), from the south. Scale 0.5m.



Brick Vault (1015)	
TBM	= 124.34m
BS	= 1.69m
IH	= 126.03m
1	= 123.93m
2	= 123.90m
3	= 123.76m
4	= 123.77m
5	= 123.83m
6	= 123.94m
7	= 123.90m
8	= 123.92m
9	= 123.90m
10	= 123.97m
11	= 123.75m

Located on figure 04



Figure 14: Plan of vault (1015). Scale 1:20 at A4.

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## Drains (Plates 32-38, figures 15-16)

At the south-eastern part of the site, to the immediate north of charnel pit [1023], a test pit measuring 0.75 square was excavated through deposit (1004) to a depth of 0.6m beneath finished floor level (123.74m OD) in order to accommodate a manhole for the toilet outflow. The test pit was excavated onto bedrock (1022) at the northern and southern limits of the pit where a probable grave cut [1027] was found running from east to west, measuring >0.75m in length by 0.55m in width by >0.2m in depth. The grave was filled by a moderately compacted, dark black-grey sand-silt (1028) which was left partially in-situ due to reaching the required excavation depth. As such the grave cut base was not encountered.

At the south-western corner of the drain pit the lower half of skeleton 2 (see above) was exposed at 0.52m beneath finished floor level (123.82m OD), recorded and carefully lifted. There were no artefacts found during the cleaning or removal of the skeleton, and after analysis the remains were reburied within vault (1015).

Four drain trenches measuring 0.2m in width by 0.55m beneath finished floor level (123.79m OD) were excavated through deposit (1004) to connect with the drain pit at the south-eastern end of the site. The northern drain measured 1.0m in length and ran from north to south, connecting with the northern part of the drain pit. The north-eastern drain measured 1.88m in length and ran from northeast to southwest, connecting with the eastern part of the drain pit. The southern drain measured 1.47m in length and ran from south to north, cutting through charnel pit [1023] fill (1009) to connect with the southern part of the drain pit. There were no archaeological features or articulated remains found within any of these drain trenches.

The fourth drain measured 6.35m in length and ran from west to east, cutting through deposit (1004) and connecting with the western part of the drain pit. To the immediate west of the drain pit an articulated skeleton (SK11) was found in extended supine position and orientated east to west at 0.37m beneath finished floor level (123.97m OD). Less than 25% of the skeleton remained of an 18 years old male individual. There was no grave cut or fill discernible however the context numbers [1047] and (1048) were assigned, although no artefacts were recovered in proximity to the burial. The relatively shallow burial depth would suggest that it predated the Anatomy Act of 1832. The skeleton lay within the required drain depth limit and as such the exposed parts of the skeleton were cleaned, recorded, carefully lifted and reburied within vault (1015).



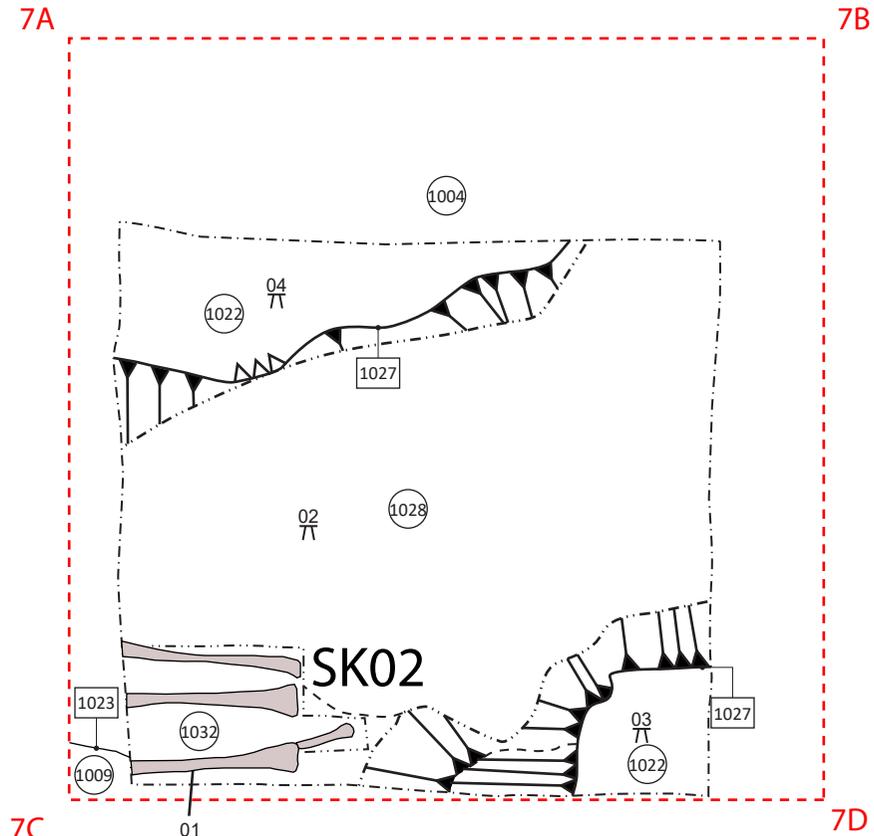
**Plate 32:** Drain excavation showing lower portion of skeleton 2 and grave cuts [1027] and [1028] , from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 33:** Drain excavation showing lower portion of skeleton 2, from the east. Scale 0.15m.



**Drain**  
TBM = 124.34m  
BS= 1.68m  
IH = 126.02m  
1 = 123.82m  
2 = 123.73m  
3 = 123.91m  
4 = 123.92m



Located on figure 04



Figure 15: Post-excavation plan of Drainage Pit. Scale 1:10 at A4.

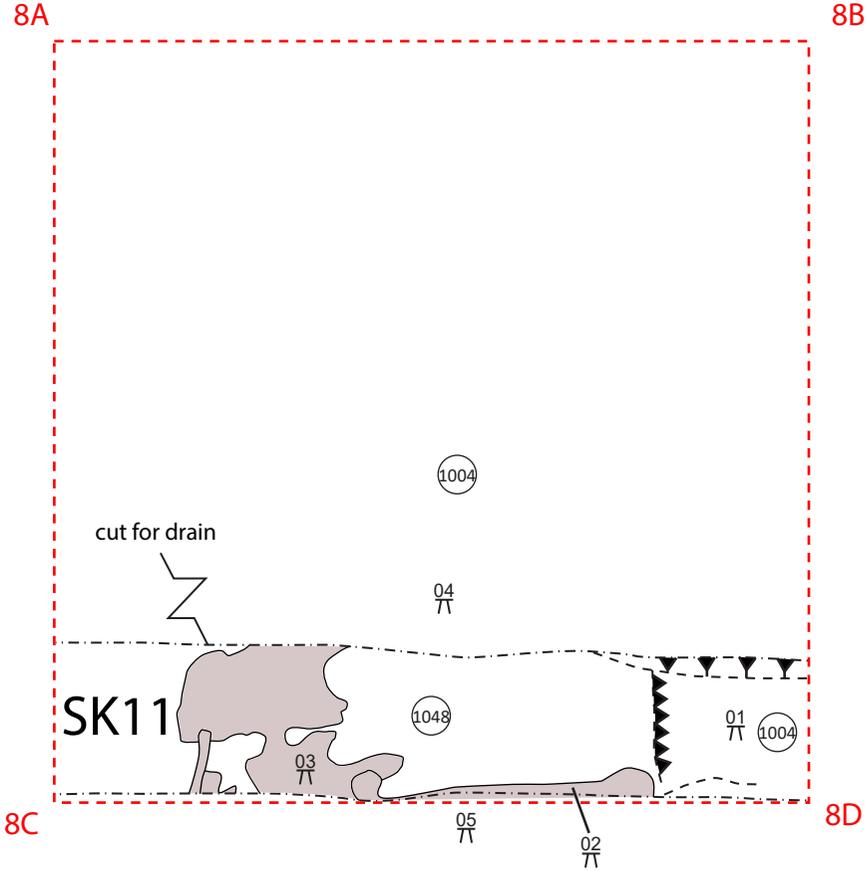
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Plate 34: Skeleton 11 within east-west drainage trench, from the east. Scale 0.5m.



**Skeleton 11**  
TBM = 124.34m  
BS= 1.73m  
IH = 126.07m  
1 = 123.80m  
2 = 123.87m  
3 = 123.97m  
4 = 123.92m  
5 = 123.93m



Located on figure 04



Figure 16: Plan of Skeleton 11 within east-west drainage trench. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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**Plate 35:** Post-excavation photograph of extension footprint, from the west. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



**Plate 36:** Post-excavation photograph of extension footprint, from the east (northern section).  
Scale 2 x 1.0m.



**Plate 37:** Post-excavation photograph of extension footprint, from the east (southern section).  
Scale 2 x 1.0m.



**Plate 38:** South facing trench section of extension footprint, from the south. Scale 0.5m.

### **Utility Trench** (Plates 39-43, figures 17-18)

A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a utility trench on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to carry the new gas pipe across the churchyard from the extension footprint in the east to the churchyard boundary wall in the west. The trench measured 21.8m in length by 0.5m in width and was excavated to an average depth of 0.6m beneath current ground surface.

Approximately 1.5m from the eastern limit of the utility trench an articulated skeleton (SK12) was found in extended supine position and orientated east to west at 0.52m BGL (124.09m OD). Approximately <25% of the skeleton remained of a 26+\_ years old female individual. There was no grave cut or fill discernible however the context numbers [1049] and (1050) were assigned, the latter of which produced a variegated clay marble located immediately in front of the chest cavity and almost certainly a deliberate grave artefact. The marble has been tentatively dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The relatively shallow burial depth of the individual would suggest that it predated the Anatomy Act of 1832. The skeleton lay within the required trench depth limit and as such the exposed parts of the skeleton were cleaned, recorded, carefully lifted and reburied within vault (1015).



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Figure 17: Location of utility trench at St Oswald's Church, Malpas. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

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Plate 39: Utility trench, from the east. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 40: Utility trench, from the west. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 41:** South facing trench section of utility trench, from the south. Scale 1.0m.



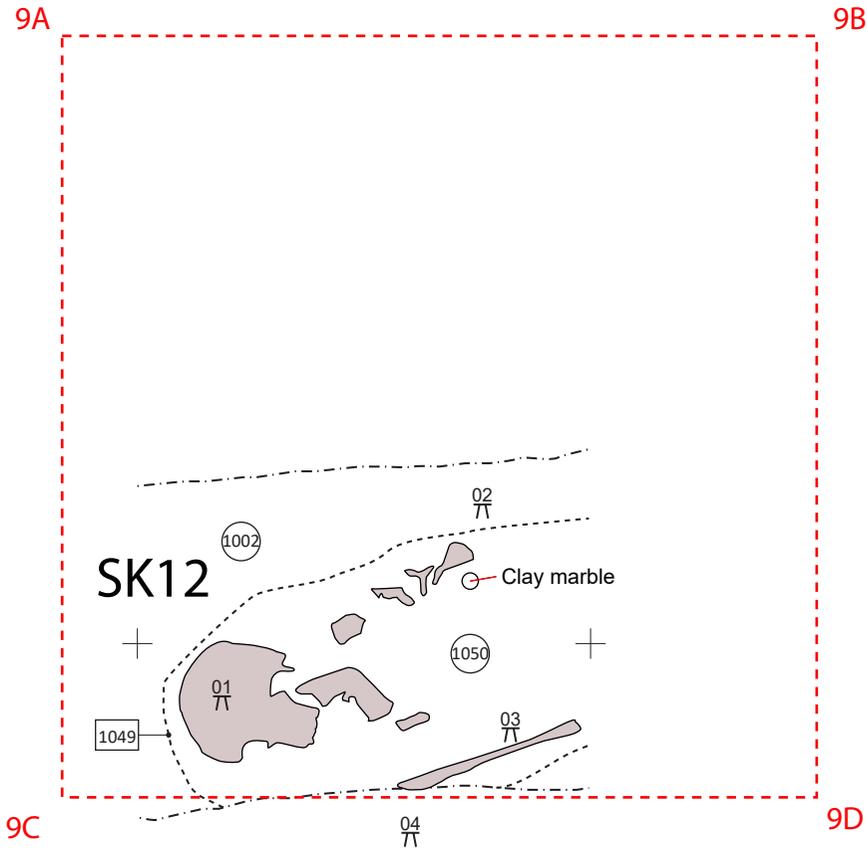
**Plate 42:** Skeleton 12 showing variegated clay marble in-situ, from the south. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 43:** Variegated clay marble recovered from context (1050). Scale 0.15m.



**SK12**  
TBM = 124.34m  
BS= 1.64m  
IH = 125.98m  
1 = 123.57m  
2 = 123.57m  
3 = 123.57m  
4 = 124.09m



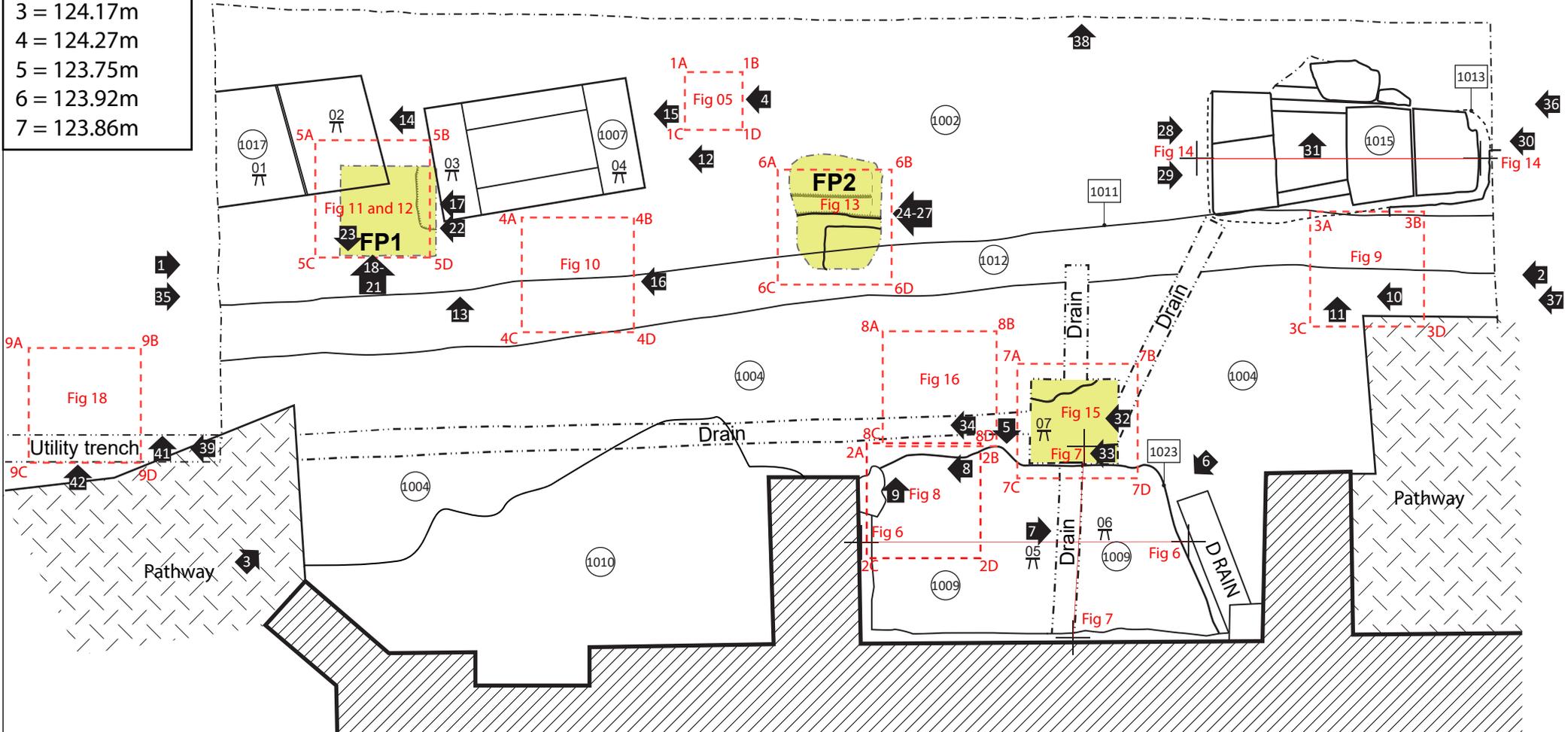
Located on figure 04



Figure 18: Plan of Skeleton 12 within utility trench. Scale 1:10 at A4.

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TBM = 124.34m  
 BS = 1.62m  
 IH = 125.96m  
 1 = 124.34m  
 2 = 124.43m  
 3 = 124.17m  
 4 = 124.27m  
 5 = 123.75m  
 6 = 123.92m  
 7 = 123.86m



## St. Oswald's Church, Malpas

Figure 19: Location and orientation of photographs at St Oswald's Church, Malpas.  
 Scale 1:50 at A4.



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## 10.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological excavation for the new toilet block extension at St Oswald's Church, Malpas uncovered ten articulated skeletons (SK1-2, 4-11). One of these graves (SK10), which was found within foundation pit 2, had been cut into the natural sandstone bedrock, lying at 122.99m OD, approximately 1.48m BGL. The increased depth limit of this burial suggests that it post-dates the Anatomy Act of 1832, although it could not be matched with any graves shown on the graveyard plan of 1884 and no dating evidence was recovered from the grave fill. Furthermore, a child's grave (SK9) also found within foundation 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.

All of the other eight articulated skeletons uncovered by the works lay between 123.7m OD and 124.02m OD, approximately between 0.24m BGL and 0.68m BGL, suggesting that they pre-dated the Anatomy Act of 1832. All of the eight graves were aligned east-west and none of them, aside from SK1, yielded any grave goods or coffin remains. Three of the skeletons (SK 2, 4, and 8) however lay beneath the required excavation limit for the extension and as such were left in-situ. The preservation of bone within the graves varied from very poor to high. One grave [1029] (1030) (SK1) located at the northern part of the footprint produced a shroud pin during cleaning, suggesting tentatively that it was of medieval date. This hypothesis is supported by the shallow depth of the eight graves and a medieval to early post-medieval date is tentatively proposed for these burials.

In addition, at the western side of the extension footprint two 19<sup>th</sup> Century grave markers (1007) and (1017), that relate to burials shown on the graveyard plan of 1884, were fully recorded prior to lifting. The bases of the associated burials for these markers were not encountered at the required excavation depth and as such no skeletal remains were uncovered.

At the south-eastern end of the site a charnel pit [1023] was uncovered that contained a large quantity of disarticulated human remains and produced 7 sherds of post-medieval ceramic, 1 fragment of clay pipe stem, 1 fragment of medieval floor tile, 2 fragments of lead came, 1 sherd of vitrified glass, and one fragment of coal. The pit did not require emptying in its entirety but once excavated to the required depth limit produced 1,527 pieces of disarticulated human bone. The pit almost certainly relates to a period of activity at the site that involved the disturbance of human burials and both the construction of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century buttresses and the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century churchyard pathway have been proposed as potential causes of this disturbance.

In addition, during the ground reduction works across the extension footprint a further 2,914 disarticulated human bones were recovered as well as 8 sherds of post-medieval ceramic, 3 fragments of clay pipe stem, and a piece of slag from topsoil (1001); and 12 sherds of post-medieval ceramic, 10 fragments of clay pipe stem, 8 fragments of medieval floor tile, and 1 piece of lead came from subsoil deposit (1002).

At the eastern end of the extension footprint a burial vault (1015) consisting of a red-brick chamber with sandstone capstones was uncovered and recorded. This vault was not shown on the graveyard plan of 1884 but was almost certainly of 19<sup>th</sup> Century date. The vault lay beneath the required excavation depth limit and as such was retained in-situ and utilised for the reburial of all recovered disarticulated and articulated human bone.

A watching brief was also maintained during the excavation of a utility trench from the western limit of the extension footprint to the western limit of the graveyard wall. The trench uncovered the remains of an eleventh skeleton (SK12) at 124.09m OD, approximately 0.52m BGL. The grave fill produced a variegated clay marble located immediately in front of the chest cavity and almost certainly a deliberate grave artefact. The marble has been tentatively dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The

relatively shallow burial depth of the individual would suggest that it predated the Anatomy Act of 1832.

The archaeological excavation and watching brief 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 the archaeological condition in that the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work that has exposed and recorded all archaeological assets affected by the development at the site. Ultimately, therefore, and without prejudice to the findings of any future archaeological, or other investigations at the Site, it is considered that the archaeological condition has been met and that it now be discharged.

## 11.0 SOURCES

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