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# **St. Oswalds Church, Church Street, Oswestry, SY11 2SY.**

**May - June 2018**  
**V 1.0**



**aeon archaeology**



Archaeological Watching Brief  
Project Code: A0161.1  
Report no. 0169

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## **May - June 2018**

Report no. 0169 v1.0

Archaeological Watching Brief

Aeon Archaeology  
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Project Code: A0161.1

Date: 7/6/2018

Client: St. Oswald's Parochial Church Council  
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## **1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by St Oswald's Parochial Church Council to maintain an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the overhaul of drains within the churchyard of the grade II\* Listed Building (ref: 1054332) of St. Oswald's Church, Church Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2SY.

The archaeological watching brief uncovered two undated probable grave slabs during excavation of the north-eastern drain trenches (drains 01 & 02), four truncated Christian burials of probable 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century date during the excavation of drain 3a, two Victorian red-brick burial vaults, a small 18<sup>th</sup> century grave marker in drain 4 and the minimal remains of a cobble stone surface in drain 5, these were all encountered during drain excavations on the western side of the church.

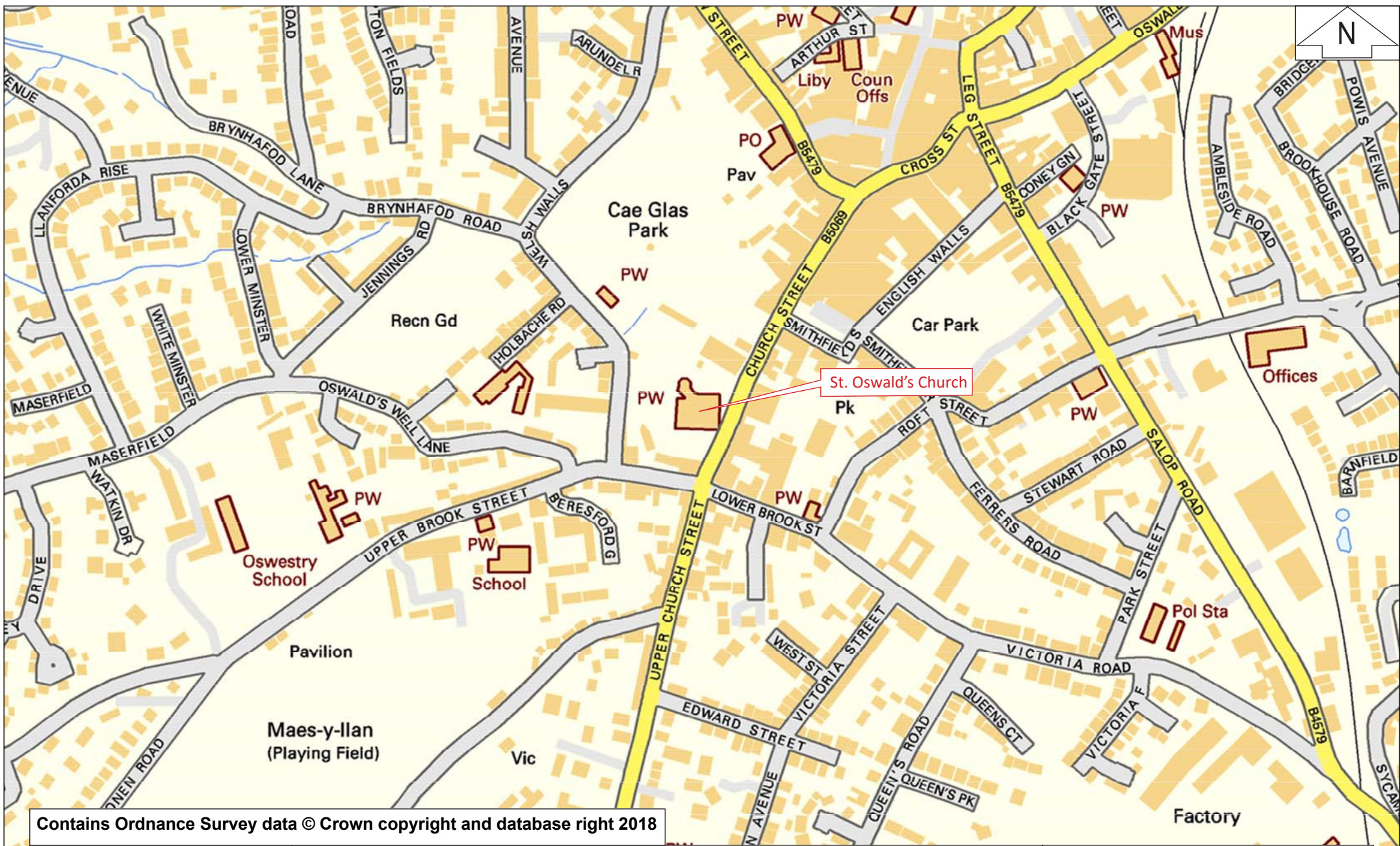
An assemblage of post-medieval pottery was collected across a number of contexts, widely contemporary with the 18<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> century. Furthermore three fragments of medieval floor tile were found during excavations in unsecured contexts exhibiting incised and stamped varieties. Some earlier artefacts were found in the form of stone pistol shot, most likely dating to the Civil War era.



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

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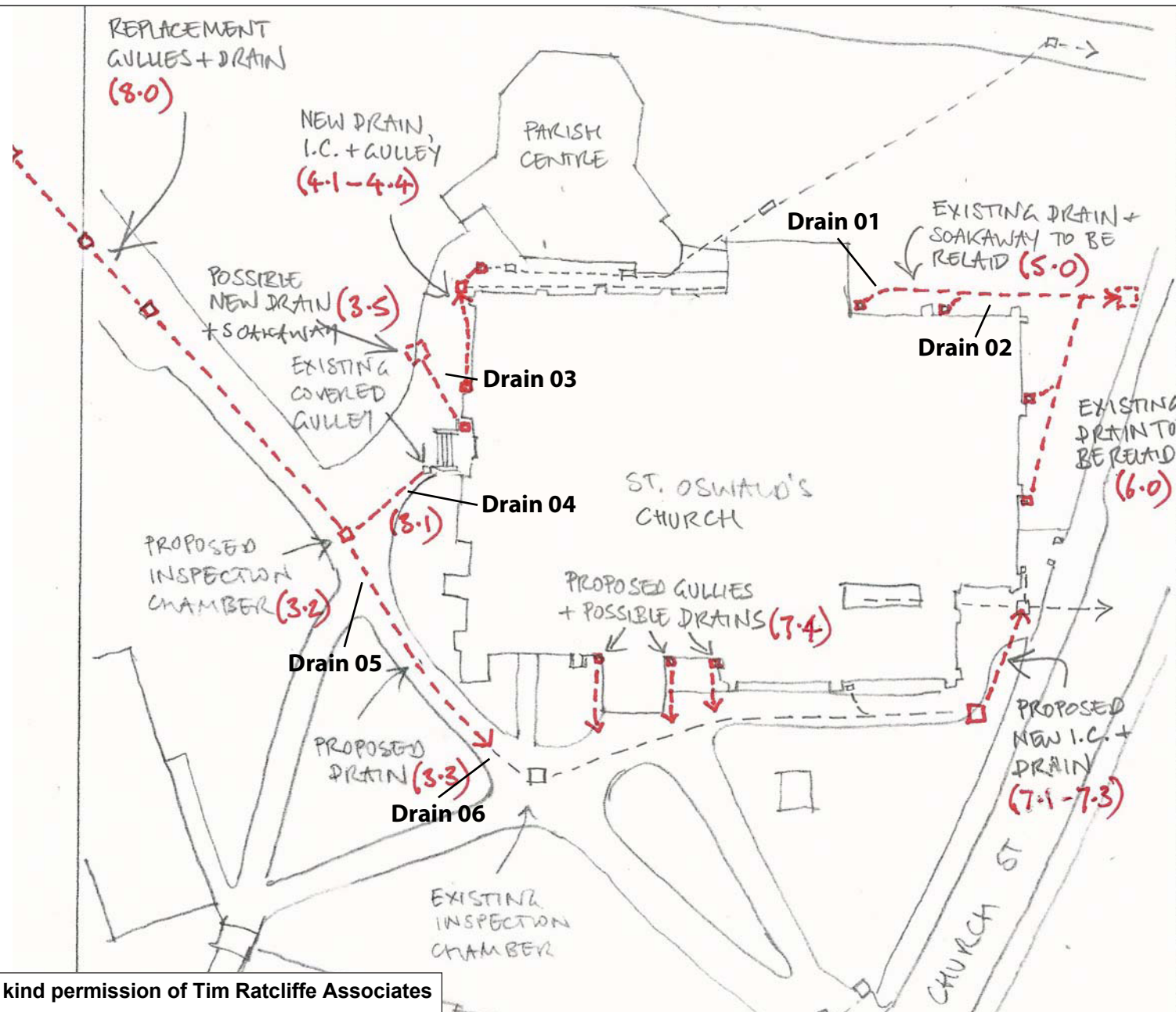
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Figure 02: Location of St. Oswald's Church, Church Street, Oswestry, Shropshire.  
Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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Figure 03: Location of proposed drainage works St. Oswald's Church, Church Street, Oswestry, Shropshire.

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## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by St Oswald's Parochial Church Council, hereafter the Client, to maintain an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the overhaul of drains within the churchyard of the grade II\* Listed Building (ref: 1054332) of St. Oswald's Church, Church Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2SY (**NGR SJ 28868 29370**) (Figure 01 and 02).

The Church lies to the immediate west of Church Street, with the churchyard lying to the north, south and west of the building. The scheme involved the replacement of existing damaged drains and also the installation of a new drain near the west door in order to join with the existing drain. In addition two new inspection chambers were introduced to aid future maintenance.

The programme of archaeological works was undertaken under the authority of a faculty licence (ref. **2017-015999**) granted by the Diocese of Lichfield. The following archaeological conditions were applied to the faculty licence:

### Pre-commencement Conditions

3. Before the commencement of the works the Petitioners shall, in respect of potential items of archaeological interest:

- a) Supply a written scheme of archaeological investigation to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- b) Make such alterations to that scheme as are recommended by the Diocesan Advisory Committee, acting through the Church Buildings Development Officer, save that in the event of the Petitioners being unwilling to do so the Petitioners may apply to this Court for further directions.

### Conditions which must be complied with during and after the works have been commenced

2) During the course of the works the Petitioners shall:

a) Implement such archaeological investigations or other measures as are required by the aforesaid scheme of investigation (as modified) to be implemented before the undertaking of other works.

b) Cause the works to be performed substantially in accord with the said scheme (as modified) save that in the event of conflict between the terms of the scheme and conditions 3 and 4 hereof then the said conditions shall prevail. In particular no human remains are to be removed from the churchyard without further approval from the court. In the event that it is wished to carry out osteological examination of human remains other than in the churchyard then a further application must be made specifying the examinations proposed to be undertaken; the period for which the remains are likely to be away from the churchyard; and the benefits which it is anticipated will be derived from such examination.

3) In event of disarticulated human remains being discovered in the course of the works then:

- a) The Incumbent is to be informed.
- b) The remains are to be retained
- c) The remains shall be reinterred as quickly as is reasonably practicable under the direction of the

Incumbent in a place close to that from which they came save that osteological examination on site in accordance with the aforesaid scheme of investigation shall be permitted.

4. In the event of any articulated human remains being discovered in the course of the works then the following conditions shall apply:

- a) Work is to cease.
- b) The remains are to be immediately covered with suitable sheeting.
- c) The Incumbent is to be informed and the Archdeacon to be consulted immediately.
- d) Subject to any directions of the Archdeacon or this Court the remains are to be reinterred as quickly as possible under the direction of the Incumbent in a place close to that from which they came save that re-internment may be delayed until the directions of the court have been obtained in the event that it is wished to carry out osteological examination of such remains.
- e) No human remains shall be removed from the churchyard without the authority of the Chancellor.
- f) Work is to re-commence only under the direction of the Archdeacon or pursuant to such further directions as shall be made by this Court on application by the Petitioners or the Archdeacon.

The work adhered to the guidelines specified in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014)*.

In accordance with the pre-commencement conditions specified by the faculty licence a written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Aeon Archaeology in April 2017 (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 watching brief was undertaken in accordance with this document.



### 3.0 WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The archaeological watching brief was to be maintained:

1. During the excavation of new drainage trenches within the churchyard. Which involved the following (figure 03):
  - 3.1-3.3 (*drains 03a-6* in this document) - New drain runs, including interim inspection chambers, to connect between existing gulleys at west end of nave and the existing inspection chamber to the south
  - 5.0 (*drains 01-02*) - 2 new drain runs on the northeast side of the church, although it was hoped to follow the line of the existing drains
2. In addition, where replacement drains followed the line of existing drains a watching brief involving a site visit after the trenches have been excavated was to take place. This was to take place while the drainage trenches were open but before the new drains had been installed and the trenches backfilled. The Site contractor was to be required to cease work and contact Aeon Archaeology for guidance if any disarticulated bones were encountered. It was originally expected that no articulated remains were to be present due to disturbance by the existing drains, however the depth to which drain 3a was required to be excavated in order to achieve adequate fall exposed articulated remains.

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

*An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.*

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.

- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief were:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.
- To recover and record any disarticulated human remains prior to reburial on site.
- To clean, record and remove any articulated human remains situated within the drainage trench and to oversee the reburial on site.
- To ensure minimal disturbance to any buried features via the careful re-routing of the drainage trenches over or around in-situ buried remains where possible. If fallen grave markers are encountered these will be recorded and then carefully lifted to facilitate the excavation of the trench.

## 4.0 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief was prepared with reference to the ClfA's document Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and was kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it was meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions should they arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Diocesan Registrar was to be carried out by the Diocesan Archaeologist. To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer was to be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist(s) from Aeon Archaeology was commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) reported to the site manager and conformed to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) kept a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist was provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and was to wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

When deposits and or artefacts were exposed during excavations for the development which required recording and recovery, it may have been necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording took place. Watching brief recording can often be undertaken without delay to groundworks, depending upon the specific circumstances and flexibility of all the staff on site.

Within the constraints of the terms of the watching brief work, the archaeologist was not to cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors on site. In the event of 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 resources deployed the Client was to be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with the Diocesan Archaeologist. The aim of the meeting would be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself were not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which were sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard prior to destruction of the material in question.

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which were to be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief were to be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

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 were to be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits were to be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording followed the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy was to be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist recorded archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record was to comprise of plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings may be used as appropriate.

The photographic record was maintained throughout using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72 dpi) and all archaeological features were recorded photographically with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. The standards for the digital archive will adhere to those set out in '*Guidelines for Digital Archaeological Archives*' (RCAHMW, 2015).

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0161.1**.

## **4.2 Watching brief report**

### **4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment**

A report on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

The scope of post-excavation assessment will subject to a specification for approval by the Diocesan Archaeologist, upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

#### 4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- 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.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with 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.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included.

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the Diocesan Archaeologist and to the client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

## 5.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

In 642 AD Oswald, the King of Northumbria who had previously converted to Christianity was killed by the pagan King Penda of Mercia in the Battle of Oswestry and rose to martyrdom. The Battle of Oswestry is thought to have taken place at Maeslyn (now called Maserfield, only 400 meters from the site of the present church. Oswald is now thought to have died on the spot where the church stands. His arm having been severed from his body and picked up by an eagle, was dropped "a bowshot" away, where a well is said to have sprung. The present-day name of Oswestry is a corruption of the original name Oswald's Tree, which derives from Oswald's body being nailed to a tree in mock crucifixion

Records show that Christian worship has taken place on the site of the present church for more than 1000 years with the earliest place of worship (possibly a monastery) on the same site before the large church was dedicated to St Oswald more than 900 years ago. When surveyed by John Leyland in about 1530 he makes reference to 'this chirche was sumtime a monasterie called the White Minster' .... and ..... 'the cloister stooode in the memory of men where there are monuments to monks' but little is now known of the monastic period.

There is mention of an un-named church in the Domesday Book in 1086. The first reference to the church being dedicated to St Oswald appears in a tithe document in Shrewsbury Abbey in the same year.

Throughout medieval history, Oswestry's Welsh border location left it vulnerable to attack but none more so than during the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Some of these attacks took place in 1216, 1233 and 1282 – the resultant border changes taking Oswestry in and out of Wales on several occasions. Despite there being no documentary evidence that St Oswald's was attacked there is clear evidence of some 13th century construction work.

In 1599 William Morgan, well known for translating the whole Bible into Welsh, was appointed Vicar of Oswestry.

The body of the church was extensively damaged during the Civil War, when it was used as stables by the Parliamentarians, but the rebuild of the church was finally completed in the early 1670s.

An interesting feature of the interior of the church is the Yale memorial dated 1616 (restored in 1676) to the memory of the Alderman Hugh Yale whose family endowed Yale University in the United States.

During 1872-1874, renowned Victorian architect G E Street undertook substantial changes to the interior of the church at a cost of £12,650 bequeathing an architectural gem to this generation, which remains a focus for a living community of faith (<http://www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk/church-history/>).

## **6.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

### **6.1 The Documentary Archive**

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological evaluation:

Digital photographs	30
Context Sheets	104
Drawings	7 on 4 sheets

### **6.2 Environmental Samples**

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

### **6.3 Artefacts**

The finds assemblage recovered during recent archaeological works at the church of St Oswald's, Oswestry, Shropshire comprised the following range of artefacts: 3 fragments of medieval floor tile; 11 sherds of post-medieval pottery; 3 fragments of clay tobacco pipe; 2 stone roundshot, 2 fragments of oyster shell and 3 fragments of glass.

## 7.0 SPECIALIST ANALYSIS – ARTEFACTS

### 7.1 Artefact Summary

The finds assemblage recovered during recent archaeological works at the church of St Oswald's, Oswestry, Shropshire comprised the following range of artefacts: 3 fragments of medieval floor tile; 11 sherds of post-medieval pottery; 3 fragments of clay tobacco pipe; 2 stone roundshot, 2 fragments of oyster shell and 3 fragments of glass.

The finds span approximately a 500 year period between the later medieval period – late 15<sup>th</sup> century – through to the late nineteenth century.

Artefact Category	Medieval Floor Tile		Post Medieval Pottery		Oyster Shell		Post Medieval Glass		Clay Tobacco Pipe		Stone Pistol Shot	
Context	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	No.	Wt.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
(103)	1	249	3	256					1	5		
(107)	1	53	3	21			2	9			2	9
(130)			4	99	2	2	1	13	2	8		
(125)			1	0.5								
Unstrat.	1	148										
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>376.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

Table 1: Quantification of all finds by category and context (weight in g)

#### Medieval Floor Tiles

Three fragments, weighing 450 g, of decorated medieval floor tile were recovered; a single fragment was unstratified while the other two were from a context that produced pottery of later, post-medieval, date. However, in view of the intrinsic value of the decorated schemes present, the tiles have been catalogued here on an individual basis. The tiles were produced in sandy red fabrics, many of which were very similar at a visual level.

##### Context (103)

1 Line-incised, square with bevelled sides, coated with white slip and yellow, lead glaze. Design comprises an *eagle or clawed beast displayed*, parallels of which are found in Chester at the Benedictine nunnery, the Dominican and Carmelite friaries, Tattenhall and Bunbury Churches, and from Vale Royal Abbey (Axworthy-Rutter 1990, 230, tile design 3/73), along with Norton Priory (Keen 2008, fig. 190: tile pattern 4190); c. 15th century. This is an example which is missing the upper portion of the design, showing only the clawed talons, legs and the lower portion of a feathered wing. It also displayed noticeable wear to the face and edges. Lime mortar adhering to the sides of this tile suggests that it had been previously been laid next to other tiles; 249 g.

##### Context (107)

2 Fragment of probable floor tile with one edge; white slip with yellow lead glaze on upper surface and side. Heavily worn and abraded, 53 g.

##### (Unstratified)

3 Line-impressed, square with bevelled sides, with white slip and yellow lead glaze. The design is of a type that would probably have required four individual tiles to complete, the central pattern is missing however there is a hint of a quatrefoil; the corners comprising a leaf design emanating out



towards the edges. Parallels for this tile are scarce but include Tattenhall and Malpas churches and the Benedictine nunnery, Chester; probably fifteenth century (Axworthy-Rutter 1990, tile design 99/124). Corner of tile, surface in poor condition, lime mortar adhering to edge; 148 g.

## Post-Medieval Pottery

The post-medieval pottery comprised a rather limited range of wares spanning the period from the 17th century to the 19th century. The forms comprised mainly of utilitarian storage vessels, such as jars and bottles, along some tableware.

Artefact Category	Black Glazed Earthenware		Glazed Red Earthenware		Stoneware		Manganese Mottled		Cistercian Ware	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
(103)	1	256								
(107)	1	9							2	12
(130)	2	69	1	12						
(125)					2	8				
Unstrat.							1	0.5		
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>

Table 2: Quantification of all post medieval pottery by classification and context (weight in g)

### Context (103)

This context produced sherds from two blackware jars and two possible bowls. These are most likely examples from the kilns at Buckley, the glossy, metallic black lead glaze visible on these examples was introduced in the mid-to-late 18th century, furthermore a red slip is visible under the lead glaze, which can allude to larger vessels (Philpott 1985a). Although limited, the components of this assemblage – along with the clay tobacco pipe fragments – suggest a date in the later 17th century or the first half of the 18th century.

### Context (107)

This context produced a further sherd of lead glazed black earthenware from an unknown vessel. The context also produced another single sherd from a mottled manganese glazed tankard, this ware was being produced in Staffordshire by the mid-1670s and was made at a number of other potting centers as well in the eighteenth century (Williams 2003), this example was probably manufactured at Prescott in Merseyside as it has a pale yellow slip and is quite a fine ware (Philpott 1985b). There were also two examples of Cistercian ware; a body sherd and a fragment of a handle from a *tyg* which was a type of cup with six handles (Hurst & Wright 2011).

### Context (130)

More examples of the black glazed earthenware from Buckley; this time the base of a large jar and two other vessels, probably finer jars. This context also produced a single sherd of glazed red earthenware, the clay fabric is a smooth, and a brick red colour and was widely used to create large bowls and cooking pots; this is the example of a rim sherd from a bowl and rough dates mid 16<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Context (125)

This context only produced a very small fragment of ceramic sherd; this was however undeniably a piece of English brown stoneware. This stoneware was being produced from the 1650's but was in production in Fulham, London until the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Green 1999).

## Clay Tobacco Pipe

### Context (103)

This context produced a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem. The bore measurement was 2.5mm diameter. The pipes were probably produced in the later 17th century or the first half of the 18th century, broadly contemporary with the pottery recovered also.

### Context (130)

The pipe stems from this context had wider bore measurements at 3/4mm diameter. Which can sometimes suggest an earlier date than above although this is by no means an accurate method.

### Unstratified

Four fragments of stem, all with bore measurements of 4/64", were recovered. One fragment retained the spur from the bowl. A further fragment was rounded at one end suggesting re-working of the stem after breakage, perhaps so that the pipe could be continued to be smoked. These fragments date broadly to the 19th century.

## Oyster shells

### Context (130)

This context contained two examples of oyster shells (*Crassostrea gigas*) or common rock oyster. Oysters were widely consumed in the late 18<sup>th</sup>- late 19<sup>th</sup> century as it played a notable role in the Victorian diet before falling out of popularity by 1900 (Hardy 2003).

## Stone Pistol Shot

### Context (107)

There were two examples of stone roundshot found at St. Oswald's; a complete spherical stone bullet was discovered near the south eastern corner wall of the church (**NGR SJ 28888 29347**) and a fragment of a larger stone roundshot was found near the western entrance of the Church (**NGR SJ 28833 29374**). The complete example of the pistol shot weighed 7g and was 1.55cm in diameter (approx.) and was probably ammunition for a flintlock pistol. The fragment of shot weighed 2 grams and although its diameter is unknown it appeared wider than the complete shot and may represent musket shot. Stone roundshot, though still in use was a relative rarity by the Civil War (Foard 2009) however that is the most likely origin of these finds given the known history of St. Oswald's during the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

## Concluding Comments

The medieval and post-medieval finds recovered from the recent work undertaken at the church of St Oswald's complement those from previous archaeological investigations over the border in Cheshire (see Axworthy-Rutter 1982; Cootes 2009). Although present as residual finds (finds moved from their original context) within overtly Georgian/Victorian contexts, the decorated medieval floor tiles nonetheless provide examples of designs previously recorded at Tattenhall and at religious houses elsewhere in Cheshire. The examples of stone roundshot almost certainly date to the English Civil War period (1642-1651) although the use of stone as a material for creating shot had widely gone out of use by this time. The rest of the post-medieval pottery assemblage is indicative of common domestic wares in ranging between the late 18<sup>th</sup> – mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 7.2 Human Remains

A total of four articulated burials of varying completeness and preservation were recorded and excavated during the trenching for SW Drain 03 at St. Oswald's Church, Oswestry. No artefacts were found in association with these remains. In addition to the articulated burials, c.520 disarticulated skeletal elements were recovered from the graveyard soils (102) and (107). These were sided and, where possible, an assessment of age was given to aid with the creation of an estimate for minimum number of individuals (MNI). Cranial fragments were the most prominently represented elements, followed by femoral and pelvic fragments. MNI was estimated at 497 individuals represented by disarticulated remains and 501 individuals with the inclusion of the four articulated burials.

<i>Skeletal Element (grouped)</i>	<i>Number of Fragments</i>
<i>Cranium</i>	214
<i>Upper Limb</i>	73
<i>Pectoral Girdle</i>	12
<i>Thorax</i>	42
<i>Pelvic Girdle</i>	82
<i>Lower Limb</i>	103
<i>Total</i>	526

### SK01

Grave cut: [114] (0.50MLx>0.50MWx0.99MD)

Grave fill: (115) Alignment: east-west. Depth: 128.49m OD

SK01 had very good cortical bone preservation and the skeletal completeness was recorded as >75%. As the individual was determined to be juvenile, sex estimation was not attempted. An age estimate was created for SK01 by analysing tooth development and dental eruption rates using (Al Qahtani 2009). This individual was assessed to have been between the ages of 7 and 8 years old at the time of death. The palaeopathological analysis for SK01 revealed extensive enamel hypoplasia on all visible teeth (including those not yet erupted but visible within the dental crypt). This suggests chronic metabolic stress, probably related to insufficient nourishment from a poor diet. SK01 was a mostly complete skeleton though accidental truncation of the lower half during machining had occurred. This individual was thought to be part of a double juvenile burial with SK02 in grave cut [114] due to the proximity of both individuals without truncation.

### SK02

Grave cut: [114] (0.50MLx>0.50MWx0.99MD)

Grave fill: (115) Alignment: east-west. Depth: 128.49m OD

SK02 had very good cortical bone preservation on all elements visible. Completeness was not recordable due to the majority of the individual remaining in situ within the southern section of SW Drain 03. As the individual was determined to be juvenile, sex estimation was not attempted.

An age assessment was created for SK02 using (Scheuer and Black 2000) to analyse the epiphyseal fusion of the left humerus present within the excavated area. Lack of fusion of both the proximal and distal epiphyses suggests this individual was less than 11 to 17 years of age at time of death. An approximate age of 10 to 12 years is estimated here. No palaeopathological lesions could be recorded for SK02 as most of the individual's skeleton is believed to be in the southern section of SW Drain 03. Partial cranium and two left rib ends were visible in section and the left humerus was found in

close proximity and on the same east-west alignment as SK01. It is probable that SK01 and SK02 were interred as a double juvenile burial.

### **SK03**

Grave cut: Not discernible though [116] assigned.

Grave fill: Not discernible though (117) assigned. Alignment: east-west. Depth: 130.17m OD

SK03 had very good cortical bone preservation and was estimated to be c.25% complete. Sex was estimated using (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994) and (Klales et al. 2012) to analyse pelvic morphology. The assessment resulted in a male estimation for SK03. Age estimation was achieved using (Buckberry and Chamberlain 2002) to analyse the auricular surface morphology. SK03 has auricular surfaces at stage 11 which gives an estimated age of 21-38 years with a mean age of 29.3 years at death. The palaeopathological investigation showed that lumbar vertebrae 1 through 5 were compressed on the right side of their vertebral bodies creating a widening of the left side evidencing a clear twist to the lower spine. This may be as a result of slight scoliosis of the lumbar spine which would have resulted in back ache and possible alteration in posture. SK03 was heavily truncated in antiquity from the east, south and west. The individual's grave appears to have been cut by graves [114] and [123] and by a probable Victorian refuse/ rubble pit [127]. Additionally, the alignment of SK03 meant that part of the left side of the skeleton remained in the northern section of SW Drain 03. As a result, the skeleton is not complete and heavy post-mortem damage can be seen on all surviving long bones.

### **SK04**

Grave cut: Not discernible though [123] assigned.

Grave fill: Not discernible though (124) assigned. Alignment: east-west. Depth: 130.13m OD

SK04 had good cortical bone preservation and was estimated to be <25% complete. As the individual was determined to be juvenile, sex estimation was not attempted. An age assessment was created for SK04 using (Scheuer and Black 2000) to analyse the epiphyseal fusion of the tibia and fibula. Lack of complete fusion of the distal epiphyses suggests this individual was less than 14-18 years of age at time of death. However, the level of fusion seen for the distal epiphyses may have been affected by palaeopathological lesions. The palaeopathological investigation showed that both the left tibia and fibula had active lesions at time of death. Both skeletal elements were considerably hypertrophic on the distal thirds of their diaphyses. The left tibia showed a highly hypertrophic medial condyle and ossification at the fusion line which it is believed has led to a pseudo-fusion, though gaps between the metaphysis and the epiphysis are still evident. It is suggested that this is the result of a fracture to the lower tibia ante-mortem. The left fibula exhibited two 1-2cm oval, smooth margined lesions, perforating to the medullary cavity. These are believed to be cloacae and evidence of an active haematogenous infection, most probably osteomyelitis (associated with the fracture to the lower tibia) which was active at the time of death. SK04, whilst considered an articulated burial due to the alignment of the skeletal elements present, had suffered heavy truncation in antiquity from grave cut [114] and by a probable Victorian refuse/ rubble pit [127]. This has resulted in only the tibiae and fibulae remaining in situ within SW Drain 03.

## 8.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The location of all excavations associated with the overhaul of drains within the churchyard of St. Oswald's, Oswestry are shown on figure 4. and 5. The archaeological watching brief was carried out between the 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May the location and orientation of photographs is shown on figures 4 & 5.

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

### **North-eastern trenches (Drains 01 & 02)** (Plates 1-6, figure 4)

The drains were excavated in the north-eastern area of the churchyard east of the northern transept and west of Church Street (centred on **NGR SJ 28883 29391**). Drain 1 measured c. 7.30m in length by 0.60m in width and was excavated to a max depth of 0.48m. Drain 2 was c. 8.10m in length by 0.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.52m.

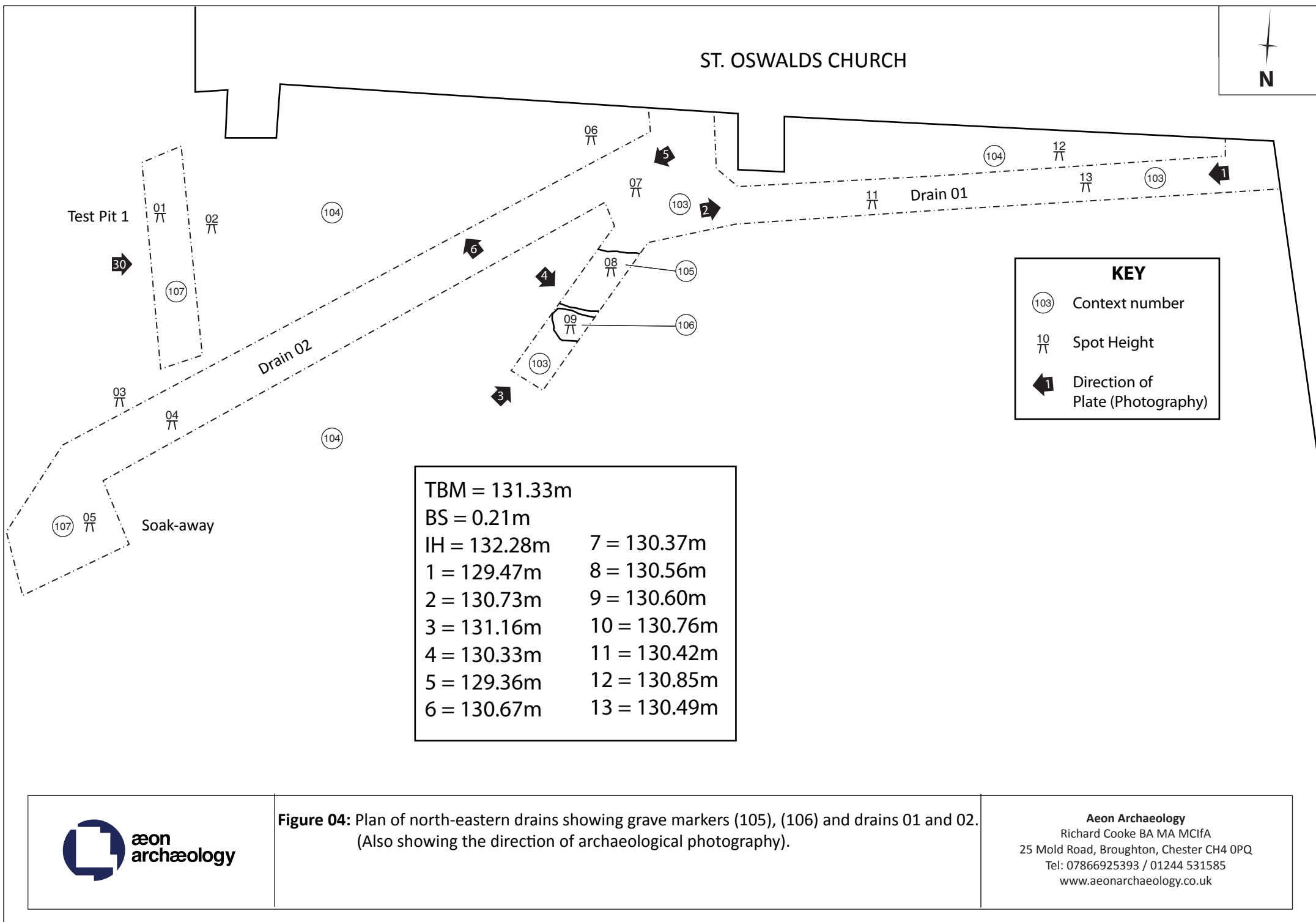
The excavation of the drains began with the physical removal of the old gully which had been associated with drain 2; the subsequent drain run was originally excavated at an acute angle to the northern chapel wall (see figure 4). This initial excavation encountered the capstones (105) and (106) which resulted in the re-routing of the drain run to avoid the archaeological remains. The subsequent drain run was more acute with the church wall and ran northeast to a soak away. Drain 1 was then excavated from the north transept wall on an angle that joined up with drain 2; approximately 7.00m along (from the east) the north-eastern corner of the church.

A tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was utilised to excavate these drains and on the north east of the church it cut through 0.08m of reasonably soft, dark-black-brown sand-silt turf and topsoil (104). This lay above a 0.56m deep, firm mid-grey-brown sand-silt layer of demolition (103) with very frequent small-large angular and sub angular pebble inclusions with elements of CBM (ceramic building material), mortar and post medieval pottery fragments. Beneath this layer was >0.28m of light-grey-brown sand-silt-clay which constituted a generic graveyard soil (102), which had occasional small to large sub-rounded pebble inclusions and frequent fragments of disarticulated fragments of human bone.

The capstones revealed in the initial aborted drain run for drain 2 were comprised of dark-grey, granular sandstone and appeared to be rectangular in plan, although the extent of the capstones was obscured by the limit of excavation. The stones appeared flat on the presented surfaces and appeared heavily eroded. The southern capstone (105) was 0.97m wide by >0.60m long and >0.09m deep and was orientated east to west. The northern capstone was 0.54m wide by >0.50m long and >0.04m deep and was also orientated east to west. No inscriptions were visible on the revealed extents of either capstone.

### ***Discussion***

The capstones (105) and (106) may have been sealing a red brick Victorian vault below, although this was not observed during excavation as these were preserved in situ. The demolition deposit (103) is probably a layer levelled across the north-western area of the churchyard which is perhaps associated with the alteration of the northern transept in 1872-1874 by G E Street; the east and west sides were rebuilt but the north wall is earlier and has a blocked doorway bearing names of four churchwardens in 1715 (Historic England Listed Building Description 2018). The absence of burials in this area of the churchyard alludes to raising of the ground level upon a raft of demolition. During the breaking out of drain 1's gully a single piece of medieval floor tile was recovered from a spoil heap and therefore it remains unstratified, although it likely originated in (103) as a residual find. The incised design on the medieval floor tile is typical of the late medieval period c. 15<sup>th</sup> century.







**Plate 01:** Excavated trench for Drain 1 - from the southeast - scale 2m



**Plate 02:** Excavated trench for Drain 1 - from the northwest - scale 2m





**Plate 03:** Probable Vault capstones (105) & (106) - from the northeast - scales 0.50m & 1m



**Plate 04:** Probable Vault capstones (105) & (106) - from the southeast - scale 1m





**Plate 05:** Excavated trench for Drain 2 - from the southwest - scale 2m





**Plate 06:** Generic section for north-eastern drains (1 & 2) - from the northwest - scale 0.50m

### **Western Trenches (Drain 3a, 3b & 4)** (Plates 7-23, figures 5-8)

The drains were excavated near the western entrance to St. Oswald's Church extending westward to a confluence point located approximately on **NGR 28833 29374**. Drain 3a measured c. 6.60m long by 0.60m in width and was excavated to a max depth of 1.65m. Drain 3b was c. 9.00m long by 0.60m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m. Drain 4 was c. 12.40m long by 0.60m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.51m.

Drain 3a was partially excavated through 0.10m of reasonably soft, dark-black-brown sand-silt turf and topsoil (104) to the east and through 0.08m of tarmac to the west. Below these deposits was a generic graveyard soil (107) that was >1.25m deep, quite firm and a mid-grey/reddish-brown colour, with a sand-silt-clay texture; with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions, frequent charcoal flecks, CBM, slate and mortar fragments. It was into this deposit (107) to the south that the grave cuts [114], [116] & [123] were located. Drain 3b followed a similar stratigraphy although it cut through no topsoil (104) and the stratigraphy of drain 4 was identical to that of drain 3a.

Once the drains excavated on the northeast of the graveyard were opened and recorded groundworks began near the western entrance of St. Oswald's. Drain 4 was excavated initially and revealed two Victorian red brick vaults (109) and (110), approximately 3.00m away from the buttress immediately south of the Church's western entrance. These vaults were orientated east to west and measured 2.40 to 2.42m long. The eastern vault (109) was comprised of unfrogged red brick bonded by mortar which was visible to a maximum height of 4 courses and maximum width of 3 wythe; the visible east-west wall was comprised of a dual course of header bricks and the north-south walls comprising of a single course of headers. The bricks used in its construction were 0.22m long by 0.10m wide and were 0.06m deep. To the south of the visible east-west wall the vaulted ceiling was still intact and was comprised of three courses of stretchers.

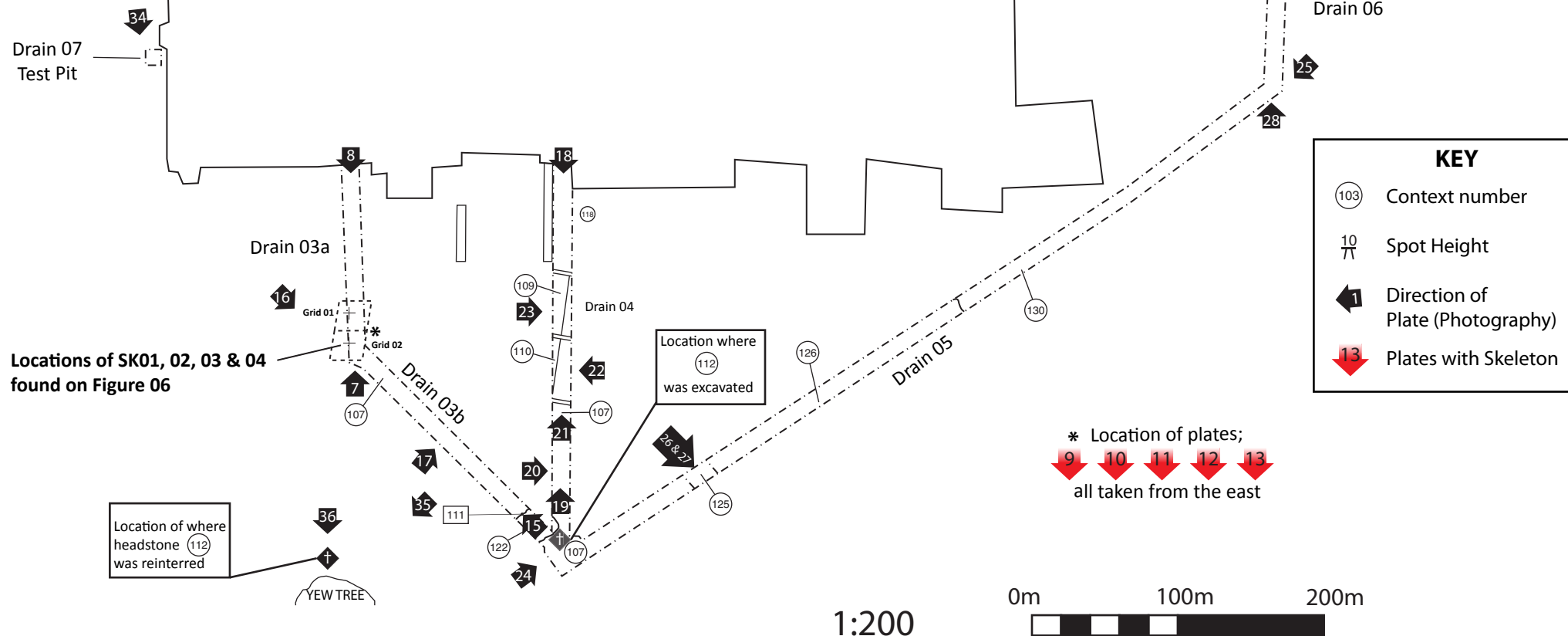
The western vault (110) was comprised of unfrogged red brick bonded by mortar which was visible to a maximum height of 2 courses and maximum width of 2 wythe; the visible east-west wall was comprised of a dual course of header bricks and the north-south walls comprising of a single course of headers. The bricks used in its construction were 0.22m long by 0.10m wide and were 0.06m deep. The interior of this vault had apparently lost its vaulted ceiling and was in filled with a firm mid-red-brown sand-silt deposit (119) with frequent sub-rounded/angular pebble inclusions and brick fragments. This vault was set within a foundation trench [120] visible only in plan as a linear cut 0.40m wide which had subsequently been backfilled (121) with a firm mid-grey-brown sand-silt with rare sub-rounded small cobble inclusions.

At the western end of drain 4 (**NGR 28833 29374**) within deposit (107) a small dressed limestone headstone was uncovered (the headstone had a round top with rounded shoulders); it measured 0.51m long by 0.29m wide and was 0.12m deep. The headstone was flat across both its faces with an inscription on one side that read;

*Iarat Price  
Elizabeth Price  
Interd 1771  
AG 80*

No alignment for this headstone was recorded as it was machined out and deposited outside the trench, although it is likely that it was east-west aligned suggesting that it was in situ before removal. The headstone was recorded photographically, in written form on archaeological context sheets and its location recorded by GPS. Subsequently the headstone was moved approximately 8.0m to the northeast and set within the topsoil (104) on the eastern side of a yew tree (**SJ 28840 29372**).

# St. Oswald's Church



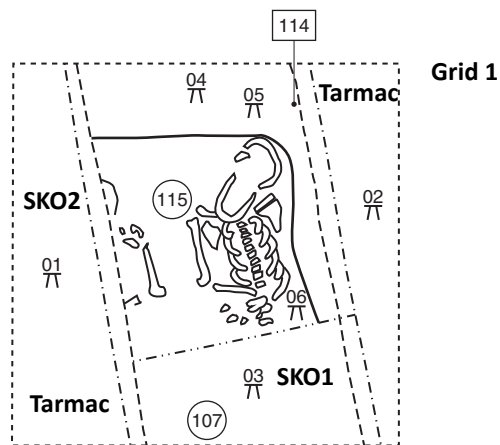
**Figure 05:** Plan of south and west area of church showing location of archaeological features and drains 03, 04, 05 & 06 at St. Oswalds Church. (Also showing the direction of archaeological photography).

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Plan showing SK01 & 02 within grave cut [114] (Drain 03) at St. Oswalds Church

Located on Figure 05.

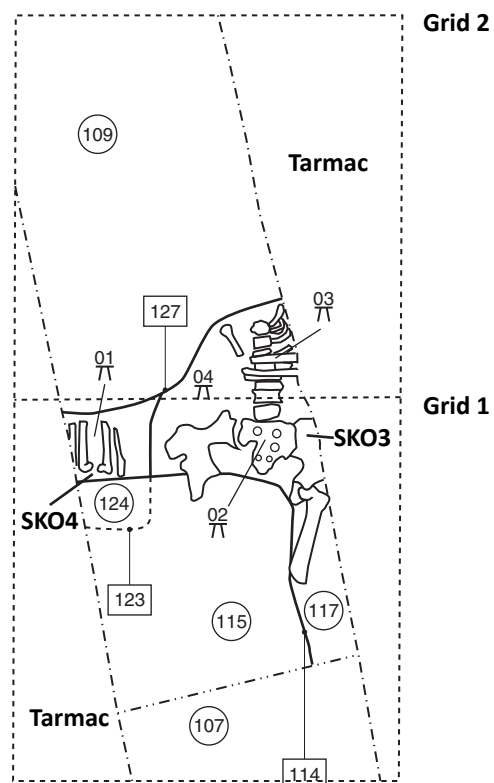
TBM = 131.33m  
BS = 1.76m  
IH = 133.78  
1 = 131.33  
2 = 131.33  
3 = 128.49  
4 = 130.32  
5 = 130.37  
6 = 130.31



Plan showing SK01 & 02 within grave cuts [116] and [123] respectively (Drain 03) at St. Oswalds Church

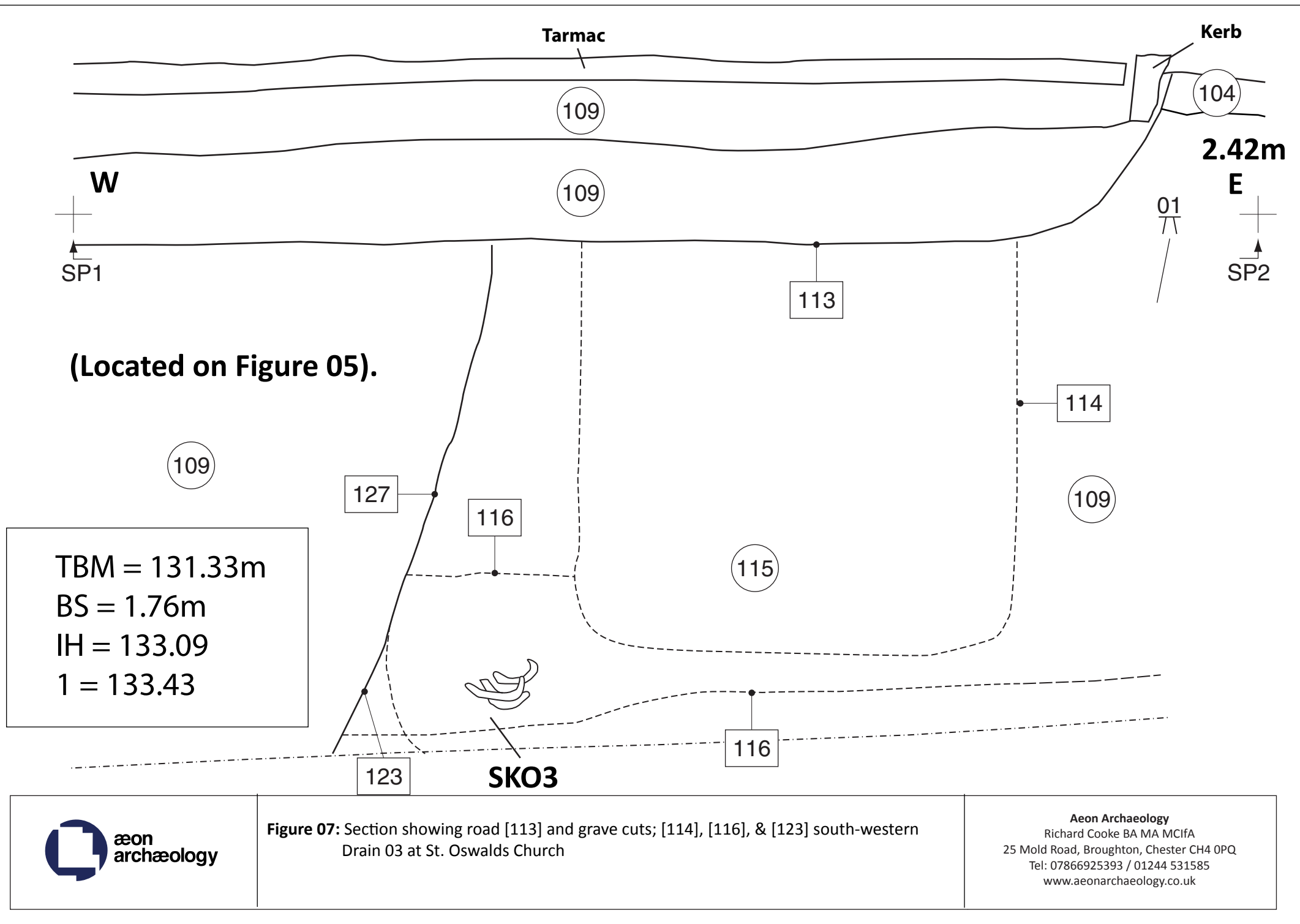
Located on Figure 05.

TBM = 131.11m  
BS = 1.67m  
IH = 132.78  
1 = 130.13  
2 = 130.17  
3 = 130.15  
4 = 130.11



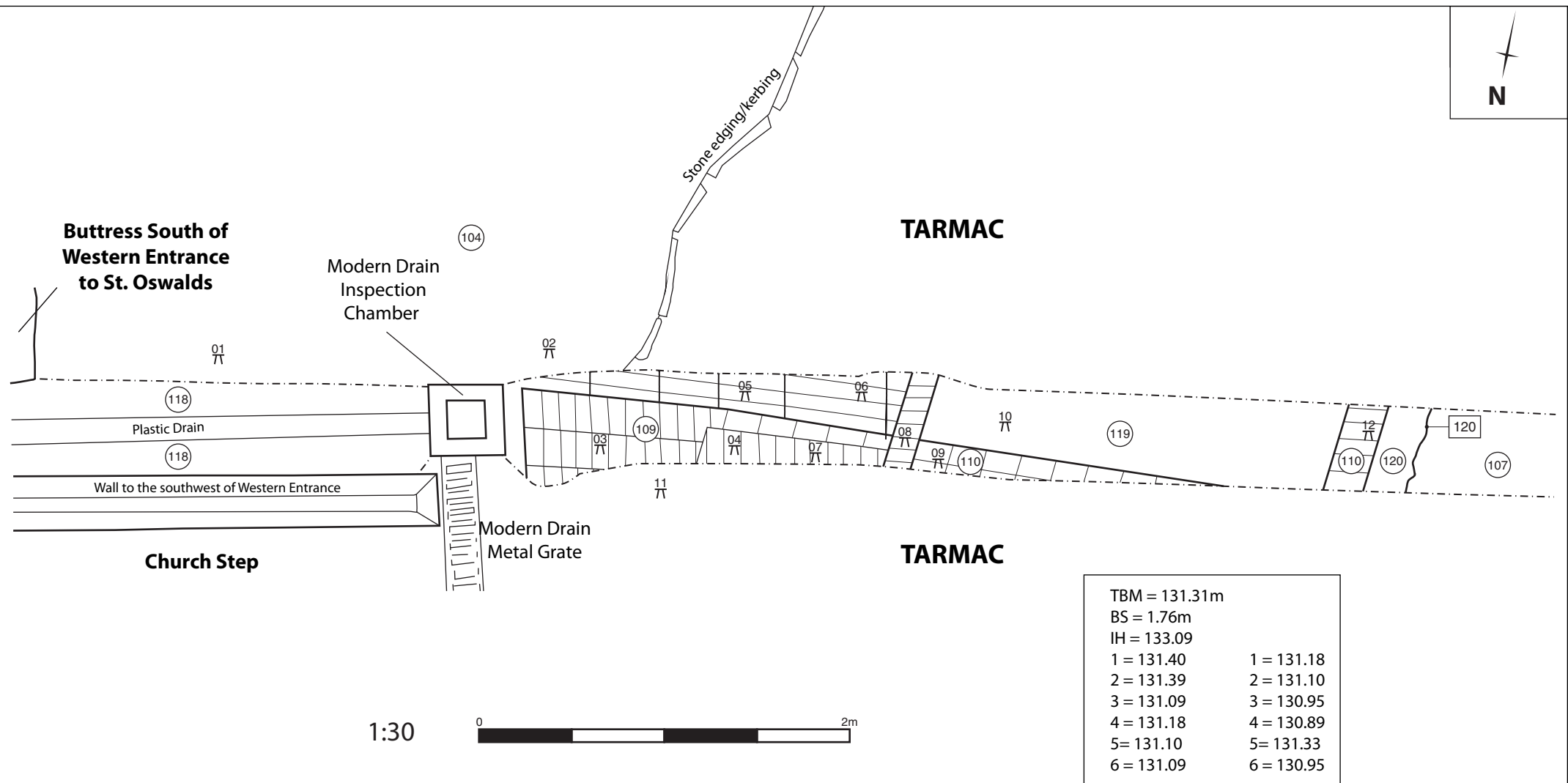
1:20





**Figure 07:** Section showing road [113] and grave cuts; [114], [116], & [123] south-western Drain 03 at St. Oswalds Church





**Figure 08:** Plan of southwest drain showing brick vaults (109), (110) located south of the western entrance of the St. Oswalds Church



**Plate 07:** Excavated trench for Drain 3a - from the northeast - scale 0.50m



**Plate 08:** Excavated trench for Drain 3a - from the southwest - scale 0.50m





**Plate 09:** Skeletons 01 & 02 within grave cut [114] - from the east - scale 0.50m





**Plate 10:** Detail shot of Skeleton 01 within grave cut [114] - from the east - scale 0.50m



**Plate 11:** Skeletons 03 & 04 within grave cuts [116] and [123] respectively - from the east - scale 0.50m





**Plate 12:** Detail shot of Skeleto 03 within grave cut [116] - from the east - scale 0.50m



**Plate 13:** Detail shot of Skeleto 04 within grave cut [116] - from the east - scale 0.50m





**Plate 14:** Section above burials within Drain 3a showing road cut [113] - from the south - scale 0.50



**Plate 15:** Excavated trench for Drain 3b - from the northeast - 0.50m





**Plate 16:** Excavated trench for Drain 3b - from the southwest - 0.50m



**Plate 17:** Generic section for Drain 3b - from the northwest - scale 0.50m





**Plate 18:** Excavated trench for Drain 4 - from the northeast - scale 2m



**Plate 19:** Excavated trench for Drain 4 - from the southwest - scale 2m





**Plate 20:** Generic section for Drain 4 - from the north - scale 0.50m



**Plate 22:** Victorian Brick Vaults (109) located south of western entrance to St. Oswald's Church - from the west - scale 2m





**Plate 23:** Victorian Brick Vaults (110) located southwest of western entrance to St. Oswald's Church - from the west - scale 2m

## Discussion

The brick vaults (109) and (110) are most probably evidence of high-status burials which may have occurred from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century into the Victorian period. Many examples have been found through excavation of churchyards across the United Kingdom and they are generally thought to have been introduced as a mitigatory measure to prevent spread of infection and overcrowding of burial grounds (Mytum 1989). From a combination of brick measurements and the uniform colour of the bricks it can be inferred that these are examples of Victorian vaults as opposed to an earlier date (Lucas 1997). The positioning of such vaults near the western entrance, the traditional processional route into the Church, is further suggestion that these represent burials of status being located so close to the transitional point between churchyard and church interior.

The discovery of the headstone with the inscription concerning '*Iarat Price*' allowed for extended research to be conducted within *The Register of Oswestry – Shropshire Parish Register Society* which recorded the baptisms, marriages and burials for the church of St. Oswald's, Oswestry from a period spanning the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. The date '1771' and the inscribed 'AG80' prompted a search in the register for dates centred around 1700 this yielded the entrance of a marriage;

(1700) Nov.22 - *Ellis Price, Willow St., glover, & Elizabeth Kadwalader* mar. pg.224

This may refer to the father of *Iarat Price* as *Ellis Price* and his mother *Elizabeth Kadwalader*; Ellis's profession is listed as *glover* and the address as *Willow Street*. Furthermore a year later another entry in the register is found relating to this family;

(1701) Sep.7 - *Jared, s. Ellis Price of Willow St., glover, & Elizabeth, b. 2<sup>nd</sup>* pg.229

This entry refers to is the birth of their first child *Jared* who may be the *Iarat* referred to on the headstone, the difference between the inscription and the name on the register could be an example of vernacular or simple miscommunication on the part of the headstone carver. Oswestry as a border town is historically Welsh in character and is home today to both native Welsh and English speakers, it is therefore reasonable to assume that bilingualism may have been a characteristic of the town during the late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries perhaps increasing the probability of such anomalous records. An earlier entry in the register both illustrates this point and elucidates the potential origin of Jared's name;

(1696) May.7 *Jared Price of Wooliow St.* pg.468

Here is the recorded death of Jared's paternal grandfather; Ellis's Father, notice the spelling of '*Wooliow St.*' which refers to modern day Willow Street in Oswestry. The nomenclature refers the medieval town entrance *Willow-gate* which was properly known as *Wallia-gate*; this took its name from being the thoroughfare to Wales (Genuki 2018). The name appears to have undergone a transformation as the town became more anglicised during this period and dialect seems to have resulted in the alteration of a street name. The inscription on the headstone (112) could be another similar illustration of the mixed cultural landscape of Oswestry as the misspelling of *Jaret* as *Iarat* may reflect a Welsh craftsman's interpretation of an English name or conversely a true recording of a Welsh name that was mis-recorded on the baptismal register, although this is less likely as no such name appears to exist. Another alternative is that this is an archaic use of English where *j* becomes *i* resulting in the unfamiliar *Iarat* as the occupants name.

The final point is the date at which *Jaret*, whose name was previously recorded as Jared and now commemorated on the headstone as *Iarat* was recorded in the register for burial;

Jaret has followed his father and mother into the family business of glove making. Obviously this date does not correspond with the date shown on the headstone (1771) and would have made Jaret 41 years of age when he passed and not AG 80. His wife Elizabeth was not found in the register and her absence can only suggest that the date found on the headstone was Elizabeth's date of death. Therefore the burial plot was possibly reserved for two people and following the death and burial of Jaret in 1742 a headstone was inscribed and erected at that time and following Elizabeth's death in 1771 the full inscription was added.

#### **South-western Trenches (Drain 5 & 6)** (Plates 24-29, figure 5)

Drain 5 extended from the confluence point of drains 3b & 4 located on **NGR SJ 28833 29374** in a south eastern direction for 28.50m before terminating into another chamber (located **SJ 28850 29345**). From this chamber drain 6 extended 9.40m to the east before terminating in the existing drain maintenance chamber (**SJ 28859 29345**) near the southern entrance to St. Oswald's Church. Both drains were excavated to a max depth of 0.65m.

Drain 5 cut through 0.05m of modern tarmac onto 0.18m deep hard core deposit (108) that was a very hard, mid-grey-black sand-silt with abundant small-medium sized angular pebble inclusions. Beneath this was a >0.42m deep deposit of generic graveyard soil (107), this was a quite firm, mid-grey/reddish-brown sand-silt-clay with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions, frequent charcoal flecks, CBM, slate and mortar fragments. The graveyard soil (107) may also be characterised as having very frequent disarticulated fragments of human bone and rare post-medieval ceramic sherds.

Approximately 5.75m southeast of the confluence of drains 3b and 4 (**NGR SJ 28834 29350**) below the tarmac, hard core layer (108) and 0.12m of the generic graveyard soil (107) lay the minimal remains of a cobbled surface (125) which measured 0.53m long by 0.40m wide by 0.12m deep. The cobbled surface was comprised of small-medium sub-rounded/rounded cobbles set within a soft, mid grey brown sand-silt matrix. The alignment of the surface (125) was difficult to discern due to the insubstantial remains; although the cobbles were discovered on a shared alignment with the western lichgate on the churchyard boundary and the western entrance to St. Oswalds, suggesting it may represent part of the original western route into the church.

Further to the southeast the surface (125) appeared to have been entirely truncated by a cut and fill event (126). The area of infill (126) was >0.80m deep deposit of extremely hard dark-grey-brown (with light yellow mottling) sand-silt with abundant fragments of CBM, mortar and slate. This area extended further along trench 5 for 9.85m where it cut into a generic graveyard soil (130) 0.60m deep a firm, mid-grey-brown sand-silt-clay with occasional sub-rounded/rounded pebble inclusions, frequent charcoal flecks, CBM, slate and mortar fragments. This graveyard soil (130) is probably the same as the soil (107) found further to the northwest although no physical relationship could be established.

Drain 6 cut through 0.05/6m of modern tarmac onto the same 0.20m deep hard core deposit (108) found in drain 5. Beneath this was a >0.48m deep deposit of generic graveyard soil (130). Apart from some post medieval ceramic no archaeological remains were found.





**Plate 24:** Excavated trench for Drain 5 - from the northwest - scale 0.50m





**Plate 25:** Excavated trench for Drain 5 - from the southeast - scale 0.50m



**Plate 26:** Minimal remains of cobbled surface (125) within Drain 5 - from the northeast - scale 0.50m





**Plate 27:** Detail shot of cobbled surface (125) within Drain 5 - from the northeast - scale 0.50m





**Plate 28:** Excavated trench for Drain 6 - from the west - scale 0.50m



**Plate 29:** Excavated trench for Drain 6 - from the east - scale 0.50m





**Plate 30:** Section of Test Pit 01 - from the east - scale 1m





**Plate 31:** Section of Test Pit 02 - from the south - scale 1m



**Plate 32:** Section of Test Pit 03 - from the north - scale 1m





**Plate 33:** Grave marker bearing date 1771 found within Drain 4 - scale 0.50m





**Plate 34:** Section of Test Pit over Drain 07 - from the northeast - scale 0.50m



**Plate 35:** Location of of headstone (112) post removal during excavation of Drain 4 - from the southeast - 0.50m





**Plate 36:** Context shot of (112) in new location east of the Yew Tree - from the east - 0.50m



**Northern drain gulley (Drain 7)** (Plate 34)

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June a return visit was made to site in order to monitor the tracing of drain 7. This consisted of a 0.50m<sup>2</sup> test pit 5.50m east of the north western corner of the church; directly below a down pipe which fed from the church roof. The proximity of this pipe to the church wall had potential to reveal the earlier archaeological fabric associated with the church's foundations. The pit cut through 0.08m of concrete into a backfill (131) deposit >0.32m deep which was a soft mid-grey-brown silt-clay with abundant small sub angular/rounded pebble inclusions, slate and brick fragments. Encountered at a depth of 0.38m a Victorian salt glazed drainage pipe was encountered and this was then cut into, probed with drainage rods, and flushed with pressurised water these drain runs were found to run freely and no further watching brief was required. No archaeological remains or artefacts were encountered.

## 9.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological watching brief covered the replacement of existing damaged drains (01 & 02) and the installation of a new drains (3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6) near the west door of St. Oswalds Church, Oswestry. The archaeological component of the works allowed for a unique opportunity to examine the sub-surface anthropological deposits within the boundaries of the oldest known building in Oswestry. The Church has endured a series of refurbishments, especially with regards to post Civil War renovations in the late 1670's and the considerable reimagining of 1872-74 by Victorian architect G E Street. Although the deposits below the topsoil reflect this history of upheaval they also inform on the specific and nuanced social-history of this border town.

The excavation of drain 3a uncovered four articulated skeletons (SK01-04). All of these graves were found within the western portion of drain 3a and of these one was accidentally truncated by modern machining (SK01) although these remains were retrieved by an osteologist; these skeletons represented the uppermost burials encountered during the watching brief and were found lying at 130.15m OD. There were no grave goods found in association with these burials and therefore specific dates were not forthcoming, however the earliest of the burials (SK03-04) was truncated by a Victorian pit so they were earlier in date than this event, perhaps ranging somewhere between the late 18<sup>th</sup>- early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The skeletons also provided evidence of enamel hypoplasia which can be indication of poor nutrition in the individual's diet and osteomyelitis in a juvenile tibia which is a specific infection often noted in individuals post fracture. The individuals recovered during excavations were removed to Test Pit 2 and reinterred there by Rev. Harvey Gibbons under the auspices of traditional Christian burial practice. Furthermore at no point did the remains of these individuals leave the confines of the churchyard during the works covered by watching brief.

During the excavation of Drains 01 & 02 two sandstone capstones without inscription (105) & (106) were found, these probably covered brick vaulted chambers although these were not observed as the stones remained in-situ. The subsequent excavation of Drain 4 discovered two further brick vaults; one of which had a vaulted roof (109) comprised of bricks and the other had been breached and backfilled (110) during earlier works associated with a water pipe, these were most likely Victorian in date. Further to the west in drain 4 an inscribed grave marker was uncovered (112) which allowed for research undertaken which provided information on cultural, historical, social and economic aspects of Oswestry during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Further finds included the minimal remnants of a cobbled surface (125), two civil war era stone pistol balls and a heavily degraded selection of fragmented medieval floor tiles.

The archaeological watching brief enables an informed, sustainable and responsible approach to the development of the new and reconditioned drains at St Oswald's Church, Oswestry. 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.

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**APPENDIX I – TABLE LISTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS AT ST. OSWALD’S,  
OSWESTRY**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
0101	Natural Geology
0102	Generic graveyard soil (1 - northwest)
0103	Levelling layer
0104	Topsoil & Turf.
0105	Southern Capstone
0106	Northern Capstone
0107	Generic graveyard soil (2 - west)
0108	Hardcore layer
0109	Victorian brick vault
0110	Victorian brick vault
0111	n/a
0112	Buried headstone (1777)
0113	Cut for road
0114	Cut for grave (SK01 & 02)
0115	Fill of [113]
0116	Cut for grave (SK03)
0117	Fill of [116]
0118	Backfill of drain 4
0119	Backfill of (110)
0120	Cut for vaults (109) & (110)
0121	Backfill for [120]
0122	n/a
0123	Cut for grave (SK04)
0124	Fill of [0123]
0125	Cobble surface
0126	Infill deposit
0127	Cut for rubble pit truncating (117) & (124)
0128	Fill of [127]
0129	Redeposited (107)
0130	Generic graveyard soil (2 - south)
0131	Backfill of drain 7

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





aeon archaeology

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**St. Oswald's Church, Church Street,  
Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2SY.**

**Written Scheme of Investigation  
for Archaeological Watching Brief.**

**April 2018 v1.0**



Project Code: A0161.1  
Faculty Ref: 2017-015999

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by St. Oswald's Parochial Church Council, hereafter the Client, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the overhaul of drains within the churchyard of the grade II\* Listed Building (ref: 1054332) of St. Oswald's Church, Church Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2SY (NGR SJ 28868 29370) (figure 01 and 02).

The Church lies to the immediate west of Church Street, with the churchyard lying to the north, south and west of the building. The proposed scheme will involve the replacement of existing damaged drains and also the installation of a new drain from near the west door to join an existing drain. In addition two new inspection chambers will be introduced to aid future maintenance.

The programme of archaeological work will be undertaken under the authority of a faculty licence (ref. 2017-015999) granted by the Diocese of Lichfield. The following archaeological conditions have been applied to the faculty licence:

### Pre-commencement Conditions

3. Before the commencement of the works the Petitioners shall, in respect of potential items of archaeological interest:

- a) Supply a written scheme of archaeological investigation to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- b) Make such alterations to that scheme as are recommended by the Diocesan Advisory Committee, acting through the Church Buildings Development Officer, save that in the event of the Petitioners being unwilling to do so the Petitioners may apply to this Court for further directions.

### Conditions which must be complied with during and after the works have been commenced

2) During the course of the works the Petitioners shall:

- a) Implement such archaeological investigations or other measures as are required by the aforesaid scheme of investigation (as modified) to be implemented before the undertaking of other works.
- b) Cause the works to be performed substantially in accord with the said scheme (as modified) save that in the event of conflict between the terms of the scheme and conditions 3 and 4 hereof then the said conditions shall prevail. In particular no human remains are to be removed from the churchyard without further approval from the court. In the event that it is wished to carry out osteological examination of human remains other than in the churchyard then a further application must be made specifying the examinations proposed to be undertaken; the period for which the remains are likely to be away from the churchyard; and the benefits which it is anticipated will be derived from such examination.

3) In event of disarticulated human remains being discovered in the course of the works then:

- a) The Incumbent is to be informed.
- b) The remains are to be retained.



c) The remains shall be reinterred as quickly as is reasonably practicable under the direction of the Incumbent in a place close to that from which they came save that osteological examination on site in accordance with the aforesaid scheme of investigation shall be permitted.

4. In the event of any articulated human remains being discovered in the course of the works then the following conditions shall apply:

a) Work is to cease.

b) The remains are to be immediately covered with suitable sheeting.

c) The Incumbent is to be informed and the Archdeacon to be consulted immediately.

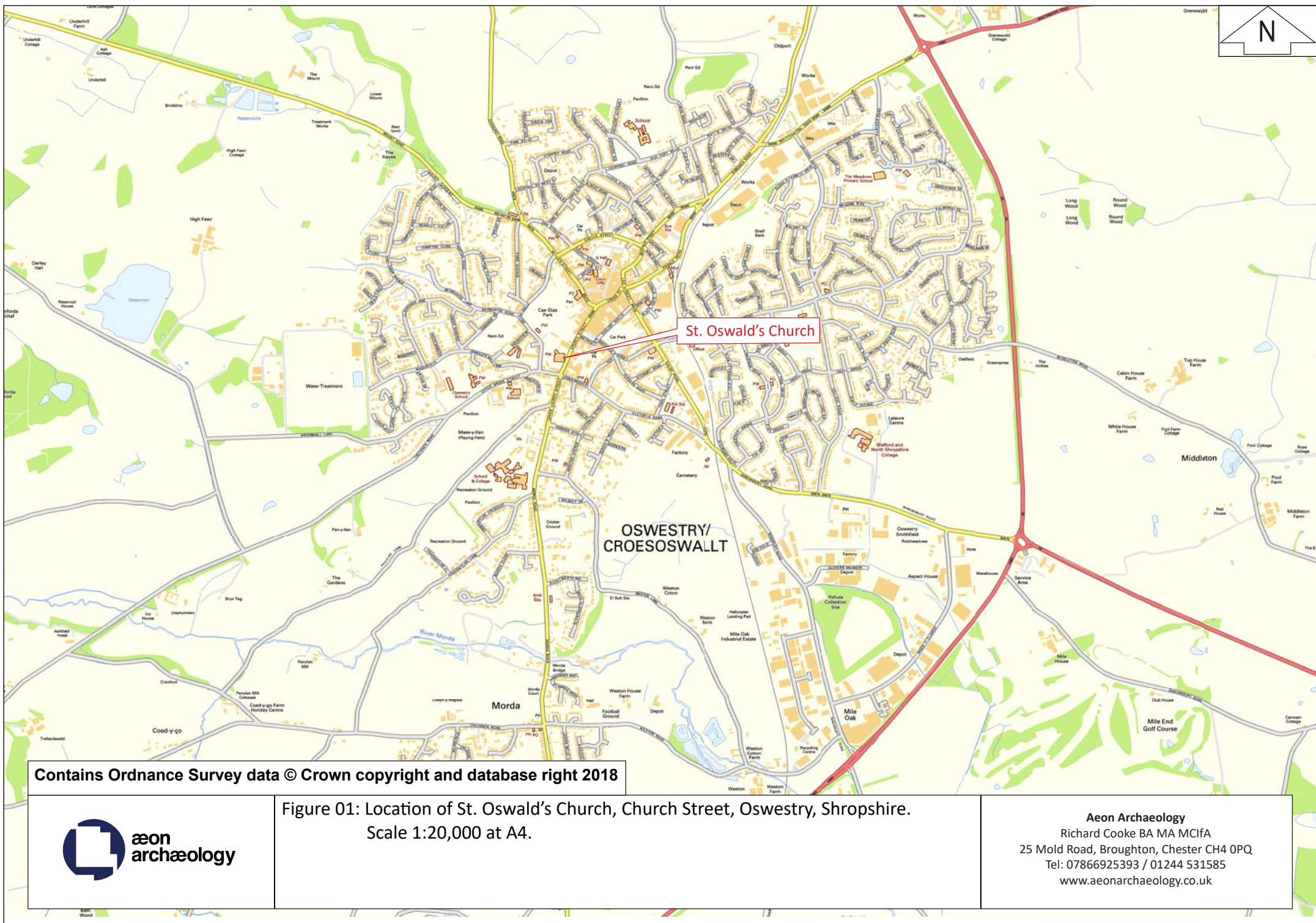
d) Subject to any directions of the Archdeacon or this Court the remains are to be reinterred as quickly as possible under the direction of the Incumbent in a place close to that from which they came save that reinternment may be delayed until the directions of the court have been obtained in the event that it is wished to carry out osteological examination of such remains.

e) No human remains shall be removed from the churchyard without the authority of the Chancellor.

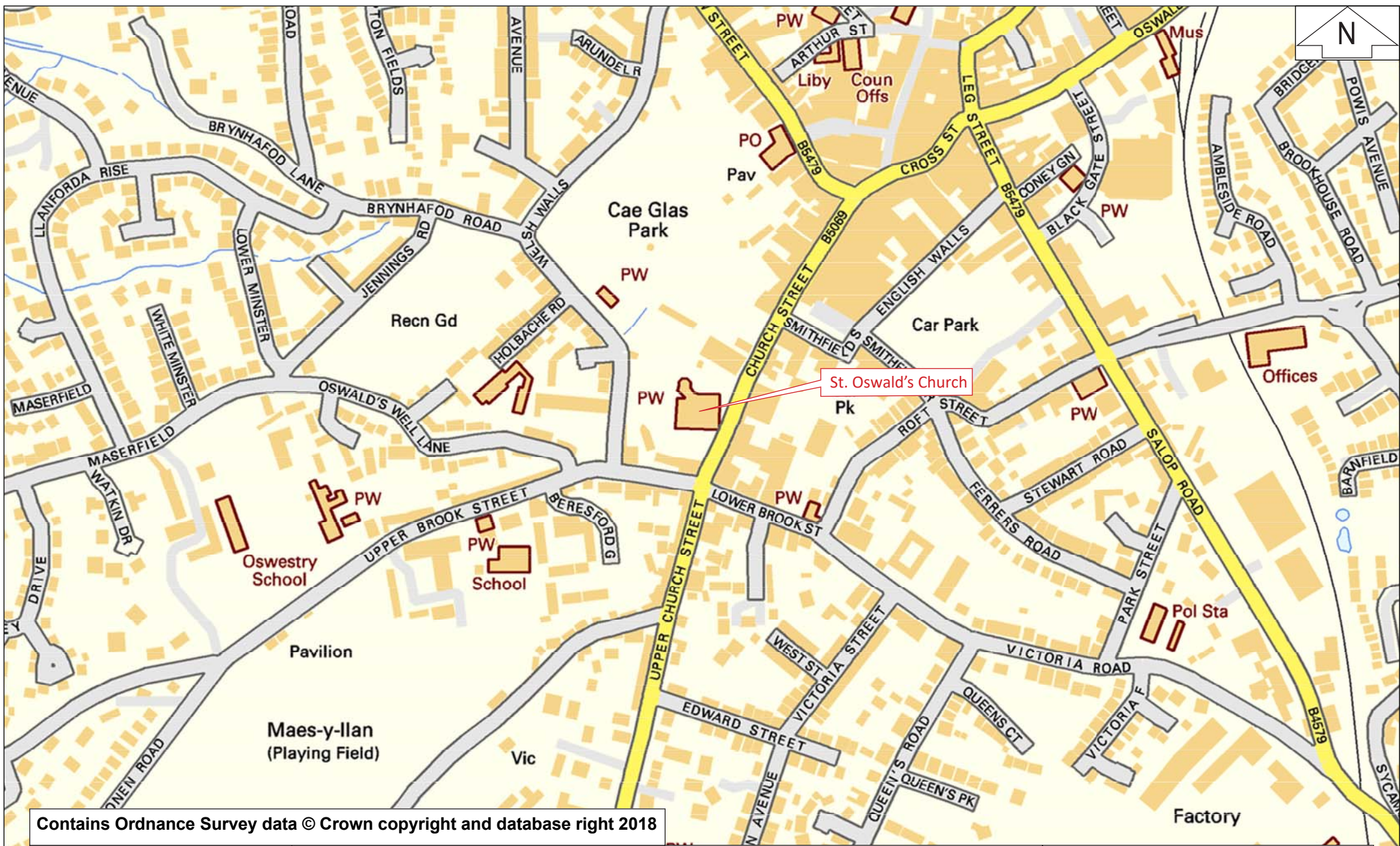
f) Work is to re-commence only under the direction of the Archdeacon or pursuant to such further directions as shall be made by this Court on application by the Petitioners or the Archdeacon.

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this scheme by the Diocesan Archaeologist but it is a requirement that this WSI is approved prior to the implementation of the archaeological watching brief at the Site.

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).







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

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## 2.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

In 642 AD Oswald, the King of Northumbria who had previously converted to Christianity was killed by the pagan King Penda of Mercia in the Battle of **Oswestry and rose to martyrdom**. The Battle of Oswestry is thought to have taken place at Maeslyn (now called Maserfield, only 400 **meters** from the site of the present church. Oswald is now thought to have died on the spot where the church stands. His arm having been severed from his body and picked up by an eagle, was dropped "a bowshot" away, where a well is said to have sprung. The present-day name of Oswestry is a corruption of the original name Oswald's Tree, which derives from Oswald's body being nailed to a tree in mock crucifixion

Records show that Christian worship has taken place on the site of the present church for more than 1000 years with the earliest place of worship (possibly a monastery) on the same site before the large church was dedicated to **St Oswald more than 900 years ago**. When surveyed by John Leyland in about **1530 he makes reference to** 'this chirche was sumtime a monasterie called the **White Minster**' .... and ..... 'the cloister stode in the memory of men where **there are monuments to monks**' but little is now known of the monastic period.

There is mention of an un-named church in the Domesday Book in 1086. The first reference to the church being dedicated to St Oswald appears in a tithe document in Shrewsbury Abbey in the same year.

Throughout mediaeval history, Oswestry's Welsh border location left it vulnerable to attack but none more so than during the 13th century. Some of these attacks took place in 1216, 1233 and 1282 – the resultant border changes taking Oswestry in and out of Wales on several occasions. Despite there being no documentary evidence that St Oswald's was attacked there is clear evidence of some 13th century construction work.

In 1599 William Morgan, well known for translating the whole Bible into Welsh, was appointed Vicar of Oswestry.

The body of the church was extensively damaged during the Civil War, when it was used as **stables by the Parliamentarians**, but the rebuild of the church was finally completed in the early 1670s.

An interesting feature of the interior of the church is the Yale memorial dated 1616 (restored in 1676) to the memory of the Alderman Hugh Yale whose family endowed Yale University in the United States.

During 1872-1874, renowned Victorian architect G E Street undertook substantial changes to the interior of the church at a cost of £12,650 bequeathing an architectural gem to this generation, which remains a focus for a living community of faith (<http://www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk/church-history/>).

### 3.0 WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

1. During the excavation of new drainage trenches within the churchyard. This is expected to involve the following (figure 03):
  - 3.1-3.3 - New drain, including interim inspection chamber, to connect between existing gulley at west end of nave and existing inspection chamber to the south
  - 3.5 - Possible new drain and soakaway, on the west side, although we hope to follow the line of the existing here if possible
  - 4.1-4.4 - New drain, including interim inspection chamber, to connect between existing gulley at west end of n-aisle and existing gulley to the north
  - 7.1-7.3 - New inspection chamber and short length of drain to connect between two existing drains at south-east corner
  - 8.0 – New gullies and drain to take water from parking area in churchyard (it is assumed the existing blocked gullies feed into soakaways).
2. In addition, where replacement drains follow the line of existing drains a watching brief involving a site visit after the trenches have been excavated will be required. This will take place while the drainage trenches are open but before the new drains have been installed and the trenches backfilled. The Site contractor will be required to cease work and contact Aeon Archaeology for guidance if any disarticulated bones are encountered. It is not expected that any articulated remains will be present due to disturbance by the existing drains.

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

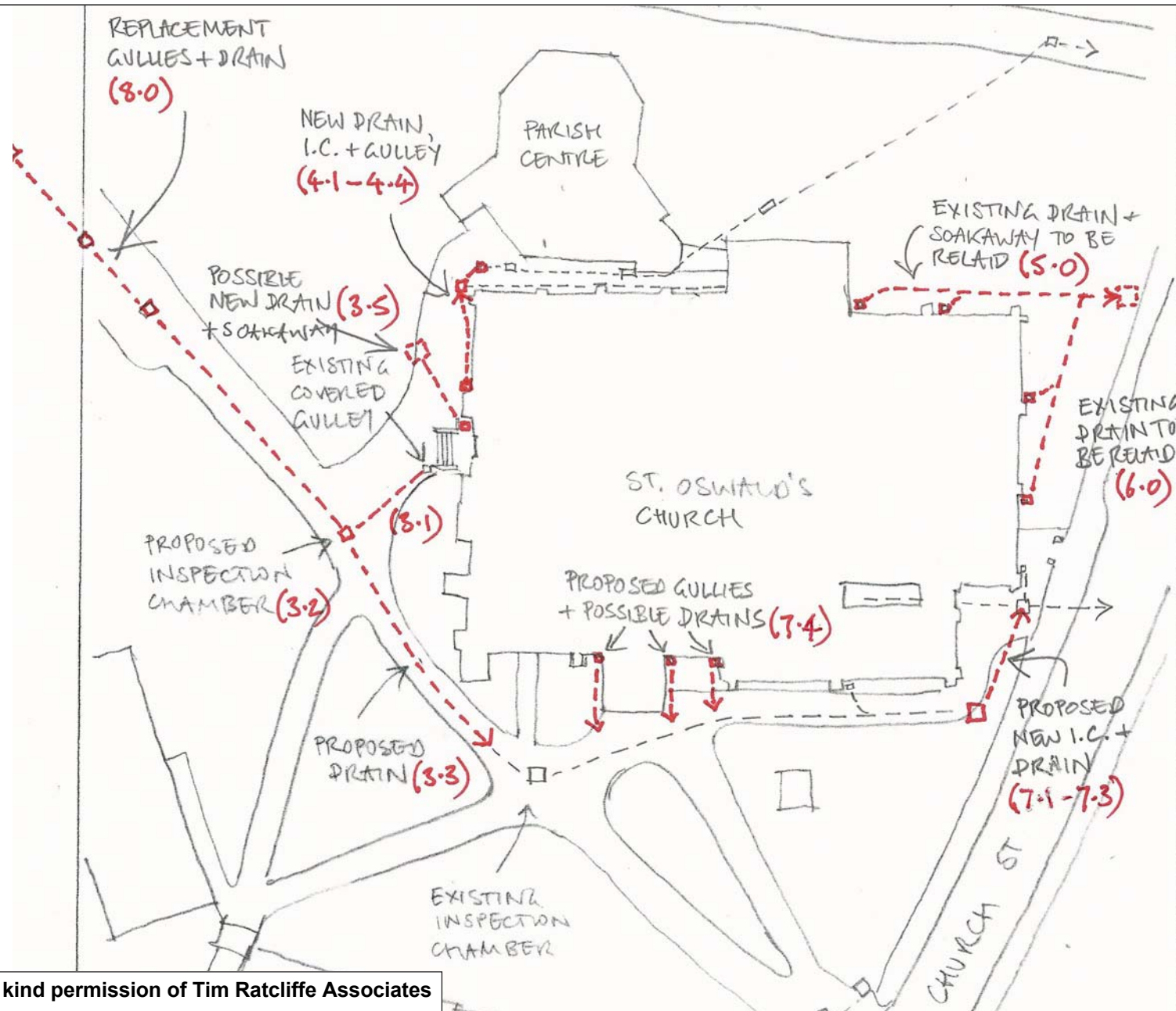
*An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.*

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.



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Figure 03: Location of proposed drainage works St. Oswald's Church, Church Street, Oswestry, Shropshire.

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The aims of the watching brief are:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief are:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.
- To recover and record any disarticulated human remains prior to reburial on site.
- To clean, record and remove any articulated human remains situated within the drainage trench and to oversee the reburial on site.
- To ensure minimal disturbance to any buried features via the careful re-routing of the drainage trenches over or around in-situ buried remains where possible. If fallen grave markers are encountered these will be recorded and then carefully lifted to facilitate the excavation of the trench.

## 4.0 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief has been prepared with reference to the CIfA's document Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Diocesan Registrar will be carried out by the Diocesan Archaeologist. To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer shall be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist(s) from Aeon Archaeology will be commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) will report to the site manager and conform to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) will keep a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist will be provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

If deposits and or artefacts are exposed during excavations for the development which require recording and recovery, it may be necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording takes place. Watching brief recording can often be undertaken without delay to groundworks, depending upon the specific circumstances and flexibility of all the staff on site.

Within the constraints of the terms of the watching brief work, the archaeologist will not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors on site. In the event of 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 resources deployed the Client will be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with the Diocesan Archaeologist. The aim of the meeting will be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which would be sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard prior to destruction of the material in question.

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which can be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

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 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 archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations shall be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record will comprise plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings may be used as appropriate.

The photographic record will be maintained throughout using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72 dpi) and all archaeological features will be recorded photographically with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. The standards for the digital archive will adhere to those set out in '*Guidelines for Digital Archaeological Archives*' (RCAHMW, 2015).

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0161.1**.

## **4.2 Watching brief report**

### **4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment**

A report on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

The scope of post-excavation assessment will subject to a specification for approval by the Diocesan Archaeologist, upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.



#### 4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- 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.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with 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.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included.

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the Diocesan Archaeologist and to the client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

## **5.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)**

The discovery of substantial archaeological remains and/or features during the archaeological works may result in the requirement for an extended programme of archaeological mitigation. This may require the submission of revised quotes to the client as well as a new specification which will be required to be approved by the Diocesan Archaeologist prior to implementation.

## **6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

Relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

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 will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each linear feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

## **7.0 HUMAN REMAINS**

During the watching brief thorough inspection of removed soils will take place and all disarticulated bone collected and catalogued. All disarticulated bone will remain securely stored on site and will be reburied within the utility trench prior to backfilling.

If articulated human remains are encountered all work in the vicinity must stop immediately and the following undertaken:

- The remains must be lightly covered with soil.
- The Diocesan Registrar (or in their absence the Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee) must be notified.
- The directions of the Diocesan Registrar must be followed.

If articulated remains are encountered an Osteoarchaeologist will be commissioned to attend site and provide osteological analysis of the remains. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. All articulated remains will be cleaned, recorded photographically, and drawn plans produced at 1:10 scale before being carefully removed and securely stored on site, prior to reburial. There will be a presumption against chasing articulated remains beyond the limits of excavation.

## 8.0 ARTEFACTS

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with CIfA 2008 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

All artefacts are the property of the landowner but it is recommended that finds are deposited with the rest of the project archive within an appropriate museum. Furthermore, the client agrees to granting access to all artefacts recovered by Aeon Archaeology for analysis, study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the archaeological works. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Diocesan Archaeologist. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location and height will be plotted; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All artefacts will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation and analysis of artefacts:

- Articulated human remains: Dr Genevieve Tellier, North Wales Osteology
- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: George Smith, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Environmental Material: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Ceramics: Leigh Dodd



**If well preserved materials are found it may be necessary to employ additional staff. Furthermore, it may be necessary to suspend work within a specific region of the site, or across the whole site, while conservation and excavation/recording takes place.**

## **9.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE**

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.
- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

## **10.0 ARCHIVING**

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced, and lodged with the Oasis database within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report will be produced within six months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client and the Diocesan Archaeologist for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER, the

Diocesan Archaeologist for long term archiving. Copies of all digital files (inc. photos, report as PDF and Word, spreadsheets, databases, survey data etc) to be presented to each of above on optical disc (ie DVD).

## **11.0 PERSONNEL**

The work will be managed by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology. The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained by Josh Dean BA ACIfA, Archaeological Contractor at Aeon Archaeology with six years' experience in field archaeology.

## **12.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON**

Regular liaison and site monitoring meetings will take place during all stages of work. The Diocesan Archaeologist will be informed of the start date and of discreet subsequent stages.

## **13.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

## **14.0 INSURANCE**

Liability Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence

Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence

Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/18

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/18

