



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION & RECORDING REPORT:
ST MARY'S CHURCH
BAYFORD
HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Bayford Parochial Church Council



NGR: TL 3097 0883

Lydia Breeze-Chilcott MSc

KDK: 073/BSM/1

August 2014

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Site Data

<i>KDK project code:</i>	073/BSM		
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	kdkarcha1-188097	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	TBC
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Bayford		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Bayford		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 3097 0883		
<i>Present use:</i>	Churchyard		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Improvements to churchyard drainage		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	East Hertfordshire Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	N/A		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	7 th – 13 th August 2014		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Michael Sutcliffe School Cottages Newgate Street Hertford SG13 8RA		
<i>Client:</i>	Rector and Church Wardens St Mary's Church Bayford Hertfordshire		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Michael Sutcliffe		

Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Lydia Breeze-Chilcott MSc	<i>Date:</i>	22 nd August 2014
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>	Karin Kaye MA MIFA	<i>Date:</i>	28 th August 2014
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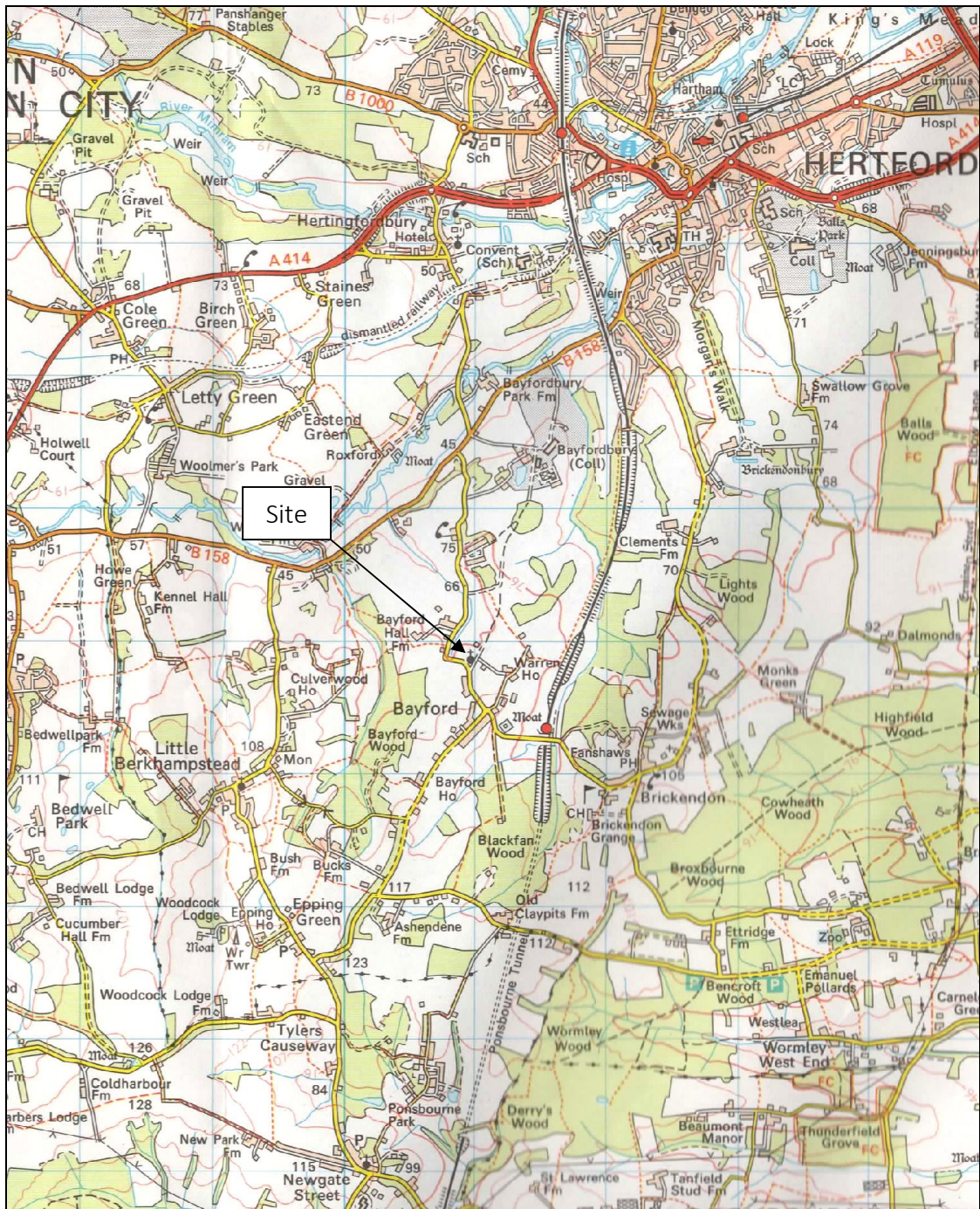


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Summary

In August 2014 a programme of observation and recording was undertaken during the installation of drainage trenches at St Mary's Church, Bayford, Hertfordshire in order to meet the requirements of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Diocese of St Albans

Trenches were excavated to the north and south of the church to relieve the problem of poor surface water drainage and consequent damage to the church fabric. No archaeological features were revealed during the groundworks, but some fragments of late medieval and post-medieval pottery as well as disarticulated bone was recovered. These were retained for re-burial.

1 Introduction

1.1 In August 2014 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of observation and recording of St Mary's Church, Bayford, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Bayford Parochial Church Council, and was carried out to meet the requirements of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Diocese of St Albans.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of a Faculty (Ref:2014/86) dated 27th June 2014.

1.3 *The Site*

Location & Description

St Mary's Church lies to the north of the village and civil parish of Bayford, south of the town of Hertford within the district of East Hertfordshire. It is centred on National Grid Reference TL 3097 0883 (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The drift geology is part of the Lowestoft Formation, which consists of chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays. This overlies London Clay, which mainly comprises bioturbated or poorly laminated, blue-grey or grey-brown, slightly calcareous, silty to very silty clay, clayey silt and sometimes silt, with some layers of sandy clay (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site is on relatively level ground at 82.5 m AOD.

Development

The works comprised improvement to the drainage system to the north and south of the church (Fig. 2).

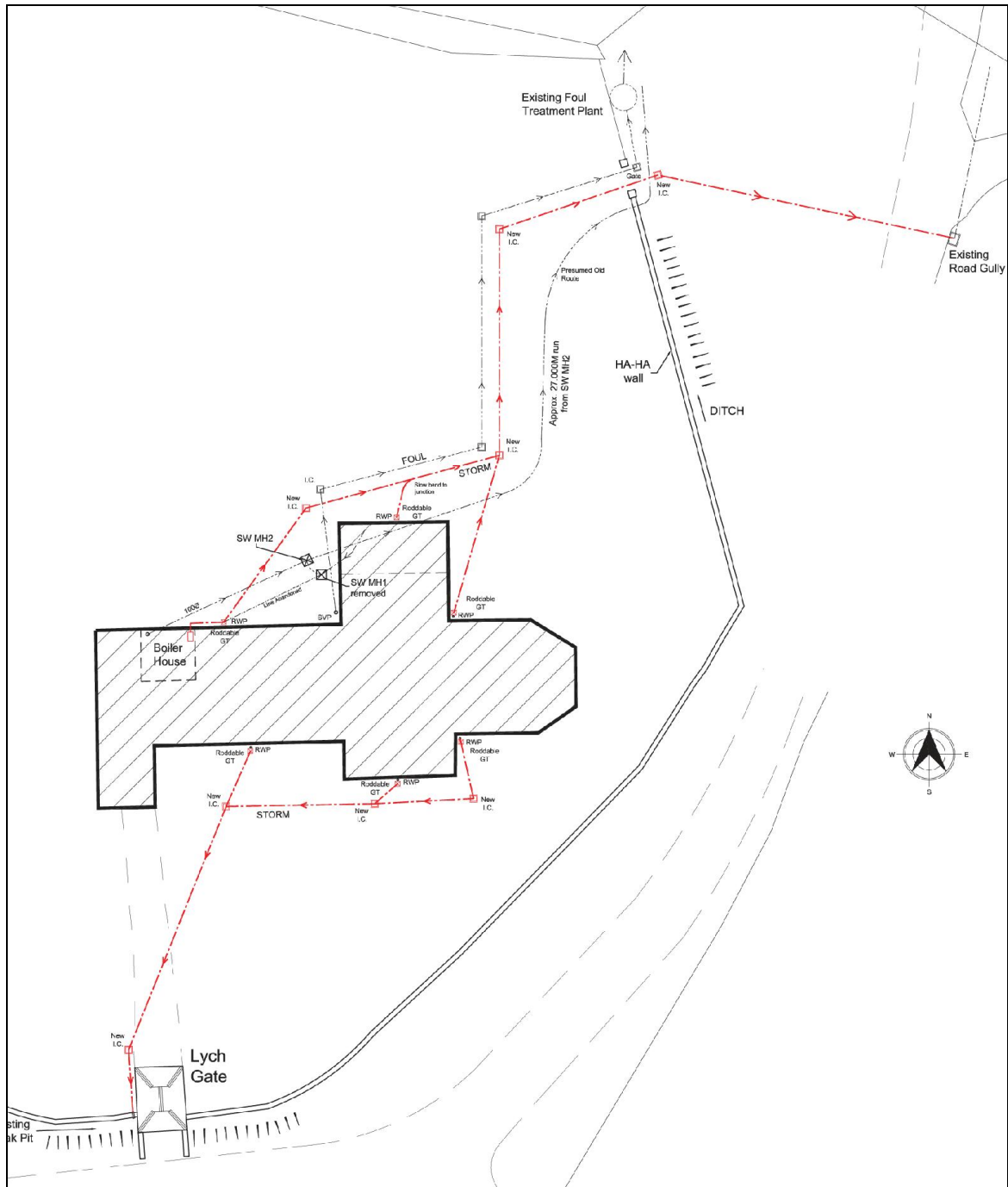


Figure 2: Site location with proposed drainage works (not to scale)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project were:

- To monitor all groundworks to ensure any archaeological remains uncovered were appropriately and fully recorded

2.2 *Methods*

The methods used were as follows:

- Continuous monitoring of the mechanical excavation of the service trenches
- Inspection of the hand-dug sections of trenching and the trench outside the churchyard

2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2008a)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006,2008)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The settlement at Bayford dates from at least the late Saxon period and may have been named after the ford belonging to *Bæga* (Gover 1938: 214). A priest is recorded as living on the manor during the time of the Domesday Survey, which would suggest that a church was already present by the time of the Norman Conquest.

The present church, which is Grade II* listed, is the third church on the site. It was constructed in 1871 approximately 25m to the south of the medieval church, which had been demolished in 1803 and replaced on the same site by one built in yellow brick. This was, in turn, demolished in 1870.

Saxon (c.450-1066)

The manor at Bayford was part of the Royal estates and held in demesne by King Edward. Following his death it was held by Earl Tosti, brother to King Harold, until the Norman Conquest (VCH online).

Medieval (1066-1500)

In the Domesday Survey it was recorded that Bayford manor became the property of King William. It was assessed at 10 hides with land for 20 ploughs. It was valued at £8 when it was taken by the sheriff after the Conquest, this value rose to £16 by the time of the survey in 1086. In demesne were 2 hides, 3 virgates and 3 ploughs. A priest and reeve of the village with 22 villans with 15 ploughs. There were 9 cottars and 1 slave, 2 mills rendering 26s, meadow for 20 ploughs, pasture for livestock and woodland for 500 pigs (Williams & Martin 1992: 370).

A church is recorded in Bayford as early as 1222, but this was only a chapelry connected to Essendon. In 1366 the people of Bayford appealed for the right to bury their dead at Bayford as the three mile journey to Essendon was difficult and dangerous due to frequent flooding and the occasional loss of the body in the swollen river (VCH online).

Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

A plain yellow brick church was built in 1804 to replace a previous chapel, and it was following the independence granted to Bayford that the current structure was built c.25m to the south from the site of the previous church (Hartford Hundred 2014).

Bayford only became its own parish and separated from Essendon in 1867, in a presentation of the lord of the manor and henceforth endowed from the Common Fund (VCH Online). The present church was built after this in 1871, and some of the internal fittings, such as the 15th century octagonal font and memorials to members of the Knighton family have been used in the modern church, (*ibid*). The present church is much grander than its predecessor, and was designed by Henry Woodyer for William Robert Baker. It is faced with Kentish ragstone, with Bath stone for window dressings, doorways and string courses, a steep pitched roof and lead covered fleche (British Listed Buildings 1966).

Modern (1900-present)

Archaeological monitoring was carried out in 2006 when groundworks were undertaken for drainage when toilet facilities were installed in the vestry. A substantial amount of made ground was noted and the only find discovered was a piece of worked stone (Kaye 2006).



4 Results

Introduction

As the existing drainage system had become inadequate, a series of drainage trenches were dug to the north and south of St Mary's Church, following paths and earlier service trenches where possible. The trenches were dug with a tracked mini digger fitted with a 400mm toothless bucket.

Description

Northern Trenches (Plates 1-4, Figure 3)

Trench 1 was excavated from the east of the entrance to the boiler house in the north elevation. It was 0.4m wide and c.0.6m deep and comprised c.10cm of topsoil, over a light-mid brown clay with post-medieval brick and tile.

It joined Trench 2 (Plate 2), which ran eastwards to the north of the modern ramp and the north wall of the extension. Some of this trench had to be hand dug and services and considerable amounts of building debris were encountered here and below the path. Three fragments of disarticulated bone were also found in the western end of Trench 2.

Trench 3 (Plate 4) extended northwards from the corner of the chancel and northern chapel, before turning east and extending beyond the eastern gate of the churchyard. The section of trench immediately to the north of the church cut through an area that had been opened in 2006. The natural geology was encountered at a depth c.0.55m. A single fragment of disarticulated bone was found where the ground was softer at the southern end of Trench 3 as was a piece of a pot handle that was possibly medieval (Plates 11-12).

South Trenches (Plates 5-10, Figure 3)

The southern trenches did not follow any earlier service trenches. Trench 4 was orientated north to south and extended from the south wall of the church to the retaining wall east of the Lych Gate, where an earlier drain pipe was used for the new drains to be directed through (Plate 5). The topsoil, c.8cm deep, overlay mixed subsoil, at least 45cm deep. A clay drainage pipe and an electric cable servicing the Lych Gate were revealed in the southern end of the trench.

Along Trench 4 a slab was revealed beneath the stone memorial cross for Henry William Clinton Baker (d.1936). The slab measured 1.21m wide x 0.1m deep, and was overlain by 0.05m of topsoil and grass (Plate 6). A buried path, consisting of chalk rubble, brick, gravel and flint, was found in Trench 4 approximately 3.9m from the south wall of the nave (Plate 7). It was covered by 0.03m topsoil and grass and measured approximately 1.10m in width and reached a depth of 0.25m.

Trench 5 ran parallel to the south wall and followed the path described above, which was covered grass and topsoil to a depth of up to 0.1m (Plate 9). The brick fragments examined from this trench appeared to be 18th and early-19th century. The trench split close to the south chapel where a drainage run led to the south wall of the chapel and another section carried on eastwards to join Trench 6.



Trench 6, which was aligned north – south, extended from the south wall of the chancel to join the eastern end of Trench 5. It had a maximum depth of 0.35m (Plate 10). NO features or finds were observed.



Plate 1: Tr.2: north facing stratigraphy



Plate 2: Tr.2: general shot, view east



Plate 3: Tr.2: join of trenches 2 & 3, view west



Plate 4: Tr.3: general shot, view north



Plate 5: Retaining wall with existing drain pipe on left, view northeast



Plate 6: Tr.4: slab under memorial, view west



Plate 7: Tr.4: path detail, view east



Plate 8: Tr.5: Join between Tr.4 & 5, view east



Plate 9: Tr.5: general shot, view west

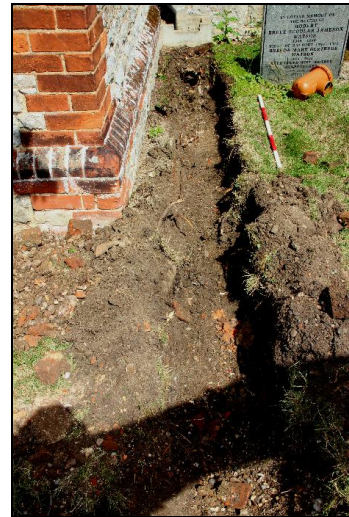


Plate 10: Tr.6: view north



Plate 11: Detail of pot sherd



Plate 12: Detail of pot sherd

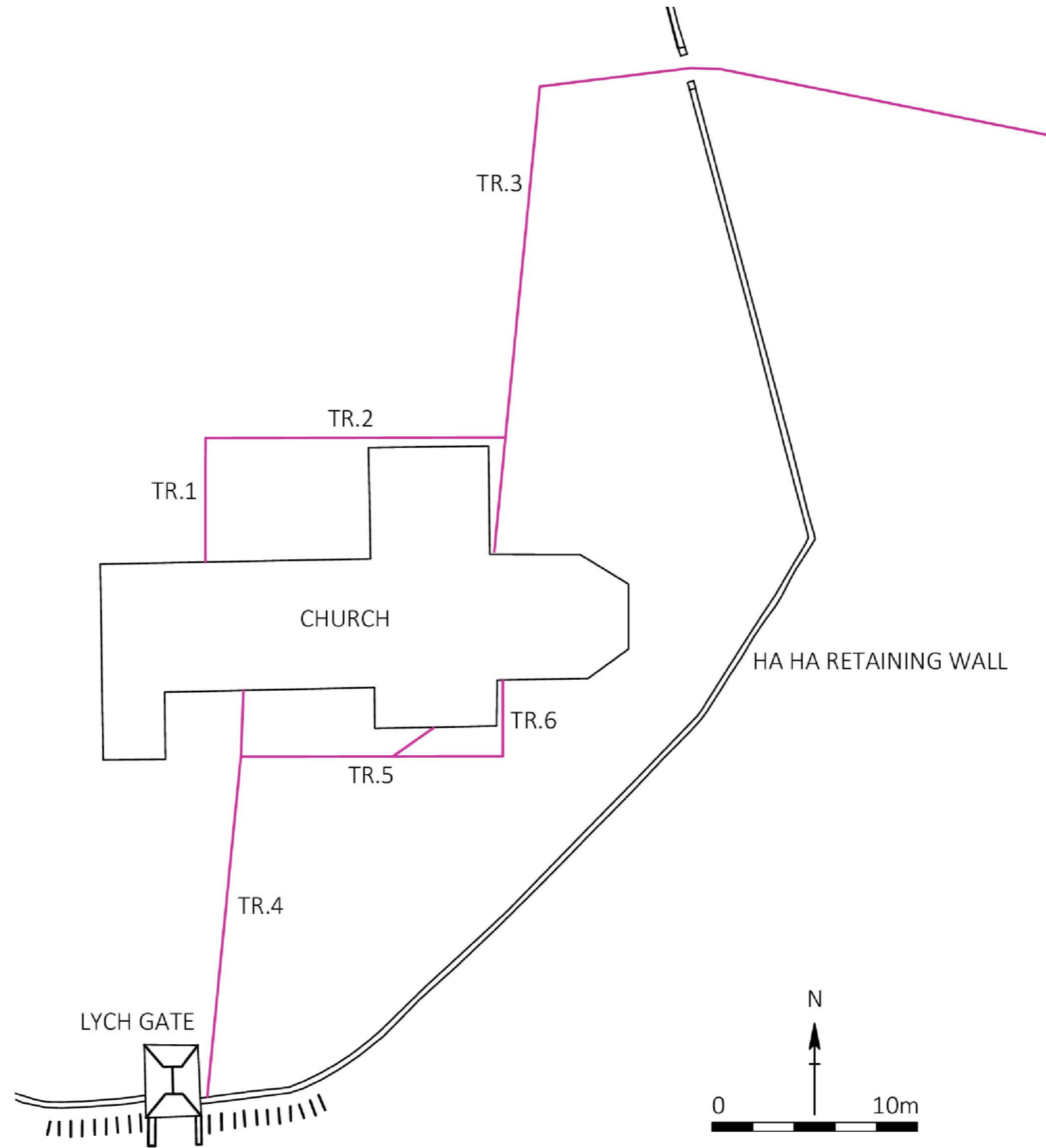


Figure 3: Location of trenches for drainage (Scale 1:250)



5 Conclusions

The new drainage was introduced to alleviate the problems caused by deficiencies in the existing drainage system. The trenches were excavated between known graves and, where possible, following earlier service routes. No grave cuts or archaeological features other than the covered path and the slab beneath the memorial cross for William Clinton Baker were uncovered. This is no doubt due to the fact that the ground has been extensively disturbed on numerous occasions, most recently in 2006.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Michael Sutcliffe for commissioning this report on behalf of Bayford PCC. Thanks are due to the site contractors, Mask Construction, for their assistance on site and to Consarc Conservation in providing the drawings which have been used as a basis for the plans in this report is also duly acknowledged.

The fieldwork was carried out by Lydia Breeze-Chilcott MSc. The report was prepared by Lydia Breeze-Chilcott and edited by Karin Kaye MA MIFA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Initial report
2. Monitoring sheets
3. Site drawings
4. Client's site plans
5. List of photographs
6. B/W prints & negatives
7. Specialist reports
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with East Hertfordshire Museum.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- Allen J L & Holt A St J 1986 (with later updates) *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology*. London: Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers
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- IFA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- IFA 2008a *Standards & Guidance for the Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- IFA 2009 *Standards & Guidance for Archiving Archaeological Projects*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
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- SMA 1995 *Towards an accessible archaeological archive - the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales*. London: Society for Museum Archaeologists
- Walker K 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London).
- Watkinson D & Neal V 1998 *First Aid for Finds* Hertford & London: Rescue

Books and Historical Sources

- Kaye D 2006 *St Mary's Church, Bayford, Herts: Archaeological Monitoring Report* Heritage Network
- Gover J 1938 *The Placenames of Hertfordshire* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Williams A & Martin G H 1992 *Domesday Book* London: Penguin Books

Online Sources

Hartford Hundred 2014 *St Mary, Bayford* : <http://www.hartfordhundred.org.uk/bayford.php>

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>



Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 073/BSM			Site Name: St Mary's Church, Bayford, Hertfordshire
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Trench 2: general shot, view east
2		✓	Trench 3: southern end, view south
3		✓	Trench 3: west facing stratigraphy
4		✓	Trench 3: join of trench 2 & 3
5		✓	Trench 3: join of trench 2 & 3
6	✓	✓	Trench 3: view south
7		✓	Trench 3: view north
8		✓	Trench 3: north end, view east
9	✓	✓	Trench 3: stratigraphy shot of north end, view south
10	✓	✓	Trench 3: stratigraphy shot of middle area, view east
11		✓	General shot of church, view north
12		✓	General shot of church, view north
13		✓	War memorial, view north
14		✓	War memorial, view south
15		✓	Retaining wall to south, view northeast
16		✓	South elevation of church, view northeast
17		✓	Church interior, view east of nave
18		✓	Church interior, view east of nave and roof
19		✓	Church interior, northern view of pulpit
20		✓	Church interior, view east of chancel
21		✓	Church interior, detail of decoration
22		✓	Church interior, detail of decoration
23		✓	Church interior, detail of roof
24		✓	Church interior, detail of iron gates to chancel
25		✓	Trench 2: view east
26		✓	Trench 2: stratigraphy detail
27		✓	General shot of north elevation and extension, view southeast
28	✓	✓	Trench 4: join of trenches 4 & 5, view east
29	✓	✓	Trench 4: detail of path stratigraphy uncovered, view east
30	✓	✓	Trench 6: view north
31	✓	✓	Trench 5: view west
32	✓	✓	Trench 4: slab under Henry William Clinton Baker memorial, view east
33		✓	Detail of pot sherd
34		✓	Detail of pot sherd
35		✓	Detail of pot sherd



Appendix 2: KDK OASIS Sheet

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	St Mary's Church, Bayford, Hertfordshire	OASIS reference:	kdkarcha1-188097
Short Description:	<p>In August 2014 a programme of observation and recording was undertaken during the installation of drainage trenches at St Mary's Church, Bayford, Hertfordshire in order to meet the requirements of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Diocese of St Albans</p> <p>Trenches were excavated to the north and south of the church to relieve the problem of poor surface water drainage and consequent damage to the church fabric. No archaeological features were revealed during the groundworks, but some fragments of late medieval and post-medieval pottery as well as disarticulated bone was recovered. These were retained for re-burial.</p>		
Project Type:	Observation and Recording:		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	English Heritage Building ID: 160625	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	Grade II*
Current land use:	Churchyard	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	Church	Monument period:	Post-medieval
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 3097 0883
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	St Mary's Church, Bayford, Hertfordshire SG13 8PP		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.273.5 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	82.5m AOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project brief originator:	-	Project design originator:	-
Project Manager:	Karin Kaye	Director/Supervisor:	Lydia Breeze-Chilcott
Sponsor / funding body:	Bayford PCC		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	07.08.14	End date:	13.08.14
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	East Herts Museum	None	
Paper:		Field notes, photos, architects drawings etc	
Digital:		1 CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Observation & Recording Report: St Mary's Church Bayford Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	KDK Archaeology Ltd Report ref : 073/BSM/1		
Author(s):	Lydia Breeze-Chilcott MSc		
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