



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

Church of St Mary the Virgin

Great Brickhill

Buckinghamshire



## Quality Check

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## Summary

From October 2020 to June 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation & Recording at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire, for the construction of a single storey WC extension attached to the west end of the nave, and trenches for the emplacement of services/drainage. The soil profile revealed in all of the trenches consisted largely of made-ground typically generated by activities related to the construction of the church and use of the churchyard, and disarticulated human remains, derived from disturbed burials, were frequently encountered. The remains of a medieval masonry structure built of ironstone and clunch was discovered to the west of the church, the southern return wall of which had collapsed. The west wall of the structure was partially rebuilt to form a makeshift charnel house for burials that had been disturbed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the church was extensively restored. Re-used medieval masonry was also exposed along the length of the west wall which had been rebuilt and the window replaced c.1826. This not only acted as a supplement to the original foundations, but also a base for the ledger slab that had been placed beneath the west door to act as a step.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 From October 2020 to June 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation & Recording at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by Vicar and Churchwardens of St Mary the Virgin, and was carried at the request of Buckinghamshire Council Archaeological Service (BCAS), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Buckinghamshire Council (Aylesbury Vale Area). The relevant planning application reference is 18/04139/APP. In addition, Conditions 7-9 of the Faculty granted by the Diocese of Oxford address archaeological concerns (Ref: 2018-024054).

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of a Faculty, National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

### 1.3 *The Site*

#### *Location*

The church of St Mary the Virgin is located in the village and civil parish of Gt Brickhill, the administrative area of Buckinghamshire Council (Aylesbury Vale Area), and the Diocese of Oxford. It is centred on National Grid Reference SP 90114 30786 (Fig. 1).

#### *Description*

St Mary's Church, which is a Grade II\* listed building (NHLE entry: 1115994; HER 0518700000), is situated at the northwestern extremity of the modern village of Gt Brickhill, St Mary's Church is bounded by Galley Lane and Church Lane to the east and south respectively. To the west is a private residence and to the north is open land (Fig. 2).

The listed building description can be found in Section 3.



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*Geology & Topography*

The local bedrock is sandstone, part of the Woburn Sands Formation <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. It is expected that the superficial deposits, which have not been recorded for the area, will have been heavily disturbed. The site lies at a height of 140m AOD.

*Development*

The development comprised the construction of a single storey WC extension attached to the west end of the nave, and the creation of a footpath from the new extension to the existing path leading to the south porch (Fig. 3).



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



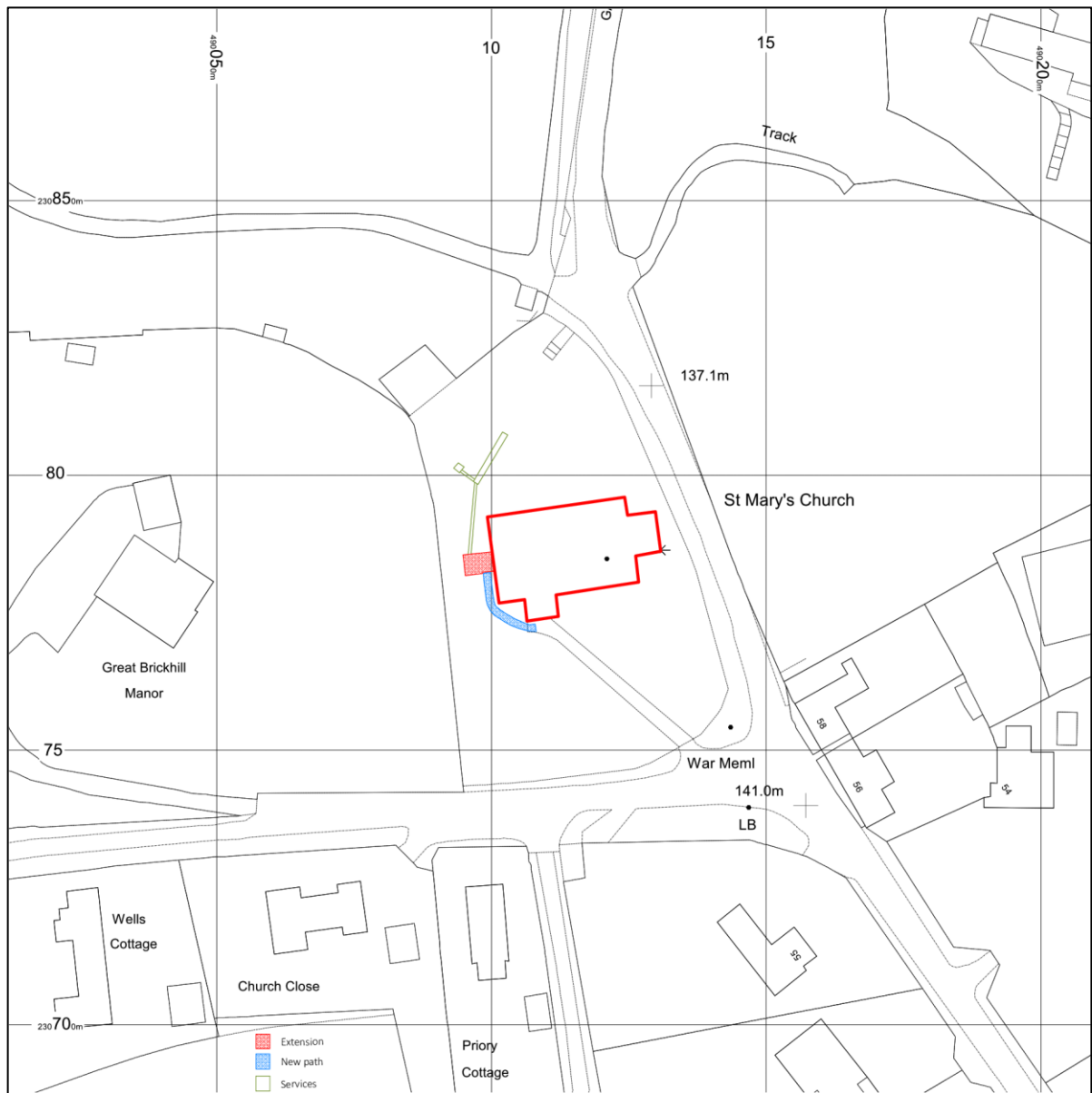


Figure 2: Site Layout (scale 1:1,250)

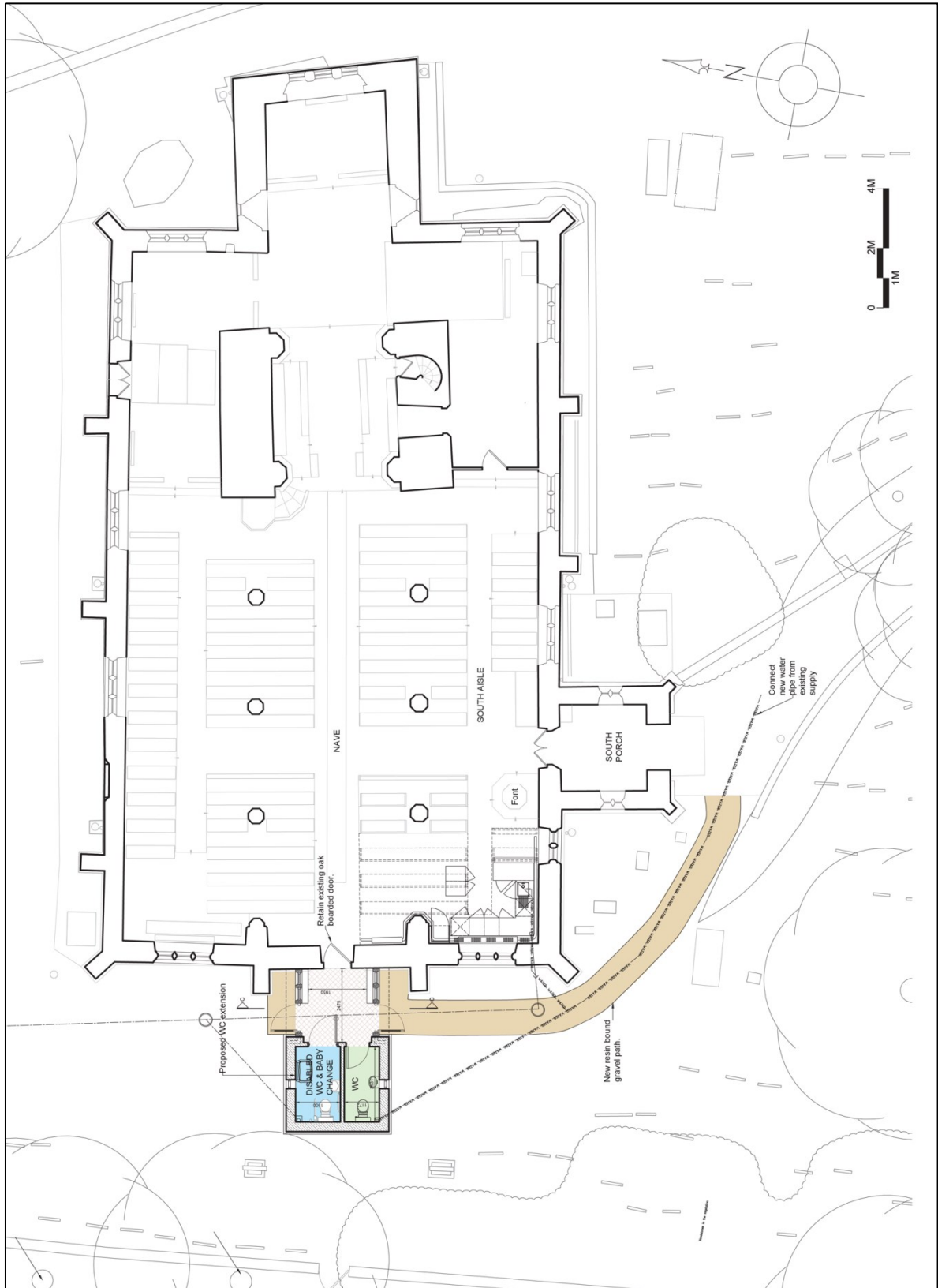


Figure 3: Development plan (scale as shown)



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## 2 Aims & Methods

### 2.1 *Aims*

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:

- All groundworks that were likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits were done under continuous and constant archaeological supervision.

### 2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The design brief
- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2020)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2019)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)



### 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 The village of Great Brickhill occupies a prominent hilltop site in the Brickhills Area of Attractive Landscape, and its elevation affords magnificent panoramic views across the surrounding countryside towards the Chilterns, and across the Ouzel valley towards the Vale of Aylesbury. Human activity and settlement in the general area may date from as early as the Neolithic and it was later settled during the Romano-British period. The modern village has its origins in the early medieval period, and its toponym is a compound of the Brythonic (primitive Welsh) *brig* and Anglian *hyll*, both meaning 'hill', with the Celtic 'brig' adopted as a proper name to which *hyll* was appended by way of explanation and referencing the hill summit (KEPN 2021). The affix 'Great' (Latin: *Magna*) was added in the 12<sup>th</sup> century to differentiate it from nearby Bow Brickhill and Little Brickhill.

The development site, the Grade II\* Church of St Mary (described in detail below), is situated within the Great Brickhill Conservation Area (DBC8036).

This section has been compiled with information from the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record, KDK's library, and reliable online sources. The HER data, with a 2.5km search radius, is shown in Fig. 4. The HER lists 19 Grade II listed buildings within the search area (all post-medieval) and as this project primarily focuses on subterranean remains within the churchyard the majority of these heritage assets will be excluded from the following summary.

#### 3.2 *Prehistoric (before 600BC) to Iron Age (600BC - AD43)*

Few remains from this period are listed in the HER search area, though they evince the time depth of local human activity and settlement. A possible Neolithic to Bronze Age ring-ditch, located c. 2km northwest of the church, has been documented from aerial photographs (HER 0186400000; EBC1191), and the discovery of skulls with a bronze dirk and rapier suggest the presence of a Bronze Age cemetery (HER 0207500000) situated approximately 200m northwest.

Archaeological investigations near Stoke House Farm revealed an early to middle Iron Age farmstead (HER 0612300000; EBC11598, 11378, 16940) c. 2.2km northwest of the church. The remains comprised pits, ditches, a crouched inhumation, and associated drove-ways within a late Bronze Age to early Iron Age field system. A pit alignment of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date was also identified on a similar alignment to the field system. This area was later cleared for cultivation when a ridge and furrow field system was laid out possibly from the middle to late Saxon period.

Approximately 1.7km southwest of Great Brickhill, near Stoke Hammond, aerial photos revealed a series of cropmarks that may represent the remains of prehistoric enclosures, a ring ditch and pits (HER 0768700000; EBC17581). Finally, various prehistoric/historic remains have been found during fieldwalking such as Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman finds from the northeast of Ground Farm (HER 0612600000; EBC11490, 16937), and Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval pottery found near southlands (HER 0560801000; EBC13158, 13111).

#### 3.3 *Roman (AD43 - c.450)*

In the later part of this period the local area was dominated by the town of *Magiovinium* and a fort that was situated at, what is now, the eastern edge of modern Bletchley (Scheduled Monument 1006943). The settlement of *Magiovinium* occupied a spur jutting into the floodplain of the River Ouzel, situated c. 3km northwest of the development and beyond the HER search area. The town was bisected by the major Roman road named Watling St (now the



A5; HER 0187800000; and a possible associated trackway, HER 0444100000) that ran to the north of Great Brickhill. Other possible Roman roads that traversed the region include the Viatores Route 166A (HER 0297910000) at the northwest edge of HER search area, and the Viatores Route 173A-D (HER 0203500000, 0203505000), which ran between Ermine Street and Dorchester-on-Thames, and through what is now Great Brickhill.

An early Roman cremation cemetery, possibly a family group, was found at 8 Holts Green, which is adjacent to Viatores Route 173A- D, a during the digging footing trenches for a house extension (HER 0439500000; EBC11298, 16800). The discovery of a child's skull with a sword-cut and an adult pelvis found eroding from the bank of the river Ouzel may indicate the site of another potential Roman cemetery (HER 0596700000).

Archaeological investigations at the Three Locks Golf Course, c. 2.2km southwest of the church, revealed a Roman field system and farmstead (HER 0165900000, 0165903000, 0165901000, 0165904000, 0165902000; EBC15781, 10305, 16366, 11777; Ford 2000; Hearne 1993). The archaeological features/deposits included linear ditches and gullies, pits, one hearth/burnt area, a cobbled surface (hardstanding), and two courses of *in situ* ironstone walling, all probably Romano-British. The ditches were interpreted as a small portion of a field system a possible drove-way. The finds included animal bone, with evidence of butchery; Romano-British tile possibly for walling, hypocausts or flooring; sherds of pottery, dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD; a miniature bronze cast bowl; 45 roman coins, mostly 3<sup>rd</sup> century; and a medieval gilded strap-end. Other Romano-British settlements have been documented in the wider area. Early Roman enclosure complexes, possible farmsteads, are located c. 2km northwest of the development in fields south and east of Eaton Leys Farm and were identified by magnetometer survey and trial trench evaluation, and dated by pottery (HER 0771500000, 0771600000, 0790200000; EBC17731, 17732, 17939). A late Iron Age to Roman rural settlement, probably a farmstead, was identified through geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation to the east of Fenny Road (HER 0798000000; EBC17962-3, 18193). The evaluation recorded well-preserved remains of a ditched enclosure system, evidence for cereal drying, animal slaughter and butchery, with an artefactual inventory that was almost entirely late Iron Age/early Roman and Roman in date, indicating that the site was occupied from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The available evidence suggests that the study area was rural and occupied by farmsteads.

#### 3.4 **Saxon** (c.450 - 1066) to **Medieval** (1066 - 1500)

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records two landholdings under the name *Brichelle*. The larger of the two was a 9 hide estate held by Earl Tosti prior to the Norman Conquest, after which it was awarded to the Earl of Chester (Williams & Martin 2002: 404). The second estate covered only 1 hide, and was held by Turstin of the Bishop of Bayeaux after the Conquest (*ibid*: 399). It had been held by Alwine before 1066, and, significantly, he was not able to sell the landholding. Great Brickhill, therefore, appears to have developed from a mid/late Saxon 10 hide estate with Little Brickhill becoming the more significant of the two from the 13<sup>th</sup> century (*cf* Page 1927).

The manor of Great Brickhill (HER 0934700000) passed into the hands of the Despencer family by the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, and they held it until 1526 (Page 1927). The manor then passed to William Duncombe who was Bailiff of the manor of Ivinghoe and his son, Thomas Duncombe, who formalised the purchase from Sir George Somerset (*ibid.*). The history of its medieval, and post-medieval, manors, which may have been located in the same place (see below), provide references to a manor house, dovecotes, fish ponds, and the unlocated site of a medieval deer park mentioned in documents dated 1467 and 1504 (HER 0097300000, 0097302000, 0097303000, 0097304000). Extensive areas of surviving ridge and furrow across the study area,





shown on Fig. 4 and at a field south of Eaton Leys Farm (HER 0771800000), indicate the agricultural basis of the local economy in these periods and later. Archaeological investigations at Three Locks Golf Course, c. 2.3km southwest, documented a Saxon to medieval boundary situated between two furlongs of an open field system (HER 0165905000; EBC10305, 16366).

The parish church of St Mary, one of the most significant local monuments, dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and was given a south aisle and chapel c. 1460, and a north aisle and chapel some 30 years later. The nave was altered in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Page 1927). The west wall was rebuilt and the window replaced c.1826 as part of a wider programme of repairs (Bucks Archives PR-25/6/10/1). The following year further repairs were ordered by the Archdeacon of Buckingham, including the repair of the south porch (Bucks Archives PR-25/6/11/5). The whole church was extensively restored in 1865-7 (Bucks Archives PR-25/6/12).

The church is Grade II\* listed (NHLE entry: 1115994; HER 0518700000), and the Historic England listing description is as follows:

Parish church Mid C13 chancel and central tower, nave altered C14 and C15. S. aisle added mid C15, N. aisle late C15, both continued to E, past the tower, to form chapels. S. porch added 1865-7 when the whole church was heavily restored. Greensand rubble with limestone dressings, rendered tower. Nave and chancel have slate roofs, aisles and tower have lead roofs and battlemented parapets W. end has 3-light traceried window over small moulded doorway with 2-centred arch and 3-light aisle windows with cusped lights and 4-centred heads. S. aisle has similar windows, 3 to S. and one to E, and a 2-light window with flat head to left of door. Doorway has moulded 2-centred arch with blind tracery in spandrels and carved angel stops to flat hoodmould. N. aisle has 3 3-light windows with flat heads, and moulded doorway Central tower has bell-chamber with 2-light decorated windows, and an octagonal stair turret on the S. side. Early English chancel with one bay of lancet windows to N. and S., and 3-light window with plate tracery to E. Interior: nave has 4 bays of C15 double chamfered arches on octagonal piers with moulded caps, and C13 triple chamfered arch on more massive semi-octagonal piers to tower. Similar arch between Tower and chancel. Tower has solid walls to N. and S., the S. wall with blocked 2-light window, restored arched doorway and single light to stair turret in S.E. corner, and moulded archway to chapel, now vestry. N. chapel has double chamfered arch to chancel and original arched piscina. Chancel has good C13 details the windows being deeply recessed with traces of paintings on the splays, and having moulded arches on slender ringed shafts with moulded caps, the shafts of the E. window of coloured marble. Fittings: C17 altar table with turned baluster legs; late C19 glass; other fittings C19. C18 and C19 marble memorial tablets to members of Duncombe and Barton families including one of 1721, one to Rev. John Barton 1760, to Mary Bristowe 1762, and Rev. Philip Barton, 1786. Handsome pair of early-mid C18 tablets flanking S. door have curved black marble inscription panels with flanking ionic columns, entablatures with mourning putti and coats of arms, and gilded cherub heads and skulls to bases.

The nearest other heritage assets of this period are the Jack Ironcaps Lane (HER 0053600000, 0053600010), located c. 350m northeast, the site of a possible late medieval pottery kiln, known from finds of pottery wasters, and a medieval to post-medieval hollow-way still used as a footpath.

### 3.5 *Post-medieval (1500 - 1900) to Modern (1900 - present)*

The settlement has remained a village that had a predominantly agricultural economy and historical records exist of medieval to post-medieval watermills (HER 0200100000;



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0200100001). However, towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the only major industrial activity to take place in Great Brickhill occurred (GBPC 2019). This was the extraction of phosphate nodules known as coprolite (fossilized dung) which could be used to produce fertiliser when mixed with sulphuric acid. The extraction sites are close to the modern day John Horncapps Lane and the 'ore' was carried by a small down-slope tramway, which ran parallel to Galley Lane, to the river Ouzel where it was washed and sorted for onward transport, most probably by canal to towns along the canal route for processing into agricultural fertiliser.

The post-medieval manor was demolished in the 1930s and all that remains are the park, garden and pleasure grounds that were laid out in the early and mid-19<sup>th</sup> century around a now lost 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century country house, which was probably built on the site of an earlier manor house. The 31ha site lies near the north-east boundary of Bucks with Bedfordshire, on the north-west edge of the village of Great Brickhill, and one mile from the Roman road, Watling Street to the north-east (HER 0097305000; BGT 2017).

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the churchyard in 2000, which exposed the basal courses of the north wall as well as a number of graves (Fell 2000). The exposed foundations, which were offset, were entirely built of ironstone. The report mentions that a similar footing had been observed that aligned obliquely to the existing east wall, but no photographs, illustrations or references were provided to clarify the feature or support the hypothesis that this may have been part of an earlier church on the site.

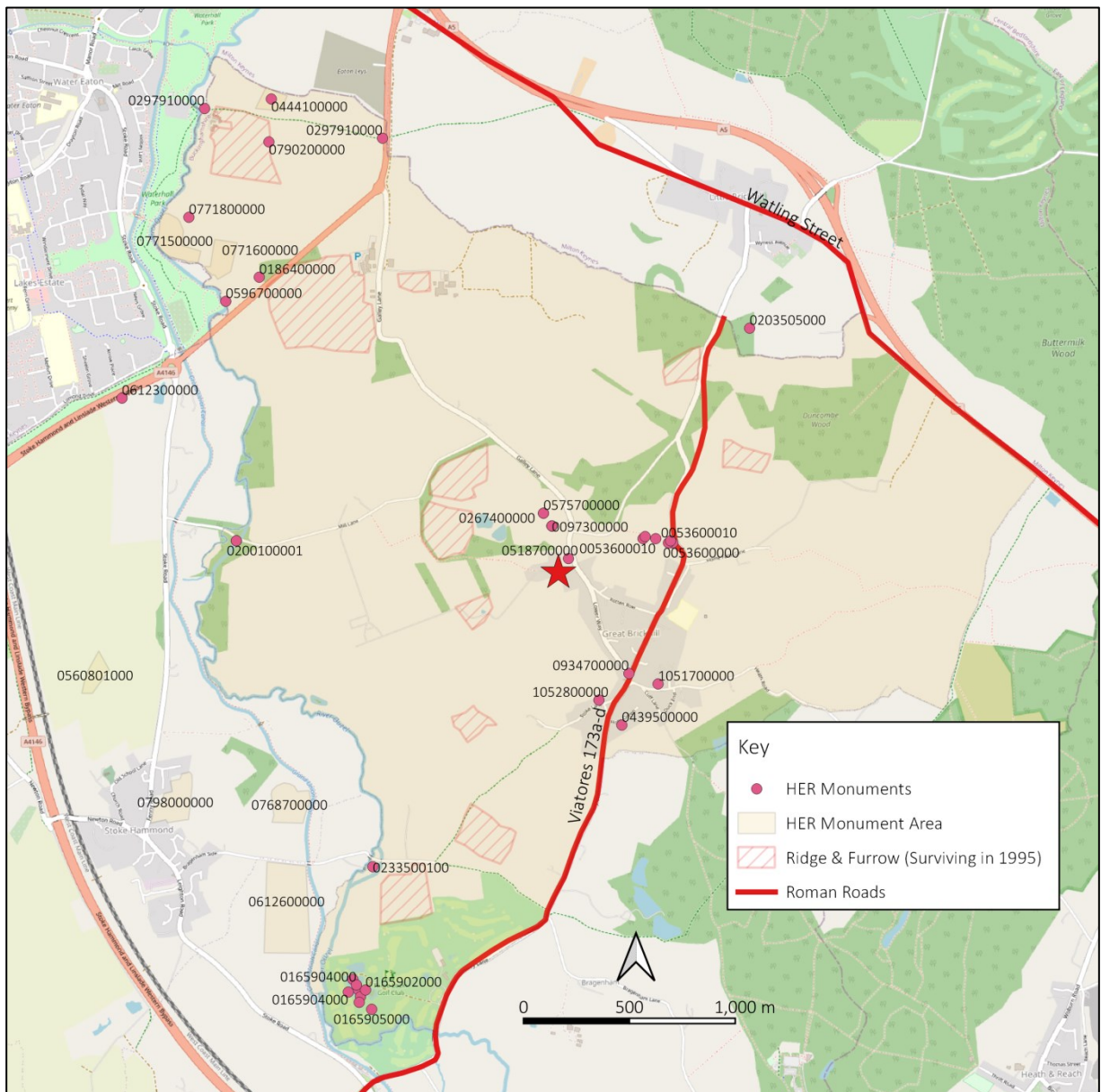


Figure 4: HER data plan (scale as shown; site marked with star)



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## 4 Results

### 4.1 Introduction

The archaeological Watching Brief comprised the continuous monitoring of the footing trenches and ground reduction within the trenches that were excavated for the construction of a single storey WC extension attached to the west end of the nave, and trenches for the emplacement of services/drainage (Fig. 5). A total of three footing trenches, a 'southern' trench for the connection of water and electricity, and a 'northern' trench for drainage, including an off-set soakaway, with a combined area of c. 56.61m<sup>2</sup>, were all excavated utilising a 1.5 tonne tracked digger fitted with (as appropriate) 0.25, 0.6m or 1m wide toothed and toothless ditching buckets.

### 4.2 Description

#### *Stratigraphy*

The stratigraphy revealed across the excavated area was generally similar (Fig. 6; Plates 1-8):

Topsoil (101-701): Topsoil was present across the entire excavated area and measured c. 0.05-0.20m deep and comprised dark greyish brown, silty sand.

Subsoil (603): The only *in situ* subsoil was observed near the base of Trench 6, the soakaway, beneath made-ground (602), and the most obvious macroscopic difference compared to the topsoil was the near absence of roots. This layer was dark greyish brown silty sand, which varied in depth from 0.01->0.7m deep.

Made-ground (102-702): This was present across the entire excavated area i.e. the churchyard. It consisted of mid-reddish greyish brown silty sand, with frequent angular sandstone/ironstone blocks ( $\leq 0.20$ ) and varied from 0.1- $\geq 1$ m in depth. The deepest deposits were recorded in Trenches 1-3. The excavation revealed various land drains oriented approximately N-S. Nearly all of the human remains were found within this deposit, a few elements appeared to have been buried within, or had percolated into the upper part of the layer. This type of deposit is typically generated by activities related to the construction of the church and use of the churchyard.

Natural (103-303): The natural geology of mid-reddish brown silty sand, with no inclusions, was only revealed at the bases of Trenches 1-3;  $>0.40$ m in depth.

Before works commenced a ledger slab that had been placed in front of the west door to form a step was removed.

#### *Trenches 1-3: WC foundations (Fig. 7; Plates 9-37)*

The original plan for the excavation of the WC foundations was to excavate three footing trenches, with an area of 8.5m<sup>2</sup>, and then reduce the internal 11.5m<sup>2</sup> area delimited by these trenches by 0.55m below ground level. However, from the beginning of the excavation it was obvious that some form of 'tile and masonry structure' was situated c. 0.10 below ground level. This necessitated a change in strategy and the footing trenches were eventually only excavated in the western half of the WC development area (Fig. 6). The internal area was reduced 0.55m by hand in the eastern half of the excavation, in order to expose the archaeological remains and the western church foundations, whereas the tracked digger was used, under constant supervision, to reduce the western side. The total area excavated for the construction of the WC foundations was c. 20.6m<sup>2</sup>; and the dimensions of the three footing trenches on the western



end of the development were two at 3mL x 0.6mW x 1.2-1.5mD and one at 2.6mL x 0.6mW x 1.5mD. As the soil was soft sand the sections, particularly in Trench 1, partially collapsed, so these measurements are approximate.

Frequent disarticulated human remains were found in all three trenches, as were occasional coffin handles; Trench 1 yielded 5 skulls, two with mandibles still associated, and cursory examination indicated that two of the skulls/one mandible appeared to be from older females who had missing teeth with healed tooth sockets where the alveolar bone naturally remodelled following tooth-loss. Trenches 1 & 3 also contained two land-drains, running approximately north-south. Four disassociated and highly corroded iron coffin handles with base plates were also recovered from Trenches 2-3: these were 20cm long x 6.7cm wide, with a 10.6cm wide handle (Plate. 15). A single sherd of pottery from a glazed jug in Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> - mid 14<sup>th</sup> century was found residual in made-ground deposit (102) (Plate 16; Blinkhorn, this volume).

The archaeological remains from this area consisted of a broadly north-south oriented structure, the western wall of which [104], was c.3.40m long x 1-1.10m wide x c. 0.5m in height, and was comprised of roughly hewn and partially dressed clunch, ironstone, and floor tile, and extensively plastered with lime mortar (Figs 7-8; Plates 17-30). The tile was placed on top of masonry, as if part of a floor, and it was also used to form the main body of parts of the structure as evidenced by areas of coursed tile and mortar.

The remains of two return walls (109, 110), measuring (L) 0.35-0.5 x (W) 0.30-0.4 x (H) 0.28-0.55m, built of roughly hewn/dressed clunch and tile linked wall [104] to the church foundations [108] (Figs 7-8; Plates 27-28). The north wall [109] was predominantly clunch built with a little brick/tile and ironstone. The presence of cement mortar indicates 20<sup>th</sup> century work of some form having taken place on or impacting the wall. A 0.66m wide gap had been created in [104] level with the outer edge of the northern buttress, although the building fabric had not been taken out in its entirety; the basal level was still intact. In contrast, a gap in the southern return wall [110] was only 0.33m wide, but all of the historic fabric had been removed, and the wall itself had collapsed. A sample of tile from each structure [104, 109, 110] were examined and dated by its fabric and manufacture to the post-medieval period, probably 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century (Blinkhorn, this volume).

The base of the west wall [104] was revealed in Trenches 1 and 3, and the visible portion was formed of large blocks of clunch (Fig. 8; Plates 10 & 14), with underlying concentrations of angular ironstone (c.0.20) that may have acted as a 'hard-core' foundation for the structure. It was apparent that structure [104] was also intended to be load bearing as two 'post-pads' [106, 107] were formed by hollows in the stone blocks 2.15m apart on the western side (Fig. 8; Plates 29 & 30). The northern end of structure [104] was fully revealed within the footing trenches, though the southern end may have extended farther south as a block of clunch was exposed in the section of Trench 3 at the limit of excavation.

A recess measuring 0.70m (north-south) x 0.50 (east-west) x at least 0.27m deep was situated on the eastern side of structure [104], within which lay an assemblage of human remains (Figs. 7 & 8; Plates 18-20, 31-34) forming an apparent charnel deposit (105). The analysis of the human remains is presented in detail in Appendix 4. Charnel deposits comprise human remains that have been re-buried in a churchyard or stockpiled within a charnel house or similar when the graveyard has become too full. Charnel deposit (105) comprised an assemblage of human remains that were deliberately arranged with 4 skulls bounded to the west and east by limb bones, and other elements, and the 2 halves of a pelvis of a female aged 60+ placed on the



internal sides of the skulls at the northern and southern extremes. The assemblage also included the mandible of a female, and several long bones, some of which were identified as being male (femur and scapula). Two of the four skulls were female, one a probable female, and the last was male, and all were adults between 19 and 48 years at time of death. Tooth decay and dental pathologies were present in the individuals where dentition could be recorded and the potential female individual showed signs of possible trauma to the cranium; whether the latter was the consequence of an accident or of interpersonal violence cannot be determined. A corroded iron coffin handle and base plate (SF1; the same type and measurements as previously detailed) was situated adjacent to one of the skulls and another corroded iron plate (SF2) was evident beneath the assemblage, and fully revealed and left *in situ* after most of the human remains were removed (Plates 31-34). Some of the elements of this assemblage continued under the masonry to the north, and further long bones were visible to the east, and to the west, which also included the pelvis and sacrum of an adult male. It is unknown if there are further human remain situated beneath these as this was the maximum impact level of the construction and no further excavation was possible.

Wall [104] was constructed in at least two distinct phases. The earlier phase is evident on the western side, which is made up of uncoursed and irregularly sized clunch and ironstone rubble within a lime mortar matrix. This is clearly the hearting of a stone wall, and what is left is 0.53m wide (east-west). The second identifiable phase of construction can be seen on the east face, where the building material and methodology is very different (Fig. 8). The section to the north of the recess has 5 courses of post-medieval floor tile beneath the existing surface, which is made up of 3cm thick clunch slabs, the same thickness as the floor tiles. The section to the south of the recess is less neatly constructed with some brick/tile present but more stone rubble in the lower courses. The southern end of this section had collapsed. Some cement-based mortar was also present here, although most of the mortar observed throughout the structure was lime based. Both sections of wall had been constructed over the charnel deposit (105), which had been carefully deposited along the earlier west wall.

The foundations [108] of the church were revealed at the eastern extent of the excavated area (Fig. 9; Plates 35-37). The area revealed measured 3.40mL x 0.5mW x 0.3mH and was built from dressed clunch that was almost completely covered with, and set into lime mortar: the southern half consisted of one course of large clunch blocks *c.* 0.20m wide x 0.18m high, whereas the northern end was constructed from smaller blocks of clunch, *c.* 0.1m wide x 0.5-0.13m high, and undressed iron stone. The clunch pieces had relatively fine and widely spaced, diagonal toolmarks on them, and were almost certainly reused from the west wall when it was extensively rebuilt in 1826. This section of building fabric appears to all intents and purposes to have been additional to the foundations of the church *per se* and provided a solid base for the ledger slab that had been placed in front of the west door to form a step.

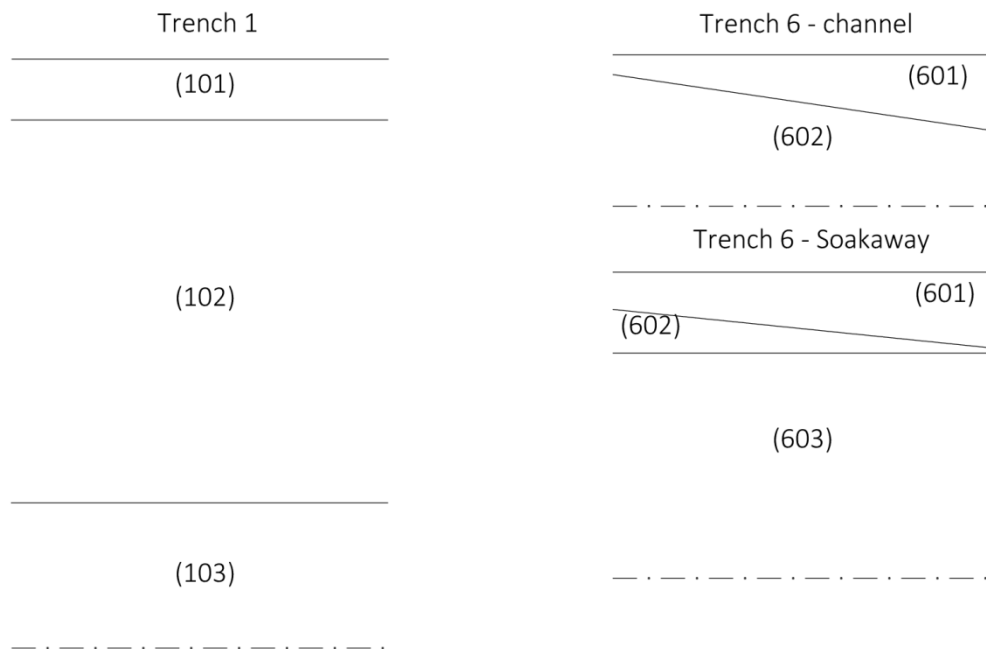
#### *Trenches 4-7: Services* (Figs. 5 & 6; Plates 38-45)

The construction of the WC necessitated the connection of various services and the excavation trenches to lay the pipes and cables. The services/drainage Trenches 4-7 were excavated to the north and south of Trenches 1-3, the location of the WC. Trench 4 was 5.70m long x 0.5m wide x 0.4m deep and runs south from Trench 3 to the western wall of the church and the internal servery (to be constructed). Trench 5 runs northeast from Trench 1 and was 23.2m long x 0.5-1m wide x 0.4m deep. Trench 6 was the soakaway off-shoots from Trench 5 and was 3m long x 0.5m wide x 0.4m deep with a 1.3m x 1.3m x 0.8m deep terminus. Trench 7 connected Trench 4 to the water main at the front of the church, near the porch. The only finds or features encountered in Trenches 4-7 were occasional disarticulated human remains and modern land drains.



*Trench 8: Footpath (Fig. 6; Plates 46-47)*

This shallow trench (1.40m wide x 0.20m deep) was excavated for the emplacement of a footpath leading from the path at front of the church to the new WC annex: a distance of c. 15m. As much of the area of this trench was previously excavated for Trenches 4 & 7 (the Trench 4 water pipe is visible in Plate 47) only topsoil, and disturbed and redeposited sediments were impacted. A few small fragmentary pieces of human bones were encountered, as were occasional fragments of clunch (<0.10m) and brick (<0.15m). The area between the end of Trench 8 and the WC was previously infilled with hardcore.



**Figure 5:** Representative schematic sections from Trench 1 and Trench 6 (scale 1:20)

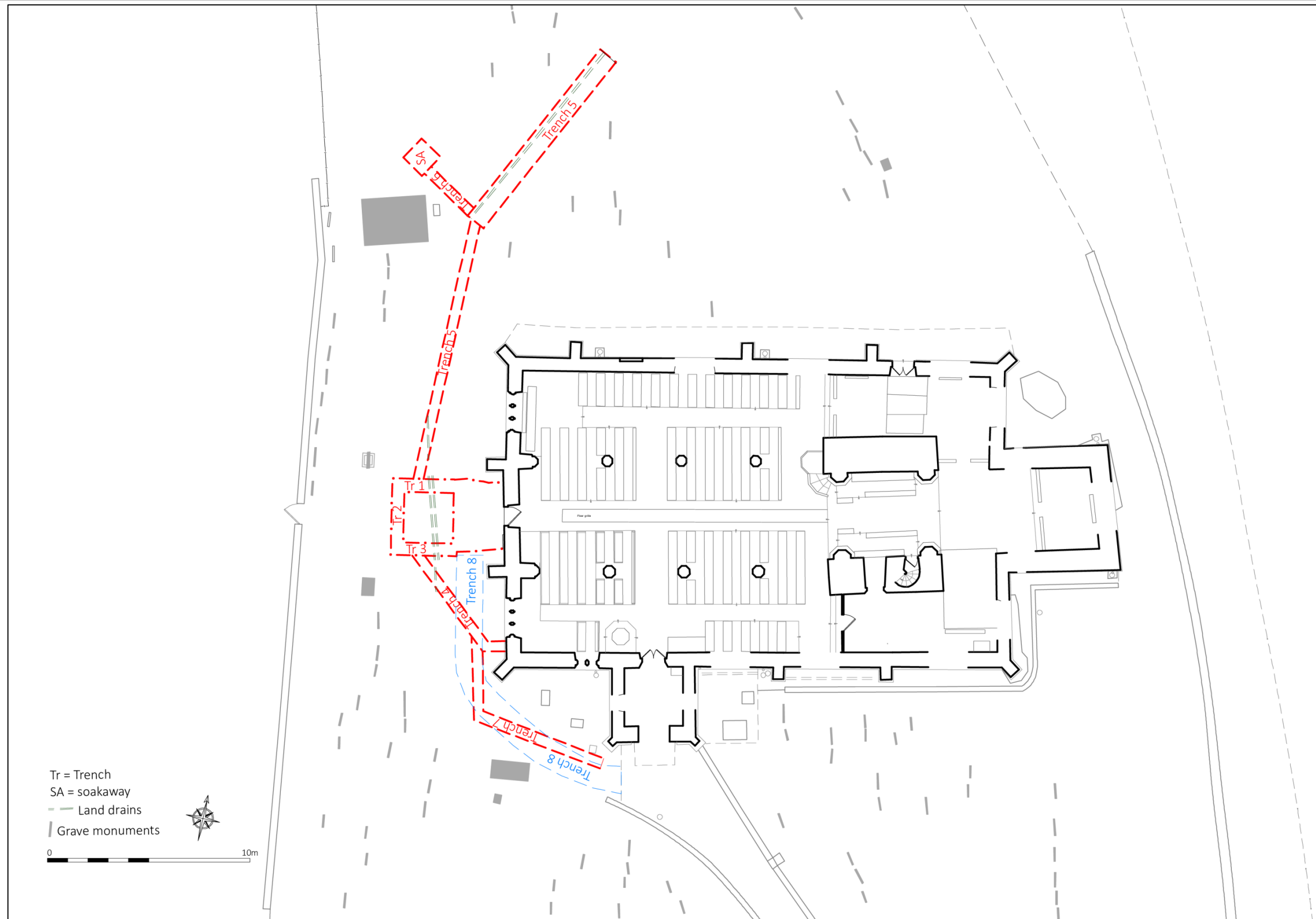


Figure 6: Trench plan at the parish church of St Mary, Great Brickhill (scale 1: 200)



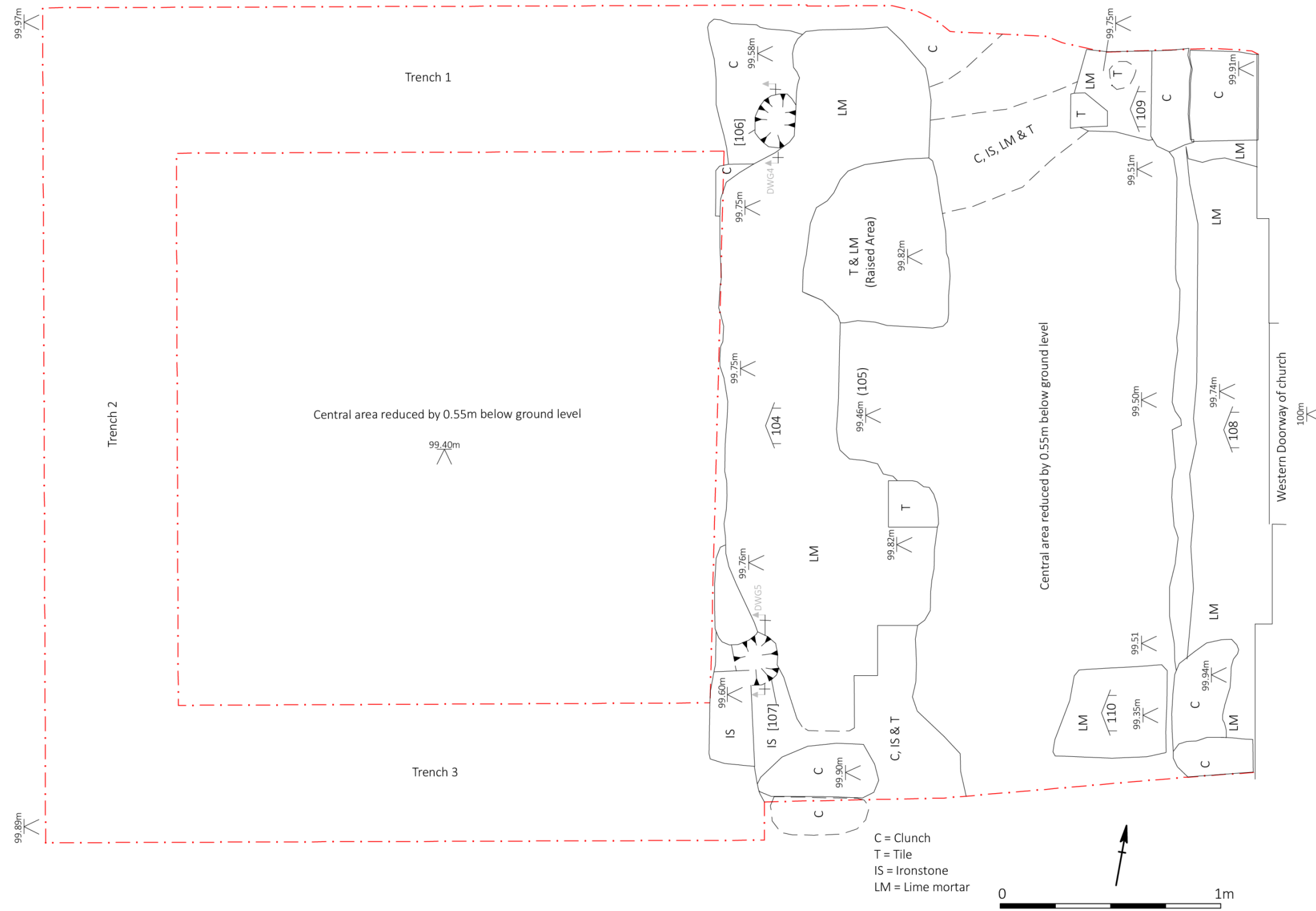


Figure 7: Trenches 1-3 and plan of archaeology (scale 1:20)

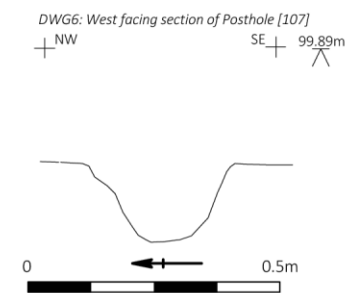
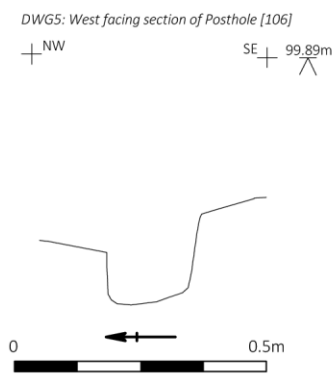
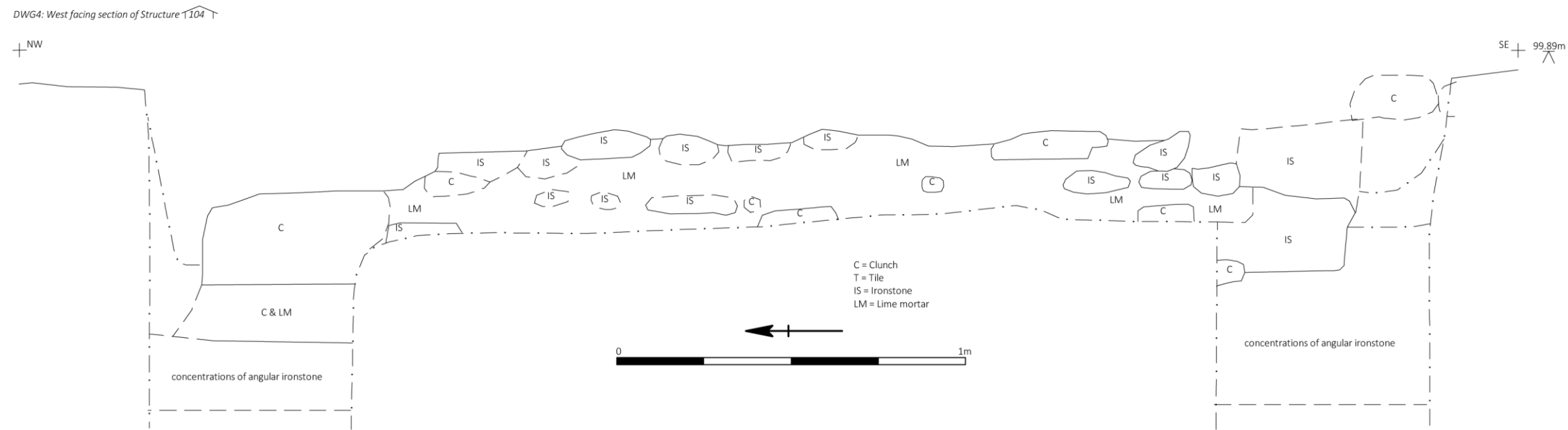
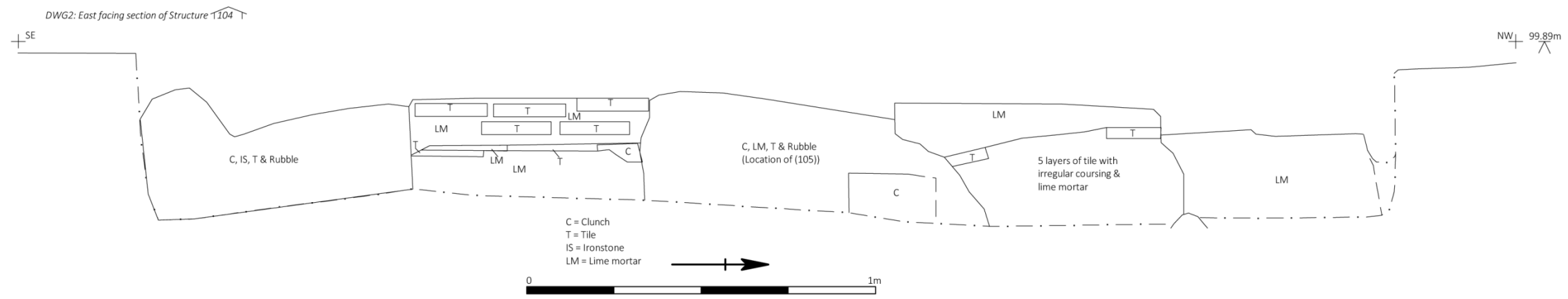


Figure 8: Sections of wall [104] and postholes [106, 107] (scale 1:20)

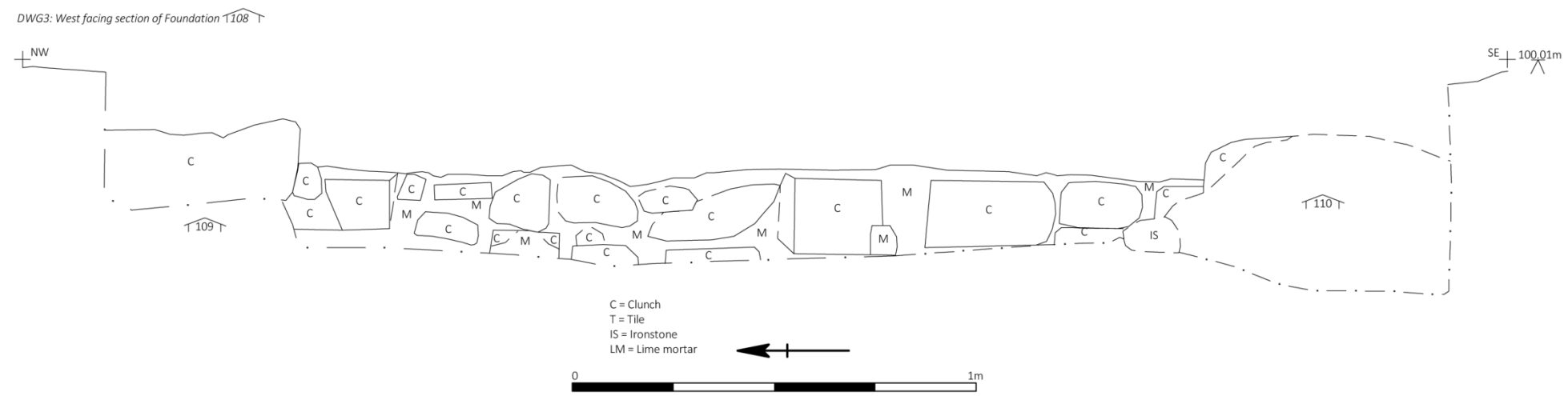


Figure 9: Sections of foundation [108] (scale 1:20)



**Plate 1:** Trench 1, stratigraphy



**Plate 2:** Trench 2, stratigraphy



**Plate 3:** Trench 3, stratigraphy



**Plate 4:** Trench 4, stratigraphy



**Plate 5:** Trench 5, stratigraphy



**Plate 6:** Trench 6 (channel), stratigraphy





**Plate 7:** Trench 6 (soakaway), stratigraphy



**Plate 8:** Trench 7, stratigraphy



**Plate 9:** Trench 1, facing west



**Plate 10:** Trench 1, facing east



**Plate 11:** Trench 2, facing south



**Plate 12:** Trench 2, facing north





**Plate 13:** Trench 3, facing west



**Plate 14:** Trench 3, facing east



**Plate 15:** Coffin handle and base plate (this example is SF1, see text)



**Plate 16:** Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware pot sherd, dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> - mid 14<sup>th</sup> century



**Plate 17:** Structure [104], facing east



**Plate 18:** Structure [104] & charnel deposit (105), facing west





Plate 19: Structure [104], facing south



Plate 20: Structure [104], facing north



Plate 21: Structure [104], detail, facing west



Plate 22: Structure [104], detail, facing west



Plate 23: Structure [104], detail, facing west



Plate 24: Structure [104], detail, facing west





Plate 25: Structure [104], detail, facing east



Plate 26: Structure [104], detail, facing east



Plate 27: Northern return wall[109], facing east



Plate 28: Southern return wall[110], facing east



Plate 29: Southern post-pad [106], facing east



Plate 30: Northern post-pad [106], facing east





Plate 31: Charnel deposit (105), facing west



Plate 32: Charnel deposit (105), facing west. SF 1 is visible centre right



Plate 33: Charnel deposit (105), facing west. SF 1-2 are visible centre left/right



Plate 34: Charnel deposit (105), facing west. SF 2 is visible centre left



Plate 35: Church foundations [108], facing east



Plate 36: Church foundations [108], detail, facing east





**Plate 37:** Church foundations [108], detail, facing east



**Plate 38:** Trench 4, facing southeast



**Plate 39:** Trench 5, part 1, facing north



**Plate 40:** Trench 5, part 1, facing south



**Plate 41:** Trench 5, part 2, facing northeast



**Plate 42:** Trench 6 (channel), facing northwest





**Plate 43:** Trench 6 (soakaway), facing northeast



**Plate 44:** Trench 7, part 1, facing south



**Plate 45:** Trench 7, part 2, facing southeast



**Plate 46:** Trench 8, part 1, facing northeast



**Plate 47:** Trench 8, part 2, facing east



## 5 Discussion and Conclusions

The masonry structure discovered at the west end of the church clearly represents different building events, the earliest of which appears to pre-date the present church and could either represent the remains of an earlier church or that of a western porch. The hypothesis that these are remains of an earlier church is attractive, and a good parallel for such a development is St Peter's Church, Barton on Humber, where the 10<sup>th</sup> century building sat snugly within the walls that were constructed later as the building was enlarged eastwards (Rodwell 1981: 28-29). The possibility that this was part of a narthex or western porch is equally so as this is a feature more commonly associated with Saxon and early post-Conquest churches (Bowyer 1977: 48), such as St Martin's Church, Eynsford, Kent (NHLE: 1217157) or post-Conquest cathedrals; the Galilee Porch at Ely being an excellent example.

The fact that the west end of the nave could avail itself as a main entrance, despite the fact that the south door was the most common entry to a medieval church, is the presence of a central tower. This in itself sets St Mary's slightly apart, in that less than 10% of medieval churches in England have a central tower (Randall 1982: 94-5). A wider discussion of the development of central towers is beyond the scope of this report, but two general associations are worth mentioning; the Saxon tower nave and the cruciform church. It was not uncommon for Saxon churches to have a tower nave; amongst the most well-known of these would be at St Peter's, Barton on Humber or All Saints Church, Earls Barton. Both churches subsequently developed eastwards, but others extended west of the tower to form a new nave. The second association is with monastic houses, which tended to have a tower over the central crossing in the church. There is no archaeological or documentary evidence here for a monastic establishment, no matter how small, but the possibility of a Saxon/early Norman precursor for the present church layout should not be dismissed. Nor should the possibility that a central tower simply became a favoured style in the locality given that there is a fine example of a 12<sup>th</sup> century church with a central tower at Stewkley (NHLE: 1214007) just 5 miles to the southwest. A re-assessment of the historic building fabric within the chancel and the central tower at St Mary's, and the importance and nature of the central tower within the wider region could provide a closer date for the construction of Gt Brickhill church and a better understanding of the local development of architectural style and liturgical function.

Regardless of whether the masonry structure was originally the west end of an earlier nave or a narthex, it was no longer standing when the cartographers depicted the building in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Figs. 10-13). In addition, Sheahan noted in 1862 that the north door and south porch were blocked on his visit, and the only entrance was by the west door (Sheahan 1862: 502), but makes no mention of a west porch.

In front of the west door was a step created from an upturned grave slab. This rested on an extension to the medieval wall foundation that was made up of re-used rubble and ashlar clunch. This work is likely to date from 1826 when the west window was replaced and a new entrance created in the west wall (Bucks Archives PR-25/6/8 & PR-25/6/10). The following year the Archdeacon of Buckingham ordered extensive repair works to the windows, battlements, coping and buttresses as well as the south porch (Bucks Archives PR-25/6/11), but there is no documentary evidence that this took place. In the 1860s, however, the church was re-roofed in its entirety, new windows were installed, the internal walls cleaned and the pews and seating removed (Bucks Archives PR-25/6/12 & PR-25/6/14). Some 30 years later a new heating system was installed, the boiler house for which is depicted in Figure 14.

These large scale works clearly disturbed not only earlier burials, but also the masonry structure to the west of the church, which was then partially reworked to form a makeshift charnel house



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along the west wall for the disturbed remains utilising some of the redundant floor tiles from within the church.

In conclusion, the foundation of the church of St Mary in Great Brickhill is not documented, although the first vicar to be recorded is Graffidus de Bello Camp (1218-56) (Ratcliff 1900:489). The presence of earlier masonry and the cruciform layout suggests that the building may have been more than a 13<sup>th</sup> century proprietary church. Whether the remains are simply indicative of an earlier church that was simply rebuilt in aesthetically pleasing architectural forms, or whether the chosen cruciform layout chosen has specific significance in the hierarchy or function of the building is open to further research.

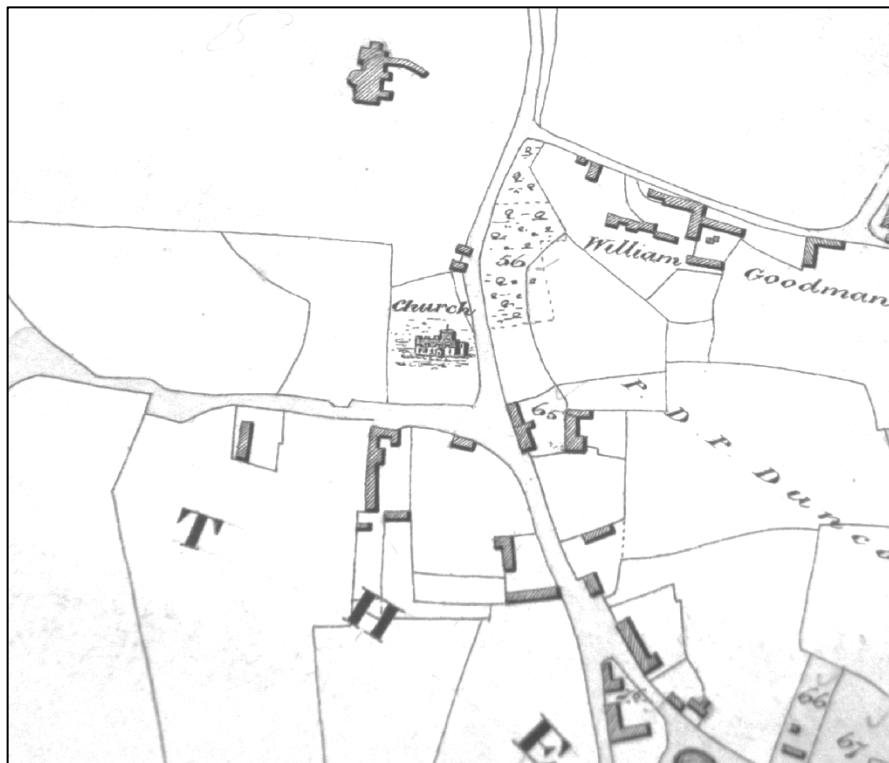


Figure 10: Tithe Map 1840 (scale 1:4000)

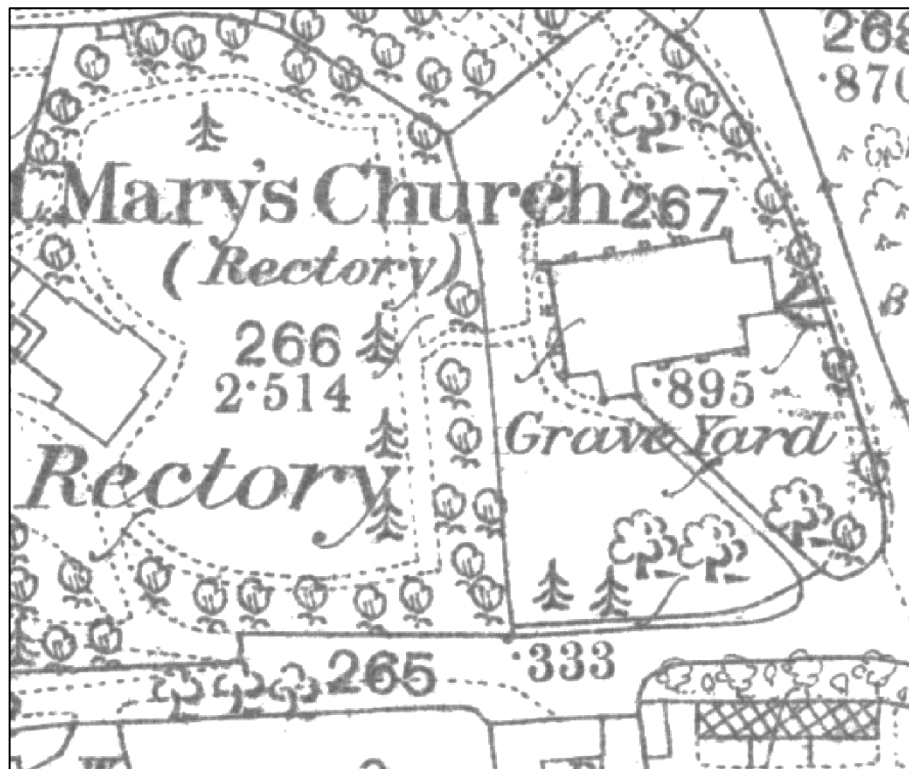


Figure 11: OS Map 1880 (scale 1:1000)

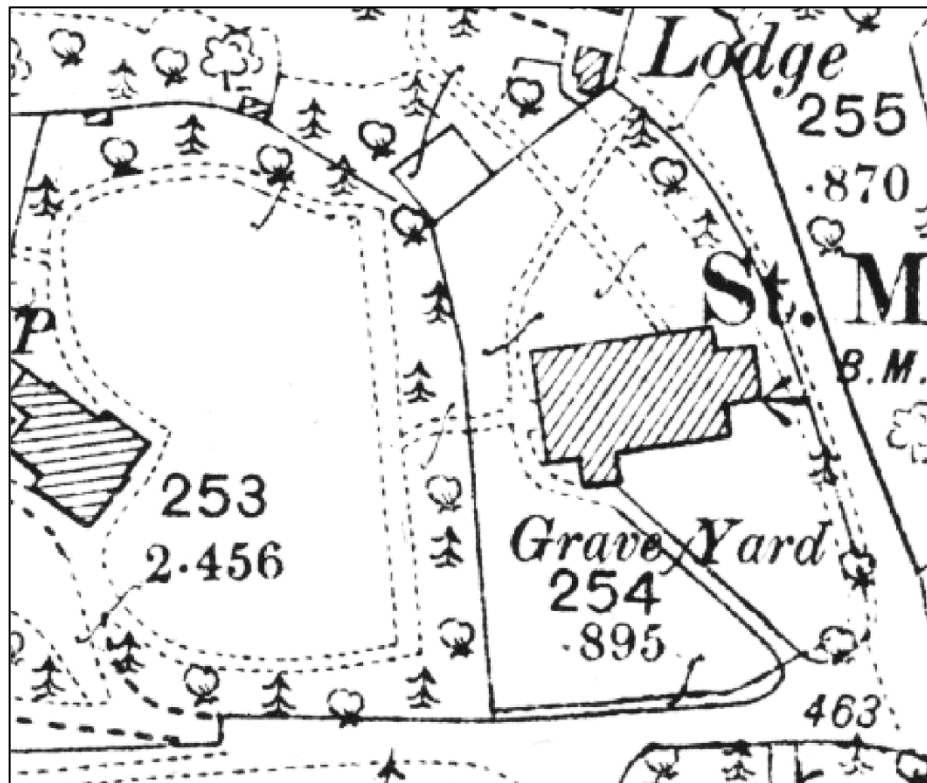


Figure 12: OS Map 1898 (scale 1:1000)

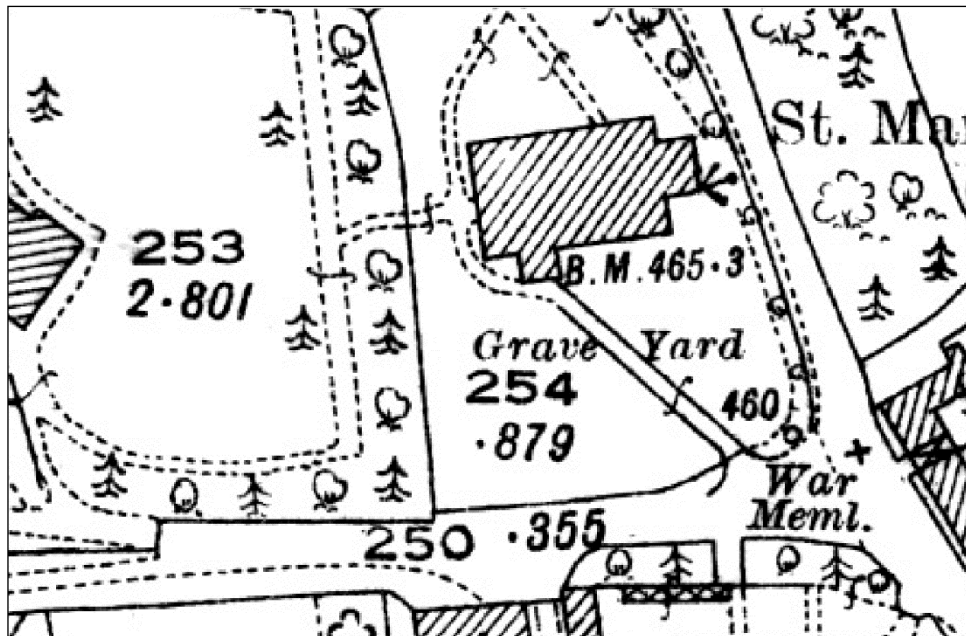


Figure 13: OS Map 1925 (scale 1:1000)



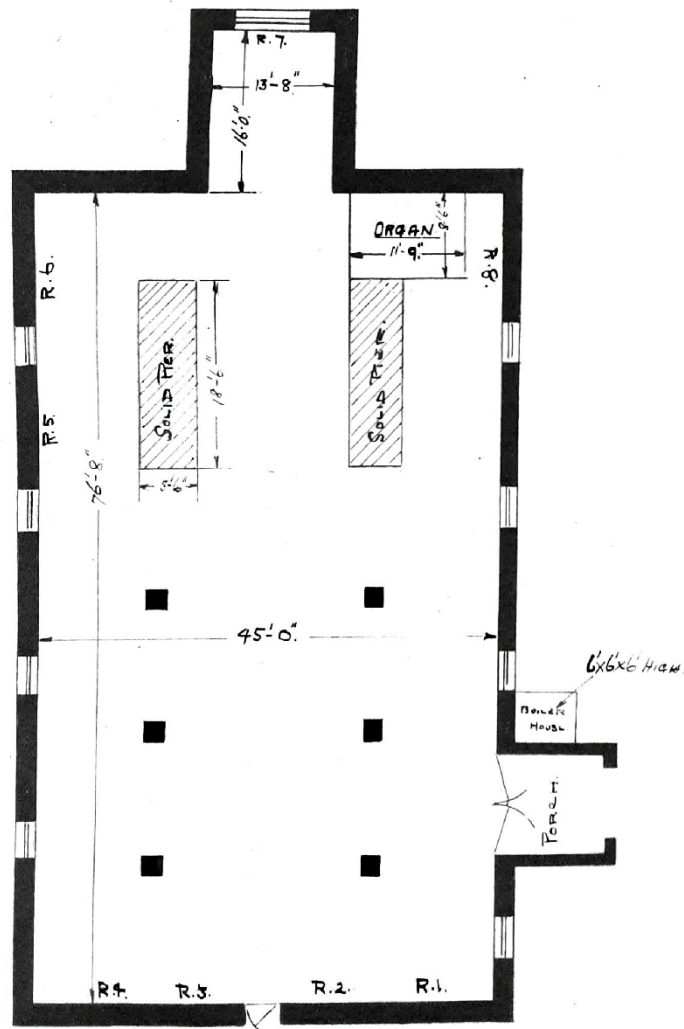


Figure 14: Undated plan of boiler house & heating system (not to scale)





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## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Gill Wilson for commissioning this report on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. Thanks are also due to Julia Wise of Buckinghamshire Archaeology Service for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Lucy Lawrence of BCAS and Julian Munby, the District Archaeological Adviser for the Diocese of Oxford for monitoring the project.

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The fieldwork was carried out by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA & Derek Watson PhD. The report was written by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA & Derek Watson PhD, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



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## 7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. Initial report
3. Monitoring sheets
4. Site drawings
5. Client's site plans
6. List of photographs
7. Specialist reports

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum (Accession number AYBCM: 2019.133).

7.3 The digital archive will be deposited with ADS.



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- 
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- PR\_25/6/12 Faculty for reroofing, reseating and restoration of parish church [Great Brickhill], 30 May 1865
- PR\_25/6/14 Bills and receipts for work on church fabric including restoration, 1865, and installation of heating apparatus, 1892 [Great Brickhill], 1865-1892
- PR\_25/6/22 Rough plan of church, with sites of boiler house and radiators indicated [Great Brickhill], nd
- PR\_25/8/1 Vestry Minute Book [Great Brickhill], 1826-1889
- PR\_25/8/2 Vestry Minute Book [Great Brickhill], 1899-1911



## Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	View	Subject
1	-	General shot of charnel deposit (105), no north arrow, no board
2	-	Detail of charnel deposit (105), no north arrow, no board
3	W	Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 2 x 1m scales
4	W	Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 2 x 1m scales
5	N	Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 2 x 1m scales
6	N	Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 2 x 1m scales
7	N	Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 2 x 1m scales
8	W	Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 2 x 1m scales, no board
9	S	Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 2 x 1m scales
10	S	Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 2 x 1m scales
11	S	Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 2 x 1m scales
12	E	Structure [104], & church west door, 2 x 1m scales
13	E	Structure [104], & church west door, 2 x 1m scales
14	E	Structure [104], & church west door, 2 x 1m scales
15	E	Structure [104], & church west door, 2 x 1m scales
16	E	Structure [104], & church west door, 2 x 1m scales
17	E	Structure [104], & church west door, 2 x 1m scales
18	E	Structure [104], & church west door, 2 x 1m scales
19	E	Structure [104], & church west door, 2 x 1m scales
20	E	Structure [104], & church west door, 2 x 1m scales
21	E	Structure [104], & church west door, 2 x 1m scales
22	E	Post-pad [106], (south), 2 x 0.20m scales
23	E	Post-pad [106], (south), no scales or board
24	E	Post-pad [107], (north), 2 x 0.20m scales
25	E	Post-pad [107], (north), no scales or board
26	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
27	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
28	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
29	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
30	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
31	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
32	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
33	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
34	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
35	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale, no board (error)





Shot	View	Subject
36	W	Charnel deposit (1051 x 0.20m scale, no board (error))
37	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale, no board
38	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale, no board
39	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale, no board
40	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale, no board
41	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale, no board
42	W	(Southern portion) Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
43	W	(Southern portion) Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
44	W	(Northern portion) Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
45	W	(Northern portion) Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
46	W	(Northern portion) Structure [104] and charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
47	W	Structure [104], detail of southern portion of alcove, 1 x 0.20m scale
48	W	Structure [104], detail of southern portion of alcove, 1 x 0.20m scale
49	W	Structure [104], detail of northern portion of alcove, 1 x 0.20m scale
50	W	Structure [104], detail of northern portion of alcove, 1 x 0.20m scale
51	W	Structure [104], detail of northern end, 1 x 0.20m scale
52	W	Structure [104], detail of northern end, 1 x 0.20m scale
53	W	Structure [104], detail of northern end, 1 x 0.20m scale, no board
54	W	Structure [104], detail of southern end, 1 x 0.20m scale
55	E	Structure [104], detail of western side, 1 x 0.20m scale
56	E	Structure [104], detail of western side, 1 x 0.20m scale
57	E	Structure [104], detail of western side, southern end, 1 x 0.20m scale
58	E	Structure [104], detail of western side, southern end, 1 x 0.20m scale
59	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale (error)
60	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
61	W	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
62	E	Charnel deposit (105), no scale or board - for photogrammetry
63	E	Charnel deposit (105), no scale or board - for photogrammetry
64	E	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
65	E	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale
66	N	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale, no board
67	N	Charnel deposit (105), 1 x 0.20m scale, no board
68	E	Church foundations [108], west door, 1 x 1m scale
69	E	Church foundations [108], west door, 1 x 1m scale
70	E	Church foundations [108], west door, 1 x 1m scale
71	E	Church foundations [108], west door, 1 x 1m scale (showing wider area)
72	E	Church foundations [108], west door, 1 x 1m scale (showing wider area)



Shot	View	Subject
73	E	Church foundations [108], west door, 1 x 1m scale (showing wider area)
74	E	Church foundations [108], west door, 1 x 1m scale (showing wider area)
75	E	Church foundations [108], west door, 1 x 1m scale
76	E	Church foundations [108], (detail), west door, 1 x 1m scale
77	E	Church foundations [108], west door, 1 x 1m scale
78	E	Church foundations [108], west door, 1 x 1m scale
79	E	Church foundations [108], (detail), west door, 1 x 1m scale, no board
80	E	Pad north [109], 1 x 1m scale
81	E	Pad north [109], 1 x 1m scale
82	E	Pad south [110], 1 x 1m scale
83	E	Pad south [110], 1 x 1m scale
84	N	Trench 1 stratigraphy, 1 x 1m scale
85	N	Trench 1 stratigraphy, 1 x 1m scale
86	W	Structure [104], southern end detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
87	W	Structure [104], southern end detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
88	W	Structure [104], central area detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
89	W	Structure [104], northern end detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
90	E	Structure [104], northern end detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
91	E	Structure [104], central area detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
92	E	Structure [104], central area detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
93	E	Structure [104], southern end detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
94	N	Structure [104], southern end detail, & pad north [109], no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
95	E	Pad north [109], & church foundations [108] detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
96	E	Church foundations [108] detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
97	E	Church foundations [108] detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
98	SE	Church foundations [108] detail, pad south [110], no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
99	S	Church foundations [108] detail, pad south [110], structure [104] detail, no board, arrow, or scale, mnemonic aid
100	W	Charnel deposit (105), post removal & SF2, 1 x 0.20m scale
101	W	Charnel deposit (105), post removal & SF2, 1 x 0.20m scale
102	W	Charnel deposit (105), post removal & SF2, 1 x 0.20m scale
103	W	Charnel deposit (105), post removal & SF2, 1 x 0.20m scale
104	W	Charnel deposit (105), post removal & SF2, 1 x 0.20m scale
105	W	Charnel deposit (105), post removal & SF2, 1 x 0.20m scale, no board, for photogrammetry
106	E	Trench 1, 2 x 1m scales
107	E	Trench 1, 2 x 1m scales



Shot	View	Subject
108	S	Trench 2, 1 x 2m scale
109	W	Trench 2, stratigraphy, 1 x 2m scale
110	E	Trench 3, 2 x 1m scales
111	S	Trench 3, stratigraphy, 1 x 1m scale
112	W	Trench 3, 1x 2m scales
113	N	Trench 2, 1 x 2m scale
114	W	Trench 1, 1 x 2m scale
115	SE	Trench 4, 2 x 1m scales
116	SE	Trench 4, 2 x 1m scales
117	NW	Trench 4, 2 x 1m scales
118	NW	Trench 4, 2 x 1m scales
119	NE	Trench 4, stratigraphy, 1 x 1m scale
120	N	Trench 5, 2 x 1m scales
121	N	Trench 5, 2 x 1m scales
122	N	Trench 5, 2 x 1m scales
123	S	Trench 5, 2 x 1m scales
124	S	Trench 5, 2 x 1m scales
125	S	Trench 5, 2 x 1m scales
126	E	Trench 5, stratigraphy (narrow area), 1 x 1m scale
127	NE	Trench 5, wider end, 2 x 1 m scales
128	NE	Trench 5, wider end, 2 x 1 m scales
129	NE	Trench 5, wider end, 2 x 1 m scales
130	SW	Trench 5, wider end, 2 x 1 m scales
131	SW	Trench 5, wider end, 2 x 1 m scales
132	SW	Trench 5, wider end, 2 x 1 m scales
133	SW	Trench 5, wider end, 2 x 1 m scales
134	SW	Trench 5, wider end, 2 x 1 m scales
135	SW	Trench 5, wider end, 2 x 1 m scales
136	SW	Trench 5, wider end, 2 x 1 m scales
137	SW	Trench 5, wider end, 2 x 1 m scales
138	NW	Trench 5, stratigraphy (wider area), 1 x 1m scale
139	NW	Trench 5, stratigraphy (wider area), 1 x 1m scale
140	NW	Trench 5, stratigraphy (wider area), 1 x 1m scale
141	NW	Trench 6, soakaway, 1 x 1m scale
142	NW	Trench 6, soakaway, 1 x 1m scale
143	NW	Trench 6, soakaway, 1 x 1m scale
144	NW	Trench 6, soakaway, 1 x 1m scale



Shot	View	Subject
145	NE	Trench 6, soakaway, square end, 2 x 1m scales
146	NE	Trench 6, soakaway, square end, 2 x 1m scales
147	NW	Trench 6, square end stratigraphy, 1 x 1m scale
148	NW	Trench 6, square end, 2 x 1m scale
149	NW	Trench 6, square end, 2 x 1m scale
150	SW	Trench 6, narrow trench stratigraphy, 1 x 1m scale
151	SW	Trench 6, narrow trench stratigraphy, 1 x 1m scale
152	S	Trench 7, 1 x 1m scale
153	S	Trench 7, 1 x 1m scale
154	W	Trench 7, stratigraphy 1, 1 x 1m scale
155	SE	Trench 7, 2 x 1m scale
156	SE	Trench 7, 2 x 1m scale
157	SE	Trench 7, 2 x 1m scale
158	SW	Trench 7, stratigraphy 2, 1 x 1m scale
159	SW	Trench 7, stratigraphy 2, 1 x 1m scale
160	SW	Trench 7, stratigraphy 2, 1 x 1m scale
161	NW	Trench 8
162	NW	Trench 8




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**Appendix 2: Finds Concordance**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Measurements</b>	<b>Notes</b>
102	pot handle	1			Not collected
104	tile	1	1.6kg	23x12x3 cms	
104	mortar		15g		
105	coffin handle (iron)	1		20cm wide x 6.7cm, handle 10.6cm wide	Not collected
109	tile sample	1	3.85kg	23x22x5 cms	
110	tile	1	1.45kg	17x12x5 cms	
Trench 2	coffin handles (iron)	2		20cm wide x 6.7cm, handle 10.6cm wide	Not collected
Trench 3	coffin handles (iron)	2		20cm wide x 6.7cm, handle 10.6cm wide	Not collected



## Appendix 3: Excavation Summary Tables: Context Register

Context	Type	Measurements (m)			Description			Orientation	Filled by	Interpretation
		W	L	D/H	Colour/Shape	Texture/Sides	Consistency/Base			
101	Layer			0.16	Dark greyish brown	Silty sand	Soft			Topsoil
102	Deposit			≥1	Mid-reddish brown	Silty sand	Soft to compact			Made-ground. Contained pot handle.
103	Layer			>0.4	Mid-reddish brown	Silty sand	Firm to compact			Natural
104	Structure	1-1.10m (W-E)	>3.40m (N-S)	0.5m						Structure comprised of clunch, ironstone, and lime mortar. Floor tile on top of masonry and in courses forming the body of structure (105). Much of the structure is covered in lime mortar. Alcove surrounding bones measures 0.70m north to south and 0.50m west to east, 0.27cm deep so far. At least two courses of tile in projection to south of bone pile (105) and five courses of tile to north.
105	Charnel deposit	0.40m (W-E)	>0.70m (N-S)	≤0.2m						Human remains. Collection of 4 skulls, limb bones and 2 halves of pelvis grouped with limb bones to east and west and placed oriented north south with skulls in between and pelvis parts between skulls. All within an area of >0.70m (N-S) and 0.40m (W-E). Skeletal elements, at least one, continue under masonry to north. Further bone elements are visible to east and west. All visible limb bones appear to be fused so all probably adult. Iron coffin handle within bone pile adjacent to skull in centre of assemblage: it is oriented roughly NW-SE, and has 2 metal projections and at least 3 holes (SF1). Another is visible beneath the bone pile and an iron point or hook, possibly similar to the two visible on the uppermost plate, extends from under the northern masonry. More human remains evident under (105) and metal (iron) plate left <i>in situ</i> ; all photographed. Remains left <i>in situ</i> comprised humerus, femur, two wings of pelvis and sacrum. Pelvis and humerus stratigraphically under iron plate (SF2). Plate measures c. 0.30m long x 0.12m wide.
106	Structure	>0.4m	0.6m	0.22m						Northern post-pad: Distinct 0.20m diameter hole in clunch block, and 0.15m deep. Hole appears to have been carved-out, and is likely to have supported the base of a post. Matches post pad (107) to south.
107	Structure	0.28m	0.97m	0.2m						Southern post-pad: Relatively distinct 0.22m hole or hollow in contiguous clunch blocks, but not as discrete as post pad to north. This hole appears to be formed/cut within a series of contiguous blocks and is not as well defined as counterpart to north. Apparent depth is 0.20m.
108	Structure	>0.5m	>3.40m	>0.3m						Church, west wall foundations: Dressed clunch almost completely covered with lime mortar. Southern half comprised of one course of large (0.20m wide x 0.18m high) clunch blocks and northern comprised of smaller clunch (0.15 wide x 0.05-0.13m high) and undressed iron stone.
109	Structure	0.30m	0.35m	0.28m						North projection: Small pile of clunch and one block of roughly dressed clunch, topped by a floor tile. Adjacent to church west wall foundations.





Context	Type	Measurements (m)			Description			Orientation	Filled by	Interpretation
		W	L	D/H	Colour/Shape	Texture/Sides	Consistency/Base			
110	Structure	0.40m	0.5m	0.35m						South projection: Large pile of roughly hewn and undressed blocks of clunch and occasional tile fragments. The top is plastered with lime mortar. Adjacent to church west wall foundations.
201	Layer			0.16	Dark greyish brown	Silty sand	Soft			Topsoil
202	Deposit			≥1	Mid-reddish brown	Silty sand	Soft to compact			Made-ground
203	Layer			>0.4	Mid-reddish brown	Silty sand	Firm to compact			Natural
301	Layer			0.16	Dark greyish brown	Silty sand	Soft			Topsoil
302	Deposit			≥1	Mid-reddish brown	Silty sand	Soft to compact			Made-ground
303	Layer			>0.4	Mid-reddish brown	Silty sand	Firm to compact			Natural
401	Layer			0.05 - 0.09	Dark greyish brown	Silty sand	Soft			Topsoil
402	Deposit			>0.31-0.35	Mid-reddish brown	Silty sand	Soft to compact			Made-ground
501	Layer			0.05-0.09	Dark greyish brown	Silty sand	Soft			Topsoil
502	Deposit			>0.31-0.35	Mid-reddish brown	Silty sand	Soft to compact			Made-ground
601	Layer			0.05 - 0.20	Dark greyish brown	Silty sand	Soft			Topsoil
602	Deposit			0.01-0.25	Mid-reddish brown	Silty sand	Soft to compact			Made-ground
603	Layer			0.01->0.70	Dark greyish brown	Silty sand	Soft to firm			Subsoil
701	Layer			0.05-0.12	Dark greyish brown	Silty sand	Soft			Topsoil
702	Deposit			0.58-0.65	Mid-reddish brown	Silty sand	Soft to compact			Made-ground

## Plan Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
1	1	1:20	Plan of structural remains [104, 106-110] at west end of church, and location of chanel deposit (105).

## Section Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Contexts
1	2	1:10	East facing elevation of structure [104]
1	3	1:10	West facing elevation of church foundations [108]
2	4	1:10	West facing elevation of structure [104]
2	5	1:10	West facing section of posthole [106]
2	6	1:10	West facing section of posthole [107]

## Registered Finds

Registered Find No.	Context No.	Material	Description
SF1	105	Iron	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century coffin handle
SF2	105	Iron	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century coffin handle



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## Appendix 4: Specialist Reports

### 4.1 Human Remains: Great Brickhill Church (489/GBC)

Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA

Osteological analysis is principally employed to determine the general identity of individuals and of a burial community by estimating their particular traits visible on human skeletal remains. This summary analysis was undertaken on a collection of disarticulated charnel remains recovered from St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill, to determine the age at time of death, biological sex and to record and diagnose any pathological manifestations and lesions visible on the bone.

Skeletal elements required for analysis were washed prior to analysis using cool water and a soft headed toothbrush. The remaining bone was macroscopically studied to determine developmental and pathological anomalies on, or within, the bone. The individuals were analysed and recorded following the recommendations set out by Brickley & McKinley (2004) and all findings were recorded using KDK Skeletal Recording spreadsheets produced in Excel following the guidelines set out in Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). Photographs were compiled of pathological and developmental conditions and the lesions were recorded and described.

The assessment of the biological sex of the individuals was determined were based on the morphological characteristics of the skull and pelvic regions (Schwartz 1995, 280-281: Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994: Buikstra and Mielke 1985: Phenice 1969: Milner 1992: Acsadi and Nemeskeri 1970), and metric data (Stewart 1979). The degenerative changes of the auricular surface (Lovejoy *et al.* 1985), and the pubic symphysis (Brooks and Suchey 1990 and Todd 1921 a & b) were used to assess the age at time of death for one of the individuals.

Four skulls were removed from charnel deposit (105). All were adults aged between 19 and 48 years at the time of their death. Two of the individuals were identified as being female (SK2 and 3), one was probable female (SK1) and one was male (SK4). Both SK2 and SK3 were partially complete and did not possess any recordable dentition, therefore, their estimated ages of between 19-48 relied solely on suture closure (Meindl and Lovejoy 1985). Cranial sutures generally close (fuse) with advancing age; however, the rate of these closures vary between individuals meaning that there is poor correlation between the stage of fusion and chronological age (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994:32). As a result, this method of age estimation is only employed when no other method is available, or it can be used in conjunction with other techniques. These two individual displayed no visible pathological conditions.

SK1 was a probable female. Age was determined through dental attrition (Scott 1992; Brothwell 1981) which produced a date range of between 22-35 years at time of death. It was evident through the wear pattern on the teeth that this individual favoured chewing on their left side as the left molars showed slightly greater attrition. Although dental wear was minimal, this individual suffered severe ante-mortem tooth loss and much of her dentition was absent. The amount of healing undertaken within the jaw would indicate that this issue was occurring long before death. Ante-mortem tooth loss (AMTL) is the loss of a tooth during lifetime. In adults,



this dental pathology can be linked to age, trauma, diet and poor oral hygiene (Roberts and Manchester 2005: 73-74). Due to the predicted age of this individual, it is unlikely that age was a factor in this pathology. This individual showed signs of periodontal disease which is a consequence of gingivitis, an inflammation of the gums that is often caused by an excess of calculus and poor dental hygiene (Plate 1 & 2). Resorption of the alveolar bone and loss of the periodontal ligament supporting the teeth can ultimately lead to ante-mortem tooth loss (Robert and Manchester 2005: 73-74; White and Folkens 2005: 330). Subgingival calculus was visible on all remaining teeth; however, this was slight. Dental calculus (plaque) is made up of micro-organisms that accumulate in the mouth and are found within a matrix that consists of not only the organisms themselves but from proteins in the saliva also. Dental plaque can become mineralized into dental calculus where crystallites of mineral are deposited in the plaque. Two types of calculus can be seen: supragingival which is above the gum and subgingival which is below the gum (Hillson, 1968: 284; Roberts and Manchester 2005:71-72; White and Folkens 2005:330).

Most of the sockets of this individual appeared fully healed, although the socket that would have held the right M2 shows signs of minimal healing meaning that the tooth was lost shortly before death. The reason for this loss may have been caused by an abscess located near to where the root would have been (Plate 1). Although abscesses can be a result of periodontal disease, dental abscesses can also develop as a direct result of dental caries, attrition or trauma exposing pulp cavity which in turn allowing bacteria to infiltrate the cavity. Here micro-organisms accumulate in the pulp cavity, inflammation occurs and dead cells and bacteria (pus) collect. This builds up of pus and pressure can eventually create a hole or sinus in the jawbone allowing the pus to escape, an in turn may also lead to ante mortem tooth loss (AMTL; Roberts and Manchester 2005:70). The abscess was 5.12mm in diameter and had rolled and thickened rim.

Evidence of mild periostitis over the left eye socket of this individual is shown in Plate 3. Periostitis is a non-specific inflammation of the bone initially seen as fine pitting and longitudinal striation that leads to plaque-like new bone formation on the cortical surface. Such reactions are frequently associated with infection and trauma and are among the most common abnormalities encountered on human remains (Roberts and Manchester 2005: 172-174; Waldron 2009:172). It is possible that this lesion may have been the result of a localised infection around the left eye, but it is also possible that the individual received a strike to the head prior to death, whether this is an accidental bump or the result of interpersonal violence cannot be determined.

Skull SK4 was that of an adult male aged between 20-35 years at the time of death. Like SK1, this individual's age was estimated through the analysis of dental attrition (Scott 1992; Brothwell 1981). The molars on the left side of the jaw were more worn than the right; this may have been due to the presence of a lateral (buccal) caries above the neck of the upper right 3<sup>rd</sup> molar (Plate 4). The presence of this lesion would have caused discomfort and sensitivity on the right side of the mouth forcing the individual to chew on the opposite side. Dental caries occur in the form of small opaque spots on the teeth surface or as cavities. An infectious and transmissible disease that is caused by the fermentation of food by bacteria that is present on



the teeth in plaque. Two areas of the tooth may be affected: the crown of the tooth, and the roots, both of which can allow the accumulation of plaque to develop (Roberts and Manchester 2005:65-71; Hillson 1986: 287; White and Folkens 2005: 329). Moderate Periodontal disease was also present in this individual and slight subgingival calculus was visible on the buccal side of the teeth (Plate 4).

A further 19 disarticulated bones were recovered from the charnel assemblage. Amongst these were the pelvis of a female aged 60+, the mandible of a female whose dentition echoed the AMTL of SK1 and several long bones, some of which were identified as being male (femur and scapula). All the remains recovered from this area were adult and were in good condition and are recorded in the table below (Table 1). The articulated pelvis and sacrum of an adult male were left *in situ* and no further analysis could be undertaken. It is clear from assemblage (105) that the minimum number of individuals (MNI) was four. Further disarticulated remains were collected throughout the programme of works but these were not analysed.

Due to the small sample of individuals recovered it is impossible to infer a good representative demographic profile for the burial population. What could be discerned was that these individuals displayed features and maladies typically found within a post-medieval population. Tooth decay and dental pathologies were present in the individuals where dentition could be recorded and one individual, SK1, showed signs of possible trauma to the cranium.

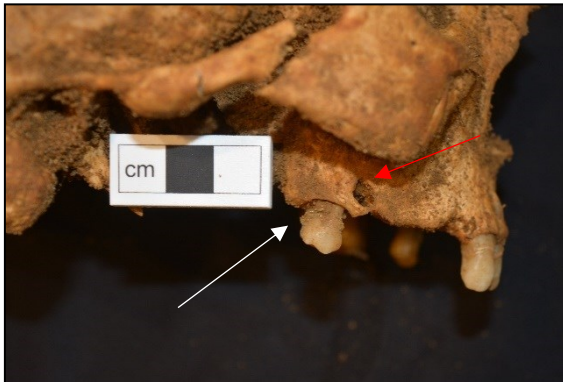


Fig 1. SK1. Dental abscess above second right molar (red arrow). N.B Periodontal disease and dental calculus (white arrow)

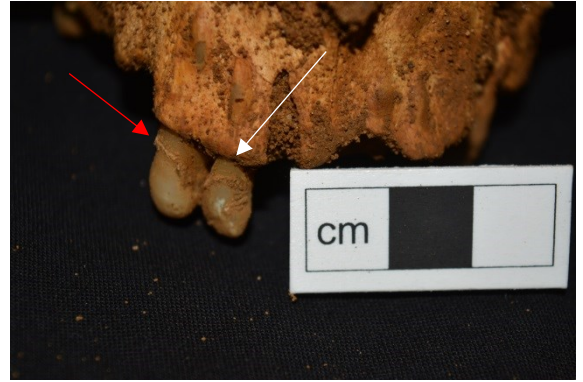


Fig 2. SK1. Dental calculus (red arrow) and Periodontal disease (white arrow)



Fig 3. SK1. Periostitis above the left eye socket

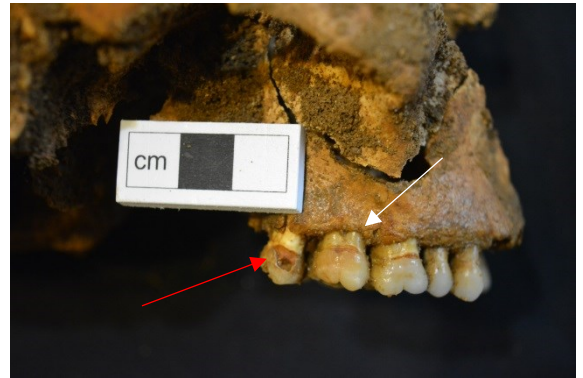


Fig 4. SK4. Dental caries on the upper right third molar (red arrow). N.B. Periodontal disease (white arrow)





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Area	Skeletal element	Portion	Side	Completeness	Fragments	Age	Sex
Cranial	Cranium	Complete	N/A	C >75%	1	Ad	F?
	Cranium	Complete	N/A	P=25-75%	4	Ad	F
	Cranium	Complete	N/A	P=25-75%	3	Ad	F
	Cranium	Complete	N/A	C >75%	2	Ad	M
	Mandible	Complete	N/A	C >75%	1	Ad	F
	Zygomatic	Orbital rim, zy. Arch	R	P=25-75%	1	Ad	undetermined
	Temporal	Mastoid process	R	P=25-75%	1	Ad	F
Axial	Rib	Body	R	P=25-75%	1	Ad	undetermined
	Rib	Body	R	P=25-75%	1	Ad	undetermined
	Rib	Body	R	P=25-75%	1	Ad	undetermined
	Rib	Body	R	F<25%	1	Ad	undetermined
Appendicular	Pelvis	Complete	L	C >75%	1		F
	Pelvis	Complete	R	C >75%	1	MA	F
	Femur	Complete	L	C >75%	1	Adult	M
	Radius	Complete	L	C >75%	1	Adult	undetermined
	Tibia	Complete	R	C >75%	1	Adult	undetermined
	Humerus	Complete	R	C >75%	1	Adult	undetermined
	Scapula	Complete	R	F<25%	1	Adult	M
	Radius	Complete	L	C >75%	1	Adult	undetermined
	Ulna	Complete	L	C >75%	1	Adult	undetermined
	Ulna	Complete	R	C >75%	1	Adult	undetermined
	Fibula	Complete	L	P=25-75%	2	Adult	undetermined
Total Count					29		
MNI					4		

**Table 1.** List of all skeletal elements recovered from charnel deposit (105)

#### 4.2 Pottery and CBM from Great Brickhill Church, Bucks (Site 489/GBC)



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*Paul Blinkhorn*

### **Pottery**

A single sherd of unstratified pottery weighing 25g was noted. It is a rod handle from a glazed jug in Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware, fabric MSC4 in the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992) and broadly dateable to the 13<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. It is typical of the tradition, and such vessels are a fairly common find in the region.

### **CBM**

Three paving tiles were examined. The first, which was from (109), weighed 3.85 kg and measured 220mm x 220mm x 40mm. It is in a fairly hard, red sandy fabric with red grog up to 3mm. There is no evidence of glazing, and it is of post-medieval, probably 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century, date. The second, a fragment of a very similar tile which appears to be of the same date, weighed 1.45kg and came from the collapsed wall (110). None of its original dimensions survived other than thickness, which was 42mm. The final example, from context 104, weighed 1.6kg and was in a similar fabric to the other two, but was thinner, at 30mm, although it did survive to a width of 215mm which suggests that if it was originally square, it was otherwise of a similar size and the same date.

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Zeepvat, RJ, Roberts, JS and King, NA, 1994 *Caldecotte, Milton Keynes. Excavation and Fieldwork 1966-91* Bucks Archaeol Soc Monog Ser 4



## Appendix 5: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
<b>Project Name &amp; Address</b>	St Mary's Church, Gt. Brickhill, Bucks	<b>Project Site Code</b>	489/GBC
<b>OASIS reference</b>	kdkarcha1-366383	<b>Event/Accession no</b>	AYBCM : 2019.133
<b>OS reference</b>	SP 90114 30786	<b>Study area size</b>	56.61m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Project Type</b>	Watching Brief	<b>Height (mAOD)</b>	140m AOD
<b>Short Description</b>	From October 2020 to June 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation & Recording at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire, for the construction of a single storey WC extension attached to the west end of the nave, and trenches for the emplacement of services/drainage. The soil profile revealed in all of the trenches consisted largely of made-ground typically generated by activities related to the construction of the church and use of the churchyard, and disarticulated human remains, derived from disturbed burials, were frequently encountered. The remains of a medieval masonry structure built of ironstone and clunch was discovered to the west of the church, the southern return wall of which had collapsed. The west wall of the structure was partially rebuilt to form a makeshift charnel house for burials that had been disturbed in the 19th century when the church was extensively restored. Re-used medieval masonry was also exposed along the length of the west wall which had been rebuilt and the window replaced c.1826. This not only acted as a supplement to the original foundations, but also a base for the ledger slab that had been placed beneath the west door to act as a step.		
<b>Previous work</b>	None	<b>Site status</b>	Grade II* listed building
<b>Planning proposal</b>	Single storey WC extension attached to the west end of the Nave	<b>Current land use</b>	Parish Church
<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	AVDC	<b>Planning application ref.</b>	18/04139/APP
<b>Monument type</b>	Church	<b>Monument period</b>	Medieval
<b>Significant finds</b>	Human remains, ceramic handle, masonry structure	<b>Future work</b>	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
<b>Organisation</b>	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
<b>Project Brief originator</b>	BCAS	<b>Project Design originator</b>	KDK Archaeology Ltd
<b>Project Manager</b>	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA	<b>Director/Supervisor</b>	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA
<b>Sponsor/funding body</b>	Vicar and Churchwardens of St Mary the Virgin, c/o N. Cook, Green Farm Stoke Lane Great Brickhill, Milton Keynes, MK17 9AQ		
PROJECT DATE			
<b>Start date</b>	26.11.2020	<b>End date</b>	04.12.2020
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	<b>Location</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)</b>	
<b>Physical</b>	Buckinghamshire County Museum (Accession number AYBCM: 2019.133)	Pot handle, coffin/casket handles, tile, mortar samples	
<b>Paper</b>		WSI, report, field drawings,	
<b>Digital</b>		Digital photographs, fieldwork sheets, and report uploaded to ADS.	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			



<b>Title</b>	Archaeological Observation and Recording Report: Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire		
<b>Serial title &amp; volume</b>	489/GBC/2.1		
<b>Author(s)</b>	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA & Derek Watson PhD		
<b>Page no's</b>	58	<b>Date</b>	04.03.2021