

Archaeology Wales

Oteley Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Archaeological Watching Brief 2016



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Report No. 1454 -
Version 2

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Ltd. It draws upon the results of a watching brief on land at Oteley Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. The archaeological work has been undertaken to satisfy a condition of Planning Application 13/00893/FUL (Shropshire County Council) for the construction of residential properties with associated access, drainage and landscaping.

The former Parish Church of St. John, which origins have been documented as possibly 12th to 13th century (PRN10580) is located adjacent to the southeast corner of the development site. The church is Grade II listed (Historic England 1270749). There is evidence for medieval activity (AD 1066-1540) within the general scheme area; approximately 100m east of the development site, a number of features associated with the deserted medieval village of 'Sudtone' have been excavated (PRNs 00087 & ESA4274).*

Previous archaeological work within the development site significantly includes a cultural heritage assessment undertaken by Andrew Josephs Associates (2012) and a field evaluation undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (Smith 2012). The results of the archaeological work resulted in Areas A and B being categorized as having medium and high archaeological potential, respectively.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken intermittently during June 2014 and October 2016, and it was divided into two parts: Area A located to the western end of the site, and Area B located in the land adjacent to St. John's Church. Whilst area A produced no archaeological features or deposits, Area B produced significant archaeological results. The latter include 35 sherds of abraded 13th to 14th century pottery found during the 2014 watching brief, as recorded in the Archaeology Wales interim report (Smith 2016). Further archaeological features were found during monitoring between August and October 2016; these significantly include the probable medieval foundations of St John's Church in addition to demolition rubble and animal burials within the churchyard. Other deposits and pits were also identified within Area B.

As a result of the archaeological work undertaken at Oteley Road, it appears unlikely that medieval settlement extended into the development site to the west of the Church of St John (PRN 10580). However, the positive results of the archaeological work indicate there is a moderate potential for further medieval and post-medieval archaeology located in the area surrounding the development site.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 Between June 2014 and February 2015 Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) carried out a watching brief on land adjacent to Oteley Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. The development area comprises approximately 10 hectares of agricultural land and former farm buildings, to the north of Oteley Road. The site is centred at NGR SJ 50078 10459 (Figures 1 & 2) and located at an approximate altitude of 60m above Ordnance Datum (OD). This report replaces the interim watching brief AW Report 1454.
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was undertaken following on from a cultural heritage assessment (Josephs 2012) and field evaluation (Smith 2012). The programme of archaeological work has been implemented to satisfy Condition 28 of Planning Application 13/00893/FUL (Shropshire Council).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was carried out during groundworks on the site at the request of Andrew Josephs Associates (henceforth - AJA) on behalf of Taylor Wimpey North Midlands Ltd.
- 1.1.4 Between August and October 2016 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out further monitoring on the site in advance of the excavation of two new housing plots and landscaping the area around St. John's Church.
- 1.1.5 The results of the Heritage Assessment (Josephs 2012) and the Field Evaluation (Smith 2012) suggested that the south-western edge of the site is of medium archaeological potential (Area A) whilst the area around the former parish church of St John (Area B) is of high archaeological potential. The watching brief was therefore intensive in the area around the former parish church (Area B).
- 1.1.6 A WSI for the watching brief (Appendix IV) was drawn up by Mark Houliston (AW) and Andrew Josephs (AJA) which was subsequently approved by Dr Andy Wigley, Natural & Historic Environment Manager, Shropshire Council.
- 1.1.7 The AW project number for the work is 2090 and the site codes are ORS/14/WB and ORS/16/WB. The project details are summarised on the Archive Cover Sheet (Appendix V).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the site is composed of Halesowen Formation (mudstone, siltstone and sandstone). This is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 307 to 309 million years ago (Carboniferous) from rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits,

with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium, and some bogs depositing peat (British Geological Survey, 2017).

- 1.2.2 The superficial deposits in this area comprise sand and gravel (Devensian). These are glaciofluvial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago (Quaternary) from glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till during seasonal and post glacial meltwaters (British Geological Survey 2017).
- 1.2.3 The site is located on the southern outskirts of Shrewsbury. It is bounded to the south by the route of the B4380 and to the north by the course of the Rea Brook. Most of the eastern and southeast areas have been developed with residential units. The former Church of St. John is now the '*The Greek Orthodox Church of the 318 God-Bearing fathers of Nicea*'. There is a small industrial plot to the northwest of site, and some new development has already taken place during the last year to the southwest.
- 1.2.4 The site was more recently ploughed arable fields with a subsoil that contained mostly dumped materials that represent levelling deposits.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 In 2012, a detailed cultural heritage assessment of the development site was produced by Andrew Josephs Associates (PRN ESA6921). Below is a brief summary of the archaeological and historical background to the assessment area and its surroundings.
- 1.3.2 The landscape immediately surrounding the development site contains a number of archaeological features dating from the Neolithic (*circa* 4,400-2,300 BC) and Bronze Age (*circa* 2,300-700 BC) periods. In 1965 a number of prehistoric features were identified some 380m to the east of the development site (PRNs 00085 & ESA4272). These comprised a Neolithic pit and linear ditches together with Neolithic pottery, a Bronze Age Ring ditch and urn, a Bronze Age cremation cemetery containing charcoal, cremated bone and pottery and some undated linear features. Further Neolithic features including a causewayed ditch, possible palisade and residual Neolithic pottery are located 100m to the east of the site (PRN ESA4274).
- 1.3.3 Only a limited number of Iron Age (*circa* 700 BC – AD43) and Roman (AD 43-410) monuments are recorded within the wider landscape. Though the Roman town of Wroxeter, the fourth largest Roman settlement in Britain, is only 6.5km to the southeast, and the disputed line of a Roman road passes either directly to the north or south of the site, during the Roman period Shrewsbury does not appear to have been a settlement of any significance (Josephs 2012).
- 1.3.4 An archaeological excavation in 2005, in advance of the construction of a new football stadium, located two circular drip gullies dating from the Late Iron Age. Late

Iron Age / early Roman activity was represented by a double ditched enclosure. Ceramic analysis dated this phase to the 1st-2nd century AD (Josephs 2012).

- 1.3.5 Notwithstanding its proximity to Shrewsbury, and being within the Hundred of Shrewsbury, in the Late Saxon period (AD 850-1066) the township of Sutton belonged to Wenlock Priory, located some 18km to the southeast. The translated Domesday Book entry of 1086 reads 'The church [of St. Mildeburga, i.e. Wenlock Priory] itself held and holds Sudtone'; there was 1 hide, eight men (freemen and villains) and four ploughs and it was worth 16 shillings, a rise from the 12 shillings of its 1066 valuation.
- 1.3.6 The Domesday entry would suggest a fairly small settlement and there is no mention of either a church or a mill. Whilst the absence of a reference to the former does not prove that there was no church, the Survey being concerned mainly with income, the lack of any reference to a mill probably indicates that one did not then exist despite the proximity of the Rea Brook.
- 1.3.7 There is further evidence for medieval activity (AD 1066-1540) within the general scheme area. Approximately 100m east of the development site, a number of features associated with the deserted medieval village of 'Sudtone' have been excavated (PRNs 00087 & ESA4274). The medieval features include a large 13th or 14th century baking oven; a gully-defined sub-rectangular structure, possibly a longhouse; seven further ovens and a sunken floor of large stones in association with which were large quantities of 13th and 14th century pottery. An 18th century furnace or kiln and a deeply rutted cobbled road were also found.
- 1.3.8 The former parish church of St. John is located adjacent to the southeast corner of the development site. The church has 12th or early 13th century origins and possibly replaced an earlier timber structure (PRN 10580). The church is Grade II* listed (Historic England 127049).
- 1.3.9 At the dissolution of Wenlock Priory, Sutton church became the charge of the owner of the manor, John Mackworth. The church appears to have been in fairly poor condition, because it had to be re-roofed in the later 16th century; a pulpit and reading desk in the church are dated to 1582, which could also date the present roof trusses (Morris cited in Josephs 2012).
- 1.3.10 The church was still in use during the mid-19th century, and burials took place in the aisle in 1851 and 1853. In 1886 it was 'used as a farm building, the roof ruinous, windows unglazed, and the door open to sheep which grazed in the churchyard...the Norman font and holy table remaining in the general neglect'. Local protests resulted in Lord Berwick, still the impropiator, funding repairs to the roof and also railing the churchyard. In 1887 the Archdeacon wrote that 'through the liberality of Lord Berwick, the preservation of the remains in the future, and the protection of the consecrated ground, had been secured in a most satisfactory manner' (Morris cited in Josephs 2012).

- 1.3.11 In the post-medieval period (AD 1540-1900) there were small and unsuccessful coal mines sunk in the southern part of the parish (PRN 06777), part of the Shrewsbury coalfield. Coal was discovered near to the town as early as the 16th century but the output of the field was always fairly small. At its peak in the mid-19th century there were around 300 miners, mainly around Hanwood and Asterley, but by that time the Sutton section, apparently mainly productive in the 18th century, had been worked out. There were still cottages to the south of Sutton called 'Coalpit Cottages' until the early 20th century (Josephs 2012).
- 1.3.12 The 2012 field evaluation (PRN 31242-3, ESA6855) identified no archaeological features and finds apart from those trenches located adjacent to the former parish church of St. John. Within the latter trenches were found several sherds of medieval ceramics retrieved from the subsoil. A cut grave containing a double dog burial of possible medieval date was also located within this area. The area around the church was thus deemed likely to be of higher archaeological potential than the remainder of the development site.

1.4 Map Regression

- 1.4.1 The earliest representation of St. John's Church (PRN 10580) and Sutton Manor House (PRN 01596) is on the 19th century '*Part of Shropshire*' map by Henry Stevens. This map was started in 1817 but was not published till 1827. While it is very faint, as the map has several corrections, buildings can be discerned that correspond with the location of the church, the house, and also the pond.
- 1.4.2 The Church of St. John's Church is clearly depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Map for Shropshire (XXXIV.SE), surveyed 1881 and published in 1884. On this map the church is annotated as '*Disused*'; Sutton House is marked on this edition as well as the pond to the west of the house and a foot pathway that runs from southwest to northeast along the western side of the buildings. Features shown in the surrounding area include Sutton Corn Mill (PRN 01548) and a Roman road (PRN 08159) to the north of the site. To the northwest is located Sutton Farm (PRN 27742) and the Old Corn Mill (PRN 15621); to the southwest the 'Coalpit Houses'; and to the south Sutton Hall (PRN 01596) (Figures 4-6).
- 1.4.3 The OS 3rd Edition Map for Shropshire (XXXIV.SE), revised 1938 and published in 1947, shows that a sewage works had been built on the site of the Old Corn Mill (Plate 6).
- 1.4.4 The pond shown on the 1827 and 1884 maps appears to have drained and backfilled during the 1990s, as this feature appears on all of the OS surveys until the late 1980s.

2 Aims and Objectives of the Watching Brief

2.1 The aims of an archaeological watching brief, as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2014) are:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
- To ensure that any buried remains located within the development area are fully investigated and recorded if revealed as a consequence of the site works.
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, 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.

3 Methodology

3.1 *Watching Brief Fieldwork*

3.1.1 During the 2014 watching brief, the intermittent monitoring of topsoil stripping and drainage infrastructure works was undertaken in Area A (Figure 2). Intensive monitoring of further groundworks (including both topsoil stripping and drainage works) was undertaken in Area B (Figure 2) (Smith 2016). Intensive monitoring of all groundworks was undertaken in Areas A and B, and this included further stripping of topsoil around St. John's Church, excavation of drainage trenches across the site, and the excavation of house footings for Plot 267 and Plot 270 in Areas A and B respectively (Figures 7-10).

3.1.2 Area A measured approximately 270x42m (11,340m²) whilst Area B measured 70x80m (5,600m²).

3.1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Aherne, Andy Shobbrook, Ian Davies, Chris E. Smith and Janey Green. The overall management of the project was undertaken by Mark Houlston (MCIfA) and Kate Pitt (ACIfA). All areas were photographed using high resolution digital photography in *RAW format with images converted to TIFF format for long term storage.

3.1.4 The on-site illustrations were undertaken on drafting film using recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20 and 1:50, as appropriate).

3.1.5 All works were undertaken in accordance with the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Small finds were georeferenced with DGPS and a register made.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental Evidence

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for sampling were encountered during the fieldwork.

4 Results of the Watching Brief

4.1 Interventions and Ground Conditions

- 4.1.1 Areas A and B both contained modern dumped material, now covered with grass. These deposits are potentially contemporary with extensive residential development in the surrounding area. Topsoil varied in thickness across the development site, recorded as over 0.20m thick in Area B and up to 0.45m thick in Area A.
- 4.1.2 As the watching brief was undertaken over a comparatively long period, between June 2014 and October 2016, weather and ground conditions varied from dry and fine to both flooded and frozen.
- 4.1.3 Archaeological features identified during the investigation were located in Plot 267 in Area A, Plot 270 in Area B, and at the Old Churchyard adjacent to St. John's Church (also Area B).

4.2 Area A: Evaluation 2012 & Watching Brief 2014

Drainage Infrastructure, (Figures 3-4; Plates 1-12)

- 4.2.1 In accordance with the results from the heritage assessment (Josephs 2012) and field evaluation (Smith 2012), Area A was deemed to be of medium archaeological potential. It measured 270x42m and was subject to both topsoil stripping and excavation for drainage infrastructure.
- 4.2.2 Removal of the topsoil and the excavation of service trenches in this area were undertaken by machine. The groundwork was subject to intermittent archaeological supervision.
- 4.2.3 Monitoring of the topsoil strip (Plates 1-6) was undertaken along the length of a new road layout. Excavation of a mains drainage run (Plates 7-12) beneath the centre of the road was subject to intermittent monitoring. The service trench extended along the length of the proposed road within Area A; this being some 270m long and 2m

wide. The trench was excavated on average 2.00m deep. During excavation of this trench no finds or cut features were noted.

4.3 Area A: Watching Brief 2016 (Figures 5, 7 and 8; Plates 13-23):

- 4.3.1 During excavation of Plot 267 house footings (Area A), in August 2016, some structural features were identified in the northwestern area of the plot. These features were encountered below the subsoil. To illustrate this relationship, a sample of the northwest-facing section stratigraphy was recorded.

Plot 267 Footings: North-west facing sample section in Trench 1 (Plates 15-16)

- 4.3.2 The natural (geological layer) was encountered at an approximate depth of 3.00m below surface (007); this comprised a very compact yellowish brown deposit of sandy river gravels, with patchy areas of orangey-yellow ironstones and degraded black sandstones. It was overlaid by 006, a regularly compact, yellowish grey deposit of clay silts, with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks and a maximum approximate thickness of 1.00m. Deposit 006 was overlaid by 005, a fairly loose, light yellowish brown deposit of silts, river gravels and sand. It was predominantly clean but patchy across the trench and very variable thickness, from 0.15m to 0.40m. These deposits were damp at the moment of the excavation. The latest, 005, was overlaid by 004, a moderately compact, dark brown deposit of clayish silts, with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks, river gravels and round stones, and some roots. Deposit 004 extended across the trench with a maximum approximate thickness of 0.10m.
- 4.3.3 Deposit 003 overlay the subsoil 004. Deposit 003 comprised a compact, mid to dark brown silty deposit of gravels, more sandy towards the base. It contained rubble fragments of tile, slate and bricks. This was disturbed across the trench with a maximum approximate thickness of 0.60m. It was overlaid by 002, a compact, bluish grey-brown deposit of silty clays, present across the trench with a maximum approximate thickness of 0.10m. Layer 002 contained occasional inclusions of charcoal and fragments of slate and CBM intruding from the above layer, 001, a fairly compact, light to mid-brown deposit of silty gravels. Deposit 001 contained very frequent inclusions of modern debris comprising CBM, metal piping, clothing, plastic and slate. Deposit 001 varied in thickness across site, from 0.60m to 1.00m.
- 4.3.4 Originally deposit 004 was considered to be a potential earlier ground surface. However, deposits 004, 005 and 006 (overlying the natural, 007) were subsequently interpreted as resulting from natural processes of sedimentation, related with alluvial plain, redeposited natural sedimentation and colluvium silts sedimentation. Deposit 003 represented dumped modern materials, mixed up with re-deposited natural, and sealed by deposit 002, a layer of silty clayish colluvium from modern times. It was overlaid by 001, the most recent overburden comprising very modern deposit of dumping materials.

Plot 267 Footings: southeast facing section in Trench 1 (Plates 17-20)

- 4.3.5 Two structures (010) (011), positioned side-by-side, were identified above the natural (007). Structure 010 was approximately 0.5m across, and comprised at least two rows of dark red bricks bonded in sandy mortar; the bricks measured *circa* 100mm wide and *circa* 50mm tall (length was not ascertained). Structure 011 abutted structure 010. The former was approximately 0.4m wide. Structure 011 comprised a single row sub-rounded stones, *circa* 0.1m across. Both structures were overlaid by layer 005. A linear feature [014] was located directly to the north of structures 010 and 011, and possibly related to these structures. This feature was aligned northwest to southeast. The linear was not investigated due to the depth of excavation (approximately 3m below ground level).
- 4.3.6 Deposit 005 was overlaid by 016, a compact, darkish grey brown silt, with a maximum approximate thickness of 0.30m. Deposit 016 was overlaid by 015, a compact orangey brown silt, with occasional inclusions of pebbles, and a maximum thickness of approximately 0.15m. This deposit was overlaid by modern overburden (001).
- 4.3.7 Contexts 010 and 011 were interpreted as late or post-medieval structures associated with the manor house next to St John's Church, which has an orchard wall built in the same brick as 010. The cobbled structure 011, which abuts the bricks wall, indicates foundations for this structure were dug into the natural (007).

Plot 267 Footings: Southwest facing section in Trench 2 (Plate 21)

- 4.3.8 The natural (007) was overlain by colluvial silt (004) on top of which was encountered the remains of probable structure (012) comprising a compact, disturbed patch of cobbles and rounded gravels, approximately 1.30m below ground surface. Structure 012 was 0.70m wide and had a maximum thickness of approximately 0.15m. The feature was only visible in section, probably due to previous disturbance by ploughing. Structure 012 was overlaid by the sequence of subsoil (003), topsoil (002) and overburden (001).
- 4.3.9 The date of the cobbled surface was not ascertained, but this feature possibly relates to a trackway similar to those shown on the OS 1884 map.

Plot 267 Footings: Test-hole 2 in Trench 1 (Plates 22-23)

- 4.3.10 At the southwestern end of Trench 1, in Plot 267, a test-hole was excavated over 3.00m in depth. The geological deposits in this test-hole (013) consisted of very compact, wet bluish grey silty clays, with occasional inclusions of organic remains and a maximum thickness of approximately 1.00m. It was overlaid by 009 (=008), a relatively loose mixed modern infill of rubbish, bricks, household items, bottles, etc.

- 4.3.11 Natural deposit 013 was interpreted as formerly the base of an old pond, which could be approximately located in the OS 1884 map. The pond appears to have been infilled and levelled with modern domestic and garden dumping (009=008).

4.4 *Area B: Evaluation 2012 (Figure 9; Plates 24-25)*

- 4.4.1 In accordance with the results from the heritage assessment (Josephs 2012) and field evaluation (Smith 2012), Area B was deemed likely to be of high archaeological potential. It measured approximately 70x80m and was subject to both topsoil stripping and excavation of trenches for drainage infrastructure and house footings.
- 4.4.2 During 2012 Archaeology Wales carried out an archaeological field evaluation (Smith 2012) that consisted of twelve evaluation trenches across the site. Two trenches, 8 and 9, were allocated within the surrounding area of St. John's Church. Each measured 30x1.8m and were arranged so as to form a 'T' shape (Trench 8 ran east-west with trench 9 running north-south, butting the eastern end of trench 8).
- 4.4.3 Underneath the subsoil, two features of significant archaeological value were found cut into the natural deposits at the base of Trench 8 (Figure 9, Plates 24-25). The first was a linear [806] measuring 0.5m wide and running north-south, crossing the trench at 90°. The linear was 0.20m deep with a single fill comprising a compact silt (807). No finds were recovered from this deposit. The second feature [808] was roughly rectangular in shape, measuring 0.70x0.50m. Excavation determined this to be a shallow feature (approximately 0.15m deep) containing the skeletons of two dogs, each deliberately placed. Two sherds of medieval ceramic were recovered from the grave, one directly below the skeleton and another at the base of the cut (Smith 2012).
- 4.4.4 Trench 9, which abutted Trench 8, produced a total of 20 sherds of medieval pottery, retrieved from the subsoil towards the southern end. All of the sherds appeared un-abraded (Smith 2012).
- 4.4.5 Additional archaeological features were found during excavation of the house footings for Plot 270 during October of 2016. These significantly included human remains and the wall footings of the possible medieval layout of the church.

4.5 *Area B: Watching Brief 2014 (Plates 26-27)*

- 4.5.1 Removal of the topsoil across the whole of Area B (Plates 26-27) was undertaken by mechanical excavator and was subject to close archaeological supervision. The topsoil was found to be shallower than that observed in Area A, with a maximum depth of only 0.2m to 0.3m. It was similarly composed of a friable, mid to dark brown, silt with few to no inclusions. 35 sherds of highly abraded medieval ceramics were retrieved from the topsoil in Area B as well as large amounts of dumped modern material that included plastic, litter and bricks (Smith 2016).

- 4.5.2 The subsoil in Area B was patchy in nature and composed of a mid-brown/orange clay with frequent, small, sub rounded gravel inclusions. Where exposed within pipe trenches and manhole excavations, no cut features or finds were noted within this horizon during this intervention.
- 4.5.3 The subsoil overlay natural gravel, which in Area B was encountered between 1m and 1.2m below ground level. No features of anthropogenic origin cutting into the natural were noted within Area B.

4.6 Area B: Watching Brief 2016 (Figures 9-11; Plates 28-60)

Plot 270 Footings (Figure 9, Plates 28-36)

- 4.6.1 The natural (geological deposits) was located between 0.25m and 1.35m below surface (1008). This comprised a fairly loose deposit of silts and river gravels and stones. The natural was encountered throughout all the house and garage footings of Plot 267. It was cut by three different archaeological features:
- Ditch [1005], a fairly regular linear in plan with convex section, visible in the southwest area of the house footings, running possibly in a west-east axis. This feature was approximately 0.80m in width and 0.50m in depth. The ditch was filled by 1006, a compact dark greyish brown deposit of silty and stony sands (Plate 32);
 - Ditch [1003], a fairly regular linear in plan with convex section, visible in the northeast area of the garage footings, running possibly in a northeast-southwest axis. This feature was approximately 0.70m in width and 0.40m in depth. The ditch was filled by 1004, a compact mid-greyish brown deposit of silty stony sands. A piece of medieval jug handle (SF 001) was recovered from this fill (Plates 33-34);
 - Pit [1001] was located in southwest corner of garage footings. This was sub-circular plan, with convex sides. This feature measured approximately 0.90m in diameter and 0.50m in depth. The pit was filled by 1002, a compact greyish brown deposit of silty sands with occasional stone inclusions (Plate 35).
- 4.6.2 The topsoil (1000) (1007) overlying features 1001, 1003 and 1005 comprised sand and gravel (1000) as well as modern rubble (1007). The latter was encountered intermittently within the northern area of Plot 270 (Plate 36).

Stone Foundations of the Church of St. John (Figures 10-11; Plates 37-51)

- 4.6.3 The groundworks undertaken at the front (western) area of St. John's Church involved the stripping of the topsoil (2000) and subsoil (2001) as preparation for further landscaping (Plates 39-41) as well as the excavation of a linear trench for drainage parallel to the western wall of the church.

- 4.6.4 No archaeological remains were identified during excavation of the drainage trench. This excavation followed the line of an older service run.
- 4.6.5 The soil strip for the church pedestrian pathway comprised mostly topsoil removal prior to stoning (Plate 49-51). However, where the subsoil was removed, a number of archaeological features relating to a previous layout of the church were located. These were cleaned, photographed and recorded, but no additional archaeological excavation was undertaken below the level of impact of the development.
- 4.6.6 The most significant feature located in this area was a foundation wall (2003) comprising three large blocks of red sandstone wedged with medium and small red sandstones. The stones were all similar to those used for the church walls. The bonding material was not visible. Wall 2003 measured approximately 1.70m in length and 0.50m in width. It projected to the west from the southern wall of the existing church (Plates 42 & 43). Three finds were recovered during the cleaning of this structure: a piece of pottery (SF 004), a fragment of oyster shell (SF 007) and a metal piece from a possible door or window fitting (SF 008).
- 4.6.7 Two additional linear arrangements of sandstone were located within the area, Structures 2004 (Plate 44) and 2018 (Plate 45) were aligned on a north-south and west-east axis, respectively. They both comprised a majority of medium sized (0.20m) blocks of red sandstone with some blocks of up to 0.50m. Structures 2004 and 2018 measured approximately 5.90m and 6.15m in length, respectively. Two finds were recovered during the cleaning of this structure 2004: a fragment of pottery rim (SF 002) and a copper piece of a possible coffin fitting (SF 003). For both structures the measurement of the width was considered as distorted due to the collapse of the sides.
- 4.6.8 Another possible structure (2017) was recorded to the north of the area. This comprised medium to large blocks of red sandstone (0.20-0.40m) roughly aligned with the northern wall of the extant building (Plate 46). All these structures had been interpreted as a possible layout of the church predating the 19th rebuilding.
- 4.6.9 Surrounding these structural remains were located a number of accumulations of red sandstone rubble: 2006=2015 around wall 2003; and 2005 and 2019 located to the north and south of structure 2018. Context 2006=2015 extended in plan approximately 3.90m by 2.75m around structure 2003; this comprised small and medium (0.10-0.20m) fragments of red sandstone within a very compact, reddish clayish sandy matrix (Plate 43). Context 2005 extended in plan approximately 3.95m x 2.75m to the north of structure 2018, and context 2019 extended 3.55m x 1.50m to the south of the same structure. They both comprised small, medium and large (0.10-0.40m) fragments of red sandstone within a very compact, reddish clayish sandy matrix (Plate 45). There was also a spread of loose, dark brown sand (2016) recorded to the west of structure 2004; this deposit measured approximately 3.50m x 2.55m (Plate 44). Two finds were recovered from deposit 2016: a fragment of glazed floor tile (SF 005) and a sharpening stone (SF 006).

- 4.6.10 Other areas of stone rubble (2007) (2010) were identified to the south of the church. Layer 2007 consisted of compacted fragments of red sandstone within a reddish clayish sandy matrix. This material was spread over an irregular area measuring 3.20m x 2.15m (Plate 47). Layer 2010 comprised a very compacted accumulation of sandstone rubble within a mid-brown silty sandy matrix. It extends approximately 1.00m x 0.50m aligned on a north-south axis, (Plate 48). These deposits (2007) (2010) were not directly associated with any structural remains.
- 4.6.11 All of the stone structures and layers of stone rubble have been interpreted as associated with the demolition or collapse of the previous church during the post-medieval period.

Landscaping of St. John's Old Churchyard (Figure 10; Plates 52-60)

- 4.6.12 The groundworks undertaken at the southern side area of St. John's Church, formerly the Churchyard, involved the stripping of the topsoil (2000) and subsoil (2001) as preparation for further landscaping of the area (Plates 52-55). Four human and ten animal burials were identified during the soil strip. Three of the animal burials were cleaned, photographed and lifted as these were located near the surface, and would have been affected directly by groundworks. The human burials and other animal burials were located on the plan but left *in situ*. This methodology was adopted on advice from Dr Andy Wigley, Shropshire County Council, following a site monitoring visit with AW and Taylor Wimpey Ltd.
- 4.6.13 The excavated animal burials:
- (2008), an almost complete and articulated skeleton of a sheep, facing west, with lamb remains in birth canal, suggesting that death occurred during birthing (Plates 59-60). This burial was fully excavated and lifted. The scattered surrounding fragments of late post-medieval pottery were not recovered, but suggest an 18th-19th century date of deposition;
 - (2012=2007), partially complete and disarticulated skeletal remains of a capris (Plate 57) found overlaid above sandstone rubble spread (2007). There were associated fragments of 18th century Buckley-ware pottery.
- 4.6.14 These excavated animal burials were studied in detail by a faunal bone specialist. The report is presented in Appendix III.
- 4.6.15 The non-excavated but identified animal burials:
- (2011), a partially complete and articulated skeleton of a dog (Plate 58) buried next to the southern wall of the church, which produced modern pottery and a cylindrical piece of corroded iron;
 - (2020), an avian burial close to the southern wall of the church;

- (2022), a possible pig burial located within the northeast quarter of the churchyard;
- (2023), a small mammal burial, possibly of a rabbit, located within the northeast quarter of the churchyard;
- (2024), a dog burial located within the northeast quarter of the churchyard;
- (2025), a multiple dog burial of upto three puppies, located very close to avian burial (2020) to the southern wall of church;
- (2027), disarticulated remains of animal bone mixed with small red sandstones, located very close to the avian burial (2020) and the burial of puppies (2025);
- (2028), a small mammal burial, possibly a rabbit, located in the central area of the churchyard.

4.6.16 The identified human burials:

- (2002), aligned in a west-east axis and located very close to the avian burial (2020), the multiple puppies burial (2025) and the anima remains (2027);
- (2009), aligned in a west-east axis and located next to the eastern boundary wall of the churchyard;
- (2021), aligned in a west-east axis and located to the west of human burial (2009), still close to the eastern wall of the churchyard;
- (2026), partial and semi-articulated skeletal remains of human feet, located in the central area of the churchyard but with no visible further association.

4.6.17 In addition to the above burials, a modern cremation urn (2013) was found located against one of the squared, red sandstone buttress of the church (2014), at the northeast corner of the churchyard. The cremation dated from 1999 and read '*James Traynor / Died 1999*'. The urn was preserved due to the relocation of the groundworks 1m to the south.

4.6.18 The burials and associated features have been provisionally dated to the post-medieval period from the materials found within some of the deposits. There is a provisional *terminus post quem* for the churchyard as it most likely stopped being used during the second half of the 19th century, along with the church. The 1999 cremation is an exception.

4.6.19 All the features and inhumations in Area B were overlaid by subsoil 2001, a moderately compacted, light to mid-greyish brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stones. The subsoil was upto 0.30m thick. The overlying topsoil and turf (2000) comprised a moderately compact, rich very dark brown silty loam, with a maximum thickness of 0.25m.

5 Finds

5.1 Ceramics

- 5.1.1 The 2014 watching brief produced a total of 35 sherds of pottery (106g), all from the topsoil deposits within Area B. The assemblage is similar to those sherds recovered during the 2012 evaluation, with the same fabric types represented.
- 5.1.2 All the pottery recovered from the 2014 watching brief appears to be locally produced and of approximately 13th to 14th century date.
- 5.1.3 The watching brief from 2016 produced a total of 19 sherds of pottery (198g), from which one, the jug handle found in deposit 1004, was associated to a possibly late-medieval deposit. Another fragment found in deposit 2002 (SF 002) was also diagnosed as 13th-14th century local ware. The other sherds have been diagnosed as dating from the 17th century.
- 5.1.4 The fabrics present comprise Buff Coloured Iron Tempered Ware and Local Sandy Wares.

5.2 Animal Bones

- 5.2.1 The 2016 watching brief produced a number of animal bones in Area B; these comprised a skeleton of a sheep and lamb (2008), and a disarticulated skeleton of a capris (2007). These remains were excavated and subsequently analysed (Section 4.6.13; Appendix III).

5.3 Other Finds

- 5.3.1 A total of six fragments of undiagnostic tile and ceramic building material were recovered from the topsoil deposits in Area B.
- 5.3.2 Other materials recovered during the 2016 watching brief include an iron piece of door/window fittings, a piece of copper fitting, a fragment of oyster shell, fragments of glazed tiles and CBM, and a sharpening stone.
- 5.3.3 A complete catalogue of finds recovered from the site during the 2014 and 2016 watching briefs is included as Appendix III.

6 Discussion and Interpretation

- 6.1 The results of the watching brief support the conclusions made in the evaluation report (Smith, 2012); specifically that past activity in Area B appears to have been concentrated within the area immediately around the former parish church of St.

John. The archaeological remains encountered in this area appear to be entirely related to the original medieval layout of the church and the churchyard.

- 6.2 The abraded nature of the medieval ceramics located within the Area B topsoil suggests that they have been frequently disturbed, most likely through ploughing. The archaeological evidence in Area A indicates an absence of occupation activity aside from modern deposits of dumped material.
- 6.3 The cut features identified in Areas A and B comprised linear, small ditches and only one cut [1001] was identified as a pit on unknown date and functionality. The drainage and backfilling of the former pond located to the west of the church would suggest a change on the main activities taking place on the land, and probably a change in use from pasture to cultivation or for garden.
- 6.4 The structural features located in Area A are probably related to late and post-medieval activity associated with the Sutton Manor, as the fabrics and bricks used are the same than those used for the boundary walls of the house.
- 6.5 The structural features located in Area B to the west of the church suggest that the medieval church had formerly extended within the development site. This building appears to have been demolished (or become ruinous after abandonment) during the 19th century. The archaeological and burial features located in the churchyard were of post-medieval date.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 Based on the results of the watching briefs undertaken during 2014 and 2016, it may be concluded that medieval activity is evidenced by finds and structural remains recorded within the development site, and specifically within Area B. There is evidence for the possible medieval layout of the medieval Church of St John, and for the periods in which the church was disused and utilised as an agricultural building. This archaeological evidence is of local and regional importance.
- 7.2 As a result of the archaeological work undertaken at Oteley Road, it appears unlikely that medieval settlement extended into the development site to the west of the Church of St John (PRN 10580). The church is, however, unlikely to have been particularly far removed from the community it served.
- 7.3 The presence of animal remains identified within the churchyard, along with the human burials, evidences a feeling for mourning domestic animals that grew in late Victorian and Edwardian times as a response to new ethical and spiritual questions that British society was experiencing as counterweight of past anthropocentrism (Howell 2002). Some of the animal remains are from farm animals, likely to be from the late 19th century farm-use of the ruinous church building.

8 Storage and Curation

- 8.1 The site archive will be prepared in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (ClfA, 2014) and *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (AAF 2007). The archive will conform to guidelines described in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2006). The site finds are to be deposited at Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery.

9 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Thanks are due to Peter Aherne, Ian Davies, Janey Green, Chris E. Smith and Andy Shobbrook for undertaking the watching brief, to Andrew Josephs for his consultancy support, to Taylor Wimpey (North Midlands) Ltd for providing financial support, and to Dr Andy Wigley for the curatorial guidance.

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APPENDIX I: Figures

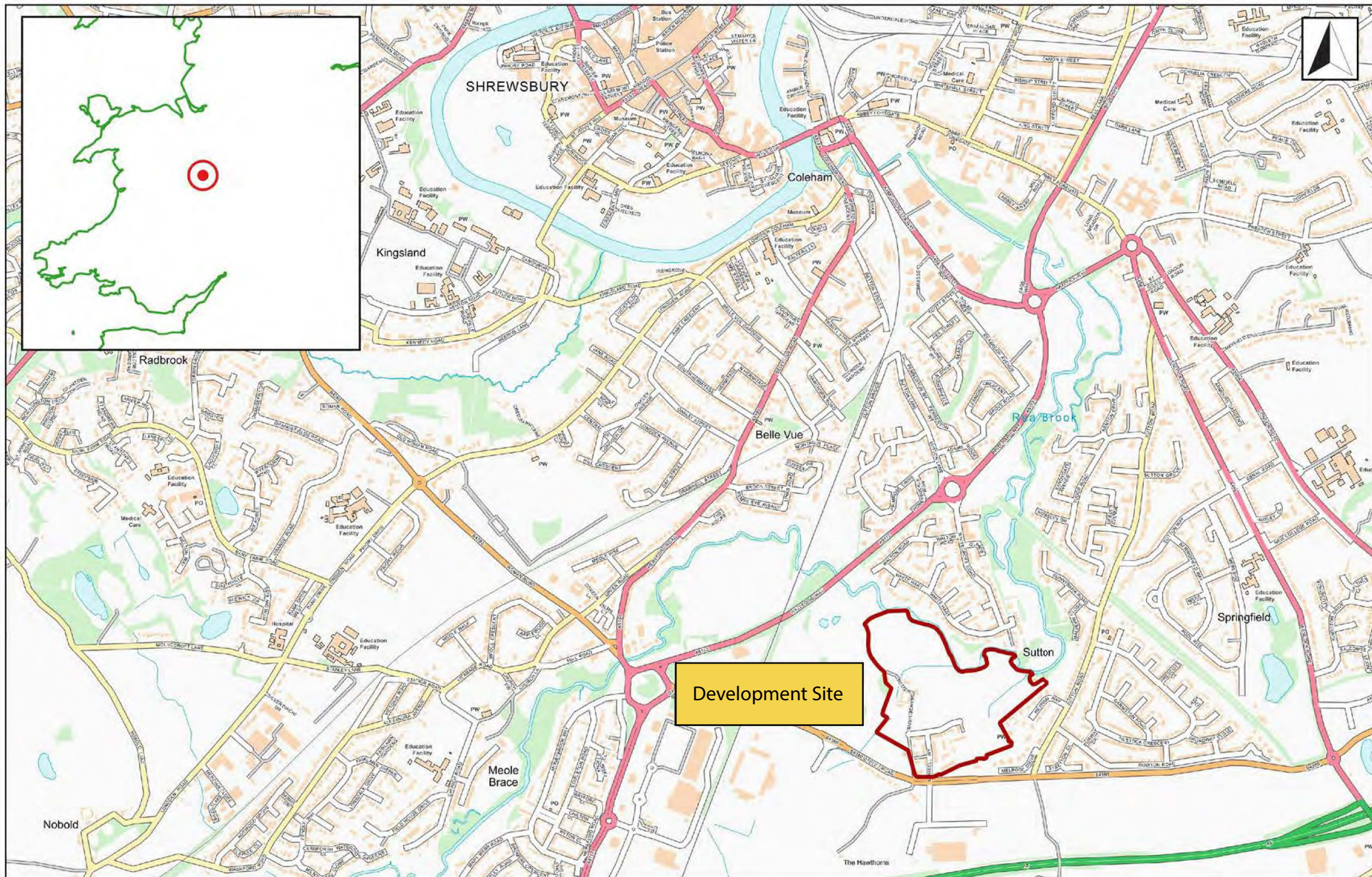


Figure 1 (Addendum 2017): Location Map of Sutton and main Development Area within UK and Shropshire; scales 1:5,000,000 and 1:15,000

0 200 400 600 m

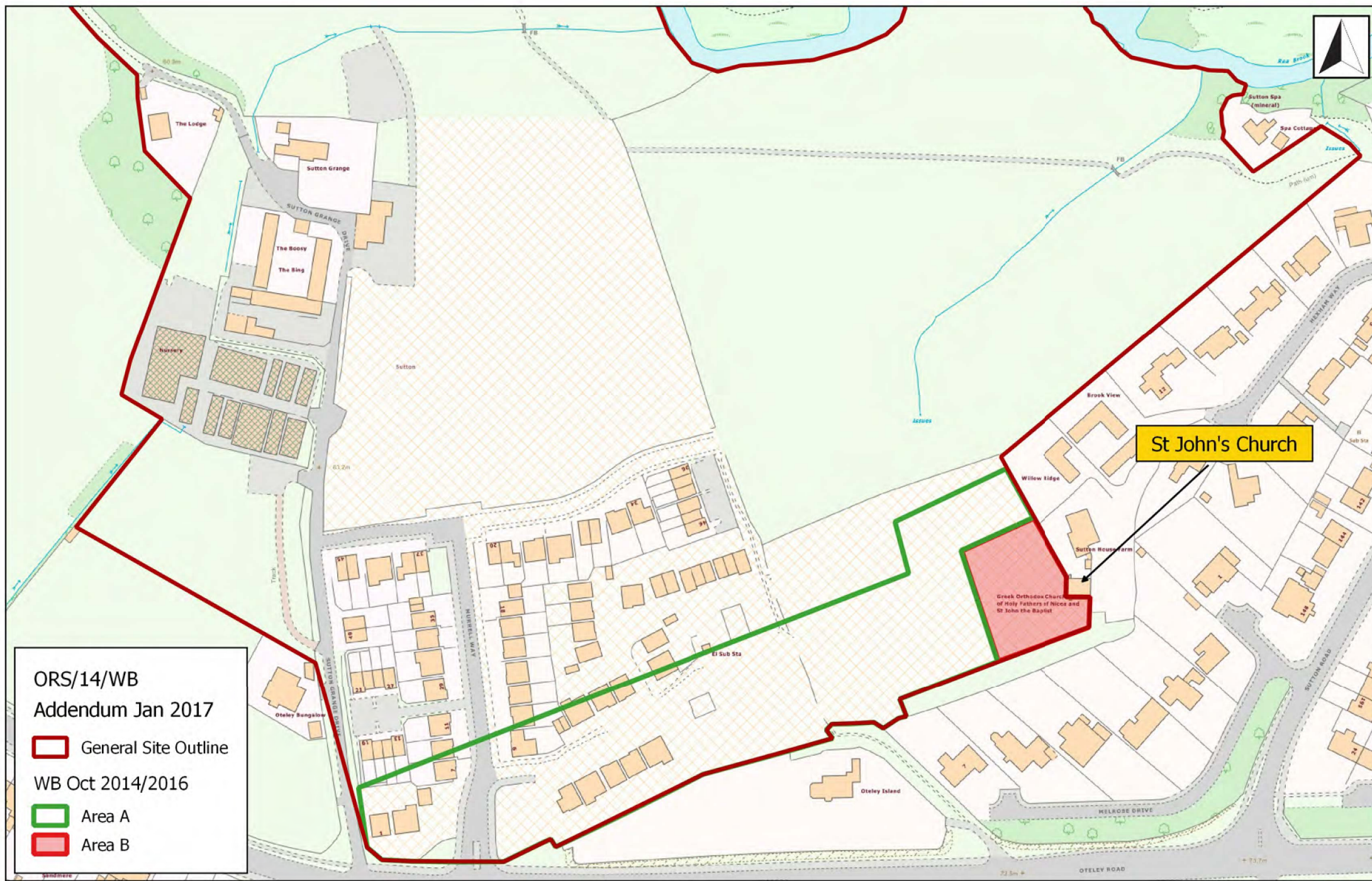


Figure 2 (Addendum 2017): Location of Areas A & B monitored in 2014 and 2016 during watching brief; some areas have already been developed (southwest) ; scale 1:2,000

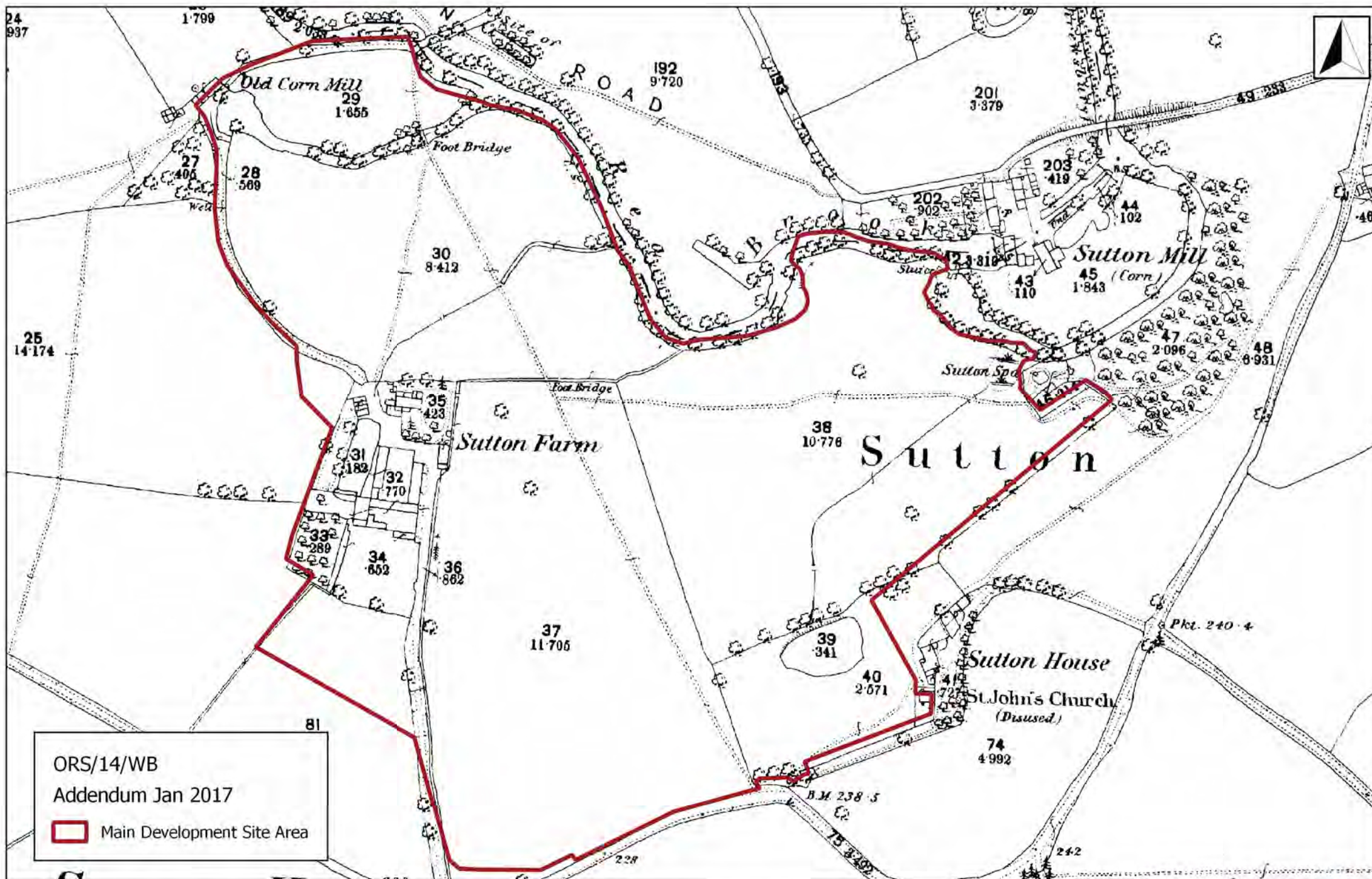


Figure 4 (Addendum 2017): OS 1st Edition Map from 1884, with St. John's Church, Sutton Manor House, pond and footpath, and main Development Site Area; scale 1:2,000

0 20 40 60 m



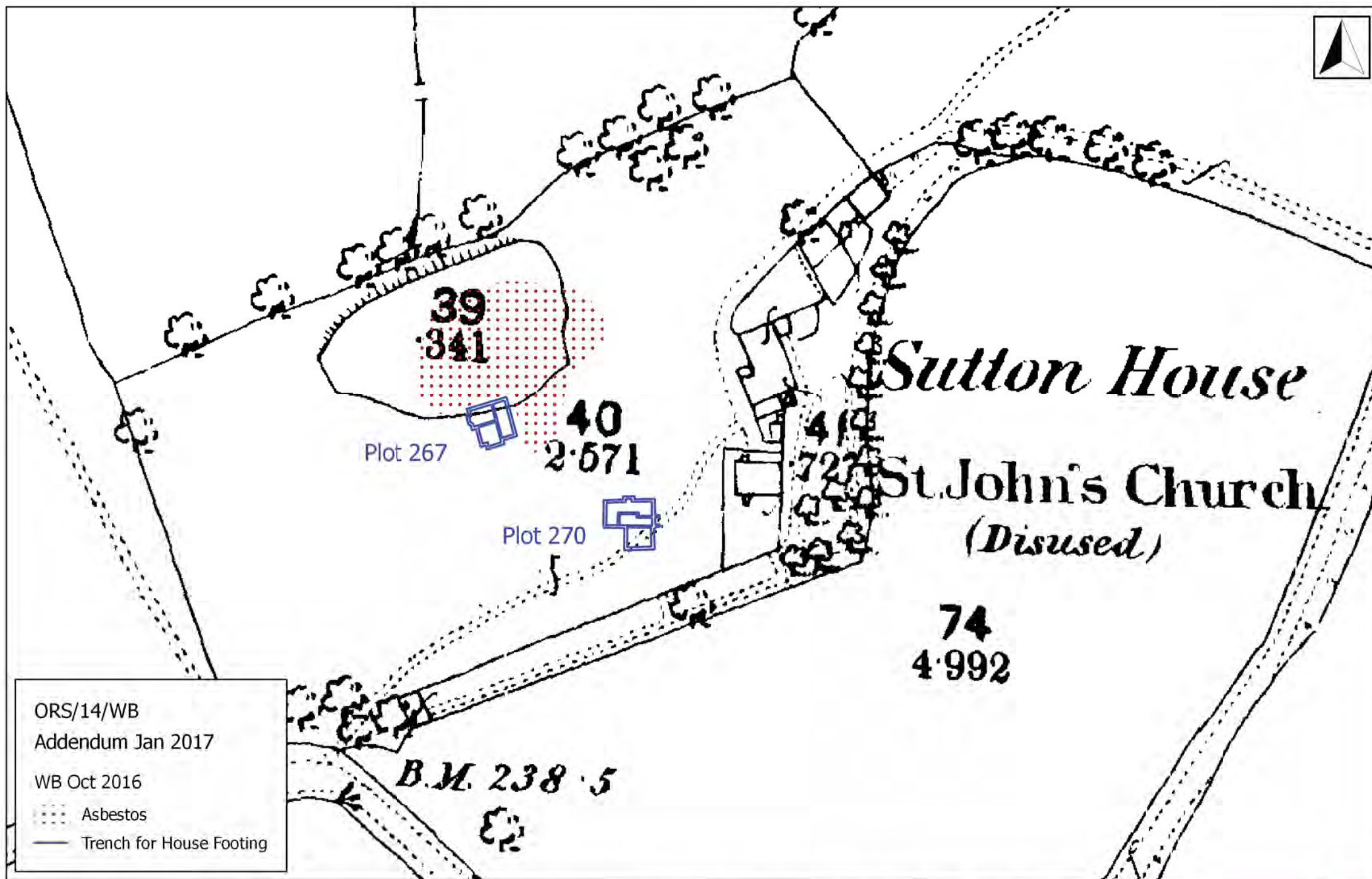


Figure 5 (Addendum 2017): OS 1st Edition Map from 1884 showing St. John's Church, Sutton Manor House, pond and footpath, and location of excavated house footings and asbestos area; scale 1:1,000

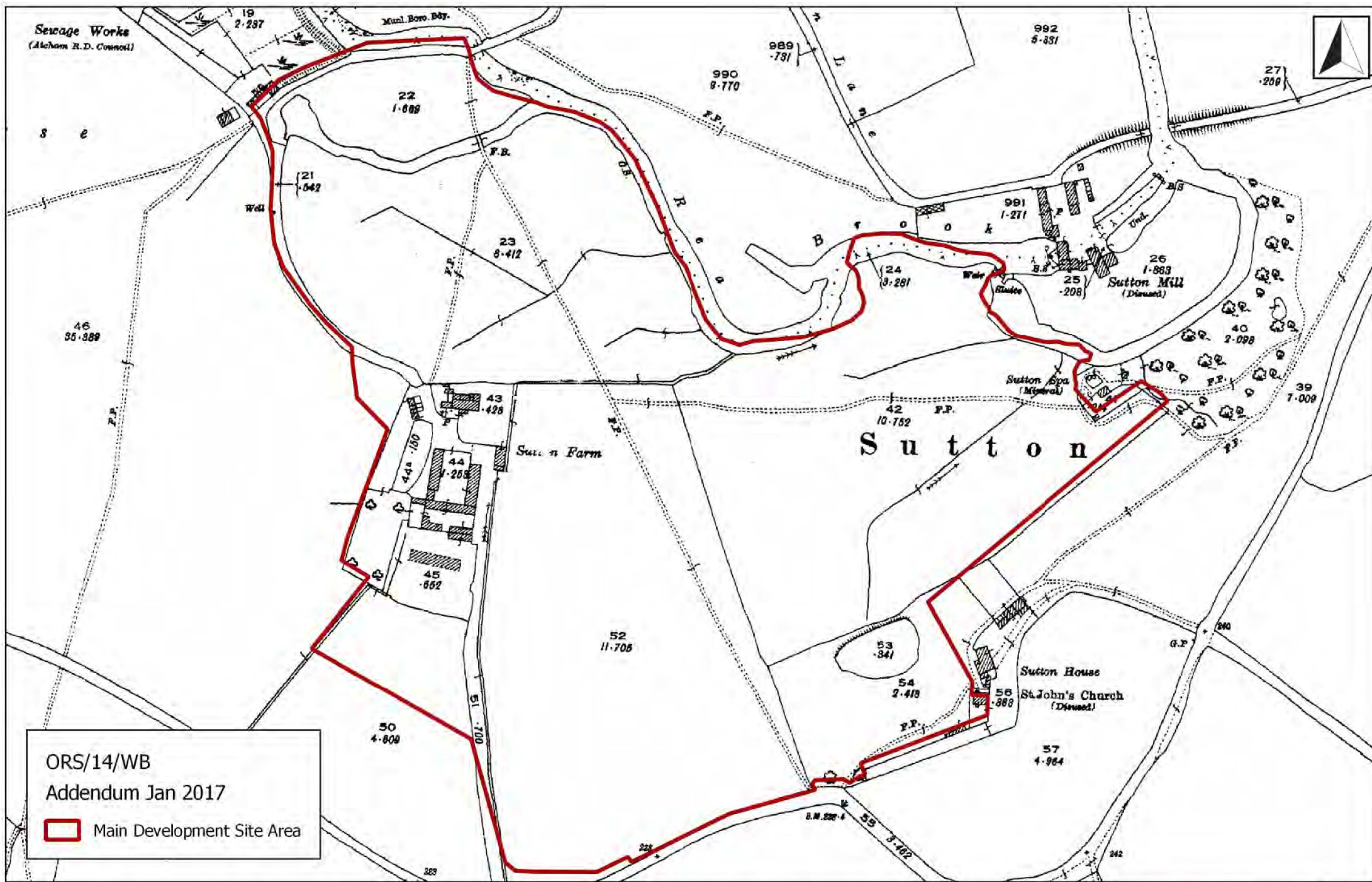
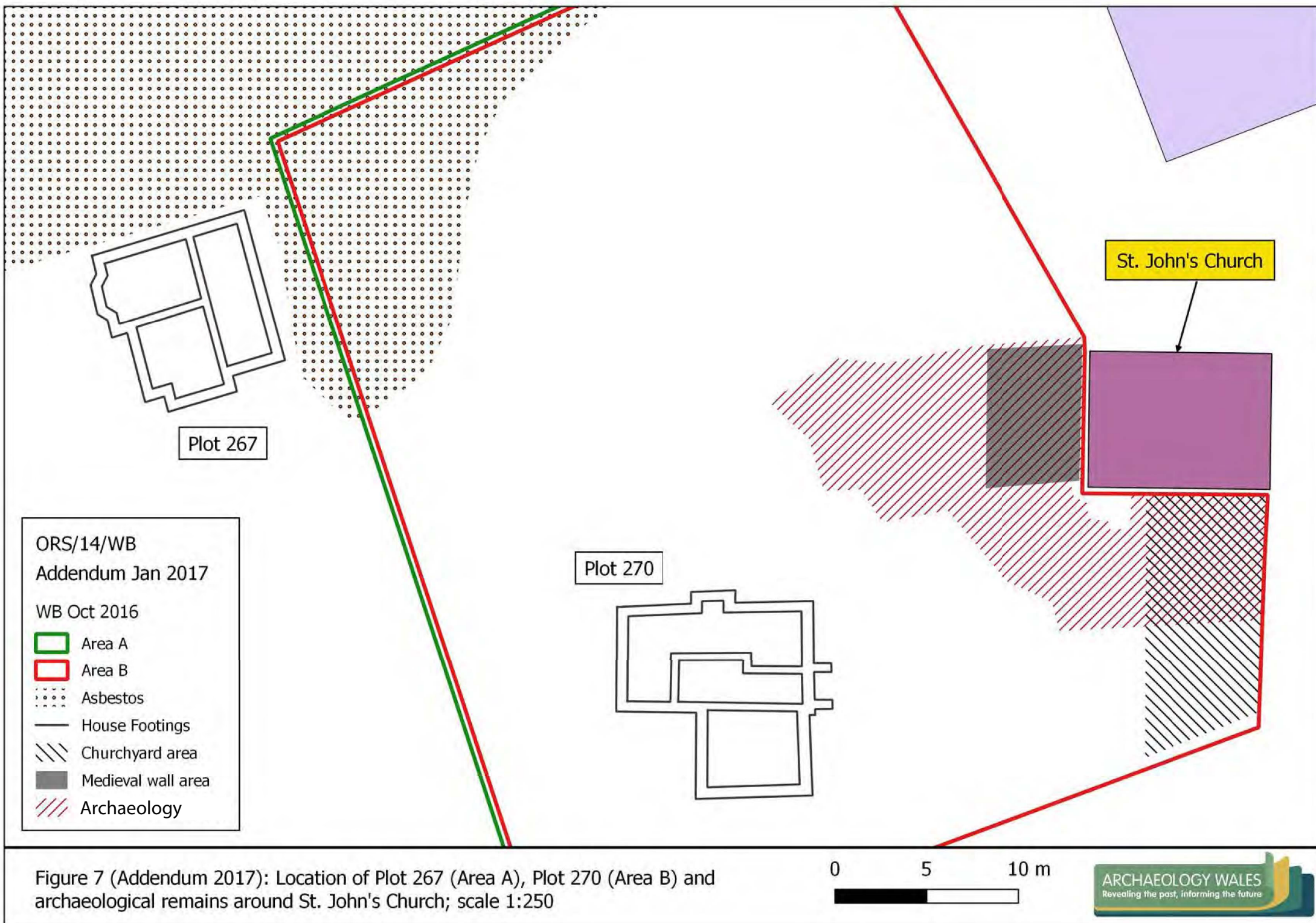
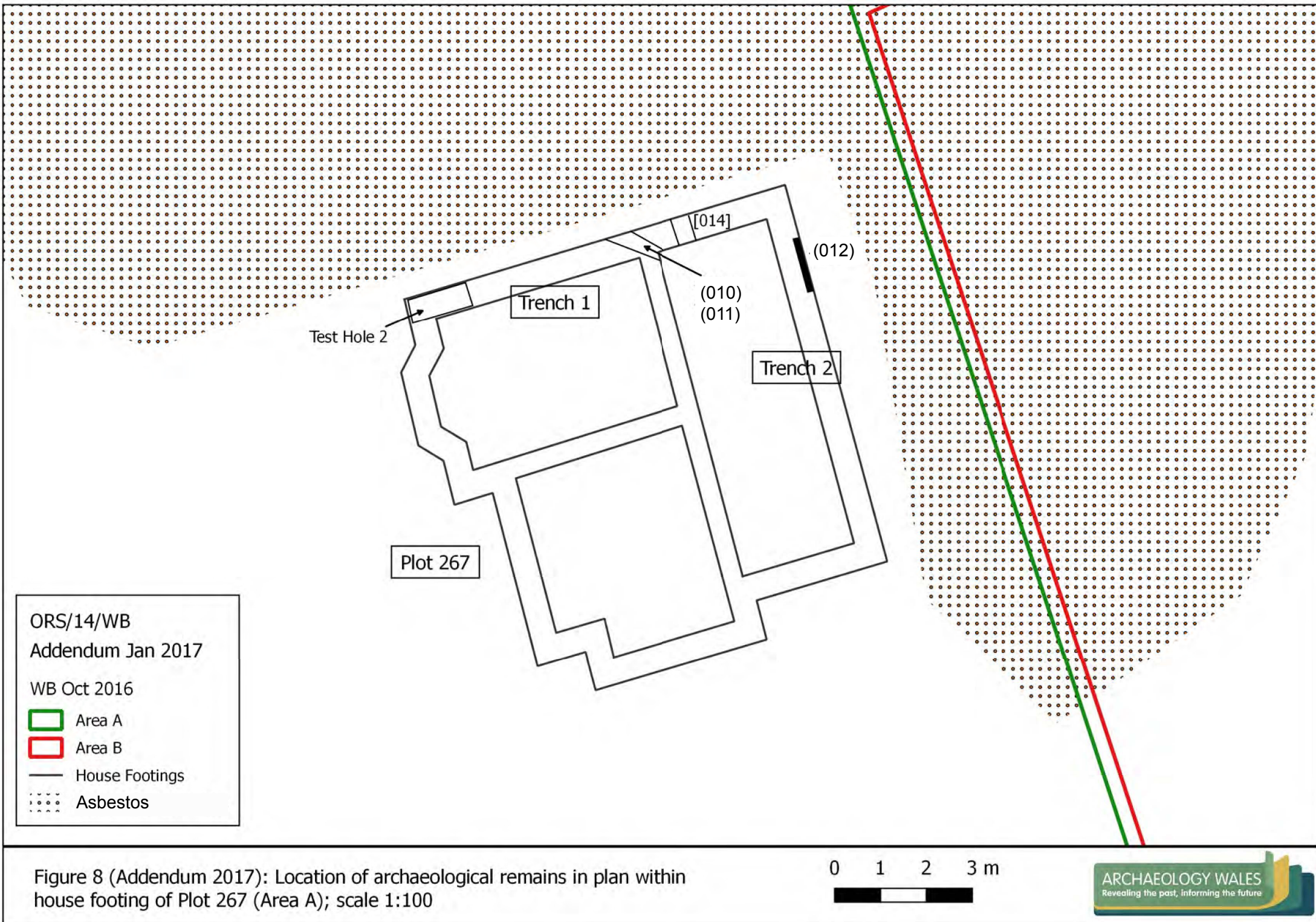


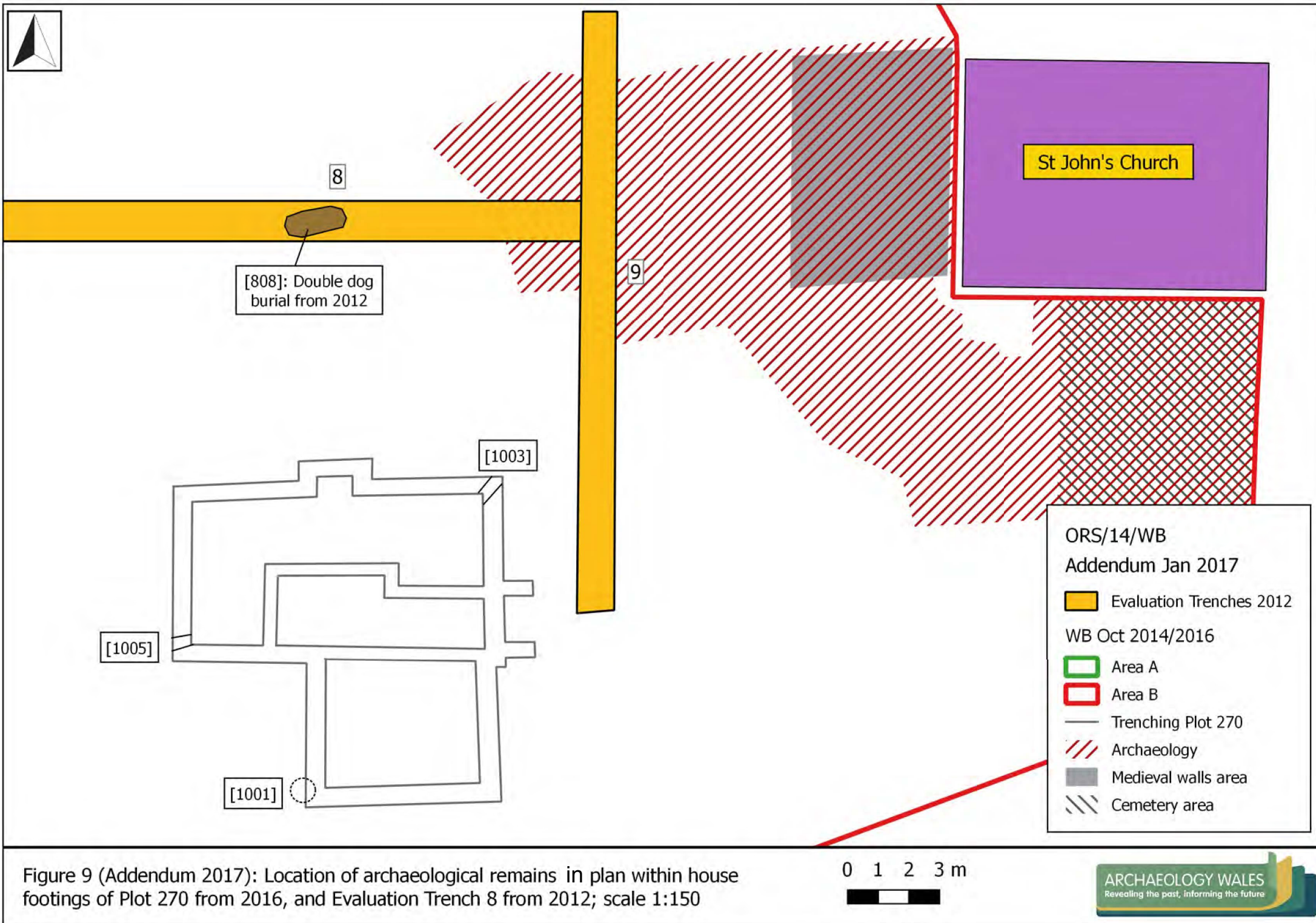
Figure 6 (Addendum 2017): OS 3rd Edition Map from 1947 showing St. John's Church, Sutton Manor House, pond and footpath, and location of main development site area; scale 1:3,000

0 20 40 60 m









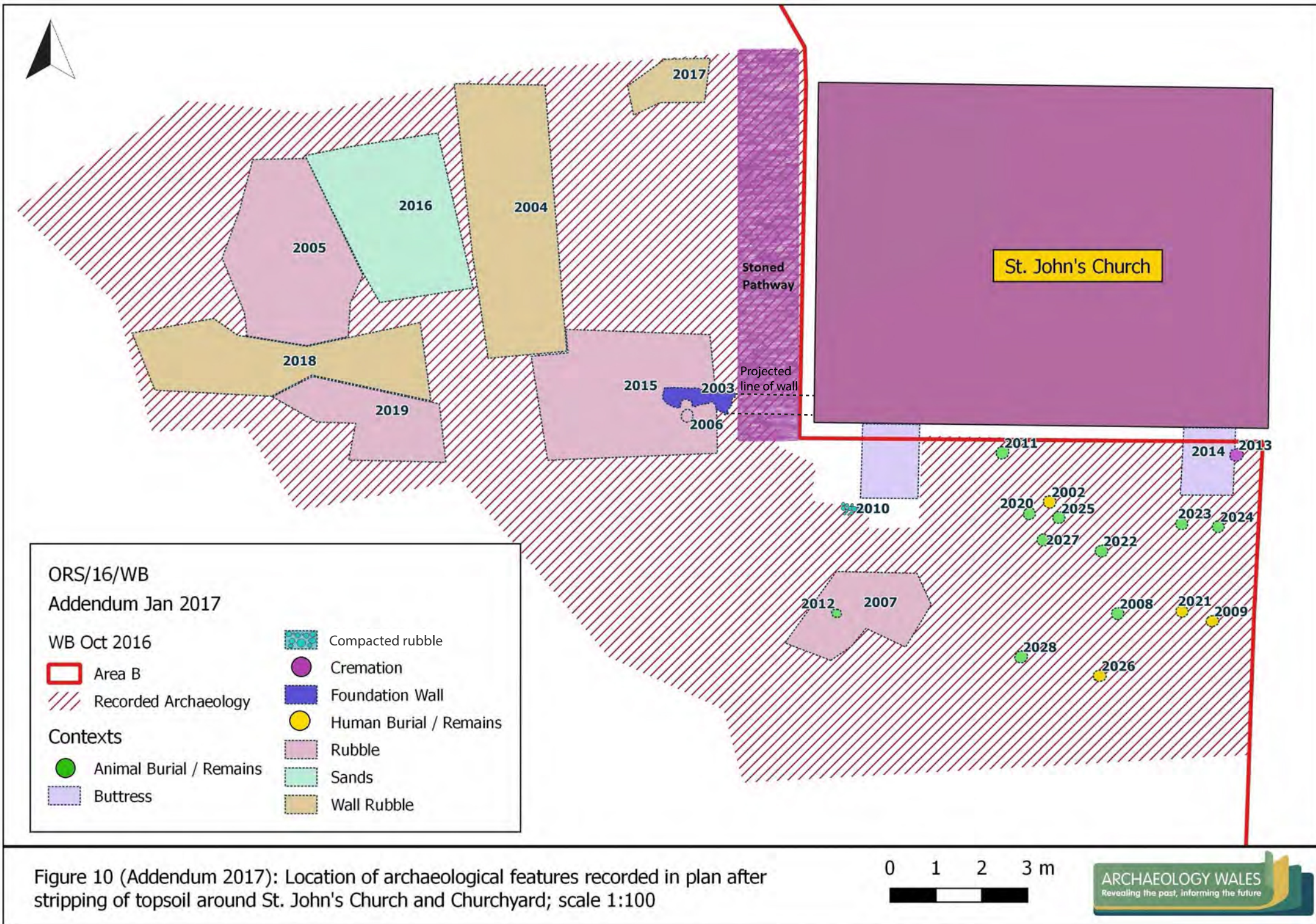


Figure 10 (Addendum 2017): Location of archaeological features recorded in plan after stripping of topsoil around St. John's Church and Churchyard; scale 1:100



Plan drawing of the possibly medieval foundation walls found to the west of St. John's Church, roughly aligned with the southern wall of the extant building.

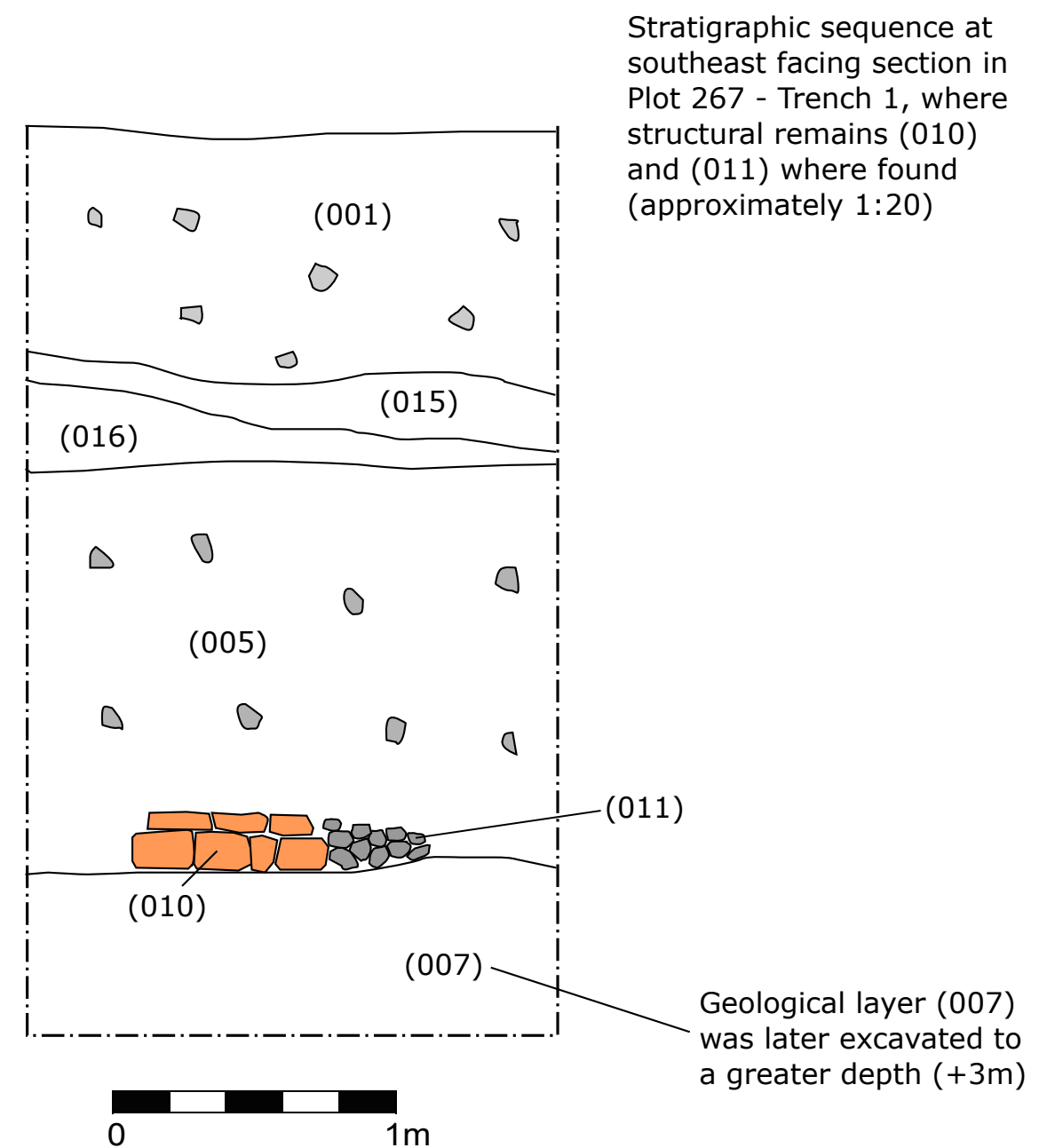


Figure 11 (Addendum 2017): Plan of possible church foundation stones (2003) in Area B (left diagram) and representative sample of southeast facing section with structural remains in Plot 267 (Area A); scales: see scalebars.

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APPENDIX II: Plates



Plate 1 (2014): Pre-topsoil strip view along proposed line of new road within Area A. View facing E



Plate 2 (2014): Southern end of new road line after topsoil stripping. View facing S



Plate 3 (2014): View along topsoil stripped road in Area A. View facing W



Plate 4 (2014): View of representative N facing section of topsoil stripped road within Area A. Scales 1x1m and 1x0.3m



Plate 5 (2014): View along stripped road in Area A. View facing E



Plate 6 (2014): View along stripped road approaching field boundary adjacent to Area B. View facing E
Scales 1x2m and 1x2m



Plate 7 (2014): West facing representative section of mains drainage trench within Area A. View facing E.
2m Scale



Plate 8 (2014): East facing representative section of mains drainage trench within Area A. View facing W
2m scale



Plate 9 (2014): Further east facing representative section of mains drainage trench within Area A. View facing W. 2m scale



Plate 10 (2014): Further west facing section of mains drainage trench within Area A. View facing E. 2m scale



Plate 11 (2014): View of east facing section during excavation of manhole pits within Area A. View facing E. Scales 1x2m and 1x1m



Plate 12 (2014): View of south facing section during excavation of manhole pits within Area A. View facing N. Scales 1x2m and 1x1m



Plate 13 (Intervention 2016): Layout of Plot 267 before excavation (St John's at the back). View facing SE



Plate 14 (2016): Layout of Plot 267 after excavation (St John's at the back). View facing E
Scales 1x2m and 1x1m



Plate 15 (2016): Sample section in Plot 267 with contexts (001) to (004). View facing SE. 1m scale



Plate 16 (2016): Sample section in Plot 267 with contexts (001) to (004). View facing SW. 1m scale



Plate 17 (2016): Trench 1 in Plot 267 showing (010), (011), (005), (016), (015) and (001). View facing NW



Plate 18 (2016): Trench 1 in Plot 267 – detail of brick in (010), with (011) and (005). View facing NW



Plate 19 (2016): Trench 1 in Plot 267 with (010), (011), (005), (016), (015) and (001). View facing W



Plate 20 (2016): Trench 1 in Plot 267 with [014] and (007) in plan. View facing SE



Plate 21 (2016): Trench 2 in Plot 267 with (004) overlaid by (012), (003), (002) and (001). View facing NE



Plate 22 (2016): Test Hole 2 in Plot 267 with (009=008), rubble and asbestos. View facing NE



Plate 23 (2016): Test Hole 2 in Plot 267 with (009=008) overlaying (013) – filling up with water. View facing NE



Plate 24 (from 2012): Trench 8 extending into trench 9, from Field Evaluation (Smith 2012), where double dog burial was found; View facing W



Plate 25 (2012): Double Dog Burial [808] within Trench 8 during Field Evaluation (Smith 2012); View facing SE
0.5m scale



Plate 26 (Intervention 2014): Stripping of topsoil during Watching Brief; View facing NE



Plate 27 (Intervention 2014): Excavation of Manhole Pit for drainage during Watching Brief; View facing E

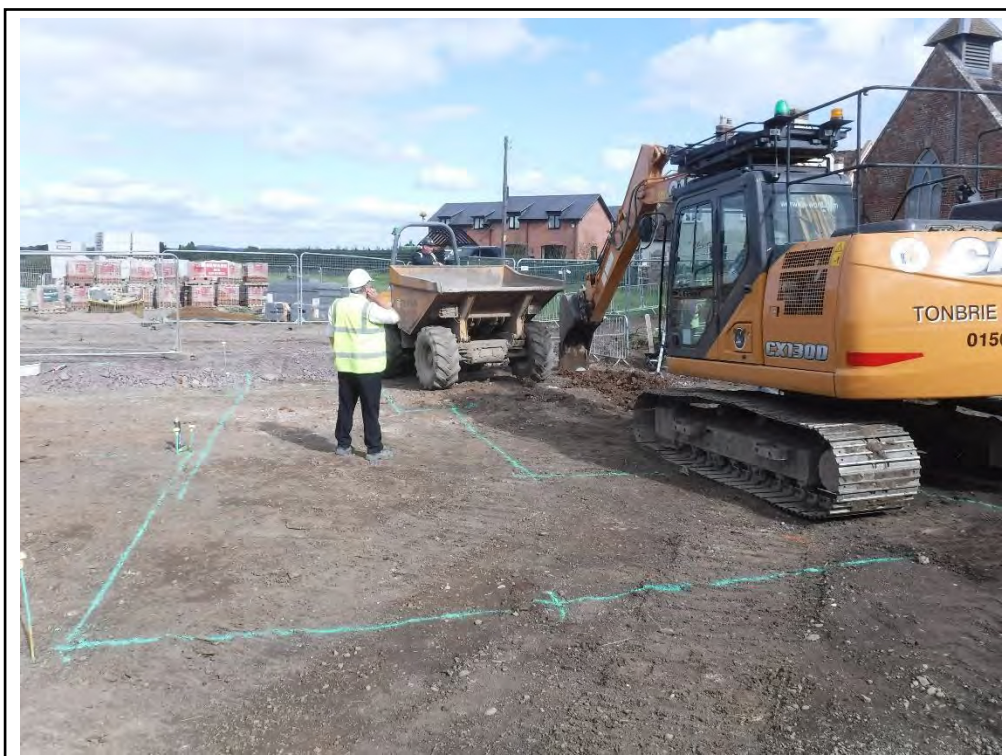


Plate 28 (Intervention 2016): Layout of Plot 270 footings to be excavated in Area B; View facing NE



Plate 29 (2016): Layout of Plot 270 house footings in Area B after excavation; View facing E



Plate 30 (2016): Layout of Plot 270 with house and garage footings in Area B after excavation; View facing W



Plate 31 (2016): Natural gravel (1008) and soil (1000) in Plot 270, in north facing section; View facing S.
1m scale



Plate 32 (2016): Cut of ditch [1005] with infill (1006) through (1008), and overlaid by (1007); View facing W.
1m scale



Plate 33 (2016): Cut of ditch [1003] with infill (1004) through (1008), and overlaid by (1000); View facing NE.
1m scale



Plate 34 (2016): Cut of ditch [1003] with infill (1004) through (1008), with detail of medieval jug handle – located opposite to Plate 33; View facing SW



Plate 35 (2016): Cut of pit [1001] with infill (1002) through (1008) and overlaid by (1000) located in east facing section of garage footings; View facing W. 1m scale



Plate 36 (2016): Detail of modern overburden (1007) located within northern area of Plot 270; View facing N. 1m scale



Plate 37 (2016): View of St. John's Church prior to the stripping of topsoil; View facing SE



Plate 38 (2016): View of St. John's Church and Sutton Manor House to its north, prior to the stripping of topsoil; View facing SE



Plate 39 (2016): View of front door step of Church after stripping of topsoil, prepared for stoning; View facing E. 1m scale



Plate 40 (2016): View of front door step of Church after stripping of topsoil, prepared for stoning; View facing E. 1m scale



Plate 41 (2016): View of the area in front of the church after topsoil stripping; View facing S. 1m scale



Plate 42 (2016): View of foundation wall of church (2003), located in frontal (western) area from it and aligned with the southern wall of the extant building; View facing S. 1m scale



Plate 43 (2016): View of foundation wall of church (2003) aligned in a west-east axis, and rubble area (2006=2015) to the south and west of it; View facing E. 1m scale



Plate 44 (2016): View of demolition rubble (2004); View facing E. 1m scale

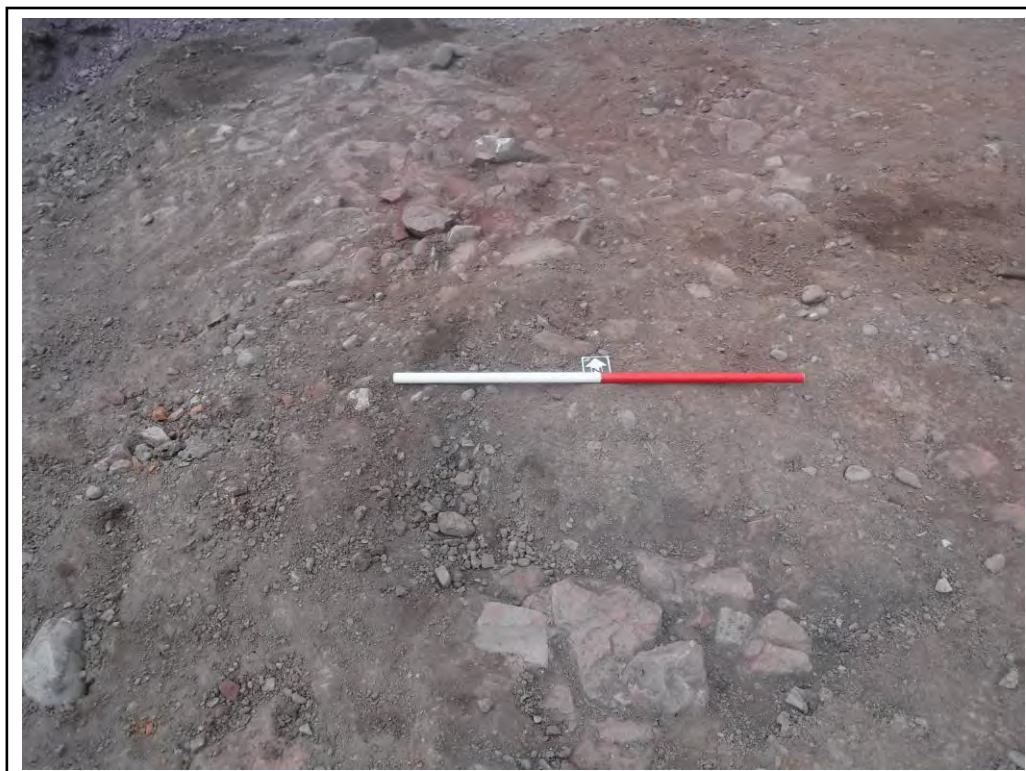


Plate 45 (2016): View of demolition rubble (2018) and further rubble areas to the north (2005) and to the south (2019); all located to the west of wall (2003); View facing N. 1m scale



Plate 46 (2016): View of rubble (2017) – test pit; located at the front of the church, possibly aligned to the northern wall; View facing W. 5cm scale



Plate 47 (2016): View of rubble (2007) with remains of animal bone (2012) within its soil matrix; located to the south of the church; View facing NE. 1m scale



Plate 48 (2016): View of sandstone rubble (2010) located to the south of the church, aligned with one of the buttresses; View facing N. 1m scale



Plate 49 (2016): View of east facing section of drainage trench running along the front of the church; with no archaeological remains present; View facing W. 1m scale



Plate 50 (2016): Groundworks at the front of the church; View facing N

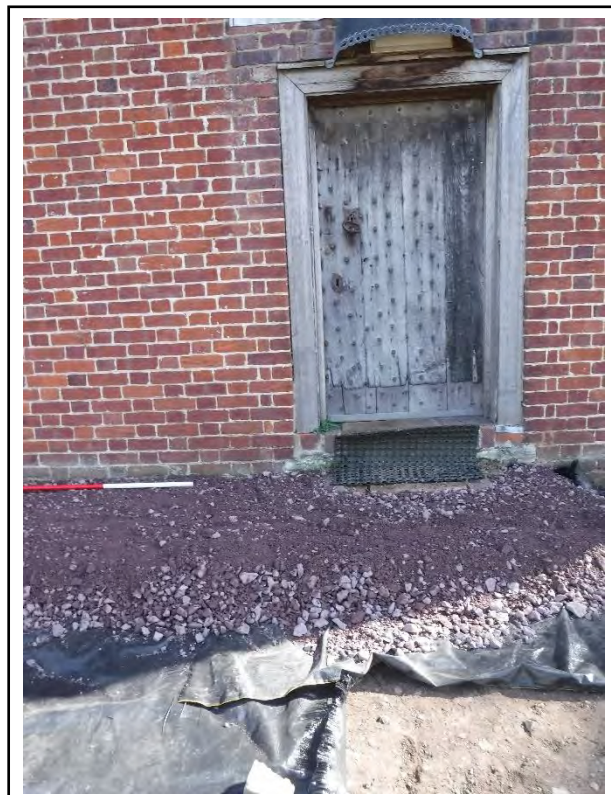


Plate 51 (2016): Groundworks at the front of the church; View facing E. 1m scale



Plate 52 (2016): Stripping of topsoil at southern side of the church; View facing NW



Plate 53 (2016): Stripping of topsoil at southern side of the church; View facing SW



Plate 54 (2016): View of the old churchyard and eastern boundary wall (to Sutton Manor House orchard) after stripping of soils (2000) and (2001); View facing E



Plate 55 (2016): Stripping of topsoil at northeast corner of the churchyard where cremation (2013) was found on top of buttress (2014); View facing N



Plate 56 (2016): Detail of southeast corner of the church where a cremation urn (2013) was found on top of buttress (2014); View facing N. 1m scale



Plate 57 (2016): Detail of disarticulated remains of an animal burial (2012) found on top of sandstone rubble (2007); View facing N. 0.3m scale



Plate 58 (2016): Detail of articulated skeletal remains of an animal burial (2011), possibly dog; View facing N.
1m scale



Plate 59 (2016): Detail of articulated skeletal remains of an animal burial (2008), possibly capris; View facing N.
1m scale



Plate 60 (2016): Detail of jaw and skull of an animal burial (2008), possibly capris; View facing N. 0.3m scale



Plate 61 (2016): View of churchyard after stripping of soils (2000) and (2001), identification and covering of burials; View facing NE



Plate 62 (2016): View of stoned walkway along the southern boundary of the churchyard, after identification and covering of burials; View facing E

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APPENDIX III: Finds Catalogue Faunal Report

Archaeology Wales Ltd.

Finds catalogue Oteley Road, Shrewsbury 2014 / 2016

Site code: ORS/14/WB

Number	Context	Description	Amount	Weight (g)	Kept/Discard
Pottery					
	U/S	Worn red earthenware + 1 black earthenware	34	30	kept
	U/S	Medieval jug handle	1	86	kept
CBM					
	U/S	Tiles & CBM	6	1,169	kept

Site code: ORS/16/WB

Number	Context	Description	Amount	Weight (g)	Kept/Discard
Pottery					
SF001	1004	14-15th Century Malvern ware strap handle	1	83	kept
SF004	2003	17thC Bristol or Staffordshire Tyg	17	86	kept
SF002	2004	13-14th Century Local sandy ware rim	1	29	kept
	2007	18th Century Buckley Ware	4	320	kept
CBM					
	010	Brick sample <001> Handmade 18thC brick	1	1321	kept
SF005	2018	13-15th Century glazed Malvern floor tiles	2	391	kept
Bone					
	2007	Disarticulated animal bone from rubbish deposit	25	552	kept
	2008	Partially complete articulated capris skeleton	154	925	kept

(Cont.)

Glass	2003	Sherd of green vessel glass	1	9	kept
Metal					
SF008	2003	Fe object	1	375	kept
SF003	2004	Cu Alloy Object	1	3	kept
Stone					
SF006	2016	Whet stone	1	17	kept
	U/S	Stone with 'claw' like carving	1	808	kept
Molluscs					
SF007	2003	Oyster shell	1	19	kept
Total finds					
		Pottery	54		
		CBM	9		
		Bone	179		
		Glass	1		
		Metal	2		
		Stone	2		
		Molluscs	1		
		Total:	248		

*THE ANIMAL
BURIALS FROM
OTELEY ROAD,
SHREWSBURY
(2016)*

Poppy Hodgkinson & Richard Madgwick

Introduction

Excavations at Oteley Road, Shrewsbury unearthed a modest faunal assemblage (table 1). This assemblage consisted of a double sheep burial (context 2008) and a further deposit of various disarticulated taxa (context 2007). The level of preservation is good throughout the assemblage, as evidenced by the presence of juvenile specimens, intercostal cartilage and many intact epiphyses. The double sheep burial is likely to be the result of birth complications leading to the death of both mother and lamb; the neonate appears to have died in utero. The additional recorded remains constitute a mix of caprine and cattle specimens, with at least two confirmed goat fragments. All the faunal remains discussed in this report are assigned a 19th/20th century date.

Context	Sheep	Goat	Caprine	Cattle	M. Mammal	L. Mammal	Unidentifiable	Total
2007	1	2	4	3	1	12	1	24
2008	122							122
Total	123	2	4	3	1	12	1	146

Table 1 - Representation of all taxa (NISP) by context

Methods

The material was assessed by the authors in the Osteoarchaeology laboratory at Cardiff University following Cardiff Osteoarchaeology Research Group (CORG) protocol (see Mulville 2005). Identification was aided by the CORG comparative collection and reference library. Every fragment was examined and recorded as identifiable to taxon, to taxon size (e.g. large [cattle-size], medium [sheep-size] or small [hare-size] mammals) or as unidentifiable. Fragments were considered identifiable if they comprised at least 50% of one zone (following Serjeantson 1996). Rib fragments with surviving vertebral articulations were recorded to taxon size, as were vertebral centra. Metrical data was recorded following von den Driesch (1976) and age was assessed via epiphyseal fusion (Silver 1969) and dental attrition (Grant 1982 and Payne 1973). Sex was determined according to Greenfield (2002).

Adult Sheep

The taxon of this individual was confirmed through analysis of its skull sutures, the pattern of which were distinctly in accordance with that seen on *Ovis aries* specimens (figure 1). Almost

the entire spinal column of the animal and much of the rib cage survived deposition, from the atlas to the top of its caudal vertebrae (table 2). Additionally, much of the skull remained intact, from the occipitals to the right zygomatic process. Other maxillary fragments were present, as were both mandibles and hyoid bones. The scapula, humerus and proximal radius remained of the right forelimb. The entire pelvis was present, although the right side was split into three fragments. Both left and right femora were also recorded.

The survival of several epiphyses and both mandibles means that the age at death of this individual can be assumed with reasonable confidence. Fusion of the proximal humerus and distal femur places the animal as older than three years of age. The level of dental attrition observed in each mandible suggests that this individual was around four years old at the time of its death. This individual was almost certainly female, as evidenced by its association with a neonate and the sexual dimorphism in the pelvis.



Figure 1 –Close-up of cranial sutures indicative of *Ovis aries*

No pathologies were noted on this individual. However, it is worth noting that a slightly increased level of wear was observed upon molars in the right mandible, suggesting that the individual had a preferred side for mastication. A lack of butchery across the skeleton is consistent with the animal being buried after death during lambing, with no attempts made

to exploit the meat before deposition. Additionally, the absence of any major taphonomic alterations such as weathering or gnawing, indicate that the remains were subject to rapid burial.



Anatomic Element	Side
Skull	
Maxilla	Right
Maxilla	Left
Pre-Maxilla	Left
Pre-Maxilla	Right
Mandible	Left
Mandible	Right
Hyoid	Left
Hyoid	Right
Atlas	
Axis	
Cervical Vertebrae	
Thoracic Vertebrae	
Lumbar Vertebrae	
Caudal Vertebrae	
Rib	
Scapula	Right
Humerus	Right
Radius	Right
Pelvis	Left
Pelvis	Right
Femur	Left
Femur	Right

Table 2 - Skeletal element representation of the adult sheep from context 2008

Figure 2 - Skeletal remains of adult sheep from context 2008

Neonate Sheep

This individual is assumed to be sheep due to its connection with the adult sheep burial, even though its skeleton was not yet developed enough to accurately discern between *Ovis* and *Capra* (figure 3). The preservation of the skeleton was good, with many elements surviving deposition (table 3). A small number of skull fragments (including an occipital process) were recorded, along with some maxillary fragments. Upper molars and a partial left mandible were present. A small number of rib specimens were recorded, as were both the left and right humerus. Unfused portions of pelvis were present in this burial, along with much of the lower limbs: both tibiae, metatarsals and two 1st phalanges.



Figure 3 - Skeletal remains of neonatal sheep from context 2008

Anatomic Element	Side
Skull Fragments	
Maxilla	
Upper M1/2	
Mandible	Left
Rib	
Humerus	Left
Humerus	Right
Pelvis	Left
Pelvis	Right
Tibia	Left
Tibia	Right
Calcaneus	Right
Metatarsal	Left
Metatarsal	Right
1st Phalanx	Left
1st Phalanx	Right

Table 3 - Skeletal element representation of the neonate sheep from context 2008

The age of this neonate, as suggested by epiphyseal fusion and dental eruption are consistent with the individual having died during lambing. Epiphyseal fusion places the individual at less

than 10 months old, while a half erupted dp4 indicates that it was less than 6 weeks old. The undeveloped nature of juvenile skeletons is such that attempts to measure or determine the sex of this lamb cannot be undertaken.

Context 2007

Context 2007 contained a mix of cattle and caprine remains (table 4). At least two of these caprine fragments can confidently be identified as goat rather than sheep, due to distinct morphological differences on metatarsals and metacarpals. Additionally, medium and large sized mammal ribs and vertebrae were recorded. It is likely that these specimens correlate to the caprine and cattle remains recorded in this context. No specific taphonomic modifications (butchery, burning etc.) were observed in this context.

Taxa	Anatomic Element	Side
Goat	Metacarpal	Right
Goat	Metatarsal	Left
Caprine	Scapula	Right
Caprine	Humerus	Left
Caprine	Ulna	Left
Caprine	Ulna	Right
Caprine	Sacrum	
Cattle	Upper Tooth	
Cattle	1st Phalanx	Right
Cattle	3rd Phalanx	Right
M. Mammal	Thoracic Vertebrae	
L. Mammal	Cervical Vertebrae	
L. Mammal	Thoracic Vertebrae	
L. Mammal	Sternum	
L. Mammal	Rib	
Unidentifiable	Intercostal cartilage	

Table 4 - Skeletal element representation of taxa from context 2007

Summary

The faunal remains from context 2008, Oteley Road, Shrewsbury consist of two sheep burials: an adult female of approximately four years old and a neonatal sheep, less than six weeks of age. The placement of this neonate, in the birth canal of the adult strongly suggests that both individuals died as a result of birthing complications. Context 2007 contained the

disarticulated remains of caprine, goat and cattle. Both contexts were dated to the 19th/ 20th century and showed excellent levels of preservation. No taphonomic modifications (butchery, burning, gnawing etc.) were observed in either context.

References cited

Greenfield, H. 2002. Sexing Fragmentary Ungulate Acetabulae. In D. Ruscillio (ed.) *Recent Advances in Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones*. Oxbow Books: Oxford. 68-86.

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Serjeantson, D. 1996. The Animal Bones. In S. Needham and T. Spence (eds.) *Runnymede Bridge Research Excavations, Volume 2: Refuse and Disposal at Area 16 East, Runnymede*. pp. 194-223. London: British Museum Press.

Silver, I. 1969. The Ageing of Domestic Animals. In R. Brothwell and E. Higgs (eds.) *Science in Archaeology*. Thames and Hudson: London. 283: 302.

von den Driesch, A. 1976. *A Guide to the Measurement of the Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*. Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University.

Archaeology Wales

APPENDIX IV:

Written Scheme of Investigation

Archaeology Wales

In Association With



Written Scheme of Investigation

**For an Archaeological
Watching Brief**

Oteley Road, Shrewsbury

**Prepared for:
Taylor Wimpey (North Midlands) Ltd**

Project No: 2090

15 November 2013

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Written Scheme of Investigations details the proposal for an archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to Oteley Rd, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd and Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of Taylor Wimpey (North Midlands) Ltd.

1. Introduction

This Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) details the methodology to be employed by Archaeology Wales Ltd during an archaeological Watching Brief associated with a permitted development of new dwellings with access, parking and landscaping at Sutton Grange, Oteley Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. It has been prepared by Mark Houliston (MIIfA), Managing Director, Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) and Mr Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Associates. The development site is centred on grid reference SJ 5005 1061 and is located to the west of the Sutton Farm housing estate and south of the Rea Brook, a tributary of the River Severn, and approximately 1.5km south-east of the historic core of Shrewsbury (**Figure 1**).

Previous archaeological work, including an EIA, a geophysical survey and a trenched evaluation (AW Report 1091: Smith 2012) have been carried out for the site.

This WSI sets out a programme of archaeological works which will be undertaken to satisfy Condition 28 of planning permission 13/00893/FUL. The condition states that:

28. No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This written scheme shall be approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works.

Reason: The site is known to hold archaeological interest.

A further WSI will be prepared in advance of demolition of the farmbuildings at Sutton Grange to ensure their recording and submitted to Shropshire Council for approval.

The scope of work has been agreed between Andrew Josephs, Andy Wigley (Shropshire Council Archaeologist - SCA) and Mary King (Shropshire Council Senior Conservation and Design Officer).

All work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd will conform to the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2011) and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

2 Site description

The permitted development area (PDA) comprises approximately 10ha of agricultural land and former farm buildings to the north of Oteley Road, Shrewsbury.

The north-western part of the PDA includes an area of plant nursery and farm buildings at Sutton Grange. Some of the farm buildings, of late 19th century origins, have been

converted to residential use, while others are still used for agricultural purposes and storage. Of these one has a timber-framed core and would be recorded prior to demolition. Sutton Grange farmhouse also dates from the mid-late 19th century and will be incorporated into the scheme. None of these buildings is listed.

Abutting the south-east corner of the PDA is situated the Grade II* Orthodox Church of the Holy Fathers of Nicea, a medieval church first mentioned in 1278 and formerly the parish church of St John, Sutton. Adjacent is Sutton House, a grade II former farmhouse currently undergoing renovation. This also lies outside the PDA boundary.

Further information is contained within the Cultural Heritage Statement (Josephs 2013) submitted with the EIA and planning application.

3 Objectives

The aims of the watching brief, as defined by the IfA (2011) are:

- To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the southern part of the PDA.
- To provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

4 The proposed archaeological work

The proposed archaeological work relates to two areas of the PDA, as shown on **Figure 2** identified as having 'low-medium potential' and 'medium-high potential'.

The work will include the following elements:

- A watching brief (Stage 1).
- The production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 2)

5 Watching Brief Methodology

General

The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be carried out by a suitable qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and will follow the IfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (revised 2011).

A tiered approach within the two areas will be adopted, as follows:

Tier 1

Low-level monitoring would involve one archaeologist observing machining. If archaeology is apparent s/he can intervene, and request a change of machining methodology to avoid archaeology until it can be dealt with or adopt a tier 2 approach, below. If no archaeology is showing up and with the agreement of Shropshire Council, the watching brief would become more intermittent or be stopped.

Tier 2

Continuous monitoring would involve two archaeologists per machine - one watching, one cleaning and marking. This would be an appropriate approach where archaeological features are being regularly exposed. When/if there is more archaeology than two archaeologists can deal with, a team would be brought in to excavate (Tier 3, below).

Tier 3

Set piece archaeological excavation of areas containing a density of features using a team of archaeologists.

Watching Brief

The Watching Brief will be carried out only in those areas marked as 'low-medium potential' and 'medium-high potential' on Figure 2. The two zones have been differentiated to allow the developer to appreciate the higher risk of encountering archaeology in the eastern part of the PDA near the Church and plan the groundworks accordingly.

The watching brief area will be marked out in advance of disturbance of the ground and verified by AW.

An archaeologist will be present during all ground disturbances. The mechanical excavator used will be equipped with a flat-bladed or 'ditching' bucket. During machining, all surfaces will be inspected and all archaeological features will be recorded. Sample excavation of features will be undertaken.

Should significant archaeological remains be found that require full excavation, work will be stopped, the area concerned fenced off, and the Mr Andrew Josephs and SCA informed so that a methodology, staffing levels and timescale can be agreed for further work should this be required.

If archaeological features continue outside the delineated watching brief areas, discussion will be held between Andrew Josephs, the SCA and AW as to whether the watching brief should be extended.

Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries and related to the developer's site plan. The location of all features will also be recorded using a handheld GPS unit.

Photographs will be taken in digital format, using an 8MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologists undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number, which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with a suitable local museum.

All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place, and the client, SCCA and the local coroner informed within the guidelines of the Treasure Act 1996.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

Human remains

In the event of burials or cremations being found all work will be halted in the area of the burials and their extent and nature established. The client, SCCA and the Ministry of Justice will be informed and a methodology of excavation agreed which will adhere to Ministry of Justice Guidelines.

Environmental and technological samples

Environmental samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. Technological samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located.

Specialists

In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within AW itself or from an external source. A list of external specialists is given in the table below.

Type	Name	Tel No.
Flint	Dr Amelia Pannett	02920 899509
Animal bone	Jen Kitch	07739 093712
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall	01305 259751
Clay pipe	Hilary Major	01376 329316
Glass	Andy Richmond	01234 888800
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst	01759 368483
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy	01652 658261
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson	Bradford University

IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby	01453 882851
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke	
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot	01388 772167
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling	University of Wales (Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham	01992 552256
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers	01443 233466

6 Post-Fieldwork Programme

Conservation

After agreement with the landowner arrangements will be made for the long term conservation and storage of all artefacts in an appropriate local or county museum.

Archive

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with MORPHE (English Heritage 2006). It will comprise all the data recovered during the fieldwork and shall be quantified, ordered and indexed and will be internally consistent. The archive will be deposited with the finds in a suitable local museum.

Reporting

The results of the watching brief will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report, which will include the following material:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- Statement of local, regional and national context of the remains
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

Copies of the report will be sent to: Mr Andrew Josephs, Taylor Wimpey, SCA (Andy Wigley) and for inclusion in the HER. Digital copies will be provided in pdf format if required.

A summary report of the work will be submitted for publication to a national journal no later than one year after the completion of the work.

The site archive

A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record agreed structure and be deposited within an appropriate local museum on completion of site analysis and report production. It will also conform to the guidelines set out in 'Management of Archaeological Projects Two, Appendix 3' (English Heritage 1991).

Arrangements will be made with the local museum before work starts. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, the report and the archive will be deposited not later than six months after completion of the work.

Other significant digital data generated by the survey (ie AP plots, EDM surveys, CAD drawings, GIS maps, etc) will be presented as part of the report on a CD/DVD. The format of this presented data will be agreed with the curator in advance of its preparation.

The grey literature and any other archive material generated by the project will be uploaded onto the OASIS website.

7 Resources and timetable

Standards

The work will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IfA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff. Overall management of the project will be undertaken by Chris Smith (a CV is available upon request). A first aider will be on site at all times.

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client. No start date has yet been agreed.

Insurance

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

If AW has sole possession of the site, then AW will produce a detailed Risk Assessment for approval by the client before any work is undertaken. If another organisation has responsibility for site safety, then AW employees will be briefed on the contents of all existing Risk Assessments, and all other health and safety requirements that may be in place.

FIGURES

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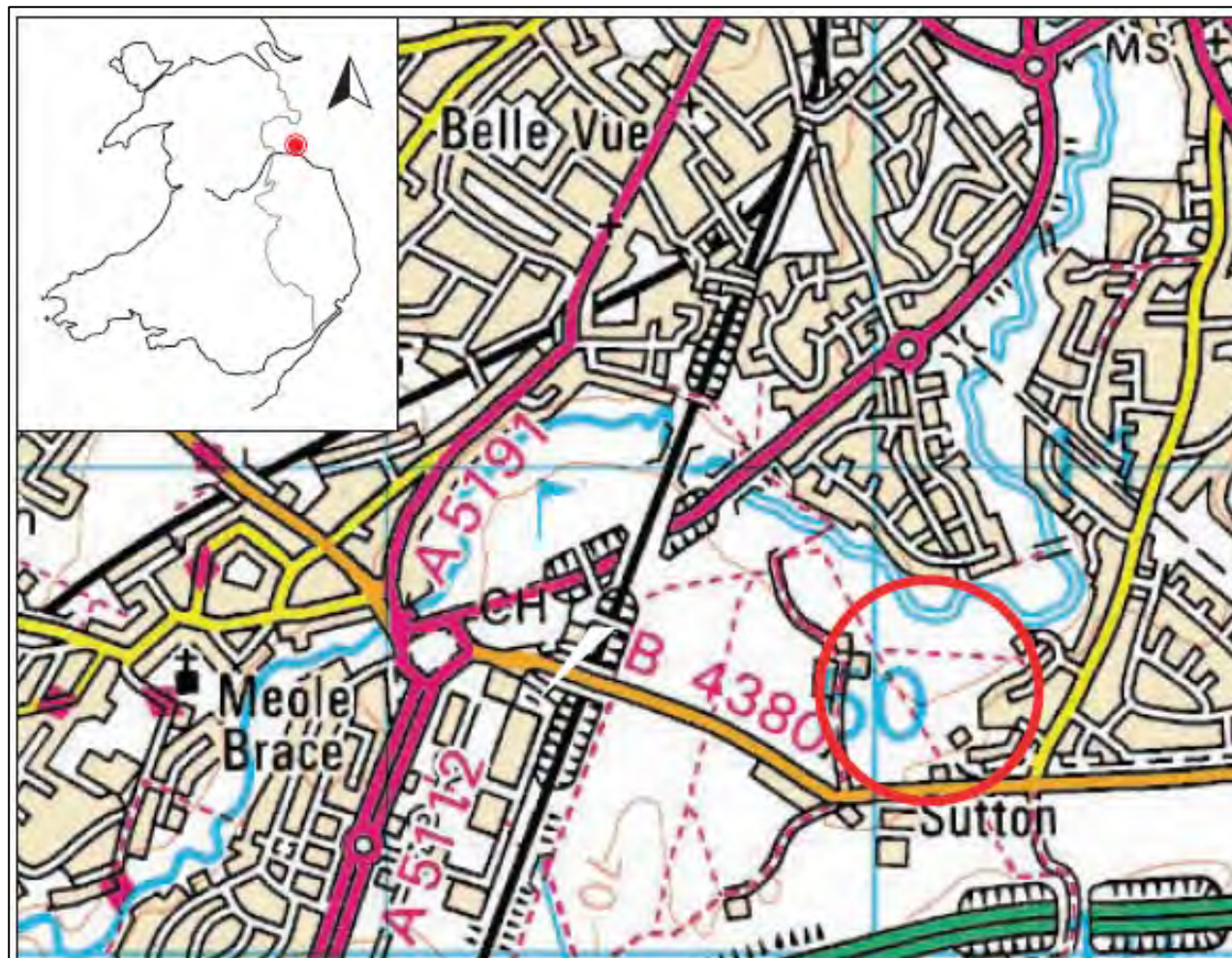


Figure 1 **Location of PDA**

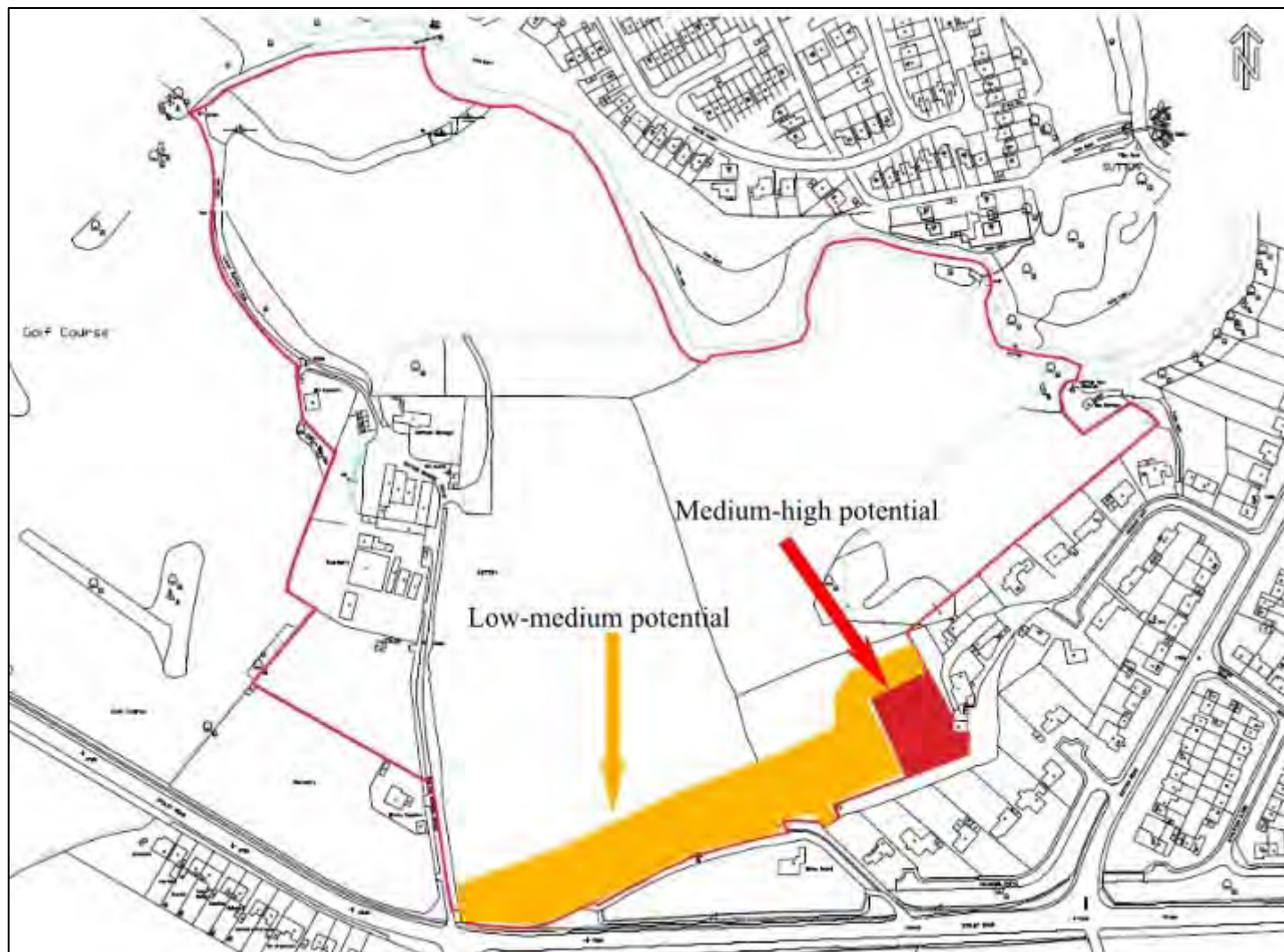


Figure 2 **Extent of watching brief**

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APPENDIX V: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Oteley Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Site Name:	Oteley Road, Shropshire
Site Code:	ORS/14/WB & ORS/16/WB
PRN:	00087 (Sutton DMV) 10580 (Church of St John) 31242 (animal burial, 2012 Evaluation) 31243 (pottery scatter, 2012 Evaluation) ESA 4274 (Sutton DMV) ESA 6379 (2009 Heritage Assessment) ESA 6921 (2012 Heritage Assessment) ESA 6855 (2012 Evaluation) ESA 7640 (2010 Geophysical Survey) ESA 7832 (2014 Watching Brief)
LB:	Grade II* Church of St John (Historic England 1270749)
NGR:	SJ 5008 1046
Site Type:	Medieval Church / Greenfield
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Mark Houliston
Project Dates:	June 2014 – January 2017
Categories Present:	Finds, Report, Photographs, Maps, Plans
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of Duplicate Archives:	Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery
Number of Finds Boxes:	1
Location of Finds:	AW
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to Access:	None

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