

# Urban Archaeology

*...define, record, remove...*



## **Church of St Mary, Aston Somerville, Worcestershire, Diocese of Gloucester**

**An Archaeological Evaluation Report  
for Aston Somerville PCC**

Chiz Harward BA MIFA

©Urban Archaeology 2018

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# St Mary's Church, Aston Somerville, Worcestershire, Diocese of Gloucester

Client:	Aston Somerville PCC
Diocese:	Gloucester
Faculty date:	n/a
NGR:	SP 04739 37874
Project no:	UA183
Author:	Chiz Harward BA MIfA
Doc Ref:	UA183_EVAL_report_v3
Date:	July 6th 2018
Site Code:	AST18
WSM Number:	WSM70387
OASIS ref:	urbanarc1-312934

*Front cover: St Mary's Church, Aston Somerville from the southeast*

## **Urban Archaeology**

A trading name of Charles Harward BA MIfA

103 Summer Street, Stroud, Glos. GL5 1PQ

07881 486837 enquiries@urban-archaeology.co.uk

## Non Technical Summary

On the 6th and 7th June 2018 Urban Archaeology carried out an evaluation at St Mary's church, Aston Somerville, Worcestershire for Aston Somerville PCC. Two test pits were excavated by the east wall of the chancel in order to investigate the potential causes of severe structural failings in the chancel superstructure. Natural ground was not observed in either test pit, in both pits a similar layer of redeposited sandy silt was recorded to a depth of up to 1.03m below present ground level. Two sherds of pottery provide a *terminus post quem* of the late 11th century for these deposits.

A human skeleton was probably cut into the redeposited clay layer; the burial itself is undated, however it is mostly likely to have a *terminus post quem* of the late 11th century. Given the presence of a church on the site from at least c1200, it seems probable that the burial is part of a churchyard cemetery, extending eastwards of this earlier church.

The substantial foundation of the chancel was exposed, extending 0.75m east of the superstructure and to approximately 0.8m depth, cutting through the redeposited clay layer. The chancel has been suggested to be from the Norman period due to the tympanum of c1200 above the priest's door, however this appears to be reused. An arrowhead of M4 type suggests a *terminus post quem* of the 14th century for the construction of the chancel, although it may replace an earlier, smaller, chancel located further west.

It is clear that any works at the east end of the church have the potential to impact on archaeological deposits, including burials. The evaluation has demonstrated that there are substantial foundations, however given that natural substrate was not encountered in either test pit, the nature of soft archaeological deposits at the east end of the church is harder to predict.

The results of the evaluation are of local significance only and no further work is recommended on the site archive, although should further work be carried out the results should be integrated into the final report.

# 1 Introduction and planning background

- 1.1 At the request of Adam Klups (Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretary) Urban Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Aston Somerville PCC at St Mary Aston Somerville, Worcestershire, SP 04739 37874 in June 2018 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The church is displaying signs of serious structural failings, particularly at the east end, with cracks apparent in the north, east and west walls of the chancel. Investigation into the state of the drains outside the chancel and the soil conditions was required to inform any further action. The church has been inspected on two occasions by Sinclair Johnston, DAC Structural Engineering Adviser. An initial visit on 1st December 2017 was followed by a further visit on 25th February 2017; a letter outlining the situation was prepared by Mr Johnston on 27th February 2017 (Sinclair Johnston 2017a–b). Two trial pits were archaeologically excavated to investigate possible causes of the structural failings. Mr Johnson inspected the evaluation pits on the 7th June 2018 and produced a report on his findings (Sinclair Johnston 2018). The evaluation test pits are a preliminary investigation and will inform further decisions about the work required to stabilise and repair the chancel.
- 1.3 An archaeological brief was issued for this watching brief by David Thackray, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (dated 16th January 2017).
- 1.4 A detailed methodology for the archaeological watching brief of the site was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Harward 2018). The fieldwork followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (ClfA 2014a), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).
- 1.5 The Site Code for the archaeological work is AST18. The Worcestershire HER WSM number is WSM70387.

## 2 Site background

- 2.1 The church of St Mary is a small, substantially medieval, Grade 1 Listed church (List no 1214230) and is located within a churchyard at the south of the village of Aston Somerville, Warwickshire. The site overlooks a small tributary stream of the River Isborne which rises adjacent to the church. The church lies at approximately 50m OD.
- 2.2 The geology of the site is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation - Mudstone, there are no recorded superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2018).

## 3 Archaeological and historical background

- 3.1 Areas of probable prehistoric and Romano-British date have been identified from aerial photographs around the village (Monument no. 328117, 328120, 1057041–4, 1387279). An

archaeological evaluation south west of the church at Manor Farm failed to identify any features of archaeological significance (Rogers 2006).

- 3.2 Settlement is documented at Aston Somerville in the Domesday Book, when the settlement had 21 households and was assessed for tax at 6 gelds; there were 20 acres of meadow and a mill. It was held in 1066 by Ernsi (son of Aldgyth), and in 1086 by Hascoit Musard (Open Domesday 2018). The manor was later held by the Somerville family for several centuries. A possible 14th century L-shaped bank and segmented ditch lies to the south of the church (Monument no. 328095); this may be a moated site or drainage features associated with the mill and fishponds to the west (Monument no. 328090). There is extensive medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow around the village (Monument no. 1388715).
- 3.2 The church is mostly 14th–15th century in appearance, although it has been suggested that the chancel, with its lancet windows and priest's door with plain tympanum, may be c1200 although the tympanum appears reset. The tower was begun in the 13th century; the nave and chancel were heightened in the 15th century. A chapel off the south east corner of the nave was demolished c1688; there is a first-floor rood stair door on the nave's south-eastern corner.
- 3.3 Within the church in the centre of the nave is a late 13th century recumbent stone effigy of a knight in armour, supposedly one of the Somervilles, it is much mutilated by sharpening of blades, and has been placed on a stone coffin. The 15th century perpendicular chancel screen is of carved oak. An early 18th century limestone chest tomb approximately 10 metres north of the church is listed as Grade II (Historic England listing 1214231).
- 3.4 By the early 20th century the church was in a very poor state of repair and was restored and re-seated in 1908 by architect C Ford Whitcombe with the internal walls scraped, the walls and roofs repaired, the porch and chancel arch rebuilt, and new flooring and seating installed at a cost of £1,350: there are 120 sittings. There was a severe fire in the church in 1973, destroying all the church records and the peal was reduced to one bell, rehung in 1975 (Barnett and Svendsen 2009, 23–24).
- 3.5 The 1884 Ordnance Survey Six inch to the mile map shows the L-shaped moated site immediately south of the church (which is marked as St Lawrence on the 1884 map); a mill pond and Corn Mill (Monument no. 1388658) is shown to the west of the church (Ordnance Survey 1884). The church was rededicated to St Mary by the time of the 1903 OS map (Ordnance Survey 1903).

## 4 Aims of the evaluation

- 4.1 The objective of the test pitting was to establish possible causes for the structural failings of the south and east walls of the church and to inform further action that may need to be taken by the PCC on the advice of the DAC and its Structural Engineering Adviser to arrest further structural movement.

- 4.2 The research aims were to minimise disturbance to archaeological remains and to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains to allow the potential impact of any future works to be evaluated. Attention will be given to sites and remains of all periods (including evidence of past environments).

## 5 Methodology

- 5.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the relevant *Standards and Guidance* produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The evaluation work was carried out on the 6th and 7th of June 2018 and comprised the excavation of two test pits (Fig. 2).
- 5.2 Archaeological recording work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Harward 2018) and the methodologies described and referred to in that document.
- 5.3 Levels were taken relative to the OS benchmark on the north western corner of the church, value 51.94m OD.
- 5.4 The Site Code for the archaeological work was AST18.

## 6 Results

- 6.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation; summaries of the recorded contexts and a Harris matrix are to be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

### Test Pit 1

- 6.2 Test pit 1 was located at the southern end of the east wall of the chancel, between the chancel wall and south-eastern buttress. The test pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.03m (50.03m OD), (Fig. 3–6).
- 6.3 An articulated human infant skeleton Sk(10) was partially exposed at the base of the test pit, it was aligned east–west, with the skull at the west end of the burial. A nominal cut [11] was allocated to the burial which was probably cut from higher in the sequence although the cut was only identified at the base of the pit. The burial physically overlay a stiff mid-greeny grey redeposited sandy silt layer (12) which contained occasional charcoal and burnt clay flecks. Above the level of the burial, a very similar stiff mid-greeny grey redeposited sandy silt layer (9) was observed across the test pit and contained pottery with a *terminus post quem* of the late 11th century. This was in turn sealed by a compact mid brown sandy clay layer (8) which contained frequent small limestone fragments and occasional larger fragments of limestone up to 250mm in size. A bone tool and a medieval arrowhead with a *terminus post quem* of the

14th century were recovered from (8). The layer appears to have been dumped over the sandy silt (9) and had a good surface at 50.63m OD.

- 6.4 Cutting through deposit (8) was the foundation trench of the chancel, [7]; the trench is vertically sided, and continued to the base of the trench, although probing suggested it did not continue any deeper. The trench was filled by foundation [6] which was made up of limestone rubble. No mortar bonding was noted, although the foundation may have been clay bonded. The surface of the foundation was made of larger blocks which were laid flat, a single row of limestone blocks formed an offset foundation to the chancel superstructure [5].
- 6.5 The foundation was sealed by a mid-yellow brown sandy clay levelling layer (4) which contained frequent small limestone fragments and pottery with a *terminus post quem* of the late 13th century. The levelling layer was sealed by topsoil and turf (3), which had a surface at 51.00m OD. A concrete drainage channel [1] was cut into the topsoil along the side of the chancel wall.

## Test Pit 2

- 6.6 Test pit 2 was located at the northern end of the east wall of the chancel, between the chancel wall and north-eastern buttress. The test pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.05m (49.84m OD), (Fig. 7–9).
- 6.7 A largely similar sequence to that observed in Test Pit 1 was observed in Test Pit 2. At the base of the trench a layer of redeposited brown oxidised clay (22) was sealed by a mid greeny-grey redeposited sandy silt layer (21=9), this in turn was sealed by a gritty mid brown sandy clay layer (20=8) with a surface at 50.58m OD, which was cut by the chancel foundation trench [19=7]. The base of the foundation appeared to be at 50.03m OD. Foundation [18=6] was sealed by a mid-yellow brown sandy clay levelling layer (16=4) which contained a sherd of pottery with a *terminus post quem* of the late 11th century.
- 6.8 The levelling layer was sealed by turf and topsoil (15=3) with a surface at 50.88m OD which was cut by concrete gutter [13=1] which was integral with a concrete and salt glazed gully and drainage pipe; the drainage pipe had snapped at the collar.

## 7 The Finds

### The pottery and ceramic building material

Paul Blinkhorn

7.1 The pottery assemblage comprised four sherds with a total weight of 23g. It is all medieval and was recorded using the conventions of the Worcestershire county type-series (e.g. Bryant and Evans 2004) as follows:

**F55: Worcester-type Sandy Unglazed Ware**, late 11th – 14th century. 2 sherds, 9g.

**F64.1: Worcester-type Sandy Glazed Ware**, late 11th – 14th century. 1 sherd, 13g.

**F69: Oxidized Late Malvernian Ware**, late 13th – 17th century. 1 sherd, 1g.

7.2 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. The fragments of F55 are from unglazed jars, with the sherds of F64.1 and F69 are, respectively, from an internally glazed jar or bowl and a jug. They are all typical products of the traditions.

Context	F55		F64.1		F69		Date
	No	Weight (g)	No	Weight (g)	No	Weight (g)	
4			1	13	1	1	Late 13thC
9	1	7					Late 11thC
16	1	2					Late 11thC
Total	2	9	1	13	1	1	

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type

7.3 Context (4) also produced a fragment of flat roof tile (weight = 38g). It is 11mm thick. It is in a hard, red, sandy fabric, and is of medieval date. A fragment of burnt daub weighing 26g occurred in context (9). It contains fairly large fragments of sub-rounded chalk and red grog in a sandy fabric. It cannot be dated closely, but the composition of the grog, which has a dense, sandy fabric, suggests that it is Romano-British or later.

### The small finds

Chiz Harward

7.4 A bone tool from (8) is carved from a sheep's metapodial bone, a bone that was often used for making into simple tools with the articular condyles left intact to form the handle, while the shaft can be cut and shaped into a point or, as here, a scoop.



Bone tool from AST18 (8)

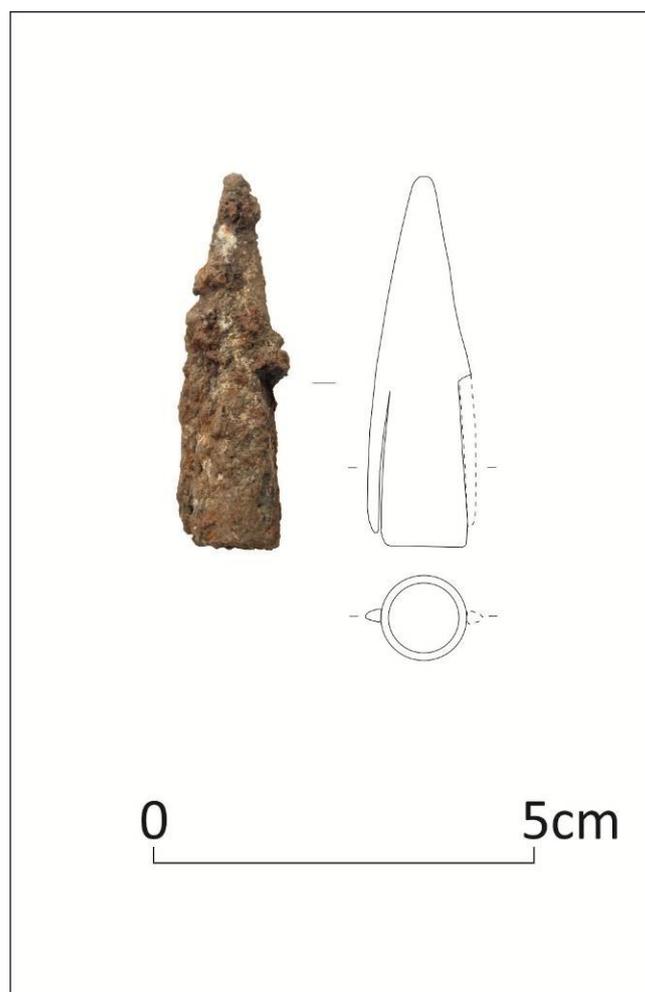
7.5 In this case the bone has been decorated with three well-defined cut marks on the top of the shaft, the shaft being split from the third cut onwards to form the 'scoop'; there are additional cut marks from a knife on the side and base. The proximal end has been shaped to form a tapered, squared edge, slightly angled and the cut edges are polished and worn from use.

7.6 Similar bone tools have been interpreted as 'fids' or rope-splicers, and as apple or cheese-corers which are often dated to the 18th century although this example is probably medieval. A similar bone scoop is illustrated in MacGregor (1985,180 fig 97) with the following discussion:

*"commonly executed with no more than a knife, conforming with the tradition that scoops of this type were made by young men for their sweethearts. This notion is nonetheless difficult to reconcile with the general belief that these scoops were used as an aid to eating apples by*

*those who had lost all their teeth. An alternative suggestion, that they were used for coring apples, is more romantically pleasing than a third tradition, that they were used in taking samples from cheeses to test their ripeness. Since there appears to be a certain amount of evidence to support each of these contentions, it must be assumed that there is some truth in all of them, and that different scoops served different purposes".*

- 7.7 A forged medieval iron arrowhead from (8) is complete except for one of the barbs which has broken off. The arrowhead has a circular socket which tapers to the blade. The blade section tapers very gradually from the socket to the point. One barb has lost its point, however the other is complete, lying very flat against the socket and extends over the socketed section. The cross-section of the arrow is diamond shaped, becoming circular at the socket.



Iron arrowhead from AST18 (8)

- 7.8 This type of arrowhead has been categorised as Type M4 by Jessop and is regarded as being specifically for military use. Type M4 is strong and slender with the compact head and close-fitting barbs able to punch holes through early forms of armour, as opposed to the wider 'broadhead' arrows that were used for hunting (Jessop 1996, Jessop 1997). Jessop's Type M4 equates to the Museum of London Medieval Catalogue Type 16 and is introduced around the 14th century (Ward Perkins 1940).

- 7.9 Two Cotswold Slates or stone tiles were recovered from (4), both have perforations for nailing onto the roof battens. The stone tiles are probably from the church roof which is slated in Cotswold Slates. Slates were widely used across the Cotswolds from the Roman period, with Cotswold Slate quarries known near Bourton-on-the-Water (Green, 1992, English Heritage 2011).

## Potential and further work

- 7.10 The ceramic assemblage is too small to draw any further conclusions beyond its use as dating material for the construction of the chancel. No further work is recommended on the finds assemblage unless there is further excavation at the site, in which case the finds should be integrated into the final report.

## Discard

- 7.11 This is a very small collection of ceramic material however given the possibility of further work at the site it should be retained. The bone tool and arrowhead are of intrinsic interest and should be retained in the site archive. The Cotswold Stone slates have been fully recorded and can be discarded.

## Catalogue

- |      |           |   |
|------|-----------|---|
| 7.12 | AST18 (8) | Bone tool. Complete but broken in two; 23.6g; 119mm length, 28mm width  |
|      | AST18 (8) | Iron arrowhead. 12.2g; length 48mm, width 17mm, diameter of socket: 10mm external, 7mm internal   |
|      | AST18 (4) | Stone tile. Cotswold stone tile, frag: no complete dimensions, one complete perforation, broken at second perforation; 372g, 150 x 106 x 19mm |
|      | AST18 (4) | Stone tile. Cotswold stone tile, complete, one complete perforation; 1185g, 186 x 194 x 18mm  |

# 8 The human remains

- 8.1 A single fragment of human bone was recovered from context (21) in Test Pit 2, it was scanned for obvious pathologies, and reinterred within the excavations. The burial of an infant or juvenile was partially exposed in TP1, however it was not excavated and remains *in situ*.

## 9 Conclusions and statement of significance

- 9.1 Natural ground was not observed in either Test Pit. In both pits a similar layer of redeposited sandy silt was recorded to a depth of up to 1.03m below present ground level. The sandy silt layer was oxidised at the base of TP2 and contained flecks of charcoal and burnt clay throughout. Two sherds of Worcester-type Sandy Unglazed Ware pottery provide a *terminus post quem* of the late 11th century for the deposits. The identification of such a similar deposit in both test pits may suggest a single large feature such as a ditch or quarry, although the similarity of the deposits may be due to the nature of the natural substrate and similar formation processes. It is possible that the deposits are related to the ditched enclosure/moated site to the south, although that is recorded as 14th century.
- 9.2 The presence of such a deep deposit of sandy silt containing late 11th–14th century pottery immediately east of the present chancel foundation infers that any Norman chancel did not extend this far to the east, and that there may be earlier occupation on the site before the construction of the church; the earliest identifiable element of the church is the tympanum which is c1200 although it appears to be reset in the chancel south wall.
- 9.3 Human infant skeleton (10) was observed lying within, or probably cut into, the redeposited clay layer. The skull and arm bones of the skeleton were exposed, however the burial was not cleaned in order to minimise disturbance. No grave cut or fill was discernible in the layers above the skeleton, but the burial is likely to have been cut from the top of redeposited clay layer (9) or gritty layer (8). The grave cut did not cut through levelling deposit (4) and therefore predates the chancel. The burial itself is undated, however it is mostly likely to be medieval and have a *terminus post quem* of the late 11th century. Given the presence of a church on the site from at least c1200, it seems probable that the burial is part of a churchyard cemetery, extending eastwards of the earliest church.
- 9.4 A large foundation trench was dug to carry the foundation of the chancel, which is very substantial, extending 0.75m east of the superstructure and to approximately 0.8m depth. Assuming the foundation is symmetrical internally the foundation may be up to approximately 2.5m thick. The foundation was made using blocks of limestone laid in the trench, some attempt at coursing may have been made, but stones along the outer side of the foundation were pitched in. The foundation appears to be bonded using clay/soil, there is no sign of mortar in the exposed foundation, although the core could be bonded with mortar. It is highly likely that the masons building the church knew that the ground under the wall line was poor, and that the substantial footing was designed to circumvent this.
- 9.5 The chancel has been ascribed to the Norman period due to the tympanum of c1200 above the priest's door, however this appears to be reused and some windows are certainly later. The chancel foundation cuts through a layer containing limestone fragments, which suggest that this deposit dates after the construction of a masonry building, possibly an earlier chancel that lay further east. Sherds of Worcester-type Sandy Glazed Ware and Oxidized Late Malvernian Ware from a layer sealing the chancel foundation suggests a *terminus post quem* of the late 13th century for the construction of the present chancel, whilst an arrowhead of M4 type suggest a *terminus post quem* of the 14th century, and it is suggested

that the chancel is 14th century in date, although it may replace an earlier, smaller, chancel located further west.

- 9.6 The evaluation has produced a small assemblage of artefacts; the pottery and arrowhead have provided an important *terminus post quem* for the chancel construction, with the arrowhead giving an intriguing indication of military equipment at the site, perhaps linked to the Somerville family? The Cotswold Slates are a common find on church sites, the present church being roofed using similar slates.
- 9.7 It is clear that any works at the east end of the church have the potential to impact on archaeological deposits, including burials. The evaluation has demonstrated that there are substantial foundations, however given that natural substrate was not encountered in either test pit, the nature of soft archaeological deposits at the east end of the church is harder to predict.
- 9.8 The evaluation has added to our understanding of, and raised further questions about, the development of the church and burial ground of the church of St Mary Aston Somerville. The results of the evaluation have met the research aims and have characterised the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of the surviving archaeological remains and the results will allow the potential impact of any future works to be evaluated.
- 9.9 The results of the evaluation are of local significance only and no further work is recommended on the site archive, although should further work be carried out the results should be integrated into the final report.

## 10 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 The author would like to thank Adam Klups, DAC Secretary for commissioning the work and for his help in providing information on the scheme along with David Thackray (Gloucestershire Diocesan Archaeological Advisor) and Sinclair Johnson (Structural Engineer). Urban Archaeology would also like to thank David Bates of Aston Somerville PCC, and Steve Harrison for his assistance breaking out the concrete channels. We would like to thank Rob Hedges of Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service for providing documentary resources. The evaluation was carried out by the author, the pottery report was by Paul Blinkhorn.

## 11 Archive

- 11.1 The site code AST18 has been allocated to the excavation. The WSM number is WSM70387.
- 11.2 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by Urban Archaeology at their offices in Stroud. The site archive will comprise all artefacts, written, drawn and photographic records and subject to the agreement of the legal landowner will be deposited within Worcestershire County Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).
- 11.3 The archive will be prepared in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990), specifically complying with Museums Worcestershire and OASIS/ADS guidelines. The archive will be presented to the receiving museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Diocese). The archive will then become publicly accessible.
- 11.4 A copy of this report and a summary of information from this project will be submitted to the OASIS database of archaeological publications (Appendix 4). A further copy of the report will be submitted to Worcestershire HER. Shape files of the evaluation and watching brief trench locations will also be submitted to the HER.

## 12 Bibliography

### Electronic:

British Geological Survey Index: [www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex) Accessed 15th March 2018

Heritage Gateway 2018 [www.heritagegateway.org.uk/](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/) Accessed 3rd April

Historic England Listing: [historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1214230](http://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1214230) and [1214231](http://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1214231)  
Accessed 15th March 2018

Magic, 2018 [www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/magicmap.aspx](http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/magicmap.aspx) Accessed 3rd April 2018

Open Domesday, 2018 [www.opendomesday.org/place/SP0438/aston-somerville/](http://www.opendomesday.org/place/SP0438/aston-somerville/) Accessed 3rd April 2018

### References:

Barnett, J and Svendsen, V, 2009 *Aston Somerville through the years*

Brooks, A and Pevsner, N 2007 *The Buildings of England: Worcestershire* 117–8

Bryant, V, and Evans, J, 2004 'The Pottery' in H Dalwood, and R Edwards, *Excavations at Deansway, Worcester, 1988-89: Romano-British small town to late medieval city* CBA Research Report **139**

English Heritage 2011 *Strategic Stone Study: A Building Stone Atlas of Gloucestershire*

Green, GW 1992 'British Regional Geology: Bristol and Gloucester Regions', *Memoir of the British Geological Survey*

Jessop, O 1996 'A New Typology for the Study of Medieval Arrowheads', *Medieval Archaeology* Volume 40, 192-205

Jessop, O 1997, *Medieval Arrowheads*, Finds Research Group Datasheet 22

MacGregor A 1985 *Bone, Antler, Ivory and Horn, The technology of skeletal materials since the Roman period*

Ordnance Survey, 1884 *Gloucestershire VI.SE (includes: Aston Somerville; Childs Wickham; Hinton on the Green; Wickhamford.)*, Surveyed: 1883 to 1884

Ordnance Survey, 1903 *Gloucestershire VI.SE (includes: Aston Somerville; Childs Wickham; Hinton on the Green; Wickhamford.) Revised: 1900*

Ordnance Survey, 1924 *Gloucestershire VI.SE (includes: Aston Somerville; Childs Wickham; Hinton on the Green; Wickhamford.) Revised: 1921*

Ordnance Survey, 1949 *Gloucestershire VI.SE (includes: Aston Somerville; Childs Wickham; Hinton on the Green; Wickhamford.) Revised: 1938*

Rogers, T, 2006 *Archaeological Evaluation at Manor Farm, Aston Somerville, Worcestershire*

Sinclair Johnston 2017a P1426/GDAC/JSJ/VME, letter to Adam Klups, dated 27th February 2017

Sinclair Johnston 2017b P1426/GDAC/JSJ/VME, letter to Adam Klups, dated 5th December 2017

Sinclair Johnston 2018 P1426 190607 AstonSomervilleInclPhotos, Site Report, dated 7th June 2018

Thackray, D, 2018 *Church of St Mary Aston Somerville, Worcestershire, brief for archaeological investigation and recording*

Turner, AJC, 1948 *The Parish of Aston Somerville*

Ward Perkins, J 1940 *Medieval Catalogue of the London Museum*

Worcestershire Archive and Advisory Service 2016 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*

## **Statutory Guidance:**

Association for Environmental Archaeology, 1995 *Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological Evaluations - Recommendations regarding the environmental archaeology component of archaeological evaluations in England* AEA working paper No. 2

AAF, 2007 *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

Brickley M & Mckinley J, 2004 *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* IFA Paper No. 7

English Heritage, 2002 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* English Heritage

English Heritage/Church of England 2005 *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England*

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* English Heritage

English Heritage, 2008 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* English Heritage

English Heritage, 2009 (V1.1). *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* English Heritage

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Code of conduct*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

Leigh D, Watkinson D (Ed.) & Neal V (ED.) 1993 *First Aid for Finds* United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, Archaeology Section

Mckinley J & Roberts C, 1993 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains*. IfA Technical Paper No. 13

Ministry of Justice 2007 *Burial Law and Policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: The way forward*

Murphy & Wiltshire, 1994 *A Guide to Sampling Archaeological Deposits for Environmental Analysis*

Museums and Galleries Commission, 1994 *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* Museums and Galleries Commission

Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993 *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections: Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* Society of Museum Archaeologists

Spence C (ed.), 1994 *Archaeological Site Manual*, 3rd edition. Museum of London

Walker K, 1990 *Conservation guidelines 2: Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

Ward Perkins, JB 1940 *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1983 *Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites*. Conservation Guidelines No. 2

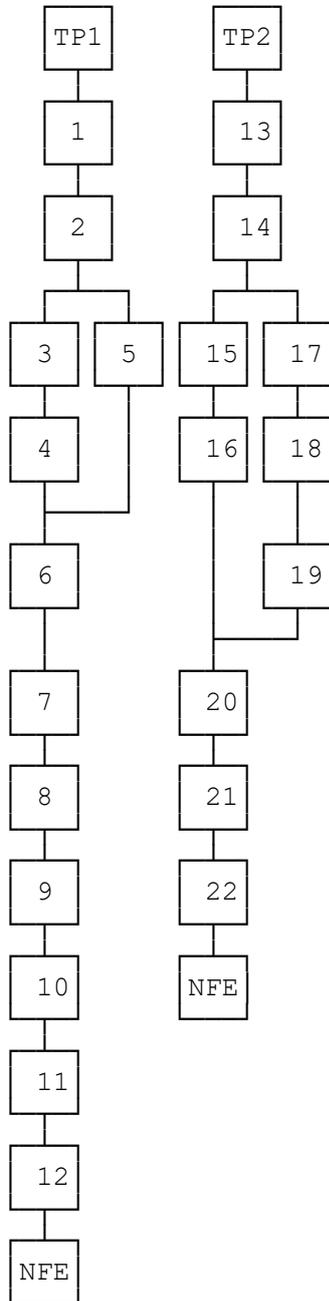
## Appendix 1 Context Register

Context no	Type	Description
1	Deposit	Concrete drainage channel
2	Deposit	Cut for concrete drainage channel
3	Deposit	Turf and topsoil
4	Deposit	Layer sealing foundation; levelling
5	Deposit	Chancel superstructure
6	Deposit	Chancel foundation
7	Deposit	Cut for chancel foundation
8	Deposit	Layer of sandy clay, cut by foundation
9	Deposit	Redeposited clay layer
10	Deposit	Skeleton
11	Deposit	Nominal cut for skeleton
12	Deposit	Redeposited clay beneath skeleton
13	Deposit	Same as [1]
14	Deposit	Same as [2]
15	Deposit	Same as (3)
16	Deposit	Same as (4)
17	Deposit	Same as [5]
18	Deposit	Same as [6]
19	Deposit	Same as [7]
20	Deposit	Same as (8)
21	Deposit	Same as (9)
22	Deposit	Stiff brown redeposited clay

**Table 1: Context register**

# Appendix 2 Harris matrix

Harris matrix of AST18



## Appendix 3 Archive contents

### Digital archive

Type	Number	Comments
Digital photographs	28 images	

**Table 2: Digital archive**

### Paper archive

Type	Number	Comments
Context sheets	13	
Trench record sheet	2	
Registers	2	Drawing and photo

**Table 3: Paper archive**

### Drawn archive

Type	Number	Comments
Permatrace	3 sheets	1 plan sheet, 2 section sheets

**Table 4: Drawn archive**

### Finds archive

Type	Number	Comments	Retained/discarded
Pottery	4 sherds	Medieval pottery	Retained
CBM	1 fragment	Medieval	Retained
Daub	1 fragment	Roman or post Roman	Retained
Small finds	Fe arrowhead, bone tool	Medieval	Retained
Stone	2	Cotswold stone slates	Discarded

## Appendix 4 OASIS Form

OASIS ID	urbanarc1-312934
Project name	St Mary Aston Somerville
Short description of the project	<p>On the 6th and 7th June 2018 Urban Archaeology carried out an evaluation at St Mary's church, Aston Somerville, Worcestershire on behalf of the Diocese of Gloucester. Two test pits were excavated by the east wall of the chancel.</p> <p>Natural ground was not observed in either test pit, in both pits a similar layer of redeposited sandy silt was recorded to a depth of up to 1.03m below present ground level. Two sherds of pottery provide a terminus post quem of the late 11th century for these deposits.</p> <p>A human skeleton was probably cut into the redeposited clay layer; the burial itself is undated, however it is mostly likely to have a terminus post quem of the late 11th century. Given the presence of a church on the site from at least c1200, it seems probable that the burial is part of a churchyard cemetery, extending eastwards of the earliest church.</p> <p>The substantial foundation of the chancel was exposed, extending 0.75m east of the superstructure and to approximately 0.8m depth. The chancel has been suggested to be from the Norman period due to the tympanum of c1200 above the priest's door, however this appears to be reused. An arrowhead of M4 type suggests a terminus post quem of the 14th century for the construction of the chancel, although it may replace an earlier, smaller, chancel located further west.</p> <p>It is clear that any works at the east end of the church have the potential to impact on archaeological deposits, including burials. The evaluation has demonstrated that there are substantial foundations, however given that natural substrate was not encountered in either test pit, the nature of soft archaeological deposits at the east end of the church is harder to predict.</p> <p>The results of the evaluation are of local significance only and no further work is recommended on the site archive, although should further work be carried out the results should be integrated into the final report.</p>
Project dates	Start: 06-06-2018 End: 07-06-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	UA183 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AST18 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	WSM70387 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	CHURCH Medieval
Significant Finds	ARROWHEAD Medieval
Significant Finds	SCOOP Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON ASTON SOMERVILLE St Mary Aston Somerville
Postcode	WR12 7JG
Study area	3 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 404739 237874 51.910711946052 -1.411546749509 51 54 38 N 001 24 41 W Point
Project creators	

Name of Organisation	Urban Archaeology
Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeologist
Project design originator	Urban Archaeology
Project director/manager	Chiz Harward
Project supervisor	Chiz Harward
Type of sponsor/funding body	Diocese
Name of sponsor/funding body	Diocese of Gloucester
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Worcestershire County Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal","Worked bone"
Digital Archive recipient	OASIS
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Worcestershire County Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	St Mary's Church, Aston Somerville, Worcestershire, Diocese of Gloucester, An Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Harward, C
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Urban Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Stroud
Description	Illustrated typescript report



Fig. 1 Site location

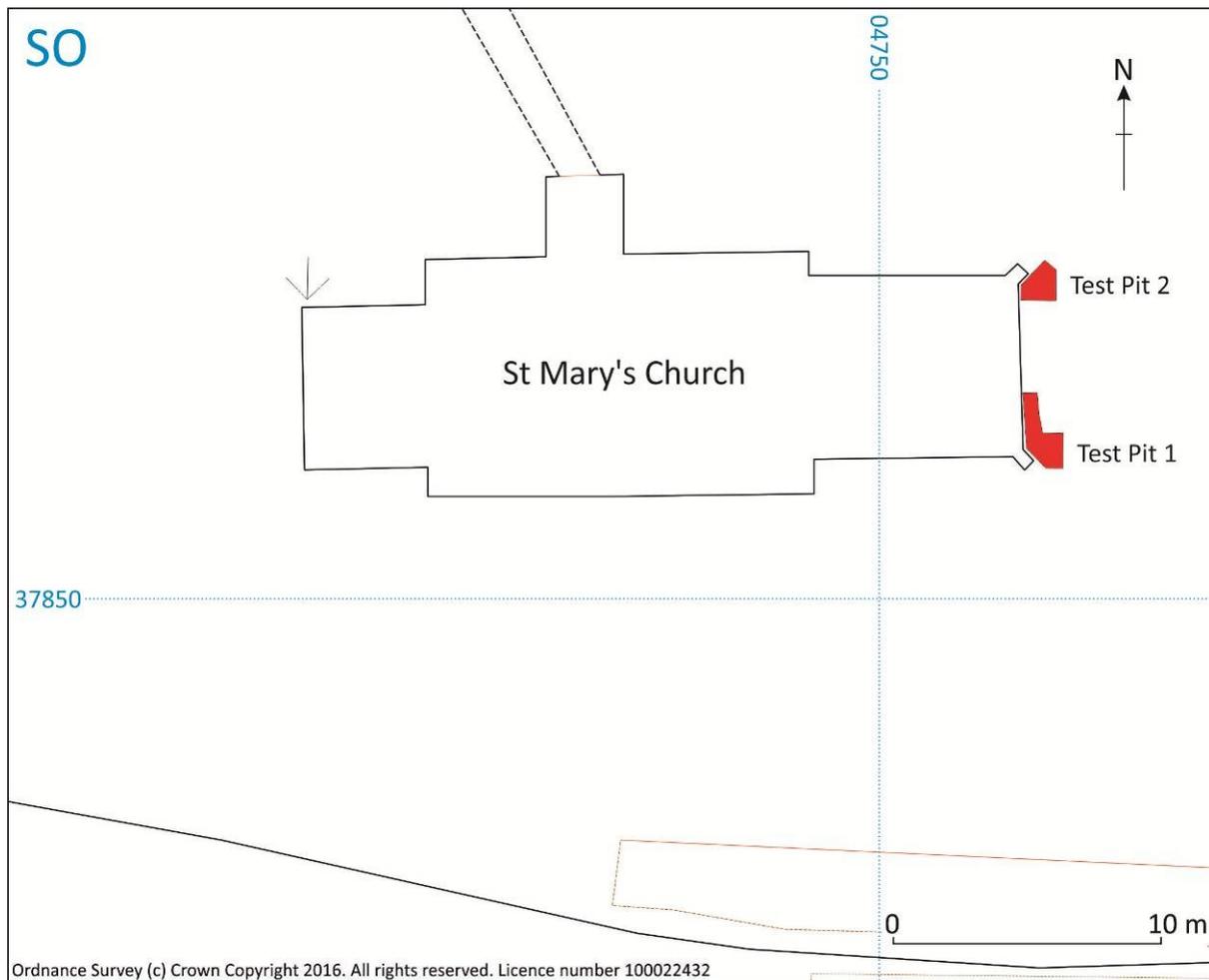


Fig. 2 Location of test pits

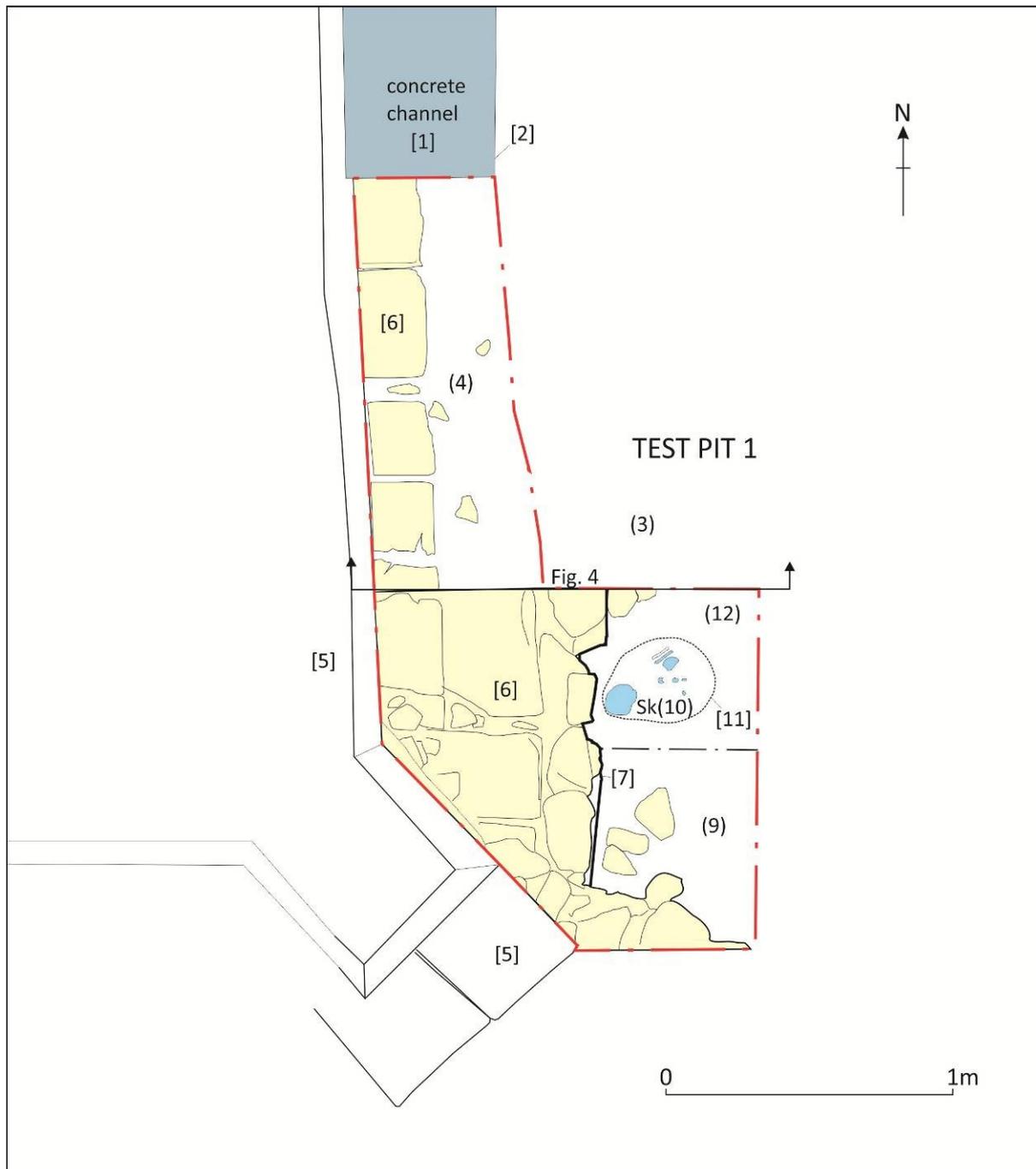


Fig. 3 Plan of Test Pit 1



Fig. 4 South facing section of Test Pit 1



Fig. 5 Test Pit 1 showing foundation [6] sealed by layer (4) looking north; scales 0.3 and 0.5m



Fig. 6 Test Pit 1 showing foundation [6] and burial Sk(10) looking west; scale 0.5m

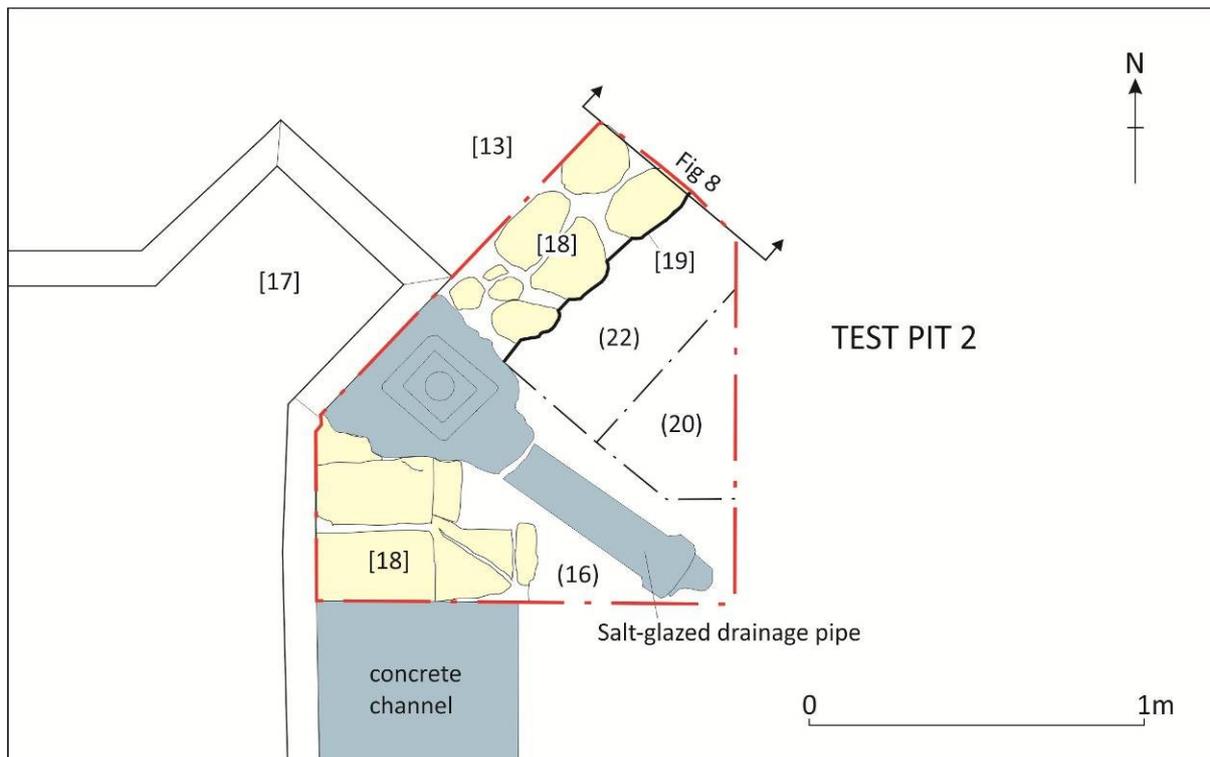


Fig. 7 Plan of Test Pit 2

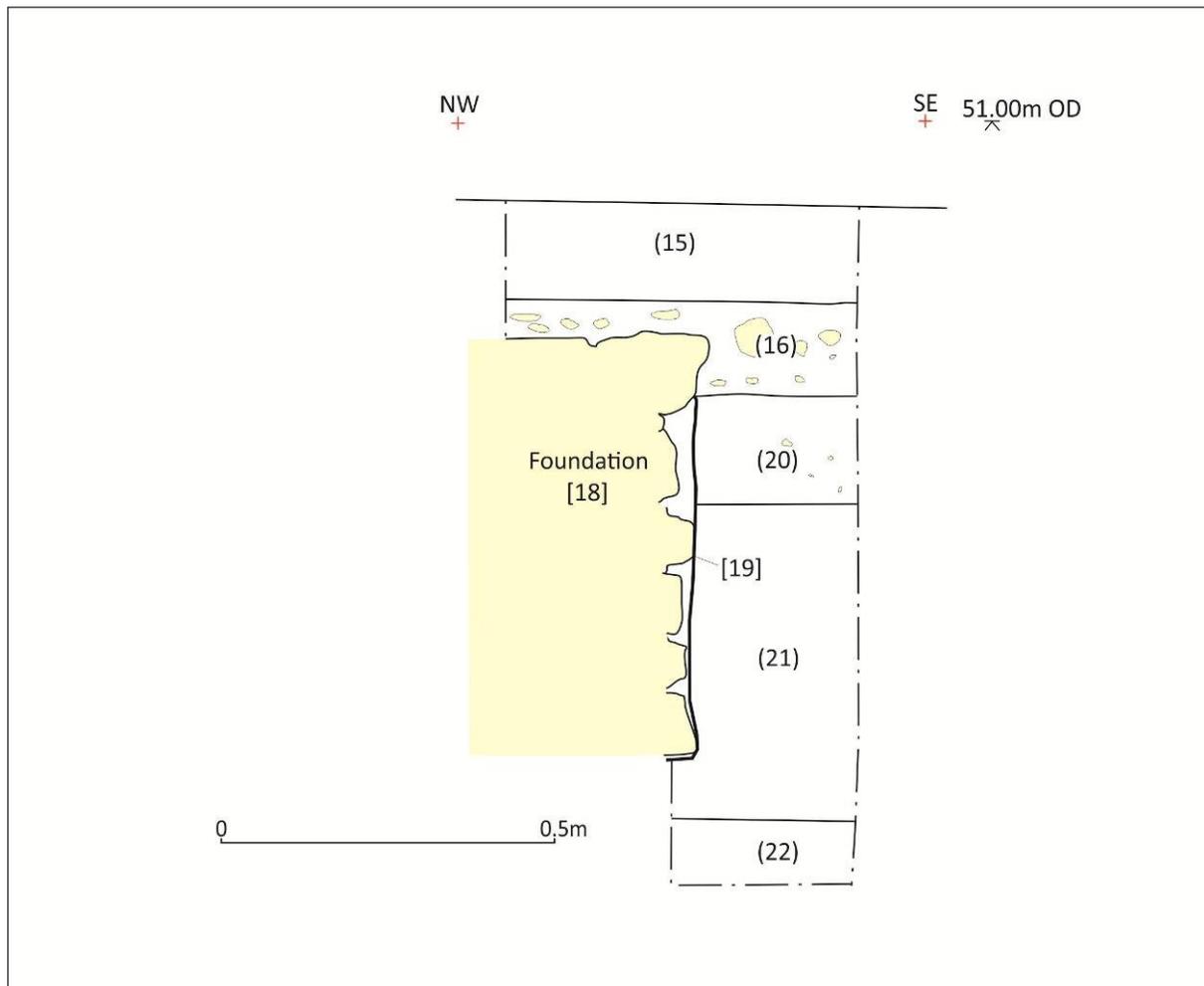


Fig. 8 Southwest facing section of Test Pit 2



Fig. 9 Test Pit 1 showing foundation [18] looking northwest; scale 0.5m