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HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
CHURCH, PENKRIDGE IN
STAFFORDSHIRE.

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

JULY 2017

PENKRIDGE PAROCHIAL
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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Commercial Archaeology Ltd (CAL) has been commissioned by Penkridge Parish Church Council to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment in support of a planning application for a proposed annexe to be located within the northern part of the churchyard surrounding the Grade I listed parish church of St. Michael and All Angels in Penkridge, Staffordshire (Figure 1, NGR SJ92143 14161). The church contains structural elements of 13th century date with 14th century and 16th century additions and restorations dating to 1881. Documentary evidence suggests that the church originated as a minster church in the 10th century and the presence of a community of clerics is recorded in Domesday. The site continued to house a religious community as a collegiate church until the Dissolution. The church lies within the Penkridge Conservation Area.

The focus of this report is to assess the impacts of the proposed annexe on the significance of a range of heritage assets, including the contribution of setting to their significance, within and in the vicinity of St. Michael and All Angels Church. These heritage assets comprise the church and its graveyard, a number of listed buildings and structures within the vicinity of the proposed annexe and the conservation area. The report will also assess the impact of the proposed annexe on any buried archaeological remains within the application boundary. An evaluation comprising GPR survey and trial trenching has been carried out and the results of those investigations will be included in this report.

It was anticipated that any archaeological remains present offer the opportunity to elucidate the early history of the site, in particular in the form of buildings associated with the Saxon minster church and medieval collegiate church. In addition, it was expected that both inhumations and disarticulated human bone of unknown date would be present within the application area.

The proposed scheme comprises a single storey annexe located in the northern part of the graveyard (the 'application site') joined to the northern elevation of the church by a corridor. The annexe will occupy approximately 420sqm of ground. A pathway from the entrance to the graveyard will lead around the eastern side of the church into the application site.



The Heritage Impact Assessment concluded that the proposed annexe will have no overall impact on appreciation or understanding of the special architectural and historic qualities of the conservation area or on any of the listed buildings, including their settings, within the vicinity of the new development.

In addition, it was concluded that there will be no major impact on appreciation and understanding of the grade I listed St. Michael and All Angels Church or on its associated churchyard. However, there will be a localised visual impact to the north of the church in the location of the proposed new annexe which will obscure the lower part of the northern elevation of the church. Similarly, there will be a moderate physical impact on the northern elevation of the church where a corridor linking the new annexe to the church will require the creation of an entrance into the church.

The visual and physical impacts to the northern elevation of the church will be outweighed by the communal and social benefits presented to the parishioners and local community at large by the creation of much needed additional space to house church-led community activities. In addition, the new entrance which will entail the re-opening of the original northern entrance to the church, will serve to restore a certain level of historic context.

Evaluation by trial trenching established the presence of unrecorded burials at a minimum depth of 1m below ground level within the footprint of the proposed annexe. The preferred approach by Staffordshire County Council and the Parochial Church Council is to preserve the burials in situ. It is anticipated that a foundation design will be devised to make this possible.

The report has been prepared in accordance with all the relevant standards and guidelines laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), Historic England (HE) and with planning guidance published by Staffordshire County Council. The Staffordshire Record Office and Historic Environment Record (HER) have also been consulted in addition to discussions held with the Principal Archaeologist at Staffordshire County Council who is also the Advisor to the Diocese of Lichfield under whose remit the parish church at Penkridge falls.



1. INTRODUCTION

Background to the project

Commercial Archaeology Ltd (CAL) has been commissioned by Penkridge Parochial Church Council ('the client') to prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed annexe located in the northern part of the graveyard (the 'application site') surrounding the grade I listed St. Michael and All Angels Church, Penkridge in Staffordshire (Figure 1, NGR SJ92143 14161).

This report specifically addresses the impacts of the proposed annexe on the church and its graveyard, nearby listed buildings, the conservation area and on any buried archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed new building.

Although details of the scheme have yet to be finalised in principle it is anticipated that it will comprise a single storey structure with a low roofline joined to the northern elevation of the church by a covered walkway. A pathway will lead from the main entrance to the graveyard round the eastern end of the church into the application site.

The church lies in close proximity to a number of listed buildings and structures and is situated within the Penkridge Conservation Area.

The archaeological evaluation was the subject of a faculty granted by the Diocese of Lichfield on 2nd May 2017.

Purpose of a Heritage Impact Assessment

The purpose of a Heritage Impact Assessment is to understand the significance of heritage assets and any contribution made to that significance from their settings. The impact of proposed development on their significance is also evaluated.

The impacts considered in this report can be summarised as follows:

- impact on St. Michael and All Angels Church and its setting, including views into and from the graveyard;



- impact of the proposed scheme on the Penkridge Conservation Area and its setting;
- impact of the proposed scheme on nearby listed buildings and their settings;
- impact on any archaeological remains within the area of the proposed scheme.

Terminology

This Heritage Impact Assessment has been compiled using the following standard terminology:

Conservation Area - an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires every local planning authority to identify areas of special architectural or historic interest to designate as conservation areas.

Listed Building - a building, object or structure considered to be of special architectural and historic interest. Listings comprise Grades I and II* for the most exceptionally important buildings and Grade II for those considered of special interest. Buildings can also be locally listed which means that their conservation as heritage assets is an objective of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and a material consideration when determining the outcome of a planning application.

Designation - this recognises the significance of a heritage asset and increases its status of protection within the planning process. Designated assets can be statutorily protected as in the case of listed buildings and scheduled monuments or non- statutorily protected as is the case with registered parks and gardens and conservation areas.

Heritage Asset - this term refers to buildings, sites, places, monuments and landscapes which have been recognised as having a level of heritage significance which makes them a material consideration in the planning process.

Historic Environment Record (HER) - a repository which stores data on heritage assets within a defined geographical area.



Significance - the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations based upon its heritage interest which may be archaeological, architectural, aesthetic or historic.

Setting - the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. The extent is not fixed and will vary according to the historic character of the asset and the development of its surrounding. Setting itself is not a heritage asset nor a heritage designation. Its importance lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset (HE, GPA 3 2015).

Faculty - a process that allows the Church of England to care for alterations to its buildings outside of secular listed building consent. When a parish wishes to make alterations to a church they must apply to the Chancellor of the relevant Diocese who will be advised by the Diocesan Advisory Committee regarding the proposed works.

Diocese - a specific geographical area over which a bishop exercises his pastoral oversight. Also known as a *see*.



2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Government policy relating to the conservation of the historic environment is set out in Section 12 of the NPPF entitled *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2012). Sites of archaeological or heritage significance which are material considerations within the planning system are known collectively as *heritage assets*.

The NPPF acknowledges that heritage assets are a finite and irreplaceable resource and that their conservation can bring wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits and overall seeks the delivery of sustainable development in addition to the conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.

NPPF states in relation to proposed development:

In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance (Section 12 paragraph 128).

Paragraph 129 states that:

Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

Designated heritage assets are distinguished from assets of lesser significance:



When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional (Paragraph 132).*

Paragraph 134 states that:

Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including its optimum viable use.

In terms of new development Paragraph 137 makes clear that:

Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites and within the setting of heritage assets to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset should be treated favourably.

With regard to non-designated heritage assets NPPF states:

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset (Section 12 paragraph 135).



It is acknowledged that non-designated sites will normally be preserved through excavation and recording in accordance with their significance and the extent of the harm to their significance from the proposals. NPPF states that this is to:

Avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspects of the proposals (Section 12 paragraph 129).

Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest will also be subject to the policies reserved for designated heritage assets if they are of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments (Section 12 paragraph 132).

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

Advice on enhancing and conserving the historic environment is also published in the PPG which provides guidance on how the historic environment should be assessed within NPPF (DCLG 2014). This document states that:

The appropriate conservation of heritage assets forms one of the Core Planning Principles that underpin the planning system... and ...planning decisions should conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations.

The main factor in the NPPF paragraphs 132-134 is whether a proposed development will result in substantial harm or less than substantial harm. Whilst these are not defined in the NPPF the PPG provides guidance:

What matters in assessing if a proposal causes substantial harm is the impact on the significance of the heritage asset. As the NPPF makes clear, significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. Whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgment for the decision taker, having regard to the circumstances of the case and the policy in the NPPF. In general terms, substantial harm is a high test, so it may not arise in many cases. For example, in determining whether works to a listed building constitute substantial harm, an important consideration would be whether the adverse impact seriously affects a key element of its special architectural or



historic interest. It is the degree of harm to the asset's significance rather than the scale of the development that is to be assessed (Paragraph 017).

The PPG also provides guidance for the interpretation of less than substantial harm where the harm arising should be weighed against the public benefits of the development:

Public benefits may follow from many developments and could be anything that delivers economic, social or environmental progress as described in NPPF (Paragraph 7). Public benefits should flow from the proposed development. They should be of a nature or scale to be of benefit to the public at large and should not just be a private benefit. However, benefits do not always have to be visible or accessible to the public in order to be genuine public benefits.

The Listed Buildings Act (1990) and Ecclesiastical Law

The Listed Buildings Act sets the general duty as regards the exercise of planning functions within a conservation area and the relationship of the site to any listed building:

....special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area (section 72).

In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority, or as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses (section 66).

All churches are subject to planning law, and planning permission is required for development or change of use regardless of denomination or faith. However, churches of certain denominations are exempt from listed building consent and conservation area consent. This originates from the *Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act 1913*. This exemption applies to the Church of England.

The Church of England's system of planning control is governed by canon law, ecclesiastical law and heritage law. Under the provisions of the *Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical*



Jurisdiction Measure 1991 all works, alterations and additions to parish churches, their churchyards and contents require faculty approval which is a permissive right to undertake works to a church building or its contents. A faculty must be obtained by the parish church council from the relevant diocese before works are undertaken.

Local Planning Policy

The South Staffordshire Local Plan (Adopted Core Strategy 2012) contains policies relevant to the historic environment. The Core Strategy recognises the value of the rich and diverse historic environment within South Staffordshire and Strategic Objective 5 aims:

To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and heritage assets and ensure that the character and appearance of the district's conservation areas is sustained and enhanced through management plans and high quality design.

Policy EQ3 of the Core Strategy: Conservation, Preservation and Protection of Heritage Assets states:

- *The Council will support and encourage measures which secure the improved maintenance, management and sustainable reuse of heritage assets, particularly those which are identified nationally or locally as being at risk. Where necessary an assessment will be made of whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which could secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies;*
- *The Council will ensure that development which affects a heritage asset or its setting will be informed by a proportionate assessment of the significance of the asset, including its setting, which is likely to be affected by the proposals. These will be judged by considering the extent to which an asset's archaeological, architectural, historic or artistic interest will be harmed, including its conservation, in the interest of present and future generations;*



- *In the case of development in a conservation area, proposals will be considered against any management plan and appraisal adopted for that area, and*
- *The Council will consider the significance and setting of all proposed works to heritage assets, informed by relevant guidance that is supported by English Heritage. In addition, the following principles will be adhered to:*
 1. *Minimising the loss and disturbance of historic materials*
 2. *Using appropriate materials and*
 3. *Ensuring alterations are reversible*
- *The Council will require all works proposed to heritage assets, or sites with potential to include assets, to be informed by a level of historical, architectural and archaeological evidence proportionate to their significance. Where appropriate, the Council may also require historical research and archaeological recording to be undertaken before works to a heritage asset commence, and*
- *Development proposals should be consistent with the NPPF, the adopted Village Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document and other local planning policies.*

Key evidence used to inform the South Staffordshire Adopted Core Strategy includes Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans (2010) and the Historic Environment Character Assessment (2011). The latter document forms part of a national programme of Extensive Urban Surveys (EUS) initiated and supported by Historic England. The Historic Character Assessment of Penkridge forms one of 23 such reports which make up the EUS for towns of medieval origin within Staffordshire.



3. METHODOLOGY

Introduction

All work undertaken in the preparation of this report is consistent with the guidance set out in Historic England's publication *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* (HE2015a). Importantly this document provides assistance in the interpretation and implementation of the NPPF and PPG and provides crucial guidance on how to assess the potential effects of a proposed development on a heritage asset. There are six main guidance points:

- To understand the significance of the affected assets;
- To understand the impact of the proposal on that significance;
- To avoid, minimise and mitigate impact in a way that meets the objectives of NPPF;
- To look for opportunities to better reveal or enhance significance;
- To justify any harmful impacts in terms of the sustainable development aim of conserving significance and the need for change, and
- To offset negative impacts on aspects of significance by enhancing others through recording, disseminating and archiving the archaeological and historical interest of the heritage assets affected.

Specific approaches used in this report to assess the effects of the proposed annexe at St. Michael and All Angels Church on archaeology and designated heritage assets are described below.

Archaeology

Documentary Sources

The potential impacts of the proposed annexe on any buried archaeological remains have been assessed in accordance with guidelines in *Standards and Guidance for Historic Desk-Based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). The information presented in the report has been obtained from desk-based research, cartographic analysis and a site visit.



The Historic Environment Record held by Staffordshire County Council has been consulted for relevant entries located within a radius of 50m from the site boundary. Historic maps have been viewed at the Staffordshire Record Office.

A number of relevant online sources have also been consulted including:

- the Archaeology Data Service (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/ifp/wiki/pdf>);
- the National Heritage List (<http://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>);
- PastScape (<http://pastscape.org.uk>).

Archaeological Evaluation

The results of an archaeological evaluation comprising GPR survey and trial trenching will also be considered in this report and any impacts on the archaeological resource from the proposed development will be assessed. The full reports on the GPR survey and trial trenching can be found in Appendices 2 and 3.

Impact Assessment of Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets

The Penkridge Conservation Area and the listed buildings it contains, including the grade I listed St Michael's and All Angels Church are designated heritage assets. In accordance with Paragraph 132 of the NPPF and with the PPG the impact of the proposed annexe on those designated heritage assets and their settings will be considered as *less than substantial harm* or *substantial harm*. This terminology will be used in relation to assessing the degree of harm to the asset's significance (and that of its setting) and not to the scale of the development.

Similarly, the effect of the proposed annexe on the significance of any non-designated heritage assets will be considered in the same way but in accordance with NPPF and the PPG a judgement will be made regarding the scale of harm or loss to the significance of the non-designated heritage asset balanced against any public benefits (Section 12 paragraph 135).

The assessment of impacts in this report will also be carried out with reference to the guidance set out in *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* (HE 2015b).



The Penkridge Conservation Area and Listed Buildings

The Penkridge Conservation Area contains a large number of listed buildings and structures. However, only those listed buildings which are within the vicinity of the proposed new annexe and which are judged to be possible receptors of impacts will be discussed in this report. Comprehensive descriptions of the listed and locally listed buildings within the conservation area as a whole can be found in the *Penkridge Conservation Area Assessment* (SCC 2010) and the *Penkridge Historic Character Assessment* (SCC 2012).

In addition, this report will contain a summarised version of the history, development, special architectural and historic significance and layout of the conservation area contained within those two documents. The main focus of this report will be St. Michael's and All Angels Church, the surrounding graveyard and heritage features within its vicinity, such as the surrounding fossilised street pattern, which are considered pertinent to the history, archaeology and architectural significance of the church.

Reporting

A copy of the Heritage Impact Assessment will be deposited with the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record for public viewing.

CAL supports the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS) which provides an online resource of grey literature reports generated as a result of developer-funded archaeological investigation. Details of the current project will be made available by CAL as part of this national scheme under the unique identifier **commerci1-285560**.



4. BACKGROUND TO THE SITE

Location, Topography and Geology

Penkridge is situated in South Staffordshire and forms one of the larger parishes within the county covering approximately 4,173ha. The town is located on the main route between Wolverhampton and Stafford, now the A449.

The application site (Figure 1, centred on NGR SJ92143 14161) comprises an approximate 0.05ha parcel of land located within the northern part of the graveyard surrounding St. Michael and All Angels Church (Figure 2). The site lies on a generally flat area at approximately 85m above Ordinance Datum (aOD) and is bounded to the north and west by residential properties, to the east by the active graveyard and to the south by the northern elevation of the church. The footprint of the proposed annexe (approximately 420sqm) will occupy the northwestern section of the northern graveyard.

The majority of Penkridge is situated on solid geology of the Bromsgrove Sandstone Foundation whilst to the northwest the solid geology comprises the Mercia Mudstone Group. Superficial geology is represented by alluvial deposits along the River Penk and glaciofluvial deposits within the valley. The Penk Valley flows through Penkridge in a southwesterly direction to its confluence with the River Sow. The valley lies at around 77m aOD and rises gently to the north reaching 87m aOD at the most northerly point of the town. To the south the land rises up to around 85m aOD at St Michael and All Angels Church. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=>).

Historic Landscape Characterisation

The *Penkridge Historic Character Assessment* (SCC, 2012) has identified 14 Historic Urban Characters (HUCAs) within Penkridge which reflect areas of similar origin, development and character.

Particularly relevant to this report is **HUCA 1** which contains St. Michael and All Angels with its graveyard and timber-framed properties to the north of the church. In addition, **HUCA 6** reveals elements of the planned medieval town with its burgage plots, market place and street pattern. The highest number of listed buildings within Penkridge lie within these two



character areas with timber-framing being a significant factor in the character of the area. Both areas lie within the Penkridge Conservation Area.

HUCA 5 also contains part of the area of the medieval town but was radically altered when the A449 was widened in the 1930s and the majority of the buildings here post-date the road widening. Similarly, **HUCA 9** may originally have formed part of the medieval planned town.

The remaining HUCAs are generally characterised by post-medieval and modern development, including the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area and gentlemen's houses on the outskirts of the town dating to the 19th century. Modern development of mid-20th century date to the present includes both industrial and retail development (*ibid.*).

Historic and Archaeological Background to the Site

Roman (49-409AD)

Prehistoric evidence has been identified in the area around Penkridge but the area is better known for activity during the Roman period as evidenced by a network of roads, including Watling Street (A5) and several forts and marching camps identified to the north and south of the road. The place name *Penkridge* appears to have been transferred to the town from a Roman settlement called *Pennocrurium* which was strategically located where Watling Street crossed the River Penk. The name *Pennocrurium* comes from old British and may mean 'chief mound' or 'head of the mound' (*ibid.*).

Saxon and Medieval (410-1499 AD)

It is during the Anglo-Saxon period that the settlement of Penkridge emerges in contemporary documents as an important centre. A charter of King Edgar of Mercia (c.958), granting lands to St. Werburg's of Chester, was signed at Penkridge and referred to the settlement being a '*famous place*'. It has been suggested that to host a royal assembly, Penkridge may have been a royal centre by this time. At the time of Domesday Book (1086) Penkridge was held by William the Conqueror and the manor of Penkridge was recorded as holding six outlying estates containing twenty-eight households.



In addition, by 1086 Penkridge was subdivided, with part of the settlement held directly by the king and part held by nine clerics to whom the king had granted the land. It is likely that the seven households representing the clerics' manor were located in the vicinity of the church, possibly on the western side of Clay Street where an irregular settlement pattern has been identified suggesting early medieval property boundaries.

The Church of St. Michael's and All Angels was most likely founded in the 10th century and was considered a place of great importance at the time. The fact that it was a Royal Free Chapel in the medieval period suggests that it was originally established as a minster church. Minster churches, which were large churches forming mission centres within dioceses, were established from as early as 650 AD onwards and were intended to serve regions which may have originated as Roman estates. The existence of a minster church at Penkridge would point to the presence of a congregation being served at least during the 10th century if not earlier (ibid).

An early 16th century document implies that the church was founded by King Eadred (946-955AD) and by Domesday Book it is recorded that the community consisted of nine clerics who held part of the manor of the king.

The minster church may have been located on the site of the current church which contains structural elements of 13th century date. Cartographic evidence (see below) suggests the presence of a boundary to the ecclesiastical complex which has been fossilised within the current streetscape. It has been suggested that the extent of the Deanery Manor may be commensurate with the holdings of the nine clerics mentioned in Domesday.

As the location of a minster church it is possible that Penkridge held a market or fair from an early date and this is supported by the Charter of King Edgar which identifies Penkridge as an important centre in the 10th century. A fair certainly existed in Penkridge before a market charter of 1244. (ibid).

The royal manor of Penkridge was held from the king by the Hose or Hussey family from 1173 to 1207 but in 1215 the manor was given to the Archbishop of Dublin who in turn gave two thirds of the manor to his nephew (Andrew Le Blund). The Le Blund family held the manor



until 1363 when it was conveyed to John de Beverley. By 1461 the manor was under the control of the Stafford family and it remained with this family until the early 16th century.

By the late 12th century the church had been established as a collegiate church with a dean and canons. The record taken of the church at the Dissolution provides details of its organisation comprising a dean, seven prebendaries, two resident canons, an official principal, six vicars, a high deacon, a sub-deacon and a sacrist. The extent of the community suggests the presence of a number of buildings which would have provided for their needs and it is likely that within the ecclesiastical complex there were buildings serving a number of functions beside the purely religious. It is thought that these buildings would have lain within the area defined as the *Deanery Manor* on Wyatt's map of 1754 (see below).

Post Medieval (1500-1699AD)

During this period the most prominent local family were the Littletons whose principal seat was at Pillaton Old Hall until the mid-18th century. During this period the Littletons amassed lands throughout the area and in 1585 Edward Littleton bought the overlordship of the Deanery Manor.

With regard to Penkridge Manor this passed through several hands in the early 16th century but in 1590 passed completely to the Greville family who retained the overlordship into the mid-18th century though the manor was leased to the Littleton family in 1583.

The layout of Penkridge was probably unchanged from the medieval into the post-medieval period and in 1666 the Constablewick of Penkridge contained 212 households, though in 1695 William Camden described it as a small village. Outside of the historic centre of Penkridge settlement was taking place in the early 17th century at the The Marsh and Quarry Heath which were common land. This settlement probably represents piecemeal encroachment stimulated by new industries such as metal working which at the time were being established within and around Cannock Chase.

This period also witnessed the construction of a number of properties most notably the Deanery on Pinfold Lane, the White Hart at Stone Cross and Wyre Hall on Cannock Road. The majority of these surviving properties lie within the area identified as part of Penkridge's



medieval historic core along Market Street, around Market Place, Cannock Road and at Stone Cross. A number of other post-medieval buildings lie at the limits of the medieval town including the Railway Inn, Mill End and Bowcroft Cottages.

Whilst the inhabitants of Penkridge were probably still largely engaged in agriculture, documentary evidence suggests that open fields still existed in Penkridge Manor up until the mid-17th century, iron-working was becoming an established industry. An iron foundry had been established at Penkridge by 1635 though its location is unknown.

The market appears to have experienced varying fortunes during the post-medieval period but by the early 16th century was dealing in horses amongst other commodities. Penkridge became nationally famous for its horse fair which attracted traders from as far afield as London, Bristol and Nottingham. The horse fair was held on the area known as The Marsh located to the northeast of the town and continued into the 20th century.

When the collegiate church was dissolved by the Crown in 1548 all the possessions of the Deanery Manor including the site of the college house were granted to the Earl of Warwick and the organisation of the church was changed so that only a vicar and an assistant priest served the parish. During the 16th century the church was re-fenestrated possibly re-using 13th century material. Two buildings lying just to the north of the church within the Deanery Manor (as defined by Wyatt in 1754, below) are believed to have medieval origins and may have been associated with the collegiate church. Another building, said to have been the house of the canons, possibly survived until at least the late 16th century on the north side of Church Lane.

Later Post-Medieval period (1700-1899)

During the later post-medieval period Penkridge witnessed a steady increase in population though the town itself had seen little expansion since the medieval period and by the late 1830s still only consisted of two principal streets, Market Street and Clay Street/Stone Cross. However, it was during this period that gentlemen's residences with sizable grounds began to appear in areas beyond the historic core of the town which suggests a certain level of affluence amongst at least certain members of the town's population. The grade II listed Haling Grove and Rock House are examples of this early 19th century development.



The greatest change to the town at this time was the creation of two new roads, New Road which links the Market Square to Clay Street was in existence by 1817 and St. Michael's Road which links Clay Street to Station Road was built by Lord Hatherton between 1861 and 1862. The later post-medieval period also saw a number of educational and welfare facilities established including the Penkridge Union, which superseded the parish workhouse, almshouses founded by Dowager Lady Hatherton in 1866 and the National School created by the Littleton family in 1818.

By 1754 all of the open fields and common land around the town had been enclosed although The Marsh, Quarry Heath and Penkridge Heath were open until 1827. In terms of economy and industry during the later medieval period Penkridge was fairly typical of small market towns. Tanning was recorded on Mill Street whilst 19th century trade directories record a range of activities such as a clock maker, shoe makers, blacksmiths, coopers and saddlers as well as tailors, dress makers and milliners. Professions such as solicitors and surgeons are also recorded through the 19th century.

St. Michael and All Angel's Church underwent at least two phases of alteration during the 19th century most extensively in 1831 and 1881. In 1831 all the pews, pulpit and reading desk were renewed. Galleries were constructed over the north aisle and across the West End of the church where the poor were allowed to sit free of charge.

In 1881 the nave floor was lowered and the chancel arch raised and the nave was also given a highly decorated new roof which incorporated six oak angels which had been part of the 16th century roof. In addition, the entrance to the church in the north wall was blocked up and now forms part of the second window in the north aisle.

Historically, Penkridge was, and still is, situated on an important north-south route between Stafford and Wolverhampton and its importance to coach travel was evidenced by its turnpiking in around 1761. A number of coaching inns were present in the town by the mid-19th century including the Littleton Arms, The George and Fox Inn and the White Hart all of which lay along the Stafford to Wolverhampton Road.



In 1772 the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal, which lies to the east of the historic core of the town, was opened and this was facilitated by Sir Edward Littleton who used it to transport goods such as wheat. Three bridges survive within Penkridge as do two locks. A canal wharf located to the south of the Cannock Road had been created by 1831 and in 1834 it was recorded that boats called at the wharf several times a day to take goods across the country.

The Grand Junction Railway, running parallel to the main north-south road (A449) opened in 1837 with a station located to the rear of the church. By 1851 trains ran six times daily in each direction.

Modern day (1900 to present)

From 1900 onwards there was considerable suburban expansion around Penkridge, in the mid-20th century mainly concentrated to the northeast in the area known as The Marsh. One of the main forms of employment in the area during the 20th century was the Littleton Colliery at Huntington which had opened in 1899. However, even until the mid-20th century many local people were still employed in agriculture. The nationally important Horse Fair had ceased by 1924 but a cattle market continued to be held in 1940 and had moved to its present location by 1924.

During this period the townscape underwent considerable change when Clay Street/Stone Cross was widened between 1932 and 1934 resulting in the removal of the square known as *Stone Cross* as well as the demolition of many historic buildings along sections of both sides of the road including the George and Fox Inn.



Cartographic Analysis

Map of the Littleton Estates 1754 by Wyatt

The estate map of the Littleton family (Figure 2) dating to the mid-18th century shows detail of the town of Penkridge along with its surrounding field system. The map is clearly reflective of the medieval layout of the town with burgage plots characterised by long, narrow parcels of land with sinuous boundaries fronting onto the main streets of the town. The plots are described as *crofts* on the map signifying that they most likely represent a much earlier layout of small enclosed fields attached to a property and worked by an occupier, by this time tenants of the Littleton family.

Similarly, the layout of the main streets reflects an earlier medieval pattern with a broad funnel shaped Market Street opening into the Market Place and the junction of a number of routes located at Crown Bridge. St Michael's Square providing access to the church grounds leads off Clay Street and is depicted with a number of burgages fronting its northern side.

Fossilised within the layout of the town to the west of Clay Street is the probable area of the medieval collegiate church complex delineated to the north by Pinfold Lane to the east by Clay Street and to the west and south by hedgelines. Within this area the church sits towards the northwestern part of the complex and to the southwest the map depicts a rectilinear building marked as a tithe barn located within a yard. The graveyard is shown to be free of buildings apart from a small charity school to the west of the church itself.

As well as revealing the fossilised boundary of the collegiate church the map also appears to show the possible extent of the medieval Deanery Manor with the collegiate church complex occupying its northeastern quarter. The Old Deanery is shown located to the north of Pinfold Lane and is labelled *Homestead* possibly reflecting its function as a farmhouse with outbuildings and adjoining land. In the area between the Old Deanery and the church is the L-shaped range of Church Farm.



1817 Map of Freeholds within the Atherton Estate

The map of 1817 (Figure 3) is less detailed than the 1754 map as it only depicts freeholds within the Atherton Estate. Therefore, lands belonging to the Littleton Estates are shown as blank. However, where land parcels are depicted they reveal continuity with the 1754 map with characteristic narrow strip fields still in existence during the earlier part of the 19th century.

There appears to have been very little expansion of the town between 1754 and 1817 with buildings still located along street frontages with little if any ribbon development along the main routes of the town. The church itself is not shown on the 1817 map although the Old Deanery is depicted situated within an area belonging to the Littleton Estates. The layout of streets on the 1817 map similarly represent those present in the later 18th century with the exception of a road (New Road) now linking the southwestern corner of the Market Place with the lower part of Clay Street.

Penkridge Town Plan 1847.

The Penkridge Town Plan of 1847 (Figure 4) provides a visual inventory of the lands and properties belonging to Lord Hatherton. Whilst the plan reveals some considerable change had occurred in Penkridge over the thirty years since the production of the 1817 map, it also reveals that spatially the town had undergone little expansion with a built form still largely respecting its 18th century extents.

In terms of change to the town by 1847 a railway had been constructed to the northwest of the church and the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal had been constructed to the south of the town.

The 1847 map shows how the construction of the railway along with a station to the southwest of the church altered the streetscape around the church. With the creation of Station Road along the southern boundary of the graveyard extending around its eastern side (Church Road) to meet Pinfold Lane the church and its grounds became physically separated from its earlier medieval context as delineated on the 1754 Wyatt map.



In the area to the east and southeast of the Market Place, east of the curving line of Bellbrook, the plan of 1847 show extensive encroachment into the area of The Marsh Common which may reflect population pressure.

OS 6" 2nd Edition 1902

At the beginning of the 20th century, despite the presence of a railway and canal, the 1902 OS map (Figure 5) still depicts a small town which had not, to any great degree, extended beyond the limits of the town shown by Wyatt in 1754. However, it provides interesting details which reveal the presence of community establishments such as a school, a police station and a local smithy as well as marking the location of earlier features including the corn mill and Horse Fair. Local industrial and manufacturing activity is suggested by the presence of a brick works to the south of the town between the railway and Wolverhampton Road and to the north beyond Bull Bridge by the presence of flax ovens. A cattle market is shown on the western side of the railway fronting onto Pinfold Lane.

The church and its graveyard remain unaltered since the 18th century but Station Road where it delineates the southern boundary of the graveyard has been intersected by a newly created road which extends southeastward to join the Wolverhampton Road. The newly created road (St. Michael's Road) may have been constructed to provide easier access to the station from the Wolverhampton Road by negating the need to go into the town centre. To the southwest of the church the map shows the location of the associated vicarage.

Present Day Cartographic Evidence

The modern day map of Penkridge (Figure 6) reveals the town's expansion from around the mid-20th century up until the present day. To the east of the Wolverhampton Road (A449) extensive suburban expansion spread into the area of The Marsh and similarly infilled the area to the south of Cannock Road which until the early 1900s was open undeveloped land.

The widening of Clay Street/Stone Cross between 1932 and 1934 resulted in the loss of the square known as *Stone Cross*. This road now forms a busy main road (A449) connecting Stafford and Wolverhampton. However, the lines of the earliest routes leading to and around the Market Place remain clearly visible in the modern townscape.



In addition, to the west of the Wolverhampton Road, around the church, there has been far less change with the suburban development which marked the growth of PenkrIDGE during the 20th century being largely confined to the eastern side of the A449. It is therefore still possible to partially trace the fossilised area of the medieval church first depicted by Wyatt in 1754.

Archaeological Evaluation Results

The full reports on the archaeological evaluation undertaken within the proposed annexe footprint can be found in Appendices 2 and 3 and what follows below is a summarised version of the results.

Given the potential archaeological sensitivity of the location of the proposed new annexe, adjacent to the northern elevation of the church and within the northern part of its historic graveyard, a programme of archaeological evaluation, comprising geophysical survey (Ground Penetrating Radar - GPR) and trial trenching, was undertaken to inform upon the possible presence or absence of archaeological remains which could be impacted upon by the proposed new annexe. The results of the programme of archaeological evaluation were also intended to inform upon a foundation design for the annexe which could facilitate preservation *in situ* of any archaeological features present.

The GPR survey identified the presence of a number of anomalies which were interpreted as archaeological features, in particular the survey suggested the presence of linear features and of sub-circular hollows. It was considered possible that the linear features could represent structural evidence relating to the medieval collegiate church whilst the hollows were interpreted as possible graves.

Two trial-trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed annexe to verify the results of the previous GPR survey. Both trenches contained burials at depths of between 1m and 1.4m below ground level all the burials being roughly orientated east to west. Vestigial remains of coffins in the form of coffin handles and nails were recovered. Despite the results of the GPR survey neither trench contained any structural remains.



The burials uncovered by the trial trenches within the northern part of the churchyard are unrecorded and undated. No grave-markers were found which could provide evidence relating to the identity of the individuals buried here. It has been concluded that the burials most likely relate to the re-ordering of the church in 1881 when the nave was lowered by up to 1m and *in situ* burials beneath the floor were relocated to the northern part of the graveyard. This might explain the homogeneous nature of the buried soil which covered the burials and the presence of large quantities of disarticulated bone within it, suggesting a single phase of reburial activity.

If the burials identified during the trial trenching do indeed originate from beneath the nave then it is possible that they represent individuals from a range of time periods.



5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILT HERITAGE ASSETS

As a result of desk-based research and a site visit the above ground receptors of potential impacts from the proposed development have been identified as the following:

- the PenkrIDGE Conservation Area;
- listed buildings in close proximity to the proposed new annexe;
- the Church of St. Michael and All Angels and its graveyard (DST1525/LB271740).

Existing Situation - Northern Graveyard

The proposed new annexe will be located within the northwestern part of the graveyard which surrounds the church. This part of the graveyard (northern graveyard) is generally flat and bounded to the south by the northern elevation of the church, to the east by the active churchyard and to the north and west by residential properties (Plates 1 and 2).

Along the northern boundary there is a thick hedge-line consisting of dense shrubs and mature trees. Single mature trees are also present in the western and eastern parts of the northern graveyard. Two head stones are present in its northwestern corner and a chest tomb is present adjacent to the fourth bay of the northern elevation of the church.

A modern residence blocks views out of the northern graveyard to the west whilst to the east a large mature hollybush blocks views towards and from Church Road and the Bowling Green opposite (Plates 2 and 3).

In general, therefore the proposed annexe will be located in an area which is sequestered in nature and for the most part screened from view. As the main entrance to the church is on the southern side of the building and the active graveyard located to the south and west of the church, the northern churchyard experiences very limited footfall.



The Penkridge Conservation Area

The Penkridge Conservation Area has key characteristics which contribute to its special historic and architectural significance. It is a large rural settlement extending around a historic core containing the areas around St. Michael and All Angels Church and the Market Place. Although 20th century expansion has resulted in Penkridge reaching the size of a town it still maintains its rural and historic character with winding roads and large numbers of mature trees. In addition, despite the modern appearance of shops and properties along the busy A449, Penkridge's medieval and early post-medieval origins can still be traced in its streetscape and in the large number of historic buildings characterised by timber framing.

The topography of the conservation area is relatively flat and this does not lead to far reaching views out of or within the conservation area although the church is situated on slightly higher ground and towers over the settlement.

Given the enclosed nature of the northern churchyard, as described above, the proposed new annexe will be largely screened from view. In addition, the low roofline of the proposed annexe and its sympathetic design using materials which will blend in with its surroundings means that it will be unobtrusive within the contexts both of the historic character area around St. Michael and All Angels (HUCA 1) and of the wider conservation area.

It is judged that the proposed new annexe will not erode any appreciation of the conservation area's special architectural and historic character or the way in which the conservation area is currently experienced.

Therefore, the impact of the proposed new annexe on the overall significance of the Penkridge Conservation Area is predicted to be neutral (less than substantial harm).

Listed Buildings

Two listed buildings have been identified as possible receptors of impacts from the proposed new annexe as they are located in close proximity to the northern churchyard namely:



- Church Cottages (DST 12577)
- Church Farm (DST 12604)

Church Cottages comprise a group of grade II listed buildings of 15th or early 16th century date constructed of timber framing with brick infill whilst Church Farm, also grade II listed, is probably 15th century in date with early 18th century additions with brick replacing earlier timber framing.

Church Cottages is situated adjacent to the boundary of the northern graveyard but is screened from views into it by the mature hedge-line which denotes the northern boundary of the graveyard. The cottages also face towards the northwest, away from the graveyard, with views towards the modern residential development to the south of Church Farm (Plates 4 and 5).

Church Farm which is located to the northwest of the northern graveyard will have no inter-visibility with the proposed new annexe given its location and orientation along Pinfold Lane (Plate 6).

The settings of both Church Cottages and Church Farm have already been compromised by modern residential within the grounds of Church Farm.

The proposed new annexe will not be prominent in the view from these listed buildings and will not diminish the way in which they are experienced as historic building nor will it harm their significance as heritage assets or the contribution made to that significance from their settings.

Therefore, the impact of the proposed new annexe on the significance of Church Cottages and Church Farm and their setting is predicted to be neutral (less than substantial harm).



The Church of St. Michael and All Angels

The Church of St. Michael and All Angels is a dominating structure within the town of Penkridge, topographically raised above the surrounding streetscape with its tower visible on the skyline from a number of vantage points within the town. It is a grade I listed building with its special architectural and historic interest arising from its majestic appearance and its multi-period construction with extant fabric ranging from the 13th century through to the 19th century. The church sits within the northeastern part of its surrounding graveyard which to the south and west offers impressive unimpeded views towards the church allowing full appreciation of its architectural and aesthetic interest (Plate 7).

In terms of the northern part of the graveyard, the proposed new annexe, despite its low roofline, will block current views of the entirety of the northern elevation of the church and change the setting of the church on its northern side from open ground to a partially built form. In addition, the creation of a doorway between the church and the proposed annexe will entail the dismantling of a section of the northern elevation (Plate 8).

There will therefore be localised visual and physical impacts on the church and the graveyard though these would constitute only minor effects on the overall significance of the listed building and its setting. Whilst it is accepted that the proposed annexe will result in the partial blocking of views of the northern elevation of the church and will involve limited infilling of the historic graveyard, the harm to the significance of the church and its setting will be minimal as key views of both are restricted to the south of the church.

Taking the above into consideration it is predicted that the impact on the church's overall significance and on that of its setting will be limited (less than substantial).

Benefits of the new annexe

The impacts described previously should be weighed against a number of mitigating factors which will give rise to public benefit from the construction of the annexe.

The proposed annexe will be situated to the north of the church in a part of the graveyard which is inactive and largely separated from the remainder of the graveyard by the church



building itself. This part of the graveyard tends, therefore, to be isolated experiencing only low level, infrequent footfall.

Not only will the proposed annexe provide much needed space for a number of valuable community and church related activities it will also increase footfall into the currently underused northern graveyard. Sympathetic design integrating glass panels into the fabric of the annexe construction will also result in the northern elevation of the church being viewed by the public at far greater frequency than is currently the case. This will better reveal the historic and architectural significance of the church as a whole to a wider public.

With regard to the physical impact on the church's northern elevation arising from the insertion of a doorway it is intended that the doorway will be located where the original entrance to the church on its northern side was blocked up in the 1800s (Plate 8). As a consequence, an important part of the historic context of the church will be re-established.



6. POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE ASSETS.

The archaeological evaluation undertaken within the footprint of the proposed new annexe established the presence of burials at depths of between 1m and 1.4m below ground level. In addition, it established that the burials were sealed beneath a thick deposit of buried soil containing substantial quantities of disarticulated human bone.

Should the foundation design of the new annexe require disturbance beyond a depth of 0.9m there would be major disturbance to the *in situ* burials which would constitute substantial harm to the archaeological resource. However, a foundation design which limits the depth of disturbance would allow preservation *in situ* of the burials. In these circumstances there would be no harm to the *in situ* burials and their significance as heritage assets would be maintained.

With regard to disturbance of the buried soil containing disarticulated bone this could be mitigated by archaeological monitoring during groundworks which would allow disarticulated human bone to be retrieved for later reburial.

Similarly, groundworks for the construction of the new pathway, which is intended to make access to the new annexe easier for the elderly and disabled, could be adequately mitigated by archaeological monitoring.



7. REFERENCES

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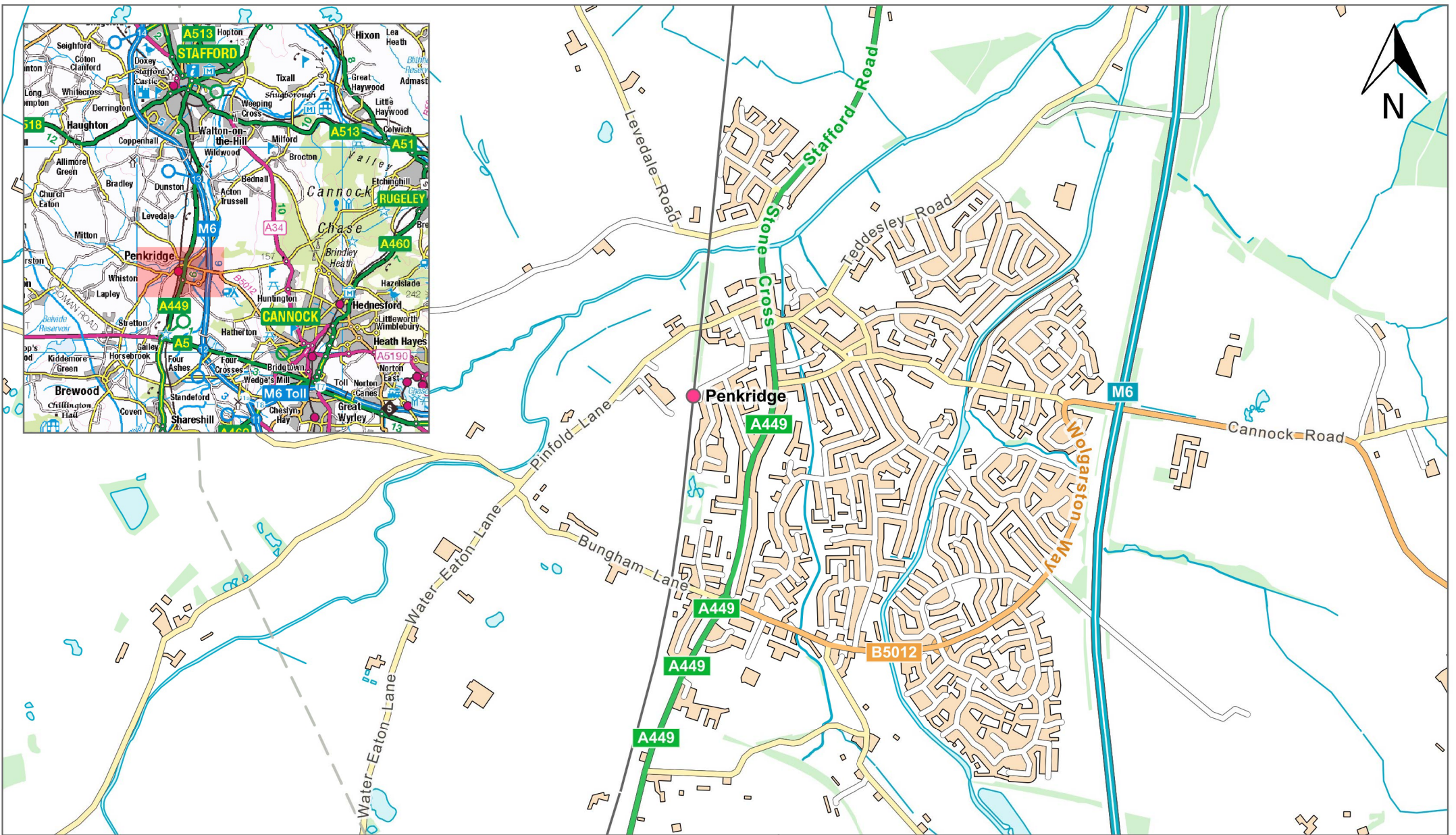
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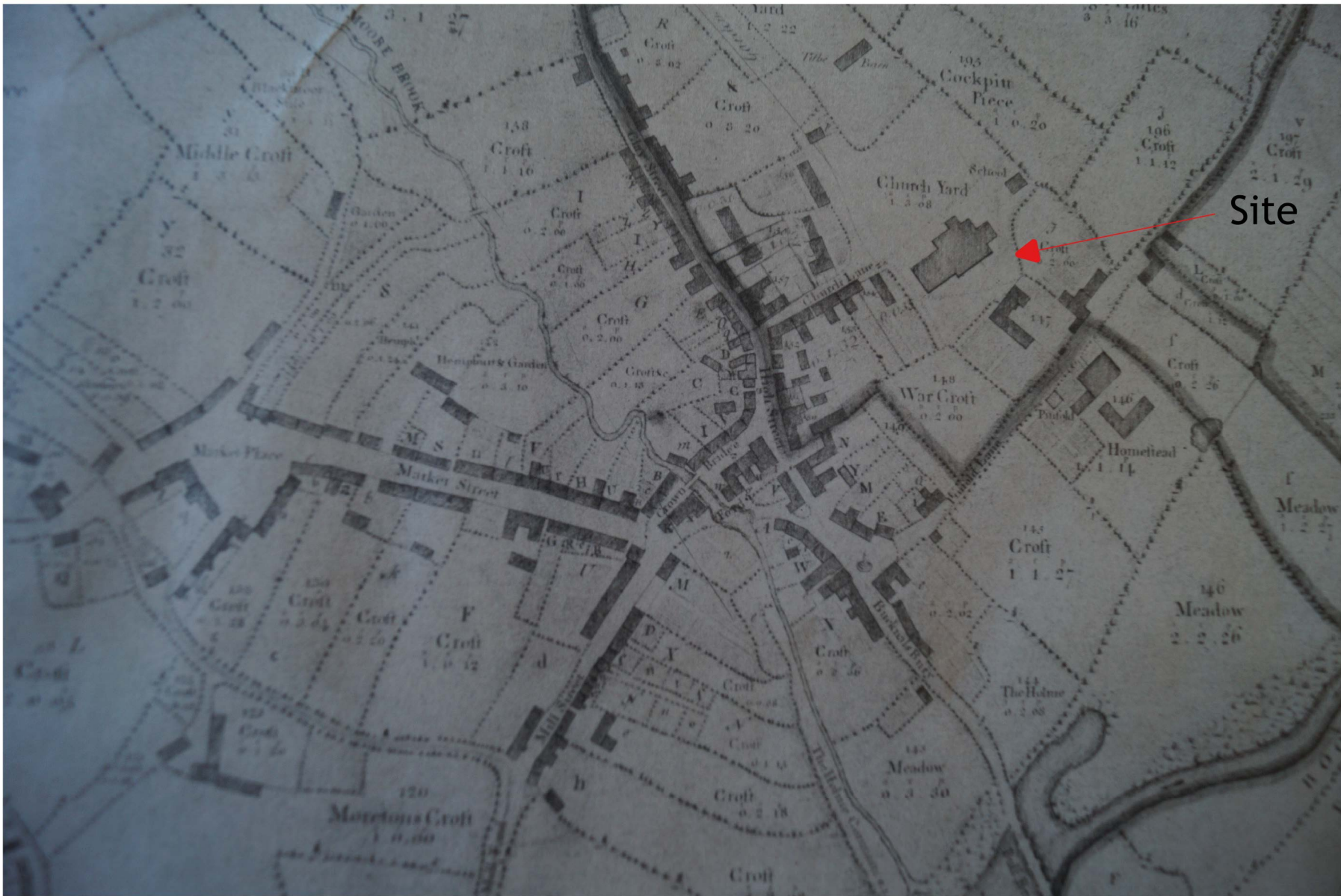


Site: St Michael and All Angels Church, Penkridge
 Client: Penkridge Parochial Church Council
 Approved by: H.M.B

Figure Number: 1

Scale at A4: 1:15,000





Map of Littleton Estates dated 1754 by Wyatt

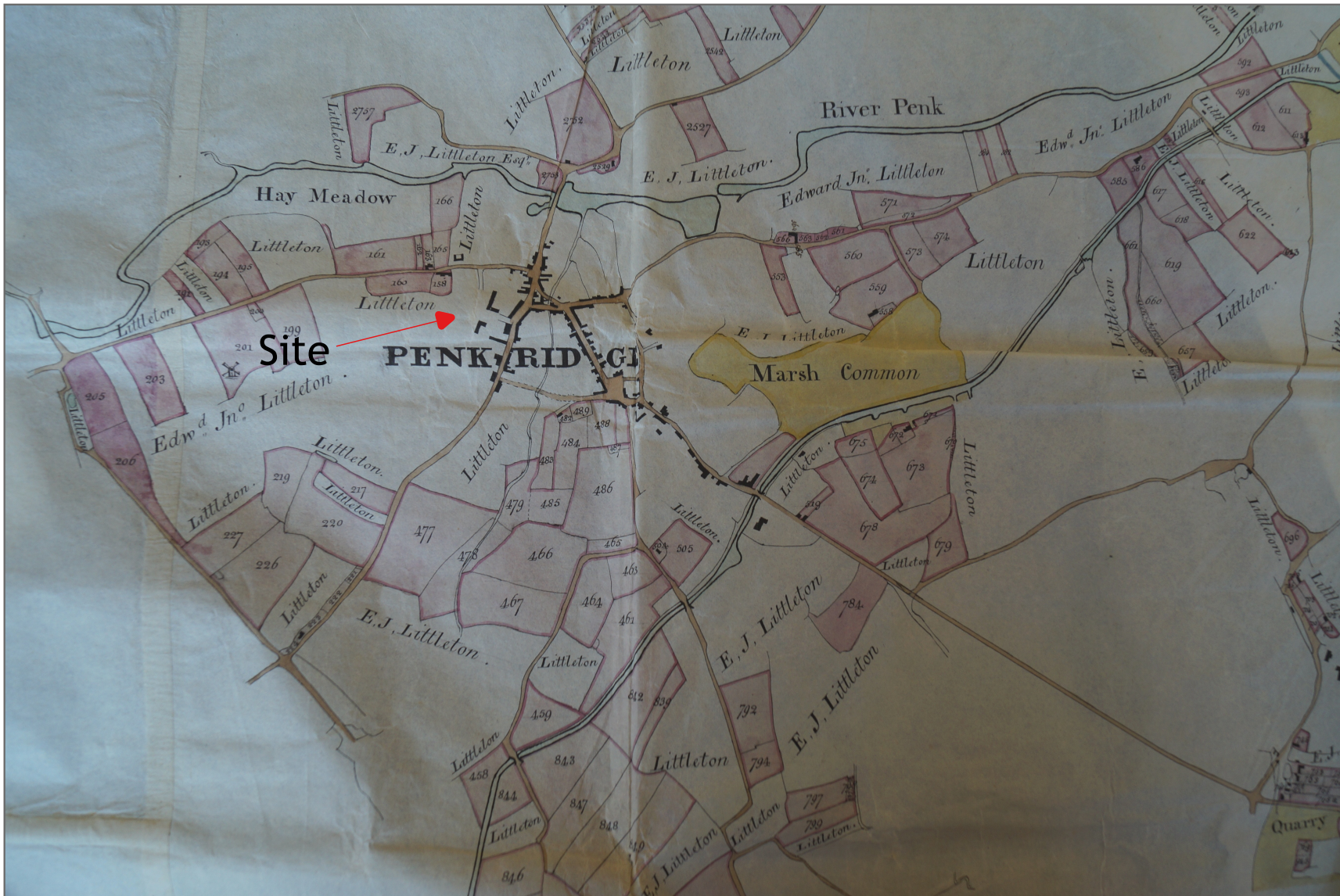
Site: St Michael's and All Angels Church, Penkridge

Client: Penkridge Church Council

Approved by: H.M.B

Drawn by: Photograph of original

Figure Number: 2



Map of freeholds part of Hatherton Estates dated 1817

Site: St Michael's and All Angels Church, Penkridge

Client: Penkridge Parochial Church Council

Approved by: H.M.B

Drawn by: Photograph of original



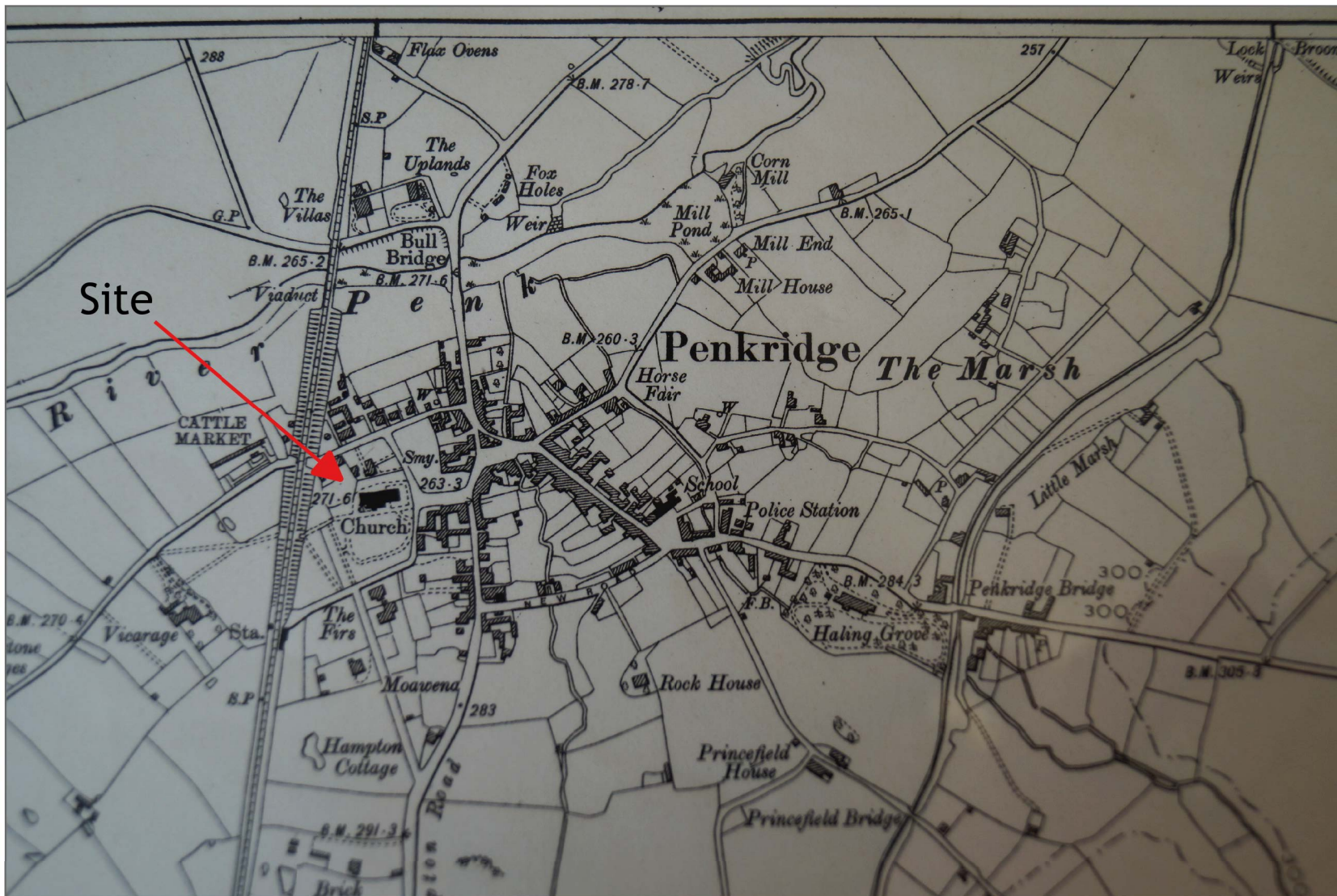
Town Plan of Penkrige - Lord Hatherton Properties dated 1847

Site: St Michael's and All Angels Church, Penkrige

Client: Penkrige Parochial Church Council

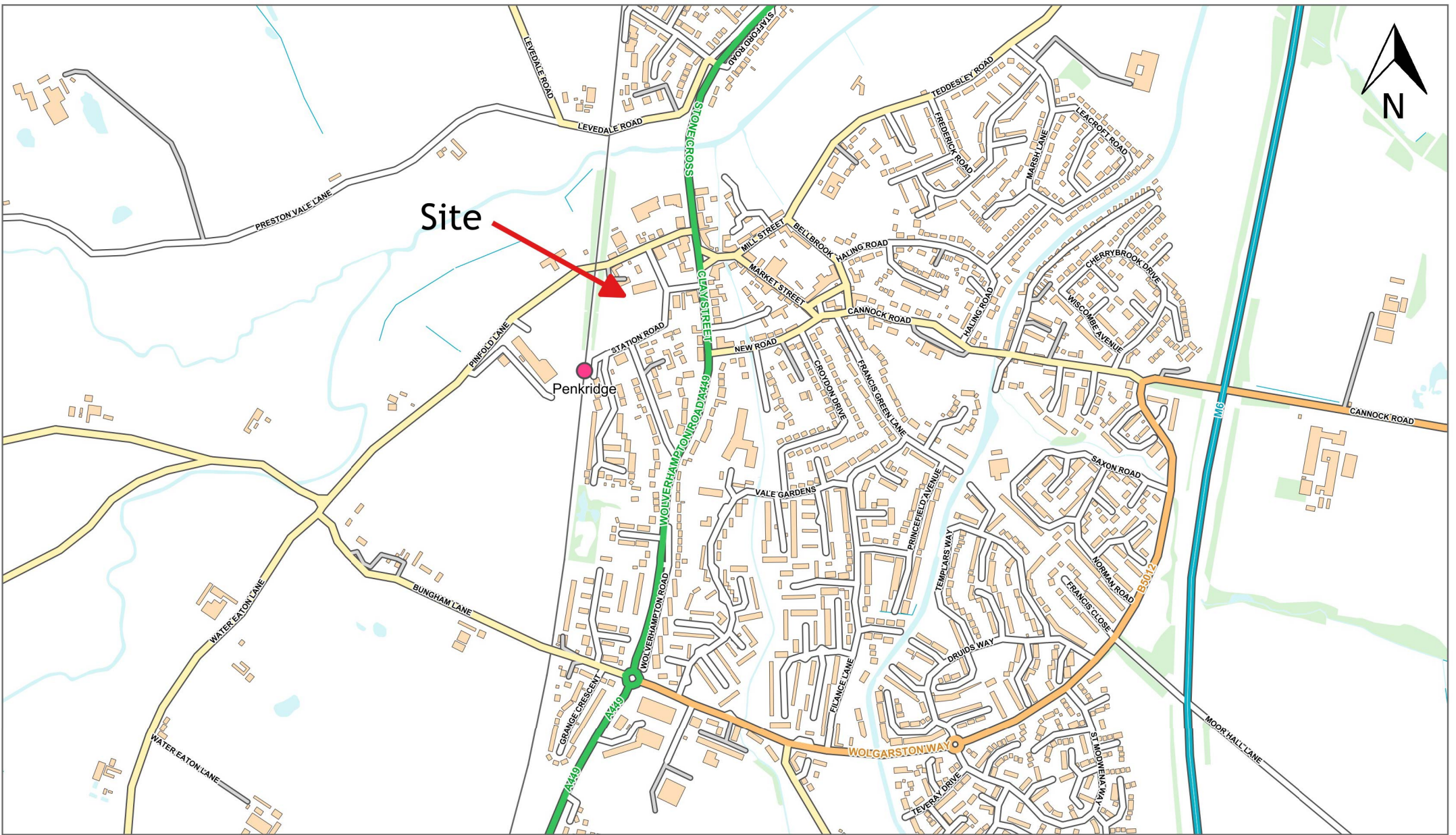
Approved by: H.M.B

Drawn by: Photograph of original



2nd edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1902
(1:10,560)

Site: St Michael's and All Angels Church, Penkridge
Client: Penkridge Parochial Church Council
Approved by: H.M.B
Drawn by: Photograph of original



Site: St Michael and All Angels Church, Penkridge
 Client: Penkridge Parochial Church Council
 Approved by: H.M.B

Figure Number: 6

Scale at A4: 1:10,000



PLATES



Plate 1 looking east towards Church Road from the western end of the northern graveyard showing mature trees blocking views into and out of the application site.



Plate 2 looking west towards the application site which is screened from view by mature trees.



Plate 3 looking west and showing the application site beyond the chest tomb. A modern development blocks views out of the northern graveyard towards the west.



Plate 4 looking north with the gable end of Church Cottages behind the hedgeline of the northern graveyard.



Plate 5 looking west showing the pathway up to Church Cottages from Church Road with the border of the northern graveyard to the side of the path.



Plate 6 looking north from the western end of the northern graveyard. The roof of Church Farm is only just visible in the background behind trees.



Plate 7 looking northeast showing a view of the church from the active graveyard.

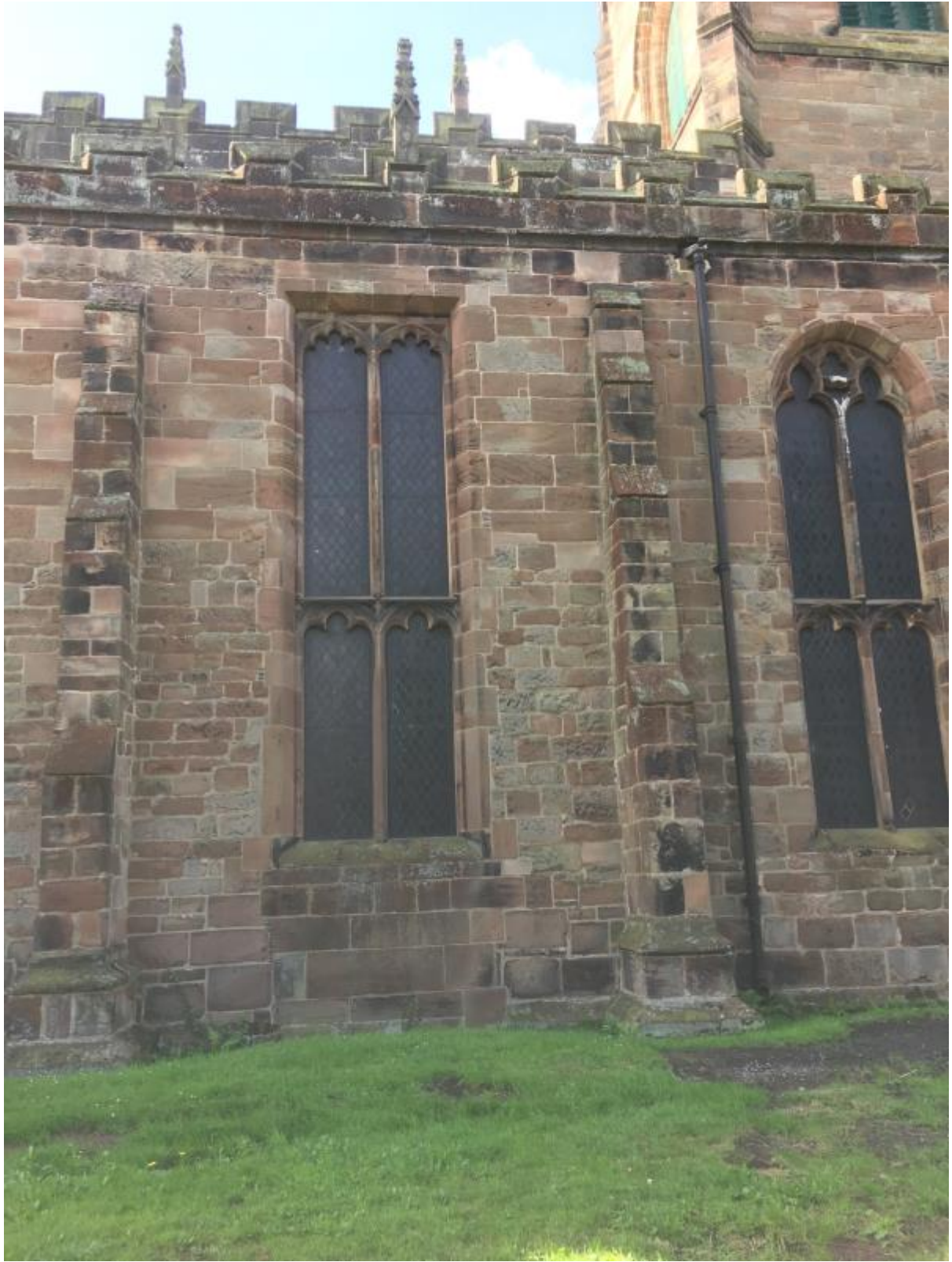


Plate 8 looking south and showing the blocking of the original north entrance to the church.

APPENDIX 1

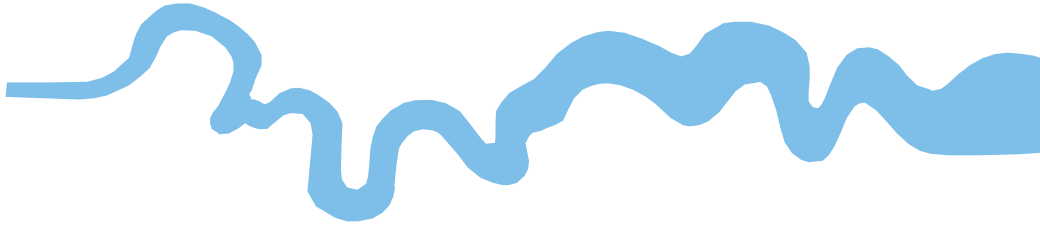


Proposed Development

Site: St Michael's and All Angels Church, Penkridge
 Client: Penkridge Parochial Church Council
 Approved by: H.M.B
 Drawn by: Wood, Goldstraw & Yorath

APPENDIX 2

T V A S



NORTH MIDLANDS

**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkrige, Staffordshire**

Geophysical Survey (Ground Penetrating Radar)

by Garreth Davey

Site Code: MAC17/50

(SJ 9215 1413)

**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkridge, Staffordshire**

Geophysical Survey (Ground Penetrating Radar) Report

For St Michaels and All Angels Church

by Garreth Davey

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MAC 17/50

May 2017

Summary

Site name: St Michaels and All Angels Church, Penkridge, Staffordshire

Grid reference: SJ 9215 1413

Site activity: Ground Penetrating Radar survey

Date and duration of project: 15-16th May 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Garreth Davey

Site code: MAC 17/50

Area of site: 0.5 ha

Summary of results: A number of hollows have been identified as well as possible linear features which may be of a former building.

Location of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading in accordance with TVAS digital archiving policies.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 25.05.17 Tim Dawson✓ 25.05.17
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St Michaels and All Angels Church, Penkridge, Staffordshire A Geophysical Survey (Ground Penetrating Radar)

by Garreth Davey

Report 17/50

Introduction

This report details the results of a ground penetrating radar survey conducted over land at St Michaels and All Angels Church, Penkridge, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 9213 1417) (Fig 1). The geophysical survey was commissioned by Ms Helen Martin-Bacon of Commercial Archaeology Limited on behalf of St Michaels and All Angels Parochial Church Council

An application to extend the church with new meeting rooms is to be made to South Staffordshire District Council. This survey is to form party of a staged programme of works to inform the planning application in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Governments National Planning Policy (NPPF 2012) and the Staffordshire County Councils policies on archaeology. The work was conducted in line with a written scheme of investigation approved by Mr. Stephen Dean, Principle Archaeologist of Staffordshire County Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Garreth Davey and Mike Johnson, 15th and 16th May 2017 and the site code is MAC 17/50. The archive is presently held at TVAS Stoke-on-Trent in accordance with TVAS digital archiving policies.

Location, topography and geology

The site comprises an approximately 0.05 ha parcel of land, located in the centre of Penkridge (Fig. 2) and approximately 9.5 km south of Stafford, Staffordshire. The site is currently an unused area of the existing graveyard. The site lies on a generally flat area at approximately 85 m above Ordinance Datum (aOD). It is bounded to the south by the existing church building, to the east by the active graveyard and to the north and west by residential properties. The solid geology of the site is recorded as of the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS, 2017).

Site history and archaeological background

The aims of the survey are to identify and understand the range and nature of sub-surface anomalies with a view to gaining a more complete understanding of the history of the survey area of the churchyard at St. Michael's & All Angels, Penkridge as well as to inform the preparation of subsequent phases of archaeological evaluation/mitigation and the general design of the scheme to minimise impacts upon sensitive archaeological remains wherever possible.

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Mr. Stephen Dean of Staffordshire County Council. In summary, Penkridge has late Saxon origins with a minster church established in the 10th century and which is thought to lie on the same site as the later parish church. Penkridge is documented in Domesday Book of AD1086 (Williams and Martin 2002) and is thought to be a well established settlement at that time. It is claimed that King Eadred (946-55) founded a collegiate church here and it subsequently held great importance through the Anglo-Saxon period which continued post Norman conquest, due to its status as a chapel royal. The settlement is considered to have prospered in medieval times but perhaps with some decline in early post-medieval times. The church is listed grade 1 and contains 13th century fabric. Twelve burial monuments in the church yard are also listed grade II.

Methodology

The purpose of the survey was to identify geophysical anomalies that may be archaeological in origin in order to inform a targeted archaeological investigation of the site prior to development. The survey and report generally follow the recommendations and standards set out by both English Heritage (2008) and the Chartered Institute *for* Archaeologists (2002, 2011, 2014).

Ground penetrating radar (GPR) was chosen as a survey method as it is a common option for locating graves and burial plots. This is due to its ability to detect small targets at a variety of depths and providing an estimate depth for these features.

Equipment

The Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey was conducted using an Utsi Groundvue 3 instrument with 400MHz and 250MHz antennas. The instrument is comprised of an antenna and a control tablet mounted onto a wheeled caddy frame. The caddy is then run along the surface in lines. This required a temporary grid to be

established across the survey area using pegs at 10m intervals with further subdivision where necessary. The data were then collected along traverses spaced 1m apart.

The instrument emits pulses of which it measures the response strength and time. On this basis, each pulse will travel and reflect from objects, whilst some of the pulse will continue through an object and will go on to reflect from deeper features thus creating a profile of pulse responses at different depths. Metals however are considered complete reflectors and will reflect the entire pulse and thus obscure features below. Water also dissipates the signal significantly and reduces effectiveness.

Data gathered in the field was processed using the ReflexW software package and subject to minimal processing operations which include static correction, gain adjustment and a subtract mean process.

Results

The GPR data are presented as a series of time slices and interpretations at a scale of 1:500. A number of anomalies have been identified within the survey data. The majority of these consist of irregular sub circular hollows and the potential for some linear features (Figs, 3-8).

The most effective frequency for survey on the site was the 250MHz range, a number of large features have been identified within this dataset. A large area of responses [4] and [6] is evident in Time slices 2 and 3. These appear to form linear features and may be evidence for former structures as there is no clear feature evident on the surface of the survey area. These responses are also evident in the 400MHz dataset in Time slices 7 – 8 which show a more detailed shape to the features.

Further anomalies include the large sub-rectangular features to the east of the survey data and the more fragmented responses on the southern boundary of the survey area. The large eastern feature [1] lies beneath a large concrete pad and is likely related to this, whilst another on the southern extent [2] lies beneath a crypt structure and is likely to be evidence for the burial beneath. These features are evident at all depths within the frequency data as can be seen in the Time slices.

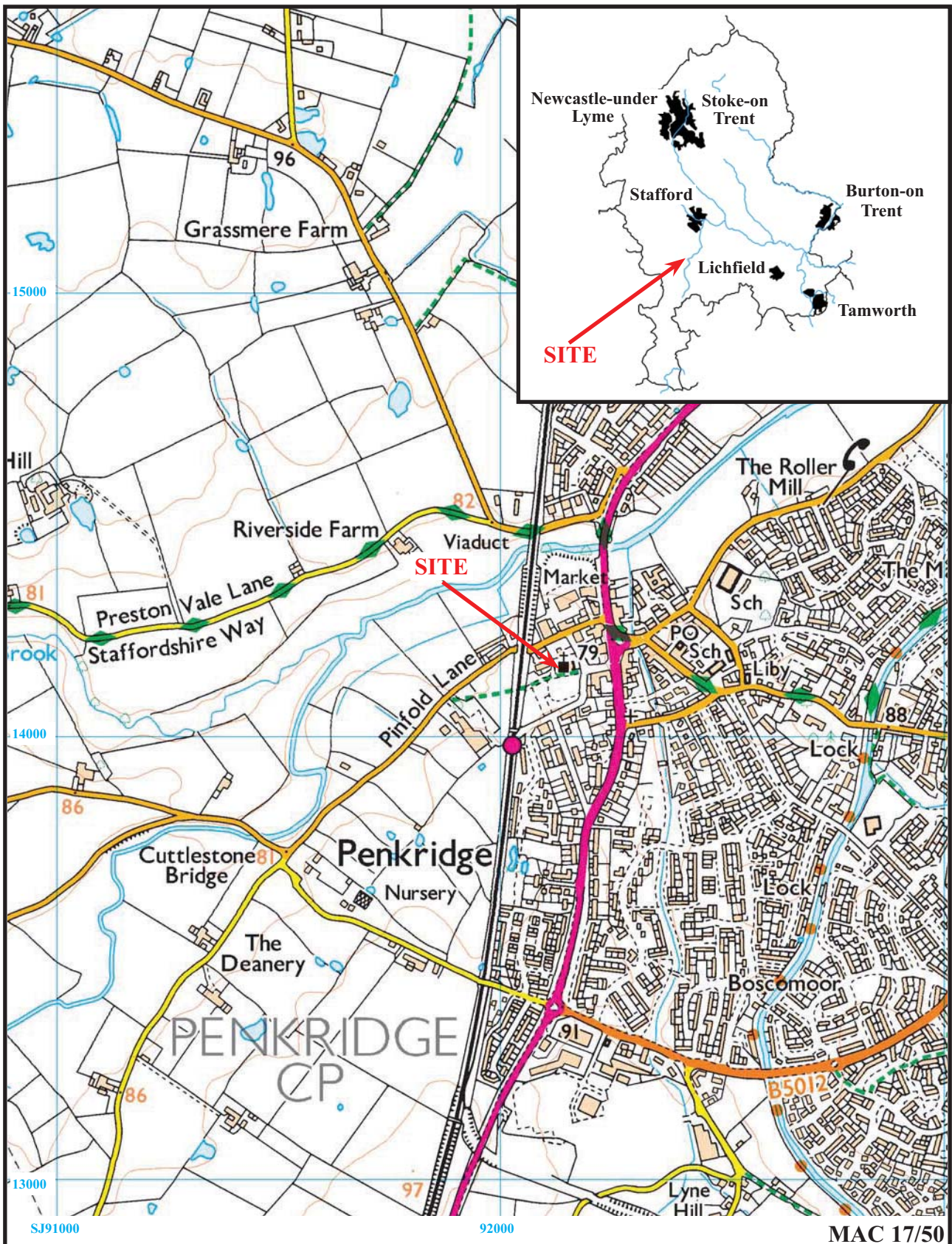
A number of sub circular features are also evident, primarily at shallower levels [3] and [5] with no clear surface features corresponding to the location. These appear to have no clear shape or form and would need further investigation for interpretation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, a number of possible hollows have been identified within the survey data. These correlate with the presence of crypts and slabs on the surface and it is likely that these are related to the graves beneath the surface features. The weak linear features however are currently of unknown origin and may prove to be evidence of former structures. The results of the survey will form the basis of trench location, and it is likely that these trenches will be primarily aligned to target the potential features of [4] and [6] whilst also covering features [3] and [5] to assess their origin. Local anecdotal evidence suggests that the area was a former entrance to the church and that burials were unlikely to be present due to it formerly being an access route which may explain the absence of further features.

References

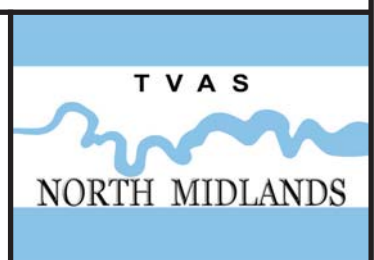
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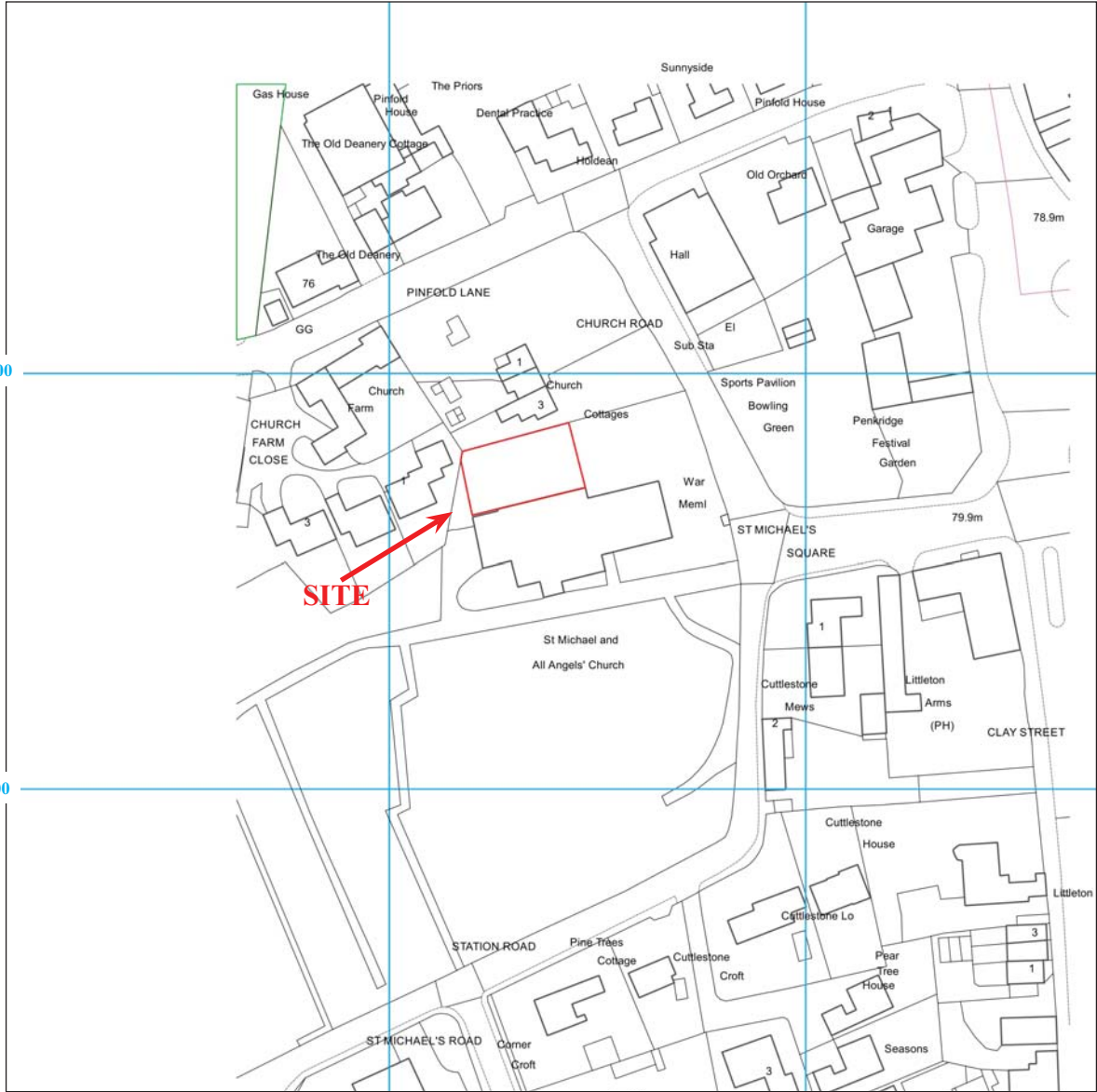


**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkridge, Staffordshire, 2017
Geophysical Survey**

Figure 1. Location of site within Penkridge and Staffordshire.

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MAC 17/50

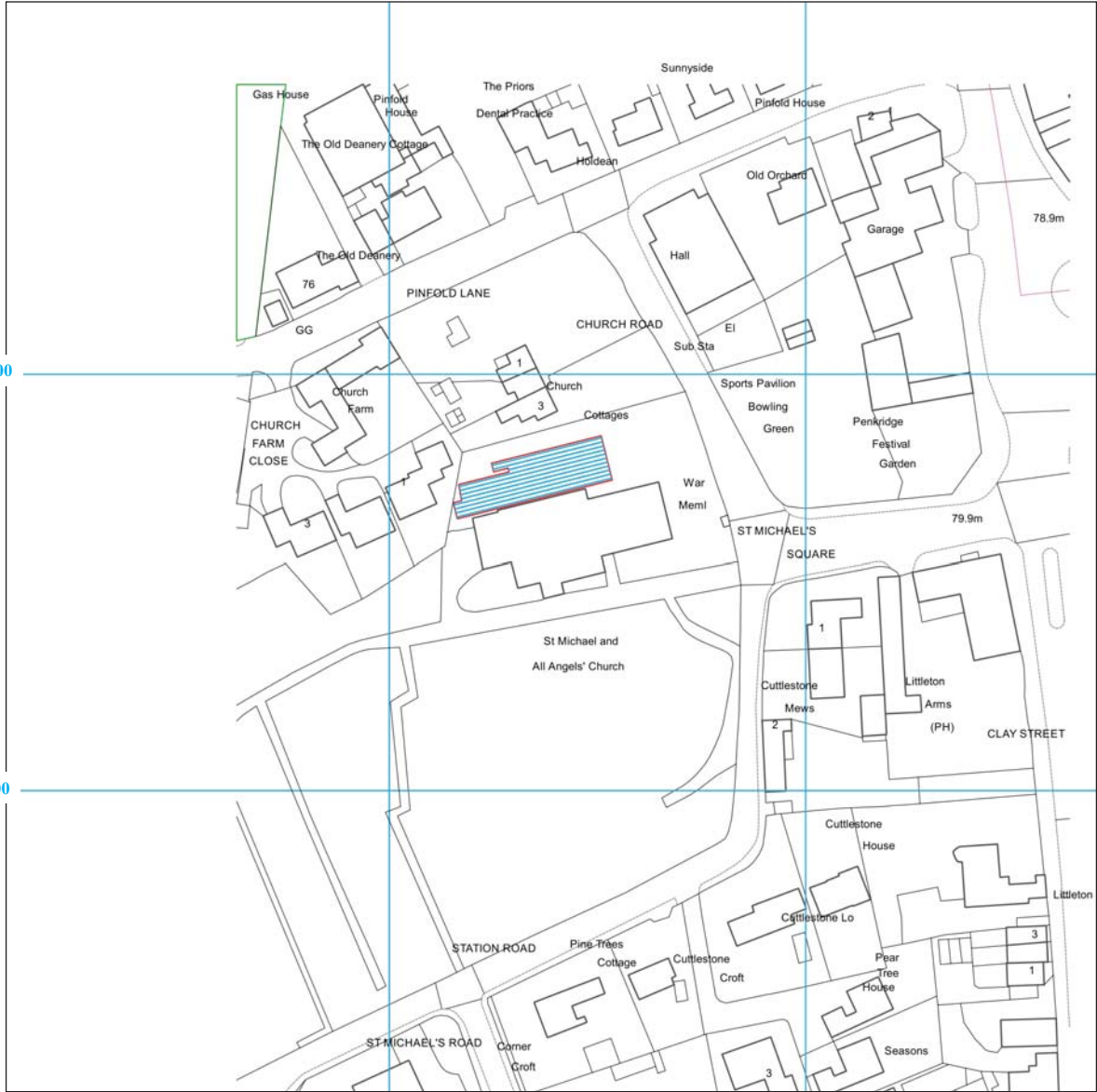


**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkridge, Staffordshire, 2017
Geophysical Survey**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Church Road.

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SJ92100

92200

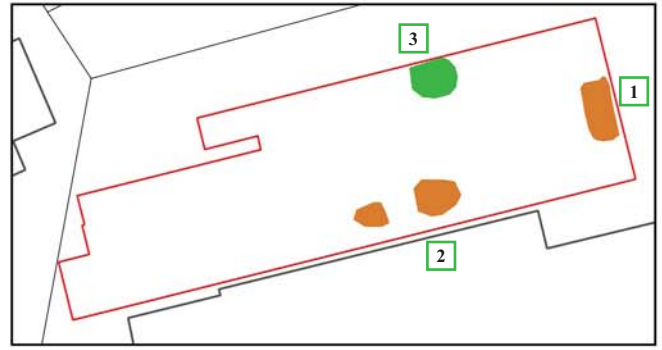
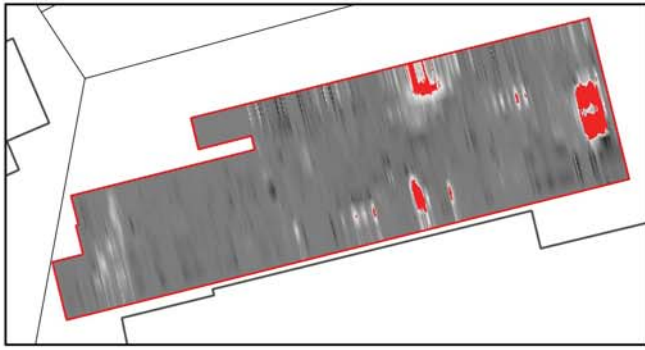
MAC 17/50



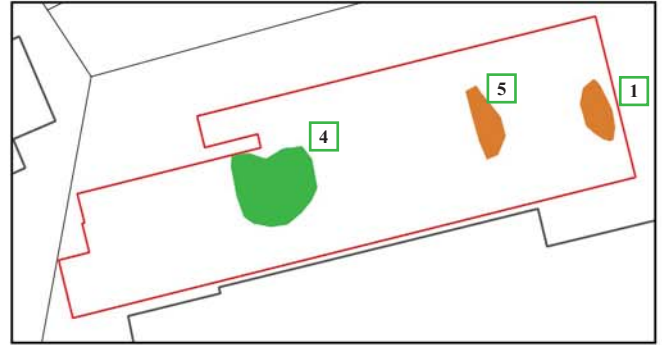
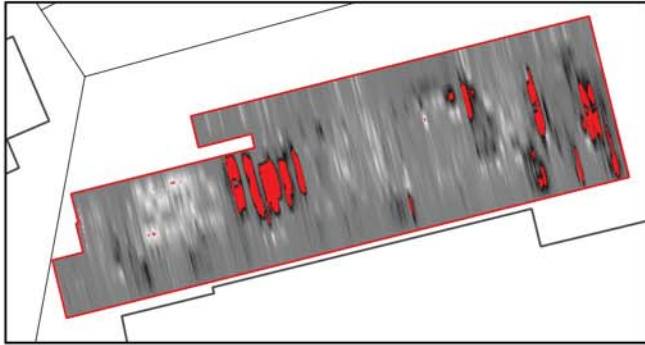
**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkrige, Staffordshire, 2017
Geophysical Survey**
Figure 3. Survey extents and profile lines

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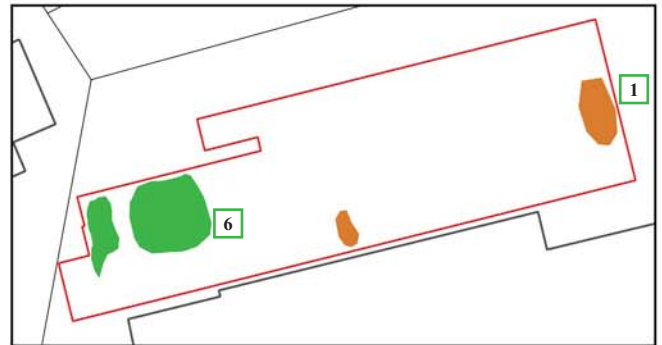
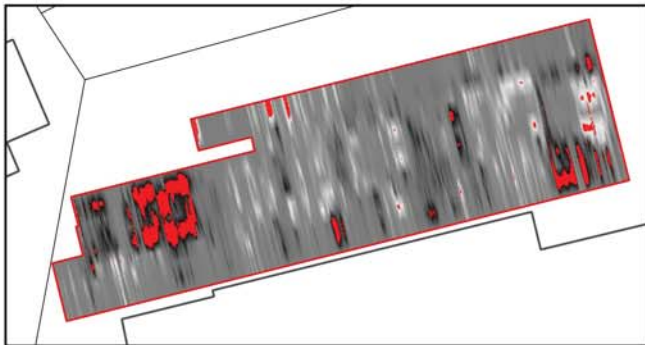




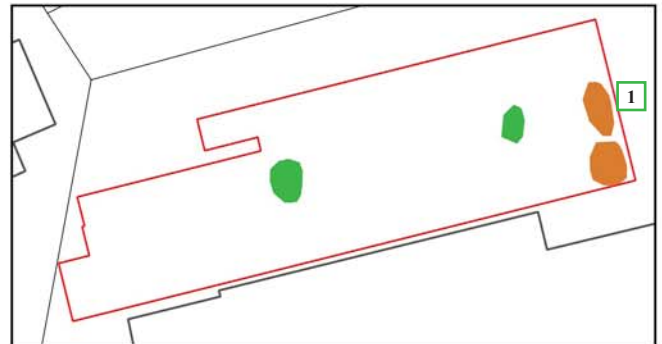
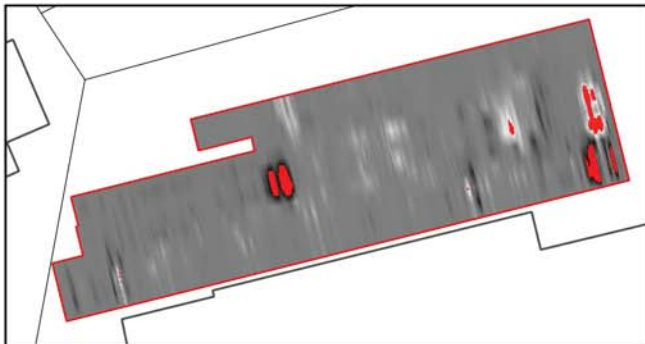
Timeslice 1. 250MHz Data and Archaeological Interpretation (approximate depth 0.2 m)



Timeslice 2. 250MHz Data and Archaeological Interpretation (approximate depth 0.4 m)



Timeslice 3. 250MHz Data and Archaeological Interpretation (approximate depth 0.6 m)



Timeslice 4. 250MHz Data and Archaeological Interpretation (approximate depth 0.8 m)

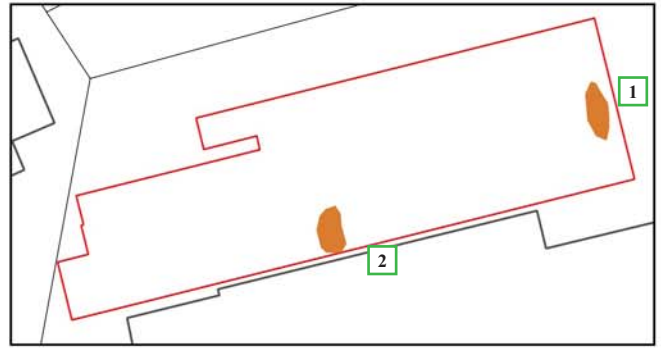
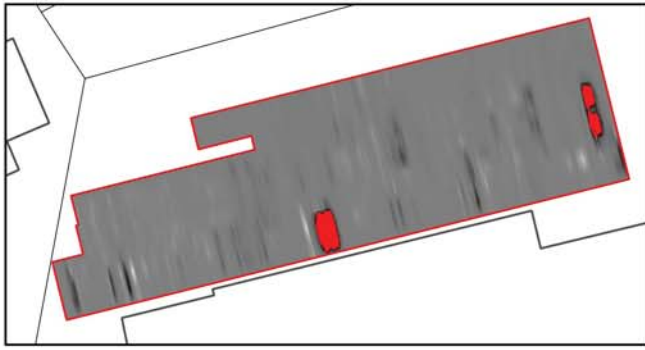
- Possible feature (archaeology)
- Possible modern feature (not archaeology)

MAC 17/50

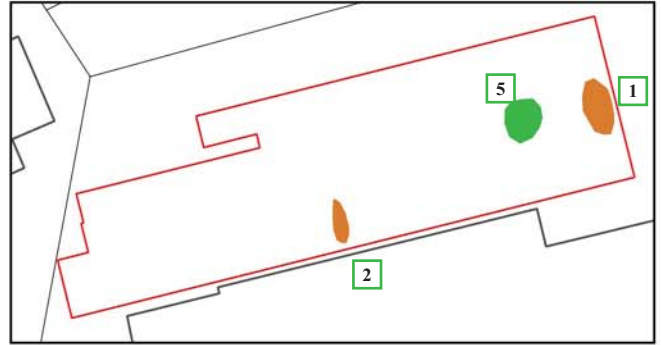
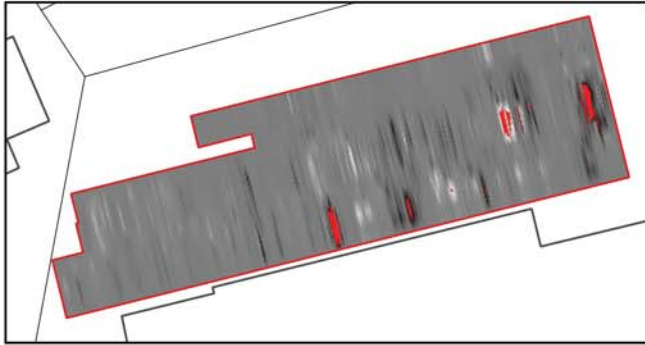


**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkridge, Staffordshire, 2017
Geophysical Survey**
Figure 4. Timeslices 1-4

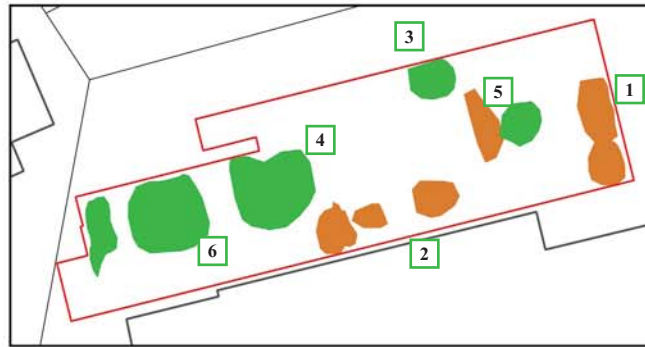




Timeslice 5. 250MHz Data and Archaeological Interpretation (approximate depth 1.0 m)



Timeslice 6. 250MHz Data and Archaeological Interpretation (approximate depth 2.0 m)



250MHz Combined Archaeological Interpretation

- Possible feature (archaeology)
- Possible modern feature (not archaeology)

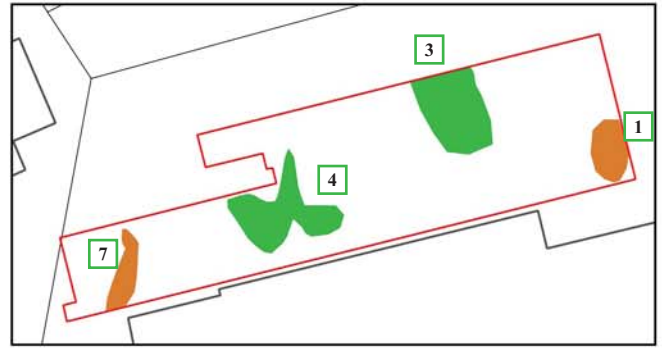
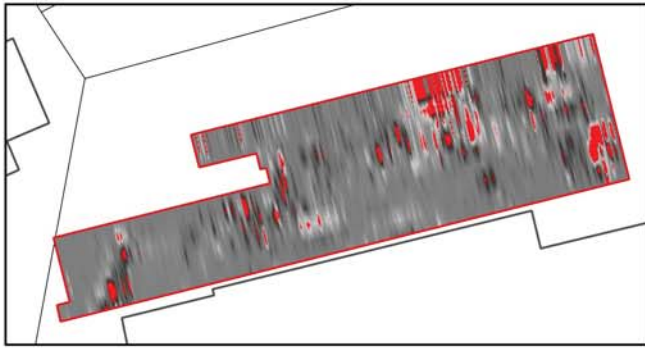
MAC 17/50



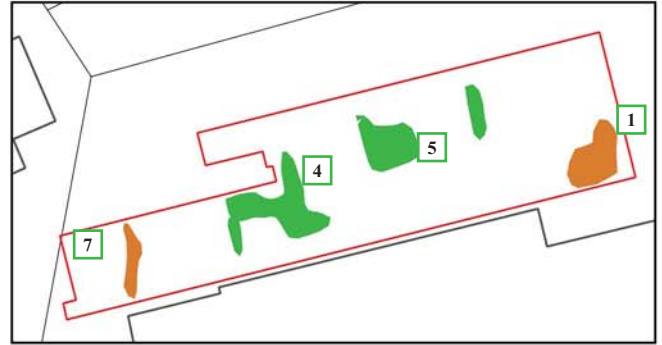
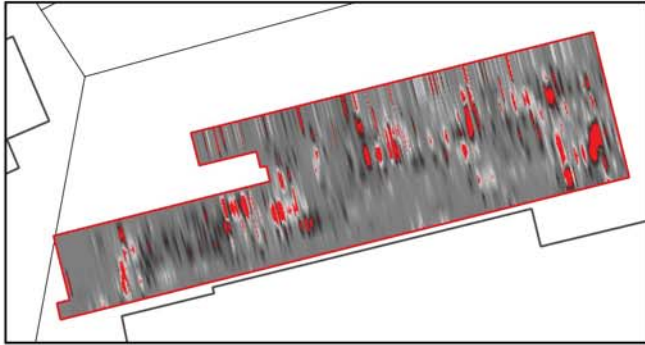
**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkridge, Staffordshire, 2017
Geophysical Survey**

Figure 5. Timeslices 5-6 and 250MHz combined interpretation

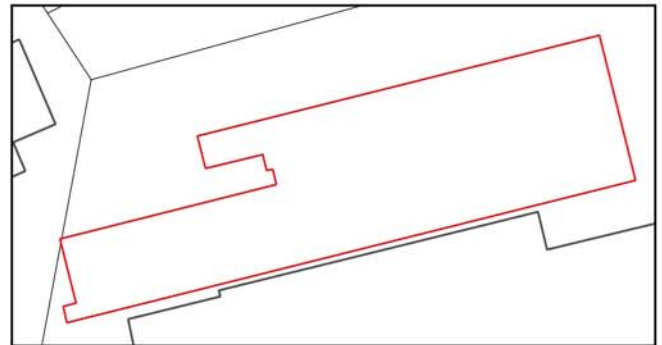
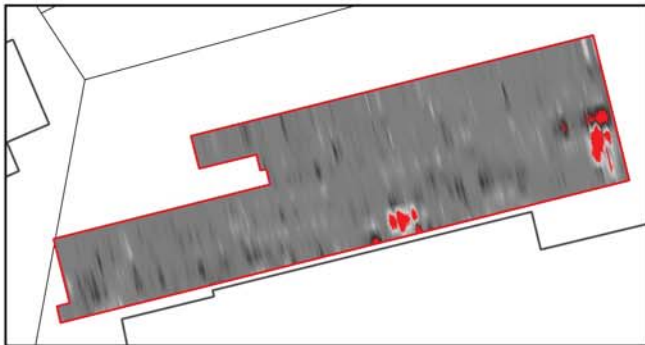




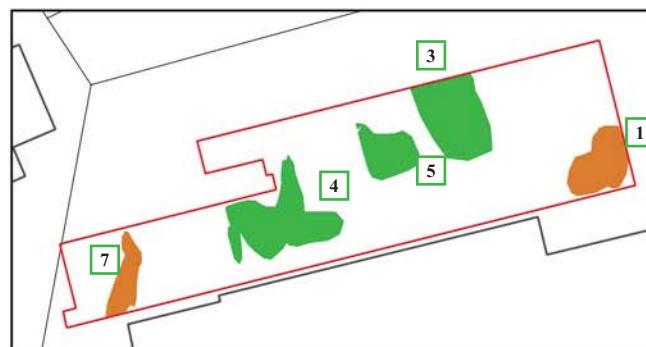
Timeslice 7. 400MHz Data and Archaeological Interpretation (approximate depth 0.1 m)



Timeslice 8. 400MHz Data and Archaeological Interpretation (approximate depth 0.2 m)



Timeslice 9. 400MHz Data and Archaeological Interpretation (approximate depth 1.0 m)



400MHz Combined Archaeological Interpretation

- Possible feature (archaeology)
- Possible modern feature (not archaeology)

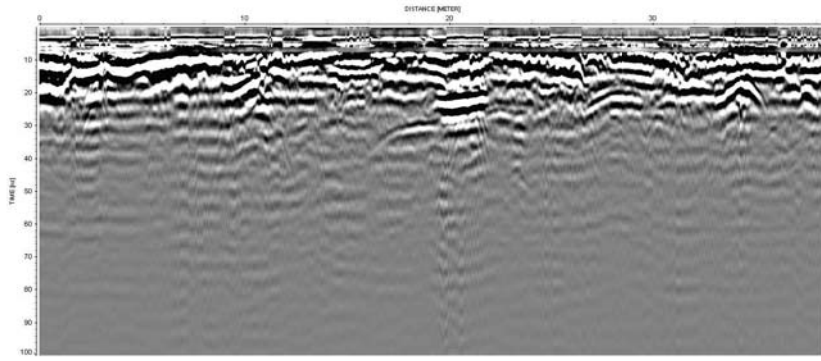
MAC 17/50



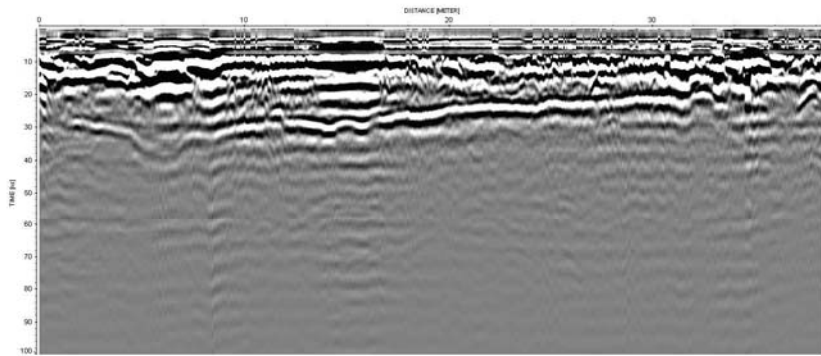
**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkridge, Staffordshire, 2017
Geophysical Survey**

Figure 6. Timeslices 7-9 and 400MHz combined interpretation

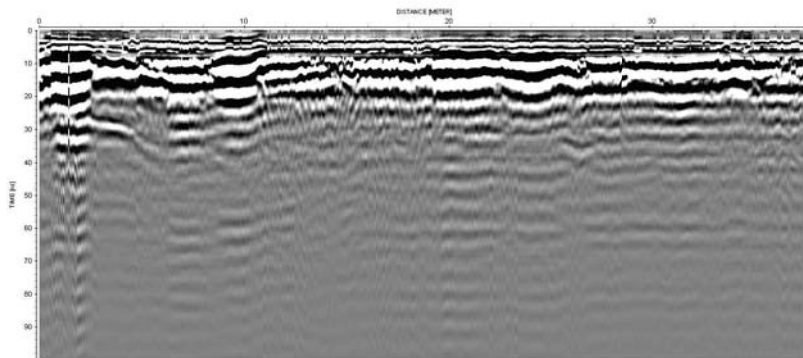




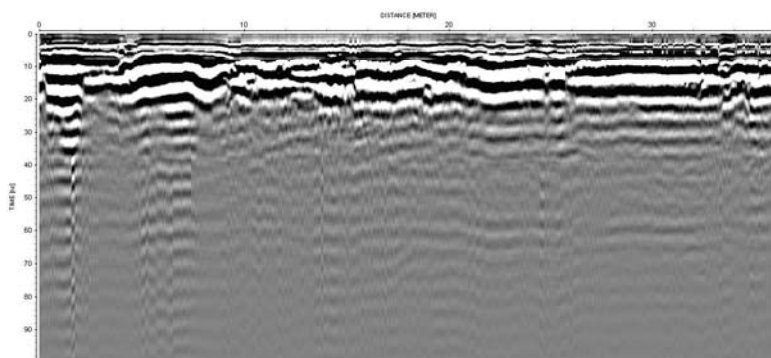
Profile 1
250MHz



Profile 2
250MHz



Profile 3
250MHz

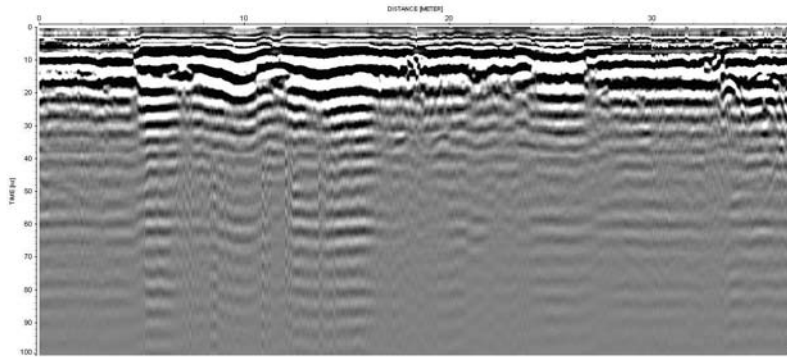


Profile 4
250MHz

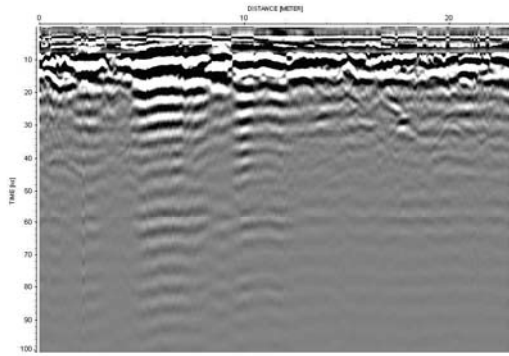
MAC 17/50

**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkridge, Staffordshire, 2017
Geophysical Survey**
Figure 7. Profiles 1-4

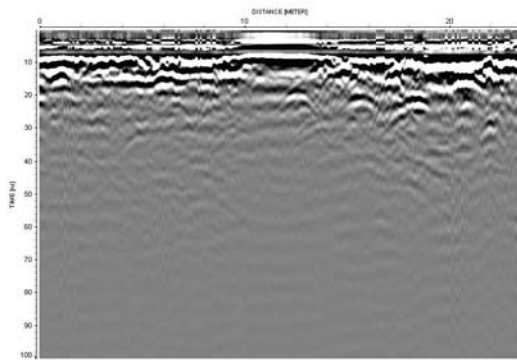




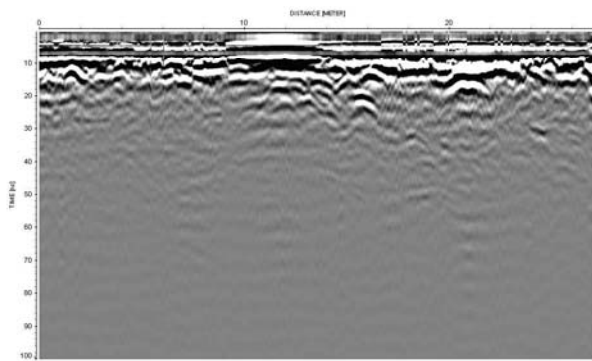
Profile 5
250MHz



Profile 6
250MHz



Profile 7
250MHz

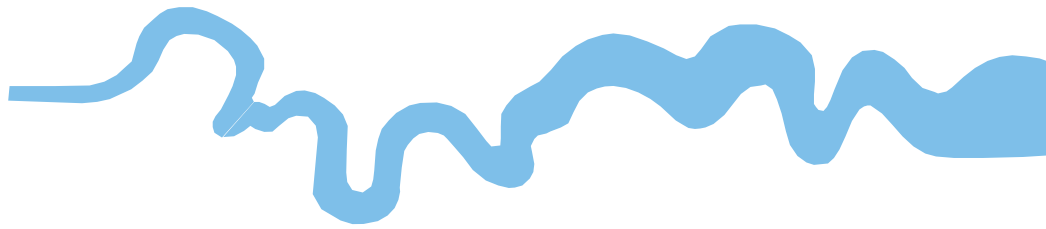


Profile 8
250MHz

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





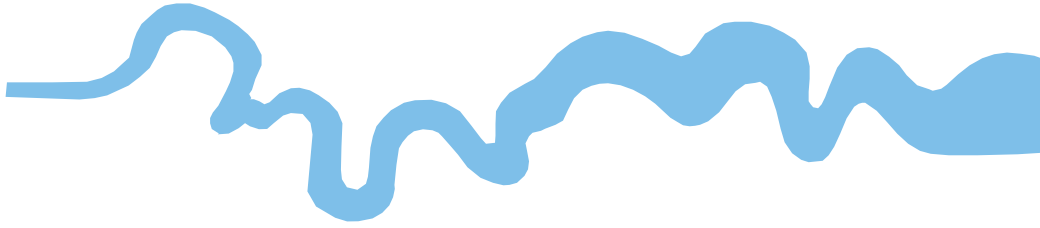
**TVAS (North Midlands),
2B Stanton Road, Meir
Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 6DD**

**Tel: 01782 595648
Email: northmidlands@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk/northmidlands**

***Offices in:
Reading, Brighton, Taunton and Ennis (Ireland)***

APPENDIX 3

T V A S



NORTH MIDLANDS

**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkrige, Staffordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Garreth Davey

Site Code: MAC17/50

(SJ 9215 1413)

**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkridge, Staffordshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation
For St Michaels and All Angels Church**

by Garreth Davey
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MAC 17/50

July 2017

Summary

Site name: St Michaels and All Angels Church, Penkridge, Staffordshire

Grid reference: SJ 9215 1413

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trench

Date and duration of project: 19-23rd June 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Garreth Davey

Site code: MAC 17/50

Area of site: c. 500 sq m

Summary of results: Sixteen articulated burials were uncovered and summarily recorded within the two trenches, these were left undisturbed. No further archaeological features were identified. Coffin fittings and a quantity of disarticulated human bone were reburied within the trenches. A small piece of silver foil was retained as required by the Treasure Act.

Location of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent in due course. All human bone was retained at the church.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford	✓	14.07.17
	Steve Preston	✓	14.07.17

St Michaels and All Angels Church, Penkridge Archaeological Evaluation

by Garreth Davey

Report 17/50

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out at land at St Michaels and All Angels Church, Penkridge, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 9213 1417) (Fig 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Ms Helen Martin-Bacon of Commercial Archaeology Limited on behalf of The Penkridge Parochial Church Council.

An application for planning permission to extend the church with new meeting rooms is to be made to South Staffordshire District Council, and it is expected that a similar request would be made for a faculty from the Diocese. A programme of archaeological works has been requested, in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Governments *National Planning Policy* (NPPF 2012) and the District Council's policies on archaeology in order to inform both the design and planning process. The work was conducted in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by Mr. Stephen Dean, Principle Archaeologist of Staffordshire County Council, the archaeological advisor to both the District and the Diocese.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Garreth Davey and Mike Johnson, 19th to 23rd June 2017 and the site code is MAC 17/50. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent in due course. All human bone was retained at the church.

Location, topography and geology

The site comprises an approximately 500 sq m parcel of land along the north wall of the church, which is located to the north-west of Penkridge, and approximately 9.5 km south of Stafford, Staffordshire. The site is currently an unused area of the existing graveyard. The site lies on a generally flat area at approximately 80 m above Ordinance Datum (aOD). It is bounded to the south by the existing church building, to the east by the active graveyard and to the north and west by residential properties. The solid geology of the site is the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS, 2017) but this was not observed in the trenches which did not penetrate below the graveyard soils.

Site history and archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Mr. Stephen Dean of Staffordshire County Council. Penkrige has late Saxon origins with a minster church established in the 10th century and which is thought to lie on the same site as the later parish church. Penkrige is documented in Domesday Book of AD1086 (Williams and Martin 2002) and is thought to be a well established settlement at that time. It is claimed that King Eadred (946-55) founded a collegiate church here and it subsequently held great importance through the Anglo-Saxon period which continued post Norman Conquest, due to its status as a chapel royal. The settlement is considered to have prospered in medieval times but perhaps with some decline in early post-medieval times. The church is listed grade 1 and contains 13th century fabric. Twelve burial monuments in the church yard are also listed grade II.

A ground penetrating radar survey of the proposed development area (Davey 2017) revealed a series of responses interpreted as potential below-ground structures, with others of unclear but probably modern origins.

Methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were;

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any archaeologically significant deposits relating to the late Saxon, medieval and later settlement of Penkrige are present;
- to determine if any archaeologically significant deposits relating to the late Saxon and later minster church are present;
- to provide information to assist in the development of a mitigation strategy; and
- to inform the foundation designs of the new building.

Two trenches were dug using a 360° tracked machine fitted with toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoil heaps were monitored for finds.

Where the GPR survey had indicated that archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the integrity of any deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation. Where articulated human burials were encountered, they were cleaned and

minimally excavated to confirm their nature and the recorded, but as far as possible left *in situ*. It was agreed with the church and S.C.C that there would be no need to remove human remains. Disarticulated bones were bagged and labelled and returned to the care of the church. Spoil heaps were searched for finds, including the use of a metal detector.

Results

The two trenches were 8.5m and 8.3m long, both 2.5m wide and reached maximum depths of 1.2m and 1.38m respectively. The depth of the trenches is indicative of the level at which burials were reached, and did not reach the natural geology. A complete list of trenches detailing lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections is given in Appendix 1. The graves exposed are summarised in Appendix 2 and information including possible age and sex are detailed in Appendix 3.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 stratigraphy comprised a thin layer of topsoil, overlying a layer of gravel made ground which in turn overlaid a layer of buried topsoil. Within the layer of buried topsoil, a vast quantity of disarticulated human bone was excavated and a number of fully articulated burials were encountered. These were excavated only to a depth that allowed them to be planned but the bones were not lifted (Pls 3 and 4).

Of the seven burials with substantial remains, each was aligned approximately east-west, parallel to the line of the church building, with the feet to the east and head to the west as is typical in Christian burials. Each was laid in an extended supine position with the hands located either crossed over the chest or resting on the waist. The burials appeared to be of mixed sex and also mixed ages.

Several of the burials had remaining evidence for coffin fixtures such as handles and nails but no actual coffins remained. Burial 3 also had a metal plate which may have been either a decorative coffin piece or possibly a chest piece; however given the preservation of the metal this is unclear.

Trench 2 (Fig 3; Pl. 2)

As per Trench 1, the stratigraphy consisted of topsoil, gravel layer and reburied topsoil. Three modern pipes crossed the trench. A further nine burials were uncovered in the trench (Pls 5 and 6), all sharing the orientation and placement of those in Trench 1, approximately aligned east-west and in an extended supine position. These burials were in general less well preserved than those in Trench 1 but also appear to be mixed in sex and age.

Again there was some evidence for coffin furniture in the form of handles and nails, and in this trench a single wooden coffin remained in association with Burial 2, which was complete with lid and possible

identification plate however the metal was so brittle and expired that this may have been a simple decorative plaque.

Finds

All articulated burials were recorded *in situ* with no removal. These were then hand covered with spoil prior to backfill. All disarticulated bones found during stripping and excavation were also kept on site at all times and upon completion of the excavation work, there were also recovered with spoil by hand prior to backfill (PIs 7 and 8). Coffin furniture was also replaced in each grave.

The only significant find of a potentially archaeological nature removed from the site was from burial T1-5 and consisted of a number of small pieces of decorative silver foils of uncertain form and function, which have been retained, recorded and reported as Treasure as per the Treasure Act 1996.

Conclusion

Despite the site's elevated potential for archaeology being present, besides the burials, nothing of further archaeological significance was revealed. In particular, the ground penetrating radar results were not confirmed, this may be due to the presence of the gravel levelling layer or due to the moisture levels during the survey which can cause anomalous results. This survey had identified a number of potential features that were interpreted as possible structural evidence however in this instance it appears that the interpretation was inaccurate. Any correlation with the graves appears to be coincidental given the number of burials.

Given the presence of coffins and associated fixtures, the burials are likely to be dated post 18th century however this date is only speculative and may be related to the former entrance path or may have resulted from the reburial of remains during the lowering of the nave floor in 1889.

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Appendix 1: Trench details

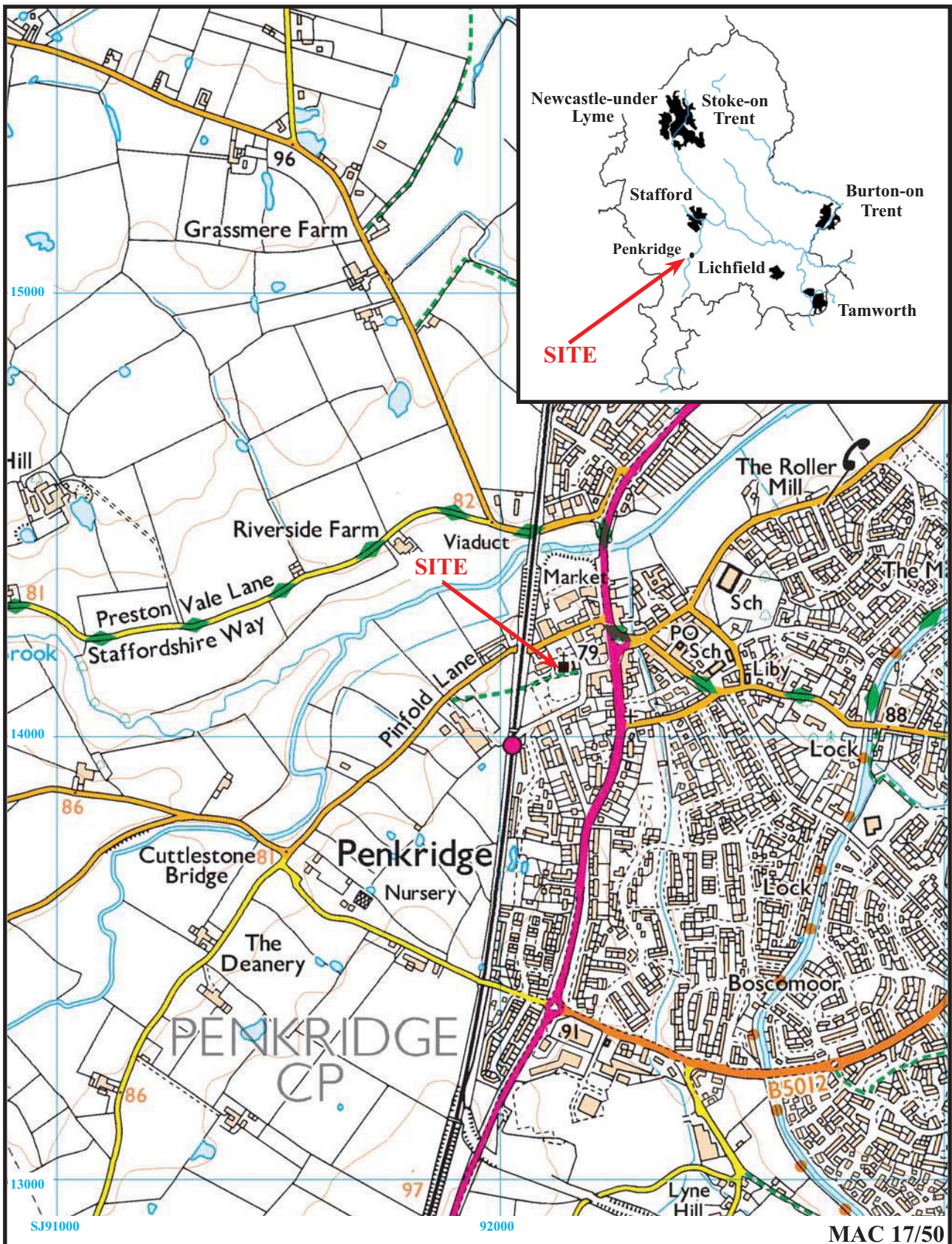
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	8.5	2.5	1.10 - 1.21	0-0.21m topsoil, 0.21-0.33 gravel layer, 0.33m+ burial soils.
2	8.3	2.5	1.12 – 1.38	0-0.18m topsoil, 0.18-0.38 gravel layer, 0.38m+ burial soils.

Appendix 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>
1,2		50	Topsoil
1,2		51	Gravel made ground
1,2		52	Buried soil/mixed burial soils
1	1	SK53	Grave
1	2	SK54	Grave
1	3	SK55	Grave
1	4	SK56	Grave
1	5	SK57	Grave
1	6	SK58	Grave
1	7	SK59	Grave
1	8	SK60	Grave
2	1	SK61	Grave
2	2	SK62, coffin 69	Grave
2	3	SK63	Grave
2	4	SK64	Grave
2	5	SK65	Grave
2	6	SK66	Grave
2	7	SK67	Grave
2	8	SK68	Grave

Appendix 3: Summary of burials by Alexandra Johnson

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Grave</i>	<i>Skeleton</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1	1	SK53	Male	Young Adult	The greater sciatic notch appears to be relatively wide, however, the pelvic inlet appears to be rather small and the subpubic angle narrow. The overall shape of the pelvis appears tall and robust.
1	2	SK54	Male	Older Adult?	Large mastoid process and broad, flared gonial angles on both halves of the mandible. Poorly preserved facial features however the right half of the mandible appears to have substantial antemortem tooth loss and bone remodeling.
1	3	SK55	Male	Adult	Broad supraorbital margins (right orbit has supraorbital notch), pronounced glabella, and prominent mental eminence suggest male. Significant occlusal wear on mandibular teeth; little or no calculus; large abscess on buccal side of right mandibular lateral incisor and canine.
1	4	SK56	Female	Adult	Overall shape appears gracile, with narrow supraorbital margins, and subtle glabella. Possible pathology at the proximal end of left radius. [Pl. 3]
1	5	SK57	Unknown	Child?	Very few remains present however the fragments of the skull appeared unfused and small, therefore likely under 4.
1	6	SK58	Unknown	Child	Unfused cranial sutures and humeral epiphyses suggest a juvenile, likely under the age of 4. [Pl. 4]
1	7	SK59	Possible male	Adult	Pelvis appears to be tall and robust, with narrow sciatic notch.
1	8	SK60	Possible female	Adult	Pelvis appears to be wide and low, with broad sciatic notches and pelvic inlet.
2	1	SK61	Unknown	Child	Centra and arches (neurocentral synchondrosis) of cervical vertebrae appear not to be fused, which typically occurs between 3 and 6 years old
2	2	SK62	Female	Adult	Delicate right gonial angle, thin supraorbital margin and subtle glabella. Mildly prominent right mastoid process, however. Appears to exhibit significant porosity on frontal, to the left of the right orbit and above the glabella, though the left side is not visible. Possible pathological bone growth on the inferior medial margin of right orbit. Resorption of the maxillary alveolar region. Cranial suture closure suggests young to middle adult.
2	3-9	SK63-68	Unknown	Unknown	Poorly preserved or truncated remains make further examination and identification not possible. [Pls. 5 and 6]

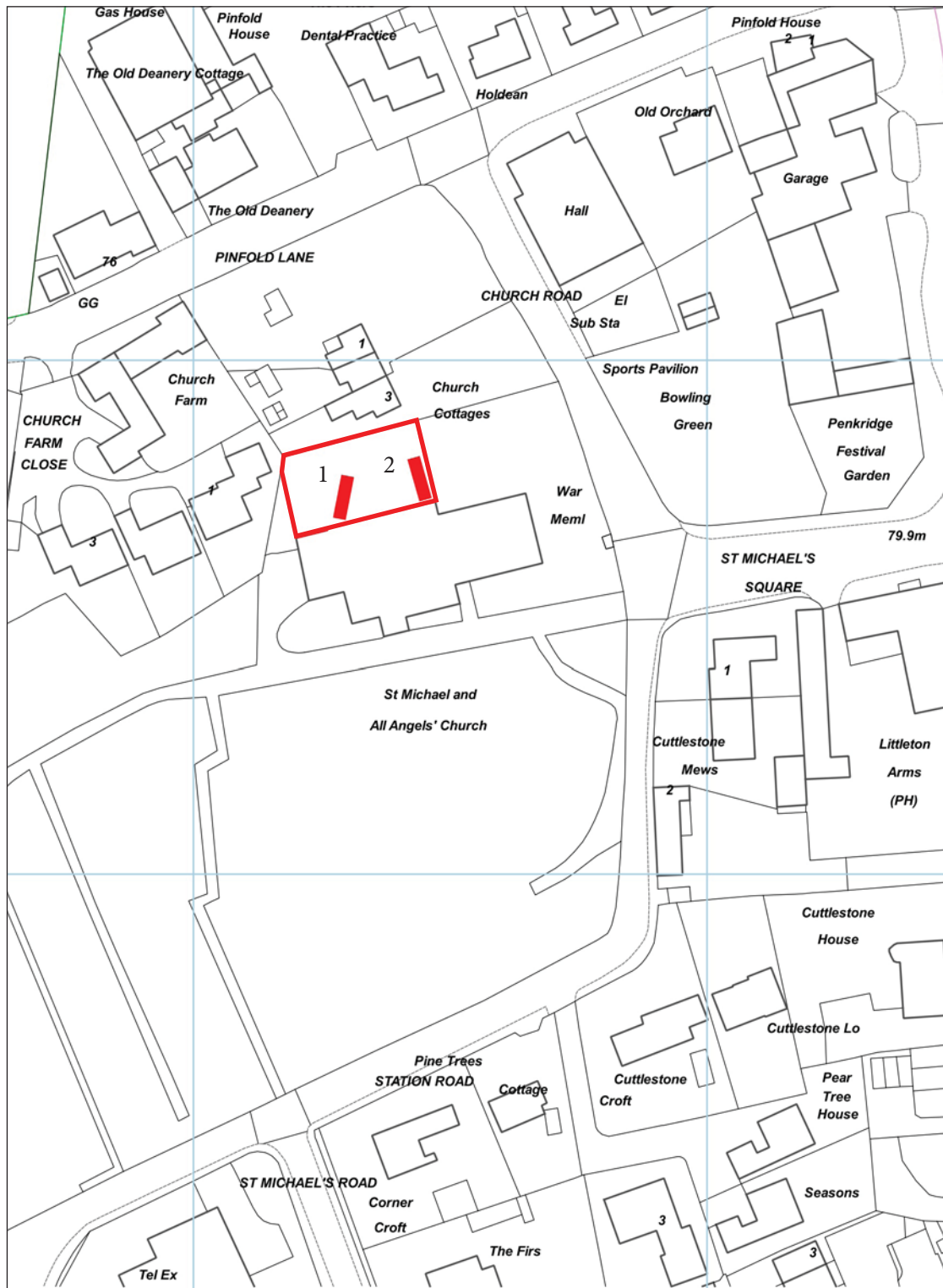


**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkridge, Staffordshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Penkridge and Staffordshire.

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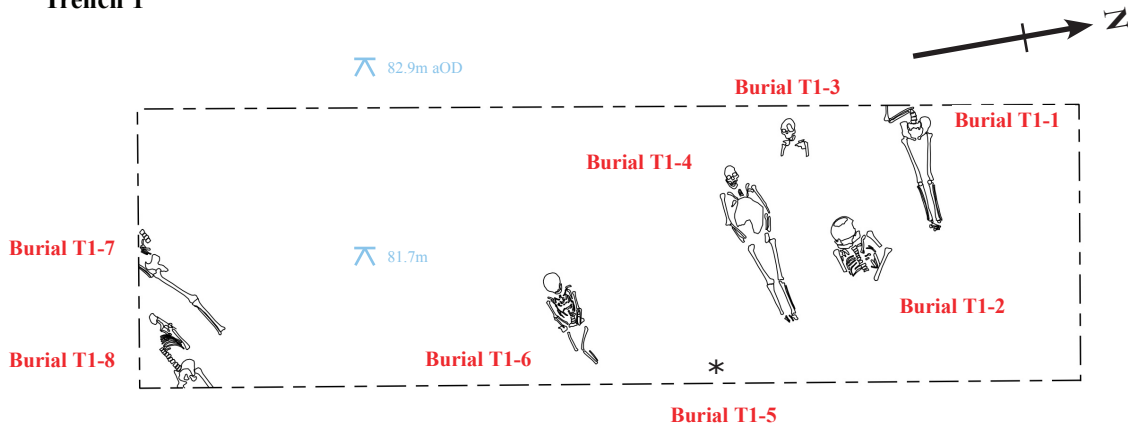


**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkrige, Staffordshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 2. Detailed location of trenches.**

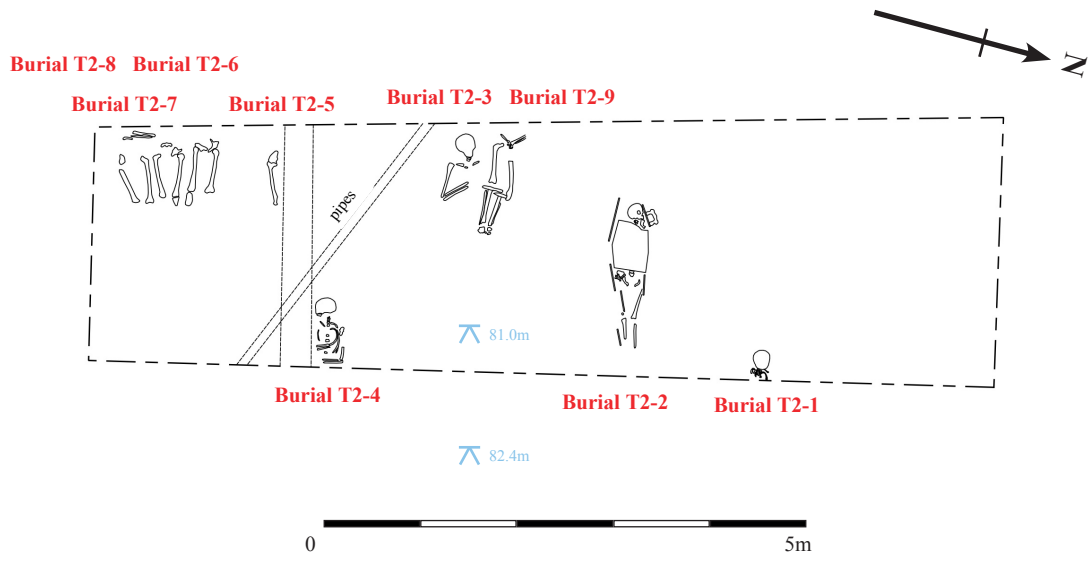
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Trench 1



Trench 2



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Evaluation Trenching
Figure 3. Trench plans at 1:50.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking South. Scale: 1m



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking South. Scale: 1m

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**St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkridge, Staffordshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.**

T V A S

NORTH MIDLANDS



Plate 3. Trench 1, Burial 4 looking South; Scale: 1m



Plate 4. Trench 1, Burial 6 looking South; Scale: 1m

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St Michaels and All Angels Church,
Penkridge, Staffordshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.





Plate 5. Trench 2, Burial 4 looking South; Scale: 1m



Plate 6. Trench 2, Burials 6 to 8 looking West; Scale: 1m

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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 and 6.





Plate 7. General post-excavation shot, looking west.



Plate 8. General post-excavation shot, looking east.

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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 7 and 8.**

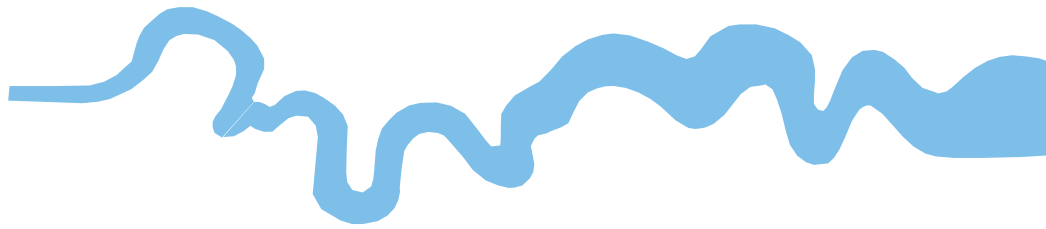
T V A S

NORTH MIDLANDS

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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Reading, Brighton, Taunton and Ennis (Ireland)*



HERITAGE SERVICES:

Constraints reports for land acquisition.
Desk-Based Assessments.
Heritage Impact Assessments.
Heritage Statements and Assessment of Significance.
Listed Building and Scheduled Monument Consents.
Historic Landscape Assessments.
Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.
Historic Building Recording.
Setting Assessments.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES:

Project Management and Set Up.
Preparation of Methodologies.
Scoping and negotiation with LPAs
Preparation of Mitigation Strategies.
Preparation of WSIs.
Full range of Fieldwork Services.
Consultancy and Advice.
Preparation of Risk Assessments.
PR & CSR/Public Outreach.

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