



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, THE GREEN,
SUTTON COURTENAY, OXFORDSHIRE**

NGR SU 50493 94202

SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT PREPARED BY Tom Rose-Jones

ILLUSTRATION BY Tom Rose-Jones

EDITED BY John Moore

AUTHORISED BY John Moore

FIELDWORK DATE 8 – 10th, 13th, 15th May, 17th-19th, 21st, 24th-28th
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REPORT ISSUED 18th September 2019

ENQUIRES TO John Moore Heritage Services
Pasture Farmhouse
Boarstall
Aylesbury
HP18 9UR

Tel: 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

JMHS Project No: 4110
OASIS No: johnmoor1-364013
Site Code: SCTG 19



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SUMMARY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for an extension to All Saints Church, The Green, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 41692 85717).

A total of 28 skeletons were recorded during the watching brief, in addition to four brick built vaults. Without exception the skeletons were found within earth cut graves; the grave cuts were rarely visible, except where truncation of an earlier burial had occurred. The date range of the burials encountered is uncertain, though a late-medieval or early post-medieval date is likely based on the depth of burials. A proliferation of shrouded burials was evident, though four probable 18th or early 19th century burials were also recorded.

*Of the burials excavated 20 adults were identified, 3 sub-adults, 1 juvenile and 1 infant; 3 remained of undetermined age due to poor preservation. Skeletons 30 and 36 were the only earth cut burials associated with coffins, while two well preserved wooden coffins were present within brick vault **1006**. These were dated to the late 18th or early 19th century on the basis of the lid motifs, examples of which had previously been identified on coffins during archaeological excavation at St George's Church, Bloomsbury.*

*On the whole the burials recorded during the watching brief do not appear to correspond with any of the tombstones present prior to the commencement of works, again indicating that they are likely to be earlier in date. The exception of this is chest tombs M13 and M14, which correspond to vaulted grave shaft **1015** and grave cut 1016 (1017) and M18, which corresponds to vaulted tomb **1006**.*

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located in the graveyard of All Saints Church, The Green Sutton Courtenay (NGR SU 50484 94192).

The site lies at approximately 53m AOD. The underlying geology is Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member, overlain by superficial deposits of alluvium, comprising clay, sand, silt and gravel.

1.2 Planning Background

Vale of White Horse District Council granted planning permission for the erection of an extension to the north side of All Saints Church to provide a meeting room with kitchen and toilets (ref. P15/V3024/FUL-8). The Consistory Court of the Diocese of Oxford issued a Faculty (2018-018037) approving the works that contained three conditions pertaining to archaeological remains:

2. *If any articulated remains are discovered, they are not to be removed or otherwise disturbed, all work in the immediate area must cease forthwith and the applicant must apply to the court for directions.*
3. *If any disarticulated human remains are discovered, they must be reverently reburied in the churchyard as soon as reasonably practicable.*
4. *No artefact or ecofact is to be removed from the church or churchyard without further Order of the Court or an order from the Archdeacon under Section 21 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.*

Following the discovery of articulated remains the faculty was amended by order of the Oxford Consistory Court to include the following conditions:

2. *The Description of Works or Proposals in the Schedule to the faculty is amended by adding the following, "Limited exhumation of human remains".*
3. *The existing Condition 2 is omitted and the following conditions are inserted in its place:
"2A The Petitioners and their contractors are to use their best endeavours to ensure that the works are carried out in such a way that no human remains are damaged or destroyed.*

2B Where articulated human remains are discovered the Petitioners and their contractor(s) must proceed as follows– (a) if it is possible to continue with the works without damaging or destroying the remains and without disturbing more than a minor part of the remains, the works may continue; and in so far as it is necessary to do so to avoid their being damaged or destroyed, minor parts of the remains may be temporarily removed;(b) if it would not be possible to continue with the works without damaging or destroying the remains or without removing more than a minor part of the remains, the remains must be exhumed before the works may continue.

2C Where minor parts of remains are temporarily removed pursuant to condition 2B(a), their position must be recorded and they must be carefully retained and labelled so as to identify the set of remains from which they were removed and they must be replaced with those remains or the entire remains reburied as close as possible to their original location but at a higher level so as not to disturb any other remains as soon as reasonably practicable.

2D Where remains are exhumed pursuant to condition 2B(b) their position must be recorded and the entire set of remains in question must be exhumed by hand and each set of remains stored in a separate bag or other container on site or in such other place as the minister may permit.

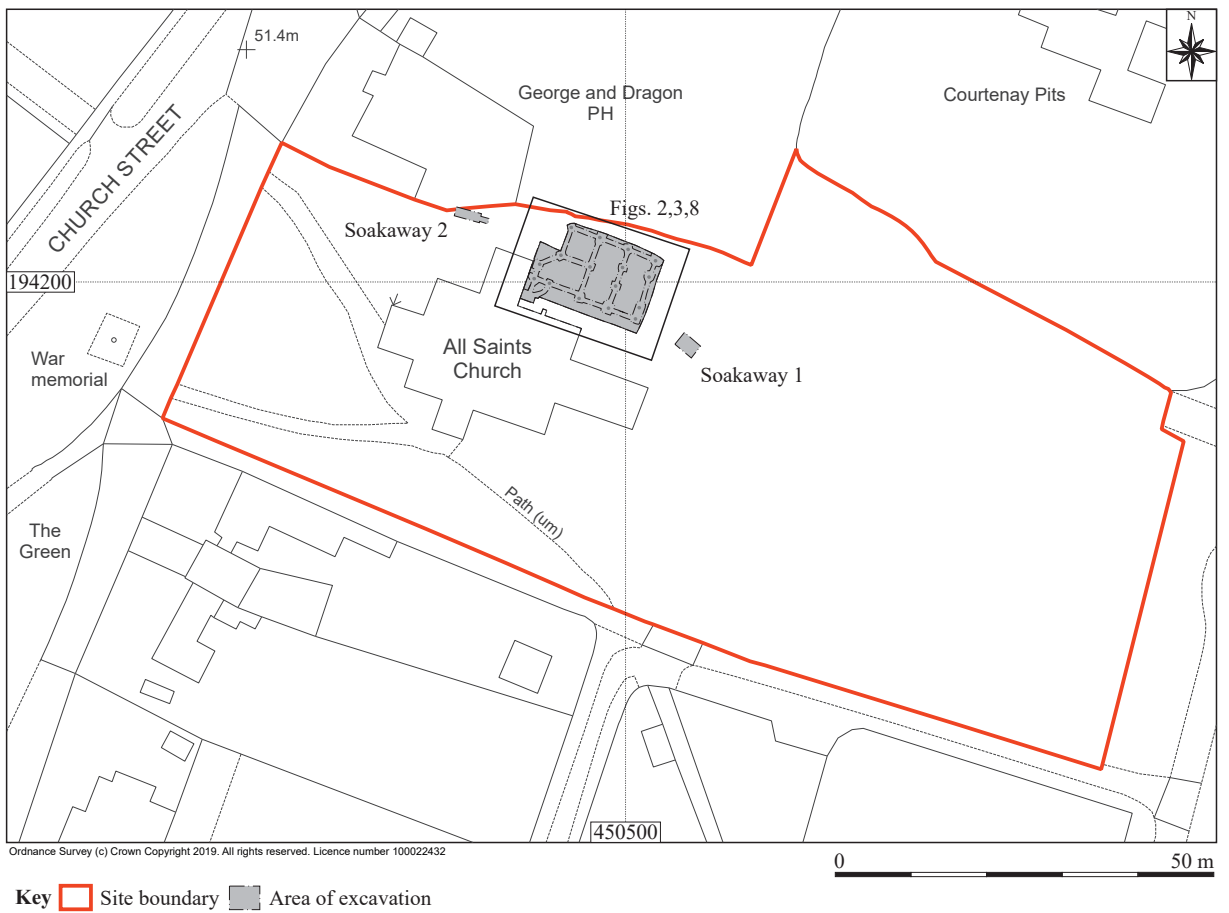
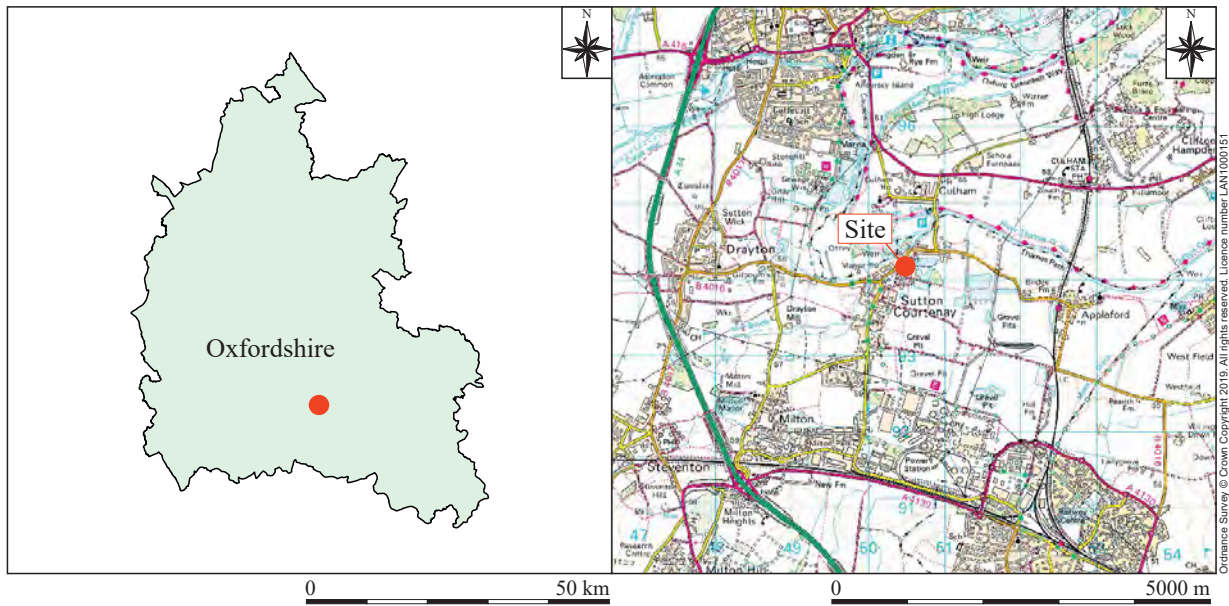


Figure 1: Location plan of watching brief areas

2E Within 7 days of the exhumation of any remains pursuant to condition 2B(b) the Petitioners are to report to the Registry the total number of such exhumations that have taken place and the place where the remains are being stored prior to their re-interment.

2F Upon completion of the works (or sooner if practicable) each set of remains that has been exhumed pursuant to condition 2B(b) must be individually and reverently re-interred as close as possible to their original location but at a higher level so as not to disturb any other remains or (if this is not practicable) in the churchyard under the supervision of the minister.”

1.3 Archaeological Background

The Church of All Saints is a Grade I listed building; the nave and lower levels of the tower date to the Norman period, while the main body of the church dates to the 13th and 14th centuries.

An archaeological evaluation undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services in 2017 located ten burials at depths ranging between 51.2 to 51.61m AOD, thus demonstrating the potential for burials to be disturbed during construction of the extension (JMHS 2017).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Schedule were as follows:

To make a record of any significant archaeological remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- To record any burials and where appropriate remove for later reburial, ensuring compliance with the amended faculty.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work in accordance with the Faculty approved by The Oxford Consistory Court, and in consultation with Julian Munby the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

Where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

A watching brief was maintained during four phases of groundwork:

1: Ground reduction. The area of the proposed extension, approximately 17m in length by 12m in width, was reduced to a height of 52.6m AOD; this amounted to a reduction in ground level of between 0.4 to 0.5m across the site.

2: Piling pit excavation. Following ground reduction a layer of geotextile and hardcore was laid, approximately 0.2m in thickness; piles were then sunk. Trenches of approximately 1m² to 2m² were excavated around each pile under archaeological supervision to a depth of 52.1m AOD; at this stage articulated human remains were encountered in several pits, requiring an amendment to the faculty (see 1.2).

3: Ground beam trenches. Excavated between the piles: external trenches measured 0.6m in width, while internal trenches were 0.5m in width; these were excavated to 52.3m AOD.

4: Soakaway excavation. Two soakaways, 2.5m by 2m and 4.5m by 1.3m, were excavated to the east and west of the new build extension. Soakaway 1 was initially excavated to 2.3m in length by 1.25m in width and 1.1m in depth. The soakaway was subsequently extended to 2.5m in length by 2.2m in width; the depth in this extended area was 0.5m. Soakaway 2 measured 4.5m in length by 1.2m in width and 1.4m in depth.

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for disarticulated human remains.

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. grave cuts, numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in bold indicate structural features.

4.1 Area of Extension (Figures 2 – 8)

Graveyard Soils (Figure 3 and, 7; plates 4 and 5)

The lowest deposits encountered were two slightly different graveyard soils; (1076) a friable mid greyish brown silty clay, present below 52.7m AOD and (1083) a firm mid brownish grey to grey silty clay, present below 52.5m AOD. (1076) was present across the northern half of the site, while (1083) was present further south. The boundary between the two was extremely diffuse and as such the extent of each deposit could not be clearly demarcated – see Figure 3.

Burials in piling pits and groundbeam trenches (Figs. 3 – 6)

Graveyard soils (1076) and (1083) were truncated by 15 burials. Where burials were encountered they frequently extended beyond the limit of excavation (l.o.e), resulting in partial excavation, with the elements of the inhumation beyond the l.o.e. left *in situ*. In almost all cases the true extent of the grave cut could not be defined due to the similarity of the fills with the surrounding graveyard soil; as such cut and fill dimensions are approximate and derived from measurement of the length and width of the skeleton located within each cut.

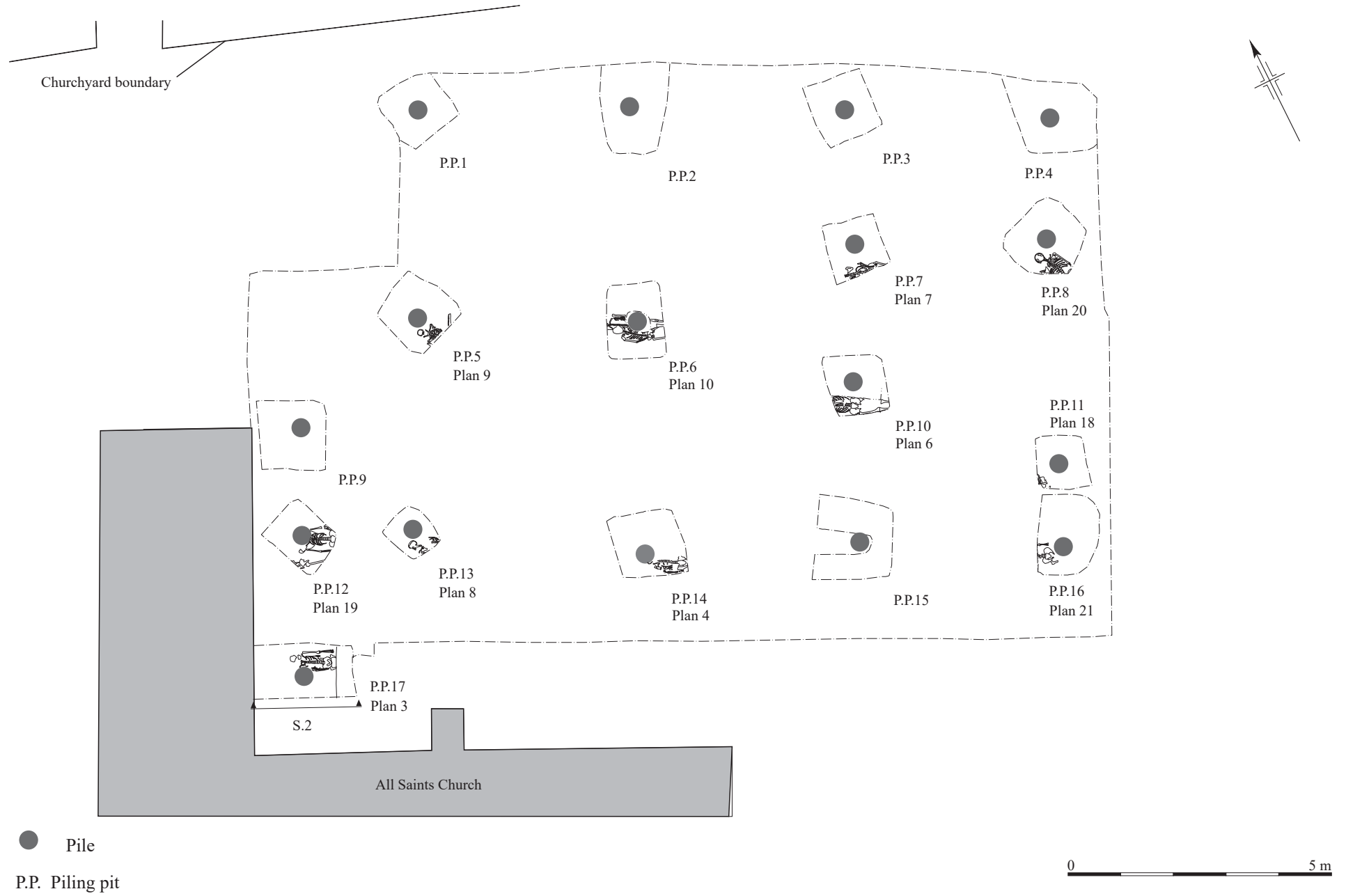


Figure 2: Piling pit locations

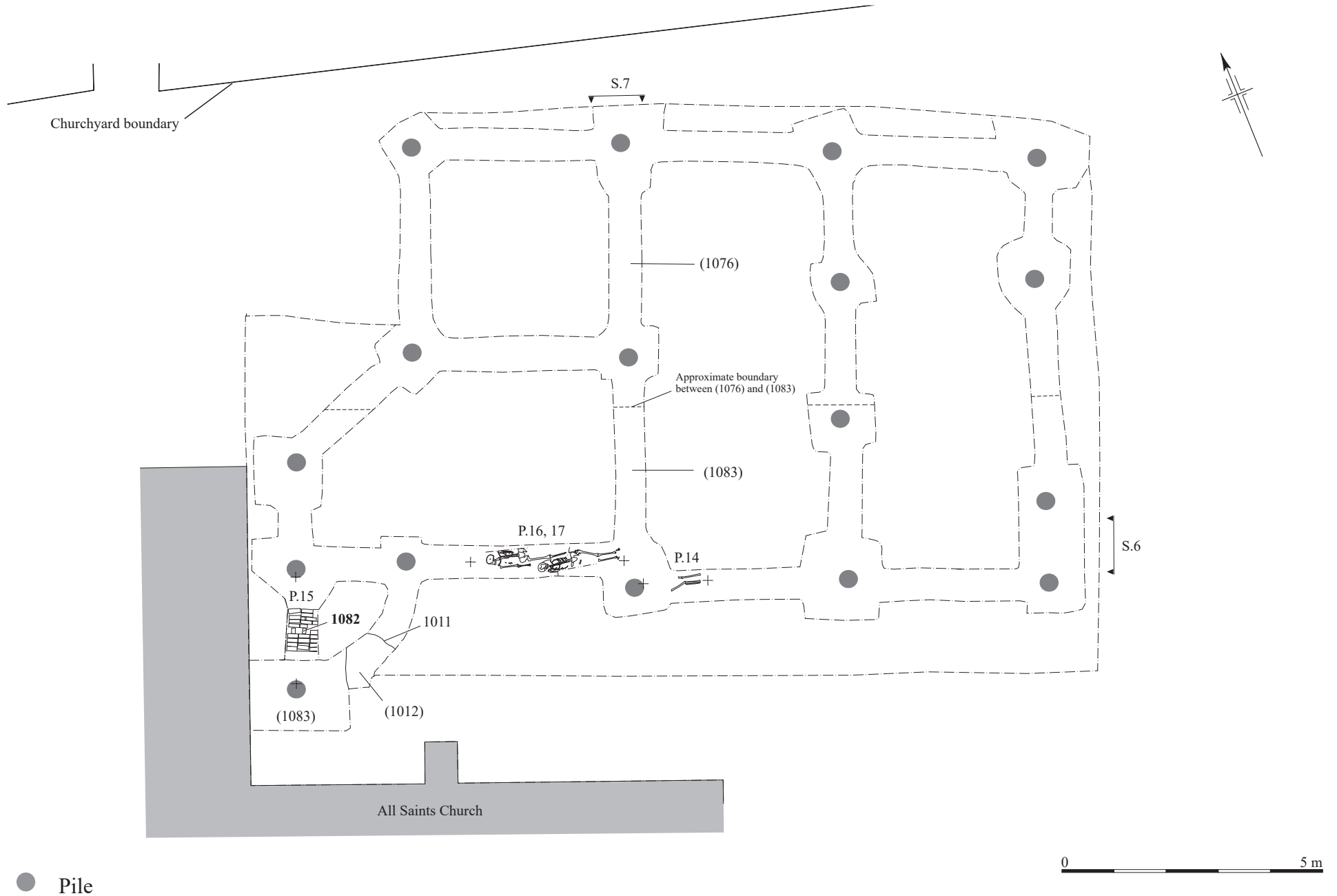


Figure 3: Plan 11 - Ground beam trenches

Table 1: Burials truncating graveyard soil (1083)

Skeleton No.	Skeleton Description	Grave Cut	Description	Grave Fill	Description
10 (Fig. 4; plan 4)	Partial inhumation. Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned E-W. L side of body and legs beyond l.o.e.; adult; sex undetermined.	1021	>0.77m in length by >0.35m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base. Extends beyond l.o.e. to N and E	(1022)	Firm greyish clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone.
11 (Fig. 4, plan 3)	Partial inhumation. Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned E-W; adult; sex undetermined. Truncated from femurs down by modern soakaway 1011.	1023	0.9m in length by >0.4m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base Truncated by modern soakaway 1011.	(1024)	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone. Truncated by modern soakaway 1011.
13 (Fig. 5, plan 19)	Partial inhumation. Body supine; aligned E-W; adult; sex undetermined. Only pelvis and R femur present; extends beyond l.o.e. to W and truncated by grave 1027 to E and 1081 to S.	1028	>0.7m in length by 0.25m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base; extends beyond l.o.e. to W. Truncated by grave 1027 to E and 1081 to S.	(1029)	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone. Truncated by grave 1027 to E and 1081 to S.
14 (Fig. 5, plan 18)	Partial inhumation. Body supine, arms placed over pelvis; aligned E-W; adult; sex undetermined; extends beyond l.o.e. to southwest.	1037	>0.3m in length by >0.2m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base; extends beyond l.o.e. to southwest.	(1038)	Firm mid grey silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone.
15 (Fig. 4, plan 6)	Partial inhumation. Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned E-W; adult; sex undetermined. Head, feet and R arm beyond l.o.e.	1045	>1.1m in length by >0.4m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base; extends beyond l.o.e. to S, E and W. Truncated by grave 1027.	(1046)	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone. Truncated by grave 1027.
17 (Fig. 5, plan 21)	Partial inhumation. Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned E-W; adult; sex undetermined. R arm beyond l.o.e.	1055	>0.88m in length by >0.44m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base; extends beyond l.o.e. to S and E	(1056)	Compact mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular stone.
20 (Fig. 4, plan 9)	Partial inhumation. Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned E-W; adult; sex undetermined. Pelvis down extends beyond l.o.e. to east,	1063	>0.6m in length by >0.35m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base; extends beyond l.o.e. to E.	(1064)	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone.
24	Partial inhumation.	1079	1m in length by	(1080)	Friable mid greyish

(Fig. 6, plan 14)	Body supine; aligned E-W; only femurs, down present; upper body truncated		>0.5m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base. Truncated by machine during excavation.		brown silty clay. Truncated by machine during excavation.
26 (Fig. 6, plan 17)	Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned E-W; young adult; sex undetermined; R arm truncated by 1090 and L humerus truncated by 1088	1086	1.6m in length by 0.35m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base Truncated by grave cuts 1084, 1088, 1090	(1087)	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone. Truncated by grave cuts 1084, 1088, 1090

Table 2: Burials truncating graveyard soil (1076)

Skeleton No.	Skeleton Description	Grave Cut	Description	Grave Fill	Description
16 (Fig. 5, plan 20)	Partial inhumation. Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned NW-SE; adult; sex undetermined. Extends beyond l.o.e. to SE.	1049	>0.8m in length by 0.5m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base. Extends beyond l.o.e. to SE.	(1050)	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone. Extends beyond l.o.e. to E.
18 (Fig. 4, plan 9)	Partial inhumation. Body supine; aligned NW-SE; adult; possible female. Extends beyond l.o.e. to SE.	1059	>0.4m in length by >0.5m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base. Extends beyond l.o.e. to SE.	(1060)	Loose greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone. Extends beyond l.o.e. to SE.
19 (Fig. 4, plan 7)	Partial inhumation. Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned E-W; adult; sex undetermined. Extends beyond l.o.e. to S.	1061	>0.75m in length by >0.25m in width; shape of sides unknown; flat base. Extends beyond l.o.e. to S.	(1062)	Compact mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone. Extends beyond l.o.e. to S.
23 (Fig. 5, plan 13; plate 2)	Partial inhumation. Body supine; aligned E-W; age and sex undetermined; extends below l.o.e.	1077	>0.21m in length by >0.23m in width; shape of sides and base unknown; extends below l.o.e. Truncated by grave 1067	(1078)	Friable mid greyish brown silty loam with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone. Extends below l.o.e. Truncated by grave 1067

In several cases the above burials were truncated by later burials. These are listed below. Several of these burials extended below the l.o.e. and so, due to the homogenous nature of the graveyard soil, were only identified where they were seen to truncate an exposed skeleton.

The truncations predominantly appeared to represent unrelated burials, however in one case a series of three overlying burials may represent a family plot. In this case the lowest burial, containing SK 23, was overlain by SK 21 which in turn was overlain by SK22. Minimal truncation was observed between the burials and each appeared to occupy the same area horizontally (Fig. 5, plans 10, 12, 13).

Table 3: Burials truncating burials

Skeleton No.	Skeleton Description	Grave Cut	Description	Grave Fill	Description
12 (Fig. 5, plan 19; plate 1)	Partial inhumation. Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned E-W; adult; sex undetermined. Extends beyond l.o.e. to E.	1027	>0.5m in length by >0.55m in width; shape of sides unknown and base flat. Truncates grave 1028 (1029) containing SK 13	(1025)	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone.
(Fig. 4, plan 6)	N/A	1051	>0.25m in length by >0.2m in width; shape of sides and base unknown; extends beyond l.o.e. to N. Truncates grave 1045 (1046) containing SK 15	(1052)	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone.
21 (Fig. 5, plan 12; plate 2)	Partial inhumation. Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned E-W; adult; sex undetermined. Lower legs extend beyond l.o.e. to E.	1065	>1m in length by 0.35m in width; shape of sides unknown and base flat. Truncated by later grave 1067 and truncates grave 1077 (1078) containing SK 23	(1066)	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone.
22 (Fig. 5, plan 10; plate 3)	Partial inhumation. Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned E-W; adult; sex undetermined. Feet extend beyond l.o.e. to E; pelvis and femurs truncated by pile	1067	>1.10m in length by 0.35m in width; shape of sides unknown and base flat. Truncates grave 1065 (1066) containing SK 21.	(1068)	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay
(Fig. 6, plan 15)	N/A	1081	>0.65m in length by 0.88m in width; sharp BoS at top, vertical sides; base unknown. Truncates grave 1028 (1029) containing SK 13.	1082	Brick built vaulted tomb; measures >0.65m in length by 0.88m in width by >0.5m in depth. Bricks measure 130mm x 100mm x 70mm, set in an irregular bond with light whitish grey mortar.
25 (Fig. 6, plan 16)	Partial inhumation. Body supine with arms straight and at sides; aligned E-W; adult; sex undetermined. Extends beyond l.o.e. to E.	1084	1.55m in length by 0.4m in width; shape of sides unknown and base flat. Truncated by grave 1091 (1092)	(1085)	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay with moderate fragments of disarticulated human bone.

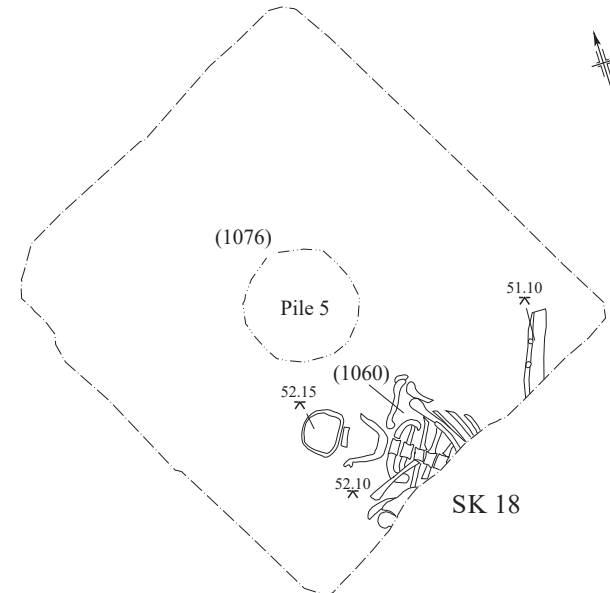
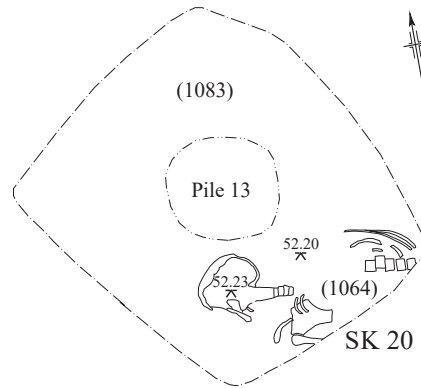
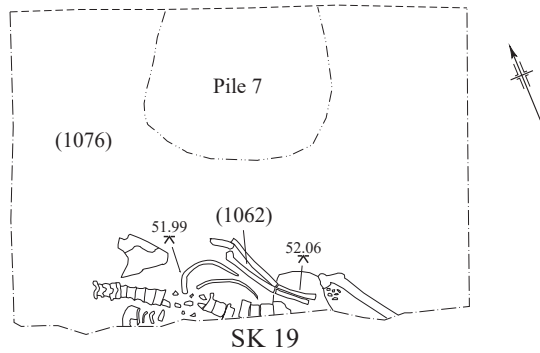
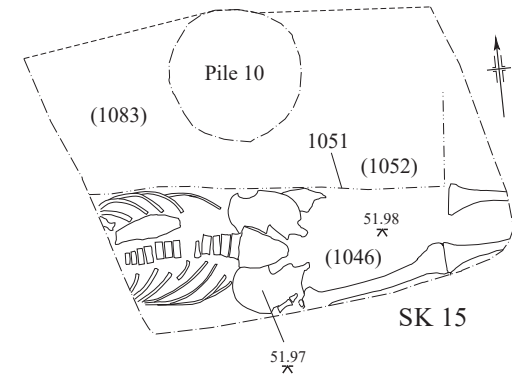
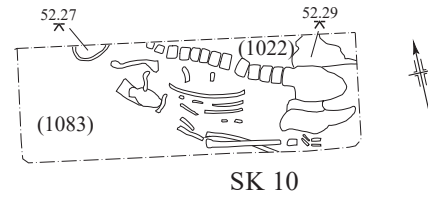
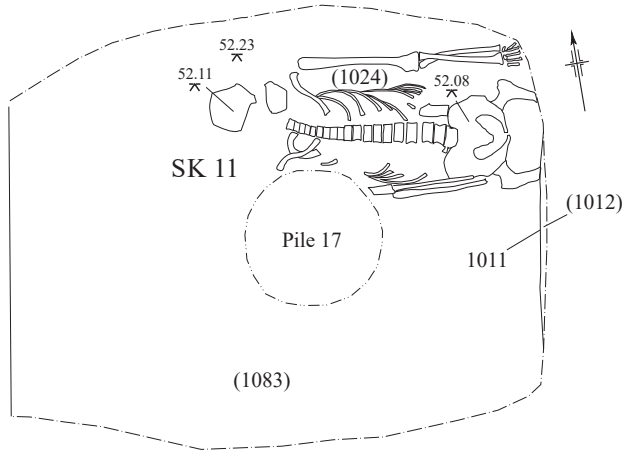
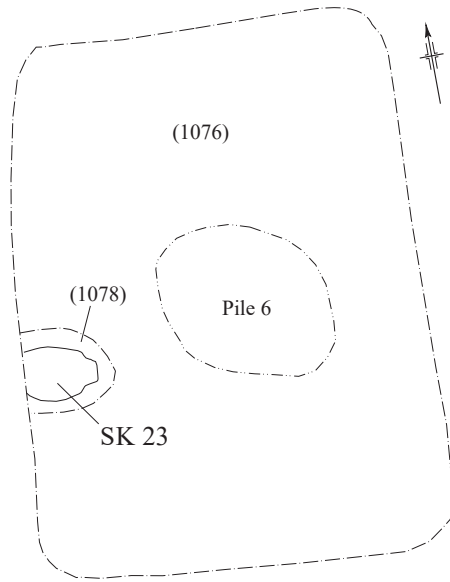
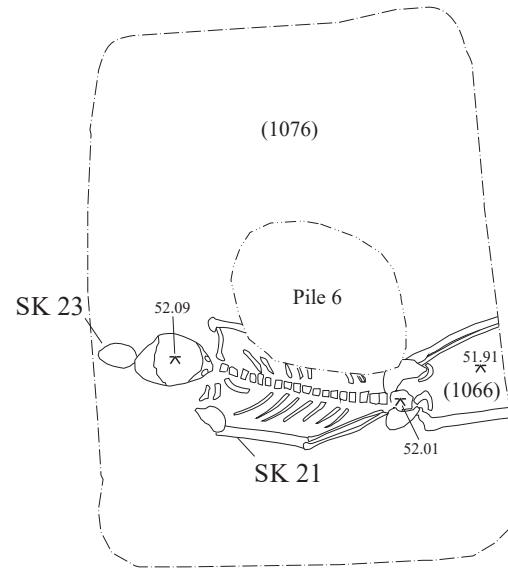


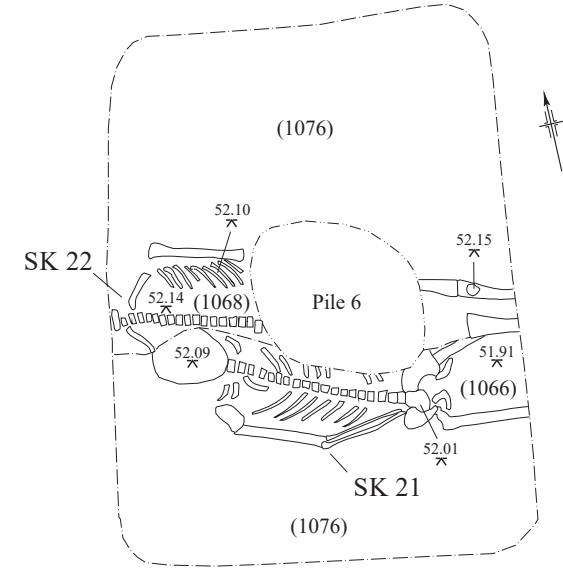
Figure 4: Burials in piling pits.



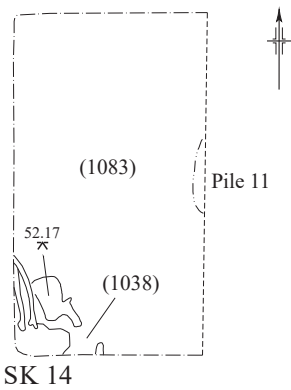
Plan 13, Piling Pit 6



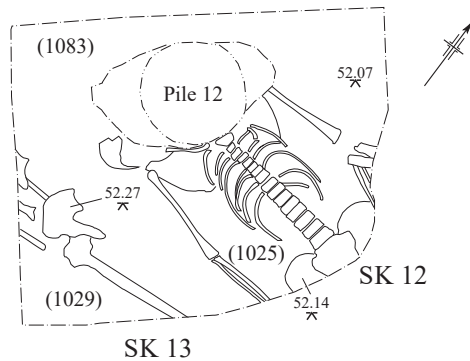
Plan 12, Piling Pit 6



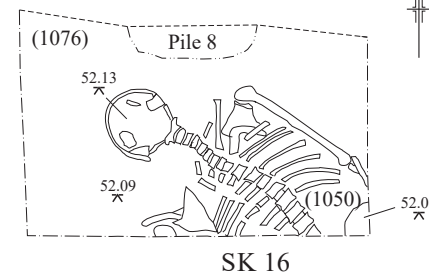
Plan 10, Piling Pit 6



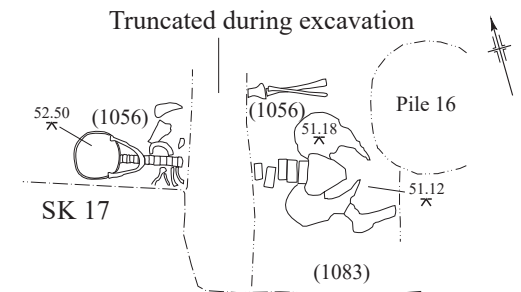
Plan 18, Piling Pit 11



Plan 19, Piling Pit 12



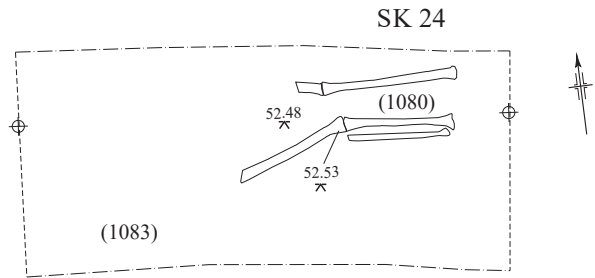
Plan 20, Piling Pit 8



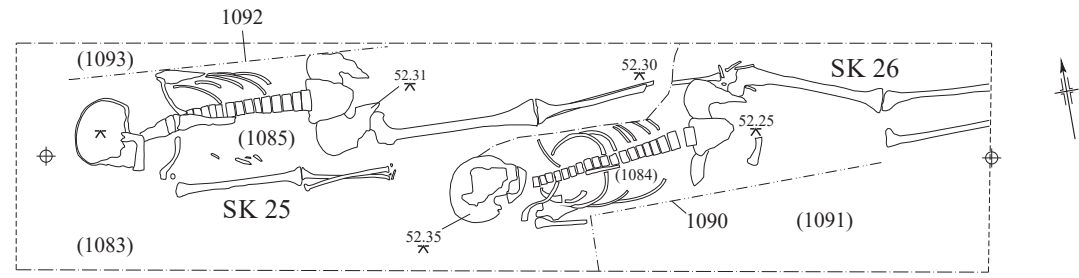
Plan 21, Piling Pit 16 and
 Groundbeam Trench

Figure 5: Burials in piling pits

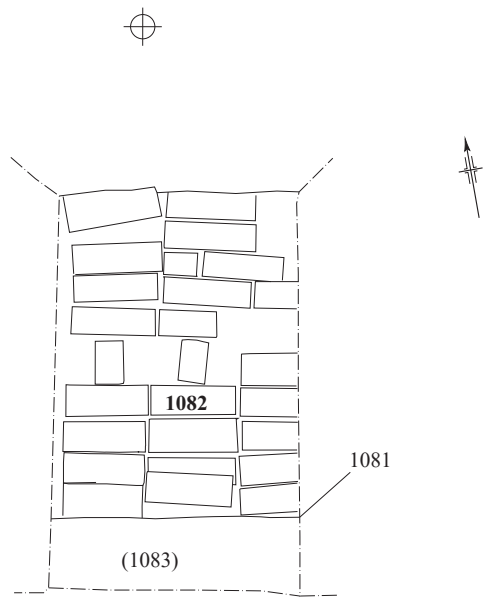




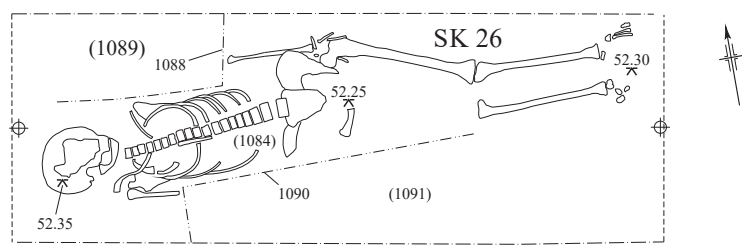
Plan 14, ground beam trench



Plan 16, ground beam trench



Plan 15, ground beam trench



Plan 17, ground beam trench

Figure 6: Ground beam trench plans

(Fig. 6, plan 17)	N/A	1088	>0.8m in length by >0.3m in width; shape of sides and base unknown. Truncates grave 1086 (1087) containing SK 26.	(1089)	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay with moderate fragments of disarticulated human bone.
(Fig. 6, plans 16, 17)	N/A	1090	>0.8m in length by >0.3m in width; shape of sides and base unknown. Truncates grave 1086 (1087) containing SK 26.	1091	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay with moderate fragments of disarticulated human bone.
(Fig. 6, plan 16)	N/A	1092	>0.8m in length by >0.1m in width; shape of sides and base unknown. Truncates grave 1084 (1085) containing SK 25.	(1093)	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay with moderate fragments of disarticulated human bone.

The above burials, and those in Tables 1 and 2 that were not truncated by later burials, were overlain by a further deposit of graveyard soil (1001); this was a friable mid brownish yellow/yellowish brown silty clay and was present across the site below 53m AOD, varying in thickness from 0.2 to 0.5m from north to south. A moderate amount of disarticulated human bone was present within the layer. Five graves were identified cut into this upper graveyard soil. A further deposit, (1075) was seen in the northern l.o.e. underlying (1001); this was a firm mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded stone and mortar flecks and was seen in section for approximately 9m. The southern extent of this deposit is not known, however it was not observed in the eastern or western baulks (see figure 7, section 8; plate 4).

Table 4: Burials truncating graveyard soil (1001) (Fig. 8)

Grave Cut	Description	Grave fill/cut fill	Description	Structure	Description
1002	Sub-rectangular in plan, >1.0m in length by >0.7m in width; form of sides and base unknown. Extends beyond l.o.e. to east.	(1005)	Friable light greyish brown sandy silt with occasional disarticulated human bone	-	N/A
1003	Rectangular in plan, 2.4m in length by 1.6m in width; aligned E-W; vertical sides.	(1007)	Loose to friable mid yellowish greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones and frequent disarticulated human bone.	1006 (plate 6)	Brick built vaulted tomb. 2.4m in length by 1.3m in width and >2m in depth. Bricks measure 220mm x 80mm x 60mm set in an irregular bond. Two coffins visible: upholstered wooden coffins with simple studwork; dated to late 18 th – early 19 th century based on visible coffin furniture (Boston <i>et al</i> , 2009, pp. 148-172).

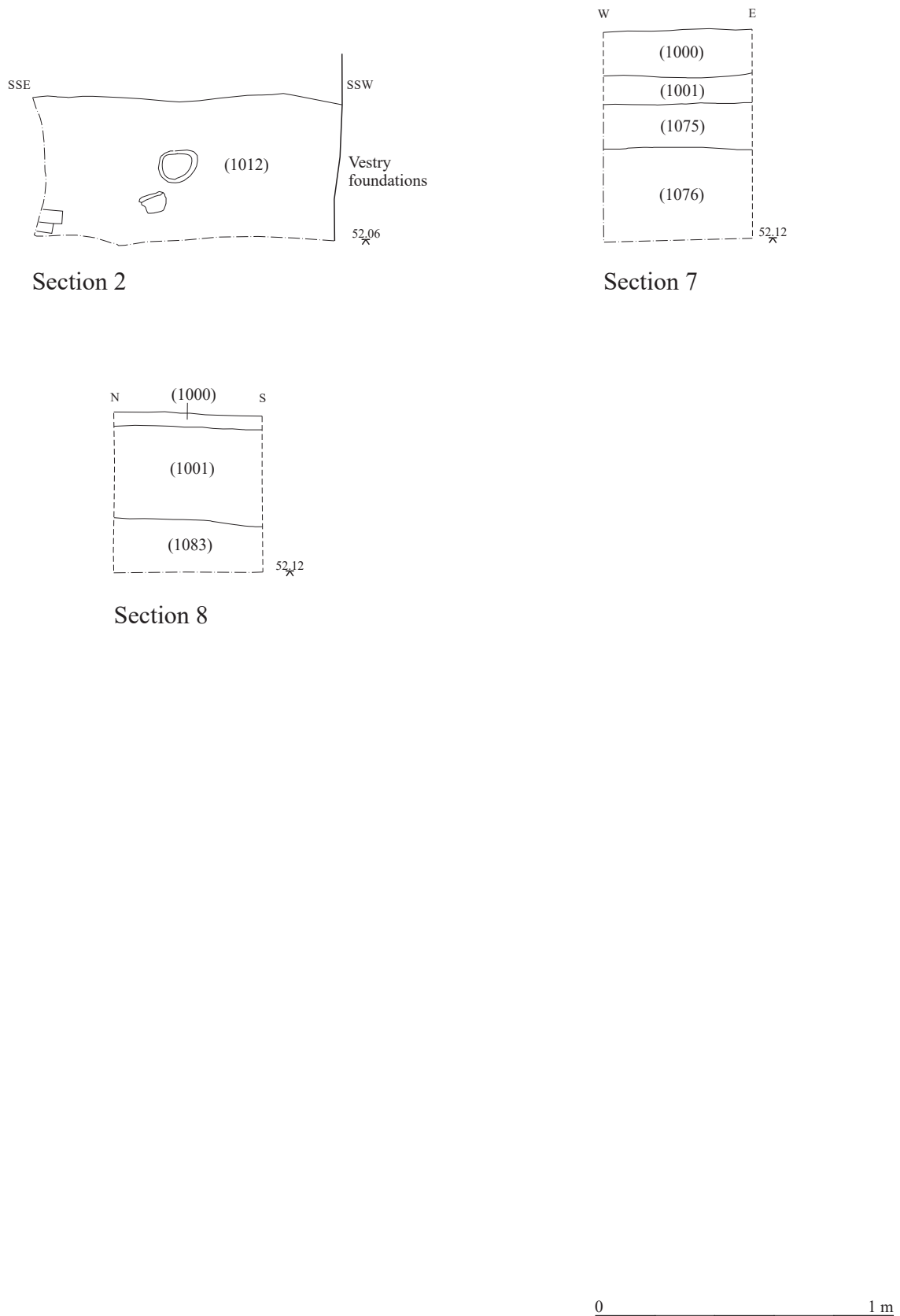


Figure 7: Sections in area of extension

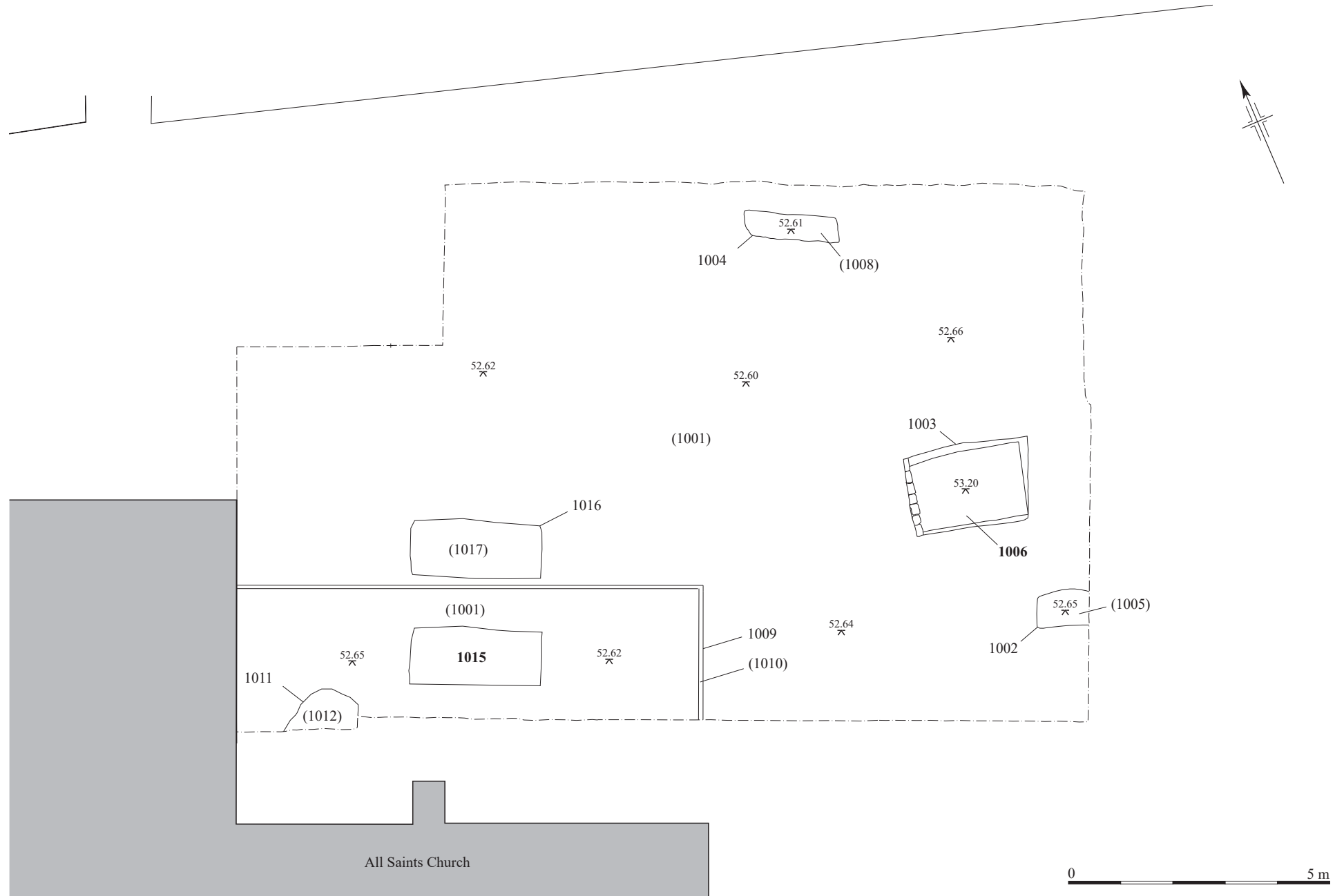


Figure 8: Area of extension after initial ground reduction

1004	Sub-rectangular in plan; aligned E-W; 1.4m in length by 0.5m in width; sides and base unknown.	(1008)	Friable mid to light yellowish greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stone.	-	N/A
1013	Rectangular in plan; aligned E-W; 2.5m in length by 1.1m in width; form of sides and base unknown.	(1014)	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded stones.	1015	Brick built tomb. 2.31m in length by 0.9m in width and >1.0m in depth. Bricks measure 180mm x 110mm x 70mm, set in English garden wall bond and bonded with a light to mid brownish yellow mortar.
1016	Rectangular in plan; aligned E-W; 2.5m in length by 1.1m in width; form of sides and base unknown.	(1017)	Friable light to mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-rounded stone	-	N/A

Graveyard soil (1001) was also truncated by two modern features (Fig. 8). 1009, a gas pipe trench 0.1m in width and 0.1m in depth that ran east from the western l.o.e. for 6.0m, before turning 90° and running 2.4m into the southern l.o.e; this was filled by a metal gas pipe and (1010), a compact mid to dark greyish brown silty clay.

In the southwest corner of the site was a modern soakaway 1011; this was 1.4m in length by >0.7m in width, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the south. Fill (1012) was a loose dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent modern building rubble (Fig 3, plan 3; Fig 7, section 6).

The above features were overlain by topsoil (1000), a friable mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt with moderate small sub-angular stone, 0.1 to 0.3m in thickness; this was present across the whole area of excavation.

4.2 Soakaway Trenches (Figures 9 - 10)

Soakaway 1

The lowest deposit encountered in soakaway 1 was a homogenous graveyard soil (1133); this was a soft dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional stone.

A series of burials were recorded during excavation of the soakaway. Graveyard soil (1133) was truncated by grave cut 1132 (Fig. 9; plan 35); this measured >0.9m in length by >0.4m in width and extended beyond the l.o.e. to the north. Within the cut was skeleton 37, a supine inhumation; the burial was left *in situ* as it was below the l.o.e. and therefore would not be impacted. Grave fill (1131) was a soft mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone. The western end of the grave was truncated by grave cut 1129 (Fig. 9; plans 34, 35). This measured >0.9m in length by 0.4m in width, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the west. The grave cut contained coffin (1130); a line of studs from the lid, the foot piece and the top right grip plate were evident,

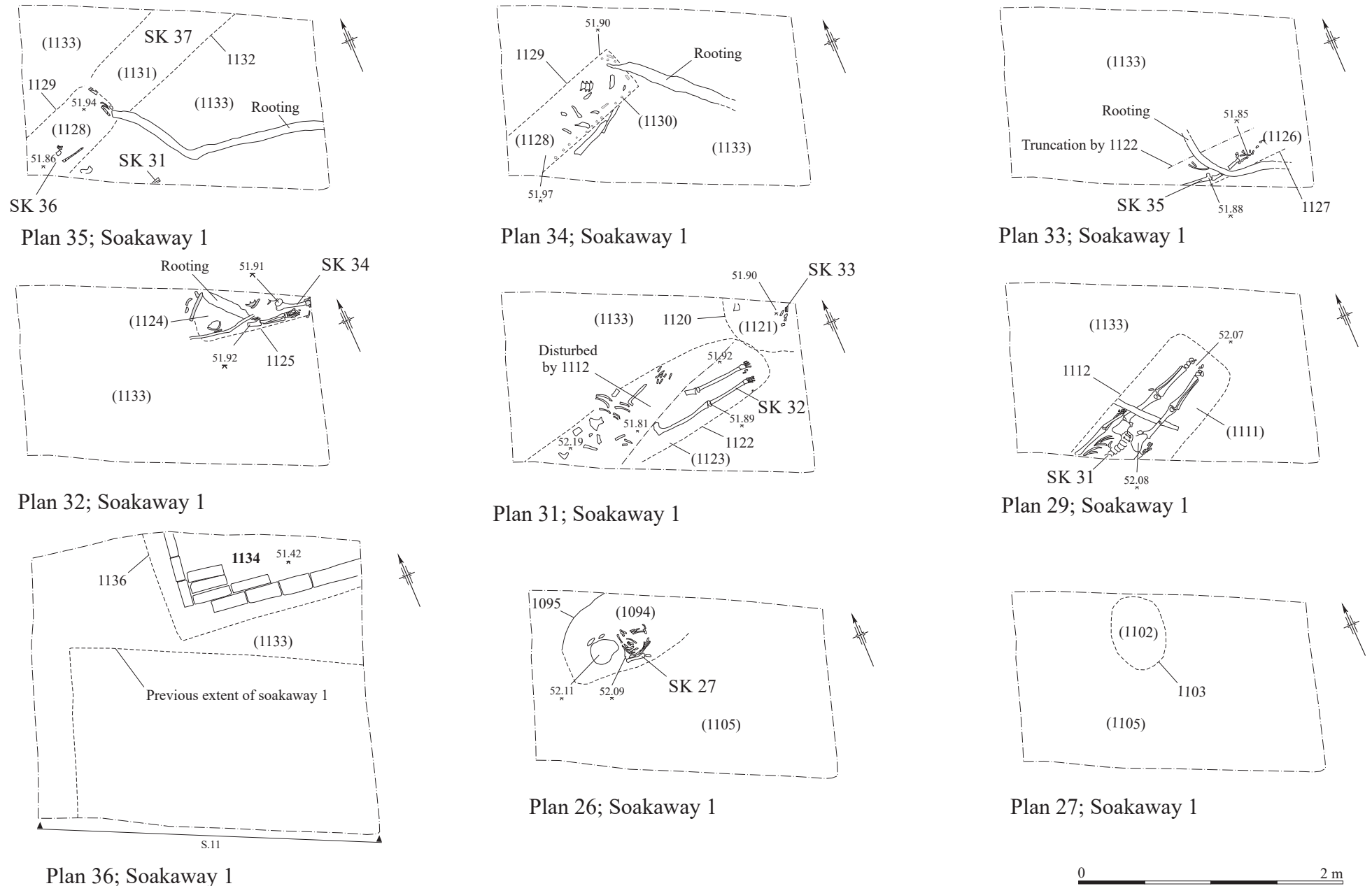


Figure 9: Plans of soakaway 1

though the state of preservation was too poor to allow for the dating of the coffin. Within the coffin was skeleton 36, a presumed supine inhumation; however, the burial extended below the l.o.e. and remained unexcavated. Fill (1128) was a soft mid greyish brown silty clay >0.1m in thickness. This was overlain by graveyard soil (1105) a friable mid greyish brown silty clay that was present throughout the soakaway and had a thickness of 0.7m (Fig. 10; section 11). The boundary between graveyard soils (1133) and (1105) was very diffuse, though became apparent above approximately 52m AOD.

To the east of grave 1129, also truncating graveyard soil (1133), was grave cut 1127 (Fig. 9; plan 33); this measured >0.9m in length and 0.2m in width, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the west. Within the grave was skeleton 35, a poorly preserved supine inhumation, of which only the right humerus, radius and ulna and hand were present within the area of excavation. This was overlain by fill (1126) a soft mid to dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone, <0.1m in thickness. Grave 1127 was truncated on its northern side by grave cut 1122; this measured >2m in length by 0.6m in width and extended beyond the l.o.e. to the west (Fig. 9; plan 31); within the cut was skeleton 32, a partial inhumation that had been truncated by root activity and by later grave 1112. The skeleton was that of an adult of undetermined sex, laid supine with arms straight and at its sides. Fill (1123) was a friable dark greyish brown silty clay 0.1m in thickness. The final burial in this sequence, 1112, overlay (1123), resulting in disturbance to skeleton 32. Grave cut 1112 measured >1.2m in length by 0.4m in width (Fig. 9; plan 29). Skeleton 31 was that of a sub-adult, as demonstrated by unfused epiphyses of the long bones, of undetermined sex and was laid supine with arms at its side. Fill (1111) was a friable mid brownish brown silty clay loam >0.1m in thickness which was overlain by graveyard soil (1105).

Located against the northern baulk of the soakaway was grave cut 1125 (Fig. 9; plan 32). This truncated graveyard soil (1133) and measured >0.8m in length by >0.3m in width, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the north and east. Skeleton 34 was that of a sub-adult, though the body position and sex could not be determined due to substantial truncation. Skeleton 34 was overlain by fill (1124), a soft dark greyish brown silty sand containing occasional small stone >0.1m in thickness. Fill 1124 was truncated by grave cut 1120 (Fig. 9; plan 31); this measured >0.5m in length by >0.4m in width and extended beyond the l.o.e. to the northeast. The cut contained skeleton 33, a partial infant inhumation; the extent of disturbance by root activity was such that minimal articulation was evident and the skeleton was poorly preserved. Fill (1121) was a soft mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small stone. This fill was overlain by graveyard soil (1105).

Graveyard soil (1105) was truncated by grave cut 1095 (Fig. 9; plan 26); this measured 1.0m in length by 0.6m in width and contained skeleton 27. Skeleton 27 was that of an infant, laid supine with possible crossed arms. The skeleton had been truncated below the ribcage by charnel pit 1103. Fill (1094) was a soft mid greyish brown silty clay >0.1m in depth. Charnel pit 1103 was ovoid in plan, measuring 0.6m in length by 0.4m in width and >0.1m in depth (Fig. 9; plan 27); the dimensions of the feature are uncertain and are predominantly defined by the truncation to skeleton 27. Fill (1102) was a friable mid to dark brown silty clay that contained disarticulated human bone.

Extension of the soakaway (Fig. 9; plan 36) revealed a single grave; cut 1136 measured >1.3m in length by >0.75m in width and extended beyond the l.o.e. to the northeast. This truncated graveyard soil (1105) and was filled by a vaulted tomb **1134**. This was built of bricks measuring 220mm x 100mm x 60mm laid in a stretcher bond; the size of the bricks is indicative of an 18th century date (Sharpe 2011). The tomb was not excavated as it lay below the l.o.e.

Graveyard soil (1105) was overlain by topsoil (1104), a friable dark greyish brown clayey silt that was present throughout the area of excavation (Fig. 10; section 11).

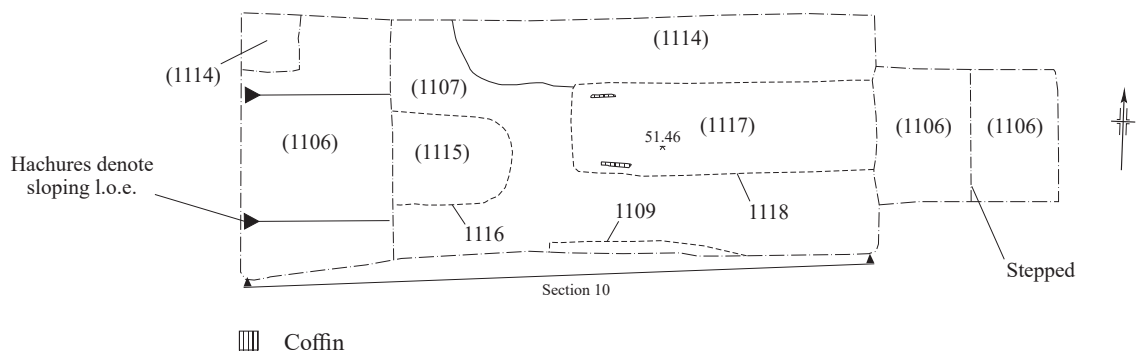
Soakaway 2

The lowest deposit encountered in soakaway 2 was the geological horizon (1114); this was a firm light yellowish brown sandy clay containing occasional small stones. This was overlain by graveyard soil (1107), a soft mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small stone; the deposit was present throughout the area of excavation and was indistinguishable from upper graveyard soil (1106).

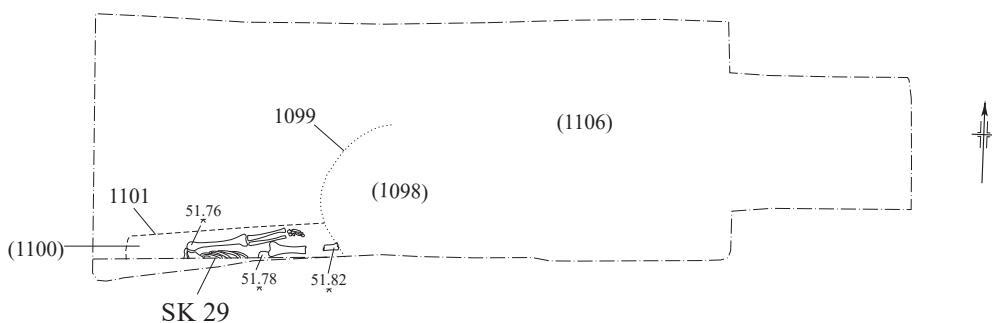
Graveyard soil (1107) was truncated by two grave cuts; these remained unexcavated as they were located below the l.o.e. Cut 1116 measured >0.6m in length by 0.5m in width and extended beyond the l.o.e. to the west (Fig. 10; plan 28). Fill (1115) was a soft mid to dark greyish brown silty clay. Approximately 0.3m east was cut 1118; this measured >1.5m in length by 0.5m in width and extended beyond the l.o.e. to the east. The cut contained coffin (1119), the only evidence of which were three heavily degraded grip plates. Coffin (1119) was overlain by grave fill (1117), a soft mid greyish brown silty clay indistinguishable from the surrounding graveyard soil.

Overlying these burials was graveyard soil (1106), a soft mid greyish brown silty clay 1.1m in thickness and present throughout the area of excavation. Due to the homogenous nature of the graveyard soil in this area the graves listed below appeared to sit 'within' the soil, which was recorded both above and below the grave cuts.

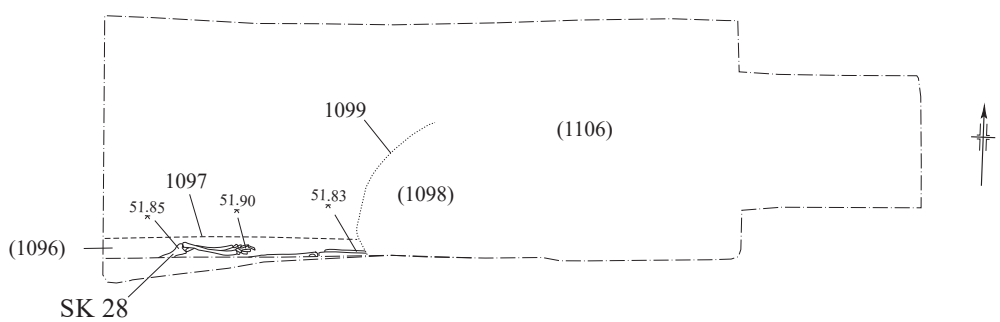
Graveyard soil (1106) was truncated by grave cut 1101; this measured >1.15m in length by >0.18m in width and extended beyond the l.o.e. to the south. Within the cut was skeleton 29; a well preserved partial inhumation. The skeleton belonged to an adult of undetermined sex laid in a supine position with arms to the side. Overlying skeleton 29 was fill (1100) a friable mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional stone <0.1m in thickness. This was truncated by grave cut 1097; this measured >1.35m in length by >0.1m in width and extended beyond the l.o.e. to the south. Within the cut was skeleton 28, a well preserved but partial inhumation laid in a supine position; the skeleton belonged to an adult, though the sex could not be determined. Fill (1096), which overlay the skeleton, was a friable mid greyish brown silty clay >0.1m in thickness. This grave was truncated by later grave cut 1109; this measured >0.95m in length by >0.15m in width. Within the grave was coffin (1110), the evidence of which comprised several studs, a head plate and upper left side grip all of which were heavily degraded. Skeleton 30, within coffin (1110), was a partial adult inhumation, laid in a supine position and predominantly situated beyond the l.o.e. The skeleton appeared well preserved, though the sex could not be determined. Fill (1108) was a soft dark greyish brown silty clay >0.55m in thickness. This was overlain by graveyard soil (1106).



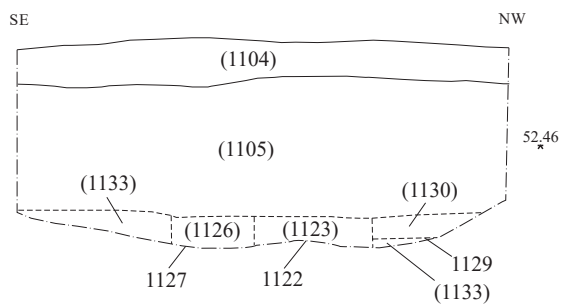
Plan 28; Soakaway 2



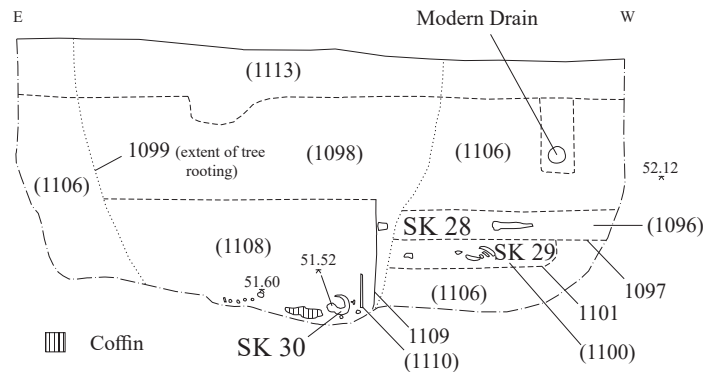
Plan 24; Soakaway 2



Plan 23; Soakaway 2



Section 11; Soakaway 1



Section 10; Soakaway 2



Figure 10: Plans of soakaway 2 and sections of soakaway 1 and 2

The above contexts were heavily disturbed by an area of rooting, 1099. This was situated roughly central within the area of excavation and measured >0.7m in length by 0.8m in width and extended to a depth of 1.4m; this was numbered in order to distinguish it from the surrounding, less disturbed soil (Fig. 10; plans 23, 24; section 10).

Graveyard soil (1106) was overlain by topsoil (1113) a soft mid-dark greyish brown silty clay 0.2m in thickness that was present throughout the area of excavation.

4.3 Reliability of Results

The archaeological work was undertaken in mixed conditions; however this did not affect the reliability of the results, which are considered high. Cooperation between site staff and archaeological staff was excellent, ensuring the required archaeological work could be undertaken to a high standard.

5 FINDS

Disarticulated human remains were recovered from a number of contexts. These were retained on site by the PCC for later reburial. Where articulated remains were encountered they were recorded and subsequently removed and retained on site for later reburial in accordance with the faculty proposed by the Oxford Diocese. No artefactual evidence was otherwise recovered.

6 DISCUSSION

The watching brief was successful in meeting the aims of the investigation as laid out in section 2. A total of 28 skeletons were recorded during the watching brief in addition to four brick built vaults. Without exception the skeletons were found within earth cut graves; however the cuts of the graves were rarely visible, except where truncation of an earlier burial had occurred. The date range is uncertain, though a late-medieval or early post-medieval date is likely based on the shallow depth of burials, which were encountered between approximately 0.75 and 1.3m below ground level. A proliferation of shrouded burials was also evident, though four probable 18th or early 19th century burials were also recorded.

The nature of the work did not allow for detailed skeletal analysis and due to the type of groundworks no complete inhumations were recorded; however, some brief observations can be made. Of the burials excavated 20 adults were identified, 3 sub-adults, 1 juvenile and 1 infant; 3 remained of undetermined age due to poor preservation. Skeletons 30 and 36 were the only earth cut burials associated with coffins, while two well preserved wooden coffins were present within brick vault **1006**. The surviving coffin furniture associated with skeletons 30 and 36 was too degraded to allow for identification; however those within vault **1006** were dated to the late 18th or early 19th century on the basis of the lid motifs, examples of which were previously identified on coffins at St George's Church, Bloomsbury (Boston *et al*, 2009, pp. 148-172).

On the whole the burials recorded during the watching brief do not appear to correspond with any of the tombstones present prior to the commencement of works, again indicating that they are likely to be earlier in date. The exception of this is chest

tombs M13 and M14, which correspond to vaulted grave shaft **1015** and grave cut 1016 (1017) and M18, which corresponds to vaulted tomb **1006**.

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Appendix 1. Plates



Plate 1: Skeletons 12 and 13 in piling pit 12, showing displacement of the skull of skeleton 12 by pile



Plate 2: Skeleton 21 in piling pit 6. The cranium of Skeleton 23 is visible above the ID board.



Plate 3: Skeleton 22 overlying Skeleton 21 in piling pit 6



Plate 4: Section 7 in piling pit 2



Plate 5: Section 8 in piling pits 11/16



Plate 6: Vaulted tomb **1006** in area of ground reduction.

APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT FORM

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OASIS ID: johnmoor1-364013

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief at All Saints Church, The Green, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire
Short description of the project	John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for an extension to All Saints Church, The Green, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 41692 85717). A total of 28 skeletons were recorded during the watching brief, in addition to four brick built vaults. Without exception the skeletons were found within earth cut graves; the grave cuts were rarely visible, except where truncation of an earlier burial had occurred. The date range of the burials encountered is uncertain, though a late-medieval or early post-medieval date is likely based on the depth of burials. A proliferation of shrouded burials was evident, though four probable 18th or early 19th century burials were also recorded. Of the burials excavated 20 adults were identified, 3 sub-adults, 1 juvenile and 1 infant; 3 remained of undetermined age due to poor preservation. Skeletons 30 and 36 were the only earth cut burials associated with coffins, while two well preserved wooden coffins were present within brick vault 1006. These were dated to the late 18th or early 19th century on the basis of the lid motifs, examples of which had previously been identified on coffins during archaeological excavation at St George's Church, Bloomsbury. On the whole the burials recorded during the watching brief do not appear to correspond with any of the tombstones present prior to the commencement of works, again indicating that they are likely to be earlier in date. The exception of this is chest tombs M13 and M14, which correspond to vaulted grave shaft 1015 and grave cut 1016 (1017) and M18, which corresponds to vaulted tomb 1006.
Project dates	Start: 08-05-2019 End: 26-07-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SCTG 19 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4110 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	INHUMATION CEMETERY Medieval
Monument type	INHUMATION CEMETERY Post Medieval
Monument type	EXTENDED INHUMATION Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COFFIN Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE VALE OF WHITE HORSE SUTTON COURTENAY All Saints Church, The Green
Postcode	OX14 4NJ
Study area	450 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 50493 94202 51.644358 -1.2718117 51 34 05 N 001 23 54 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Moore Heritage Services
Project brief originator	Consistory Court of the Diocese of Oxfordshire
Project design originator	JMHS
Project director/manager	John Moore
Project supervisor	Sarah Doherty
Project supervisor	Simona Denis
Project supervisor	Natasha Djukic
Project supervisor	Tom Rose-Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Diocese

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	John Moore Heritage Services
Digital Archive ID	4110
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No

Project bibliography 1

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