

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

AT

ST MARY THE VIRGIN,

CHURCH WALK, WESTON TURVILLE,

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

NGR SP 85919 10276

FEBRUARY 2021

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CONTENTS**Page****SUMMARY**

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Site Location	1
1.2	Planning Background	1
1.3	Archaeological Background	3
2	AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	5
3	STRATEGY	5
3.1	Research Design	5
3.2	Methodology	5
4	RESULTS	6
4.2	Reliability of Results	7
5	FINDS	9
5.1	Human Remains	9
5.2	Coffin Furniture	10
5.3	Shroud Pins	12
5.4	Roof Tile	13
6	DISCUSSION	13
7	ARCHIVE	
8	BIBLIOGRAPHY	

FIGURES AND PLATES

Figure 1.	Site Location	2
Figure 2.	Site Plan with Burial Locations	8
Plate 1a.	Sk26 humerus and femur	9
Plate 1b.	Sk26 patella	10
Plate 2.	Coffin 40 wood traces	10
Plate 3a.	Coffin 39 grip plate	11
Plate 3b.	Grip plate from graveyard soil (02)	11
Plate 4a.	Coffin 08 handle	12
Plate 4b.	Coffin 46 handle	12
Plate 5.	Sk23 escutcheon	12
Plate 6a.	Sk2 shroud pins	13
Plate 6b.	Sk26 shroud pins and <i>verdigris</i> traces	13

	Page
APPENDICES	
Appendix 1. OASIS Report Form	15
Appendix 2. Skeleton Inventory	18
Appendix 3. Skeleton 3D Models	47

SUMMARY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological investigation at St Mary the Virgin, Weston Turville, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 85919 10276) during groundwork for a new single storey extension to the church.

A total of 26 skeletons were recorded in the building footprint area, with two additional possible burials identified in section in the eastern soakaway. All of the identified skeletons were found within earth cut graves; however, the cuts of the graves were rarely visible, due to the nature of the graveyard soils. The date range of the burials is uncertain, although the presence of coffins indicates a post-medieval date for at least 11 of the burials, as inhumation within a coffin became popular in the early 18th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located on the south side of the church which is situated south of the village at the end of Church Walk (NGR SP 85919 10276)

The site lies at approximately 100m aOD. Geologically the site is situated in an area of Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation (undifferentiated) – Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone.

1.2 Planning Background

Aylesbury Vale District Council granted planning permission for a single storey extension to the church to provide meeting room, toilets and store (19/03452/APP). A Faculty for the work has also been granted by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Oxford. The advice note from the Buckinghamshire County Council Senior Archaeology Officer recommended that an archaeological excavation of the footprint should be undertaken to development impact level. Conditions relating to archaeology and human remains have been attached to both:

Planning permission

5. No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only be implemented in accordance with the approved scheme.

5. Reason: To record or safeguard any archaeological evidence that may be present at the site and to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Faculty

- 1. If any articulated human remains are discovered, they are not to be removed or otherwise disturbed, all work in the immediate area of the remains must cease forthwith and the applicants must apply to the Court for directions.*
- 2. If any disarticulated human remains are discovered, they must be reverently reburied in the churchyard as soon as reasonably practicable.*
- 3.*

No artefact or ecofact is to be removed from the church or churchyard without further Order of the Court or an order of 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. In this order "relevant remains" means:*
 - a. the articulated human remains that are detailed in the email from Julian Munby dated 16th September 2020 referred to above; and*
 - b. any further articulated human remains which are discovered during the works.*
- 3. The works authorised by the faculty may be resumed subject to compliance by the Petitioners and their contractors and archaeologists with the following requirements.*

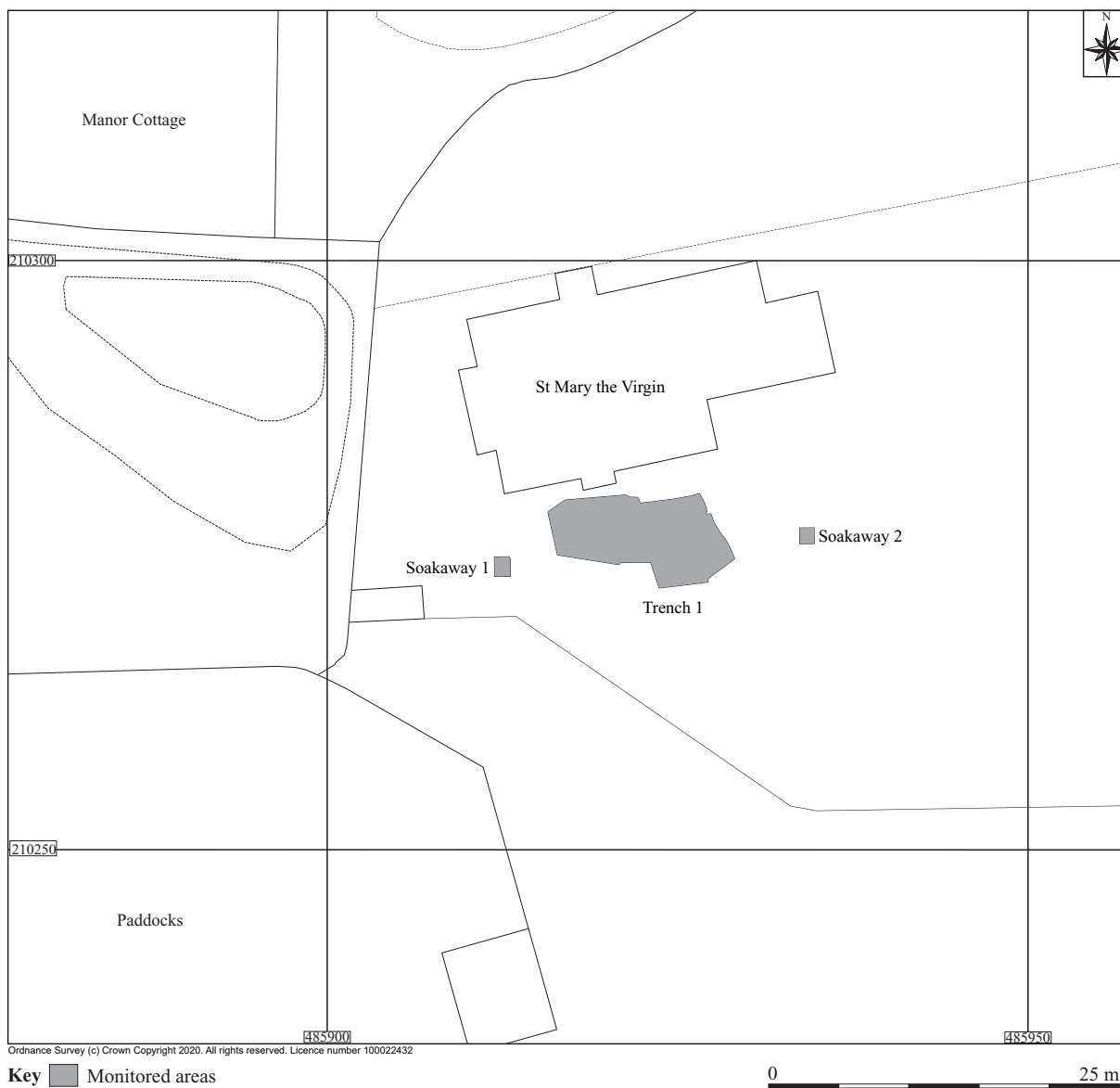
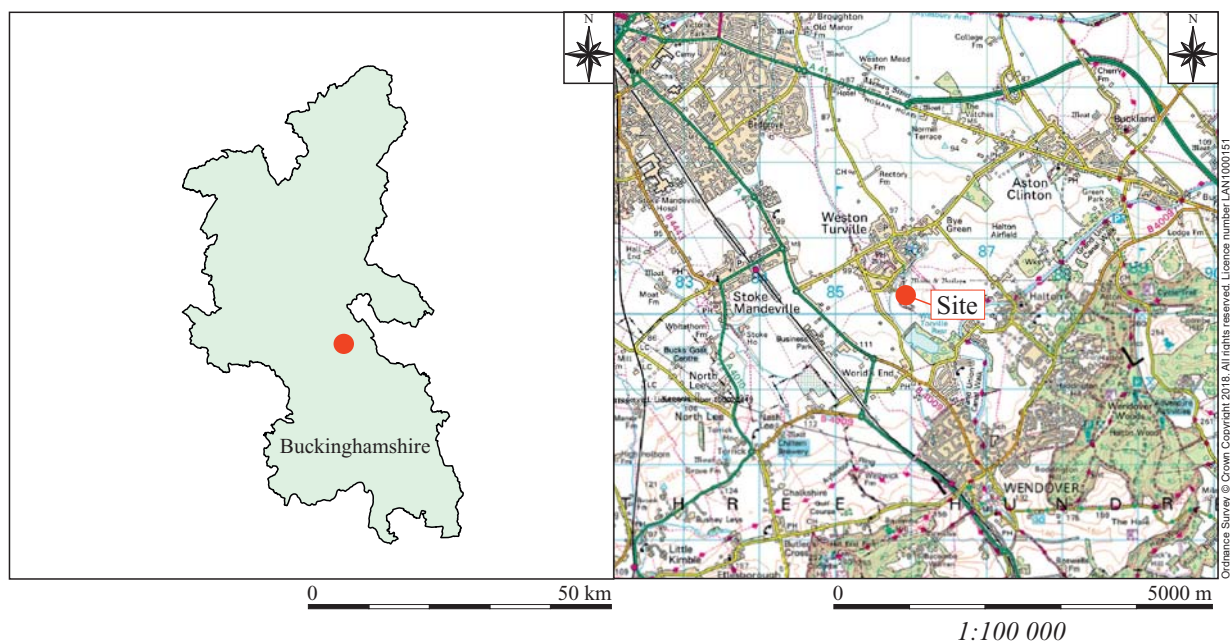


Figure 1: Site location

4. *The discovery of relevant remains and their respective places of burial must be recorded by the attending archaeologist.*
5. *Such parts of relevant remains as it is necessary to expose and lift in order to carry out the works without damaging or destroying those remains (but no other articulated remains or parts of articulated remains) must then be lifted from the ground by the attending archaeologist and may be given a summary assessment on site.*
6. *So far as possible, any relevant remains must then immediately be reinterred in the churchyard as close as reasonably practicable to the place where they were discovered.*
7. *Any relevant remains which cannot immediately be reinterred must be securely retained in the church in a place identified by, and under the supervision of, the priest with cure of souls.*
8. *As soon as possible after the ground works have been completed, any relevant remains that were not previously reinterred must be reinterred in the churchyard as close as reasonably practicable to the place where they were discovered.*

1.3 Archaeological Background

A search of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record has been carried out with a search radius of 500m from the site. The results are presented below.

Mesolithic

A Mesolithic flint blade was found during housing development 300m northwest of the site (MBC13499: centred SP 8562 1039).

Iron Age

A fragment of quern stone was found during ditch digging approximately 150m southwest of the site (MBC3212: SP 85800 10200).

Roman

A sherd of Roman flue tile and several degraded sherds of pottery were found in the grounds of The Manor House, immediately north of the site (MBC3219: SP 85900 10300).

A Roman cremation was found by a labourer in the garden of the rectory in the 19th century 245m northwest of the site (MBC518: SP 85770 10502). The cremation was deposited within an amphora (MBC519) and was buried an extensive range of grave goods, including Samian Ware pottery, metalwork, glass bottles, bone pins, a mirror, a casket, glass beads and a pair of degraded hobnail boots (MBC520, 521, 523, 524, 525, 25205, 25206). The grave goods dated the burial to the mid-2nd century AD.

Excavation during construction 310m north resulted in the recovery of an assemblage of late Iron Age and Roman pottery including Samian and Gallo-Belgic Ware (MBC7115: SP 8588 1060).

Early medieval

A Saxon strap-end was found in the garden of 2, The Glebe, 250m west (MBC29818: SP 85 10); immediately west of this a range of early medieval pottery has been found during cultivation within an area of allotments (MBC10983: centred SP 8564 1025).

Medieval

The village of Weston Turville was recorded in the Domesday Book, indicating that the settlement was well established by the 11th century (MBC24695: SP 85707 10408). Possible medieval house platforms, surviving as earthworks, are located in a field c.100m west of the site (MBC11043: centred SP 8580 1024).

The remains of a motte and bailey castle are located between 50 and 200m north of the site within the grounds of the manor house (MBC3202: centred SP 8592 1040); the site, which survives as earthworks, is a scheduled monument (List no. 1006937). The castle was established in the 11th century though was partly demolished between 1173 and 1174. The motte survives as a mound approximately 8.5m in height; a ditch surrounds the eastern side of the mound, surviving to a depth of 2.4m. Two baileys extend from the motte to the east and south, both enclosed by ditches; these have been degraded by later development though survive to some extent (MBC3203: centred SP 8592 1040). Excavation at the castle ditch resulted in the discovery of Romanesque masonry, indicating that a stone building was present on the site (MBC3204: centred SP 8592 1040). Sherds of medieval pottery and waterlogged wood shavings were also found during excavations of the castle ditch (MBC3205: centred SP 8592 1040) and chance finds of medieval pottery have also been made within the area (MBC3219: SP 85900 10300).

The church of St Mary, the site, dates to the 12th century although very little fabric of this date survives (MBC11080: SP 85924 10289). The bulk of the church, including the chancel, nave and south aisle, dates to the 13th century; the chancel was rebuilt in the mid-14th century. Further alterations were made in the 15th century, including construction of the west tower and clerestory and alteration of the north aisle, north and south porch and north vestry. In the 19th century the church was restored by D. Brandon, which saw the rebuilding of the chancel on earlier foundations. The church is grade I listed.

The site of a rectory of probable 14th century origin is located 240m north-northwest of the site (MBC10741: SP 8578 1047); the rectory was initially a hall house, though floors had been added at a later date. The building was demolished in the 19th century.

Located north of the church near the former castle is the site of a fortified medieval manor house (MBC3206: centred SP 8592 1040); the manor house was the seat of the De Molyns family and is known through documentary records of a licence to add crenellations to the house, granted in the 14th century.

Areas of extant ridge and furrow are located c.200m south of the site (centred SP 85866 09946); 220m northeast (centred SP 86009 10497) and 400m west (centred SP 85471 10232).

Chance finds of medieval material from the surrounding area include: Medieval pottery found 130m southwest of the site (MBC11044: centred SP 8580 1024); pottery sherds found 320m west-northwest during housing development (MBC13498: centred SP 8562 1039); pottery found during construction work 330m northwest (MBC7921: centred SP 8572 1055) and a bell-shaped metal seal, found 470m west-northwest (MBC14843: SP 8547 1044).

Post-medieval

The timber lychgate to the churchyard of St Marys dates to the 18th century and is grade II listed (MBC11081: SP 85904 10296).

The former medieval manor house was replaced in the 18th century with a new building, located 120m north-northwest of the site (MBC3207: SP 85885 10406).

A small rectangular earthwork enclosure is located 360m east of the site (MBC4804: centred SP 8629 1035). The enclosure has been interpreted as a post-medieval covert for game and is linked by two trackways (MBC4805: centred SP 8627 1036)

A sherd of post-medieval was found during gardening 300m northwest of the site (MBC29816: SP 85 10).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To undertake an archaeological investigation prior to and during invasive groundworks for the proposals.

In particular:

- To adequately investigate and record any archaeological remains paying particular attention to identifying any earlier church material and/or any earlier Roman activity. This will include dealing with any articulated human remains.

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 (2020).

3.2 Methodology

The building footprint area was machine excavated until the uppermost level of burials was encountered. This involved the mechanical removal of topsoil and the upper section of the cemetery soil. The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, particularly for disarticulated human remains. Soakaway 1, located north-west of the footprint, was also machine excavated until the required depth, while Soakaway 2, to the east of the footprint, was hand-excavated to the required depth.

Where archaeological horizons and burials 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.

Archaeological monitoring was maintained during two phases of groundwork:

1. Building footprint. The area of the proposed extension, approximately 12m in length by a maximum of 6.5m in width, was reduced to a height between 103.3 and 103.14m AOD; this amounted to a reduction in ground level of ca. 1m across the site.
2. Soakaways. Soakaway 1, situated north-west of the footprint, was machine-excavated to 1.5m in length by 1.2m in width and 1.20m in depth. The location of the soakaway was moved twice during the excavation, in order to avoid live services, and resulted in a larger area of ground being excavated than originally planned; however, no articulated human remains nor potential grave cuts were encountered. Soakaway 2, situated to the east of the footprint, was hand-excavated, due to its position amongst standing graves to remain undisturbed. It measured 1.2m in length by 1.1 m in width and a maximum of 0.9m in depth.

4 RESULTS

Individual context numbers were assigned to all features. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit and grave cuts, numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in bold indicate coffins.

Graveyard Soil

The lowest deposit encountered was graveyard soil (02), a soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with gravel, stone and chalk inclusions, present across the excavation area. A large quantity of disarticulated human bones was recovered from this deposit; these remains were collected and retained on site for later reburial. The same graveyard soil deposit was observed in Soakaway 1, adjacent to the footprint area, and in Soakaway 2, where it was recorded as (51).

Burials (Figure 2 and Appendices 2 and 3)

Graveyard soil (02) was truncated by 26 articulated inhumations. All of the investigated burials resulted in partial excavation; twelve were found to be disturbed or truncated to various degrees by later activities, while three extended beyond the limit of excavation (l.o.e.), with the elements of the inhumation beyond the l.o.e. left *in situ*. For 10 additional burials, found below the impact level, articulation was confirmed but no exhumation was carried out; the remains were therefore marked for identification and preserved *in situ*, although the extent of their preservation remains undetermined. Two possible additional grave cuts 52 and 54, truncating grave soil (51), were observed in Soakaway 2; these were not further investigated as extending beyond the l.o.e.

The investigated graves appear to have been organised along regular rows, running in a NNW-SSE alignment; this was particularly evident for the easternmost part of the area. The alignment was parallel to the orientation of the church. The extent of the grave cuts was not detected during excavation, due to the extreme similarity between the grave fills and cemetery soil (02); however, the observation of position and extent of the human remains, as well as of the remains of coffins, allowed to infer the approximate dimensions of the graves.

For 11 of the burials, evidence of the presence of a coffin was recorded. None of the wooden elements was sufficiently well-preserved to allow the positive identification of the form of the coffins. Coffin furniture was found *in situ* in 4 of the burials; one additional coffin was exclusively represented by disturbed furniture. Coffin nails, partially preserved *in situ*, were observed in the remaining 5 cases. The remaining example consisted in one coffin grip, appearing to be preserved *in situ*; the burial was not further investigated as it laid below the impact level.

A number of inhumations were found to be truncated by later activities. Two of these truncations, affecting Sk9 and Sk22, were positively found to be caused by later inhumations, Sk5 and Sk23 respectively. Similarly, Sk4, affected by multiple truncations, appeared to have been disturbed by Sk26. The specific activities causing all of the other truncations remain undetermined, although it is very likely they reflect additional burials resting below the level of impact of the excavation.

The group composed by Sk5 and Sk9 might represent a family plot, as the remains appear to have been laid on the same alignment with minimal disturbance. All of the other groups (Sk4 & Sk26, Sk22 & Sk23, Sk7 & Sk10 and Sk11 & Sk12) are likely to represent unrelated burials.

Charnel Pit

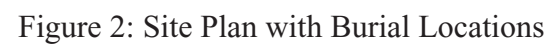
One possible charnel pit 04, truncating graveyard soil (02), was also recorded in the footprint area. The edges of the pit were not detected during excavation, due to the similarity of its fill (03) to graveyard soil (02); its proposed dimensions of 0.8 in length, 0.5m in width and 0.15m in depth, were based on the extent of the concentration of disarticulated remains discovered.

Topsoil

The uppermost deposit recorded was topsoil (01), a soft, mid-dark brown clay silt layer, extending across the excavated area. The same deposit was observed in Soakaway 1, and recorded as (50) in in Soakaway 2.

4.2 Reliability of Results

The archaeological work was undertaken in mixed weather conditions, ranging from sun to heavy rains; 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

5.1 Human Remains (Appendices 2 and 3, Plate 1)

Disarticulated human remains were recovered from graveyard soils (02) and (50). These were retained on site 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 issued by the Diocese of Oxford.

A total of 26 articulated skeletons were recorded, 16 of which were excavated to their full visible extent. None of the burials was associated with datable artefacts, with the exception of coffin furniture; this prevented from accurately dating individual graves. However, it is generally accepted to broadly date uncoffined burials to the medieval period (c. 1100- 1485 AD), plain coffins to the early post-medieval period (1485- 1730s AD), and more elaborated, decorated coffins to the late post-medieval period (1730s- 1900 AD) (Boston 2019).

Where possible, an assessment of age and sex of the individuals was attempted during the excavation; however, these results are only tentative as no full analysis of the remains was carried out. Two of the skeletons were tentatively identified as female, and 4 as possible males. The remaining 10 examples were either too fragmentary, incomplete (absence of pelvis and/or cranium), or sexually immature for the gender to be identified.

Osteological age estimation aims to establish the biological age of the skeleton. This age does not always concur with the chronological age (Cox 2000), as factors such as nutrition, lifestyle and genetics have an impact (Boston 2019). 5 of the skeletons excavated were identified as adults and 4 as young adults; juvenile and infants were represented by 4 and 3 individuals respectively.

The extensive bony projections (very likely representing osteophytosis) observed on the patella, femur and humerus of Sk26 (Plate 1; Appendix 2 p.46; Appendix 3 p.62), were the only pathology recorded during the excavation; however, the presence of a larger number of pathologies cannot be excluded.



Plate 1a – Sk26 Humerus and Femur

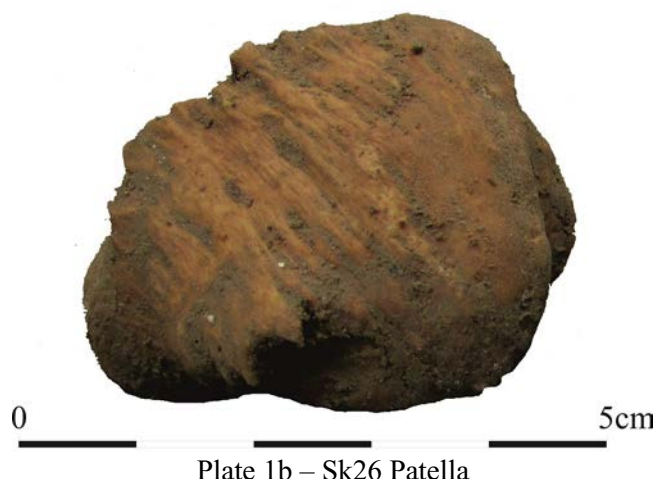


Plate 1b – Sk26 Patella

5.2 Coffin Furniture (Appendices 2&3, Plates 2-5)

From the early 18th century it was common to decorate the coffin with upholstery and elaborated metal fittings. After 1730, the production of coffin furniture by stamping machines became power assisted, allowing mass production and a reduction in cost. From this period onwards, all but the most destitute's coffins were covered in cloth (usually baize or velvet), secured with upholstery studs (often in rows or elaborate patterns) and decorated with decorative stamped metal plates (escutcheons, grip plates and lid motifs), grips and/or *depositum* metal plates (most commonly breastplates) engraved or painted with the name, age and date of death of the deceased (Litten 1991). The financial investment in funeral furnishing grew over the course of the 18th and into the 19th century, reaching its zenith in the 1840s (Rugg 1999). After that date, a taste for a simpler funeral became the norm.

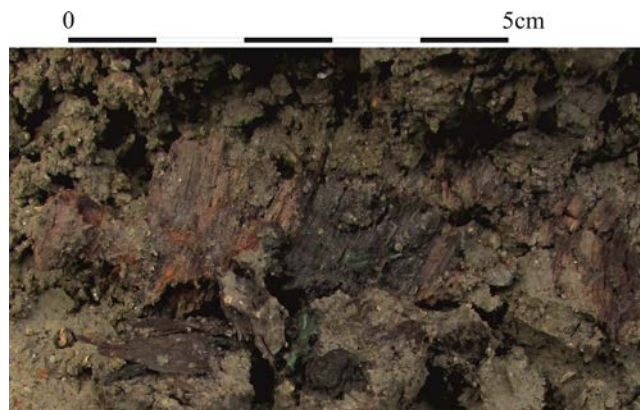


Plate 2. Coffin 40 wood traces

During the post-medieval period, however, coffins varied considerably in construction, materials and decoration, ranging from simple wooden coffins held together by joinery to heavily decorated, upholstered examples; this variety is confirmed by the evidence from St Mary the Virgin, where some coffins were represented exclusively by a limited number of limited iron fittings, while others included more complex assemblages of stud, fasteners and grips.

All of the 11 recorded coffins were much degraded, with scarce traces of the wooden elements preserved in a single example (Coffin 40 for Sk2; Plate 2; Appendix 2 p.39; Appendix 3 p.58); limited remains of wood were also observed on the reverse of some

upholstery studs. All of the coffin furniture recovered during the excavation was made of iron and tin; these were the two cheapest materials available in the 18th century (Boston 2008), and were therefore widely used for coffins by less affluent sections of the population. The metal coffin furniture was also very poorly preserved, and largely degraded by oxidation; the deterioration had particularly affected the thin, tin-dipped elements of the furniture (grip plates, lid motifs), almost entirely obliterating the decorative details and, in most cases, reducing the items to fragments concreted around the reverse of the grip terminals.

Coffin grips

Seven of the graves contained at least one coffin grip associated with other elements of coffin furniture, such as upholstery pins or fasteners. The single examples found in connection with Sk11 and Sk12 are of uncertain attribution, as they were recovered from the grave fills rather than being preserved *in situ*; these may represent disturbed remains of a coffin as well as elements originating from other graves included in these burials as a result of later interventions. 3 additional grip plates, not associated with burials, were collected from graveyard soil (02).

One complete grip (Plate 3a), possibly *in situ*, was recorded as coffin **39**. The coffin was not fully investigated as it was found below the impact level of the ground works. The coffin grip had a square cut, plain, diamond-shaped iron grip plate with cut out “heart-shaped” piercing running horizontally and a slightly bulbous, undecorated, cast iron handle.

Two variants of the same type of coffin grip plate were recovered from graveyard soil (02) (Plate 3b). These examples is comparable with types IVa and IVe from Kingston-upon-Thames, also completely made of iron. The Weston Turville examples show a diamond shape comparable to grip IVe but have the central part with perforated decoration similar to IVa. (Richmond 2007; 126, fig. 14). This type of coffin grip was also recorded in other, contemporary burial grounds in Oxfordshire (Rycote Chapel (Boston 2008, plate 24 and All Saints’ Church, Faringdon (Denis 2014, plate 6.1.10), and indicatively dated to the first half of the 18th century.



Plate 3a. Coffin 39 grip plate



Plate 3b. Grip plate from graveyard soil (02)

Coffin **08** contained the remains of Sk1, an infant. The furniture of this coffin consisted of nails and 2 plain, curved cast iron handles measuring *ca.* 60mm in length, likely to be part of a set (Plate 4a; Appendix 2 p.19; Appendix 3 p.48). The poor state of preservation of the items prevented the identification of possible grip plates; additionally, the coffin appeared to be severely disturbed by later activities.



Plate 4a. Coffin 08 handle



Plate 4b. Coffin 46 handle

Among the recorded burials, Sk23 had the most elaborate coffin, **46** (Appendix 2 p.43; Appendix 3 p.60; it comprised fasteners, grip plates and upholstery pins. The extremely poor state of preservation of the 3 pressed tin grip plates found *in situ* prevented from the observation of their shape and decoration. The associated cast iron handles (Plate 4b) were better preserved; these were curved, with a slightly bulbous centre. A double line of upholstery pins, running along the four sides of the coffin, was also preserved *in situ*; the position of the pins suggested the coffin type was single-break.

A similar type of decorated coffin, **43**, contained Sk22 (Appendix 2 p.43; Appendix 3 p.60). This was less well-preserved than coffin **46**, but retained one line of upholstery pins as well as the head plate *in situ*.

Decorative plates or escutcheons

A small number of possible decorative plate fragments were recorded during the archaeological works. Most of the items were too corroded to be positively identified as grip plates or escutcheons, which were usually made of the same material.

One fragment of a possible *depositum* plate or decoration was found on the pelvis of Sk22 (Appendix 2 p.43; Appendix 3 p.60), although its very poor state of preservation prevented from the identification of any decorative pattern.

The pressed tin item recovered from the grave of Sk23 was much better preserved (Plate 5; Appendix 2 p.43; Appendix 3 p.60). Although affected by oxidation, it maintained much of its original shape and floral design decoration. The grave fill for this burial, deposit (44), also contained a small copper alloy nail, likely to have been originally used to fix the decorations to the coffin.



Plate 5. Sk23 escutcheon

5.3 Shroud Pins

Only four of the graves contained copper alloy shroud pins, indicating the presence of clothes or a shroud. All of the examples appeared to have been built from drawn wire,

with a circular cross-section and a spherical head. The production of similar pins is generally dated to the 18th and 19th centuries (Cox 1996).

Examples of shroud pins were found in association with two infants (Sk1 and Sk2, Plate 6a; appendix 2 p.21; Appendix 3 p.49), one juvenile (Sk12, Appendix 2 p.39; Appendix 3 p.58) and one adult (Sk26, Appendix 2 p.46; Appendix 3 p.62). *Verdigris* stains caused by the presence of additional copper alloy items were recorded on the vertebrae of Sk26 (Plate 6b), although the items were not recovered.



Plate 6a. Sk2 shroud pins

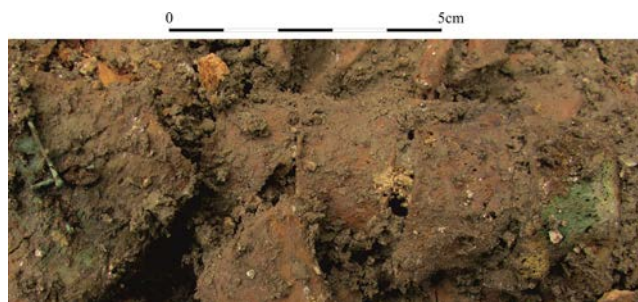


Plate 6b. Sk26 shroud pins and *verdigris* traces

5.4 Roof Tile

A small quantity of roof tile fragments, dating between the post-medieval and modern period, was also recovered from various grave fills as well as from graveyard soils (02) and (51).

None of the artefacts was removed from site.

6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks to the north of St. Mary the Virgin revealed a total of 26 articulated burials. The phasing for the excavated human remains was restricted by severe truncation and the limitations of the areas excavated, although a general dating spanning from the Medieval to the Post-Medieval periods is proposed.

10 of the 26 identified burials preserved evidence of a coffin; the remaining examples were either uncoffined, or too badly truncated by subsequent burial activities for coffin evidence to survive.

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 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 14 young adults or adults were identified; 3 of the individuals were sub-adults, and 3 juvenile and 3 infant were also found. All of the investigated burials appear to have been organised in regular rows, running in a north-south direction. One possible family plot was observed (Sk5&Sk9),

as the remains appear to have been laid very close and on the same alignment with minimal disturbance. All of the instances of grouped skeletons (Sk4&Sk26, Sk22&Sk23, Sk7&Sk10 and Sk11&Sk12) appear to represent unrelated burials.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

Written scheme of investigation

Project report

Primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Buckinghamshire County Museum with accession number AYBCM: 2020.39. The digital archive will be made available via Archaeology Data Service (ID 20006680).

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OASIS ID: johnmoor1-412472

Project details

Project name	St Mary the Virgin, Weston Turville
Short description of the project	John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological investigation at St Mary the Virgin, Weston Turville, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 85919 10276). A total of 26 skeletons were recorded, with two more possible burials identified. All of the skeletons were found within earth cut graves; however the cuts of the graves were rarely visible. The date range of the burials is uncertain, although the presence of coffins indicates a post-medieval date for at least 11 of the burials, as inhumation within a coffin became popular in the early 18th century.
Project dates	Start: 15-09-2020 End: 07-12-2020
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	johnmoor1-412472 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	WTSMTV 20 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	AYBCM:2020.39 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	4237 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	19/03452/APP - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	1118358 - SM No.
Any associated project reference codes	42894 - LBS No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	CHARNEL PIT Post Medieval

Monument type	NHUMATION CEMETERY Post Medieval
Monument type	NHUMATION CEMETERY Uncertain
Significant Finds	HUMAN REMAINS Uncertain
Significant Finds	HUMAN REMAINS Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AYLESBURY VALE WESTON TURVILLE St Mary the Virgin, Weston Turville
Postcode	HP22 5SH
Study area	78 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 85919 10276 51.784086907778 -0.754299247942 51 47 02 N 000 45 15 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Moore Heritage Services
Project brief originator	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Project design originator	John Moore
Project director/manager	John Moore
Project supervisor	Simona Denis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin Church, Weston Turville

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeology Data Service
Digital Archive ID	20006680
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","other","Human Bones","Metal"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire county museum
Paper Archive ID	AYBCM:2020.39
Paper Contents	"Human Bones","Metal","Stratigraphic","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Section","Report"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN, CHURCH WALK, WESTON TURVILLE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Denis, S.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Moore, J.
Other bibliographic details	JMHS Report no 4237
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	John Moore Heritage Services
Place of issue or publication	Wheatley
Entered by	Simona Denis (admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk)
Entered on	15 February 2021

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](mailto:admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk) for OASIS help and advice

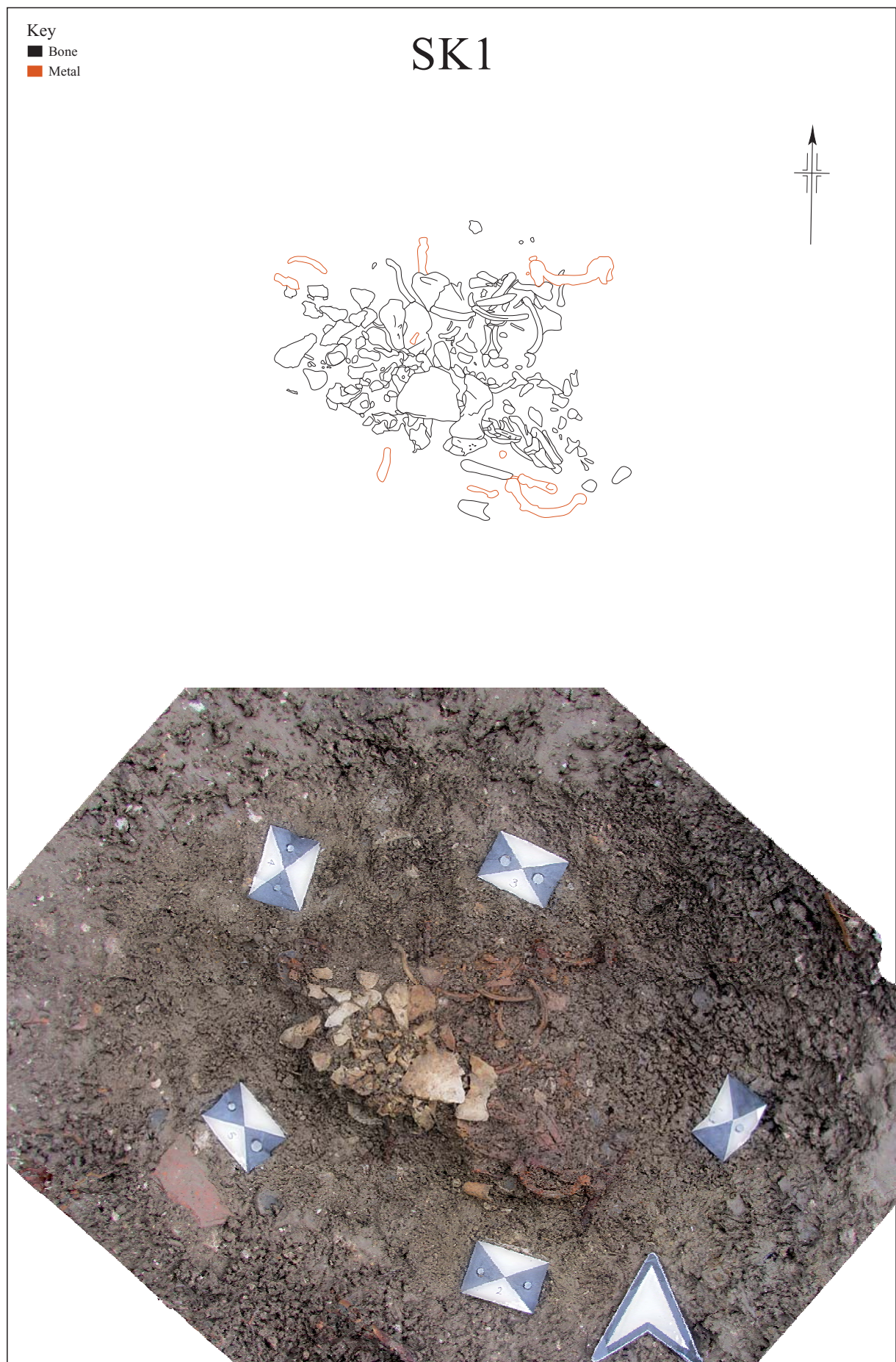
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Appendix 2. Skeleton Inventory

SK1	
Skeleton SK1	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity and rooting Truncated, with pelvis and lower limbs missing Infant of undetermined sex Presumed supine, extended position Orientation undetermined
Grave Cut 09	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: >0.36m Width: >0.20m Depth: undetermined
Grave Fill 07	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone and flint inclusions
Coffin 08	Decayed wooden coffin with nails and grip plates Tin plates not preserved 2 plain, curved cast iron handles found in the area of each side panel
Shroud Pins	Single shroud pin recovered, possibly associated with this burial



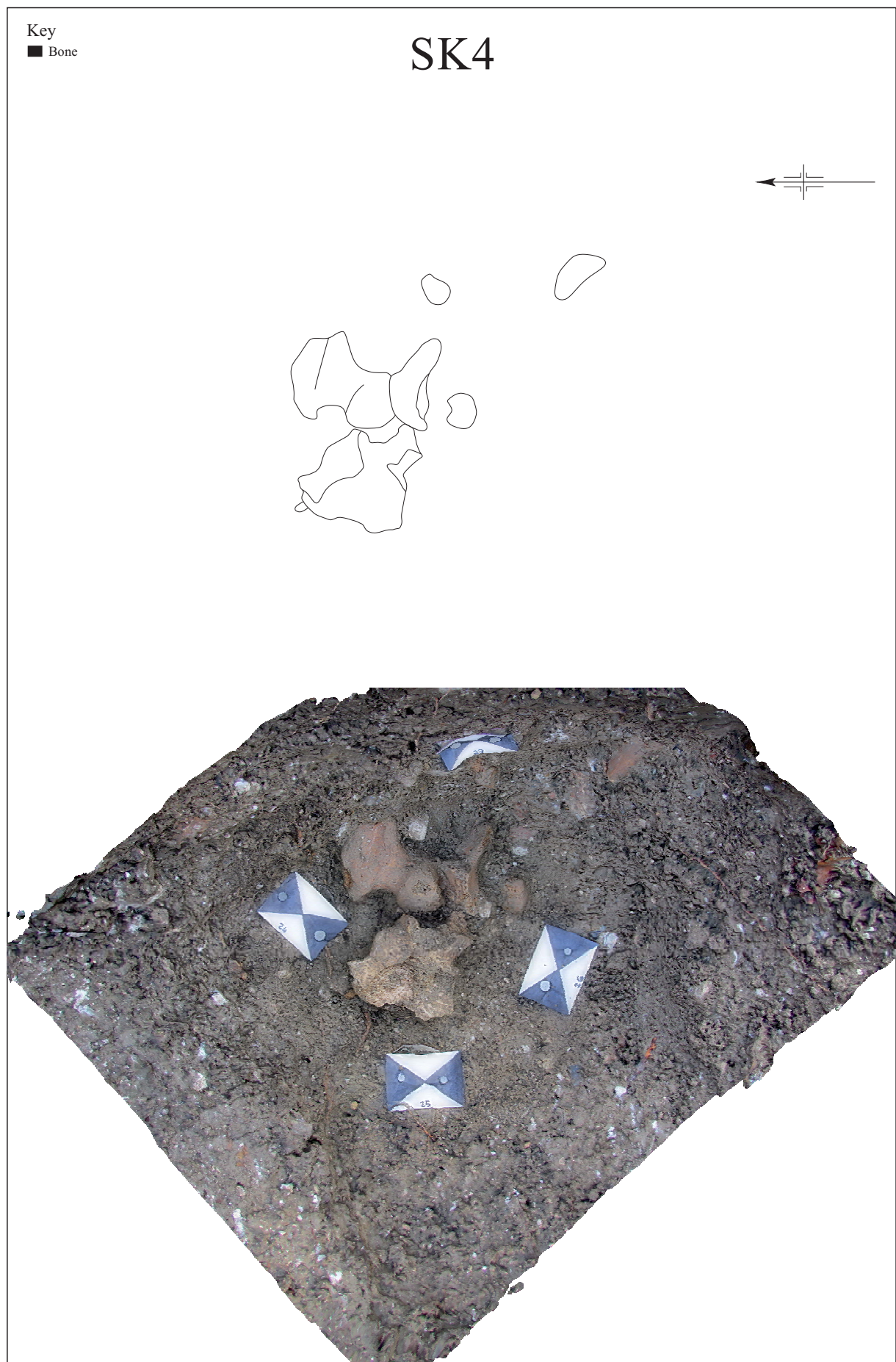
SK2	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity Truncated, with hands, feet and right leg and cranium partially missing Infant of undetermined sex Supine, extended position with arms along sides and hands on pelvis Orientated WSW-ENE
Grave Cut 12	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: 0.52m Width: 0.16m Depth: undetermined
Grave Fill 10	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone and flint inclusions
Coffin 11	Decayed wooden coffin 12 <i>ca.</i> iron nails found <i>in situ</i> defining a sub-rectangular shape
Shroud Pins	7 shroud pins recovered, with one example preserving traces of the textile Pins recovered in a cluster in the legs area



SK3	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity and poorly preserved due to the fragility of the remains Severely truncated, with only partial pelvis and proximal femur preserved, with disarticulated phalanxes Possible male young adult Supine, likely extended position Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 23	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: >0.37m Width: 0.45m Depth: 0.09m
Grave Fill 22	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone, flint and gravel inclusions

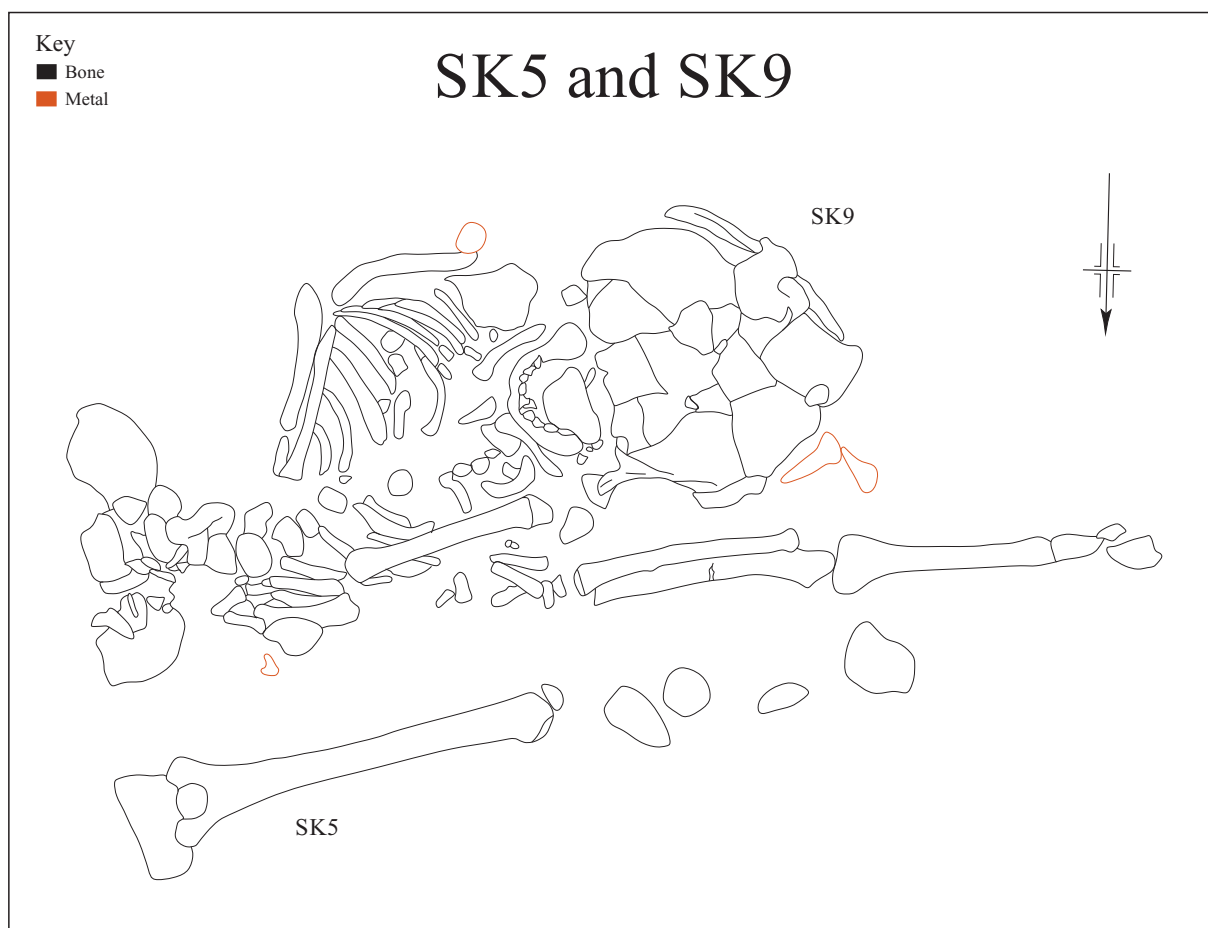


SK4	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity and extending outside the investigation area Severely truncated, with only partial pelvis and proximal femur preserved Probable adult of undetermined sex Likely supine and extended position Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 21	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: >0.23m Width: >0.23m Depth: 0.07m
Grave Fill 20	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone, flint and gravel inclusions

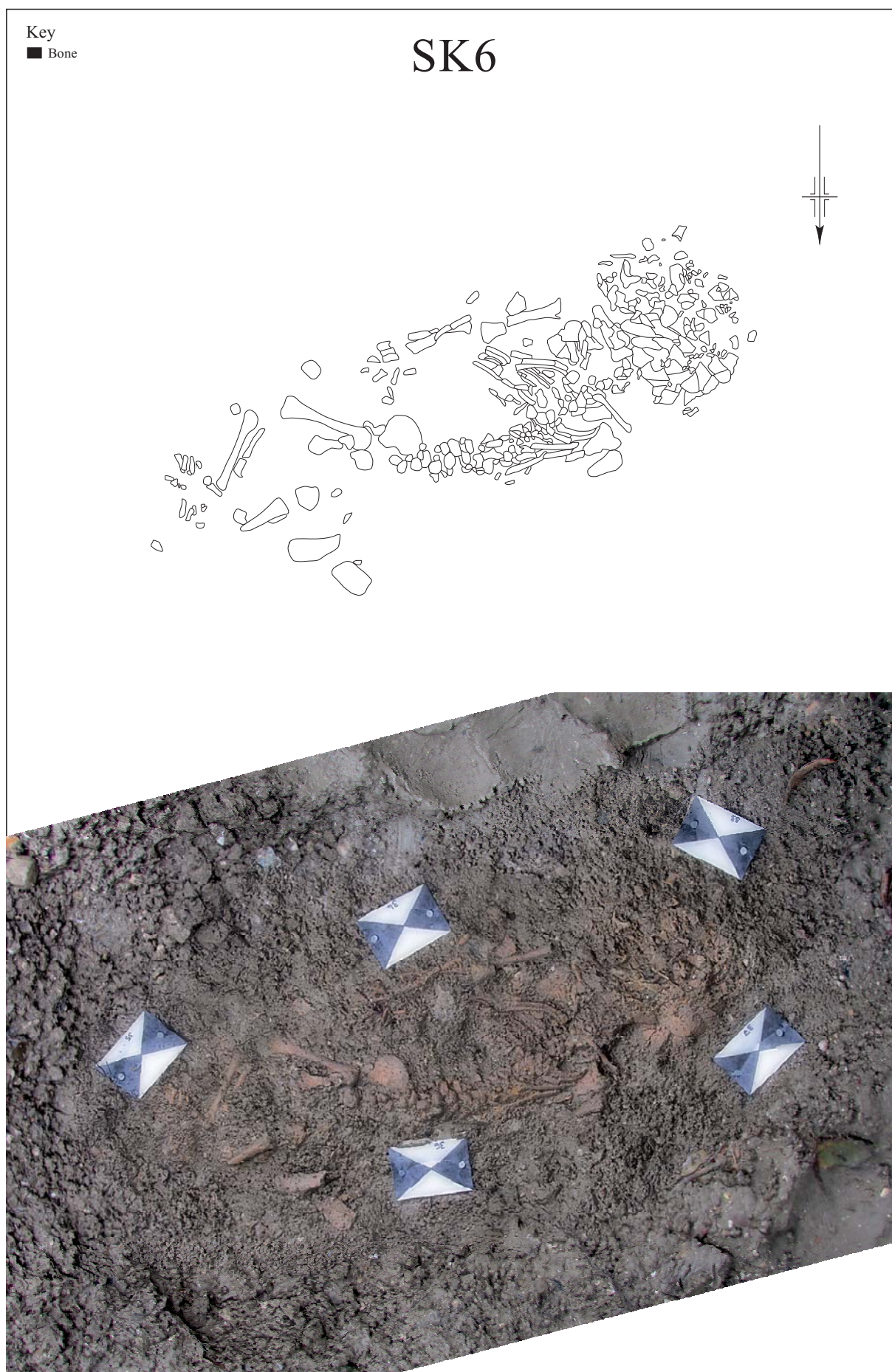


SK5	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity and extending outside the investigation area Possibly truncated, with ribs and scapula missing Possibly partially disturbing SK9 Juvenile of undetermined sex Supine, extended position with arm and hand extended along torso Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 14	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: > 0.7m Width: 0.2m Depth: 0.07m
Grave Fill 13	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone, flint and gravel inclusions

SK9	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity and extending outside the investigation area Possibly partially disturbed by SK5 Juvenile of undetermined sex, with vertebrae largely unfused Supine, extended position with left arm extended along torso and right arm bent across lower torso Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 17	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: >0.54m Width: 0.25m Depth: 0.05m
Grave Fill 15	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone, flint and gravel inclusions
Coffin 16	Decayed wooden coffin with 4 iron nails possibly from the head, left and right sides panels



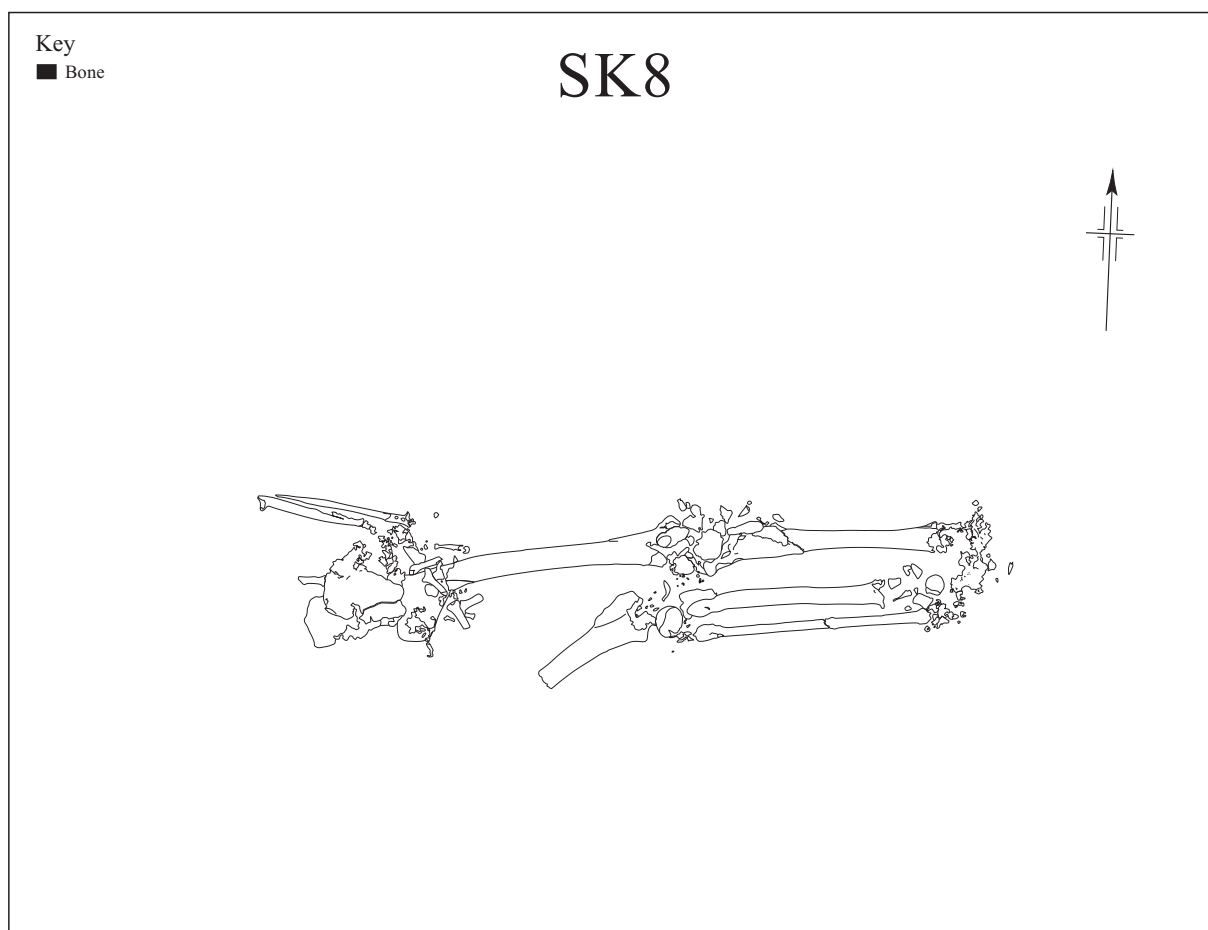
SK6	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity and rooting, and poorly preserved due to the fragility of the remains Truncated, with lower legs and right arm partially missing Infant of undetermined sex Supine, extended position with arms along torso and left leg partially bent Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 25	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: 0.55m Width: 0.20m Depth: 0.08m
Grave Fill 26	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone and flint inclusions



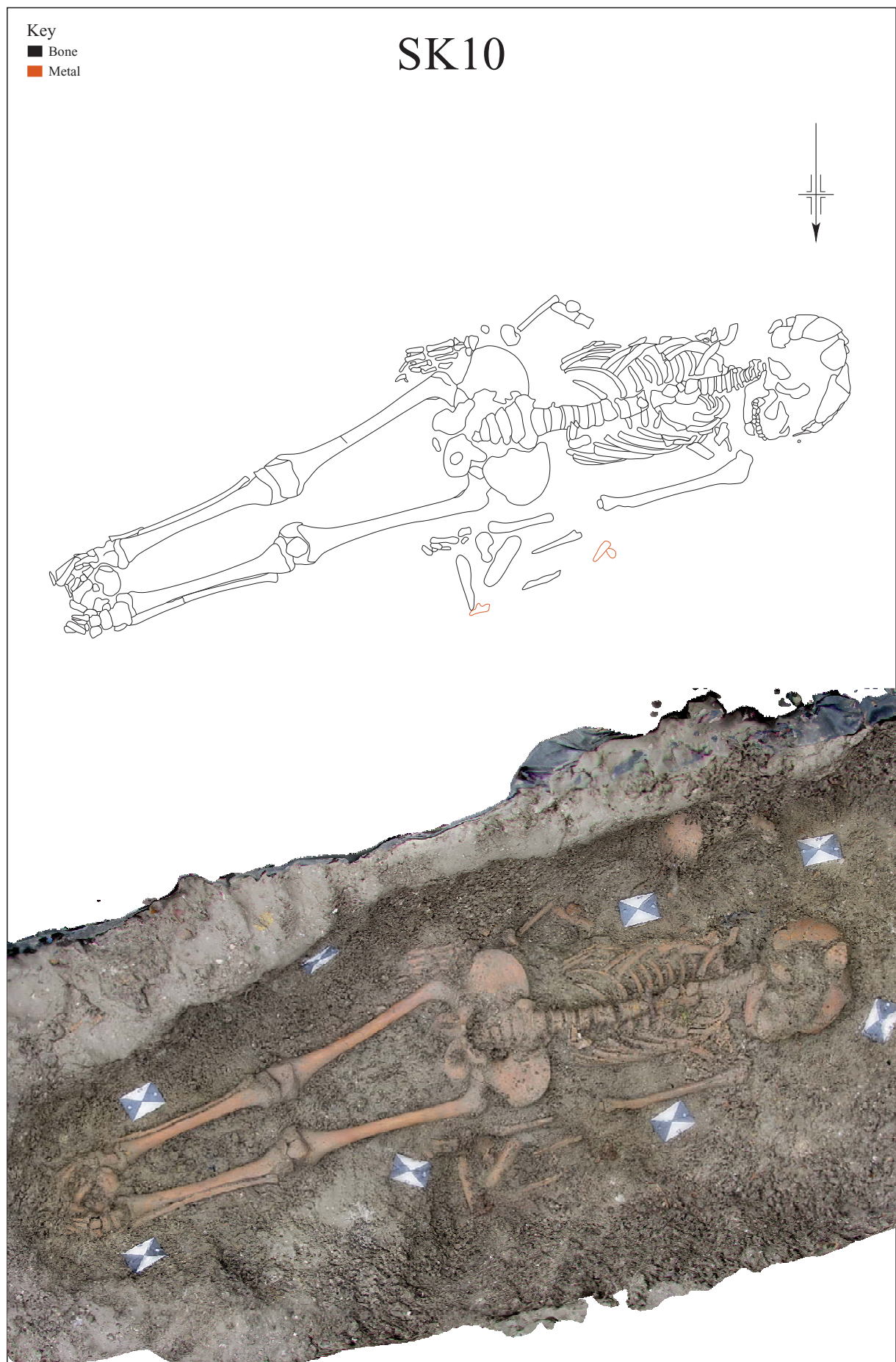
SK7	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity Truncated, with most of the left side missing and fragmented cranium Possible male adult Supine, extended position with cranium rotated to S, right arm and hand extended along torso, and legs and feet extended Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 27	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: 1.6m Width: 0.5m Depth: 0.16m
Grave Fill 26	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone, flint and gravel inclusions
Coffin 28	Decayed wooden coffin with 2 iron nails possibly from the right side panel



SK8	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity Severely truncated, with only partial left arm, partial pelvis and partial lower limbs preserved Adult of undetermined sex Supine, extended position with arm and hand extended along torso and extended legs Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 18	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: 1.3m Width: 0.6m Depth: 0.3m
Grave Fill 19	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone, flint and gravel inclusions



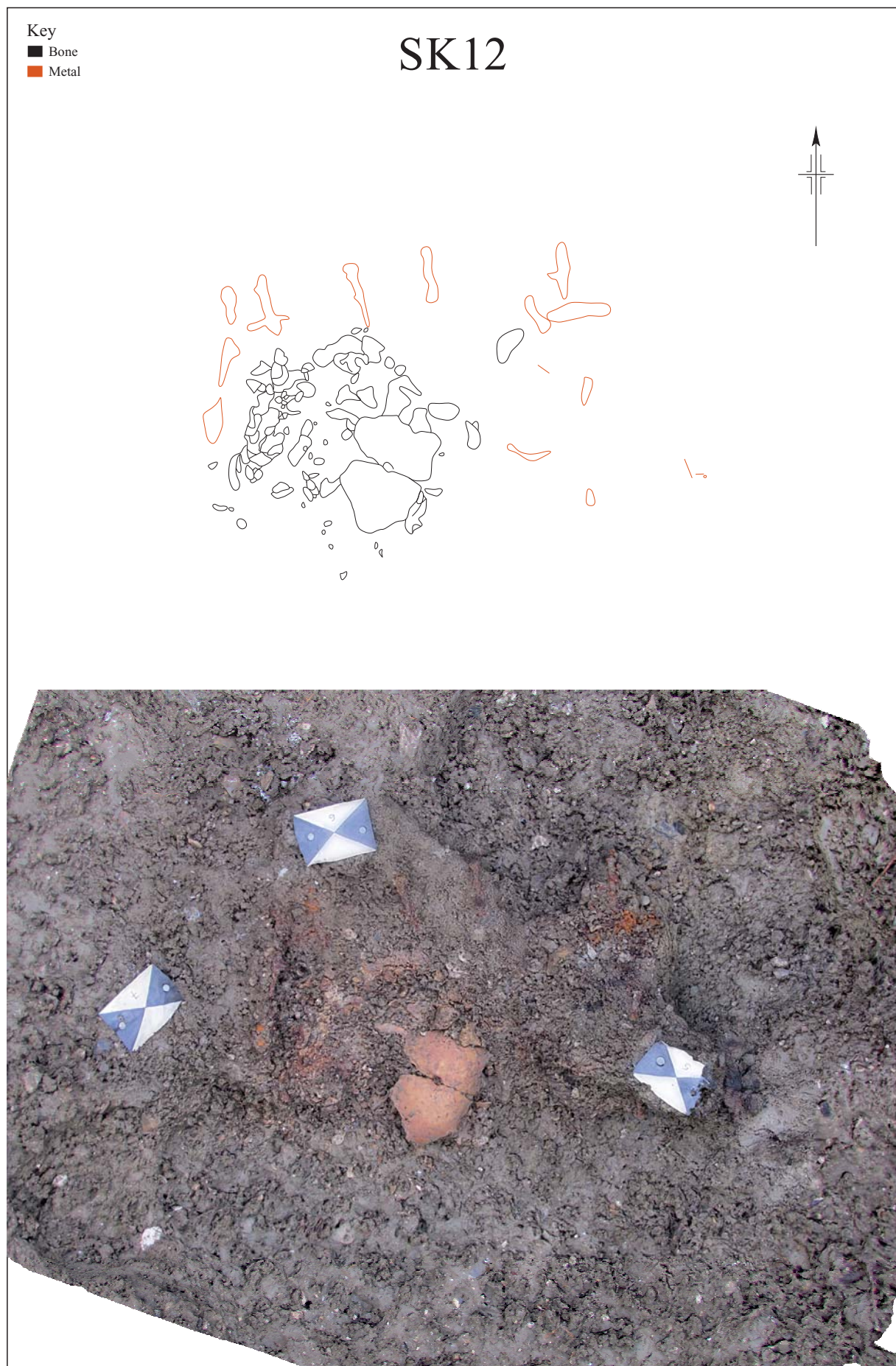
SK10	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity Truncated, with right scapula and both arms partially missing Possible female young adult, with sacrum and epiphyses unfused Supine, extended position with cranium rotated to E, extended legs and feet, extended arms and right hand under pelvis Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 30	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: 1.7m Width: 0.4m Depth: 0.12m
Grave Fill 29	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone, flint and gravel inclusions
Coffin 31	Possible decayed wooden coffin, represented by 3 iron nails possibly from the side panels



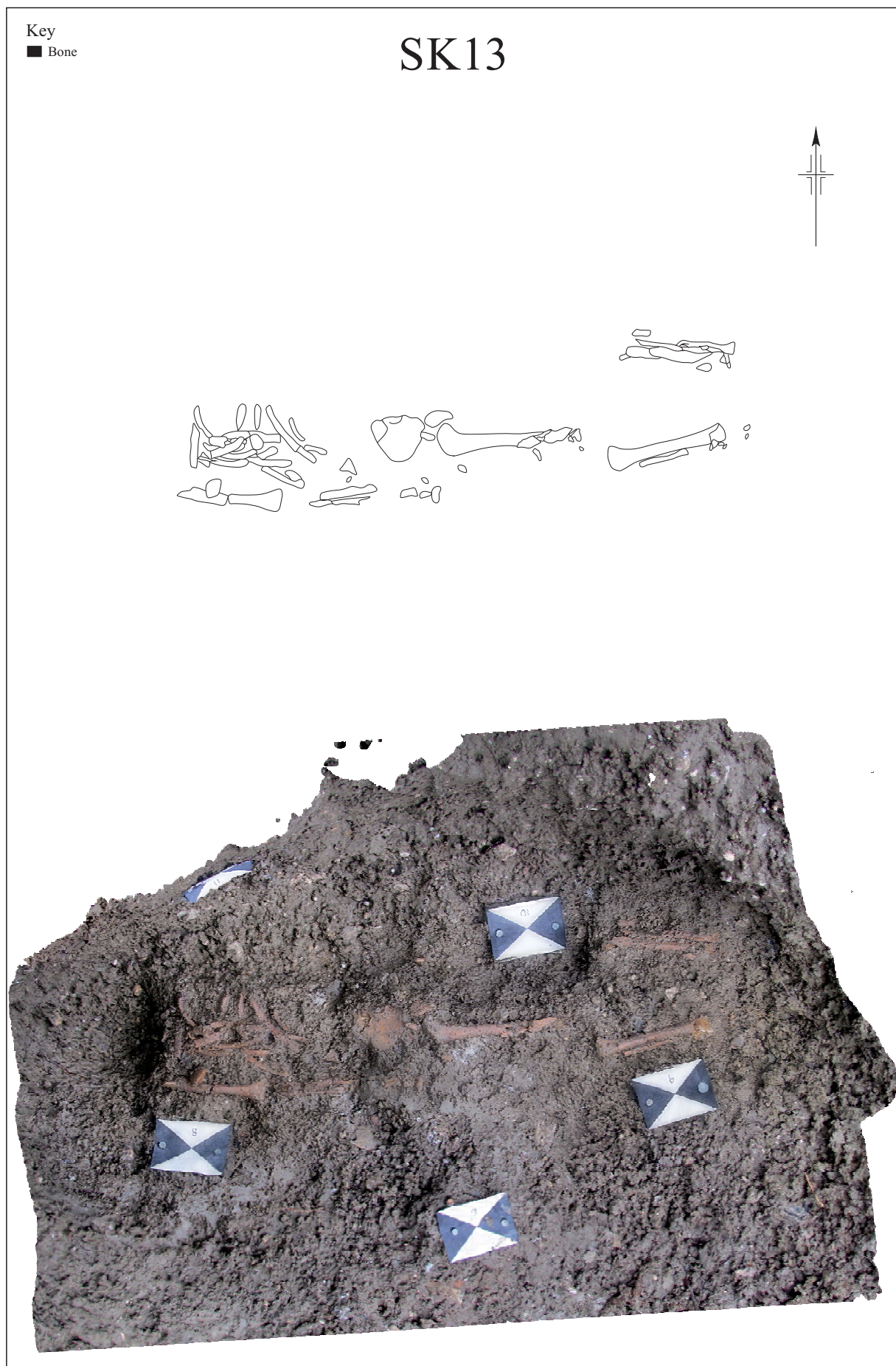
SK11	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity Truncated, with partial pelvis and lower limbs missing Partially truncated by SK12 Young adult of undetermined sex Supine, extended position with cranium rotated to N and right arm and hand extended along torso Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 33	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: >0.95m Width: >0.35m Depth: 0.1m
Grave Fill 32	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone, flint and gravel inclusions
Coffin 34	Decayed wooden coffin with 3 nails possibly from head and right side panel. The recovered coffin grips might not have originated from this coffin



SK12	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, severely disturbed by later activity Truncated, only partial cranium and mandible preserved Partially truncates SK11 Possible juvenile of undetermined sex Position undetermined Possibly orientated W-E
Grave Cut 36	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: >0.4m Width: >0.22m Depth: undetermined
Grave Fill 35	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone inclusions
Coffin 40	Decayed wooden coffin with at least 6 nails in situ, originated from the left side panel. The recovered coffin grips might not have originated from this coffin
Shroud Pins	Shroud pins recovered, with examples preserving traces of the textile



SK13	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, severely disturbed by later activity Truncated, only partial right torso and legs preserved Juvenile of undetermined sex Supine, extended position with arms extended along torso and extended legs Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 38	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: >0.56 Width: 0.16m Depth: 0.13m
Grave Fill 37	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay

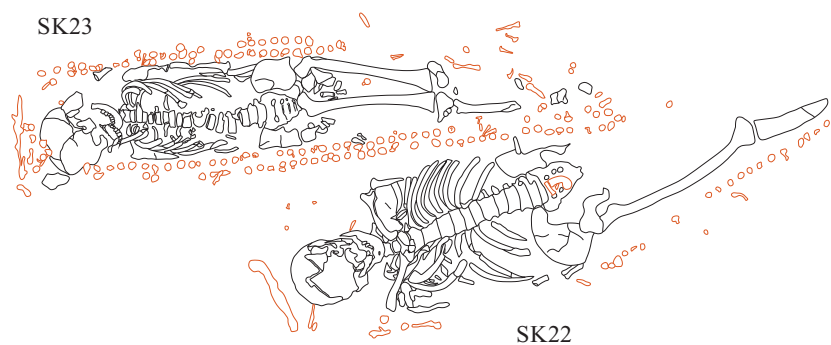


SK22	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity Truncated, with left hand and leg missing, and right arm partially missing Truncated by SK23 Possible male adult Supine, extended position with cranium rotated to N and extended legs Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 42	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: >1.66m Width: 0.5m Depth: 0.15m
Grave Fill 41	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone, flint and gravel inclusions
Coffin 43	Decayed upholstered single break wooden coffin with furniture. Nails and upholstery pins recovered in situ from the right side panel; single coffin grip plate from head panel preserved in situ. Remains of possible chest plate or lid decorations in the pelvis area

SK23	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity and rooting Truncated, with lower left leg and feet missing Truncated SK22 Possible female young adult Supine, extended position with cranium rotated to S, arms extended along torso, and extended legs Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 45	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: >1.63m Width: 0.4m Depth: 0.1m
Grave Fill 44	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone, flint and gravel inclusions
Coffin 46	Decayed upholstered single break wooden coffin with furniture. 2 iron nails from the right side panel present. Grip plates from the head, feet and right side panels found in situ. Two parallel lines of upholstery pins found in situ, along the right, left and feet panels

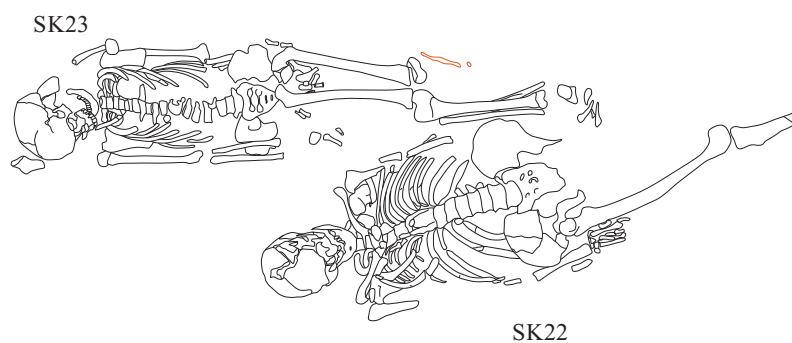
Key
■ Bone
■ Metal

SK22 and SK23 with associated coffin furniture

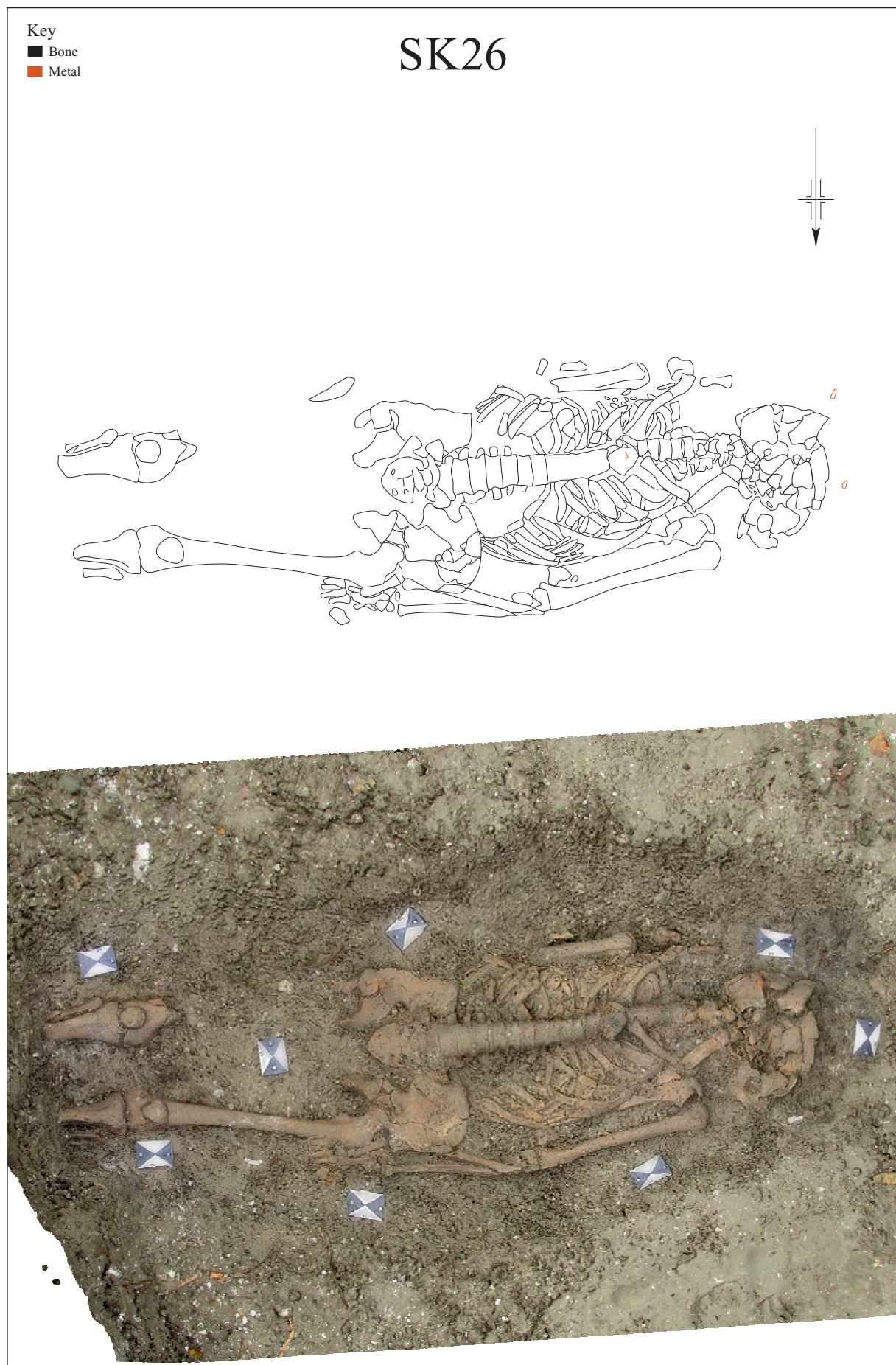


Key
■ Bone
■ Metal

SK22 and SK23 (full extent of skeletal material)



SK26	
Skeleton	Partial inhumation, disturbed by later activity and extending outside the investigation area Truncated, with right arm and leg partially missing Possible male older adult, remains extremely fragile. Both proximal tibiae and patellae showed excess bone growth Supine, extended position with cranium rotated to N, arms and hands extended along torso and extended legs Orientated W-E
Grave Cut 47	Presumed sub-rectangular with flat base Length: >1.6m Width: 0.5m Depth: 0.15m
Grave Fill 48	Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay with stone, flint and gravel inclusions and occasional chalk
Coffin 49	Decayed, possible single break wooden coffin with 5 nails in situ from the left and right sides, and upholstery pins and additional nails recovered from grave fill (48)



Appendix 3. Skeletons 3D Models

