



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Attendance, Inspection
and Recording at All Saints Church,
Church Street, Blaby, Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 57034 97860

Nathan Flavell



ULAS Report
No. 2015-143

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**Archaeological attendance, inspection and recording at All Saints
Church, Church Street, Blaby, Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 57034 97860

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For: Blaby PCC

Checked by:

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Date: 29.09.2015

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Summary

Archaeological attendance, inspection and recording was carried out at All Saints Church, Church Street, Blaby, Leicestershire (SP 57034 97860) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 21 September 2015. The work was carried out on behalf of Blaby PCC for the excavation of drain runs, catch pits and soakaways within the churchyard. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A102.2015.

Introduction

This document constitutes the report for an archaeological investigation carried out at All Saints Church, Church Street, Blaby, Leicestershire (SP 57034 97860). The work was carried out on behalf of Blaby PCC by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 21 September 2015.

The proposed development (SP 5712 9788; centre) is located in the south-east area of the historic village core of medieval Blaby. All Saints church (HER Ref: MLE 12236) dates from the 13th-14th century and is located in the south-east area of the historic village core of medieval Blaby (MLE9336) on Church Street (SP 57034 97860).

The work was requested by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor for archaeological attendance during groundworks. The work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) as laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological attendance, inspection and recording* (Clay 2015).

Geology and Topography

The British Geological Survey shows the underlying Bedrock to be Edwalton Member Mudstone overlain with Wigston Member, Sand and Gravel superficial deposits.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The church of All Saints is a Grade I listed building (Building ID: 187464) with a listed building description as follows:

Parish Church. Largely late C13 to early C14, though with several identifiable phases of building, and a C16 clerestory and Victorian restoration work. Random granite rubble with limestone dressing and Welsh slate roof to clerestory and chancel, lead elsewhere. West tower with spire, nave with south aisle and clerestory, and large chancel. Late C13 tower with four unequal stages with angle buttresses and paired foiled bell chamber lights. Plain parapet and recessed spire which has one set of lucarnes and three tiers of carved heads at its angles. The principal angles are distinguished by broach details. South doorway in Victorian porch. Buttressed south aisle with Victorian windows in Decorated style, of 2-lights with plain or foiled tracery and the eastern-most window in a later style with 3-lights. String

course. Chancel windows also Victorian renewals of 2-lights with quatrefoils, the tracery of the central window based on an ogee pattern. Small blocked opening perhaps a low side window below the string course. Ogival tracery to 4-light east window. Buttresses have trefoils beneath their coped heads. Victorian vestry to north. North wall of nave is very tall and although the window tracery is renewed, the pattern of fenestration remains irregular: each window is in a different style and at varied levels. Clerestory is a C16 addition with squared 2-light openings with hollow chamfered architraves and mullions. Interior: C14 south arcade of five bays: the slender octagonal shafts are raised on square chamfered bases, and the arches are double chamfered. There are grotesque corbel heads, but no hoodmoulds. West tower arch is rather earlier, late C13, steeply triple chamfered arch but filled in at ground floor level and largely obscured by the gallery of c1740. This elegant woodwork is supported on fluted columns with triglyph frieze and fluted pilasters. As a centrepiece, there is a marquetry panel with emblems of the sun. Doorway into tower of similar style with fluted shafts to architrave. Victorian hammerbeam nave roof, painted. South aisle roof is supported from large grotesque corbels which project south from the arcade. They carry wall posts articulated with bases and abaci supporting cambered tie beams and collar purlins. Moulded tie beams have huge central bosses: some are heavy foliage others grotesque heads, one bearing a crown, one a green man. All the woodwork including the wall plates is painted in cheerful patterns of white, red, black and green with gilding. One tie is dated 1630 with initials W.H.I.D. and Rob Biggs. East wall of aisle is blank but has a blind recess divided into two unequal parts by a filleted shaft, with shallow ogival moulded heads to arches with finials and corbels to hoodmould. Triple chamfered chancel arch dies into responds without corbels. Above it is the impress of an early roofline. Integral late C13 piscina and sedilia to south, with clustered shafts and hollow chamfered mouldings. Various wall memorial wall tablets including on the north wall in black marble with gold detailing. Loseby Ashby, undated, probably late C18. The eared tablet is surmounted by a shield and heraldic emblems and flanked by slight foliate swags. To each side of the altar are memorial tablets apparently erected in the C19 but to members of families who deceased in the C18. Black marble predominates for the classical styles which commemorate Thomas Major and Edward Stokes and their families. On the south wall is a stone in memory of Shuckbrugh Ashby d1752 in a marble classical idiom. Stained glass largely of 1930's to 1950's. Early font perhaps C12, plain round basin with slight rim moulding curving from a curved base. Royal arms over south door.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

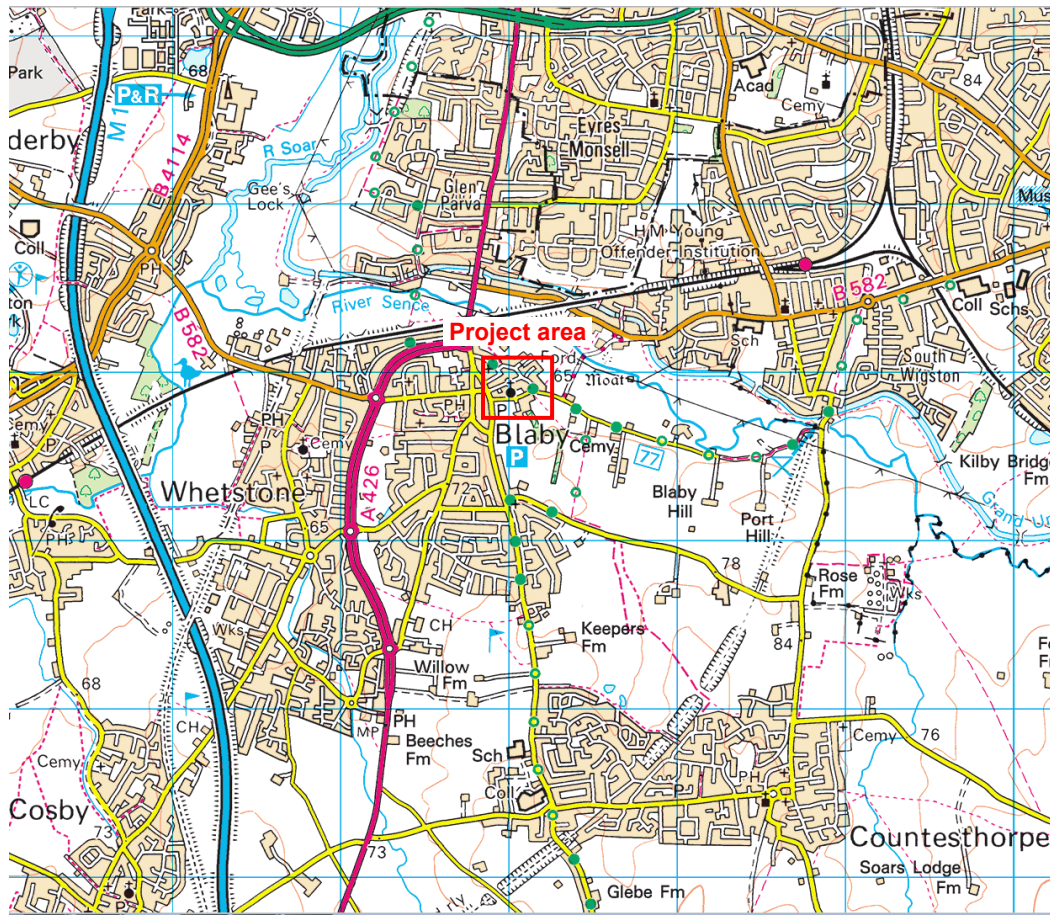


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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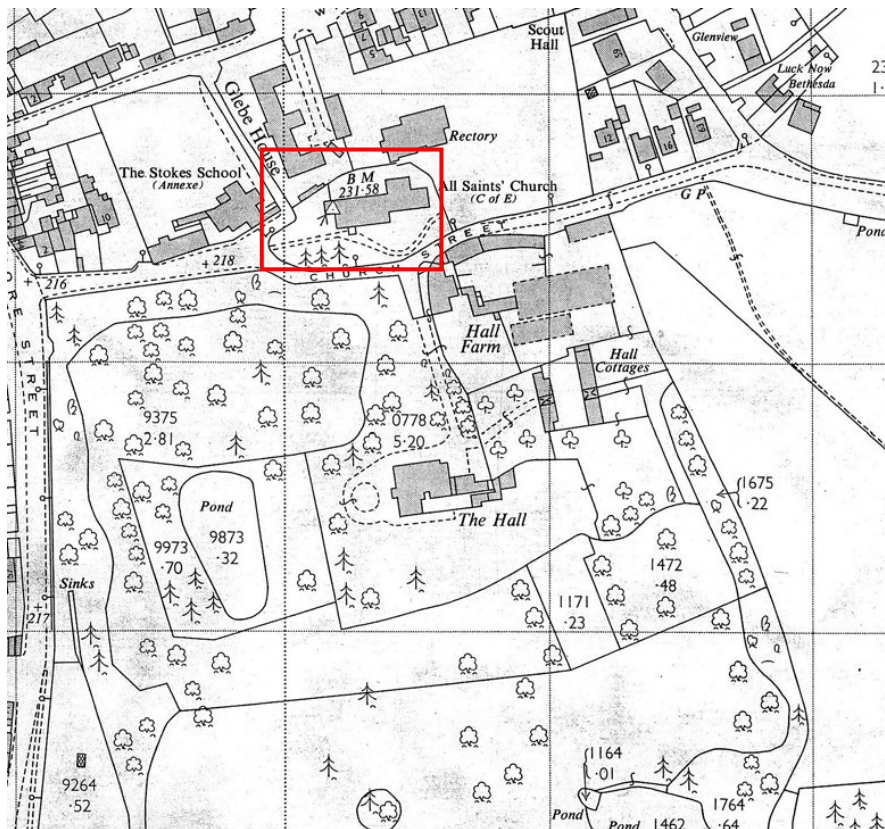


Figure 2: Site location within Blaby

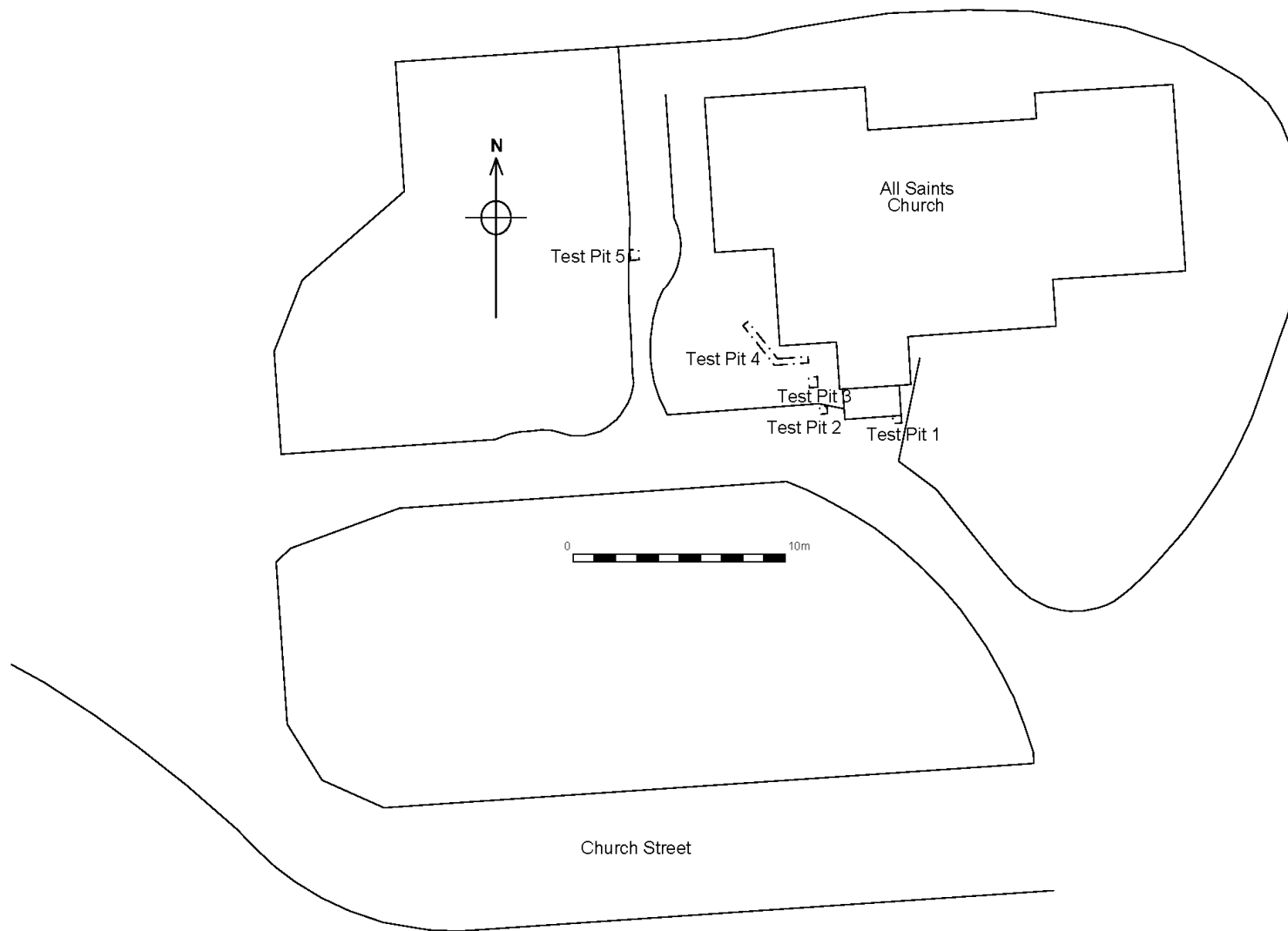


Figure 3: Site plan

Methodology

A total of four test pits and a small trench exposing existing drains were excavated by hand totalling 1.8425 square metres.

The sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. If identified archaeological features were to be hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as detailed in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Clay 2015).

All work followed the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluations*.

Results

Test pit 1 (Fig. 4) was located just off the south corner of the church porch. It measured 0.45m x 0.3m and was 0.25m deep onto a brick covered drain set within concrete.

Test pit 2 (Fig. 5) was located at the southwest corner of the porch. It measured 0.35m x 0.35m by 0.4m deep. The backfill consisted of red-brown sandy loam.

Test pit 3 (Fig. 6) was located just to the west of the porch. It measured 0.4m x 0.5m, and was 0.54m deep. The backfill of the drain was mid brown sandy loam.

Test pit 4 (Fig. 7) was located to the south of the tower, measuring 4.0x0.5m. It was 0.3m deep at the east end, dropping to 0.5m toward the west. The backfill was the same as test pit 3, coming down onto a drain run.

Test pit 5 (Fig. 8) was located in the west path toward the tower, measuring 0.4x0.5m. The backfill consisted of a slate lined cobbled path.



Figure 4: Test pit 1 looking north



Figure 5: Test pit 2 looking north



Figure 6: Test pit 3 looking north



Figure 7: Test pit 4 looking south-east



Figure 8: Test pit 5 looking north.

Discussion

The excavated test pits clearly revealed the backfill of post-medieval drainage. There were some fragments of disarticulated bone within the backfill which were likely to be human.

Bibliography

B.G.S. website, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives (Institute for Archaeologists)*

Score, V., 2015, *Written scheme of Investigation for archaeological attendance, inspection and recording All Saints Church, Church Street, Blaby, Leicestershire*. Leicester, ULAS WSI ref. 15-712

Archive

The site archive consists of: 1 A4 watching brief sheet, 1 A4 photo index sheet, and 13 digital photographs.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A102.2015.

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

OASIS no.	
Project Name	All Saints Church, Church Street, Blaby, Leicestershire
Project Type	Attendance, inspection & recording
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Nathan Flavell
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Churchyard
Development Type	Drainage
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Faculty
Site Co ordinates	SP 57034 97860
Start/end dates of field work	21/09/2015
Archive recipient	Leicestershire
Study Area	c. 1.8425 square metres

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client and contractors for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken by Nathan Flavell and Adam Clapton; the report was written by Nathan Flavell and the project was managed for ULAS by Patrick Clay.

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