



**University of  
Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
conducted during a scheme of  
groundworks at All Saints Church,  
Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire.**

**NGR: SK 45480 00294**

**Sue Henderson**



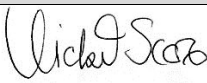
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**Sue Henderson  
September 2016**

**Client: Belfry Ltd.**

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## **An Archaeological Watching Brief conducted during a scheme of groundworks at All Saints Church, Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire.**

Sue Henderson.

### **Summary**

*A watching brief was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during a scheme of groundworks in relation to surface drainage at All Saints Church, Kirby Mallory, Leicestershire (SK 45480 00294). The work was carried out on behalf of Belfry Ltd. and involved archaeological attendance for inspection and recording during these groundworks. There were three aspects to the monitoring. Firstly, to monitor the excavation of ten gullies at points around the perimeter of the church. Secondly, to monitor the excavation of two soakaways and associated manholes. Thirdly, to monitor the trenches excavated to accommodate pipes which joined the gullies with the soakaways. Evidence of a tiled floor and wall footings was found in two of the gullies on the north side of the church and these features possibly relate to the existence of a north aisle demolished in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. A pit containing demolition material was found during excavation of the north east soakaway and this may relate to the same event. Footings were also found on the south-east corner of the church and possibly relate to an earlier buttress. Four articulated skeletons and a quantity of disarticulated bone were re-interred in the south-east corner of the site.*

*The archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record under the accession number X.A105.2016.*

### **1. Introduction**

This document constitutes the final report of an archaeological watching brief conducted during a scheme of groundworks at All Saints Church, Kirby Mallory, Leicestershire (SK 45480 00294). The work was carried out on behalf of Belfry Ltd. by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) commencing 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 and ending 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) has granted a faculty for work in relation to surface drainage on the north and south sides of All Saints Church. Archaeological conditions were placed on this work and the PCC (Parochial Church Council) submitted a programme of archaeological works which was approved by the DAC. The archaeological fieldwork is intended to provide a record of any archaeological remains which may be affected in mitigation of the impact of the proposals.

Kirkby Mallory is a small village situated approximately 9 miles south-west of Leicester and five miles north of Hinckley. The church of All Saints lies on the southern edge of the village and on the south side of Church Road, accessed by a private driveway (Fig. 1). The church dates from c.1300 (Pevsner 1984) and now lies slightly isolated from the core of the present village (Fig. 2). The church is a Grade II\* listed



building (**Listed Building Ref.1074237**) and has a HER (Historic Environment Record) reference of **MLE13075**. The listing record can be found in Appendix A including a detailed building description.

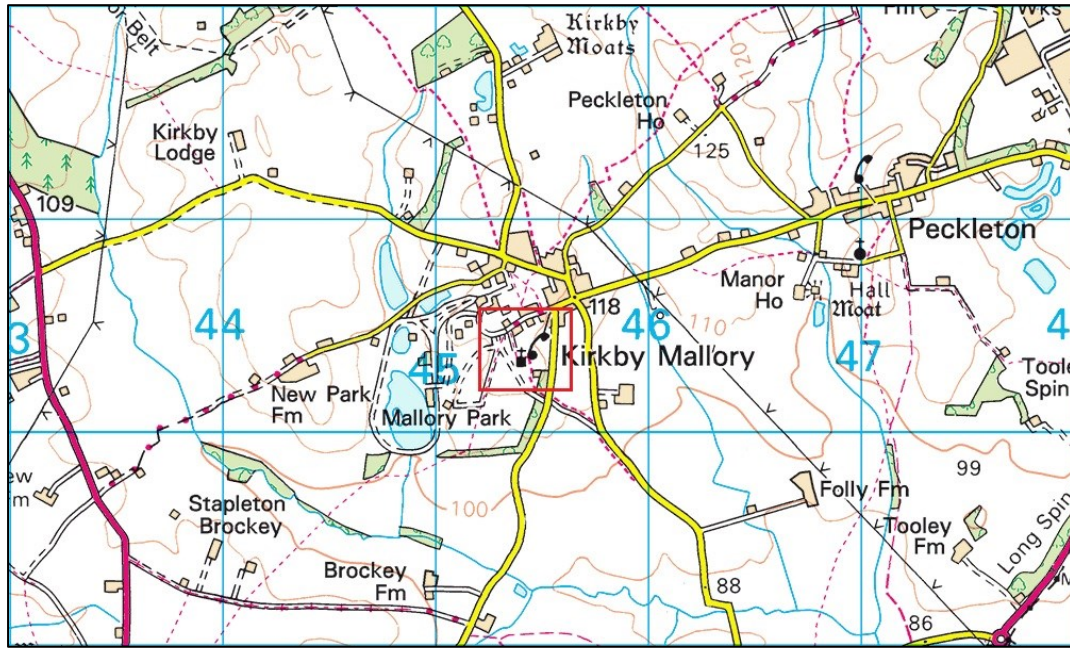


Figure 1 Site location

Reproduced from Explorer® 233 Leicester and Hinckley 1:25,000 OS map by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright 2010. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495



Figure 2: Location of Church within Kirkby Mallory

## 2. Geology and Topography

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of superficial glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel, overlying bedrock deposits of Edwalton or Gunthorpe member mudstone (OpenGeoscience). The church is located on a slight rise at 120m above Ordnance Datum, with the ground falling away to the south-east. The churchyard lies largely to the south and east of the church, with the road approaching from the north and the boundary with Mallory Park lying closely on the west side. There are pasture fields to the north east and east, earthworks and ridge and furrow being evident in these fields (Fig. 3).



Figure 3: Topography to the south (above) and north-east (below) of the site.

### 3. Background

The village is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Cherchebi, from Old Scandanavian meaning ‘the village with a church’ (Cox 2005). The land was held by Hugh de Grandmesnil and totalled two and half caracutes. Recording two villeins and two freemen, there were probably no more than twenty people in total (Fox 1991). By 1269 the village had become known as Kyrkeby Malore, the affix Mallory being the family name of Ricardus Malore, who held the manor in 1202. The fortified manor house is thought to have been to the north of the village. By 1564 there were 25 households and in 1672 a population of 119. The census returns show a population of 296 by 1871 and today it stands at 400.

The later lords of the manor built a new house at Kirkby Hall, which was within Mallory Park approximately 400m to the north of the church. The hall was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century by the Noel family, rebuilt in 1774 and described by Nichols in 1811 as a ‘handsome and commodious mansion’. The main house was demolished in 1952 leaving only the stables standing today, these are Grade II listed (**Ref 1074202**). Mallory Park now functions as a racing circuit.



Figure 4: Kirkby Mallory Hall, an engraving from Nichols 1811.

Although the name Kirkby suggests an early church, the first mention of All Saints in church records is in 1220 (Evans 2001). There are also references to alterations and re-buildings, for example there is mention of the chapel in the south aisle being ruined by flooding in 1518. There are records in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century of the North aisle being removed and a brick north porch being added along with brick lined windows. An engraving of 1811 (Fig. 5) shows the tower with a cupola, now missing.





Figure 5: An engraving of All Saints Church in 1811 (Nichols 1811)

The cartographic evidence is limited for the development of the land around the church. The earliest map is a pictorial estate map dated 1785. This shows the church boundaries very much as they are today. The early rectory buildings can be seen in the field to the north and a number of linear building plots along Church Street. The earthworks in the field to the north east appear as possible fish ponds for the Rectory.

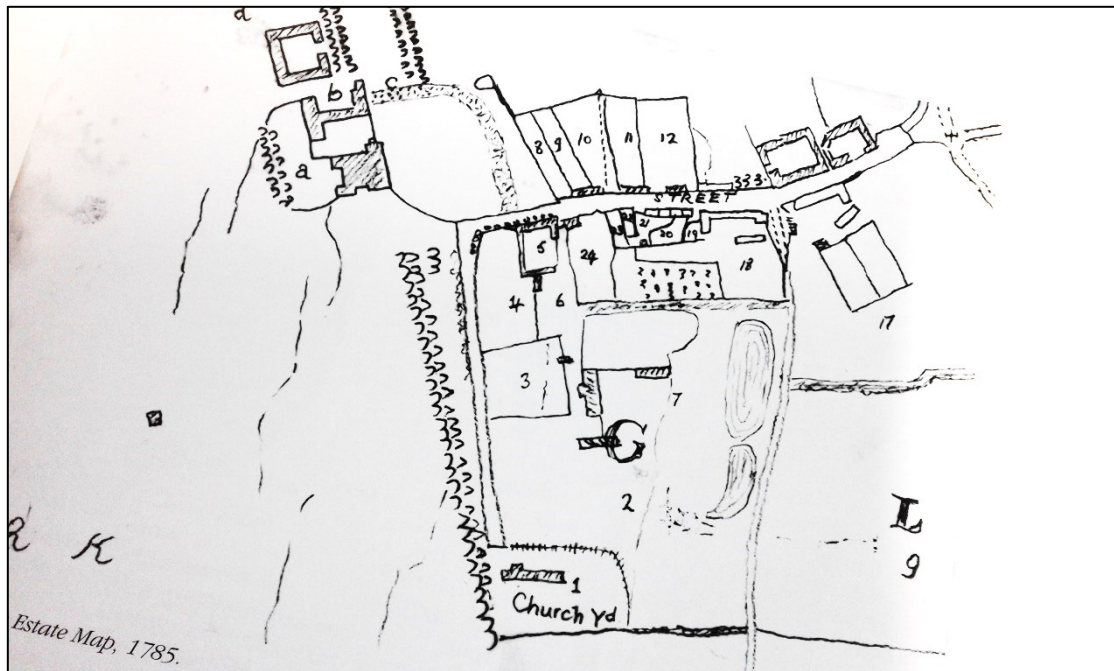


Figure 6: Estate map of 1785 (Evans 2001)

By 1886 the church grounds remain unchanged, some of the rectory buildings have gone, as have some of the buildings along Church Street, the school replacing cottages here (Fig. 7). The map of 1938 shows even fewer changes to the layout of the village (Fig. 8).

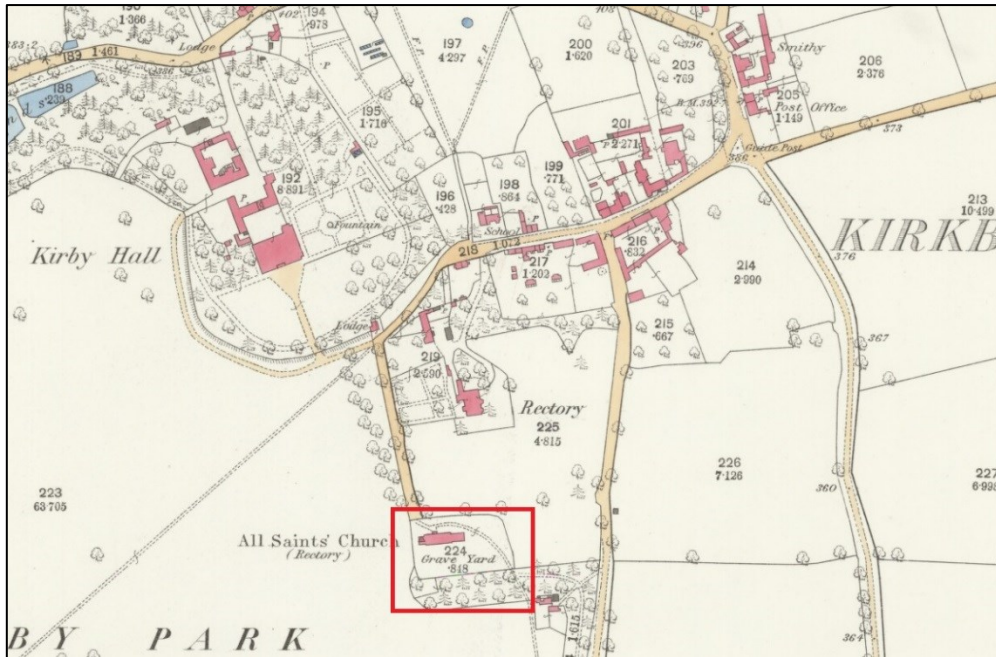


Figure 7: The 1886 Ordnance Survey Map Leicestershire XXXVI.5, the church outlined.

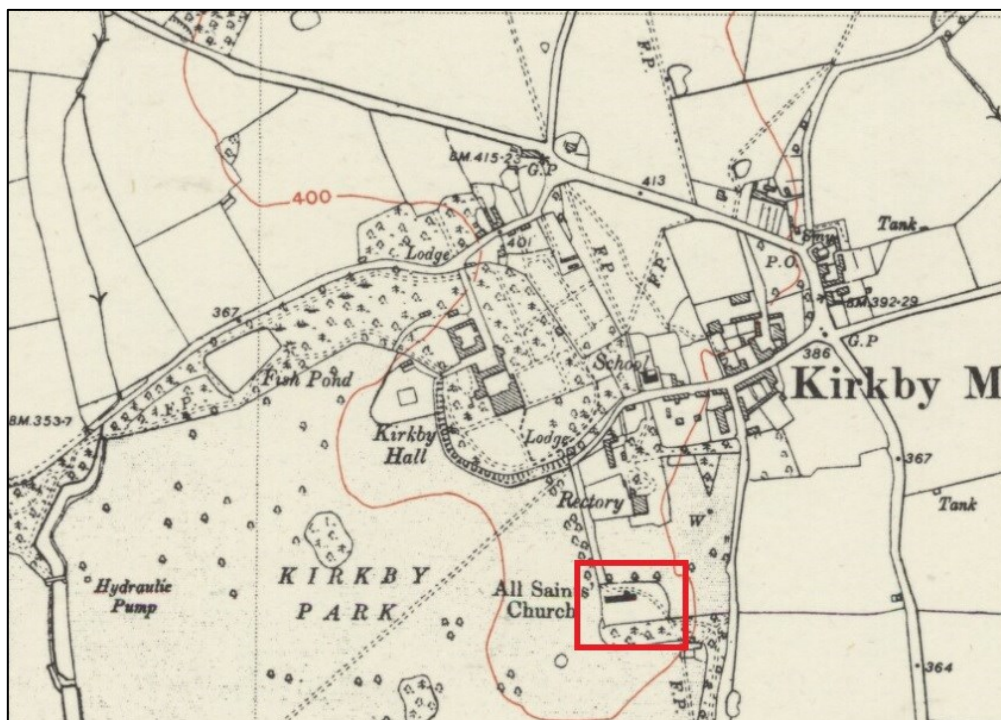


Figure 8: The 1938 Ordnance Survey Leicestershire XXXVI six inch map

Archaeological evidence is also limited. There is evidence of a Roman road constructed along a line from Mancetter to Leicester and this has been traced to the boundary of Mallory Park. An archaeological evaluation (**MLE20564**) conducted in Summers Close, approximately half a kilometre to the north east of the church, identified Roman

remains suggesting the presence of an early Roman settlement close to the line of the Roman Road (Gossip 1995).

#### **4. Archaeological Objectives**

The aims of the archaeological observation, attendance and, as appropriate, investigation, 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 establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the recording was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context.

Research objectives derived from East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (Knight et al. 2012) and The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda (Cooper 2006) were as follows:

7.5.1 Can we identify additional pre-Conquest church, minster and monastic sites?

7.5.4 Can we shed further light upon the distribution and development of early churches or chapels and the development of the parochial system?

7.5.6 What may we deduce from scientific analyses of cemetery populations about changes in diet, mortality and other demographic variables, both within the region and between social groups?

## 5. Methodology

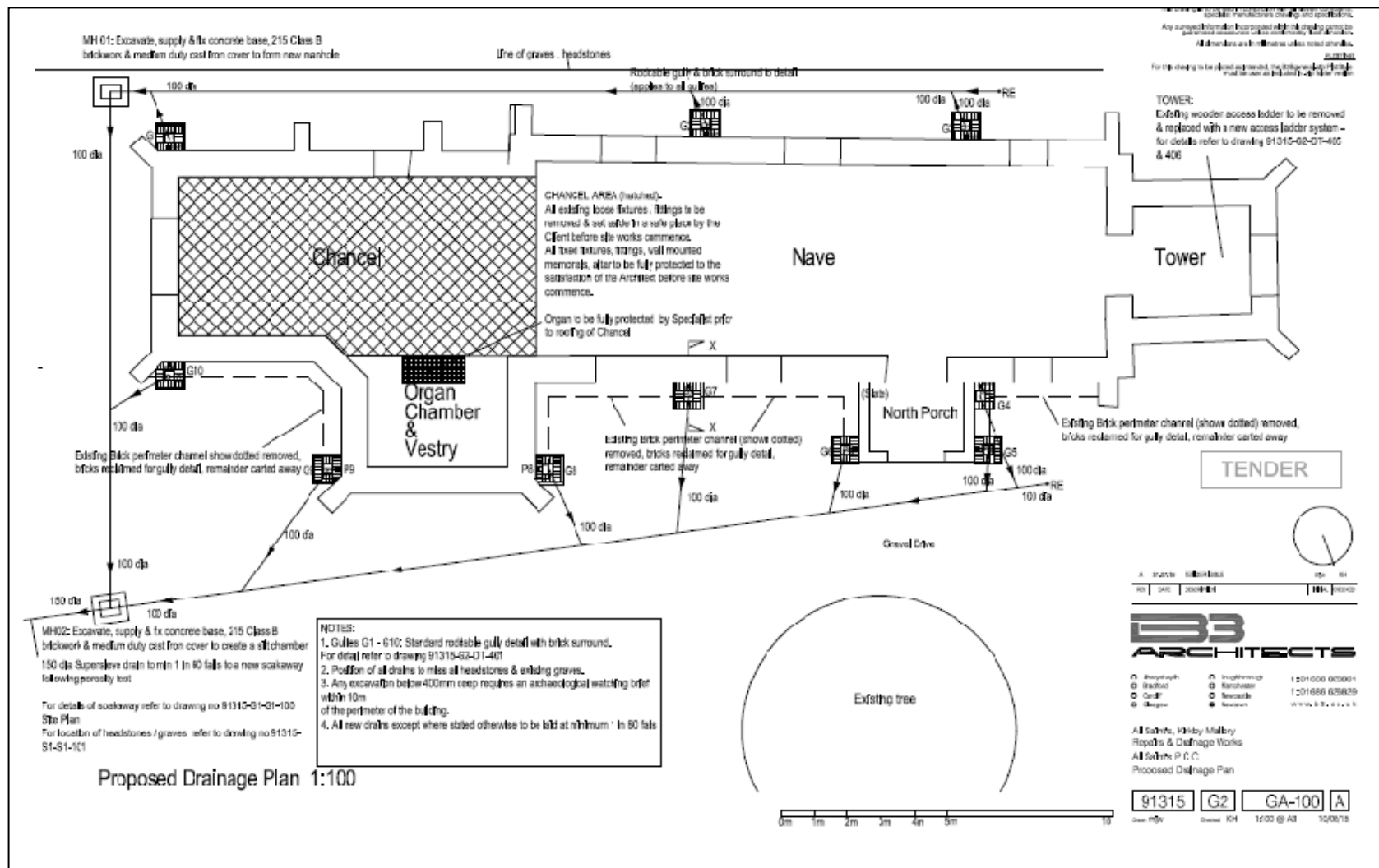
There were three aspects to the monitoring of ground works (Figs 9-10).

1. *To monitor the excavation of ten gullies at points around the perimeter of the church.* These were hand excavated to a depth of 0.6m on average and had upper dimensions of 0.6m x 0.6m.
2. *Monitoring of the excavation of two soakaways and associated manholes* excavated to a depth of 1.00m and 0.80m respectively. Excavation of these was completed using a mini digger fitted with a 1.00m flat bladed ditching bucket and a 0.45m toothed ditching bucket.
3. *Excavation of trenches to accommodate pipes joining the gullies with the soakaways.*

The work in all three cases involved the supervision of the removal of topsoil and subsoil. All exposed areas, sections and spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Any archaeological deposits seen to be present were excavated and recorded as appropriate. Human remains were expected as the work took place within a churchyard and the remains disturbed during the course of the works were recovered, treated in a respectful manner and boxed or bagged, and set aside securely for reburial by the incumbent in an appropriate location.

All work follow the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014). The Leicestershire County Council *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* was also adhered to.





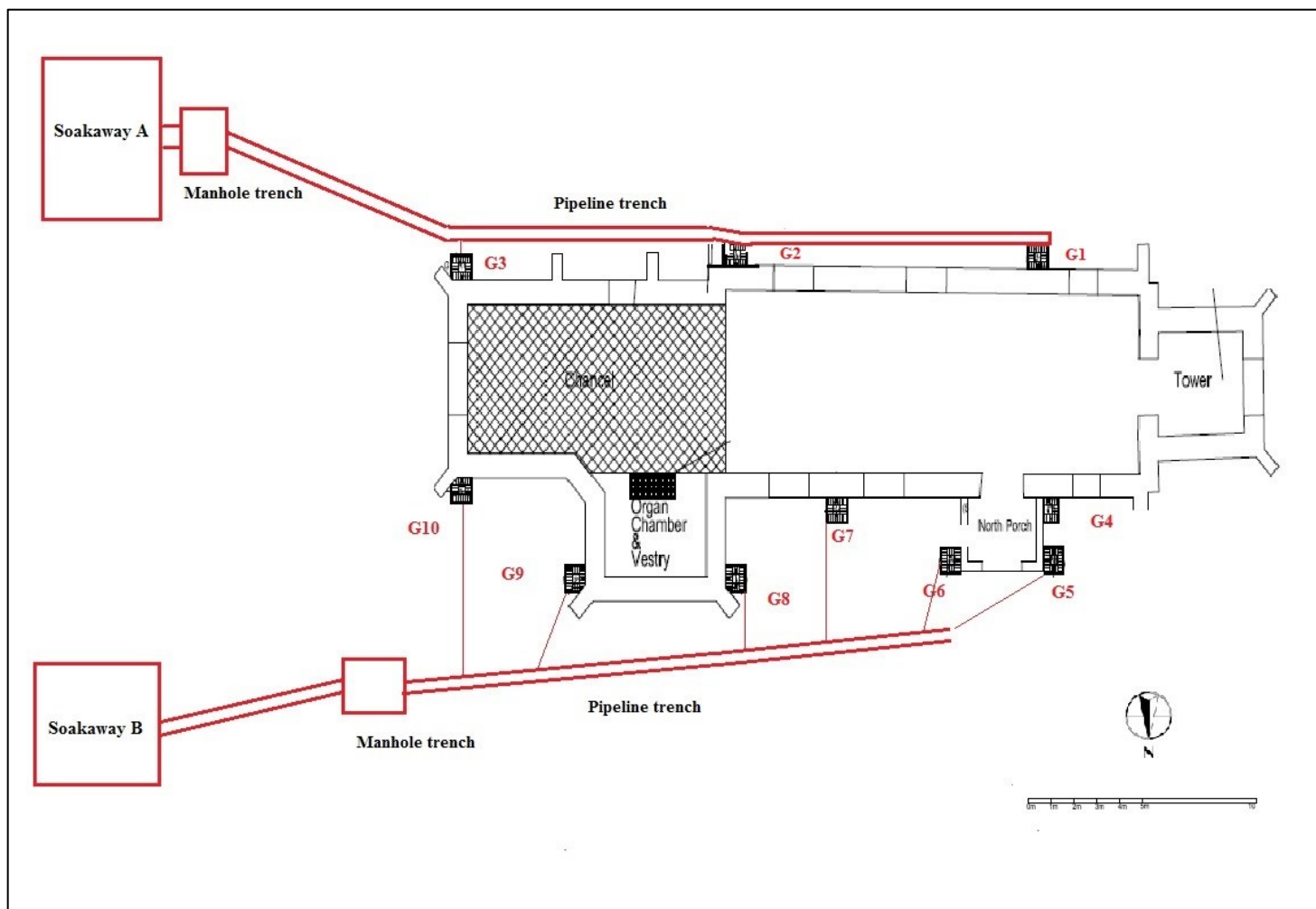


Figure 10: Amended plan showing labelled groundworks and areas mention in the text

## 6. Results

The site was visited on four occasions between the 31<sup>st</sup> of August and the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. Initial work involved the hand excavation of the gullies on the north side of the church at the same time as excavation of the soakaway running away to the south east of the site. The gullies on this north side had very similar make-up visible in section, although features were found in the base of two of them. A dark greyish-brown mixed deposit overlay a crushed mortar layer and this generally extended to the granite footings of the church. (Fig. 11)



Figure 11: Drainage gully G6 alongside north porch

In most instances below the mortar layer was a reddish-brown sandy-silt with occasional gravel. However in G4 at the junction between the porch and the nave, a tiled floor was evident butting up to a grey sandstone plinth (Fig. 12).



Figure 12: Tiled floor in G4 now outside the church

In G10 a packed granite and limestone base was visible. This had the appearance of wall core material, although for core, it was well mortared together (Fig. 13).



Figure 13: Packed granite and limestone base to G10

On the southern side of the church the ground was more recently disturbed with modern concrete drains having been inserted at most points. There was no mortar layer evident as on the north side. Some footings were observed, however in G3. These footings were of granite, limestone and large boulders bound in a mortar, lighter than that on the north east corner. The stones appeared to mirror the line of the buttress, but were slightly offset, perhaps an earlier buttress on a slightly different alignment or substantial footings to the current buttress (Fig. 14).

There were no burials observed during trenching on the south side of the site, although the excavations did skirt along the edge of a number of headstones. As mentioned earlier there was much disturbance from earlier drainage trenches and although some charnel was recovered there were no complete burials. The footings of the nave were granite along this southern side and there was no evidence of the grey sandstone found on the northern side. Where not disturbed, the subsoil at the base of the trenches was a reddish-brown sandy-silt with occasional pebbles, as on the north side (Fig. 15).





Figure 14: Footings alongside south-east buttress.



Figure 15: G1 and G2 on the south side of the church, both photographs showing where ceramic drains have been removed, looking north.

Two soakaways were excavated to the south-east and north-east of the church. Areas where no headstones existed were chosen, in an attempt to minimise disturbance of burials. The south-eastern soakaway (A) measured 3.6m by 2.2m and was excavated to a depth of 1.00m. The soakaway was connected by a linear trench to a manhole trench of 1.40m by 1.40m which reached a depth of 0.80m. A further trench was then excavated to connect the manhole trench to G3 on the south east corner of the church (Fig. 16).



Figure 16: South-eastern soakaway (A) and associated trenches, looking east.

The average topsoil depth in this area of trenching was 0.20m and burial soil to a depth of 0.80m. Grave cuts were not easily visible and only disarticulated bone was found between a depth of 0.60m and 0.80m. A burial of two infants together (SK1 and SK2) was found at a depth of 1.00m (Fig. 17). Preservation was poor, not only in terms of complete burials but also in terms of charnel where only long bones and skulls were evident. The burial soil was a light orangish-brown silty-sand with occasional pebbles and the nature of this soil, or soil conditions were not favourable for bone preservation. Only disarticulated long bones were found in the remainder of the trenching on this side of the church.





Figure 17: Double infant burial at the base of the south-eastern soakaway, looking west.

The north-eastern soakaway (B) measured 3.0m by 3.0m and was excavated to a depth of 0.9m. The manhole trench measured 1.2 by 1.2 and was excavated to a depth of 0.80m. A pipe trench of depth 0.6m ran from here towards the north door of the church. The depth of the soakaway was reduced to 0.9m to account for the fact that two skeletons were exposed at this depth and left *in-situ*. Two further burials one adult (SK3) and one juvenile (SK4) were recorded and removed at heights above this. Preservation was slightly better than in soakaway 'A' but still relatively poor (Fig. 18).



Figure 18: Juvenile burial in soakaway 'B'



The average topsoil depth in this area was 0.40m, there was a slight rise in the ground level at this point. The base of the soakaway had revealed a cut for a pit filled with plaster, mortar and slate fragments. This area had clearly been used for the dumping of building refuse, hence the slight mound (Fig. 19). Burials had been cut into this waste material clearly post-dating this dumping event. Some of the plaster was painted and decorated (Fig. 20) and clearly came from the demolition of a nearby building.



Figure 19: Section of soakaway 'B' showing pit fill of mortar, plaster and slate waste



Figure 20: Fragment of painted plaster from pit fill (5) in soakaway B



## 7. Finds

The four individuals or articulated skeletons were re-interred along with the disarticulated bone, in the south east corner of the churchyard. There were no dateable finds from features or deposits and no finds from subsoil or burial soil, other than re-deposited building material.

## 8. Conclusion

The groundworks provided a series of snapshots into the development of All Saints Church. The gullies provided evidence of a prior floor surface outside the present line of the nave and footings for walls, no longer present, at the eastern end of the church. It is likely that the floor and wall on the north side relate to the demolition of the north aisle recorded in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The remnants of the arches to the aisle are visible in the present north wall, these having been blocked to create the replacement north wall (Fig. 21).



Figure 21: The blocked archways to the demolished north aisle visible in the present north wall.

The aisle appeared to run the full length of the church, if you use these blocked arches as a guide. The grey sandstone footings appear to coincide with the work blocking the nave. It is also possible that the pit filled with building material relates to the demolition of the aisle and the painted plaster once decorated the aisle or nave.

There is less conclusive proof for previous church building on the south side of the church. The footings found here are most likely to relate to an earlier buttress on this south-east corner. The east wall demonstrates several episodes of repair, there having been obvious movement here (Figure 22).



Figure 22: The east wall, showing repair and movement at this end of the church.

The excavated burials were relatively few considering the position and extent of the excavation. Two adults were left in situ and one adult and three juveniles re-interred. The condition of the skeletons was very poor and little could be deduced from examination of these.

## 9. Archive

This archive consists of 4 watching brief form notes, 2 sheets of drawings with notes, 5 context sheets, 4 skeleton recording sheets 72 digital photographs and 5 sheets of thumbnail prints. The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museum Service under the accession number X.A105.2016.

## 10. Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course.

# OASIS data entry

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-292485		
	Project Name	All Saints Church, Kirkby Mallory		
	Start/end dates of field work	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2016 / 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2016		
	Previous/Future Work	No / Not known		
	Project Type	Watching Brief		
	Site Status	Church land / burial ground.		
	Current Land Use	Access/graveyard		
	Monument Type/Period	Foundations / Undated		
	Significant Finds/Period	Skeletons and charnel / Undated		
	Development Type	Drainage groundworks		
	Reason for Investigation	Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) Faculty for work		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	None		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	All Saints Church, Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire.		
	Study Area	c.0.75ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 5280 1010		
	Height OD	120m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Diocesan Advisory Committee and Parochial Church Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay/Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Sue Henderson		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Belfry Limited		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	NA	LCC MusService	LCCMusService
	ID (Acc. No.)		XA127.2009	XA127.2009
	Contents		Photos Report	Watching brief records Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological watching brief conducted during a scheme of groundworks at All Saints Church, Kirkby Mallory.		
	Author	Henderson, S.		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2016-143		
	Date	2016		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		

## 11. Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the clients Belfry Ltd. and the Rector of All Saints Church for their assistance in the completion of this project. Fieldwork was undertaken by the author Sue Henderson and the project was managed for ULAS by Vicki Score and Patrick Clay.

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12.10.2016



## Appendix A List Entry Summary

**This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.**

**Name:** CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

**List Entry Number:** 1074237

**Location**

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, CHURCH ROAD

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

**County:** Leicestershire

**District:** Hinckley and Bosworth

**District Type:** District Authority

**Parish:** Peckleton

**National Park:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** II\*

**Date first listed:** 07-Nov-1966

**Date of most recent amendment:** Not applicable to this List entry.

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### Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

**Legacy System:** LBS

**UID:** 188197

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### Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

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### List Entry Description

#### Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

#### Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

#### History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

#### Details

SK 40 SE PECKLETON CHURCH ROAD (south side)

7/66 Kirkby Mallory

7.11.66 Church of All Saints

GV II\*

Parish church. Early C14 with C15 west tower and early C18 alterations; restored 1888 by Osborn and Reading of Birmingham. Random rubble with freestone dressings; slate roof over nave and lead covered roof over chancel. West tower, 3-bay nave (a north aisle was removed in the early C18) with north porch, 3-bay chancel with south vestry. West tower: 3 stages marked by strings, with moulded plinth, diagonal buttresses to the western corners and a crenellated parapet with continuous moulded coping. 2-centred west window of 3 cinquefoil-headed lights and Perpendicular tracery, with moulded surround and hood mould returned to the sides as a string. The second stage has a west window comprising a pair of lancets recessed within a rectangular frame with chamfered edges. Segmental

pointed belfry openings of 2 lights with returned hood moulds. On the south side of the nave there is a buttress at each extremity, the western one having a C17/C18 bronze sundial fixed to it; this has a centrepiece of a coat of arms with a pair of lions rampant as supporters; above and to the sides are figures within semi-circular arches. The blocked south door has either a 4-centred arch or a 2-centred drop arch. To the left hand end of this front is a C18 window with semi-circular head and brick surround; to the right are 2 C19 windows with segmental-pointed heads and Y-tracery. On the north side the blocked arcade is still visible with inserted C18 windows like the one at the west end of the south front. The westernmost of these northern windows has a brick apron and stone imposts. C18 gabled porch of brick with semi-circular arch on stone imposts. Chancel: 3-light pointed east window with intersecting tracery, concave quarter-round-moulded surround and hollow chamfered hood terminating in heads. On the north side to the left of centre is a 2-centred window with Y-tracery and concave quarter-round-moulded surround; to the right is a blocked window and to the left, a tall blocked window or doorway, the sill being approximately 2 feet off the ground. Buttresses at the bay divisions and diagonally placed buttresses at the eastern corners. Interior: 2-centred tower arch with double ogee-moulded surround; an inner arch with wave surround springs from moulded corbels. 2-centred chancel arch with continuous outer chamfer, and inner chamfered arch springing from moulded corbels. C18 king-post roof of relatively low pitch over the nave; it is strengthened by posts standing on corbels from which carved braces extend to the tie beams. On the north side of the chancel is an arcade of 1½ bays, the double chamfered arches springing from octagonal columns with moulded capitals. C19 king-post roof over chancel with panel tracery between the tie beams and the roof. Fixtures and fittings: Font of 1906 in the form of an angel holding a shell shaped basin; the marble base is inscribed "SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME". C18 pews with matching dado along the side walls; these were originally box pews but the doors have been removed. C18 hexagonal pulpit with raised and fielded panels.

Simple rood screen forming a 3-bay arcade on cylindrical columns with moulded caps, and simple tracery in the spandrels. The priests bench is dated 1615 and is attached to choir stalls with carved panels of stylized foliage and bench ends surmounted by poppy heads. An C18 dado extends around the walls of the sanctuary; in the south wall is a piscina with moulded surround and trefoiled head springing from moulded corbels. Early C17 Gothic oak reredos comprising 4 panels each framed by a semi-circular arch on cylindrical shafts and containing 4 lancets and debased Perpendicular tracery beneath a rose of swirling mouchettes. Early C18 wrought iron altar rail with grapes and vine leaves. Monuments: 2 incised slabs, one of 1404 or earlier. Martha Lambe, died 1758: Tablet with eared surround and swan neck pediment. Judith Lambe, died 1750: Tablet with raised and eared surround surmounted by an urn spouting flame. Sir Clobery and Elizabeth Noel, died 1733 and 1743: Tablet with open pediment, side scrolls and 2 portrait medallions facing each other. Thomas Noell, died 1756, Commander of the Princess Louisa, and mortally wounded in a sea battle with the French near Minorca; a large projecting base is surmounted by an obelisk which acts as the background to an achievement of arms within which are superimposed an anchor, a cannon, and other instruments of war. Sir William Noel, died 1697; large wall monument with gadrooned base, broken semi-circular pediment containing a coat of arms flanked by festoons and surmounted by an urn spouting flame. Sir

William Noell, died 1675; square pilasters with egg and dart friezes and an open segmental pediment containing a coat of arms. On a chest in front is the half reclining effigy of Sir William. Sir Edward Noel, died 1774: 2 large fluted urns flanking a tree and an open segmental pediment surmounted by a lamp spouting flame. Stained glass: the east and south windows of the chancel are by Kempe, both 1894. B.O.E. pp. 134-5.

Listing NGR: SK4540800344

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#### **Selected Sources**

##### **Books and journals**

Pevsner, N, Williamson, E, The Buildings of England: Leicestershire and Rutland, (1984), 134-5

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#### **Map**

**National Grid Reference: SK 45408 00344**

The below map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - [1074237.pdf](#) - Please be aware that it may take a few minutes for the download to complete.



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