

# Archaeological Works at St. John's Church, Alkington, Derbyshire



St. John's church

**ARS Ltd Report 2019/62**  
**Oasis No. archaeol5-346570**

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## **Archaeological Works at St John's Church, Alkington, Derbyshire**

**ARS Ltd Report No. 2018/62**



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## **Executive Summary**

*Project Name:*

*Site Code: SJA'18*

*Planning Authority: Derbyshire Dales District Council*

*NGR: SK 18720 38550*

*Date of Attendance: 7th of November 2018 and 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March 2019*

*Date of Report: 22/03/2019*

*Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr Paul Mendham Stonemasons Ltd to undertake a scheme of archaeological mitigation during development works on St. John's Church, Alkington, Derbyshire.*

*Archaeological supervision and monitoring in the form of an Archaeological Watching Brief was required during the underpinning of the church walls around the chancel and the excavation of trenches for a new drainage system.*

*Two floors inside the nave of the church, concrete underpinnings beneath the church foundations post-dating the foundation of the church, and a sequence of water pipes on east side of the church porch were discovered during the course of the Watching Brief.*

*The site was visited twice; the first time on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 and the second between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2019. The work was undertaken by Alexis Thouki, Assistant Projects Officers at Archaeological Research Services Ltd and the project was managed by Adam Lodoen, Project Manager at Archaeological Research Services Ltd.*

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Circumstances of the Project**

1.1.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was engaged by Mr Paul Mendham Stonemasons (the client) to undertake archaeological supervision at St. John's Church, Alkmonton, Derbyshire, DE6 3DL (NGR SK 18720 38550). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared which detailed a scheme of archaeological during the underpinning of church walls around the chancel and the excavation of trenches for the insertion of a new drainage system. The watching brief was undertaken as a requirement of the Heritage Lottery Fund's involvement in the development as advised by Historic England and as a requirement of the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor.

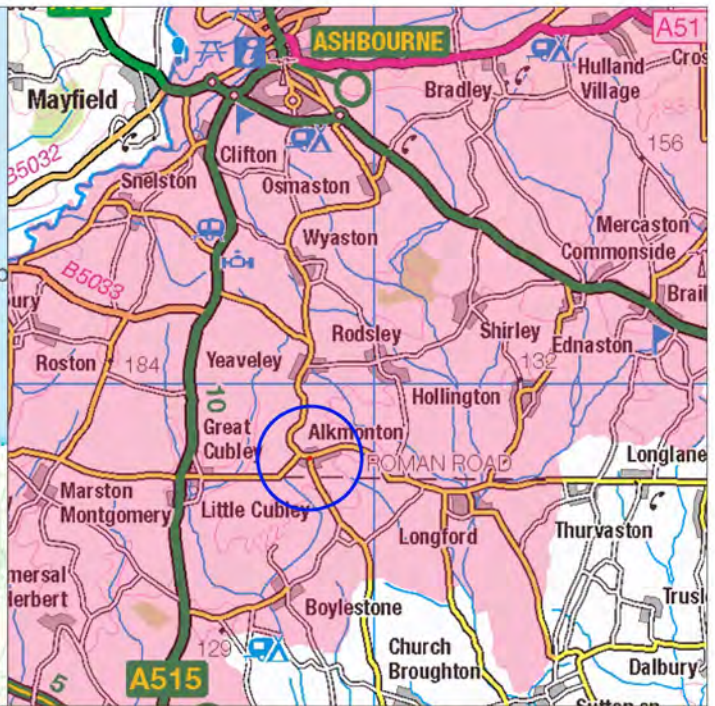
1.1.2 St. John's Church, Alkmonton, is a grade II listed building dating from 1843 - although the chancel is c.10 years later - which has suffered from structural movement, particularly to the chancel, related to the impact of an ancient beech tree and defective drainage. Following a number of investigations, including trial holes to reveal the extent of the foundations carried out between 2011-14, the Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to support the conservation and repair works which include underpinning of the shallow foundations around the chancel and works to install new external drainage.

1.1.3 The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 199 (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2018, 56) to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.

### **1.2 Site Location and Geology**

1.2.1 The 'red line boundary' of the site is outlined in Figure 1 and encompasses the buildings and surrounding grounds of the church. The site comprises a level rectangular plot of land off the south side of Long Lane in the centre of the village, immediately east of the grade II listed School House on the corner of Long Lane and Leapley Lane. The perimeter of the site is heavily populated with trees. A court of garages is located to the south whilst to the south-east beyond the graveyard there is a large open field. The site is centred at NGR SK 18720 38550 (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The underlying solid geology of the site comprises Mercia Mudstone Group – Mudstone, Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was dominated by hot deserts. This is overlain by Till, Mid Pleistocene – Diamicton, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions (BGS 2018).



Site name: St Johns, Alkmonton  
 Date: October 2018  
 Drawn by: MB  
 Scale: Varies

**Figure 1:  
 Site location**



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- Site Boundary
- ▲ Grade II Listed Building
- Derbyshire Dales District Council

## **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

1.3.1 The church of St. John at Alkmonton was built in 1843 and, unusually for Derbyshire, is built in the Early English style of flint-pebble. The village of Alkmonton grew up between the deserted medieval villages of Hungry Bentley and Alkmonton (Diocese of Derby 2012).

1.3.2 The Historic England listing for the church provides further details, including that internally there is a rare, high quality, painted scheme; plaster ceilings are painted in imitation of timber, the chancel arch, window and door surrounds are painted in imitation of ashlar. The building has a long history of structural movement and a Heritage Lottery Fund grant was awarded for extensive development work in 2011. Structural monitoring, drainage surveys, paint and tree assessments were completed. A Heritage Lottery Fund Grant for Places of Worship was awarded in 2015 to develop a repair scheme (Historic England 2018).

## **2 Aims and Objectives**

### **2.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives**

2.1.1 The principal aim of archaeological works was to recover and record any potential archaeological remains associated with the use of the church and its grounds. Any uncovered remains were recorded and analysed during the course of development as part of the archaeological watching brief.

2.1.2 The following objectives contributed towards accomplishing this aim:

- To record the character and date of any surviving archaeological remains associated with the church, burials and memorials on the site.
- To record the nature, extent and date of any surviving archaeological remains associated with past secular activities on the site.

### **2.2 Archaeological Works Aims and Objectives**

2.2.1 The aims and objectives of the watching brief were as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological features and deposits within the site.
- To record all archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- To establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation.
- To gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeological deposits with a view to evaluation their significance and potential to inform the aims and objectives.

## **3 Methodology**

### **3.1 Professional Standards**

3.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the methodology specified in the WSI produced by ARS Ltd (Dyson 2018) (Appendix II).

3.1.2 In all circumstances, the groundworks were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014b).



## **3.2 Coverage**

3.2.1 The groundworks on site were located by the church foundations (especially in the area around the chancel), at the north east corner of the nave (inside the church), and in the churchyard where the new drainage trench, running along the south and east side of the church, was excavated. The monitoring revealed concrete underpinnings below by the original brick foundation, two floors inside the central nave and a sequence of drain pipes. The watching brief took place in two phases; the first on the 7th of November 2018 and the second between 18th and 19th of March 2019.

## **3.3 The Watching Brief**

3.3.1 All relevant ground works were undertaken by hand or using a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Archaeological monitoring did not entail excavation beyond the total areas exposed by the proposed works (Figure 2).

3.3.2 ARS Ltd provided a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times during any ground works on the site to undertake the archaeological monitoring. The on-site archaeologist was given the opportunity to stop site work in order to investigate potential archaeological features and adequate time was allowed for recording any such features.

3.3.3 A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained during the watching brief plus all significant archaeological remains will be recorded and/or retrieved. All excavations were recorded in accordance with normal principles of archaeological excavation upon pro forma context sheets. All significant architectural features were photographed (with scale) in situ and their location recorded on a plan of the site.

3.3.4 All features thus investigated were recorded in plan and section. The archaeological features identified were photographed and drawn in plan and section at appropriate scales as well as the relevant stratigraphy. The records follow standard conventions set by the Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS) (2002).

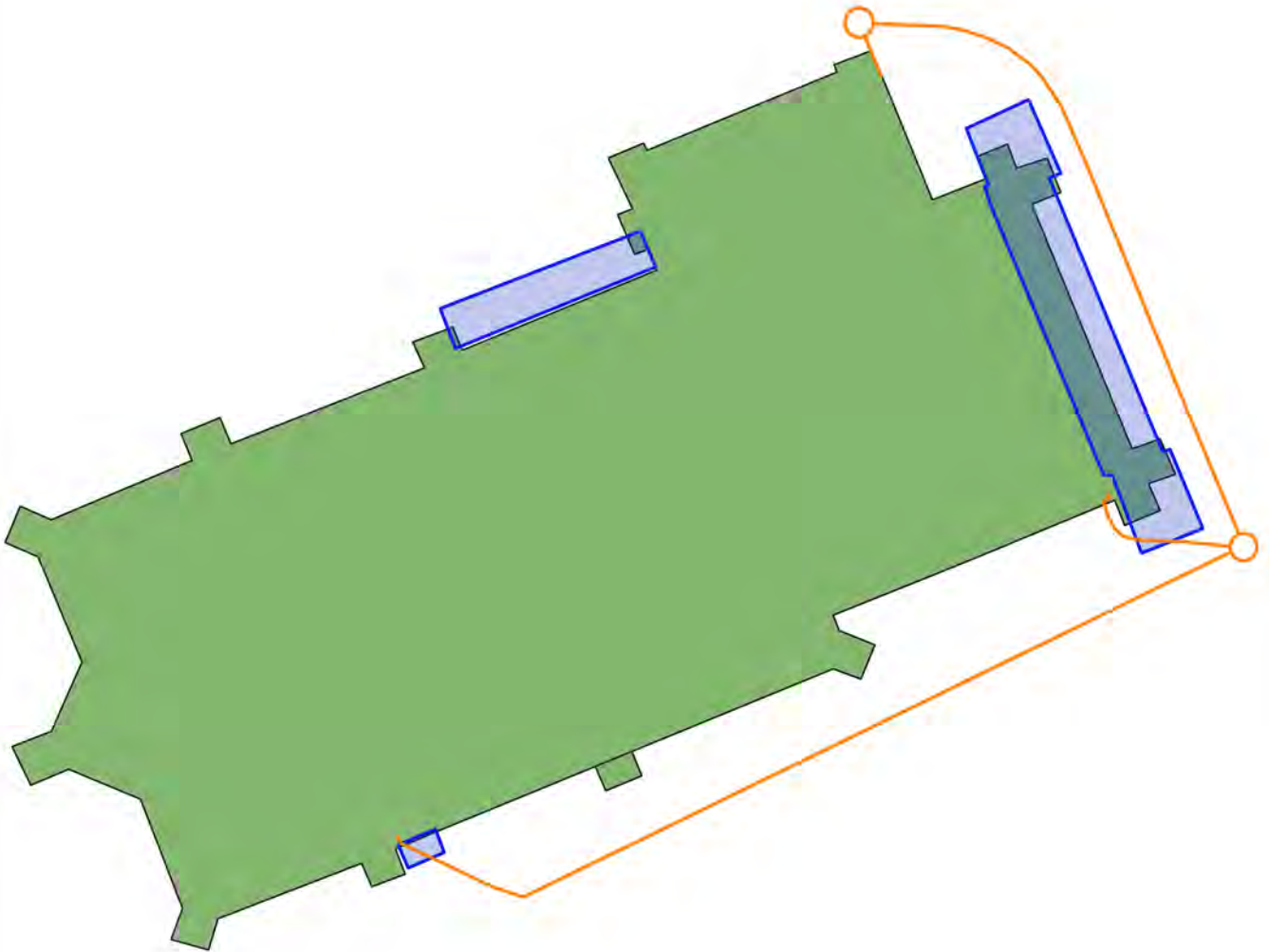
3.3.5 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) was made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings were drawn where required at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as appropriate. In addition to relevant illustrations, provisions for rectified photographic recording were made.

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Site name: St Johns Alkington  
 Date: June 2019  
 Drawn by: AL  
 Scale: 1:115 @ A4

- St Johns Church
- Site Boundary
- Underpinning areas
- New Storm Drains



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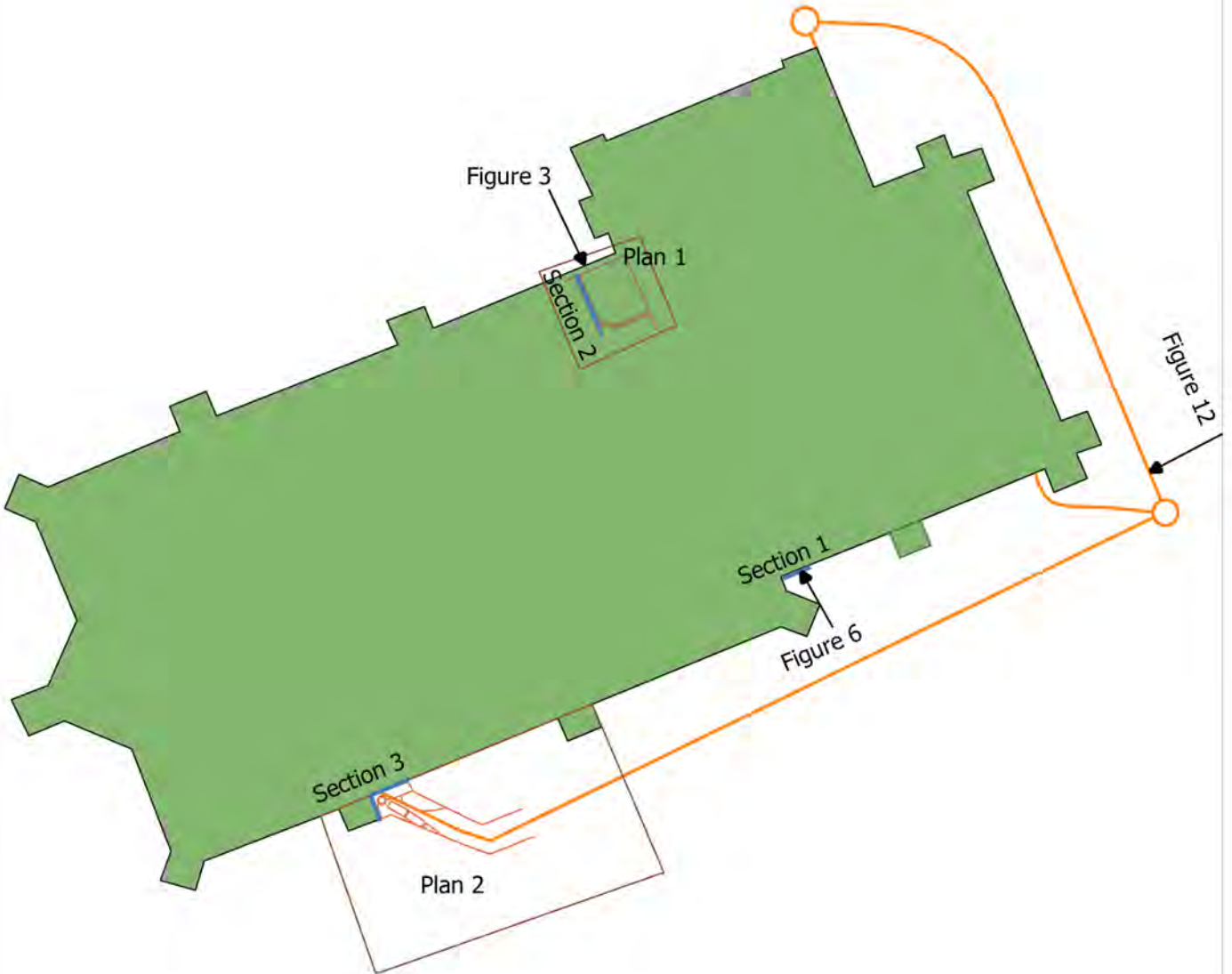
**Figure 2:**  
**Location of works**

418725

338550

338550

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Site name: St Johns Alkington  
 Date: June 2019  
 Drawn by: AL  
 Scale: 1:115 @ A4

### St Johns Church

— New Storm Drains

□ Site Boundary

— Sections



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**Figure 3:**  
**Location of figures and sections**

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Introduction

### 4.2 North underpinning trench

4.2.1 The underpinning trench in the north part of the Church was located in the north-east part of the nave (Figure 2). The trench runs beneath the existing foundations and it is linked to the underpinning trench located inside the church (north-east corner of the nave) (Figure 10).



**Figure 4 Brick foundation (006) and concrete underpinning (005) of north wall of nave**

4.2.2 The foundation substructure of the outer north wall of the nave consists of three distinct construction layers (Figure 4). The first comprises a thick block of plain concrete (005) measuring 800mm deep and 5m thick, overlaid by five courses of handmade orangey bricks (006) laid on bed facing north, bonded with a whitish grey mortar. The brick work forms an English Bond and is overlain by two courses of finely dressed limestone (007) forming an ashlar bond with carefully chamfered dressed masonry. For measurements see Appendix 1.

4.2.3 The north church churchyard, as shown in Figure 5, comprises a sequence deposits above the subsoil. The natural clay geology (004) is overlaid by a yellowish brown stony sandy silt layer, identified as subsoil (003). On top of that a mixed layer (002) (composed of

loose spread of material including cobbles and bricks mixed with redeposited topsoil was encountered. The last layer is represented by an asphalt layer flooring (001).

4.2.4 At the east site of the underpinning (close to the boiler wall) a ceramic drain (009) was detected running north-east away from the church wall. The trench was cut through made ground (002), backfilled with redeposited topsoil (010) and overlaid by asphalt layer (001).



Figure 5 South facing section of trench [011] and drain [008]

### **4.3 East Underpinning trench / East wall**

4.3.1 The east underpinning trench was located by the east wall of the chancel (Figure 2). The trench had already been excavated and refilled with concrete by the time ARS archaeologist arrived on site. A photographic record collected by the construction team revealed that the foundation comprises concrete overlain by four courses of stepped brickwork in a stretcher bond underneath three courses of chamfered limestone ashlar blocks.

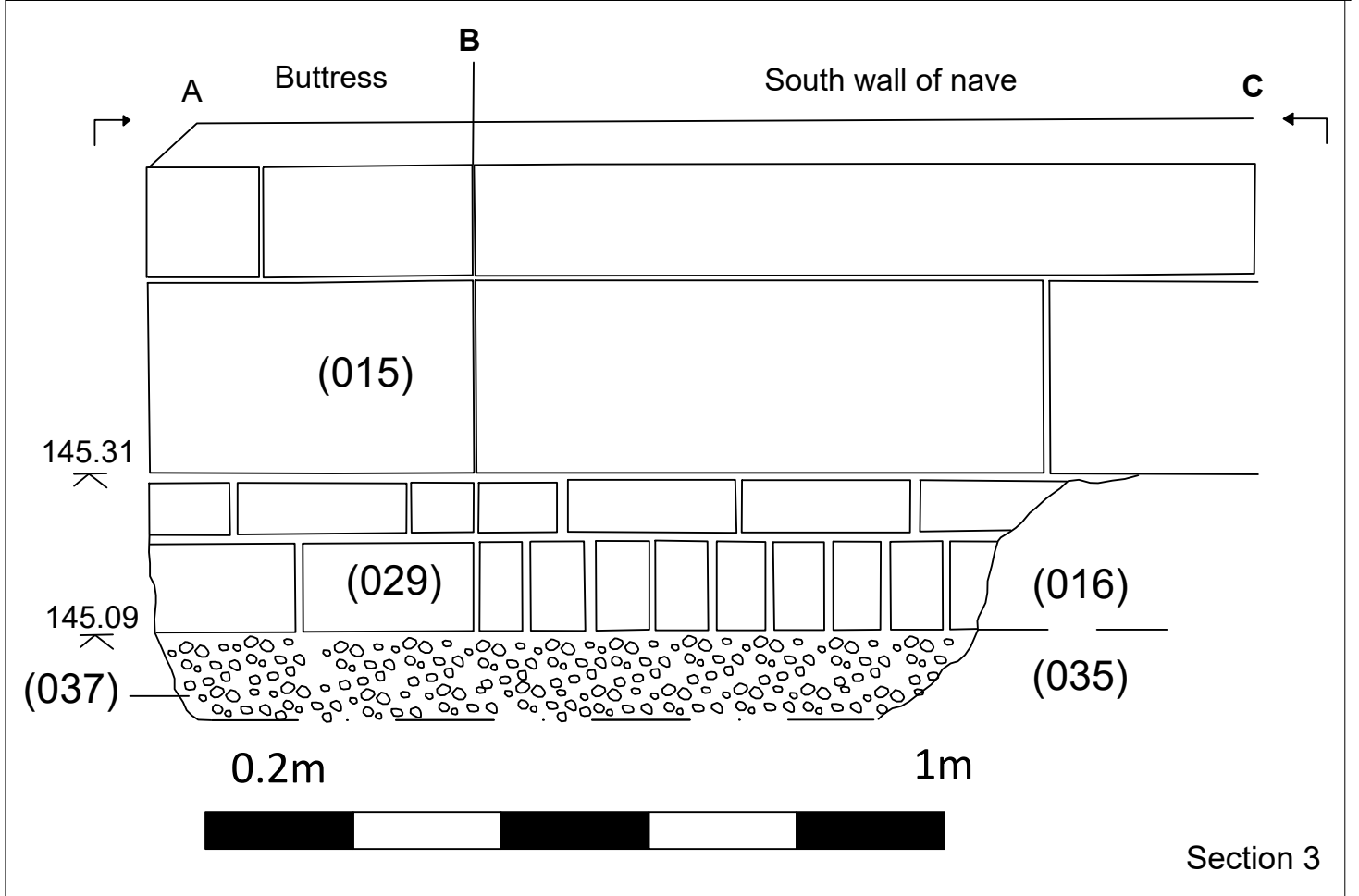
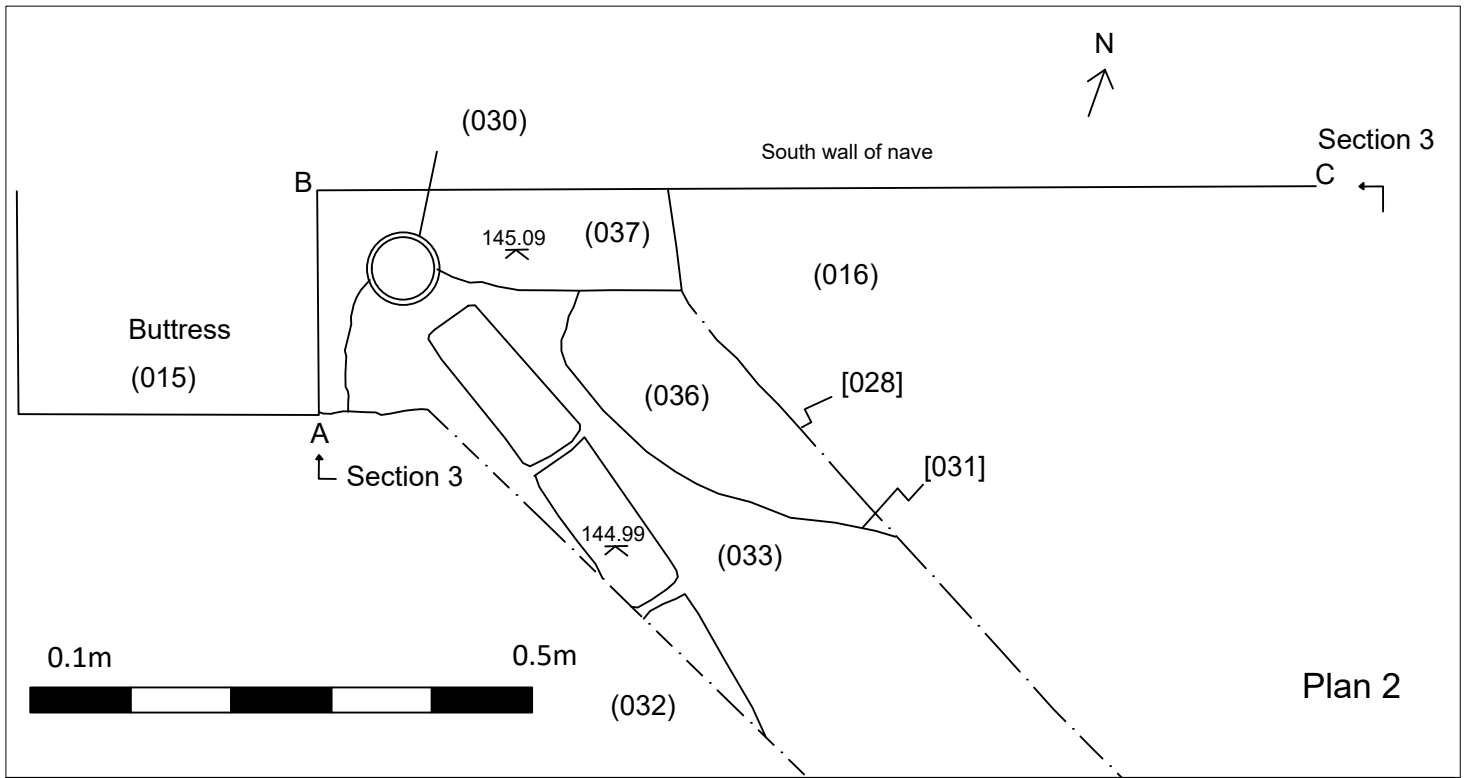
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**Figure 6 Stepped brickwork and concrete underpinning foundation underneath the east wall © Paul Mendham Stonemasons Ltd**



**Figure 7 South wall brick foundation**



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Figure 8:  
 Plan 1 - Section 3

Key: Pebbles (aggregate)  
 Section

Site Code: YTDS18  
 Drawing Ref: 2 and 3  
 Date: 22/03/2019  
 Drawn: Alexis Thouki  
 Scale: 1:20 Plan 1:10 Section

Notes: The two drawings represent the section and plan of the buttress immediately east to the church porch

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4.3.2 Unlike the four courses stepped brickwork identified on the east wall of the chancel, the south wall comprises a seven-course foundation of hand-made bricks laid on bed facing south (014). The brickwork is bonded with a light grey mortar forming an English Bond and is superimposed by two courses of finely finished ashlar limestone blocks (015) (Figure 7 and section 1 in Figure 14).

4.3.3 Immediately to the right of the church porch (south wall of nave), a concrete layer (037) overlaid by two courses of bricks (029) was revealed during the laying of the new storm drain (Figure 9 and Figure 8 plan 2). The lower course forms a header bond with bricks laid on edge while the upper forms a stretcher bond (Section 3 in Figure 8).



**Figure 9 Brick foundation (029) concrete underpinning (037) and water pipes (030) – (032)**



#### **4.4 Underpinnings inside church**

4.4.1 A small trench was excavated in the north-east corner of the nave (inside the church), in the area reserved for the pulpit (Plan 1 in Figure 8). The trench comprises a roughly rectangular shape measuring 1m x 900 mm and is linked to the underpinnings trench underneath the outer north wall of the nave.

4.4.2 The east facing section of the underpinnings revealed floors in two different levels. The lower floor {023}, comprising alternate blue and red rectangular floor tiles, was situated on top of a thick layer of concrete {022}. The higher-level floor {025} consisted of red rectangular tiles forming a simple straight lay pattern (Figure 10). Both floor levels were placed on thin (20mm) foundations, (026) and (024), consisting of concrete compound.

4.4.3 The north facing section revealed a heating system housed within a brick sited channel [020] covered with a metal grate (Figure 10 and plan 1 in Figure 14). The channel comprises three courses of bricks laid in stretcher bond and runs along the north-south axis of the church between the nave and the chancel. The heating system cuts through the primary floor of the nave (026) and it is overlaid by a thick concrete block forming the floor of the chancel.



**Figure 10 Floors {023} and {025}**

*Archaeological Works at  
St. John's Church, Alkington, Derbyshire*



**Figure 11 Heating duct [020] system overlaid by the concrete floor of the chancel**

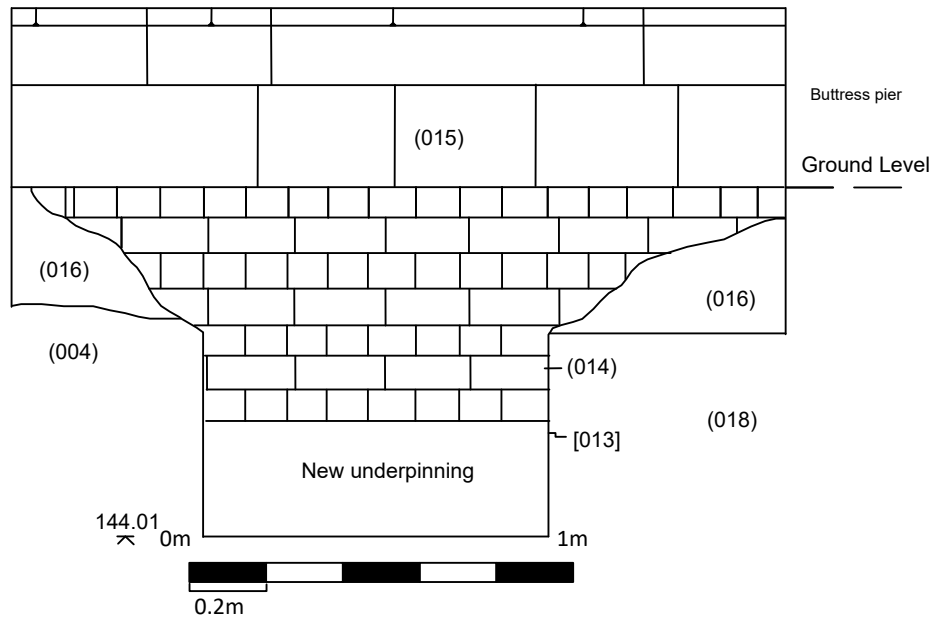


**Figure 12 Trench for new storm drain, looking east**



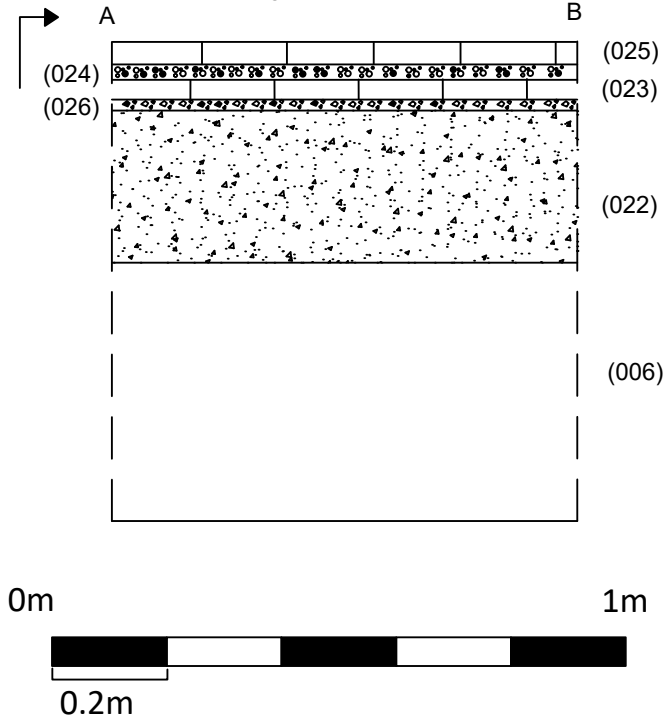
**Figure 13 Soil sequence in the east part of the churchyard**

South facing foundation wall (chancel)



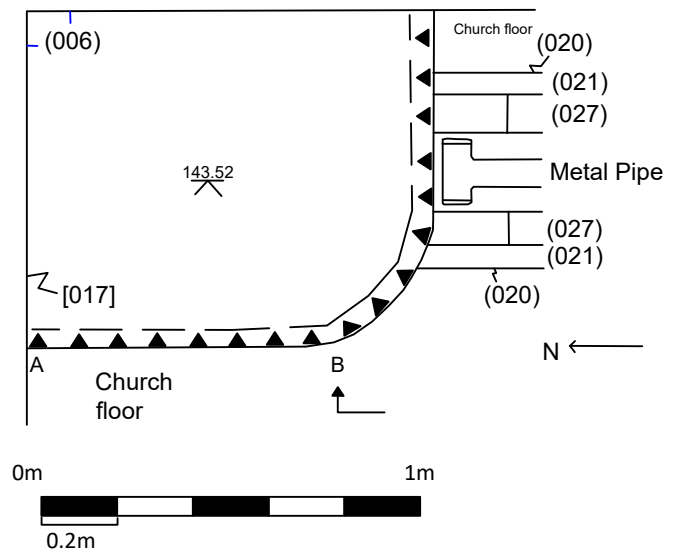
Section 1

East Facing Section of trench [017]



Section 2

Trench inside the church [017]



Plan 1

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Figure 14  
 Sections 1 and 2 Plan 1

Key: The details in Section 2 refer to the composition of the floor beddings

Site Code: YTDS18  
 Drawing Ref: Section1-2 + Plan 1  
 Date: 22/03/2019  
 Drawn: Alexis Thouki  
 Scale: 1:10 Section and Plan

Notes: The section 2 and Plan 1 refer to the trench [017] excavated inside the nave of the church

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## 4.5 Drainage

4.5.1 The trench for the new storm drain starts directly to the east of the church porch and it runs approximately 1 meter off the church wall along the south and east side (Figure 2). The excavation revealed multiple phases of drainage.

4.5.2 Two drain pipes were revealed between the buttress (east of porch) and the south nave wall (Figure 8 and Plan 2 in Figure 7). The first (030) (earliest) is represented by a yellow ceramic pipe. Although the cut for the pipe trench [038] was not visible at the depth of the development, it appears that it must have truncated the concrete foundation (037), and backfilled with redeposited subsoil (036). The second pipe (032) is represented by a red ceramic pipe and it is a later replacement. The pipe trench [031] appears to follow a south-east alignment, away from the walls of the church.

4.5.3 A third drain (034) was identified in the new trench on an east to west alignment. This poorly preserved drain was observed for a distance of 1.5m.



Figure 15 Drain (034) visible in the trench for the new storm drain, looking east

## 5 Discussion and Interpretation

5.1 The monitoring revealed substantial structural strengthening works of the original brick foundations as well as refurbishment works in the interior of the church.

5.2 The concrete underpinnings found beneath the foundations appears to be later additions, representing an attempt to enhance either the stability of the walls (necessary, presumably, because of ground subsidence) or their capacity to resist loading or both. The concrete underpinnings under the nave can be securely classified as a later addition, as Portland cement concrete was first used in Britain in the 1850s, postdating the initial construction of the church by a few years.

5.3 The original foundation of the Church consists of two different types of masonry. The lowest consists of various brick bond patterns while the upper fairly consistently consists of two courses of ashlar limestone blocks, with the exception of east wall of the chancel comprising three courses. The foundation brickworks around the church consists of two distinct types of brick bond, English Bond (up to seven courses deep) located beneath the southern walls of the church and a simpler bond {029} two courses deep comprising one row of stretchers and one of headers (Figure 8).

5.4 Brick foundation {029} represents an unusual bond for a load bearing wall. The 'on edge' construction opposed to the conventional 'on bed', identified on the north wall was possibly considered as a more appropriate construction technique for levelling the church due to the natural inclination of the land to the east.

5.5 Two floors, {023} and {025} were encountered inside the church nave, indicating refurbishment works. The new floor shares stylistic similarities with the old (shape and the size of tiles). The new surface has a dissimilar design, consisting of squared red tiles, as opposed to the previous design of alternate dark blue and red tiles. (Figure 9).

5.6 Heating duct [020], running across the north-south axis of the church (between the nave and the chancel), post-dates the initial construction of the church since it is a later insertion (Figure 10). The system is sealed by the concrete floor of the chancel, which overlays the metal grate of the duct, suggesting that at a later stage the heating system was deactivated or decommissioned.

5.7 Drain pipes (030) and (032) represent two distinct phases of development works on the outer fabric of the church following disuse and replacement of damaged/clogged drains (Figure 8). Additionally, pipe (009) on the north site appears to be contemporary with the construction of the asphalt pathway (001). Lastly, could represent either another buried drain (sparking out of the south wall) or a land drain predating the construction of the church.

5.8 The chancel, being a later addition, is structurally different to the nave in several respects. The concrete floor of the nave overlaying the heating system, the stepped brickwork foundation of the east wall, and the three limestone ashlar courses on top are all in contrast to the construction methods used for the nave.

## **6 Archive Statement**

6.1 As the project has not produced any archaeologically significant artefacts, a primary archive will not be deposited with the repository museum, which in this case is the Derby Museum and Art Gallery. This is in line with the Museums of Derbyshire (2003) Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives and its 2014 addendum.

6.2 The digital archive comprises a PDF version of all primary site records from this project, including documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data and an accompanying metadata statement. The digital archive will be prepared in line with current best practice outlined in *Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice* (ADS/Digital Antiquity 2011).

## **7 Publicity, Confidentiality, and Copyright**

7.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

## **8 Statement of Indemnity**

8.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

## **9 Acknowledgements**

9.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank everyone who contributed to the outcome of this project. In particular we would like to thank Paul Mendham Stonemasons Ltd for commissioning the work and facilitating photographic material of the groundworks.

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## **Appendix I: Context Register**



**Archaeological Works at Hey Farm, Wardlow, Derbyshire**

Context No.	Type/interpretation	Description/ Processual Interpretation	Height aOD (to top of context) (m)	Max depth (m) BGL
001	Deposit/Layer	<b>Asphalt Pathway</b>	145.38	4mm
002	Deposit/Layer	Mixed layer comprising friable mid-greyish brown clayey silt with darker patches of silty clay. The layer presents high concentration of rubble material (pebbles, rocks and brick fragments) at its lower part. The layer covers the north churchyard/ <b>Made ground</b>	145.34	28mm
003	Deposit/Layer	Firm, mid yellowish-brown sandy silt with occasional, sub-angular fleck/ <b>Disturbed subsoil</b>	145.02	26mm
004	Deposit/Geological natural	Firm, mid yellowish-brown silty clay free of inclusions/ <b>The geological past</b>	144.45	-
005	Deposit/Concrete	Unreinforced plain ordinary concrete laid below the original brick foundation. The constituents comprise cement, sand and aggregates. The concrete was poured beneath the original foundation forming a solid thick block between the north buttresses. The concrete block was offset at right angle 300mm from the brick foundation. It measures 800mm deep and 5m length/ <b>Concrete underpinning</b>	144.91	400m
006	Structure/Brick foundation	Red brick wall, 5 courses thick laid on bed facing north. The arrangement of bricks is classified as English Bond. This is a pattern formed by laying alternate courses of stretches and headers. The joints between the stretches are centred on the headers in the course below. The bricks measure 22mm x 11mm x 0.09. Both the bend and the perpend joints are neatly pointed measuring 10mm/ <b>Original brick foundation</b>	145.33	800mm
007	Structure/ Wall	These two ashlar-shaped courses of limestone form the basis of the north wall of the church. They comprise finely dressed rectangular blocks, offset from the wall above, laid on bed forming thin joints between them. The blocks are placed so that the vertical joints are centred on the middle of the course below. The blocks on the low course measure 680mm length and 270mm height while in the upper course measure 700mm length and 200mm height. The upper part of the upper course is curved at 45 degrees adding an aesthetic	145.79	460mm

**Archaeological Works at Hey Farm, Wardlow, Derbyshire**

		finishing to the masonry/ <b>Church wall</b>		
008	Cut/Drain	Linear steep sited trench, north-south aligned, measuring 400mm wide and 280mm deep/ <b>Rainwater drainage system</b>	145.34	280mm
009	Clay drainage pipe	Reddish brown ceramic pipe. <b>Pipe / Buried drain</b>	145.23	-
010	Deposit/Fill	Friable fill of dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate frequency of small and medium pebbles. The fill measures 400mm wide and 280mm deep/ <b>Backfill of drain [008]</b>	145.34	280mm
011	Trench	North site underpinning trench measuring 6.40m length, <750mm width and 1.9m depth. The trench was excavated between the buttresses of the north wall and is connected beneath the north wall of the church with the trench 017/ <b>Underpinning s</b>	145.38	1.9m
012	Trench	East underpinning trench. The trench runs along the exterior face of the chancel and the apse of the church. It was already backfilled when ARS archaeologist was arrived on site/ <b>Underpinnings</b>	145.10	560mm
013	Trench	South underpinning trench. The trench measures 870mm wide, 900mm depth and 900mm length. The trench runs beneath the brick foundation of the church and forms the continuation of the trench 012/ <b>Underpinning s</b>	145.29	900mm
014	Structure/Brick foundation	7 courses deep foundation. The bricks are laid on bed facing south forming an English bond. See 006/ <b>Original brick foundation</b>	145.31	610mm
015	Structure/Wall	Two ashlar-shaped courses of limestone forming the basis of the south wall of the church. The plinths had been laid randomly as stretchers and headers. See 007/ <b>Church wall</b>	145.78	470mm
016	Deposit/Layer	Fine, friable dark grey silty clay with occasional small inclusions. This layer forms the topsoil of the south churchyard and it has been disturbed by activities in the nearby graveyard. <b>Topsoil</b>	145.29	210mm
017	Trench	Underpinning inside the church measuring 1m by 900mm. This trench is located on the north east corner of the nave and it is connected, beneath the north wall of the church, with the trench 011/ <b>Underpinnings</b>	Nave Floor	1.5m

**Archaeological Works at Hey Farm, Wardlow, Derbyshire**

018	Deposit/New concrete	This context represents the new concrete which was poured in the trench 012/ <b>New concrete</b>	144.91	-
019	Void			
020	Cut/Drain	Vertically sited trench between the nave and the chancel. It runs along the width of the church between the nave and the chancel. It measures 520mm wide and 420mm deep. <b>Chanel/Heating system</b>	Nave floor	420mm
021	Deposit/Fill	Friable light orangish brown silty sand. It measures 6mm wide and 420mm deep./ <b>Backfill of drain cut 020</b>	Nave floor	420mm
022	Deposit/Layer	Layer of concrete beneath the original flooring of the church, measuring 26mm depth and bounded by the brick foundations of the outer wall (006)/ <b>Solid floor base</b>	-	260mm
023	Floor tiles	Primary tile floor inside the church, comprising alternate dark blue and red tiles measuring 145mm wide and 43mm thick/ <b>Tile flooring</b>	-	33mm
024	Deposit/Layer	Compact greyish white concrete compound <b>Layer / floor bedding</b>	-	25mm
025	Floor tiles	New tile floor inside the church, comprising square red tiles measuring 15.5 x 15.5.	Nave floor	43mm
026	Deposit/Layer	Compact creamy white concrete compound. <b>Layer / floor bedding</b>	-	20mm
027	Structure/Wall	Red brick wall three courses height forming a stretcher bond/ <b>Heating channel</b>	Nave floor	210mm
028	Cut/Trench	The trench starts immediately to the east of the church porch (between the buttresses and the south nave wall) and runs across the south and east walls of the nave and the chancel respectively. The trench is located approximately 1 meter off the south wall and 600mm off	145.29	1.17

**Archaeological Works at Hey Farm, Wardlow, Derbyshire**

		the north-east buttresses of the chancel/ <b>New drainage trench.</b>		
029	Structure/Brick foundation	Two courses deep foundation. The lower course (nave wall) comprises a header bond with bricks laid on edge while the upper forms a stretcher bond with bricks laid on bed. The mortar is weathered from the joints. / <b>Original brick foundation</b>	145.31	220mm
030	Pipe	Primary drain pipe inserted through the concrete underpinning (037). It presents a creamy yellowish colour. <b>Pipe/ Buried water drain</b>	145.02	-
031	Cut/Drainage	The cut presents a north-west-north – south-east-south orientation and it extends beyond the new trench [028]. The feature was spotted on plan, although it appears to present steep sites. The cut postdate the primary pipe (030). <b>Trench / Drainage for pipe (032).</b>		
032	Pipe	Secondary drain pipe. It presents a mid-reddish brown colour. <b>Pipe / Buried water drain</b>	144.99	-
033	Deposit/Fill	Fine, firm in texture black clay silt with frequent brick and stone fragments, charcoal and pebbles. <b>Fill / Redeposited topsoil</b>	145.17	-
034	Pipe/Drain	Light reddish brown in colour drain running approximately 1 meter off the south wall of the nave. The pipe is distinctively different from the pipes (030) and (032). <b>It could represent another buried water drain or a land drain.</b>	144.65	-
035	Layer/Subsoil	The fill is generally undisturbed, although few elements of degraded bones have been spotted. The soils is concentrated on the south and east churchard of the church, currently occupied by the cemetery. Mid yellowish brown soil medium in texture sterile of inclusions. <b>Layer / Subsoil</b>	142.17	300
036	Deposit/Fill	Yellowish bright brown silty clay free of inclusions. The fill was truncated by the cut [031]. <b>Fill of [038].</b>	145.22	5mm

*Archaeological Works at Hey Farm, Wardlow, Derbyshire*

037	Layer/Underpinning	Concrete underpinning rich in aggregates (pebbles) laid beneath the foundation of the church (later addition). The concrete block was offset at right angle 400mm from the brick foundation <b>Concrete underpinning</b>	145.09	200mm+
038	Cut/Drainage	Not visible on plan. The cut is buried beneath the later pipe (032). The cut appears to have truncated the concrete underpinning (037).	145.11	-

## **Appendix II: Written Scheme of Investigation**

# **An Archaeological Watching Brief at St. John's Church, Alkmonton, Derbyshire**

## **Written Scheme of Investigation**

October 2018



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[www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com](http://www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com)

Prepared on behalf of: Paul Mendham Stonemasons  
Ltd

Date of compilation: October 2018

Compiled by: Ben Dyson ACIfA

Local Authority: Derbyshire Dales District  
Council

Site central NGR: SK 18720 38550

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project and Planning Background**

1.1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Paul Mendham Stonemasons Ltd. It details a scheme of works for archaeological supervision and monitoring in the form of an Archaeological Watching Brief during the underpinning of church walls around the chancel and the excavation of trenches for the insertion of a new drainage system.

1.1.2 St. John's Church, Alkmonon, is a grade II listed building dating from 1843 - although the chancel is c.10 years later - which has suffered from structural movement, particularly to the chancel, related to the impact of an ancient beech tree and defective drainage. Following a number of investigations, including trial holes to reveal the extent of the foundations carried out between 2011-14, the Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to support the conservation and repair works which include underpinning of the shallow foundations around the chancel and works to install new external drainage.

1.1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken as a requirement of the Heritage Lottery Fund's involvement in the development as advised by Historic England and as a requirement of the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor. The scheme of works is based around recommendations made in a structural assessment report of the church and a supplementary trial hole and soils report conducted in 2013 (Chris Pike Associates 2013). The watching brief will largely focus on the underpinning of the chancel walls on the eastern side of the main church building as well as during the excavation of any trenches associated with the new drainage system.

1.1.4 The archaeological works will be carried out in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* paragraph 199 (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2018, 56) to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.

1.1.5 This WSI was prepared in accordance with the guidance provided by the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.

1.1.6 The following WSI describes the objectives and the methods to be employed during the watching brief and has been approved, in final issue form, by the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Site Location and Geology**

2.1.1 The 'red line boundary' of the site is outlined in Figure 1 and encompasses the buildings and surrounding grounds of the church. The site comprises a level rectangular plot of land off the south side of Long Lane in the centre of the village,





immediately east of the grade II listed School House on the corner of Long Lane and Leapley Lane. The perimeter of the site is heavily populated with trees. A court of garages is located to the south whilst to the south-east beyond the graveyard there is a large open field. The site is centred at NGR SK 18720, 38550 (Figure 1). The main areas to be monitored by the archaeological watching brief are shown in Figure 2.

2.1.2 The underlying solid geology of the site comprises Mercia Mudstone Group - Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by hot deserts. This is overlain by Till, Mid Pleistocene – Diamicton, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions (BGS 2018).

## **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

2.2.1 The church of St. John at Alkmonton was built in 1843 and, unusually for Derbyshire, is built in the Early English style of flint-pebble. The village of Alkmonton grew up between the deserted medieval villages of Hungry Bentley and Alkmonton (Diocese of Derby 2012).

2.2.2 The Historic England listing for the church provides further details, including that internally there is a rare, high quality, painted scheme; plaster ceilings are painted in imitation of timber, the chancel arch, window and door surrounds are painted in imitation of ashlar. The building has a long history of structural movement and a Heritage Lottery Fund grant was awarded for extensive development work in 2011. Structural monitoring, drainage surveys, paint and tree assessments were completed. A Heritage Lottery Fund Grant for Places of Worship was awarded in 2015 to develop a repair scheme (Historic England 2018).

## **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **3.1 Watching Brief Aims and Objectives**

3.1.1 The principal aim of archaeological works is to recover and record any potential archaeological remains associated with the use of the church and its grounds. Any remains will be recorded and analysed during the course of development as part of an archaeological watching brief.

3.1.2 The following objectives will contribute towards accomplishing this aim:

- ◆ To record the character and date of any surviving archaeological remains associated with the church, burials and memorials on the site.
- ◆ To record the nature, extent and date of any surviving archaeological remains associated with past secular activities on the site.

## **4 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY**

4.1 An archaeological watching brief will be maintained during any ground disturbance and/or ground works associated with the underpinning of the chancel walls and the excavation of trenches for the new drainage system. The structural



assessment report recommends that underpinning is carried out to a uniform depth of 1.1m below existing ground level (Chris Pike Associates 2013) though actual depth may vary dependent upon the depth of existing foundations. Drainage trenches will be excavated to a maximum width of 0.6m and a depth determined by plans designed and maintained by the client.

4.2 All relevant ground works will be undertaken by hand or using a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Archaeological monitoring will not entail excavation beyond the total areas exposed by the proposed works (Figure 2). Arrangement will be made to avoid any tracking of machinery across recently excavated areas until the areas have been checked and cleared by a representative of ARS Ltd. If significant archaeological features are identified, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor will be notified and a decision taken as to the best method of proceeding.

4.3 ARS Ltd will provide a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times during any ground works on the site to undertake a watching brief. The on-site archaeologist will be given the opportunity to stop site work in order to investigate potential archaeological features and adequate time will be allowed for recording any such features.

4.4 A written, drawn and photographic record will be maintained during the watching brief plus all significant archaeological remains will be recorded and/or retrieved. All excavations will be recorded in accordance with normal principles of archaeological excavation upon pro forma context sheets. All significant architectural features will be photographed (with scale) in situ and their location recorded on a plan of the site.

4.5 Where archaeological features and/or deposits are identified during the watching brief, then a sufficient quantity of the said features will be investigated by hand to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascribed. All features thus investigated will be recorded in plan and section and significant archaeological finds recovered will be retained for analysis. Any archaeological features identified will be photographed and drawn in plan and section at appropriate scales. The stratigraphy, where relevant and apparent, will be recorded. The records will follow standard conventions set by the Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS) (2002).

4.6 For brick structures, the record will include details of brick dimensions and type (handmade/machine-made, plain/frogged), mortar (colour, composition, hardness) and the extent of structures (number of courses, thickness in skins).

4.7 A plan of the excavated areas will be maintained, features noted and section lines recorded. All drawings will be carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts will be recorded using a single context recording system. The site archive will include plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a scale photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets or their electronic equivalent. Should archaeological features be present then the locations and height



AOD of the features will be accurately fixed, surveying in either the planning baselines or the features themselves.

4.8 Any articulated human remains encountered must initially be left in situ. If removal is necessary, the human remains will be removed in line with Historic England's Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports (2004) and Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England (2005) and will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice and Diocesan regulations and in discussion with the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor.

4.9 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the HM Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Diocesan Archaeological Advisor will also be notified and, if necessary, a site meeting arranged to determine if further investigation in the vicinity of the findspot is required.

4.10 ARS Ltd will ensure that heavy plant or machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded. Contractors and plant operators will be notified that any observations of archaeological remains must be reported immediately to the archaeologist on site.

4.11 A risk assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations will be adhered to at all times.

4.12 Should archaeological remains be encountered for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard, then work on site shall cease and the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor shall be notified immediately. Site works will not recommence until resources are in place to secure preservation in situ or adequate archaeological treatment of the relevant remains.

## **5 RECORDING**

5.1 The site will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd's field recording manual and single context recording system, and will include as a minimum context record sheets, an accurate site plan and record photography where no archaeological features are present.

5.2 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn where required at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as appropriate. In addition to relevant illustrations, provision for rectified photographic recording shall be made, if deemed necessary.

5.3 The stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

5.4 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with above ordnance datum (AOD) levels.



5.5 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken using a digital camera (7 megapixel or greater), and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. A selection of working shots will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation.

## **6 FINDS PROCESSING AND STORAGE**

6.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA (2014c) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

6.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.

6.3 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

6.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated. Collection and policies for structural remains and industrial residues have been set out by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993).

6.5 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

6.6 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the recipient museum prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.

6.7 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum, in this case the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester.

## **7 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

7.1 At least one week prior notice of the commencement of the ground works will be given to the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor:

Steve Baker  
Derbyshire County Council



Shand House  
Dale Road South  
Matlock  
Derbyshire  
DE4 3RY  
Tel: 01629 539773.

7.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

7.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, or his representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation.

## **8 STANDARDS, PROJECT MANAGEMENT, STAFFING AND TIMETABLE**

8.1 ARS Ltd is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Registered Organisations are continuously assessed to ensure that the highest standards of work are carried out, in line with the Code of Conduct of the CIfA (2014a). In addition to our key management staff, who have achieved the highest grade of corporate CIfA membership, many of our field staff also hold corporate grade membership.

8.2 All elements of the archaeological fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and will follow the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014b). All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified and experienced for their respective project roles and have practical experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and will be fully briefed on the work required by this specification. Each member of staff will be fully conversant with the aims and methodologies of the evaluation and will be given a copy of this WSI to read. All members of staff employed by ARS Ltd are fully qualified and experienced archaeologists, which will ensure that appropriate decisions will be made in the field.

8.3 The outline timetable for the works is late-October/early-November for the fieldwork and November for the report and archive production. This will be updated by email as the project progresses.

8.4 The Project Manager for the archaeological works will be Adam Lodoen, Projects Manager at ARS Ltd. The fieldwork Project Officer will be suitably qualified and supplied by ARS Ltd.

8.5 Specialist analyses will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed (subject to availability):

◆ Flint and prehistoric pottery:

Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA



◆ Romano-British pottery:	Dr Phil Mills MCIfA
◆ Samian Ware:	Dr Gwladys Monteil
◆ Romano-British small finds	Alex Croom
◆ Medieval and post-medieval pottery:	Dr Chris Cumberpatch or Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA Mike Wood MCIfA or
◆ Post-medieval glass, clay pipes and metalwork:	Gary Taylor MCIfA
◆ Plant macrofossils, charcoals, pollen and soils:	Luke Parker
◆ Human and animal bone:	Milena Grzybowska ACIfA
◆ Radiocarbon dating:	Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)
◆ Finds conservation:	Vicky Garlick (Durham University)

## **9 REPORT**

9.1 Following completion of the watching brief, Archaeological Research Services Ltd will produce a report which will include:

- ◆ Non-technical summary
- ◆ Introductory statement
- ◆ Aims and purpose of the project
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ A location plan showing all excavated areas and any archaeological features with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- ◆ Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections
- ◆ An objective summary statement of results
- ◆ Conclusions
- ◆ Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices
- ◆ Index to archive and details of archive location
- ◆ References



- ◆ Statement of intent regarding publication
- ◆ Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
- ◆ A copy of the OASIS form

9.2 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report should be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (see 10.5 below).

## **10 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

10.1 Should the project produce no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with the repository museum, which in this case is the Derby Museum and Art Gallery. This is in line with the Museums of Derbyshire (2003) *Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives* and its 2014 addendum.

10.2 If the project produces archaeologically significant finds, then the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist and Museum Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity, and an accession number will be produced for the site. In addition, a digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by ARS Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed by the Derby Museum and Art Gallery). The archive will be deposited in line with the ClfA (2013d) *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* and Museums of Derbyshire (2016) *Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives* and will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report. The Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist and Museum Curator will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with projected dates for the completion of the report and deposition of the archive. The date for deposition of the archive will be confirmed in the report and the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.

10.3 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive.

10.4 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM.

10.5 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).



## **11 GENERAL ITEMS**

### **11.1 Health and Safety**

11.1.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all out workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork. ARS Ltd retains Peninsula as its expert health and safety consultants.

### **11.2 Insurance Cover**

11.2.1 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability (£10 million) public liability (£5 million), professional indemnity (£2 million) and all-risks cover.

### **11.3 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation**

11.3.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.

### **11.4 Publication**

11.4.1 If significant archaeological remains are recorded, a summary of the project with, if appropriate, selected drawings, illustrations and photographs will be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication. ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability public liability, professional indemnity

### **11.5 Publicity and Copyright**

11.5.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

## **12 REFERENCES**

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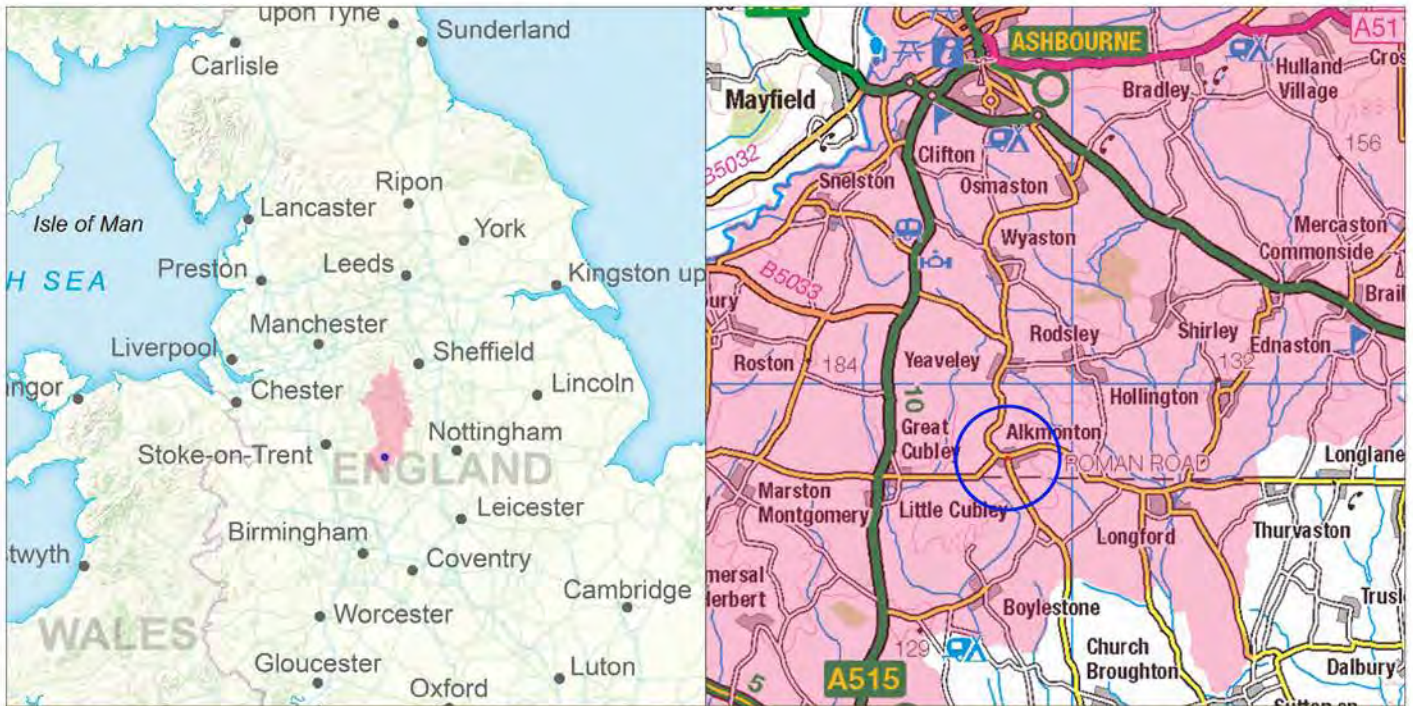


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**FIGURES**





Site name: St Johns, Alkington  
 Date: October 2018  
 Drawn by: MB  
 Scale: Varies

**Figure 1:**  
**Site location**

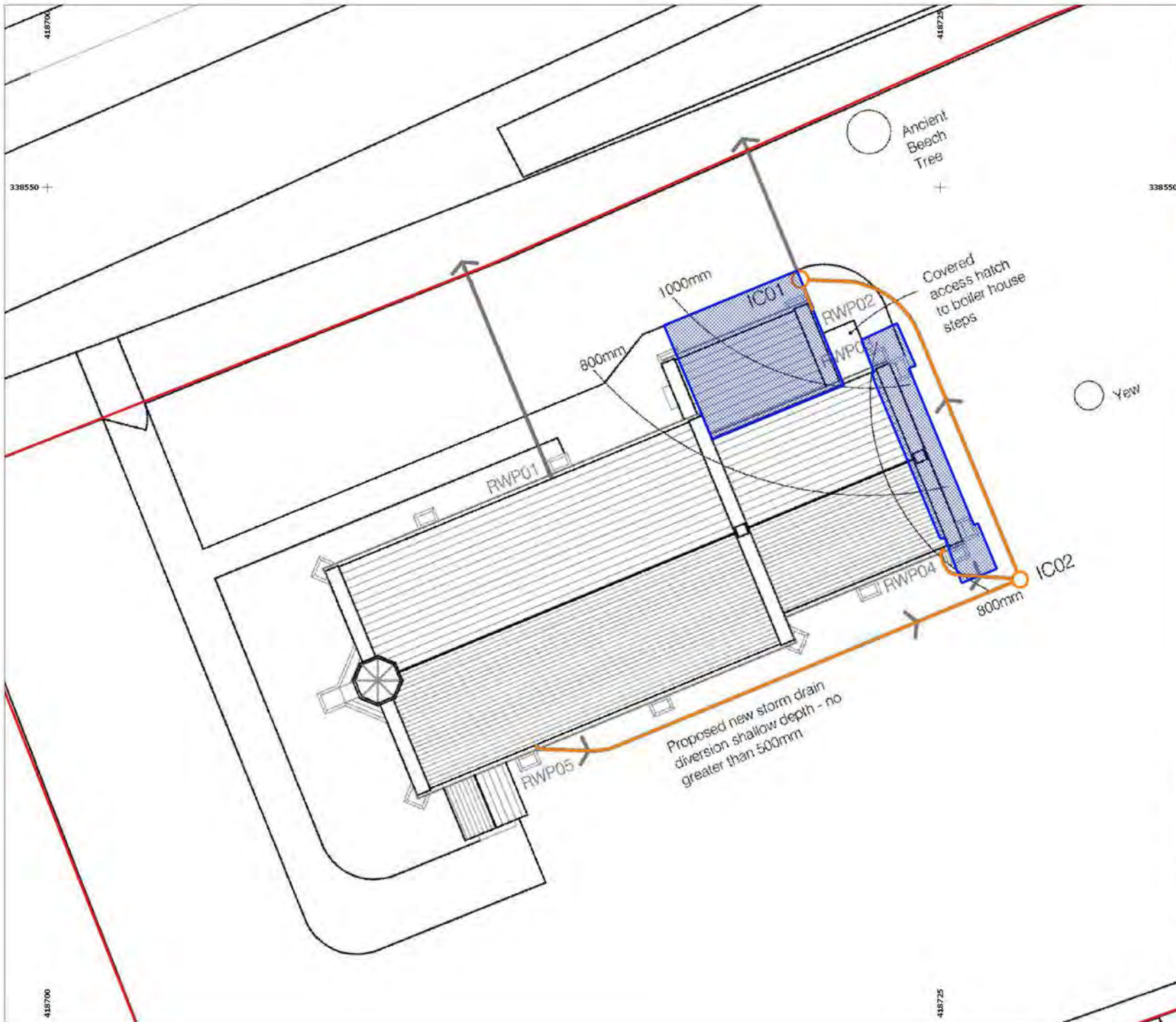


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- Site Boundary
- ▲ Grade II Listed Building
- Derbyshire Dales District Council



**Figure 2: Watching Brief Area**

- Site Boundary
- Proposed New Storm Drains
- Approximate areas of Underpinning

0 1 2 3 4 m



Site name: St Johns, Alkmonton  
 Date: October 2018  
 Drawn by: MB  
 Scale: 1:150 @ A4

This drawing © ARS Ltd  
 Overlaid on External Drainage  
 Plan from Walker cunnington  
 Architects

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## **Appendix III: Oasis Form**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) . | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: archaeol5-346570**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Works at St. John's Church, Alkmonton, Derbyshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr Paul Mendham Stonemasons Ltd to undertake a scheme of archaeological mitigation during development works on land at St. John's Church, Alkmonton, Derbyshire. The work was in part fulfilment of an archaeological condition attached to planning consent (NP/DDD/0915/0881) Archaeological supervision and monitoring in the form of an Archaeological Watching Brief was required during the underpinning of church walls around the chancel and the excavation of trenches for the insertion of a new drainage system. The monitoring was largely focused on the church foundation, contributing insights related construction techniques used at the time and subsequent structural interventions and maintenance works on the lower fabric of the church. In particular two floorings have been identified inside the nave of the church, a concrete underpinning laying beneath the brick foundations, which appears to be a later addition, and a sequence of buried clay water pipes on east side of the church porch. This report presents the results of the archaeological work which took place in two phases the first 7th of November 2018 and the second between 18th and 19th of March 2019. The work was undertaken by Alexis Thouki Assistant Projects Officers at Archaeological Research Services Ltd and the project was managed by Adam Lodoen, Manager at Archaeological Research Services Ltd.
Project dates	Start: 07-09-2018 End: 19-03-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	YTDS'18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	CHURCH Post Medieval
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE DERBYSHIRE DALES ALKMONTON Saint John's Church, Alkmonton

Postcode DE6 3DL  
Study area 0 Square metres  
Site coordinates SK 18720 38550 52.943697027615 -1.721391665604 52 56 37 N 001 43 17 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
Project brief originator Derbyshire County Council  
Project design originator Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
Project director/manager Adam Lodoen  
Project supervisor Alexis Thoukis  
Type of sponsor/funding body Heritage Lottery Fund

Entered by Alexis Thouki (alexis@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)  
Entered on 22 March 2019

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice  
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