



making sense of heritage

Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire

Archaeological Works Report



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September 2014



**Holy Trinity Church,
Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Works Report

Prepared for:

Chedburn Dudley
Limpley Mill
Limpley Stoke
Bath BA2 7FJ

On behalf of:

The Parochial Church Council
Holy Trinity Church
C/o 18A Woolley Street
Bradford on Avon BA15 1AF

Prepared by:

Wessex Archaeology
1 Friary
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EA

www.wessexarch.co.uk



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Chedburn Dudley, on behalf of the Holy Trinity Church Parochial Church Council, to carry out archaeological investigations in and around Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR)).

Eleven Test pits were excavated. Evidence of inhumation burials was uncovered in all but one of the Test pits, most of which are likely to date from the 18th or 19th century. One burial did however appear to have been truncated by the 14th-century church tower, which suggests that there are medieval or earlier burials on the site. Stone burial vaults of 19th-century date to the north of the church tower were revealed to have been cut through earlier graveyard deposits within the slope of the hillside. Test pits within the chancel of the church have shown that undocumented burial vaults are sealed beneath mid-19th-century concrete.



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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Chedburn Dudley for commissioning the work on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, of Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon. Thanks are also due to Steve Wallis, Diocesan Advisory Committee Archaeologist and Rachel Foster archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council, for their guidance.

The project was managed by Andy King. The fieldwork was carried out by Cai Mason, Lynn Hume, Lee Newton and Owen Watts. This report was written by Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy and Cai Mason; finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and the illustrations were prepared by Nancy Dixon and Linda Coleman.



Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire

Archaeological Works Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Chedburn Dudley Architects to undertake a programme of archaeological works on behalf of the Parochial Parish Council of Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1LN, (**Figure 1**), hereafter “the Site” (centred on NGR 382412 160878).
- 1.1.2 The works were divided into three distinct areas: **Area 1** to the west of the church; **Area 2** within the chancel at the east end of church; and **Area 3** occupying a large portion of the graveyard to the south of the church (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.3 The archaeological works were recommended by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to conform with best practice during Test pit investigations within the church and the churchyard. The Test pits are to provide information on ground and soil conditions, required by the Structural Engineers, M&E Consultants, engaged for forthcoming modernisation and flood prevention drainage works.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 Holy Trinity Church is located at the western end of Church Street, Bradford on Avon on the west bank of the River Avon. It is bounded to the north by Church Street and its own churchyard to the south, east and west (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The church lies at an elevation of around 51m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Ground surface climbs steeply from Church Street to the north, whilst to the south ground surface descends much shallower towards the north bank of the River Avon.
- 1.2.3 The superficial geology of the Site comprises Alluvium overlying a Bedrock Geology of Fullers Earth Mudstone of the Jurassic period (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A detailed description of the archaeological and historical background, the architectural /artistic significance and setting of Holy Trinity Church will be presented within a forthcoming Desk-based Assessment (DBA), for which the results of these works will form a part. A brief summary is outlined below.

2.2 Holy Trinity Church

- 2.2.1 Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon, together with the villages of Westwood and Wingfield form the benefice of South Bradford. Holy Trinity was built as the Parish Church for the whole town and remained so until 1856 when the parish of Christ Church was formed in the



north eastern part of the parish. Holy Trinity is still sometimes referred to as the 'mother Church' and now performs a civic role in the town.

2.2.2 Holy Trinity Church is a Grade I Listed building (EH List No. 312518). The main entrance to the churchyard from Church Street is from the east end; the main entrance to the church is via the south porch.

2.2.3 The church is constructed of limestone ashlar and coursed rubble. The chancel and nave are roofed with stone tiles, the north aisle roof is in copper and the south chapel and extension are in lead. The nave and chancel are of Norman origin with the chancel being extended circa 1300. The tower and north aisle were added or rebuilt during the 14th and 15th centuries. A major restoration of the church was undertaken during 1865-6 by J. Elkington Gill of Bath. The current configuration dates from a reordering of the chancel and south chapel by Alan Rome in 1975¹.

2.3 Other evidence

2.3.1 An Iron Age settlement known as Budbury is located on a hill above Holy Trinity. A Roman villa was later established on the site. During excavations at the villa in 2003 a 4th-century Baptistry was discovered. The villa formed the centre of a large Romano-British estate which seems to have been the basis for an area which then evolved into the Hundred of Bradford and the Parish of Holy Trinity with its 'Mother Church' and associated chapelries; namely Atworth, Broughton Gifford, Holt, Limpley Stoke, South Wraxall, Winsley and Westwood, all of which became independent parishes between the 13th and 19th centuries.

2.3.2 The Anglo-Saxon Church of St. Laurence, dating from the 8th-11th centuries, is situated on Church Street, opposite Holy Trinity Church.

2.3.3 Holy Trinity is traditionally believed to be founded on the site of an early 'Minster' although no trace of the original Minster church has been found. However, stonework used in the porch could indicate the presence of Anglo-Saxon remains in the vicinity.

2.4 Recent investigations in the area

2.4.1 A geophysical survey of the three areas was undertaken by Stratascan (2014) using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). The survey detected the presence of probable and possible graves within all the areas. Some of the graves in **Area 3** appear to be covered by burial ledgers. Voids under the paving slabs of what appear to be two large kerbed burial plots in **Area 1** were considered to be graves. Anomalies potentially associated with the construction of the raised floor were identified in **Area 2**.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 In accordance with English Heritage (EH 2005, EH 2012) and IfA (IfA 2008) guidance, the general aims of the programme of archaeological works are to:

- *clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site;*
- *provide information on the nature of sub-surface deposits and structures to inform the design of the proposed groundworks;*

¹ <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-312518-holy-trinity-church-bradford-on-avon->

- *identify, within the constraints of the archaeological work, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site;*
- *assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and*
- *produce a report which will present the results of the research and proposed investigation work in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning further mitigation.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

Introduction

- 3.2.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), as approved by the DAC Archaeologist, sets out the strategy and methodology by which the monitoring of test-pits within the church and churchyard. The WSI conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE: English Heritage 2008) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 3.2.2 This report provides information ultimately to be included in a forthcoming Desk-based Assessment (DBA) to inform any further determination by the DAC Archaeologist on the requirement for additional archaeological mitigation, if deemed necessary.

Fieldwork

- 3.2.3 The fieldwork comprised the hand excavation of three Test pits in the chancel of the church (**Area 2**), and eight Test pits in the churchyard (**Areas 1 and 3**). The locations of the Test pits were specified by Chedburn Dudley.
- 3.2.4 The Test pits in **Area 1** were designed to inspect the foundations of the churchyard boundary wall (**Test pit 1**) and tower (**Test pit 3**), investigate the nature of deposits below the drainage channel to the north and west of the north aisle (**Test pit 2**), and to determine if a probable kerbed burial plot (**Test pits 10 and 11**) is indeed a grave or burial vault.
- 3.2.5 The Test pits in **Area 2** (**Test pits 7–9**) were intended to investigate the structure and date of the present chancel floor, identify any underlying structures/deposits or floors below the present surface.
- 3.2.6 The Test pits in **Area 3** were all located in the churchyard (**Test pits 4–6**). The purpose of these investigations was to determine the presence/absence and depth of any graves in this area.
- 3.2.7 Floor coverings and/or turf were removed and stored separately. Hand excavation proceeded through underlying deposits to a depth of approximately 1m (a practical limit of hand-excavation) beyond which a hand auger was employed where appropriate to investigate the nature of deposits below.
- 3.2.8 Temporary screening was used during the excavation of the Test pits within the churchyard. Test pits were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate stratigraphic sequence in which they were excavated. The Test pit locations were left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 3.2.9 All recording used WA's standardised *pro forma* recording sheets and a recognised recording system. Details of Wessex Archaeology's recording system are available on request. A unique site code **105030** was allocated to the Site, and used on all records and artefacts. A complete drawn record of excavated and archaeological features and deposits, including plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), was compiled.
- 3.2.10 Disarticulated human remains and coffin furniture was noted and reburied within the Test pits. The location of grave markers and inscriptions was recorded. Articulated skeletal remains were hand-excavated, planned and photographed. All articulated remains were left *in-situ*.
- 3.2.11 A full photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

3.3 Monitoring

- 3.3.1 The work was monitored by the archaeological advisor for Wiltshire Council (WC).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The results of the archaeological work are discussed separately by area. Test pit summaries are presented in **Appendix 1**; full details are available in the site archive.

4.2 Area 1

- 4.2.1 **Test pits 1, 10 and 11** were all located on a raised terrace immediately to the west of the church, which is defined by the churchyard boundary wall to the north, a flight of stone steps to the west, and a stone retaining wall to the south and east, parts of which appear to be integral to two probable kerbed and paved burial plots / vaults (**Figure 2**). **Test pits 2 and 3** were adjacent to the north-west corner of the north aisle and next to a buttress of the church tower respectively.
- 4.2.2 The earliest deposit in **Test pit 1 (Figure 3)** was an undated soil layer (**103**) that contained articulated and disarticulated human bone. This deposit extended beneath the churchyard boundary wall (**101**), and was cut by two graves (**105** and **107**). Grave **105** was an earth-cut east-west aligned, confined, supine inhumation burial (**106**), the skull of which was uncovered at a depth of 0.3m below ground level. Remains of the coffin included a silvered tin *depositum* plate (also known as a ledger), which covered the jaw and neck of the skeleton. A simple oval-section coffin grip was located above the skull. The coffin furniture is indicative of an 18th or 19th-century date. The skeleton sloped steeply down towards the feet, which suggests that it may be the uppermost of a series of stacked burials. Grave **105** was backfilled with silty clay loam **104**, which was in turn overlain by a 0.15m thick layer of dark greyish-brown friable sandy loam topsoil (**102**).
- 4.2.3 Shaft grave **107** was lined with ashlar oolitic limestone blocks (**108**), which were capped with a 2m by 0.8m wide ledger slab. Structure **108** was abutted by wall **101**, which was built without foundations, directly on top of soil layer **103**.

- 4.2.4 **Test pit 2 (Figure 4)** was excavated to investigate ground conditions and the foundations of the retaining wall (**202**) adjacent to Church Street. Limestone bedrock (**208**) was uncovered 0.32m below ground level. The foundations of the wall (**205**) were constructed directly on top of bedrock, and comprised blocks of ashlar oolitic limestone. Foundations **205** were overlain by a deposit of compressed limestone fragments, which were in turn overlain by greyish-brown clay loam (**204**). The present ground surface comprises limestone slab and brick paving (**201**).
- 4.2.5 **Test pit 3 (Figure 5)** was excavated adjacent to the north-west buttress of the 14th-century church tower with the aim of examining its foundations. The earliest feature in Test pit 3 was grave **306**, which was partially uncovered 0.52m below ground level. The grave contained an articulated tibia and fibula, a possible femur, and was backfilled with greyish-brown clay. The grave was truncated by the foundations of the church tower (**303–5**), which comprise large blocks of oolitic limestone set founded of rubble. The foundations were covered with a backfilled deposit of compacted oolitic limestone rubble and pale brown clay (**305**) that contained disarticulated human bone. This deposit was sealed by post-medieval/modern paving.
- 4.2.6 **Test pits 10 (Figure 11) and 11 (Figure 12)** were dug to determine if a probable burial plot marker was located over a burial vault or grave(s). The probable burial plot marker (**1001**) comprised a 0.26m high kerb (formerly topped by iron railings) surrounding a paved area. The southern edge of this structure comprised an ashlar oolitic limestone wall that also defined the southern edge of the raised terrace. Stone-lined burial vaults (**1003** and **1103**) were uncovered in both Test pits, and it is likely that there is a third burial vault between **Test pit 10** and the southern edge of the terraced area. Both vaults were capped with large stone slabs, which were covered by a layer of brownish-grey sandy loam (**1002** and **1102**). Some of the capping slabs over burial vault **1103** had collapsed into the underlying grave. No retaining wall was present north of the vault. A skull was partially uncovered in the north side of **Test pit 11** at a depth of 0.5m below ground level. The skull was left *in-situ* and it was not possible to determine if it was articulated or not.
- 4.3 Area 2**
- 4.3.1 The investigations in this area comprised **Test pits 7, 8 and 9, (Figures 9 and 10)** all of which were excavated within the chancel, the aim of which was to examine the construction of the present floor surface and determine if there are any earlier floor levels beneath it. All of the present floor slabs were jointed with a Portland cement mortar.
- 4.3.2 The earliest deposit in **Test pit 8** was a concrete raft (**802**), which was overlain by a black mortar bed for the present floor surface (**801**).
- 4.3.3 Substantial voids were uncovered beneath the earliest deposits in **Test pits 7 and 9** (2m and 1.6m deep respectively); these indicate the presence of burial vaults beneath the floor in these locations. The top of the voids were uncovered at depths of 0.39m below ground level in **Test pit 7** and 0.5m in **Test pit 9**.
- 4.3.4 The earliest deposit in **Test pit 7** was a deposit of greyish-brown sandy loam (**703**) that contained demolition debris (stone and ceramic building material), disarticulated human bone, post-medieval/modern glass, ceramics and coffin furniture (not collected). This deposit was sealed by a black mortar bedding layer (**702**) for stone paving **701**.
- 4.3.5 The earliest structure in **Test pit 9** was the oolitic limestone roof of a burial vault (**907**). The vault was overlain by oolitic limestone floor surface **906**, which was in turn sealed by the bedding layers (**902, 904 and 905**) for the present floor (**901 and 903**).



4.4 Area 3

- 4.4.1 **Test pits 4, 5 and 6 (Figures 6–8)** were excavated in the southern churchyard to determine the presence/absence and depths of graves in these locations. Articulated human remains were uncovered in **Test pit 4** at a depth of 1.05m below ground level. The evidence suggests that there are also burials below **Test pits 5 and 6**, at depths in excess of 1m below the present ground surface.
- 4.4.2 Natural limestone bedrock was uncovered at a depth of 1.05m below ground level in **Test pit 4**. Auguring in the base of **Test pit 5** encountered an obstruction (possible bedrock) at a depth of 1.73m below ground level, but in this instance it is likely to be the base of a grave cut rather than the natural level of the surrounding bedrock. Auguring in **Test pit 6** also uncovered what appears to be a natural deposit of silty clay and gravel at a depth of 2.3m below ground level.
- 4.4.3 A deposit of mixed cemetery soil (**402** and **502**) containing disarticulated human bone, coffin furniture and post-medieval/modern ceramics and glass was encountered in **Test pits 4 and 5**. In **Test pits 4** this deposit was cut by grave **405**, which was cut from 0.18m below ground level. Two skulls were uncovered within the grave at a depth of 1.05m below ground level; it is unclear if the upper skull was disarticulated or if it was the uppermost of a series of stacked burials.
- 4.4.4 The earliest deposit in **Test pit 6** was a dark-grey silty clay, indicative of buried topsoil (**606**), the upper surface of which was uncovered 0.96m below ground level. This deposit was overlain by a dump of building rubble mixed with mortar and roof slates (**605**), which was in turn cut by grave **604**. The grave was cut from 0.65m below the present ground level, and was backfilled with greyish-brown silty clay (**603**), which was sealed by a 0.55m thick layer of greyish-brown silty clay (**602**) that contained frequent fragments of stone rubble.
- 4.4.5 The most recent deposit in all three Test pits was a 0.1–0.18m thick layer of modern dark greyish-brown loamy topsoil (**401**, **501** and **601**), which contained post-medieval/modern finds and disarticulated human bone fragments.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced a very small quantity of finds, deriving from contexts in five of the trenches excavated. The assemblage is almost entirely of post-medieval date. Only a few items (ceramic building material) are likely to relate to the fabric of the church itself, while the remainder constitutes domestic refuse, or chance losses of personal items.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1: All finds by context

(number/ weight in grammes)

Context	CBM ²	Metal	Pottery	Other Finds
402			3 / 11	
404			9 / 107	
502		1 / 3	2 / 8	

² Ceramic Building Material



Context	CBM ²	Metal	Pottery	Other Finds
603	2 / 50	1 / 1	5 / 78	
902	1 / 77			
904			1 / 5	
1002		1 / 2	3 / 40	1 glass; 1 stone
TOTALS	3 / 127	3 / 6	23 / 249	

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Of the 23 sherds recovered, two are medieval and the remainder post-medieval. The medieval sherds (both found residually with post-medieval material, one in context **404** and one in context **502**) are small body sherds sandy wares, of uncertain source; their date is likely to be 13th to 14th century.
- 5.2.2 Post-medieval wares include coarse redware (including slipwares), Verwood-type earthenware from east Dorset, white salt glaze, creamware, pearlware, refined whiteware and English stoneware. The potential date range is 17th / 18th-century onwards.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 5.3.1 This category comprises two floor tiles and one small undiagnostic fragment. Of the floor tiles, one fragment from context **603** is white-slipped and glazed, and is of broad post-medieval date. The other floor tile was from context **902**, and is a complete small, plain, square tile of modern date.

5.4 Other Finds

- 5.4.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of metal (two buttons and a small disc of unknown function), glass (part of a decorative 'Vauxhall' lamp) and stone (slate pencil). All these items are demonstrably or probably of modern date.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

- 6.1.1 There is no requirement for further work on the artefacts, though they should be considered in light of more material being recovered during later phases of archaeological work.
- 6.1.2 Human remains were present in most Test pits, comprising disarticulated bones, as well as *in-situ* burial remains. Depths at which *in-situ* remains were encountered varied between areas. In **Area 1** *in-situ* remains were found at depths of 0.3m and at 0.52m below ground level, with the potential for stacking within the graves. There is evidence of graves in all three locations in **Area 3**, but they appear to be deeper than those in **Area 1**. The shallowest *in-situ* human remains in this area were uncovered 1.05m below ground level, but the possibility that there may be shallower burials cannot be entirely discounted. The presence of dumped soil and rubble layers in **Test pit 6** suggests that significant ground raising operations have been undertaken, possibly during the renovation of the church in the 1860s; burials in this area are therefore considered likely to be deeper than those near the church.
- 6.1.3 Substantial voids were uncovered in **Test pits 7** and **9** between 0.39m and 0.5m below the present floor level. These correspond with possible void anomalies on the geophysical survey and are likely to indicate the location of burial vaults below the chancel floor. Outside the church there is some correlation between graves and the geophysical survey

findings, suggesting that the positive geophysical anomalies can be fairly well relied upon, though the apparently blank areas are likely to contain undetected earth-cut graves.

- 6.1.4 Test pits 10 and 11 demonstrated that the kerbed and paved monuments to the north of the tower are indeed burial plot markers, which overlie stone-lined vaults, simply cut through earlier graveyard deposits containing disarticulated and possibly articulated burials. **Test pit 1** also shows that there are earth-cut burials in this area, at least one of which appears to be stacked, with articulated human remains lying only 0.3m below ground level.
- 6.1.5 Nothing clearly relating to the suggested Anglo-Saxon origins of the church was discovered, though the remains found in **Test pit 3** suggest that interments were made prior to the construction of the 14th-century church tower. The earliest deposit in **Test pit 1** contained articulated human remains which pre-date 18th/19th-century graves in that area; these earlier remains may also be of medieval or earlier date.
- 6.1.6 The proposed construction works to the north of the church tower are likely to uncover a significant number of burials, most, but probably not all of which, are likely to be of post-medieval date. Excavations for new drainage trenches to the south of the church may also uncover further burials, though many of the burials in this area are likely to be at depths of 1m or more below the present ground level. Any significant lowering of floor levels within the chancel has the potential to uncover burial vaults.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 The project archive resulting from the excavation will be deposited with the Wiltshire County Museums Service (Devizes Museum). The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

7.2 Archive

- 7.2.1 The complete site archive, which includes paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Devizes Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements have been marked with the site code, and a full index prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- *2 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type*
 - *1 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics*

7.3 Discard policy

- 7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.



- 7.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

7.4 Copyright

- 7.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights* regulations 2003.
- 7.4.2 The information will be deposited within the Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record, which is the Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by Wiltshire County Council where it can be freely copied without reference to WA for the purposes of archaeological research or Development Control within the planning process.
- 7.4.3 Details of the Site will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations).

7.5 Security Copy

- 7.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

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9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1: Test pit summaries

Test pit 1	Test pit dimensions: 0.8 x 0.8 x 0.4m		Location: Area 1
Context	Feature/deposit type	Description	Depth below surface (m)
101	Wall	Boundary wall; oolitic limestone, dressed; pointed with Portland cement mortar; random coursed; no foundations	-
102	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown friable sandy loam with frequent angular stone sand, slate, and 19 th -century glass	0-0.15
103	Cemetery soil	Pale brown silty clay loam with abundant angular limestone, frequent disarticulated human bone;? <i>in-situ</i> burial remains	0.15-0.25
104	Grave fill	Dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with sparse angular limestone; clay tobacco pipe; window glass	0.25+
105	Grave	Rectangular, vertical sides; cuts 103; 0.6+ x 0.4+m	0.25+
106	Inhumation burial	Coffined inhumation burial remains; silvered breastplate (ledger) over mouth and neck, simple oval section coffin handle; slopes steeply down from head, possibly latest of a series of stacked burials; probably 18 th /19 th -century in grave 105	0.3+
107	Stone-lined grave	E-W rectangular cut with vertical sides; stone lined; cuts earlier burial; 0.1+ x 0.8+ x 0.4+m	0.1+
108	Stone lining of grave	E-W; oolitic limestone; no visible bonding or coursing; dressed ashlar stone; capped with large oolitic limestone slab; 2.0 x 0.8 x 0.4m	0-0.1+
comments: <i>In-situ</i> inhumation burial 0.3m bgl			

Test pit 2	Test pit dimensions: 1 x 2 x 0.32m		Location: Area 1
Context	Feature/deposit type	Description	Depth below surface (m)
201	Stone & brick external floor	Limestone slabs and brick floor; bedded onto mid-grey lime-based mortar with frequent charcoal flecks, very small pebbles; single course	0-0.12
202	Stone wall	Upstanding limestone ashlar block wall at upper courses; original bonding agent not observed; repointed with Portland cement; flush finish; lower course a single block 320 x 600mm; above 205; metal waste pipe	0-0.16
203	Stone wall	Wall of the North Aisle. upstanding dressed ashlar blocks abutted by 201; repointed with Portland cement; tight joints; flush finish; 1.14m ground level; minimum 5 courses	
204	Layer	Mid brown loam with frequent decaying Bath stone fragments, subangular 80 x 30mm; very occasional pockest sandy yellow-brown sandy mortar, pebbles; over 205	0.12-0.16
205	Stone block	An ashlar/oolitic Bath stone block; 650 x 400 x 150mm; dressed; on fragmented natural limestone bedrock; horizontal ?saw marks; close & uniform; very crisp edges	0.16-31
206	Fill of construction cut	Fill of 207; pale yellowish-brown bedded limestone fragments; very compressed & hard; redeposited oolitic subangular fragments and crushed limestone; 0.7x 0.5+ x 0.15m	0.16-0.32
207	Construction cut	E-W linear cut with vertical sides and flat base; contains 206	0.16-0.32
208	Natural	Pale yellowish-brown limestone	0.32m+



Test pit 3	Test pit dimensions: 1 x 1 x 0.37		Location: Area 1
Context	Feature/deposit type	Description	Depth below surface (m)
301	Modern surface	Limestone slabs bedded on very dark grey, hard, gritty lime-based mortar, with occasional fragments of clinker.	0-0.1m
302	Concrete modern surface	Abuts 301; concrete raft, partially abuts church tower and wall (lower) adjacent to the steps; seen in section only	0-0.13
303	Stone block (?foundation)	Bathstone (limestone) block underlying the 14 th -century tower wall; no tool marks or mortar visible; seals 304	0-0.2
304	Stone block (foundation)	Bathstone block, partly exposed within the Test pit; no visible tool marks; deep as visible; ?natural bedrock	0-0.42m
305	Rubble (foundation)	oolitic limestone rubble small-medium fragments, mixed with pale brown clay; frequent fragments disarticulated human bone throughout; very compact; sealed below 301; abutting 304.	0-0.42m
306	Grave & contents	Mid greyish-brown clay; smooth, sticky; articulated human remains present, NE-SW; tibia & fibula; suggests burial extends slightly under the tower	0.52m+
comments:	excavation ceased at level of burial remains; disarticulated remains reburied within the Test pit		

Test pit 4	Test pit dimensions: 1 x 1 x 1.05m		Location: Area 3
Context	Feature/deposit type	Description	Depth below surface (m)
401	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown sandy loam with rare small gravel; friable	0-0.17
402	Cemetery soil	Dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with abundant sand patches, gravel and stones up to 100mm	0.17-1.05
403	Natural	Pale yellowish brown limestone	1.05+
404	Grave fill	Mid greyish-brown silty clay loam with occasional large subangular stones up to 200mm; rare tree roots; disarticulated human bone, occasional pottery, ?coffin furniture	0.17-1.05+
405	Grave	E-W rectangular with vertical sides; 1m+ x 0.80m+ x 1.05m+	0.17-1.05+
406	Inhumation burial	E-W; 2 x skulls, possible stacked burials or some disarticulated	1.05+

Test pit 5	Test pit dimensions: 1 x 1 x 1.73m		Location: Area 3
Context	Feature/deposit type	Description	Depth below surface (m)
501	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with sand and fine gravel; occasional small subangular stones	0-0.18
502	Cemetery soil	Dark-mid grey-brown silty clay loam; loose; frequent angular stones up to 150mm, frequent disarticulated human bone; coffin furniture; modern pottery; slag and glass	0.18+
	Auger test	Obstruction encountered	0.18-1.73m

Test pit 6	Test pit dimensions: 1 x 1 x 2.3m		Location: Area 3
Context	Feature/deposit type	Description	Depth below surface (m)
601	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with sparse sand and occasional subangular gravel	0-0.1
602	Cemetery soil	Mid grey-brown silty clay loam with frequent sand and gravel, angular stones up to 300mm; dressed stone block	0.1-0.65



Test pit 6	Test pit dimensions: 1 x 1 x 2.3m		Location: Area 3
603	Grave fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay loam with occasional subangular stones, disarticulated human bone, bolt, nail, CBM, modern glass; 1m+ x 0.6m+ x 0.6m	0.65+
604	Grave	Vertical sided, incomplete; filled with 604; 1m+ x 0.6m+ x 0.6m	0.65+
605	Layer	Light grey rubble; powdery with frequent roofing slate	0.65-0.96
606	Layer	Dark grey silty clay loam	0.96+
	Auger test	Natural – mid brown silty clay with small subangular stones	2.3+

Test pit 7	Test pit dimensions: 0.86 x 0.64 x 2.0m		Location: Area 2
Context	Feature/deposit type	Description	Depth below surface (m)
701	Stone surface	Limestone slabs 80mm thick; up to 690 x 420mm; peg holes; ?Portland cement jointing; 1994 newspapers below carpet; probably across whole lower chancel floor	0-0.08
702	Bedding layer	Dark grey-black gravelly mortar 0.86 x 0.64 x 0.03m	0.08-0.11
703	Made ground/backfill	Mid grey-brown sandy loam with frequent large angular stones (mainly Bathstone); occasional CBM, charcoal, disarticulated human bone; rare glass, pottery, coffin furniture; 0.86 x 0.64 x 0.28m	0.11-0.39
	void	below 703	0.39-2.0+

Test pit 8	Test pit dimensions: 0.8 x 0.3 x 0.17m		Location: Area 2
Context	Feature/deposit type	Description	Depth below surface (m)
801	Stone floor	Dressed Bath stone slab floor, raised above original floor level; pointed with Portland cement mortar; bedded on dark grey/black mortar; very tight joints; unworn and un-weathered	0-0.12
802	Concrete	Concrete floor within chancel	0.12-0.17

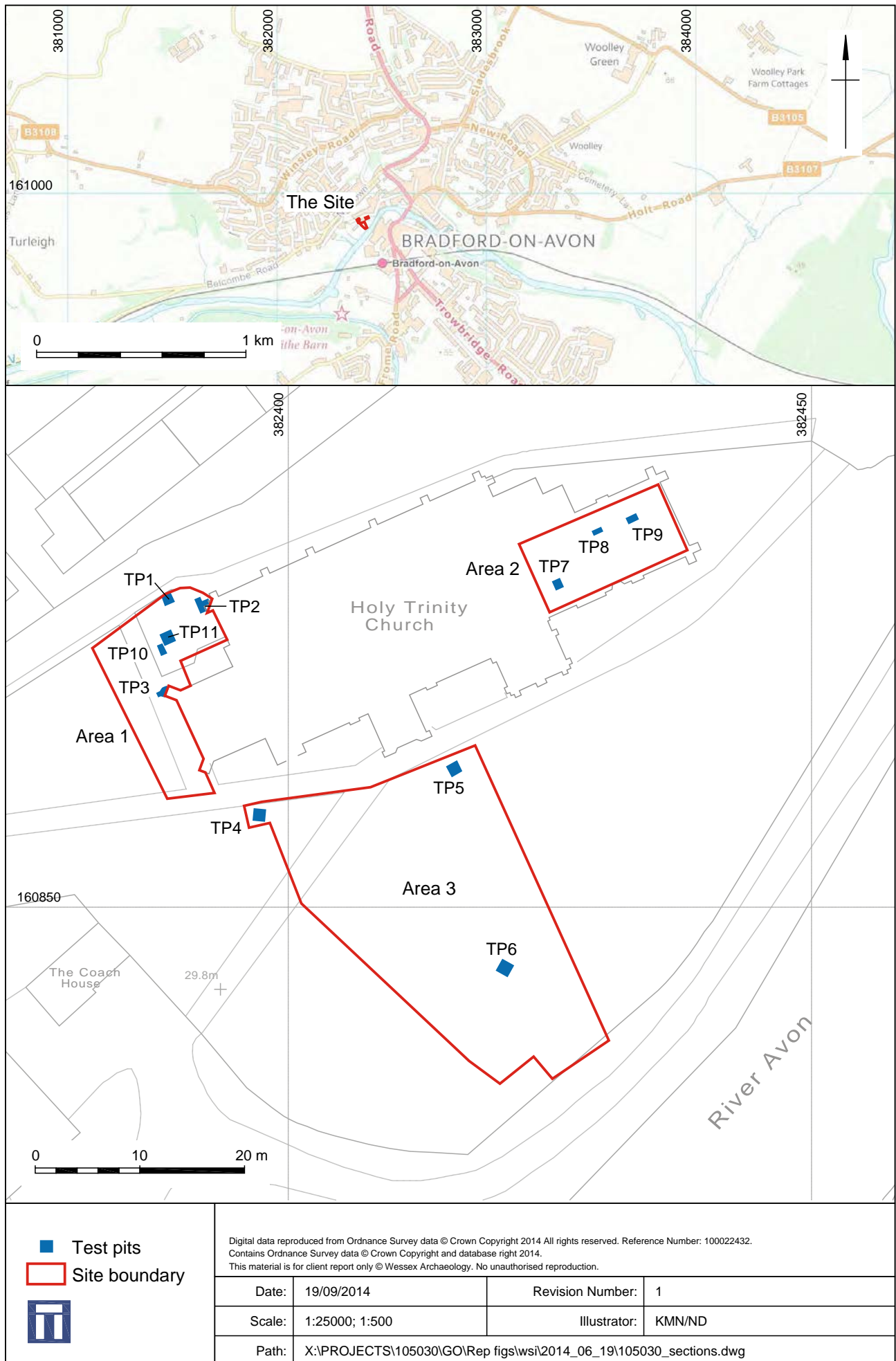
Test pit 9	Test pit dimensions: 1.07 x 1 x 3.1m		Location: Area 2
Context	Feature/deposit type	Description	Depth below surface (m)
901	Stone floor	Upper level slabs; Bath stone, various sizes up to 470 x 430mm; kerb up to 1.2m long	0-0.08
902	Bedding layer	Black mortar, clinker	0.08-0.14
903	Stone floor	Middle level slabs sealed below 902; Bath stone; 100mm thick; ?only on NW side of Test pit, discontinuous	0.14-0.23
904	Bedding layer	Loose pale grey-brown sandy mortar; frequent large angular stones, occasional charcoal, flecks and chunks plaster	0.23-0.30 plaster 0.30-0.37
905	Layer	?Moulded plaster – sealed below 904, some mixed with 9904;	0.30-0.40
906	Stone layer	Bath stone lower course; Victorian level	0.30-0.50
907	Vault roof	Bath stone c. 0.10-0.12m thick; vault below	0.50-3.10

Test pit 10	Test pit dimensions: 1.2 x 1.4 x 0.6		Location: Area 2
Context	Feature/deposit type	Description	Depth below surface (m)
1001	Kerbed grave marker	Oolitic limestone 2.8 x 2.3 x 0.6; E-W; moderately weathered; iron railings removed; ?late Victorian; 0.26m high kerb	-0.26-0.0



Test pit 10	Test pit dimensions: 1.2 x 1.4 x 0.6		Location: Area 2
1002	Layer	Mid brownish-grey sandy loam; frequent root disturbance; frequent angular stones up to 100mm; covers burial vault; 0.9 x 0.63 x 0.6	0.0-0.6
1003	Stone-lined burial vault	Vertical sided, rectangular; ?E-W; limestone slab cap; stone brick lining; a void to south; 0.98 x 0.1 x 0.29m	0-0.6

Test pit 11	Test pit dimensions: 1.2 x 1.45 x 1m		Location: Area 2
Context	Feature/deposit type	Description	Depth below surface (m)
1101	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown friable sandy loam with frequent angular stone	0-0.30
1102	Backfill	Mixed; mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent limestone fragments, increasing in size & quantity to base; frequent charcoal; fragments disarticulated human bone; ?upcast from Victorian tombs nearby?	0.30-0.60m
1103	Stone-lined burial vault	Limestone freestanding tomb; lime mortar; 2.5 x 2.5 x 2m 0.3m high kerb; stone slab roof; some shifting & collapse;	



Location and site plan

Figure 1



Plate 1



Plate 2



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Plate 3



Plate 4



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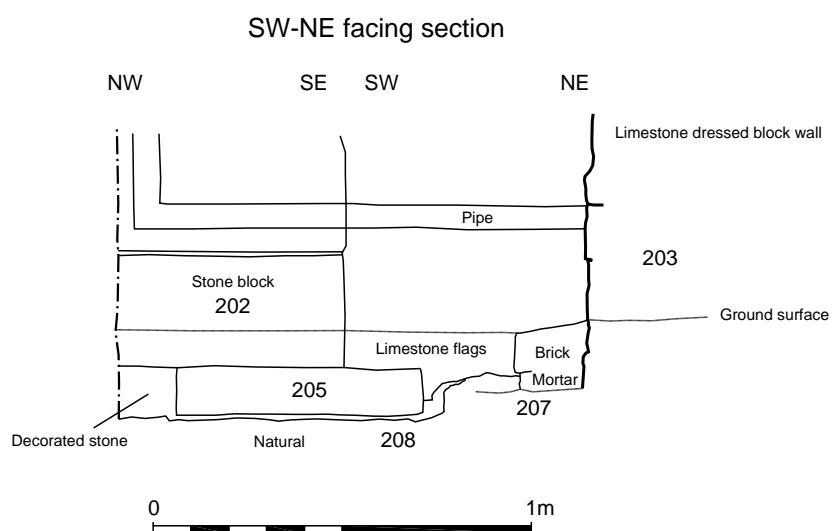


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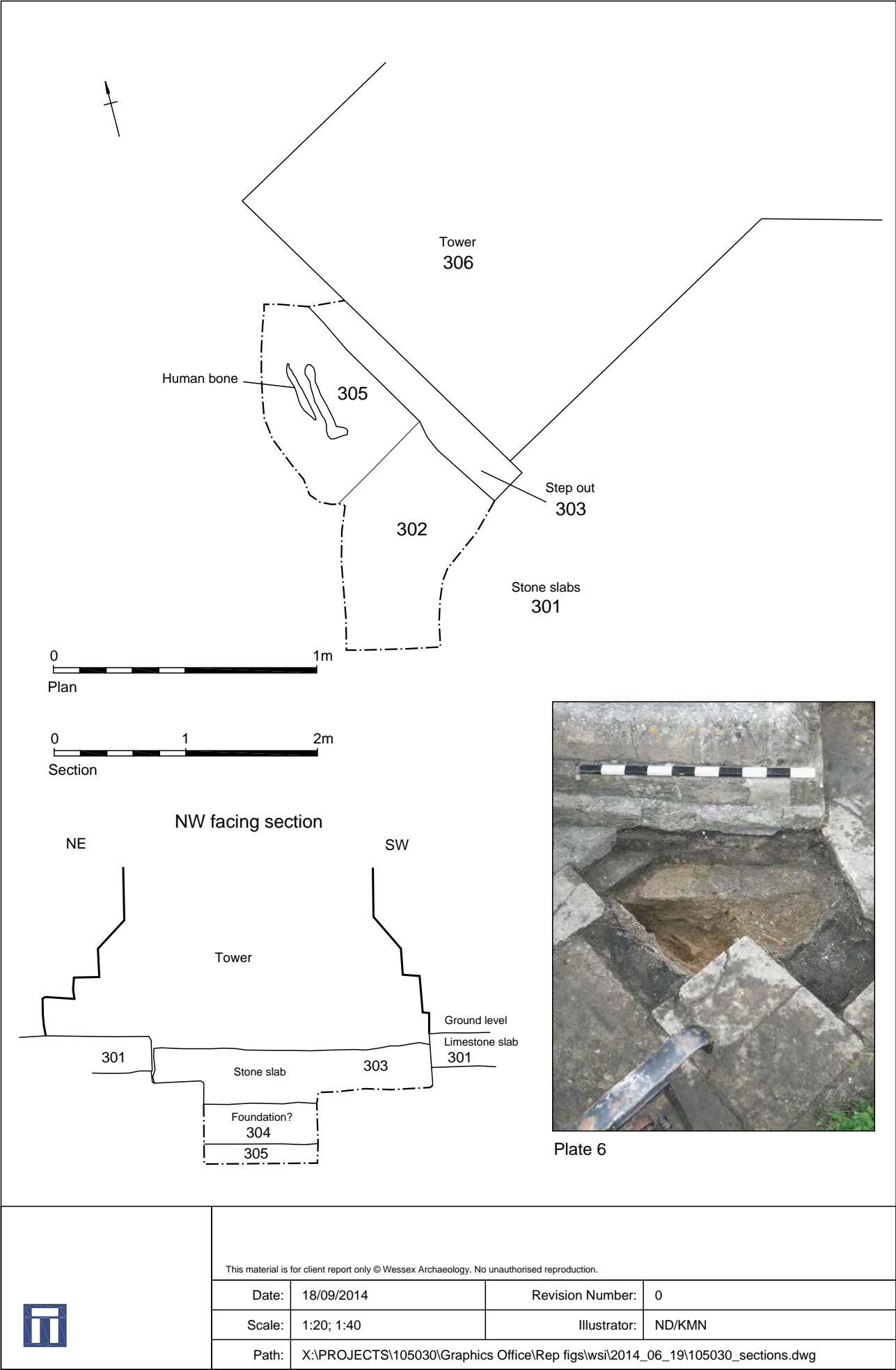
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Test pit 3, plan, north-west facing section and photograph (looking south)

Figure 5

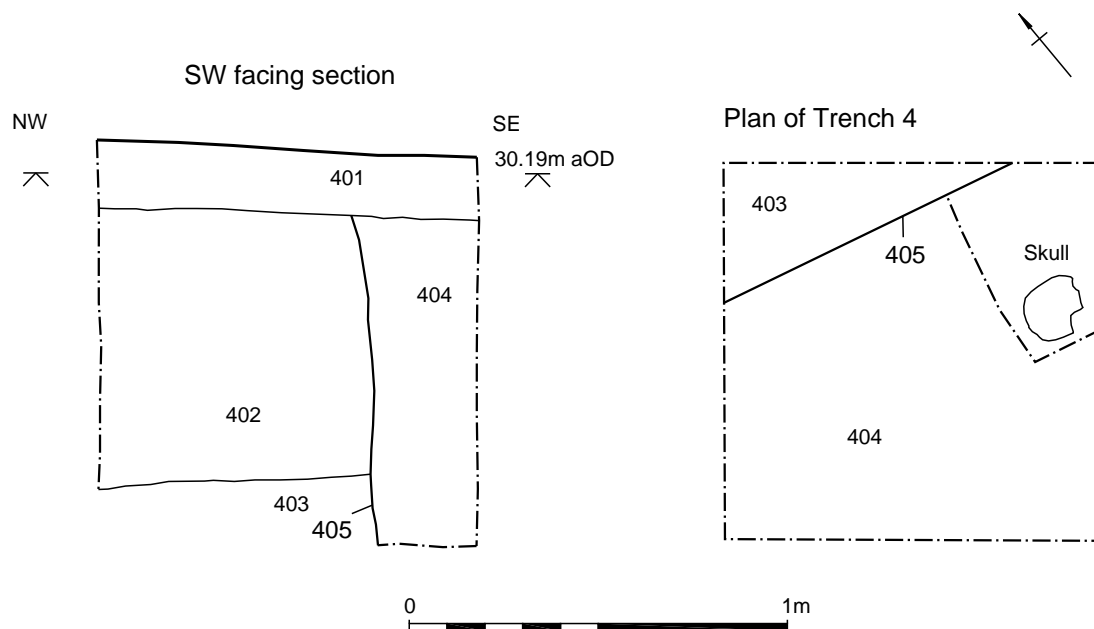


Plate 7



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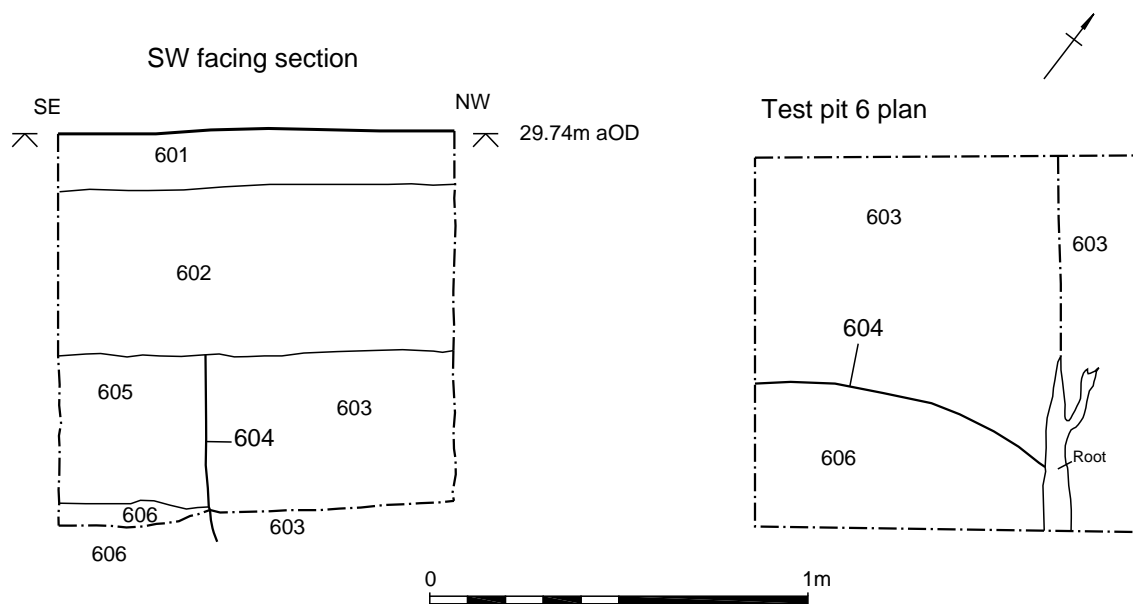


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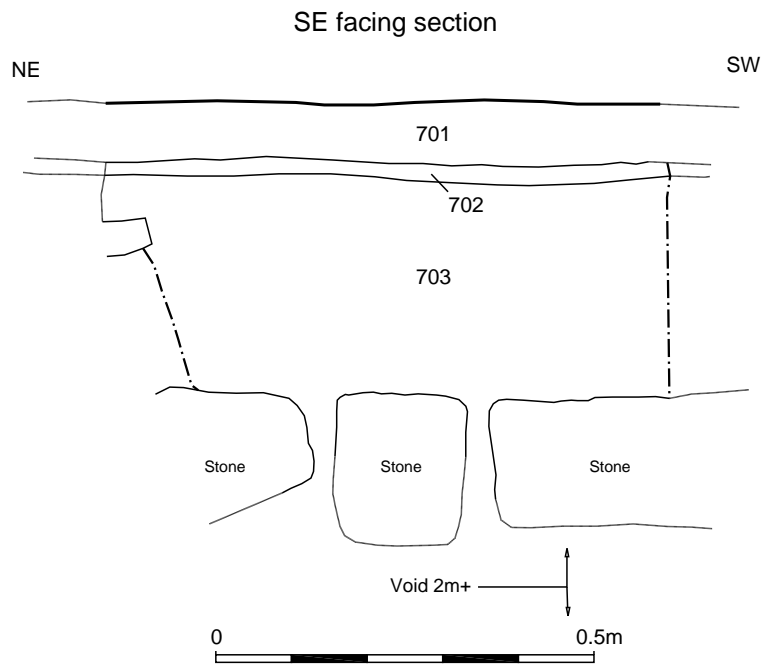


Plate 10



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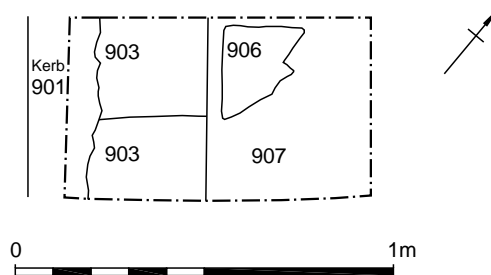
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Plan of Test pit 9



SE facing section

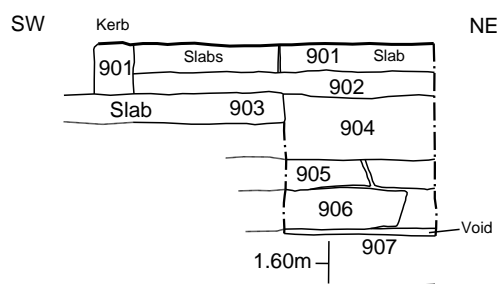


Plate 11

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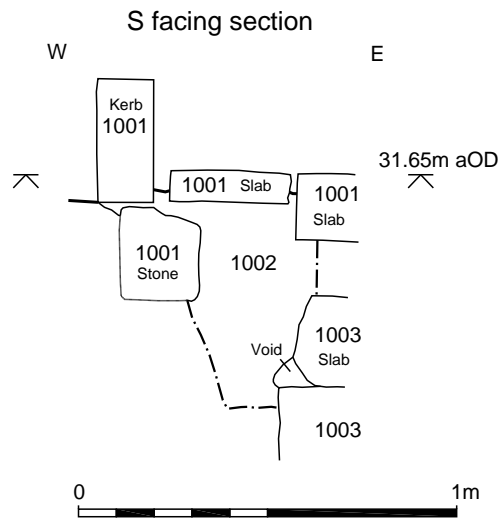


Plate 14: Section of Test pit 10



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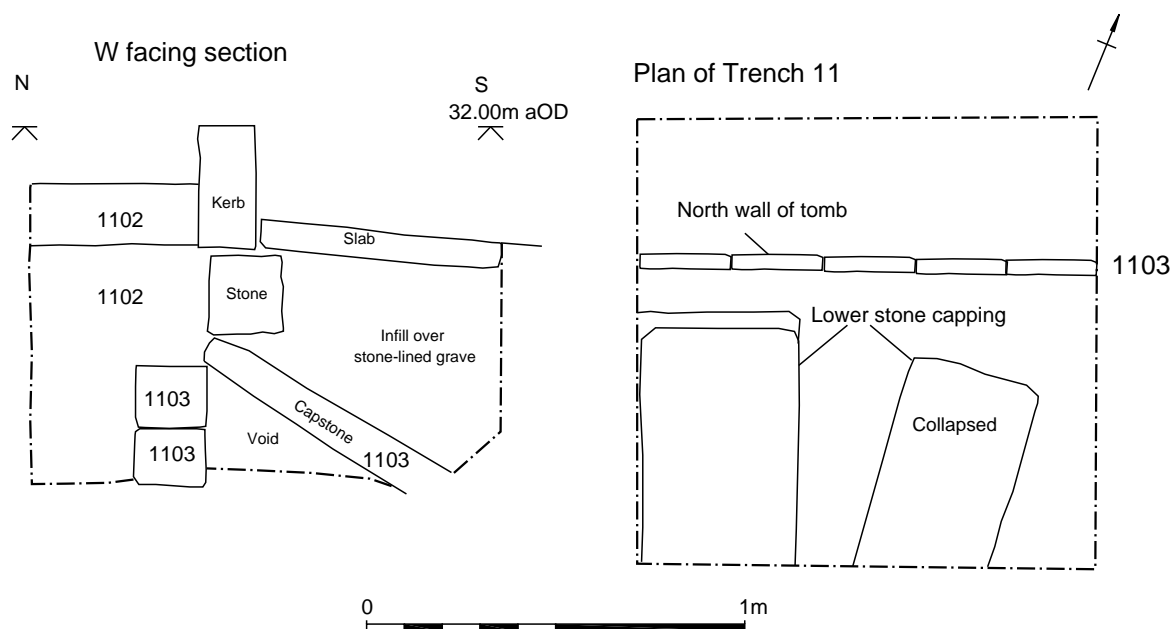


Plate 15: Section of Test pit 11



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Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



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