



# All Saints Church, Thorney Hill Bransgore, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



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**All Saints Church, Thorney Hill  
Bransgore, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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# All Saints Church, Thorney Hill Bransgore, Hampshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

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# **All Saints Church, Thorney Hill Bransgore, Hampshire**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by RLM Architects on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for All Saints Church, Thorney Hill, Bransgore, Hampshire to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a new drainage and septic tank system relating to the installation of new toilet facilities within the church (hereafter 'the Site'). The site is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 419717, 099732.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief.

The watching brief was carried out from 14th-18th November 2016.



# **All Saints Church, Thorney Hill Bransgore, Hampshire**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**

### **Acknowledgements**

The project was commissioned by RLM Architects and WA is grateful to Keith Loveless of RLM in this regard. WA would also like to thank the Diocese of Winchester Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and Frank Green, the New Forest Archaeologist (NFA), for their advice and guidance during the course of the watching brief. The project was managed for WA by Gareth Chaffey. The watching brief was carried out by Tom Blencowe and this report was compiled by Lee Newton and edited by Damian De Rosa.



# All Saints Church, Thorney Hill Bransgore, Hampshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by RLM Architects on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for All Saints Church, Thorney Hill, Bransgore, Hampshire (hereafter the 'Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a new drainage and septic tank system relating to the installation of new toilet facilities within the church (hereafter 'the Site'). The site is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 419717, 099732 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The works were required in order to install new toilets within the church (Faculty number 4136). The works required new drainage field and septic tank to be situated on the northern side of the church. All Saints Church is Grade I listed (list entry 1302198) and dates to the early 20th century. As a historical and sensitive site, the DAC recommended that an archaeological watching brief was required whilst excavations were undertaken and this was stipulated as a condition of the faculty.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by WA and approved by the New Forest Archaeologist (NFA), and the Diocese of Winchester Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) in advancement of the works being undertaken (WA 2016). This document laid out the methods and standards to be employed throughout the work, and conformed to current best practice and the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014a)

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on the north-western edge of Thorney Hill, on the western side of Burley Road and within the New Forest National Park. The Site lies around 1.2 km to the north-east of Bransgore and around 6.5 km to the south-east of Ringwood. The Site is bounded to the south-west and north by open land.
- 1.2.2 The Site sits on a relatively level area of ground at around 74 m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is recorded as the clay, silt and sand of the Headon Formation overlain by superficial river terrace deposits (British Geological Survey).

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The sites of several burial mounds likely to date to the Bronze Age are recorded in the vicinity of the Site, including one immediately to the north of the churchyard (PastScape 217049, 458296, 458299, 458306, NHLE 1013128) indicating prehistoric activity in the area.





- 2.1.2 Burley is recorded as a very large settlement of 43 households at the time of the 1086 Domesday survey. Place-name evidence for Burley, suggests that the name derived from the wood or clearing surrounding the hillfort at Burley Street (NHLE 1017889). The earliest deeds mentioning Brangore date from the 1730s and Thorney Hill itself is a relatively recent settlement.
- 2.1.3 Current research suggests that before the establishment of the New Forest as the King's hunting forest and a political entity (a process known as afforestation), the area was already a Saxon royal hunting ground. The New Forest was created as a legal entity c.1079 by William I and though the area would have contained areas of open grazing and settlement, at the core was the deer forest owned and administered by the Crown.
- 2.1.4 The first edition 1886-1893 Ordnance Survey map shows the Site as lying within open heathland, this land has largely been enclosed and subdivided by the 1897 edition, when the boundaries of the forthcoming churchyard can also be seen.
- 2.1.5 The parish church of All Saints is a Grade I listed building (NHLE 1302198), designed in 1906 by Detmar Blow for Lord Manners of Avon Tyrell in the Baroque style. The war memorial in the churchyard is also Grade II listed (NHLE 1094958). The marked graves lie to the west and south of the church building.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 General aims and objectives**

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were:

- *to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
- *to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
- *to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;*
- *to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present; and*
- *to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

#### **3.2 Fieldwork methodology**

##### **3.3 Introduction**

3.3.1 The following methodology was proposed and carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WA 2016) approved by the New Forest Archaeologist (NFA), and the Diocese of Winchester Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) prior to the commencement of the groundworks. All works were carried out in accordance with the ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), except where they are superseded by statements made below.



### **3.4 Watching brief**

- 3.4.1 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of all intrusive groundworks relating to the excavation of the new drainage run and septic tank. While this work appears to lie beyond the active graveyard it remained a possibility that unmarked graves may be situated in this area.
- 3.4.2 The watching brief was undertaken by an experienced archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology's core staff. The mechanical excavation was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision by WA. Machine excavation proceeded to the required formation levels or the top of the archaeological/geological levels, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.4.3 The watching brief was maintained throughout excavations and was deemed to be concluded when, in consultation with the NFA and the DAC, it was clear that the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed had been exhausted.
- 3.4.4 The area excavated for the containment of the septic tank measured 3m x 3m x 2.75m deep. This was the most substantial excavation that took place during the works. The trenches leading from this area measured approximately 0.5m deep and 0.5m wide, although those in the drainage field were substantially deeper, extending well into the natural gravels.

### **3.5 Monitoring**

- 3.5.1 The NFA and the DAC, as advisors, were notified prior to work being undertaken and on the progress of the work.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 No archaeological material was encountered during the course of the watching brief.

### **4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence**

- 4.2.1 The topsoil (**101**) covered by a well-established turf, consisted of a dark brown to black sandy clay loam containing sub-rounded flint nodules, and was 0.3m deep.
- 4.2.2 The topsoil (**101**) overlay a light yellow/grey sandy gravel subsoil (**102**) with sub-rounded flints. This layer was 0.5m in depth.
- 4.2.3 Underlying **102** was a black humic layer (**103**) measuring 0.10m in depth.
- 4.2.4 The underlying natural substrate (**104**) consisted of dark yellow/grey alluvial gravel deposits and was encountered at a depth of 0.9m within the drainage field area.

### **4.3 Finds**

- 4.3.1 No finds were identified during the course of the watching brief.

### **4.4 Environmental evidence**

- 4.4.1 No deposits deemed worthy of environmental sampling were encountered during the watching brief.



## 5 DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 Despite the archaeological potential identified within the vicinity of the site the watching brief did not encounter or identify any material of an archaeological origin. This is in keeping with the historic mapping which indicated that prior to the construction of the church in 1906 the site lay in open heathland.

### 5.2 Conclusions

- 5.2.1 Although the watching brief produced negative results there remains the possibility that unmarked human remains associated with the 20<sup>th</sup> century church could exist within the vicinity of the excavated areas.

## 6 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 6.1 Museum

- 6.1.1 It is recommended that the archive be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

### 6.2 Archive

- 6.2.1 The complete Site archive, which includes paper records, photographic records and digital data, has been prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Hampshire Museums Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

- 6.2.2 All archive elements have been marked with the Site and accession codes (**114900** and **A2016.106** respectively) and a full index has been prepared.

### 6.3 Storage

- 6.3.1 Until final deposition with the Hampshire Cultural Trust the archive will be stored at the offices of WA Southern Region in Salisbury.

### 6.4 Security Copy

- 6.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011) 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.

## 7 COPYRIGHT

### 7.1 Archive and report copyright

- 7.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Client will be licenced to use this report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. 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-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.



- 7.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the HAHBR where it can be freely copied without reference to WA for the purposes of archaeological research or Development Control within the planning process.

## **7.2 Third party data copyright**

- 7.2.1 This document, the report and the project archive may contain material that is non-WA copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

## **8 REFERENCES**

### **8.1 Bibliography**

- ADS, 2013, *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- Brown, D H, 2011, *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)
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- Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. Swindon, Historic England
- SMA, 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*. Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Wessex Archaeology, 2016, *All Saints Church, Thorney Hill, Bransgore, Hampshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpubl. Rep. 114900.1

### **8.2 Online resources**

- British Geological Survey - <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/digmap50wms.html>  
PastScape (National Record of the Historic Environment) -  
<http://www.pastscape.org.uk/default.aspx>  
National Heritage List for England - <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>  
Open Domesday - <http://opendomesday.org/>



## 9 APPENDICES

### 9.1 Appendix 1: OASIS form

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-270756**

#### Project details

Project name	All Saints Church, Thorney Hill Bransgore, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by RLM Architects on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for All Saints Church, Thorney Hill, Bransgore, Hampshire to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a new drainage and septic tank system relating to the installation of new toilet facilities within the church. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 14-11-2016 End: 18-11-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	A2016.106 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	114900 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE NEW FOREST BRANSGORE All Saints Church, Thorney Hill, Bransgore, Hampshire
Postcode	BH23 8DG
Study area	100 Square metres
Site coordinates	419717 99732 419717 00 00 N 99732 00 00 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 73.2m Max: 73.2m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Diocese of Winchester Diocesan Advisory Committee
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Gareth Chaffey
Project supervisor	Tom Blencowe



Type of sponsor/funding body	Architects
Name of sponsor/funding body	RLM Architects

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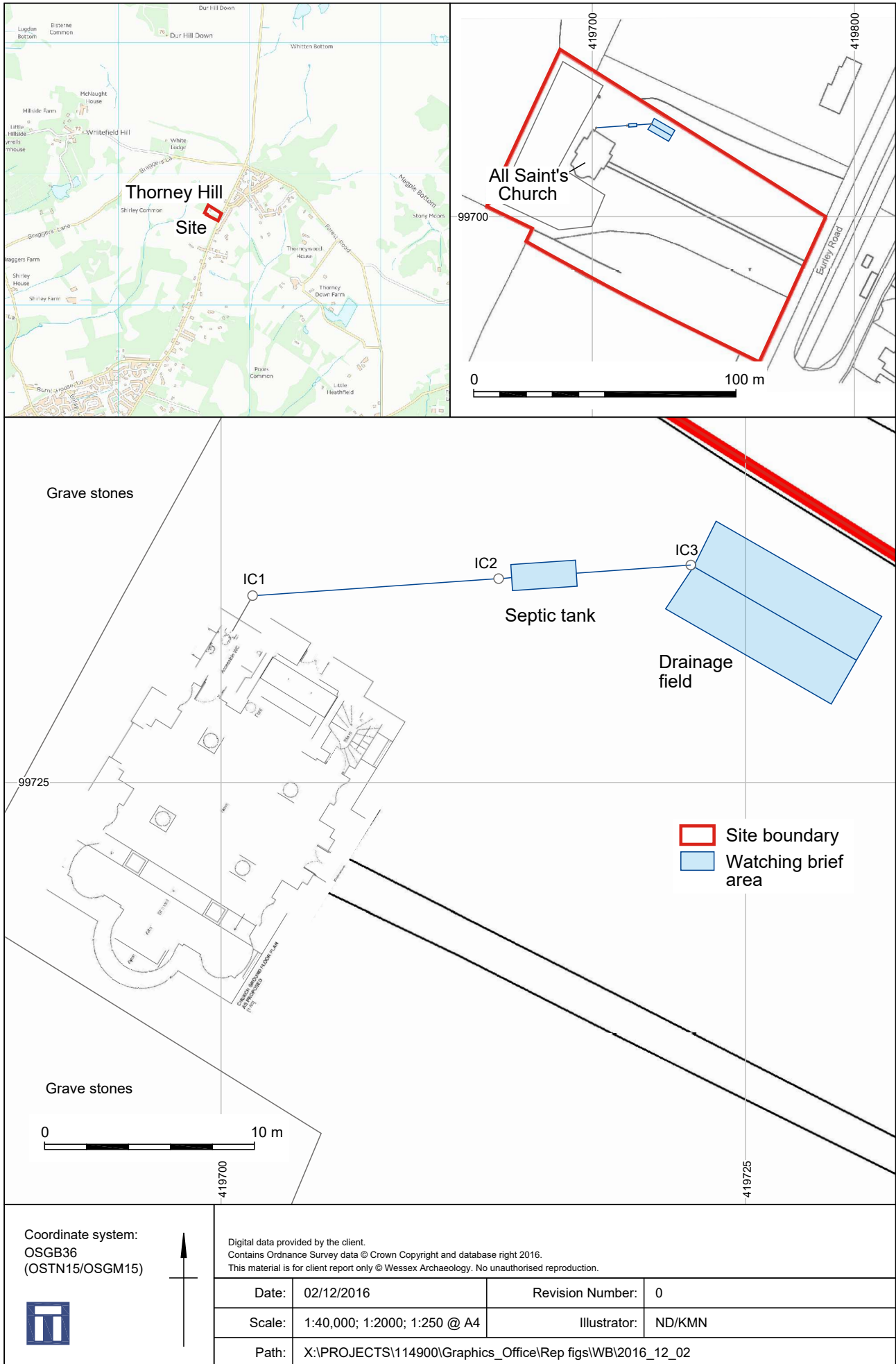
### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Archive ID	A2016.106
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Archive ID	A2016.106
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Report"

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	All Saints Church, Thorney Hill Bransgore, Hampshire. Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newton, I.
Other bibliographic details	114900.02
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	A4 format with text, illustrations and plates.



Location of Site and watching brief area

Figure 1



Plate 1: North-west facing section through test pit for drainage field



Plate 2: South-west facing section through drainage trench



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Plate 3: Drainage trench under excavation

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