

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
LYDIARD MILLICENT,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 0934 8601

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

March 2015
Report No. 1043



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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Date: 3rd March 2015.

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SUMMARY

On the 26th November 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of new drainage across the existing churchyard of All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 0934 8601).

The drainage required a hand-dug pipe-trench, 26m long and 0.35m wide to be excavated to a maximum depth of 0.3m below ground level. The trench was located around the north and east elevation of the church and joined a path to the south.

Below a thin topsoil lay variable interleaved deposits of made-ground at least 0.25m deep which changed minimally along the length of the pipe-trench. To the east of the nave there was a particular concentration of undressed stone fragments and disarticulated human bone. However, no grave cut was observed and the area showed signs of disturbance. Finds from this area consisted of occasional sherds of Post-medieval/Modern pottery which included one willow pattern, which indicated recent disturbance.

No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief and no finds were recovered that pre-dated the later Post-medieval period.

All human bone was replaced within the pipe trench prior to backfilling.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the Modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set for the Modern period, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic building material.

DMV

Deserted Medieval Village.

LOE

Limit of excavation.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period from *c.* AD 1500 onwards.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; Palaeolithic – *c.* 500,000 BC to *c.* 12,000 BC; Mesolithic – *c.* 12,000 BC to *c.* 4,500 BC; Neolithic – *c.* 4,500 BC to *c.* 2,000 BC; Bronze Age – *c.* 2,000 BC to *c.* 800 BC; Iron Age – *c.* 800 BC to AD 43.

Romano-British

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *c.* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 26th November 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of new drainage across the existing churchyard of All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 0934 8601) (Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2014). The WSI conformed to the principles of NPPF12 (*National Planning Policy Framework 2012*), the standard brief issued by Wiltshire Council, the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2011) and *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief, complying with the specifications set out in MoRPHE (English Heritage, 2006).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 All Saints Church is located in the historic centre of Lydiard Millicent, a village immediately to the west of Swindon. The church is a Grade II* listed building (1356045) and dates to the 14th century with 15th and 19th century additions. The proposed development area lies in the churchyard immediately to the north and east of the church.
- 2.2 Planning permission (Ref. 14/01169/FUL) had been granted for the excavation of (*inter alia*) new drainage across the existing churchyard running around the north and east elevation of the church and joining a path to the south. A condition had been attached to the planning consent that required a watching brief during excavation.
- 2.3 The site's bedrock geology is *Kimmeridge Clay* formations with interbedded sandstone and conglomerates, overlain by sands and gravel superficial deposits (BGS online viewer). It lies at approximately 128m above Ordnance Datum.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
 - i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;

ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;

iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which attempted to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The pipe-trench (Figures 2 & 3) was 26m long, 0.35m wide and hand-dug to a maximum depth of 0.3m below ground level. The turfline was removed along its entire length prior to excavation into potentially sensitive deposits. All groundworks were monitored by the attending archaeologist.
- 4.2 Excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The turfline (**101**) was very thin (0.05m) and lay over variable interleaved deposits of made-ground (**102**)/(**103**)/(**104**) at least 0.25m deep. Immediately to the north of the church and adjacent to concrete hard-standing this deposit consisted of a mid-dark brown plastic clay silt (**102**) with occasional small stone fragments.
- 5.2 As the pipe-trench curved around the north-east of the church the deposit changed to a beige-yellow friable fine sandy silt (**103**) with occasional fragments of CBM and medium undressed stone. To the south the deposit became more mixed, a beige-yellow friable sandy silt with lenses of mid-brown plastic clay silt (**104**). This contained frequent fragments of CBM, medium undressed stone and occasional large fragments of undressed stone – with a particular concentration of these stone to the east of the nave.
- 5.3 To the east of the nave was a concentration of disarticulated human bone. No grave cut was observed and the area showed signs of disturbance. Finds from this area consisted of occasional sherds of Post-medieval/Modern pottery which included one fragment of willow pattern.
- 5.4 At no point were deposits encountered below the made-ground and natural geological formations were not encountered.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 No archaeological features were identified during the course of this watching brief and no finds were recovered that pre-dated the later Post-Medieval period.
- 6.2 The disarticulated human bone found immediately to the east of the nave clearly derived from recent disturbance and was reinterred in the pipe trench.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the appropriate museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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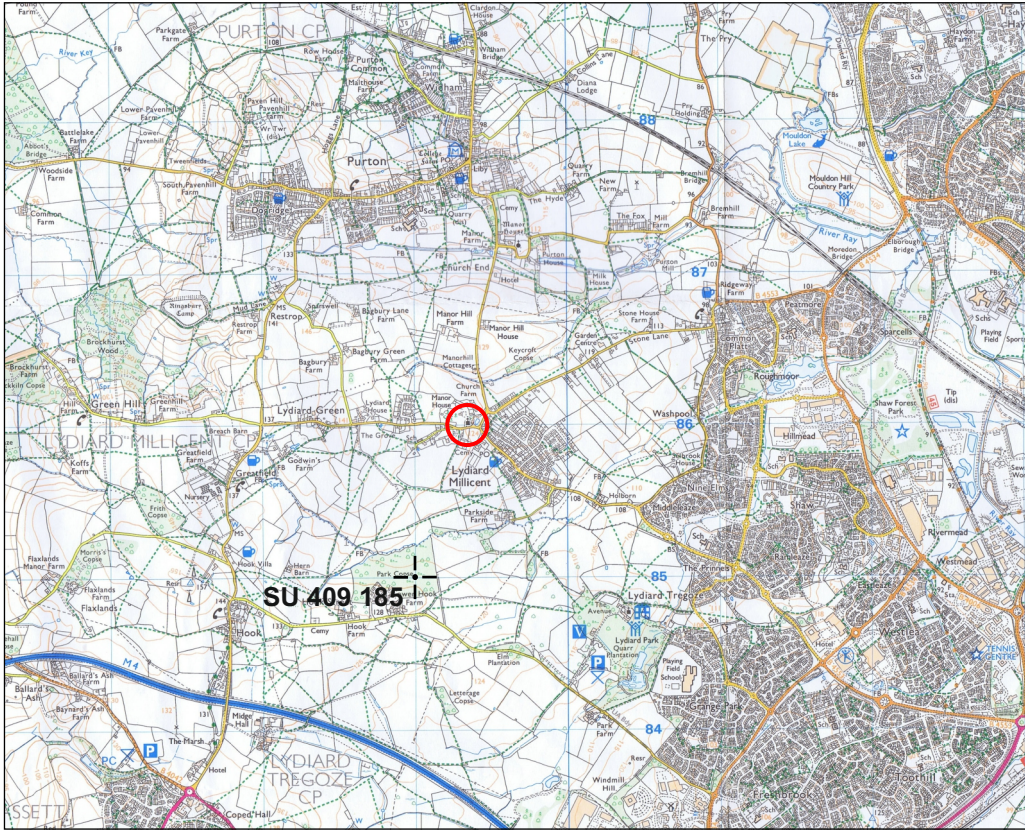
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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Tina Wheeler, Treasurer of All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent and the groundworker for his assistance during the course of this project.



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Accession Code:

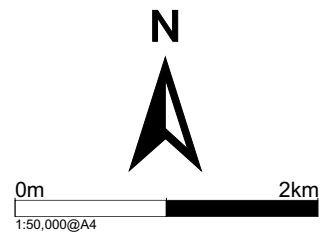
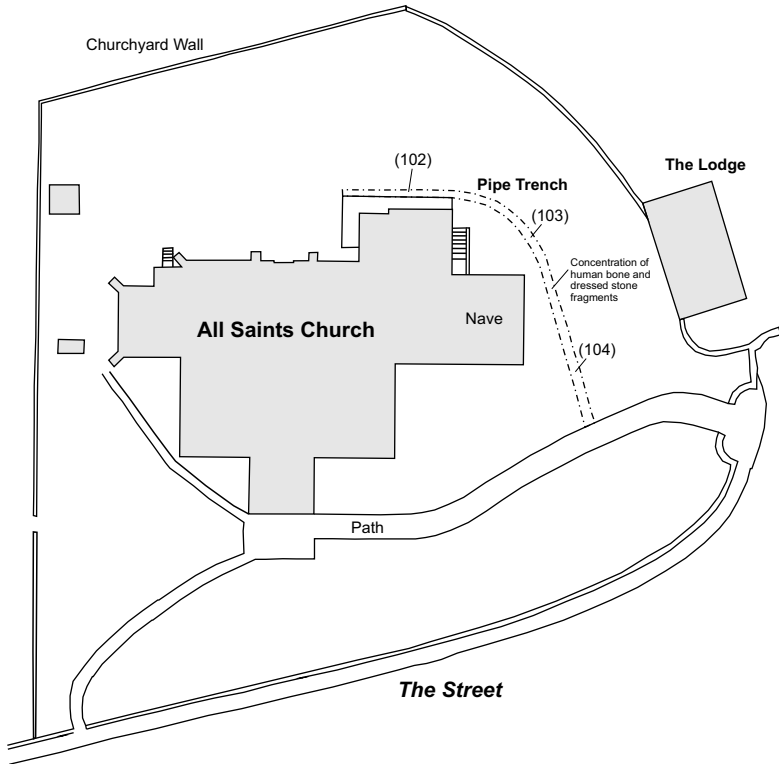


FIGURE 1: Site Location



Site Code: ASL 14
 Accession Code:

N

0m 20m

1:500@A4

FIGURE 2: Pipe Trench Location



Site Code: ASL 14
Accession Code:

**FIGURE 3: Pipe Trench After Excavation Looking
East From The North of All Saints Church**