

HERITAGE NETWORK



THE CHURCH OF ST MARY Ware, Hertfordshire

HN925

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

THE CHURCH OF ST MARY, Ware, Hertfordshire

Project ref: HN925
Planning Ref.: 3/10/0660/FP
HER Enquiry ref: 67/11

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Ware Parochial Church Council

by

James Snee BSC (HONS) AIFA

Report no. 698

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The cover photograph shows the Church of St Mary, looking northeast

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by James Snee. The report text and illustrations were prepared by James Snee and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to the Michael Dales, Michael Dales Partnership Ltd, and Simon Hayes of Jarvis Construction; David Baker, Archaeological Adviser, Diocese of St Albans; Alison Tinniswood and Isobel Thompson, Hertfordshire Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Church of St. Mary The Virgin, Church Street, Ware, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Ware	Parish:	Ware
Planning reference:	3/10/0660/FP	NGR:	TL 356 144
Client name and address:	PCC of St. Mary's Church, Ware, c/o Michael Dales Partnership Ltd, 95 Sharpenhoe Road, Streatley, Luton, LU3 3PS		
Nature of work:	Extension	Former land use:	Churchyard
Site status:	Listed Building	Reason for investigation:	Direction of Diocesan Faculty Direction of local planning authority (PPS 5)
Position in planning process:	After full determination	Project brief originator:	Diocesan Faculty & Local Authority
Size of affected area:	42m ²	Size of area investigated:	42m ²
Site Code:	HN925	HER consultation:	67/11
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Watching Brief	Archive recipient:	Ware Museum/OASIS/ADS
Start of work	4/7/2011	Finish of work	11/7/2011
Related HER Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Post-Medieval
Oasis UID	Heritage1-101156	Significant finds:	Human Remains
Monument types:	None		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

In response to the requirements of planning permission and a diocesan faculty, the Heritage Network was commissioned to implement a scheme of archaeological monitoring during the construction of an extension to Church of St. Mary The Virgin, Church Street, Ware, Hertfordshire.

It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the development of the present church at Ware.

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the groundworks. This reflects the small area of deep excavation and a substantial degree of disturbance by modern services.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Michael Dales Partnership Ltd., acting on behalf of Ware Parochial Church Council, to cover a programme of archaeological work carried out as part of the construction of an extension to Church of St. Mary The Virgin, Church Street, Ware, Hertfordshire.

1.2 The planning consent for the extension (ref: 3/10/0660/FP) granted by East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC), was subject to an archaeological condition issued in line with the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5). The investigation was also a requirement of the Diocesan faculty for the development.

1.3 The extent and nature of the archaeological works has been set out in a *Brief for Archaeological Investigation, Recording and Reporting at the Church of St Mary, Ware, Hertfordshire* prepared by the Diocesan Archaeological Adviser (DAA), with the agreement of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Unit (HEU).

1.4 The site is located in the core of Ware, centred on NGR 535670 214445. The churchyard is bounded by Church Street to the north and west, properties fronting on West Street to the south, and nos.1-12 Tudor Square, and 1-12 Tudor Walk to the east. The development involves the construction of an extension to the entrance lobby of the church hall, and the creation of disabled parking.

1.5 The present report describes the findings of the monitoring programme and is intended, together with the deposit of the project archive with Ware Museum, to complete the requirements of the EHDC and of the Diocese.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area is located within the churchyard, immediately to the south of St. Mary's Church (Figure 2). The site lies on level ground in the valley of the River Lea at approximately 36m AOD.

2.2 Locally, the soils are of the Hanslope association (411d) described as "Slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils" over Chalky Till (SSEW 1983). The underlying geology consists of superficial deposits of Sand and Gravel over Chalk Bedrock (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience).

METHODOLOGY

2.3 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. A number of site visits were made to supervise the excavation of foundation trenches.

2.4 The machining was undertaken using a mini digger fitted with a 0.45m wide toothed bucket. In some areas of the extension footing, hand digging was employed to avoid damaging existing services.

2.5 All human remains encountered during the project were rapidly assessed on site for age at death, sex and any sign of obvious pathology. As none of the remains encountered were of archaeological or osteological importance they were not removed from the site. Following Church of England / English Heritage guidelines they were handed to the churchwarden for reburial in an appropriate location (Church of England 2005).

2.6 All work followed the published DAC Brief, and was carried out both in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, and with current standards and guidance published by the Church of England and English Heritage, the Institute for Archaeologists, and the Diocese of St Albans.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

2.7 The deepest excavations on the site were the footings for the extension to the lobby of the Church Hall. These revealed a stratigraphic sequence that began with at least 0.10m of yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand natural with moderate chalk flecks. Above this was 0.70m of dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt with frequent brick, tile, stone and cement fragments. The majority of the site was covered by 0.20m of black (10YR 2/1) sandy silt topsoil with frequent stones.

2.8 A service trench was excavated from the southeast corner of the Church Hall, along the southeast and east sides, to the north of the building. This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m and exposed topsoil and the upper part of the graveyard soil below. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the groundworks.

2.9 A small quantity of disarticulated human bone was recovered from the excavation, including rib, humerus and tibia fragments. All appeared to come from mature adults, but the bones were incomplete and undiagnostic. A fragment of a post-medieval iron coffin handle was also recovered. The human remains, and accompanying artefacts, were reburied on site.

2.10 For reasons outside the control of the Heritage Network, works on the disabled parking space was not monitored. It is understood, however, that these works did not extend to a depth greater than that of the pre-existing 'grasscrete' blocks in this area.

3. Discussion

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

3.1 St Mary's Church and its churchyard lie in a well documented archaeological landscape which includes evidence for human activity from the Mesolithic onwards. Ware developed as a small town in the Roman period, focused on the crossing of the river Lea by Ermine Street, and by the time of the Domesday Survey in 1087, a substantial village appears to have been in existence, focused on Baldock Street.

3.2 The Domesday Survey indicates the presence of a priest which may, in turn, indicate the presence of an early church; this appears to be confirmed in a charter from William the Conqueror, dated 1081, granting permission to Hugh de Grandmesnil to bequeath the church and lands at Ware to the Abbey of St Evroul in Normandy for the foundation of a priory (Page 1971). The location of the priory is uncertain, though it may lie directly to the north of the present churchyard, on the site of the Old Rectory (now known as the Manor House) (Bryant et al, 1998).

3.3 The present church dates from the 13th century, although most of the surviving fabric is of 14th and 15th century date, with some 19th century restoration (Listed Buildings On-line). An evaluation, carried out in 1978 at the north-eastern corner of the church, anticipating the location of a proposed church hall, exposed a total of 14 burials with a probable date range of 1550-1850. No burials were found which might have been associated with the earliest phase of the present church, and no structures or sign of earlier buildings were seen (Borrill, 1979).

3.4 A further evaluation, carried out in 1980 in the footprint of the present church hall and its associated car-park, showed a similar density of burials but also identified the base of a pit containing pottery of mid to late 13th century date. This pit was located in the footprint of the church hall lobby (Borrill 1982).

CONCLUSIONS

3.5 It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the development of the present church at Ware.

3.6 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the groundworks and only a small quantity of disarticulated bone was recovered. This reflects the small area of deep excavation and a substantial degree of disturbance by modern services.

Confidence Rating

3.7 Conditions on site were generally acceptable for the identification and recording of any potential archaeological remains, and as such there are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

4. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
4/7/2011	JGS	8	Monitored groundworks for extension.
5/7/2011	JGS	2	Monitored service trench.
7/7/2011	JGS	2	Monitored service trench.
11/7/2011	JGS	2	Monitored service trench.

5. Bibliography

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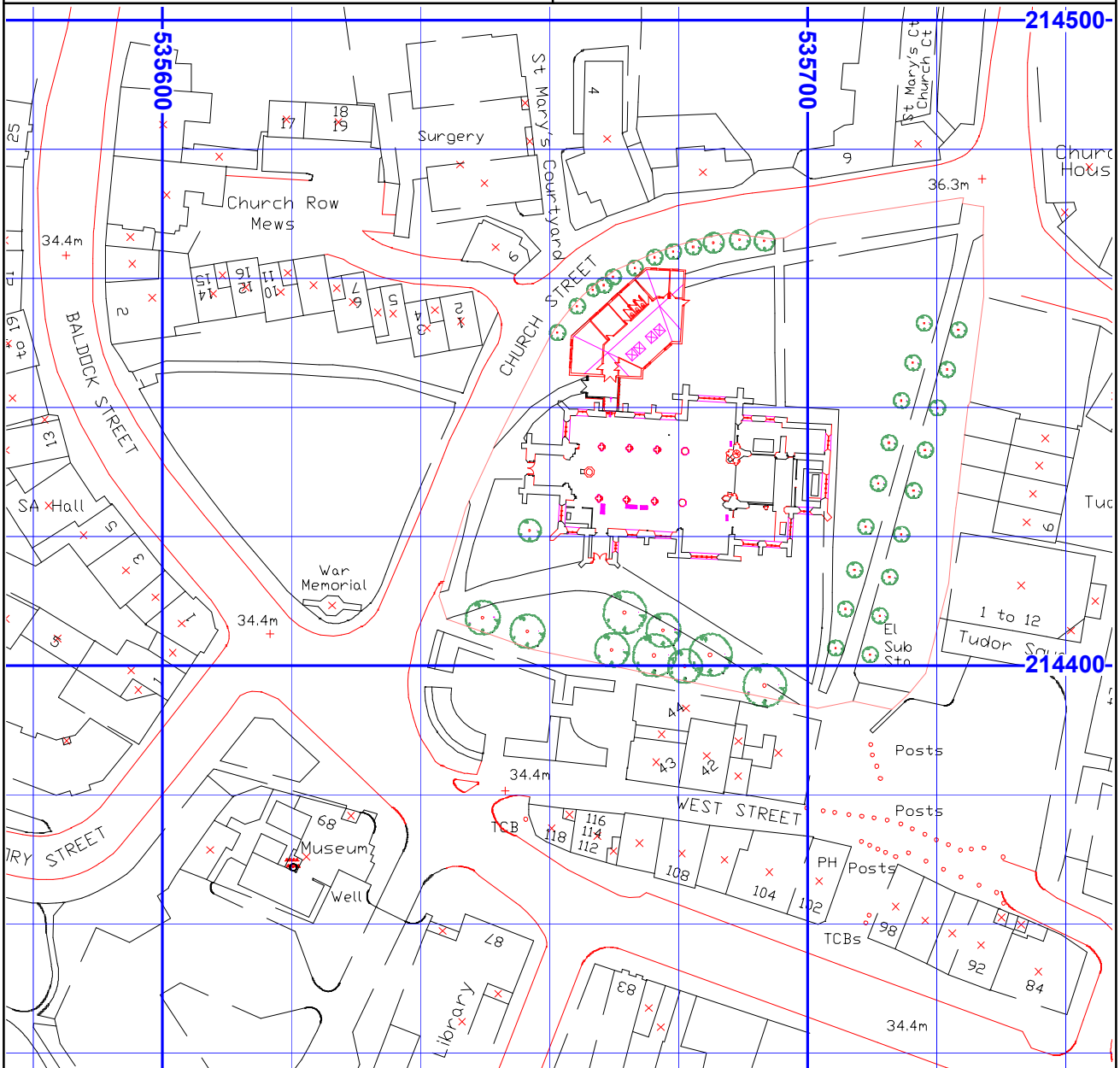
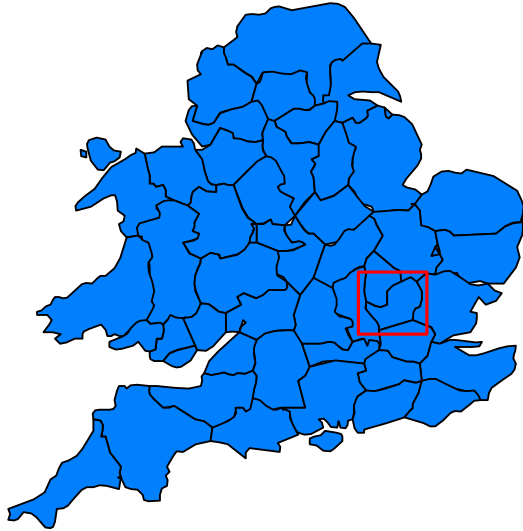
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6. Illustrations

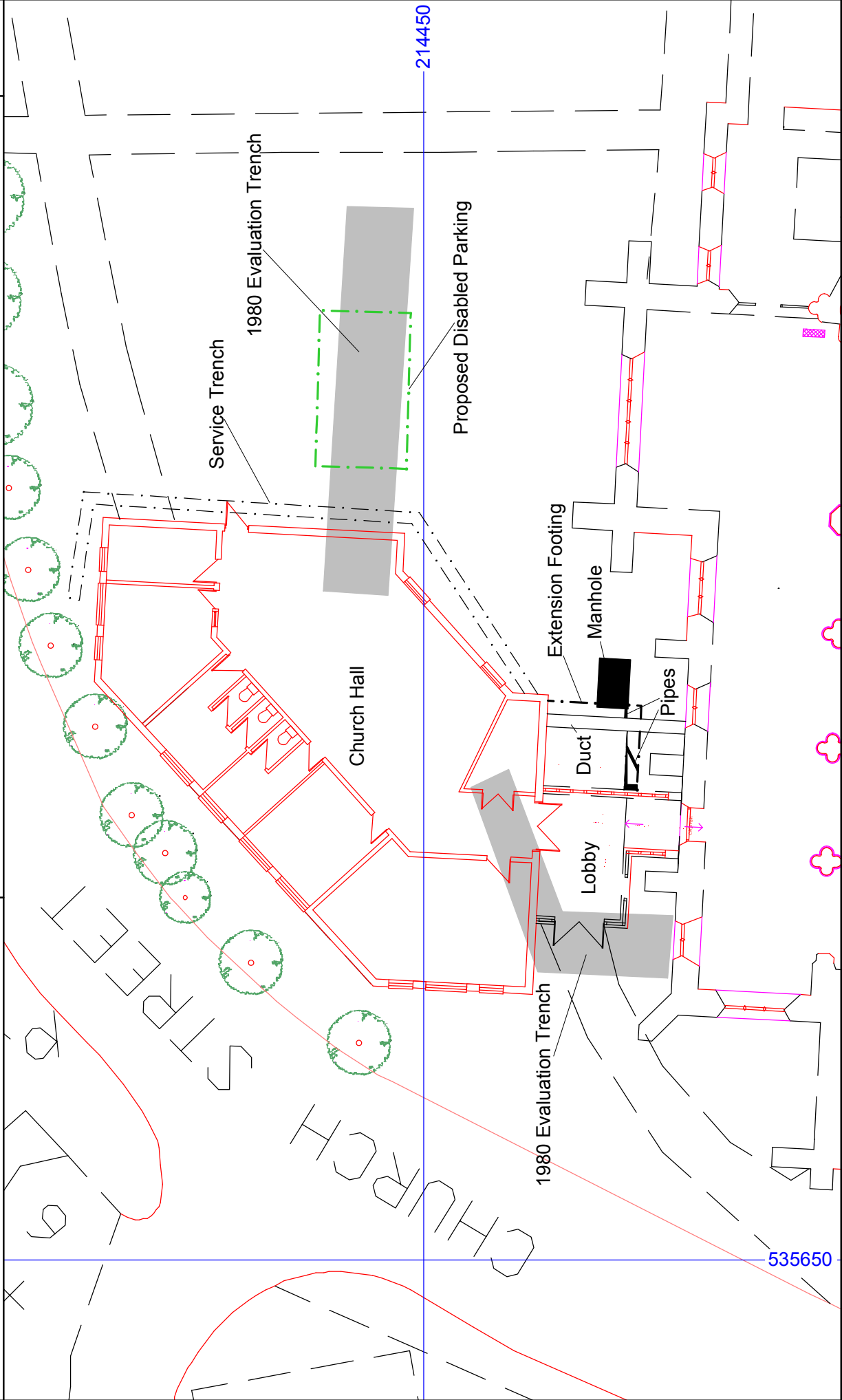
Figure 1.....	Site Location
Figure 2.....	Site Layout
Plate 1.....	Extension footing, looking northwest
Plate 2.....	Extension footing, looking south
Plate 3.....	Service trench, looking south-west
Plate 4.....	Service trench, looking north

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Site Location

Scale 1:1000



Site Layout

Courtesy Michael Dales Partnership. Crown Copyright 2008. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020449

Scale 1:200

Figure 2



Plate 1: Extension footing, looking northwest.



Plate 2: Extension footing, looking south.



Plate 3: Service trench, looking west.



Plate 4: Service trench, looking north.

Appendix

Oasis Data Entry Form

OASIS ID: heritage1-101156

Project details	
Project name	Ware, St. Mary's Church, Church Street
Short description of the project	In response to the requirements of planning permission and a diocesan faculty, the Heritage Network was commissioned to implement a scheme of archaeological monitoring during the construction of an extension to Church of St. Mary The Virgin, Church Street, Ware, Hertfordshire. It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the development of the present church at Ware. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the groundworks and only a small quantity of disarticulated bone was recovered. This was reflects the small area of deep excavation and a substantial degree of disturbance by modern services.
Project dates	Start: 04-07-2011 End: 11-07-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Associated project reference codes	HN925 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	HUMAN REMAINS Uncertain
Significant Finds	COFFIN FITTING Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE WARE St. Mary's Church, Church Street
Postcode	SG12 9EG
Study area	42.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 356 144 51.8112987260 -0.03275757521570 51 48 40 N 000 01 57 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 36.00m Max: 36.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeologist
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	James Snee
Type of sponsor/funding body	Parochial Church Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	PCC of St. Mary's Church

Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	OASIS/ADS
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography',
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	THE CHURCH OF ST MARY, Ware, Hertfordshire.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J.
Other bibliographic details	Heritage Network Report No: 698
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 8 pages, 2 figures, 4 plates.

Site Name:	St Mary's Ware	HN ref:	925
		Site Code:	

Recorder(s):	SGS	Arrive time:	8.45	Return travel:	1
Date:	4/7/2011.	Depart time:	3.15	Total hours:	7 1/2

Reported to:	Paul. Suckling	Position:	Director.
Purpose of visit:	OR		

Photograph film no	Digital.			
Staff on site:	SGS			
Observations:				
Machine arrived at 9.00 am.				
Started by removing tree. This took until 10.00 am when the workers took a break.				
10.30 resumed work with extension footing - mainly in disturbed / made ground with debris from the adjacent structure.				
Work is slowed by the presence of pipes.				
Photographed trench.				
12.00 Mike Dales on site.				
Some concern about pipes. Machining not resumed until 12.45.				
re-started footings - more modern makeup over concrete.				
Lunch 1.00 to 1.30				
Hand digging around concrete to create a toe.				
Machine digging resumed the church site of Man hole, stopped and transfers to hand digging after reaching service pipe.				
		Sheet	1 of 1	
Additional records:				
		Text sheet(s)	1	
		Sketch sheet(s)	1	
		Context form(s)	1	
		A4 Scale dwng(s)	1	
		A3 Scale dwng(s)	1	
Weather:	Sunny.		Photographs	1

Site Name:	St Mary's Ware	HN ref:	925.
		Site Code:	

Recorder(s):	JCS	Arrive time:	2.00	Return travel:	1 hr
Date:	9/7/11.	Depart time:	2.30	Total hours:	1 1/2

Reported to:	Mike (Machine Driver)	Position:	
Purpose of visit:	OK.		

Photograph film no	Digital.
Staff on site:	JCS.
Observations:	

They have had delays due to lateness of building inspector.
 c. 2.5 m of service trenches excavated → only at topsoil depth.
 Took photo graphs
 Next visit: Thursday PM.

	Sheet	1	of	1
	Additional records:			
	Text sheet(s)			—
	Sketch sheet(s)			—
	Context form(s)			—
	A4 Scale dwng(s)			—
	A3 Scale dwng(s)			—
Weather:	Sunny.	Photographs		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Site Name:	St Mary's, Ware	HN ref:	925
		Site Code:	

Recorder(s):	JGS	Arrive time:	11.00	Return travel:	1
Date:	7/7/2011.	Depart time:	11.30	Total hours:	1 1/2.

Reported to:	Ground workers.	Position:	
Purpose of visit:	OR.		

Photograph film no	Digital.
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Staff on site:	JGS.
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Observations:	
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About half the service trench excavated. Small quantity of disarticulated bone & 1 coffin handle recovered. 2nd half will be slower because they have to remove the concrete so the car park in complete sections so it can be replaced. Will visit again on Mon pm. NB. Board for photographing bone will be needed.

Sheet	1	of	1
Additional records:			
Text sheet(s)			-
Sketch sheet(s)			-
Context form(s)			-
A4 Scale dwng(s)			-
A3 Scale dwng(s)			-
Weather:	Rain.	Photographs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Site Name:	st Mary's Ware	HN ref:	HN 925
		Site Code:	

Recorder(s):	SGS	Arrive time:	1.30	Return travel:	1
Date:	11/7/2011.	Depart time:	2.00	Total hours:	1 1/2.

Reported to:	Ground workers.	Position:	
Purpose of visit:	OR.		

Photograph film no	Digital.
Staff on site:	SGS.
Observations:	

Trench for drain now extends all round to manhole. Max depth 450mm. No visible graves (to shallow) occ stray disarticulated bone. Collected and stored on site for reburial.

Photo's taken.

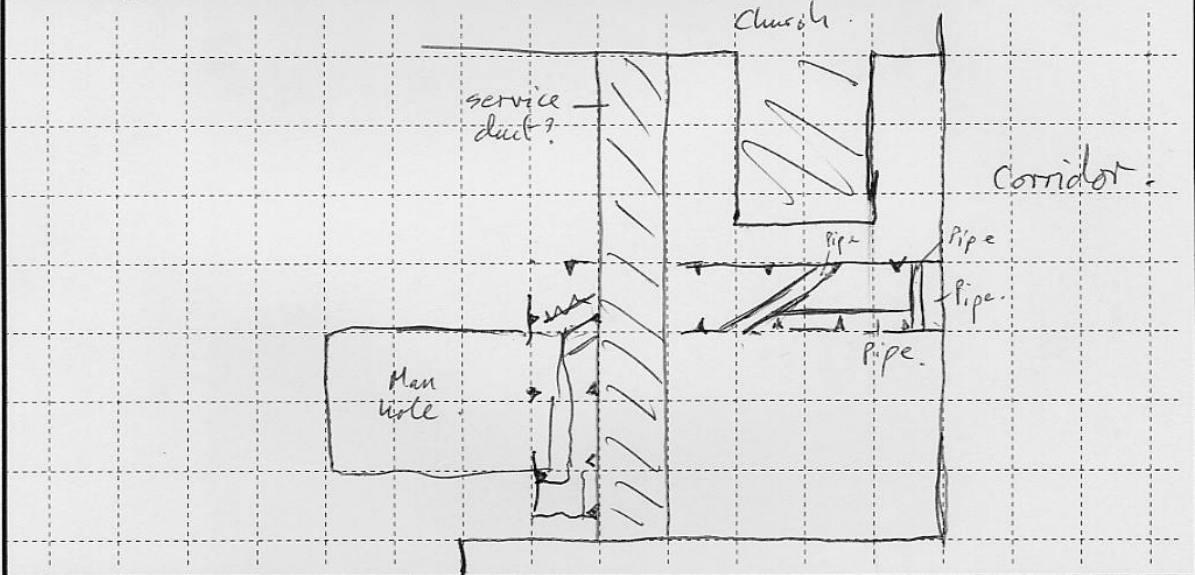
Next visit is for Parking space + path - Note there may be some delay as lead + lightning conductor have been stolen and temp roof is now taking over work.

Sheet		1	of	1
Additional records:				
Text sheet(s)		—		
Sketch sheet(s)		—		
Context form(s)		—		
A4 Scale dwng(s)		—		
A3 Scale dwng(s)		—		
Weather:	o/casl.	Photographs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SITE CODE HN 925.	Site Name	Map/plan reference	Project Phase	PLOT No 1
	Length 2.8 m x 2.5 m	Width c. 0.9 m	Depth 1 m	
	Machine Type 1/2 ton 360	Bucket Size 45cm.		

Present land use:		Visibility (circle):	Poor	Moderate	Good			
Topsoil/ Overburden								
Colour Black	Composition sandy silt frequent stone	Depth	0.20 m.					
Subsoil								
Colour Dark greyish brown	Composition sandy silt + frequent stone, bricks, tile, frequent	Depth	0.70 m.					
Natural								
Colour Mid yellowish brown	Composition silty sand + mod chalk flecks	Depth	> 0.10 m.					
Observations (circle)	Archaeology	Root activity	Structure	Contaminat'n	Unstable	Land-drain	Other:
	Bur'd horizon	Burrows	Services	Flooding	Blank	Plough	

Sketch Plan (include all dimensions, north arrow and levels; remember to annotate)



Discussion and interpretation

Area very disturbed by former construction + services

Contexts	—	Signature	SES
Finds	—	Date	4/7/2011.
Plan no.	—	Checked	
Weather conditions	Sunny	Cont.	