

HERITAGE NETWORK



ST. MARY'S CHURCH **Bayford, Herts.**

HN625

Archaeological Monitoring Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK *LTD*

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

ST. MARY'S CHURCH Bayford, Herts.

HN625

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Bayford Parochial Church Council

by

David Kaye, BA PIFA

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The cover photo shows a view of St Mary's Church from the north

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by David Kaye. The illustrations were prepared by David Kaye, and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Terry Hayne, Bayford PCC and David Baker, St Albans DAC, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	St. Mary's Church, Bayford, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Hertford	Parish:	Bayford
Planning reference:	n/a	NGR:	TL 3097 0884
Client name and address:	Bayford Parochial Church Council, Terry Hayne, Cross Ponds, 2 Ashdene Road, Bayford, Hertford, SG13 8PX		
Nature of work:	Drainage trenching	Former land use:	Churchyard
Site Status:	Listed building	Reason for investigation:	Faculty jurisdiction
Position in planning process:	n/a	Project brief originator:	St Albans Diocese
Size of affected area:	c.23m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.23m ²
Site Code:	HN625	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Monitoring	Archive Recipient:	Hertford Museum
Start of work	16/09/06	Finish of work	16/09/06
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	None
Oasis UID:	heritage1-18649	Significant finds:	Worked stone, medieval pottery sherd
Monument types:	None		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Narrative:

In response to the requirements of the diocesan faculty, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the Bayford Parochial Church Council to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring of new drainage and service trenches associated with the construction of toilet facilities at St. Mary's Church, Bayford.

Two trenches were excavated to a depth between 0.5 – 0.6m. The water feed pipe ran from the west end of the nave to the vestry. The trench was cut through mainly a mixture of thick clay with some brick and tile, changing to gravelly, made ground at the western end. The clay probably represents the spoil dug for the footings of the present church. The waste pipe ran from the vestry northeast and joined the main sewer beyond the church boundary. The ground in this part of the churchyard contained significant quantities of brick and peg tile which probably represents debris from the nearby church which was demolished in 1870 or its Medieval predecessor which was demolished in 1803. A single piece of worked stone, probably from a door jamb, was also recovered from this trench. No human remains were encountered.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of the *Bayford Parochial Church Council*, as part of a programme of archaeological observation and recording of groundworks in the churchyard of St Mary's, Bayford, Herts. The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken as a precaution and followed the provisions set out in the *Archaeological Specification* provided by the Diocesan Archaeology Adviser.

1.2 The church and churchyard are situated at the northeastern end of the village of Bayford, centred on NGR TL 3097 0884 (Figure 1). The present church was constructed in 1871 approximately 25m south of the original church which was medieval. This was demolished in 1803 and replaced on the same site with a yellow brick church, which was, in turn, demolished in 1870.

1.3 The groundworks were associated with the construction of toilet facilities within the vestry and consisted of the excavation of two trenches one for water feed pipe and the other for a waste pipe to the sewer main located beyond the churchyard boundary.

1.4 The aim of the monitoring and recording programme has been to record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains which were exposed in the course of the groundworks, and to excavate and record such as would be likely to be destroyed by the works.

2. Fieldwork

METHODOLOGY

2.1 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. One site visit was made to monitor the groundworks.

2.2 The machining was undertaken using a tracked mini-digger. This was fitted with a 450mm and 225mm toothless bucket for the waste pipe trench and the water pipe trench respectively. Spoil from the groundworks was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.3 No *Project Design* was requested for the present project. However, all work followed the published DAC Brief, and was carried out both in accordance with the Heritage Network's documented practice, and with current standards and guidelines published by English Heritage, the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and others.

SERVICE TRENCHES

2.4 Two service trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was located to the west and north of the church and was c.225mm wide. Trench 2 was located to the north and northwest and was c.450mm wide (Figure 2). They varied in depth between 500mm and 600mm.

Trench 1

2.5 Trench 1 was orientated east to west for 16m then north to south for 8m and ran from the vestry to the west end of the nave where the current water inlet is located (Figure 2). It followed the line of an existing gravel path, which had subsequently become grassed over.

2.6 At the west end of the church the stratigraphy of this trench consisted of 0.1 - 0.15m of black (10YR 2/1) top soil overlying made ground of gravel, flints and brick/tile. Along the north aisle wall the underlying material was predominantly dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) clay mixed with occasional fragments of brick and tile. This clay probably represents the spoil from the footings trenches of the present church. A single fragment of Hertfordshire Greyware pottery, weighing 15g, was recovered from the spoil of Trench 1.

Trench 2

2.7 Trench 2 was located around the vestry and orientated south to north for 4.5m, west to east for 11.5m then northeast for 23m where it joined the main sewer (Figure 2). The two shorter arms of the run followed the cut of an old heating oil pipe, which had to be removed prior to the installation of the new waste pipe.

2.8 The stratigraphy of this trench was consistent along its length with 0.1 - 0.15m of black top soil overlying made ground containing a significant quantity of brick and peg tile. This material is probably derived from the earlier churches on the site, which were demolished in 1803 and 1871. A single piece of worked clunch stone was recovered from this trench weighing 3440g (Plates 1a & 1b). This may have been part of a door jamb from the original, Medieval church.

2.9 A probable brick drain [01] running east to west was also revealed in this trench. Constructed of unbonded, 10" red clay bricks it is probably associated with the present church.

2.10 The route of the Trench 2 followed that of the old heating oil pipe before crossing the graveyard to the main sewer beyond the churchyard boundary. It was located to run between two lines of marked graves.

3. Discussion

3.1 The present St. Mary's Church was built in 1871 and serves a modern village population of c.300. The surrounding graves all appear to be of 19th and 20th century date, the older graves being in the northwest corner of the site, close to where the previous churches were situated.

3.2 Both pipe trenches cross made ground, between existing marked graves, and do not impact on the underlying stratigraphy. During the course of the groundworks, no grave cuts or human remains were revealed.

3.3 The brick drain [01] in Trench 2, is probably associated with the present church and may channel rain water from the roof to a soakaway.

3.4 The made ground cut by both pipe trenches, which contained significant quantities of brick and tile, is likely to derive from the demolition of one or both of the earlier churches. This layer may be covering earlier, unmarked graves and possibly disarticulated, unstratified remains. However, the neither pipe trench breached this layer.

CONFIDENCE RATING

3.5 In the course of the fieldwork, weather and ground conditions were generally good for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

3.6 There are no circumstances, which would lead to a confidence rating for the present project, which is less than High.

4. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
16/09/2006	DGK	8.25	Monitor and record service pipe trenches.

5. Bibliography

Baker, D., 2006, *Brief for Precautionary Archaeological Attendance at the Church of St Mary's, Bayford.*

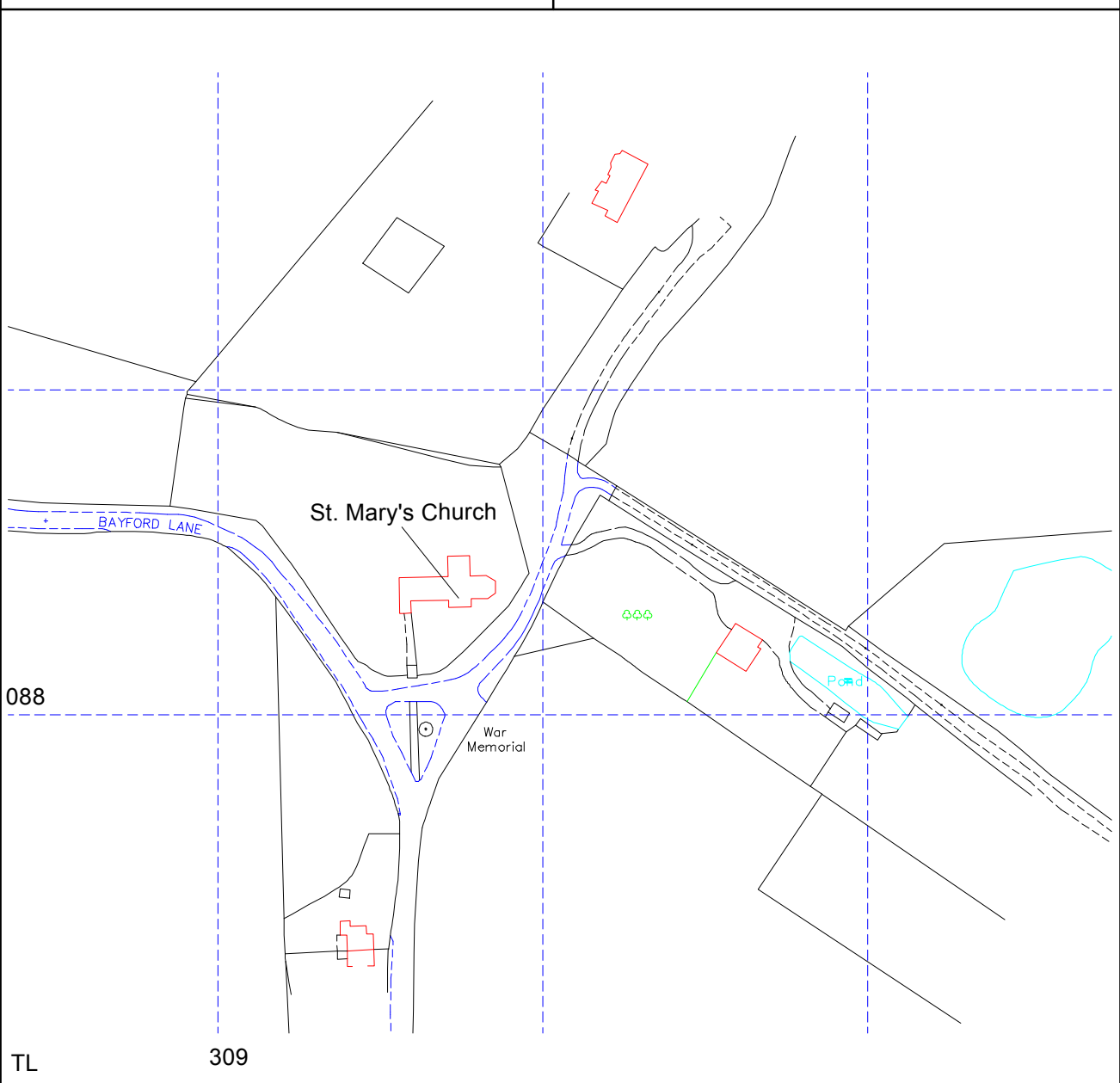
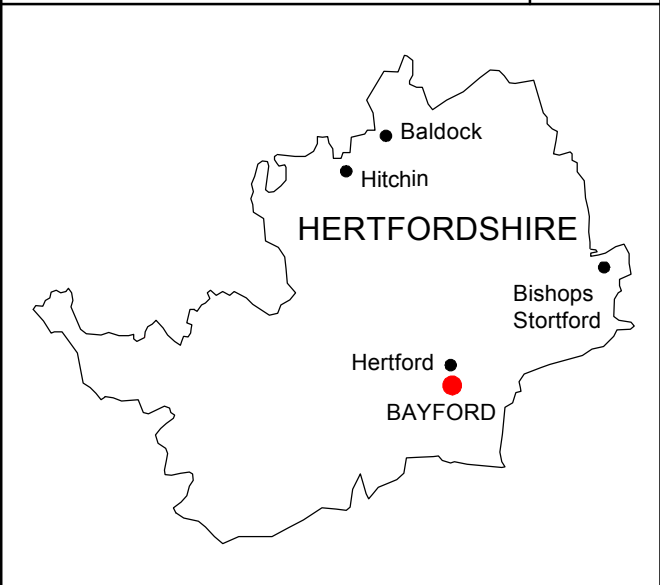
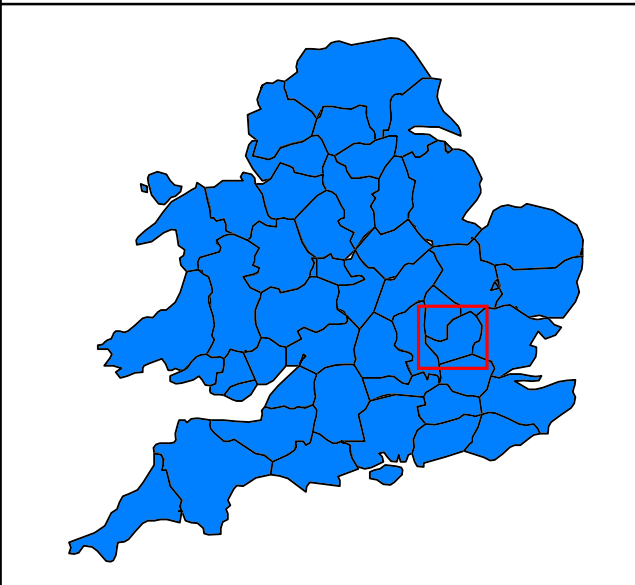
6. Illustrations & Plates

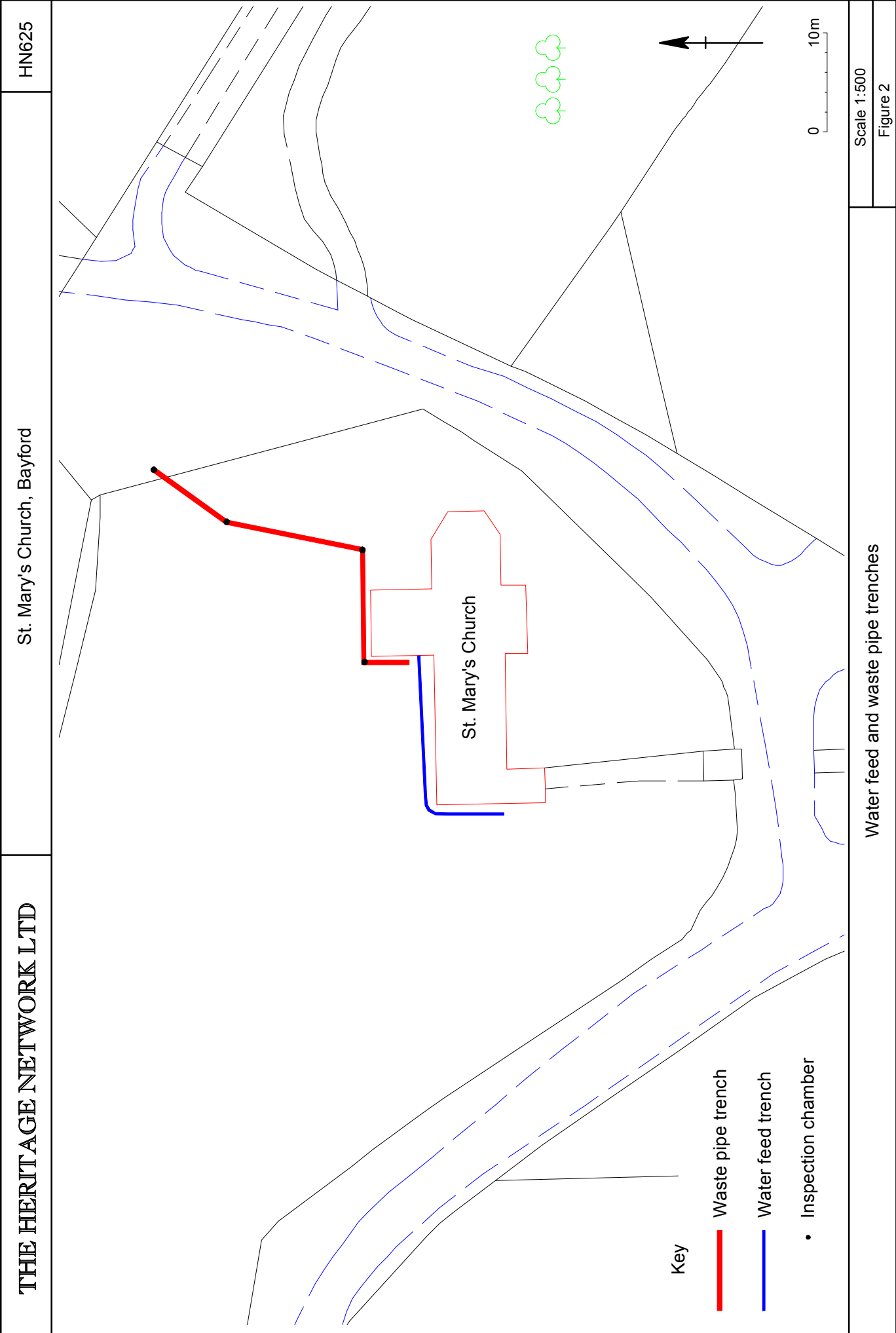
Figure 1 Site location

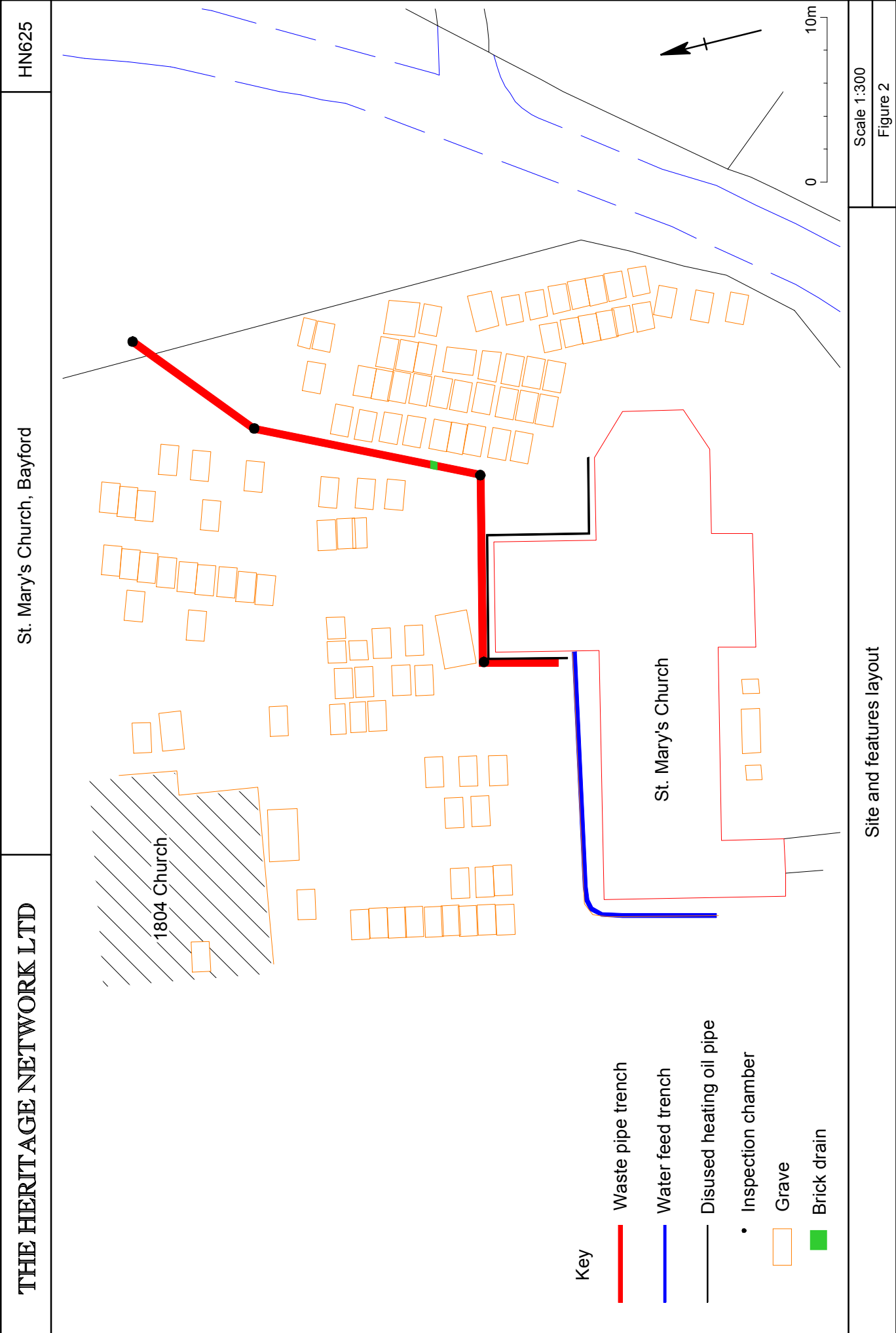
Figure 2 Site and features layout

Plate 1a.....Profile of worked stone

Plate 1b.....Face of worked stone







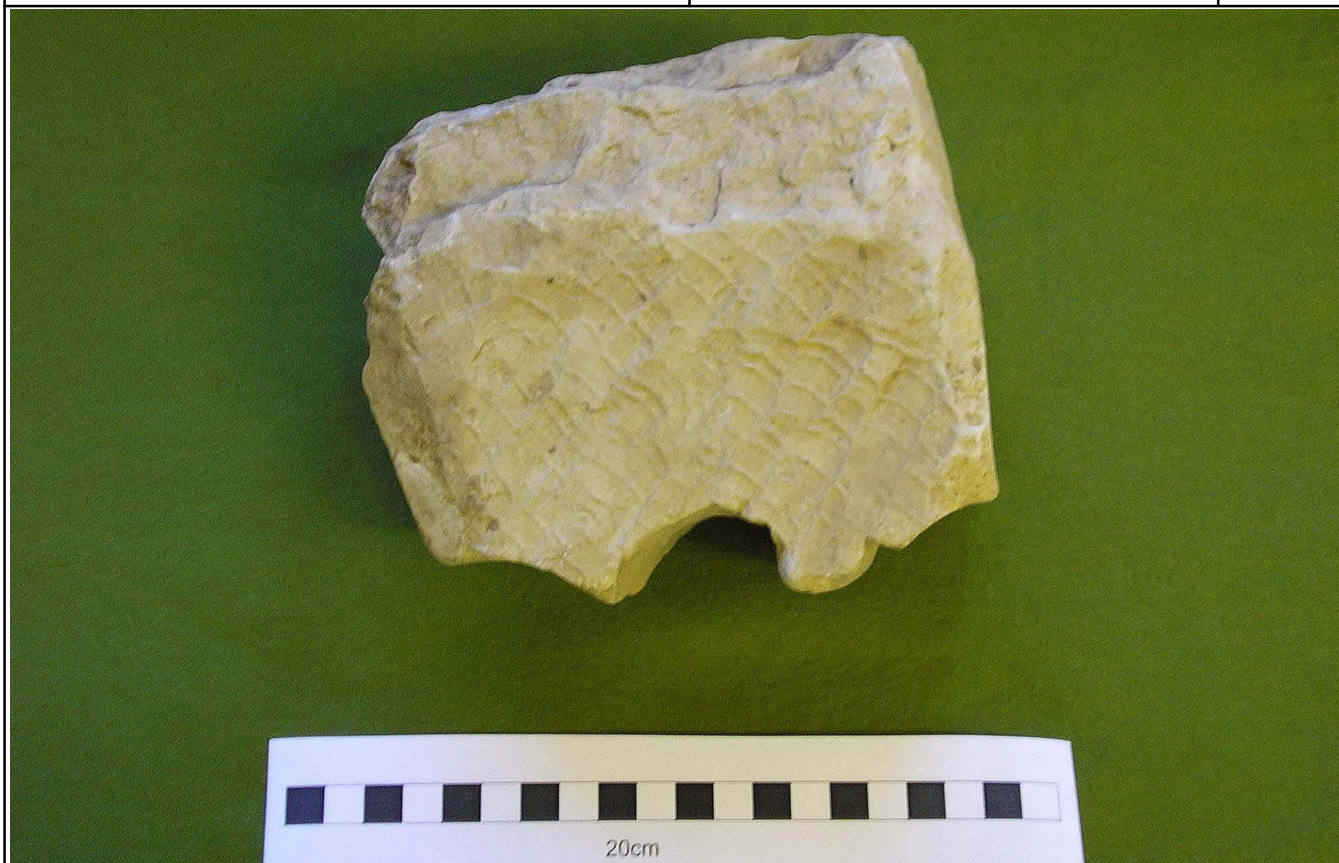


Plate 1a: Profile of worked stone

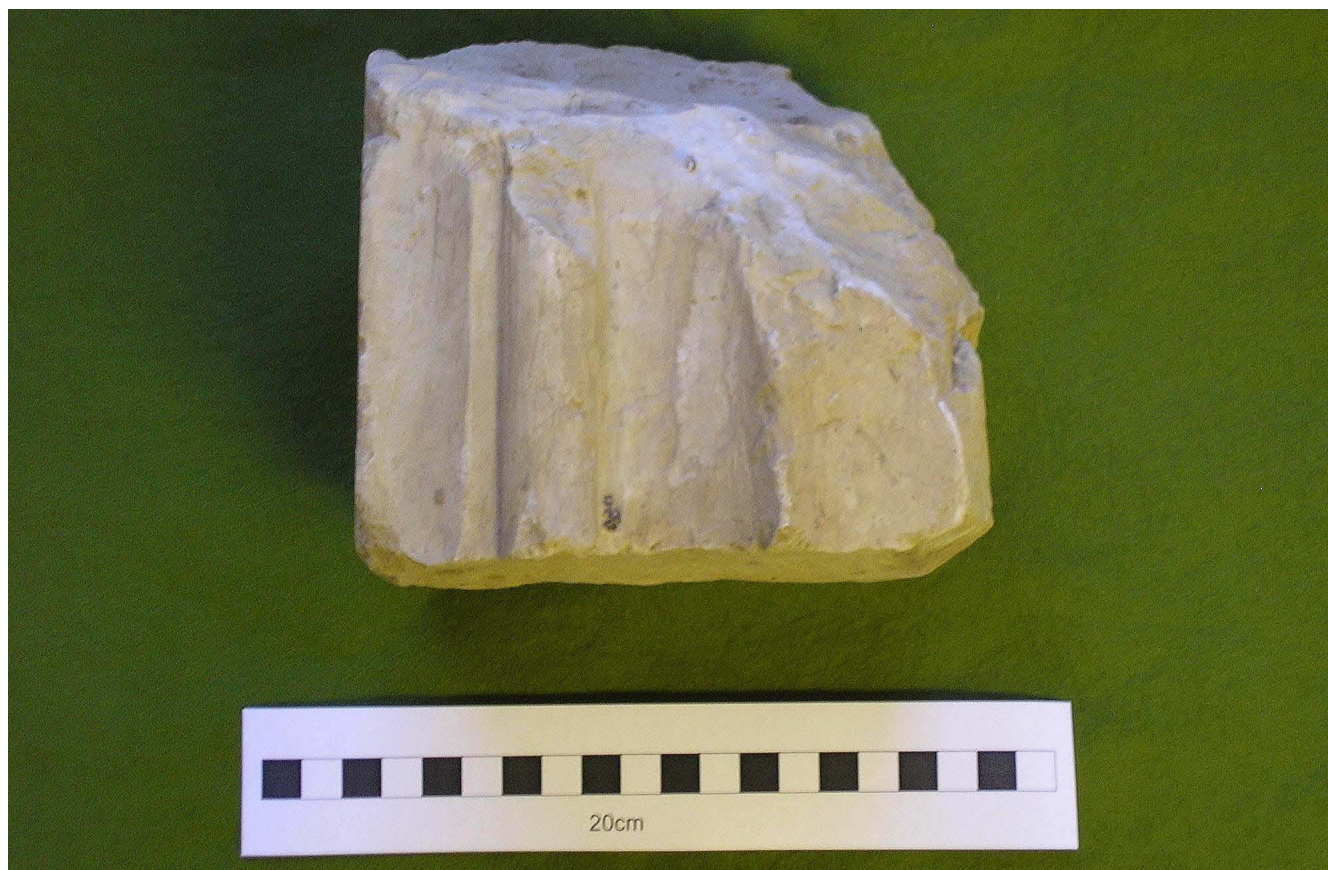


Plate 1b: Face of worked stone