

All Saints' Church, Caddington, Bedfordshire.

HN1247

Report No.1037

Site name and address:	All Saints' Church, Caddington, Bedfordshire, LU6 2LL		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Caddington	Parish:	Caddington
Planning reference:	n/a	NGR:	TL 06381 19855
Client name and address:	PCC of All Saints' Church, Caddington, Bedfordshire, LU6 2LL, C/O Mrs Pamela Ward.		
Nature of work:	Building of a kitchenette, WC, meeting room and an external drain run	Present land use:	Church and churchyard
Site Status:	Listed Building	Reason for investigation:	Diocesan Faculty
Position in planning process:	N/A	Project brief originator:	DAC
Size of affected area:	15.78m ²	Size of area investigated:	15.78m ²
Site Code:	HN1247	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.	Monitoring and Recording	Archive Recipient:	Luton Museum
Start of work	10/02//2016	Finish of work	27/09//2016
Related HER Nos:	HER 1168	Periods represented:	None
Oasis UID:	heritage1-239703	Significant finds:	Disarticulated human bone
Monument types:	Church		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	None		

Narrative:

As part of the faculty requirements for the building of a screened kitchenette and toilet, with a meeting room above, located in the north-west corner of the north aisle of All Saints' Church, Caddington, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a watching brief on the groundworks.

All Saints' Church is located on the north-west edge of the village, on the northern side of Luton Road, centred on NGR TL 06381 19855 (Figure 1).

The groundworks programme included internal and external works (Figure 2). The internal works involved the excavation of three pad foundations (Test-pits 1-3), following the removal of pews within the footprint of the new construction (Plate1); the external works involved the excavation of a drainage trench to connect the new construction in the north-west corner of the church to existing services on Collings Wells Close to the north-west of the church.

Test-pit 1 (Plate 2) was located in the north-west corner of the north aisle, between two pillars, and measured 2.8m in length, 0.4m in width and approximately 0.5m in depth. Test pit 2 (Plate 3) was located approximately 1m to the north-east of Test-pit 1 and measured 0.6m in length, 0.5m in width and approximately 0.60m in depth. Test-pit 3 (Plate 4) was located approximately 0.5m to the north-east of Test-pit 2 and measured 0.6m by 0.6m approximately 0.60m in depth. All three test-pits revealed the same stratigraphy, comprising a mixed rubble and stone make up layer for the existing floor surface, over 0.6m deep. Test pit 1 had a rubble and mortar layer, 0.2m thick overlying this.

The drainage trench was approximately 28m in length with a width of 0.5m and a depth of 0.4m. The stratigraphy in the trench was uniform, consisting of a black (10YR 2/1), soft silty clay topsoil overlying a yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) soft, sandy clay subsoil. At the north-west corner of the site the drainage trench cut through a bank defining the edge of the churchyard, which consisted of a disturbed topsoil and a redeposited natural containing modern material.

Discussion:

All Saints' Church is a Grade II* listed building (Listing 35898) of 12th century origin. The nave, south doorway and chancel arch date to this period. A north chapel was built in 14th century and extended in the 15th century to form the north aisle. The south aisle and west tower are of 15th century date. The chancel was rebuilt in the 19th century and the church was much restored in 1875.

Several fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered during the excavation of Test-pit 3. The remains were handed to the vicar for reburial. The risk of encountering disarticulated human bone was expected and no articulated remains were exposed.

No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed during the excavation.

Illustrations:

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Site layout

Plate 1 Removal of the pews, looking north-west

Plate 2 Test pit 1, looking north

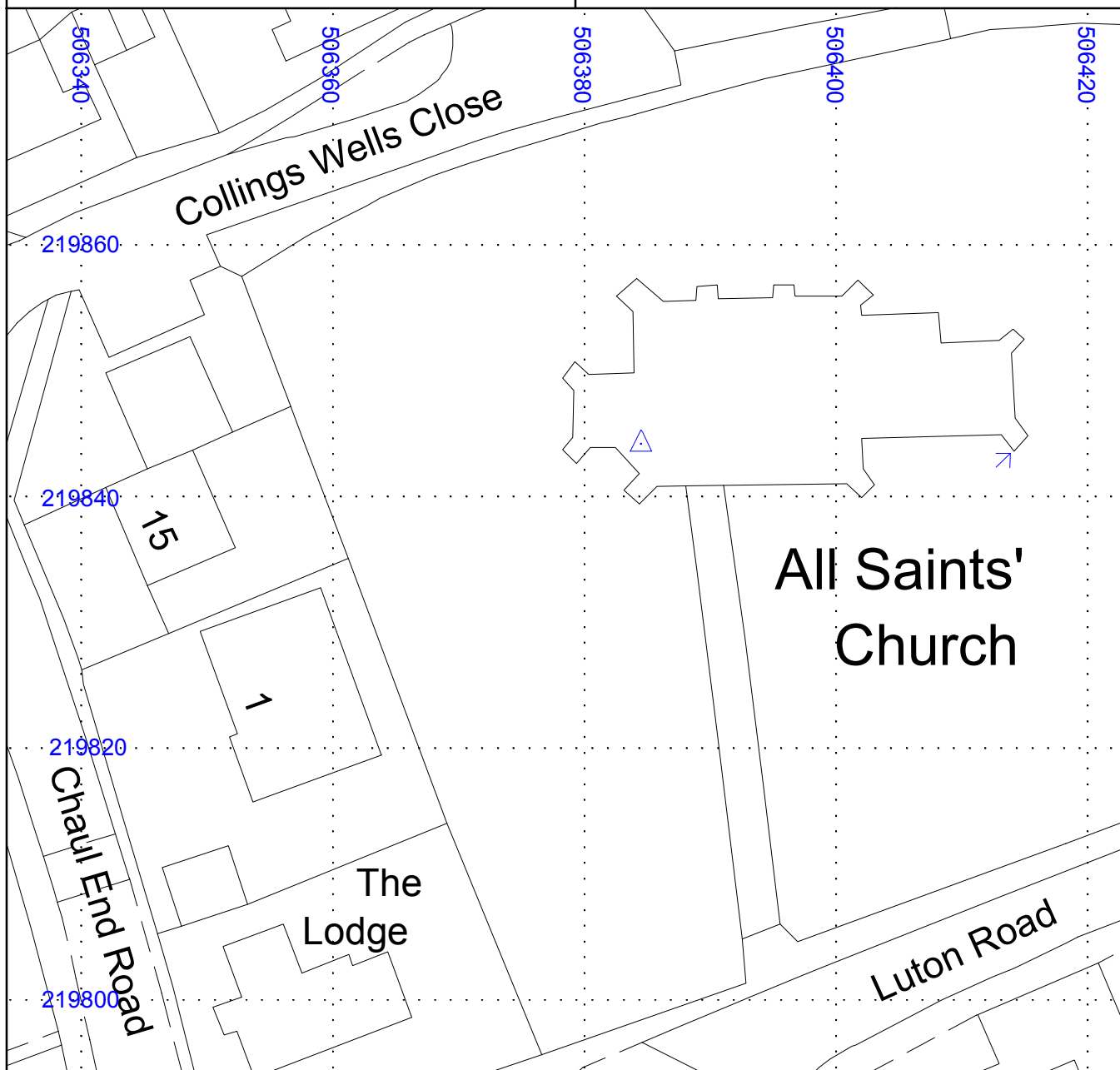
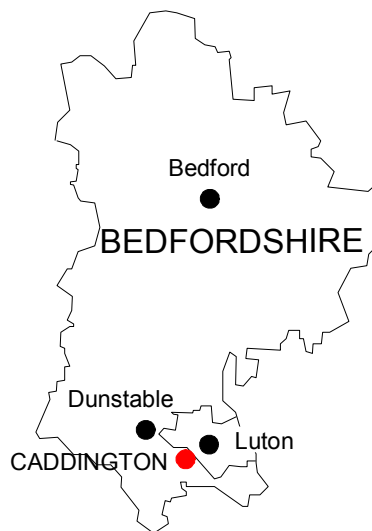
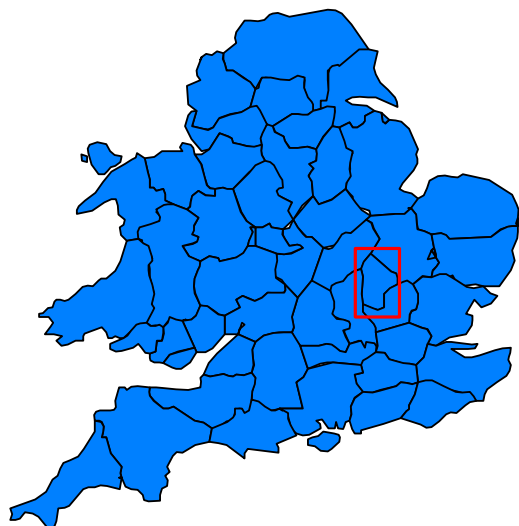
Plate 3 Test pit 2, looking south

Plate 4 Test pit 3, looking south

Plate 5 Section of drainage trench, looking north-west

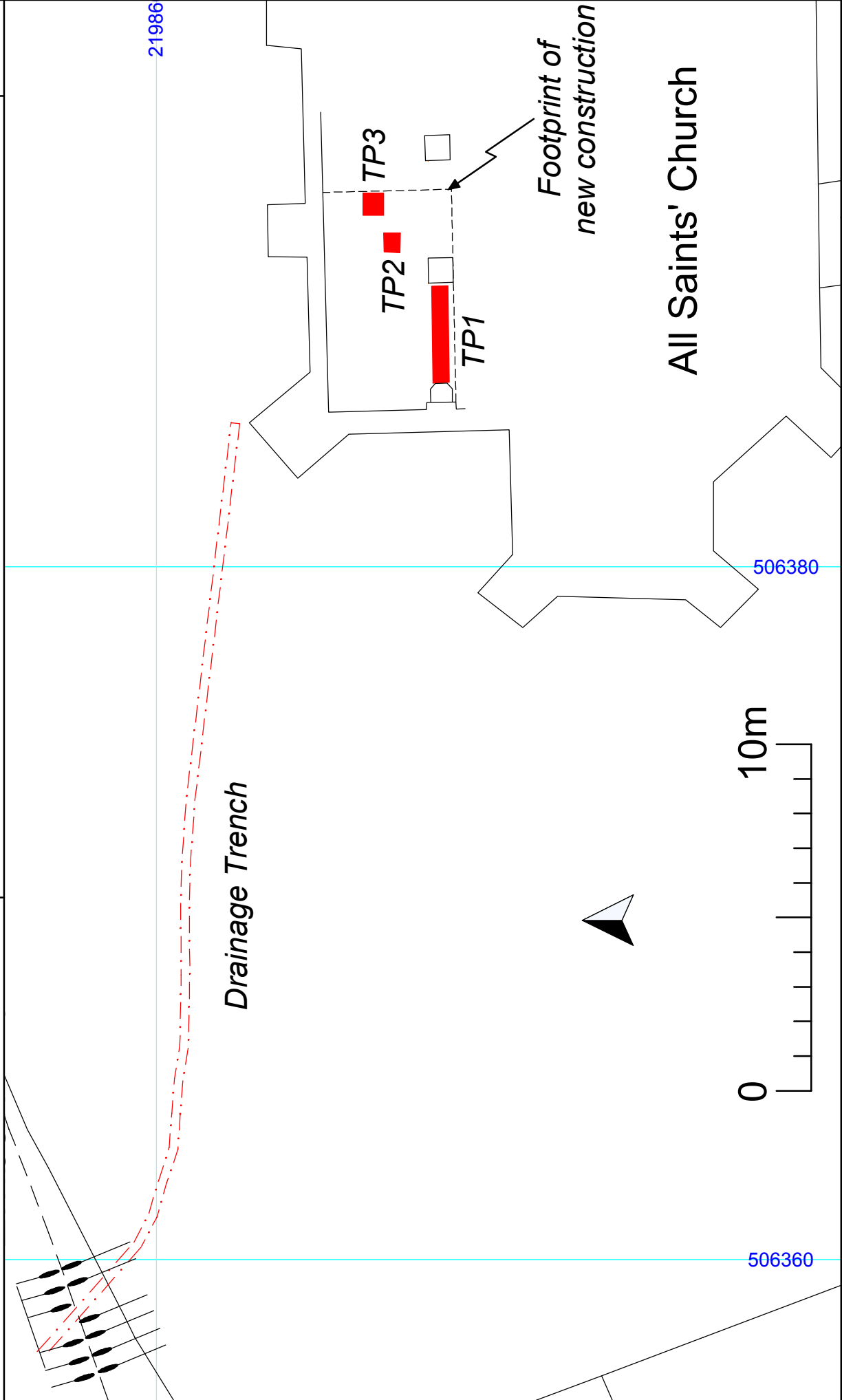
Plate 6 Section of bank at site boundary, looking north-east

Mark Sycamore
December 2016



Site Location

Scale 1:500



Site Layout

Scale 1:150

Figure 2



Plate 1: Removal of the pews, looking north-west



Plate 2: Test pit 1, looking north



Plate 3: Test pit 2, looking south



Plate 4: Test pit 3, looking south



Plate 5: Section of drainage trench, looking north-west



Plate 6: Section of bank at site boundary, looking north-east