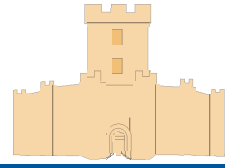


Archaeological Investigations Ltd



St. Mary's Church

Dudleston

SHROPSHIRE

Archaeological watching brief

SMR note



May 2007

St. Mary's Church, Dudleston, Shropshire
Archaeological watching brief
SMR note

Dale Rouse and Luke Craddock-Bennett

For: St. Mary's Church, Dudleston PCC

Cover picture: St. Mary's Church Dudleston (main).
Disarticulated burials revealed during monitoring
(inset)

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Summary

Site name: St. Mary's Church Dudleston
Grid reference: SJ 34617 38441

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. was commissioned by Dudleston PCC to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a service trench within the churchyard (Figure 1). A toilet was to be installed in the Church and the excavations were necessary to connect the toilet to a septic tank.

The brief for the archaeological work was prepared by Mr. Bob Panet, who acted as an advisor to the Lichfield DAC on archaeological matters.

A stipulation of the brief was that if nothing significant was found during the excavation then it would not be necessary to produce a full report, but a summary note on the work should be sent to the SMR.

Method

Excavations for a new drain (4.5m long, 0.6m wide and 0.5m deep) and septic tank (approximately 2.5m² and 1.7m deep) were carried out by contractors under archaeological supervision on 23rd May 2007.

Recording of the operations were carried out in accordance with Archaeological Investigations Ltd Site Manual, and IFA professional standards were adhered to.

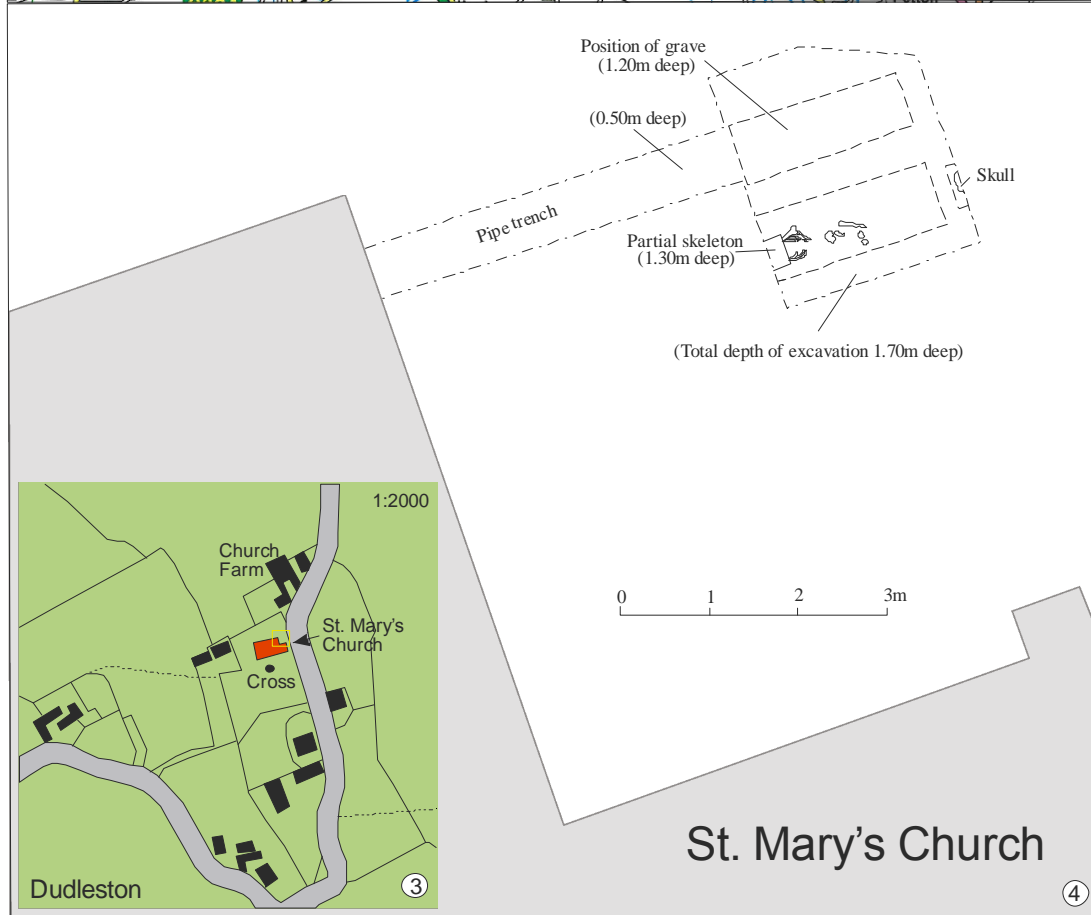
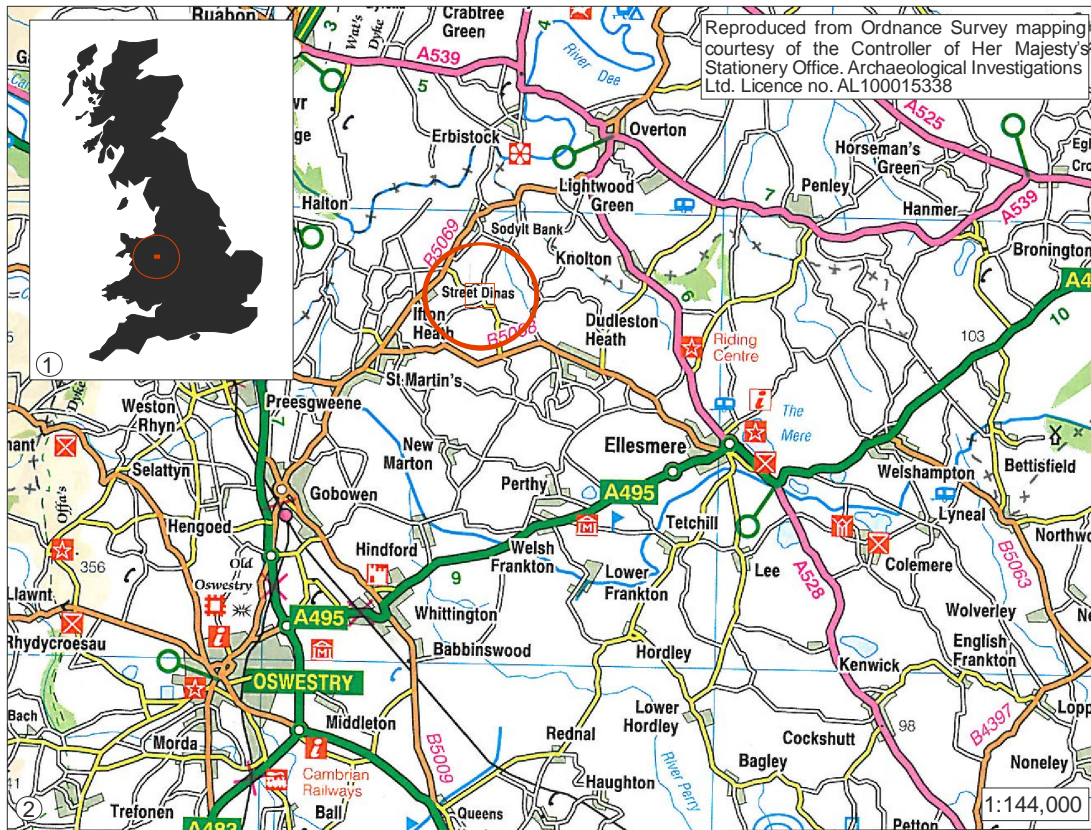
Results

During the excavation three partial skeletons and an assortment of disarticulated human bone were encountered at a depth of 1.2m to 1.3m (below ground level). The best preserved of the skeletons (a female) still had some brown hair attached to the skull. Overlying the chest area of the same skeleton was a badly corroded brass plate. A few pieces of wooden coffin lid decorated with round brass studs were found at the same depth, as were a coffin handle and a few nails. The decorated coffin lid and furnishings appeared similar in style to those current between the early 17th and late 19th centuries.

The remains were recorded, bagged and reburied later the same day.

Conclusion

The presence of 17th to 19th century burials within the churchyard was not unexpected. The results are not considered to be of particular archaeological significance.



Location and plan of excavations at Dudleston Church

Figure 1