
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**ST ANDREW & ST NICHOLAS CHURCH,
ST ANDREWS STREET, HERTFORD,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING & RECORDING**

Author: Rozwadowski, M	
NGR: TL 36395 12880	Report No: 3203
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS1169
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3170
Signed:	Date: October 2008

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>St Andrew & St Nicholas Church, St Andrews Street, Hertford Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
<p>Project description:</p> <p><i>During September and early October 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological attendance recording and reporting at St Andrew & St Nicholas Church, St Andrew Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire, during groundworks associated with drainage works.</i></p> <p><i>During the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording two undisturbed burial vaults were discovered. Both of them were solid masonry vaults with covering stone slabs, likely of later 19th century or later date. They were subject to minimal recording, avoiding any further disturbance, and the soakaway location moved to preserve them in situ, before the area was backfilled and reinstated by the main contractor.</i></p> <p><i>No structural evidence of any previous church was revealed. Only burials of probably 19th century date were identified, and preserved in situ. No other articulated burials were disturbed by the drainage works.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>29 September to 3 October 2008</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3170</i>	Site code	<i>AS1169</i>
Type of project	<i>Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Churchyard</i>		
Current land use	<i>Graveyard</i>		
Planned development	<i>New church drainage</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Early modern brickwork burial vaults</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Early modern burial in a wooden coffin with iron handles</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Herts</i>	<i>St. Andrew</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG14 1HZ</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.100m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 36395 12880</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>40m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (DAA)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Rozwadowski M.</i>		
Funded by	<i>The Churchwardens of St Andrew & St Nicholas Church</i>		
Bibliography			
Full title	<i>St Andrew & St Nicholas Church, St Andrews Street, Hertford Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Rozwadowski, M.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3203</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>October 2008</i>		

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

During September and early October 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at St Andrew & St Nicholas Church, St Andrew Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire. The monitoring was undertaken, during groundworks associated with drainage works.

During the archaeological monitoring and recording two undisturbed burial vaults were discovered. Both of them were solid masonry vaults with covering stone slabs, likely of later 19th century or later date. They were subject to minimal recording, avoiding any further disturbance, and the soakaway location moved to preserve them in situ, before the area was backfilled and reinstated by the main contractor.

No structural evidence of any previous church were revealed. Only burials of probably 19th century date were identified, and preserved in situ. No other articulated burials were disturbed by the drainage works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During September and early October 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at St Andrew & St Nicholas Church, St Andrew Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire (Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Richard Threlfall Architect on behalf of the Churchwardens, to be carried out during the groundworks associated with proposed drainage works.

1.2 The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the requirements of a brief issued by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (DAA) (D Baker, dated 15/04/2008) and a written scheme of investigation for archaeological attendance, recording and reporting prepared by AS (dated 12/05/2008), and approved by the DAA. The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (revised 2001)*, and also adhered to *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project were:

- to monitor the excavation of new drainage facilities and to record any structures and archaeological deposits encountered
- to secure the analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate reporting of the project results, to help increase the understanding of the building and churchyard for worshippers, those with an interest in its

architectural/historical/archaeological significance, and those responsible for its maintenance and repair

- to secure the analysis, long term conservation and storage of the project archive, to facilitate future study and interpretation of the church.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The Church of St Andrew & St Nicholas fronts St Andrew Street, Hertford, and is surrounded by its attendant graveyard, with numerous upstanding tombs. In the centre is a war memorial. The site is largely level. The church dates to the later 19th century, but incorporates fabric from an earlier building (see below). The drainage works were proposed for the north side of the church, close to the North Door (see Fig. 2). The site lies to the west of the centre of Hertford and lies within the Area of Archaeological Significance as designated on the Local Plan

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The settlement of Hertford lies close to the confluence of the River Lea and four of its tributaries; the Rivers Ash, Beane, Rib and Mimram (Fig. 1). The town is also situated at the junction of two distinct geological areas; the sands, gravels and clays to the south and the fertile brick-earths and boulder clays to the north. The site lies 100m to the north of the River Lea as it traverses the town and is situated on level land in the Lea valley at approximately 41m AOD

3.2 Local geological conditions are characterised by floodplains and river terrace gravels, overlying the glaciofluvial drift geology. Chalk bedrock is present below the soils and drift geology.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Hertford's strategic position at a major ford has ensured a long and sustained occupation of the local area, demonstrated in a wealth of archaeological remains. Early remains from the Palaeolithic period deposited as secondary out-wash in the ice melts of succeeding glacial episodes are sometimes present in the gravels, although Mesolithic remains are more scarce. Archaeological material for the Neolithic period is generally confined to the higher ground around the town, reflecting seasonal activity by discrete groups rather than permanent settlement. Little evidence for activity during the Bronze Age has been discovered in the town centre, although late Iron Age and Roman occupation can be demonstrated within the Millbridge area and the site of St Andrew's Street. Hertfordshire was materially wealthy and populous during the Roman period, with a major settlement at Ware, 3km to the east. Recent discoveries within the Hertford suggest some activity and a pattern of dispersed settlement around the town. Hertford emerges in the historic record as early as 673 AD, when Bede recorded the convening of two important church synods in *Herutford*, which has long been associated with modern Hertford. In the national revival which accompanied the struggle against the Danes, two fortified *burhs* were established to restrict passage along and crossing the river, and to safeguard vital urban

infrastructure. A natural successor of this situation was the creation of a royal castle as one of many strategic focal points which ringed the capital in the Norman period. The town developed apace at this point and retains a degree of planning in its street morphology. Evidence for medieval occupation is extensive, suggesting Hertford was a thriving settlement in the 13th and 14th centuries, characterised by a wide variety of trades, prosperous merchants and some urban expansion. In the later medieval period, however, Hertford's fortunes appear to have declined. Archaeological evidence suggests the abandonment of some street tenements as settlement contracted, and a degree of economic poverty is recorded in the 15th century (Page, 1912). Hertford's fortunes were revived by industrial expansion and the construction of the Lea Navigation in the early 18th century, when the town was made accessible for transportation. As industry grew, so too did the town's population, reflected in the large number of post-medieval and early modern buildings, most of which comprise timber-framed buildings, with many later reworked in brick. In the later 18th century, the town was ringed by a number of important country estates which had the effect of both limiting physical expansion and maintaining Hertford's role as the centre of social life among the landed elite. The Shire Hall, designed by James Adam in 1767 was in the most advanced style of its day, although many fine examples of the period survive in the town.

4.2 The church is Grade II listed as of special historical/architectural interest, of cruciform plan, constructed in flint with limestone and sandstone Gothic dressings. It was built in the later 19th century (1869-1870), on the site of earlier church/es, and incorporates a late 15th century inner doorway in its north porch. The church is recorded on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER 1696). Page (1912, 510) notes that that the Church of St Andrew was first mentioned in 1208 when the church, with a perpetual vicarage, was granted by King John to his clerk, Master Adam of Essex. It is possible that the church had a Saxon precursor, and it was the parish church of the western part of Hertford. The church was rebuilt in 1869-70 following demolition of the previous church, which had been described in 1700 as possessing a nave, two small aisles and a chancel with a low tiled roof, with a square tower to the west (Chauncy, 1700). It is understood that the churchyard was re-ordered in 1970.

5 METHODOLOGY Fig. 2

5.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds. Disarticulated human bone was collected and retained on site for reburial by the main contractor.

5.2 The monitoring and recording was conducted on groundworks associated with the excavation of new soakaways and drainage trenches (Fig. 2). Site visits were undertaken to monitor these works between 29th September and 3rd October 2008

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Drainage works

Two new soakaways were excavated in church yard and trenches for a drainage pipes.

6.1.1

Sample Section 1 Fig. 2

<i>Sample section 1</i> <i>South facing</i> <i>0.00 ≈ 41.00m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1009	Topsoil. Dark greyish black sandy silt.
0.10m+	L1006	Made ground/churchyard soil. Mid brownish grey moderately compact gravely silt with moderate sand and frequent disarticulated human bones.

Description: No undisturbed burials were encountered in this soakaway.

Sample Section 2: Figs. 2 & 3

<i>Sample section 2</i> <i>West facing</i> <i>0.00 ≈ 41.00m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1009	Topsoil.
0.10 – 0.75m	L1006	Made ground/churchyard soil. As above.

Description: Excavation for a soakaway in this area revealed the edge of a brick vault, which was recorded before the line of the soakaway being moved to avoid further disturbance to the vault.

Burial 1000 (DP2, DP3, DP5) was placed within Cut F1001 (0.5m+ x 0.85 x 0.85m). The latter had vertical sides and flat base. M1002 was a red brick vault wall. The individual bricks were 0.22 x 0.11 x 0.06m, laid in a stretcher bond where visible, and bonded with a light brown sandy cement mortar. Where the edge of the vault was broken, a small view inside allowed the following to be recorded, before the vault was repaired and covered once more. The inside of the vault was whitewashed. The fragmentary remains of a wooden coffin (C1003), with iron handles was present, with the long bones of the inhumation exposed (S1010). The vault had been sealed with stone slabs M1007 (0.58 x 0.76 x 0.06m). Two of these slabs were visible in the exposed area, and probably two others were necessary to cover the whole vault. The slabs were cemented to the vault walls, with their top surface exhibiting slight polishing.

A second vault, Burial 1011 (DP2, DP4, DP6) was partially revealed, located to the south of Burial 1000. It was impossible to record the shape of Cut F1012 as insufficient was exposed. Inside this grave/vault cut, M1013 masonry walls were visible overlain by M1014, a stone slab. When the level of the vault was reached,

further mechanical excavation was suspended, and the covering slabs were not removed from this vault.

As a result of a discovery of these two undisturbed vaults the location of the soakaway was altered, and moved to the west, to avoid any further disturbance of the burials.

The drainage pipe runs serving the new soakaways were excavated to a depth of only 0.25m and did not reveal any features or the foundations of the existing or any previous church. Two more sample sections were recorded to show stratigraphy

Sample Section 3: Fig. 2

<i>Sample section 3</i>		
<i>East facing</i>		
<i>0.00 ≈ 41.00m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1009	Topsoil. As above
0.15m+	L1006	Made ground/churchyard soil. As above

Sample Section 4: Fig. 2 DP 7

<i>Sample section 4</i>		
<i>West facing</i>		
<i>0.00 ≈ 41.00m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1009	Topsoil. As above
0.06m+	L1006	Made ground/churchyard soil. As above.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the project.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The deposit model across the site was very uniform. Below a layer (0.06 - 0.15m thick) of dark greyish black sandy topsoil (L1009), was a thick layer (L1006) of mid brownish grey gravelly silt with moderate sand and frequent disarticulated human bones. L1006 was at least 1m deep. The natural substrate was not exposed.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 During the archaeological monitoring and recording two undisturbed burial vaults were discovered. Both of them were solid masonry vaults with covering stone slabs, likely of later 19th century or later date. They were subject to minimal recording, avoiding any further disturbance, and the soakaway location moved to preserve them *in situ*, before the area was backfilled and reinstated by the main contractor.

9.2 No structural evidence of any previous church was revealed. Only burials of probably 19th century date were identified, and preserved *in situ*. No other articulated burials were disturbed by the drainage works.

10 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be, at Hertford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the Churchwardens for their co-operation and funding the programme of archaeological works, and the architect, Mr Richard Threlfall, for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the main contractor, Mr Matthew Durbin of Pymont Build Ltd.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of the DAA.

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APPENDIX 1

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Church of St Andrew & St Nicholas, St Andrew Street, Hertford
County: Herts	District: East Herts
Village/Town: Hertford	Parish: Hertford (St Andrew)
Planning application reference:	n/a
Client name/address/tel:	The Churchwardens of St Andrew & St Nicholas
Nature of application:	New drainage
Present land use:	Churchyard
Size of application area: <i>c.100m2</i>	Size of area investigated: Two small soakaways and connecting drain runs
NGR (8 figures):	NGR TL 36395 12880
Site Code:	AS 1169
Site director/Organisation:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological attendance, recording & reporting
Date of work:	29 th September – 3 rd October 2008
Location of finds/Curating museum:	None / Hertford
Related HER Nos: 1696	Periods represented: 19 th century +
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>During September and early October 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at St Andrew & St Nicholas Church, St Andrew Street, Hertford, during groundworks associated with drainage works.</i></p> <p><i>During the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording two undisturbed burial vaults were discovered. Both of them were solid masonry vaults with covering stone slabs, likely of later 19th century or later date. They were subject to minimal recording, avoiding any further disturbance, and the soakaway location moved to preserve them in situ, before the area was backfilled and reinstated by the main contractor.</i></p> <p><i>No structural evidence of any previous church were revealed. Only burials of probably 19th century date were identified, and preserved in-situ. No other articulated burials were disturbed by the drainage works.</i></p>
Author of summary: MR	Date of Summary: 31/10/08

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP1 Church of St Andrew & St Nicholas showing area of work and war memorial in a foreground. Looking S.



DP2 West soakaway. Revealed vault Burial 1000 with brick walls M1002 and covering slabs M1003 in section.



DP3 Western soakaway. Revealed vaults burials B1000 and B1011. Looking N

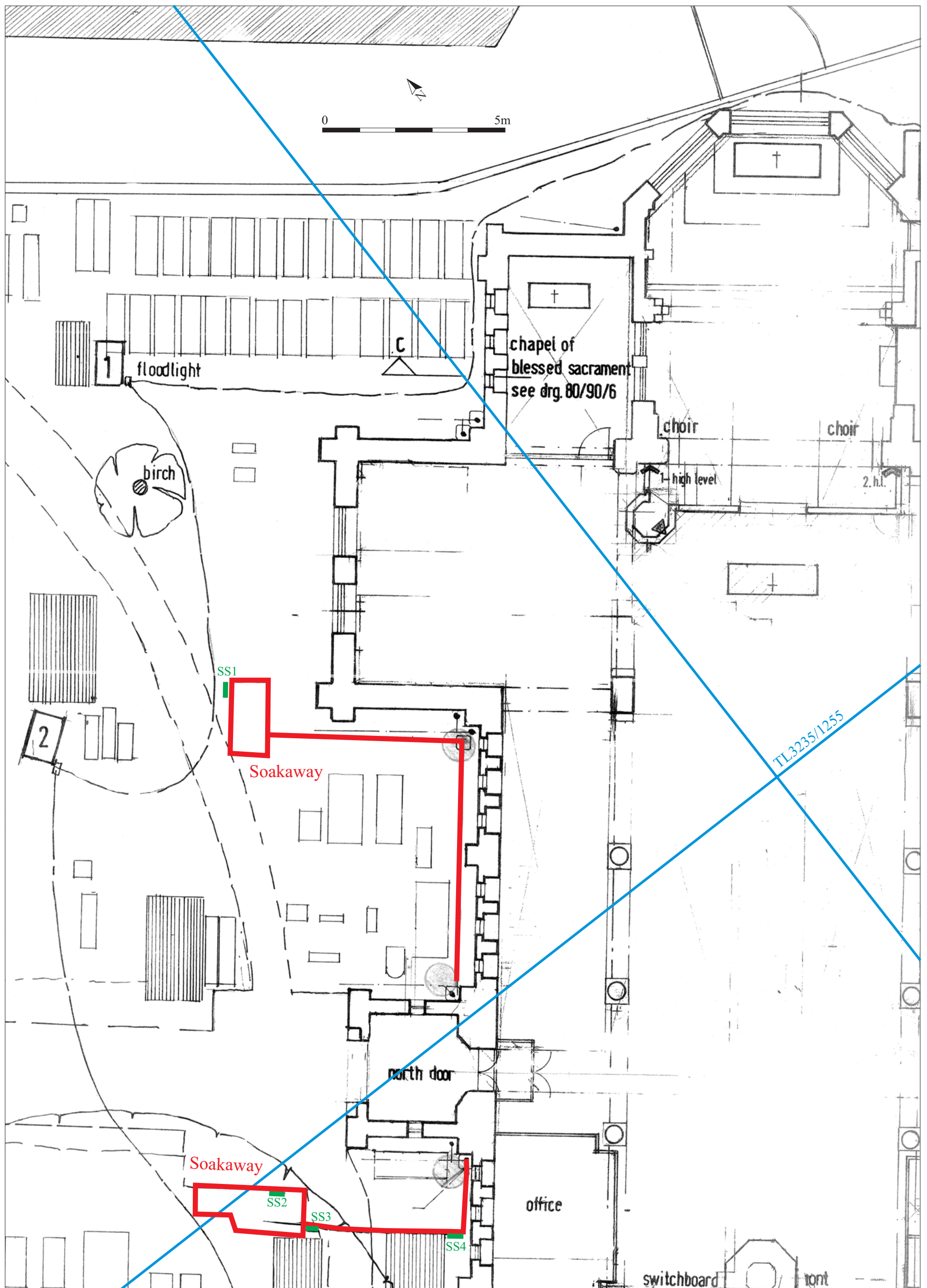


DP4 Sample section 4. Looking E.

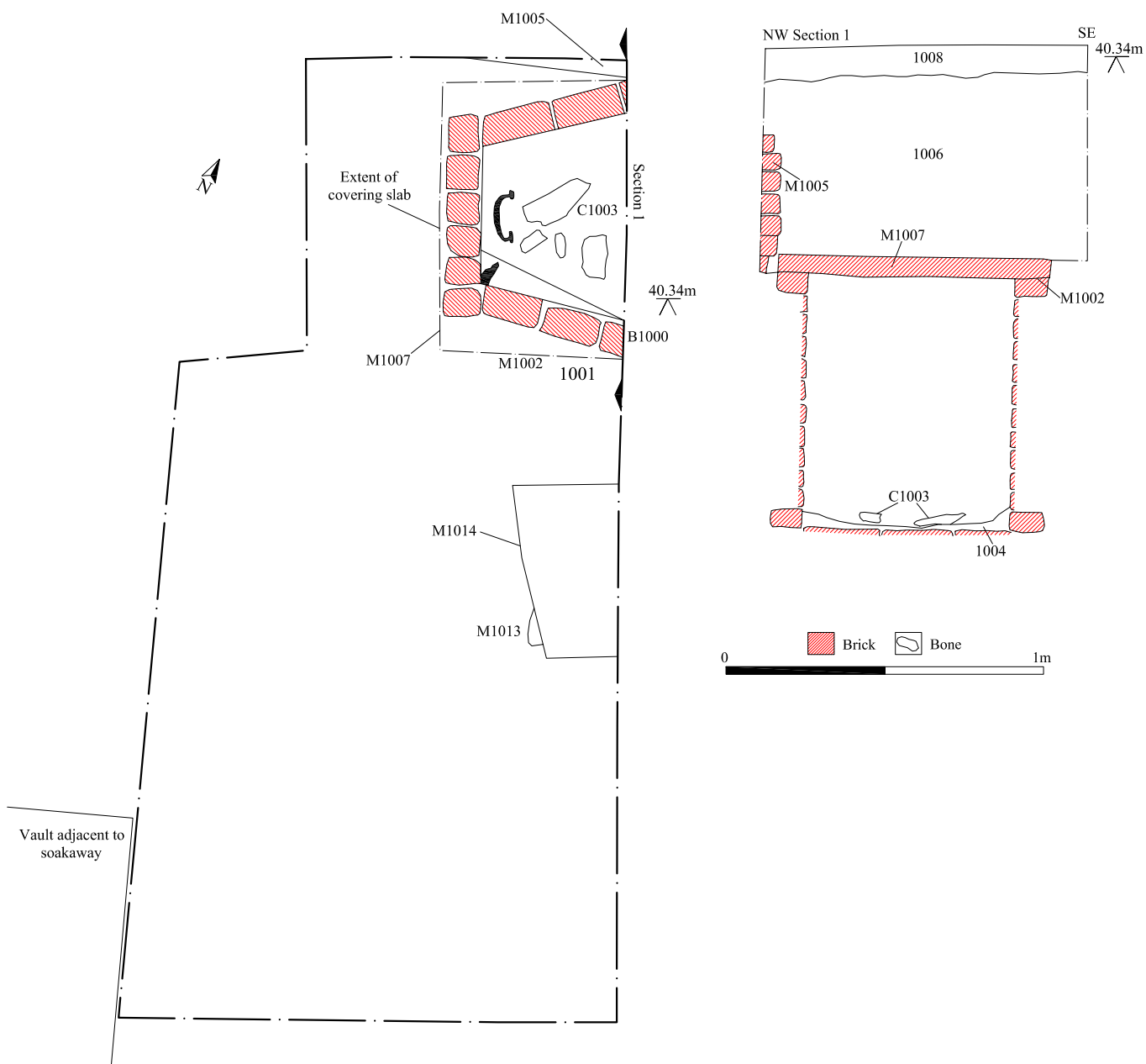


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:100 at A3



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Fig. 3 Plan and sections

Scale 1:20 at A4

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP1 Church of St Andrew & St Nicholas showing area of work and war memorial in a foreground. Looking S.



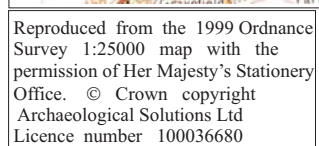
DP2 West soakaway. Revealed vault Burial 1000 with brick walls M1002 and covering slabs M1003 in section.



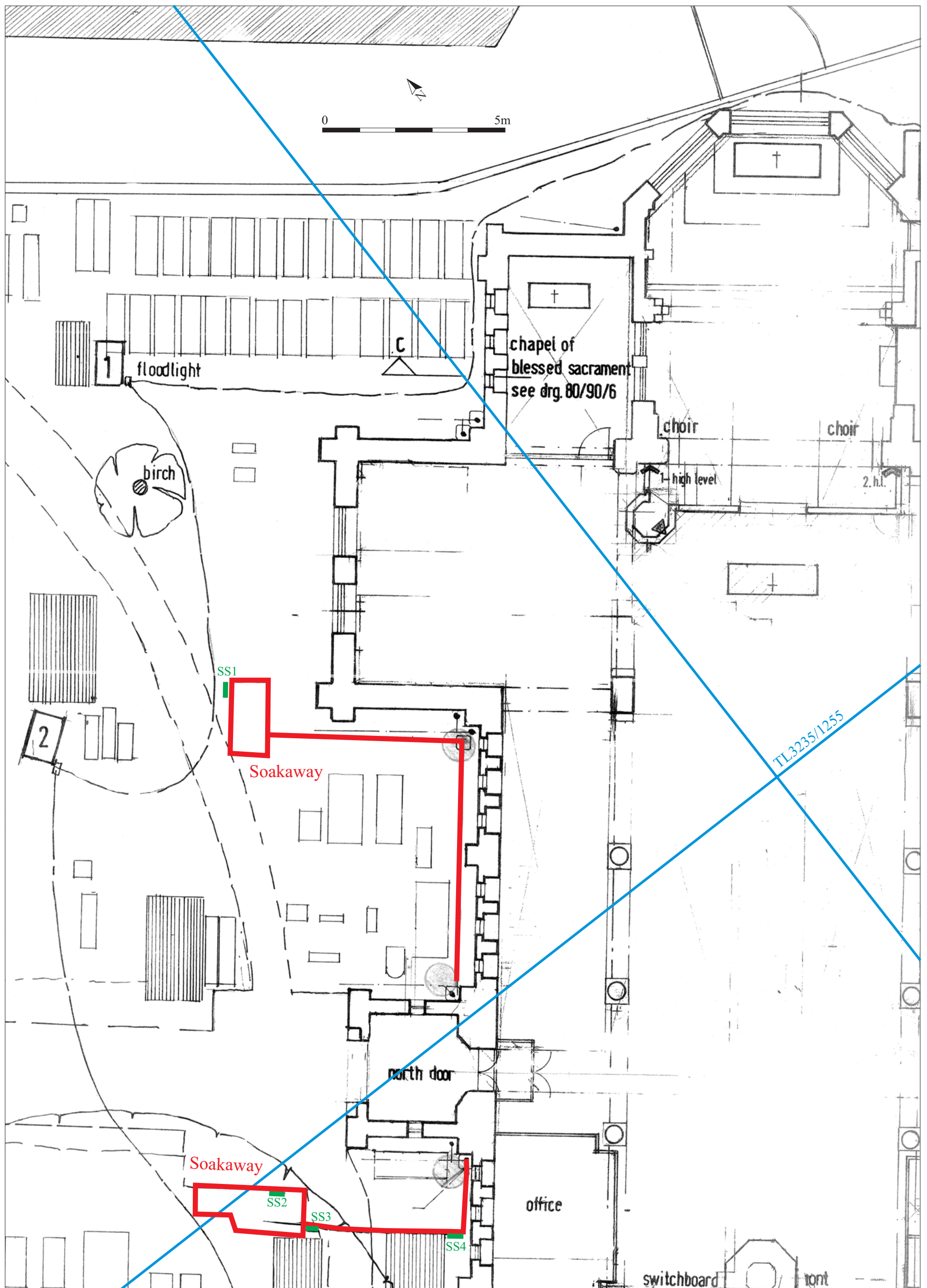
DP3 Western soakaway. Revealed vaults burials B1000 and B1011. Looking N



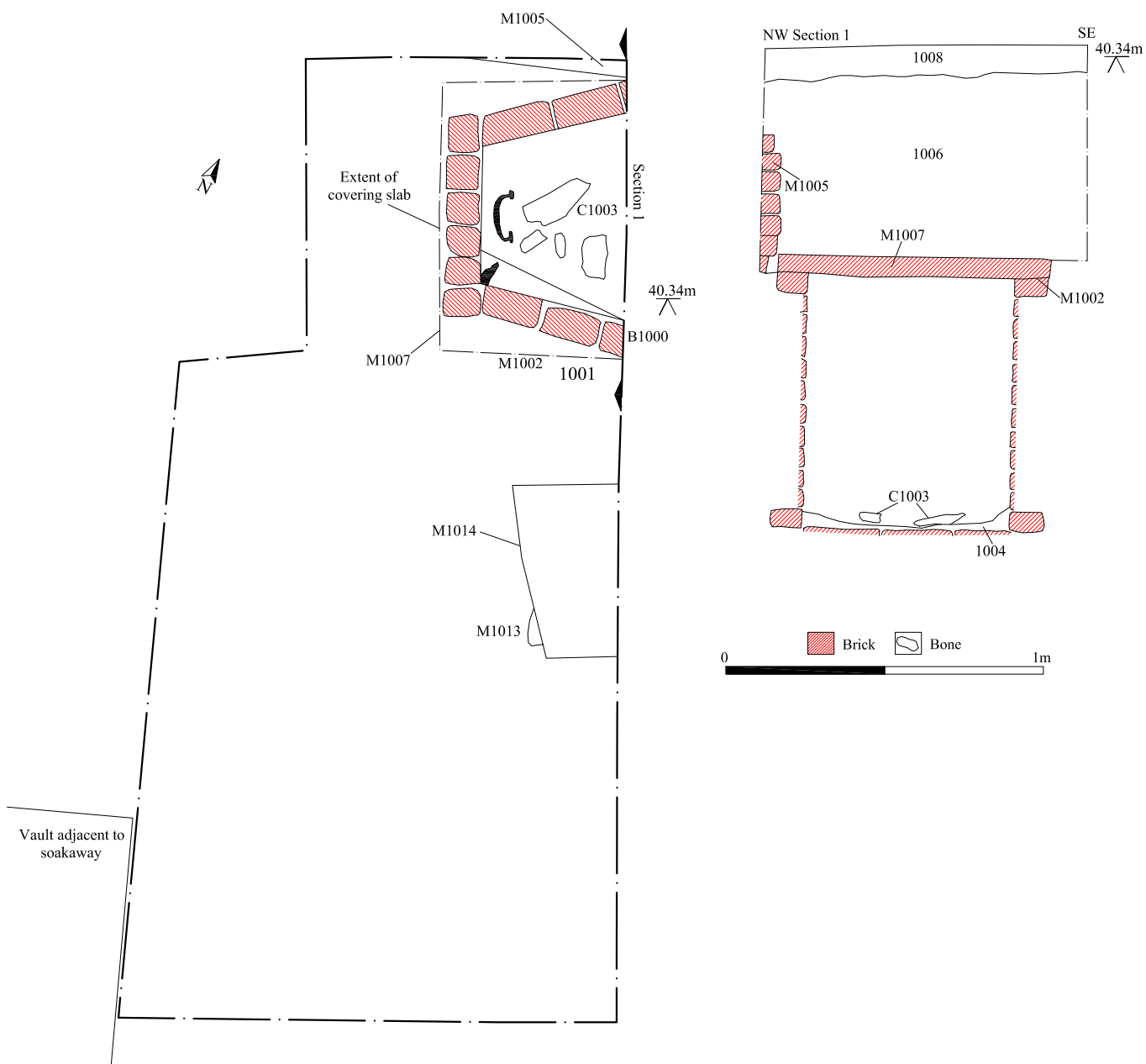
DP4 Sample section 4. Looking E.



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Fig. 1	Site location plan
Scale 1:25,000 at A4	



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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:100 at A3



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Fig. 3 Plan and sections

Scale 1:20 at A4