

Archaeological Watching Brief Report for

ST PETER'S CHURCH LITTLE BUDWORTH

For Graham Holland Associates

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report for

ST PETER'S CHURCH LITTLE BUDWORTH

Client:	Graham Holland Associates
Local Authority:	Cheshire West and Chester Council
NGR:	359854,365368
Planning App:	12/04089/FUL
Author(s):	B Poole
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Date:	July 13
Site Code:	LBW/SPC 13

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Planning Background
3. Geology & Topography
4. Results
5. Summary & Conclusions

TABLE OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 – Site Location General
- Figure 2 – Site Proposals
- Figure 3 – Excavation Plan
- Figure 4 – West Facing Section

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document refers to archaeological monitoring carried out during groundworks for a single storey extension at the western extent of St Peter's Church, Little Budworth (12/04089/FUL).
- 1.2. The site is located within the historic village of Little Budworth, on Vicarage Lane, CW6 9BY, at grid reference 359850,365360 (FIGURE 1).
- 1.3. Fieldwork was carried out by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology on 16th May 2013 on behalf of Graham Holland Associates.
- 1.4. No archaeological features or burials were encountered during the groundworks.

2. Planning Background

2.1. In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). This document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment and replaces all previous Planning Policy Guidance, specifically PPS5. Section 12 of this document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.

2.2. Paragraph 128 of the NPPF indicates planning decisions should be made based on the significance of Heritage Assets. These are defined as buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.

2.3. In considering any planning application for development the Local Planning Authority is the Cheshire West and Chester Council. However, this authority has only recently been formed it does not yet have an agreed planning framework. As such Cheshire West and Chester revert to earlier plans, in this case the Vale Royal Local Plan.

2.4. The relevant policies within the Local Plan are as follows;

Policy BE10

Within designated Conservation Areas listed, and as shown on the proposals map, and including any Conservation Areas that are subsequently designated or revised with effect from the date of such designations or revision, development should preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation Area.

Demolition of a building, which contributes to the character or appearance of the Conservation Area will not be allowed, unless it is incapable or repair at reasonable cost and is incapable of accommodating a viable alternative use. The council may impose conditions to ensure that demolition should not take place until the contract for the works of redevelopment has, in accordance with approved plans, been let and is due to start.

Policy BE 13

Development proposals which would adversely affect scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important archaeologically sites and monuments or their settings will not be allowed.

Policy BE14

Development proposals which could affect local ancient monuments and sites of archaeological

importance, including sites and areas of archaeological potential and those identified in the Cheshire Historic Towns Survey, will not be allowed unless it can be demonstrated, as part of the submitted planning application, that the particular site or monument will be satisfactorily preserved either in situ or where it is not feasible, by record.

2.5. On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment Cheshire West and Chester take advice from Mark Leah, of Cheshire Shared Service.

2.6. The study site lies within the Little Budworth Conservation Area. The site does not fall within an Area of Archaeological Importance or Area of Archaeological Potential. There are no Scheduled Monuments or Registered Parks and Gardens or Battlefields on, or in the vicinity of the site.

2.7. The church is a Grade II* Listed Building (IOE57342) with elements thought to date to the 15th century. Several Listed Buildings and locally listed buildings surround the site.

2.8. This document has been prepared in respect of planning application 12/04089/FUL.

2.9. AIMS OF WORKS

2.9.1. The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to monitor all excavation for groundworks associated with the new extension (FIGURE 2). This is to ensure that archaeologically sensitive deposits of significance were respected and to record the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological or historic architectural remains on site exposed or disturbed during groundworks.

3. Geology & Topography

3.1.GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1. The underlying solid geology of the area is thought to be of Northwich Halite-stone and mudstone (BGS GEOINDEX).
- 3.1.2. The drift geology of the area is alluvium, comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS GEOINDEX).

3.2.TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.2.1. The site is located approximately 19km east of Chester in a rural area at an elevation of approximately 65m AOD.
- 3.2.2. The site is situated to the north of the Vicarage Lane, at the junction of Vicarage Lane, Well Lane and Mill Lane, in an area of residential settlement in a semi rural area.

4. Results

4.1. Groundworks were undertaken utilising a 3 tonne tracked excavator with toothless ditching bucket. All groundwork was carried out under strict supervision of the site archaeologist.

4.2. An area 2.6m north south by 2.5m east west (FIGURE 3) was stripped of topsoil prior to the excavation of strip footings (PLATE 1).



Plate 1: Excavation area during topsoil stripping, looking east

4.3. Excavation of the topsoil extended a maximum of 0.3m below ground level. Below the topsoil (100) was a loose, red, sand deposit (101). This sand was identified between 0.25 and 0.3m below ground level and was clearly a natural sand deposit (FIGURE 4).

4.4. A 19th century, salt glazed, surface water drain [103] was identified running east west along the perimeter of the church, set back 0.4m from the church wall (PLATE 1). This service had been cut into the natural sand and its backfill contained a range of ceramic sherds dating from the 16th to 19th centuries. Finds included a small fragment of Cistercian ware, dating from the 16th century, and several large fragments of Black glazed ware dating from the 18th to 19th century, as well as printed blue and white ware.

4.5. At the eastern section of the stripped area a table tomb was located. This tomb dated from the 19th century and was a memorial to several members of the same family (PLATE 2).



Plate 2: Table tomb in eastern section, prior to moving

4.6. A narrow, 0.3m wide, slot trench was excavated around the tomb, which was in a poor state of repair. The tomb was then slid 0.3m to the east in order to clear it of the strip footings (PLATE 3). No finds were recovered from the slot trench around the table tomb and no features were identified within the slot trench.



Plate 3: Table tomb after moving 0.3m to the east

4.7. Following the moving of the table tomb strip footings were excavated around the perimeter of the stripped area. These strip footings measured 0.4m wide by 1m deep (Figure 4).

4.8. In the majority of the strip footings only the natural sand (101) was present below the topsoil (100). However, in the southeastern corner of the footings, next to the table tomb, the natural sandstone bedrock (104) was encountered (PLATE 4).



Plate 4: Southeastern extent of footings, showing bedrock beneath the church wall

4.9. It is apparent that the church has been constructed on a sandstone outcrop, whereas the graveyard appears to be within an area of sandy deposits above the bedrock.

4.10. No archaeological deposits, features or disarticulated human remains were encountered during the works.

5. Summary & Conclusions

- 5.1. This document summarises the results of the archaeological monitoring carried out during groundworks for a single storey extension at the western extent of St Peter's Church, Little Budworth.
- 5.2. The site is located within the historic village of Little Budworth, on Vicarage Lane, at the heart of the village. The church is a Grade II* Listed Building, dating to the 19th century, with possible 15th century elements indicating a predecessor of some antiquity.
- 5.3. The fieldwork entailed archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping and excavation for strip footings at the northwestern corner of the church in advance of construction of a new extension.
- 5.4. Fieldwork was carried out by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology on 16th May 2013 on behalf of Graham Holland Associates.
- 5.5. No archaeological features, deposits or human remains were encountered during the groundworks.

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



Not to scale. For illustration only.

PROJECT // 1412C - St Peter's, Little Budworth

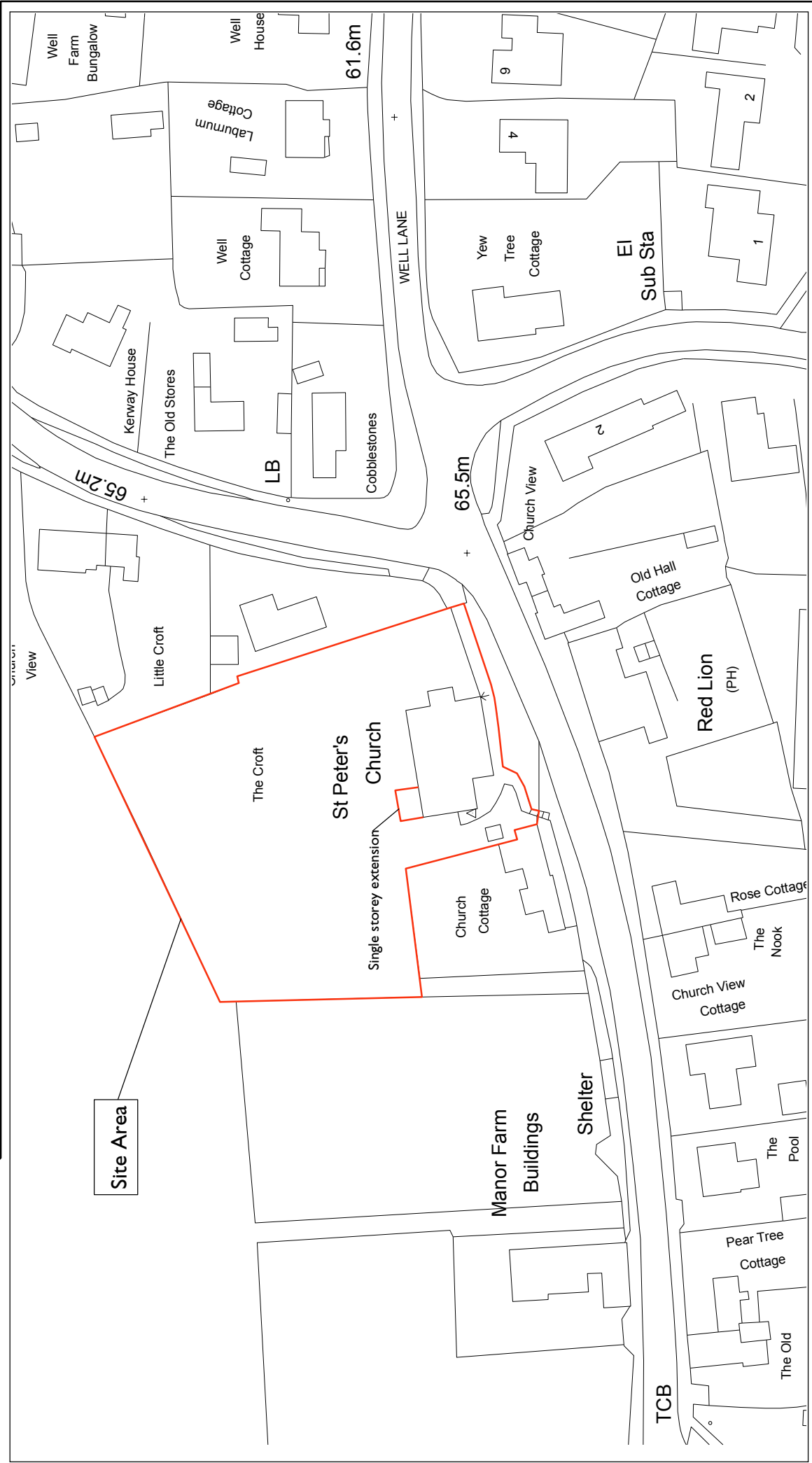
DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

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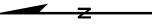
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FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



Scale 1:1,000 @ A4



PROJECT // 1412C - St Peter's, Little Budworth

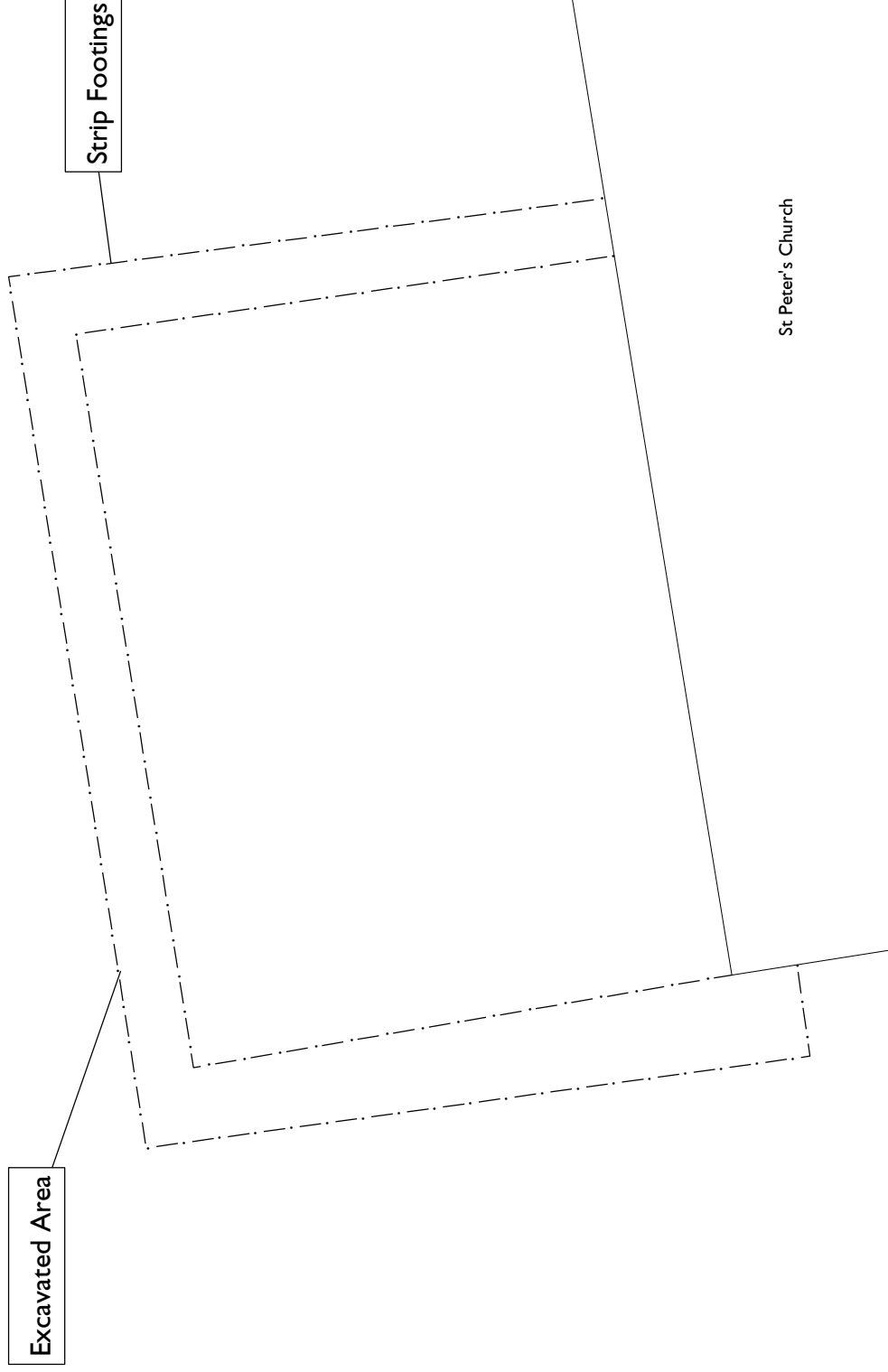
DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detail

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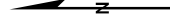
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FIGURE 3 // Site Plan



Scale 1:50 @ A4



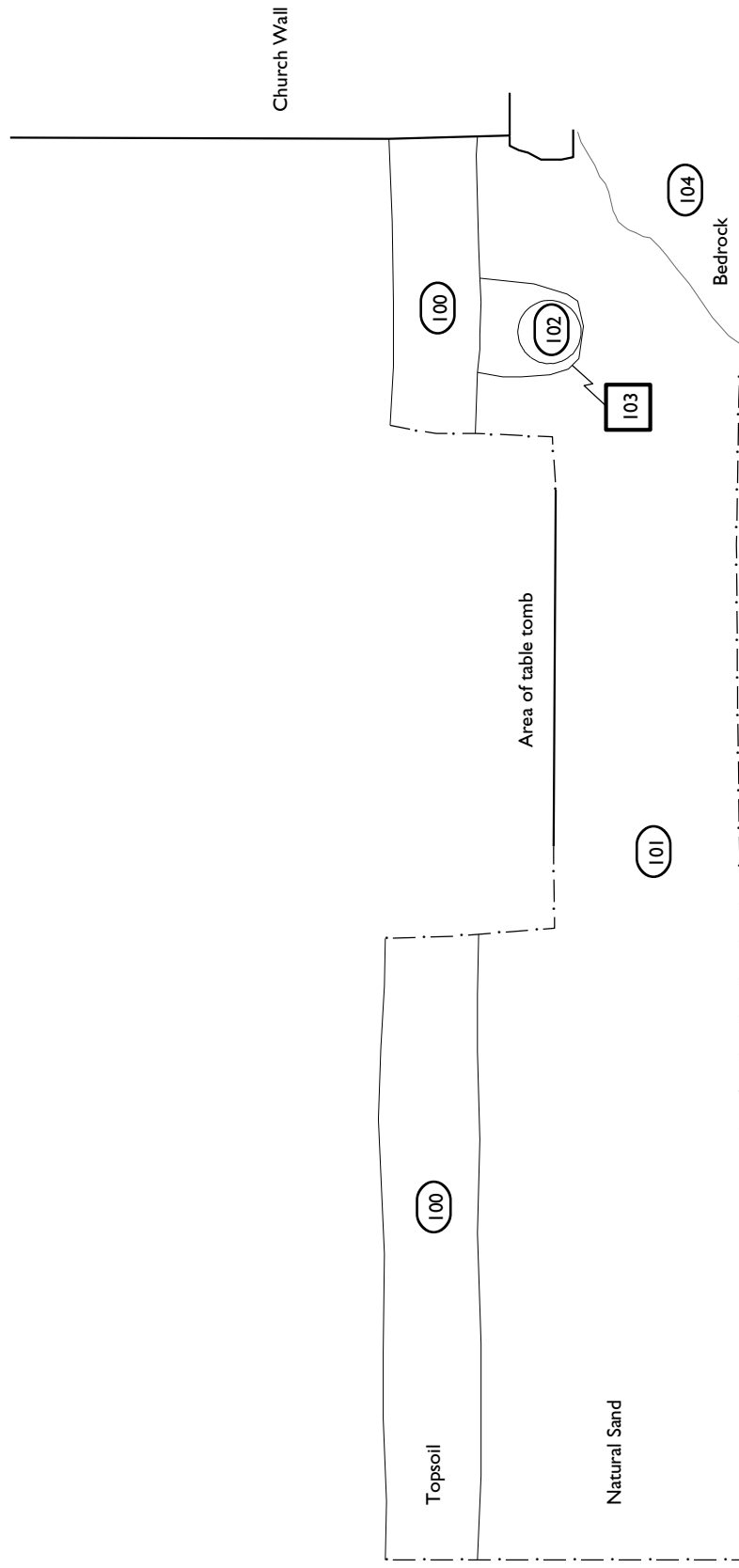
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DESCRIPTION // Site Plan

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FIGURE 4 // West Facing Section



Scale 1:10 @ A4

PROJECT // I412C - St Peter's, Little Budworth

DESCRIPTION // West Facing Section

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Project details

Project name	St Peter's church. Little Budworth
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief on foundation excavations for a single storey extension to the church, within the graveyard.
Project dates	Start: 16-05-2013 End: 30-07-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CHE/SPC 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE VALE ROYAL LITTLE BUDWORTH St Peter's Church
Postcode	CW6 9BY
Study area	5.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SJ 359854 365368 52 -2 52 55 19 N 002 57 08 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 64.00m Max: 65.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology

Project director/manager	Blair Poole
Project supervisor	Blair Poole
Type of sponsor/funding body	Diocese
Name of sponsor/funding body	Graham Holland Associates

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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