

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
APRIL 2006**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH
GREENS NORTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
MARCH 2006**

STAFF

Project Manager Iain Soden, BA MIFA
Text Christopher Jones
Fieldwork Christopher Jones
Illustrations Jacqueline Harding BA HND

QUALITY CONTROL

	Name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Iain Soden		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**
- 3 METHODOLOGY**
- 4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**
- 5 DISCUSSION**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig 1 Site Location Plan

Fig 2 Trench Location Plan

Fig 3 Trench Plan and Sections

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	St. Bartholomew's Church, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire	
Short description	One hand dug trial trench in advance of a small extension to the north of the vestry at St. Bartholomew's Church to find any evidence of Saxon or medieval remains. Burials may be present between 1.2m and 1.7m below ground level.	
Project type	Trial Trenching	
Previous work	An archaeological trial excavation carried out in 2001 (Hayward, 2001)	
Future work	Not known	
Monument type and period	Saxon and medieval	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	St. Bartholomew's Church, Greens Norton	
Site Location	North of St. Bartholomew's Church	
NGR	4669 2499	
Height OD	117.91m	
PROJECT CREATOR		
Organisation		
Project brief originator	Diocesan Advisory Committee Archaeological Adviser	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones	
Project Manager	Iain Soden	
Sponsor or funding body		
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	March 2006	
End date	March 2006	
ARCHIVES	(Accession no.)	Content
Physical		
Paper		Site records, Photographs /Slides Drawings/ Reports
Digital		CD ROM
BIBLIOGRAPHY		Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)
Title		
Serial title & volume		
Author(s)		
Page numbers		
Date		

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH
GREENS NORTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
MARCH 2006**

Abstract

A single trench was hand excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology adjacent to St. Bartholomew's Church, Greens Norton prior to a proposed extension. The work took place to fulfil the brief set by the Diocesan Advisory Committee's archaeological adviser and in pursuance of an agreed works specification. The church is of Saxon origin and the trench was to establish if Anglo-Saxon or medieval remains survive within the area of the proposed development. At a depth of 1.20m there was no evidence for Saxon or medieval remains but between 1.20m and 1.70m below ground surface burials may be present, although these are undated.

1 INTRODUCTION

In response to the Archaeological Brief prepared by the Diocesan Advisory Committee's Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a trial excavation in pursuance of an agreed works specification in March 2006 at St. Bartholomew's Church, Greens Norton (NGR: SP 669 499; Fig 1). The works were in advance of a small extension to hold toilet and kitchen facilities to the north of the vestry at Saint Bartholomew's Church.

The purpose of the trial excavation was;

- To identify and record any evidence for the survival of Saxon or medieval remains associated with the church that might be threatened by the development.
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits.
- Provide the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor and Parochial Church Council with the required information to mitigate the impact of the development.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

St. Bartholomew's Church has been a place of worship since Saxon times. The building has many phases; Saxon remains are still visible in the nave, the chancel originally dates from the 13th century, the tower to the 14th century, the chantry to the 15th century. In 1891 E. Law "stripped the walls" and rebuilt the chancel and the porch. The spire was rebuilt in 1956 (RCHME 1983)

Previous archaeological work

Two trenches were hand excavated adjacent to St. Bartholomew's Church in 2001 (Hayward 2001) north of the chancel wall. The excavation confirmed the presence of several phases of burials suggesting the graveyard had been in use until the 19th century.

Geology

The Geological Survey of Great Britain, England and Wales Sheet 202, (BGS 1969) records St. Bartholomew's Church as lying upon Northampton Sand.

3 METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork and Recording

The work was carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and Practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and the procedural document issued by Northamptonshire Historic Environment Team (1995). All works were conducted in accordance with the Diocesan Advisory Committee's Archaeological Policy and the requirements of the faculty.

The trench was archaeologically excavated by hand in the footprint of the new extension, to the depth of the proposed new build or to the natural geology.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of the site stratification were recorded on pro-forma sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and feature.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm monochrome negatives, with associated prints, and colour transparencies was maintained.

All records completed during fieldwork have been compiled into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

A single trench (1.20m x 1.20m) was positioned adjacent to the church, c 2m north of the vestry wall in the area of the proposed extension (Fig 2). For Health and Safety reasons the full excavation of the trench was halted at a depth of 1.20m. A small slot was excavated a further 0.50m deeper to reach natural sand (Fig 3, section 1).

The natural sand was 1.70m below the current surface. Above the natural was a light grey sandy loam layer (04), 1.20m thick, which contained small limestone fragments, root disturbance and disarticulated human bone in the bottom 0.50m of the layer (Fig 3). The subsoil (03), 0.30m thick, was a light brown sandy clay loam with fragments of limestone, with more limestone present in the south section nearest the church. Sealing the subsoil was a thin layer of slag, ash and small stone (02), 0.10m thick which appeared to be the remains of a path. The topsoil (01), 0.10m thick consisted of a dark brown loamy soil with turf on top (Fig 3).

5 DISCUSSION

The single trench within the area of the proposed extension was excavated to a depth of 1.70m onto the natural sand. Down to a depth of 1.20m no burials were recorded, only fragmented pieces of bone scattered within the subsoil. Below 1.20m a small slot was excavated in the west section down to a depth of 1.70m to the natural sand and this produced more human bone. This could be evidence of late medieval or early post-medieval burials at that depth. No grave cuts were apparent. No architectural remains were recorded.

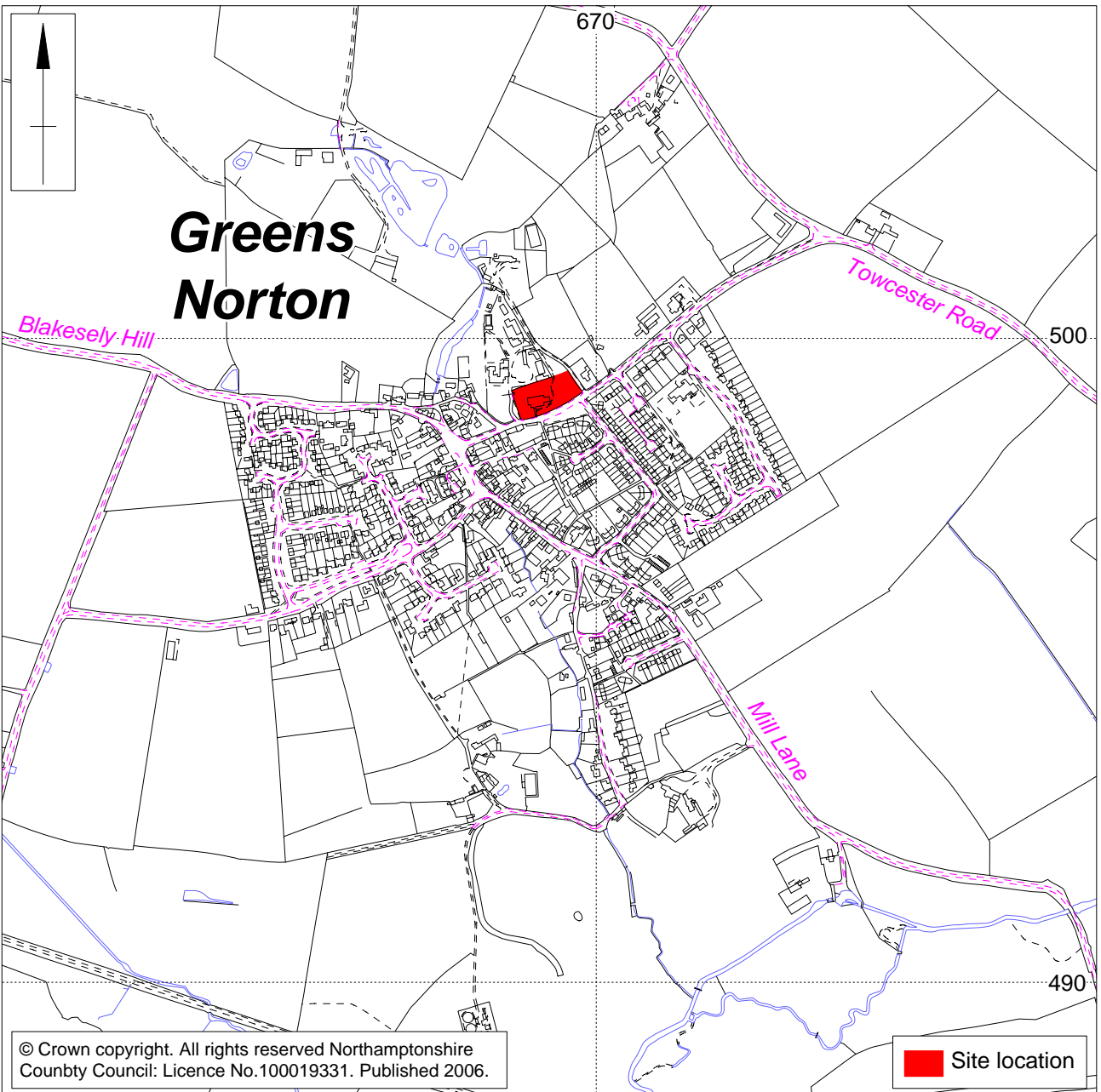
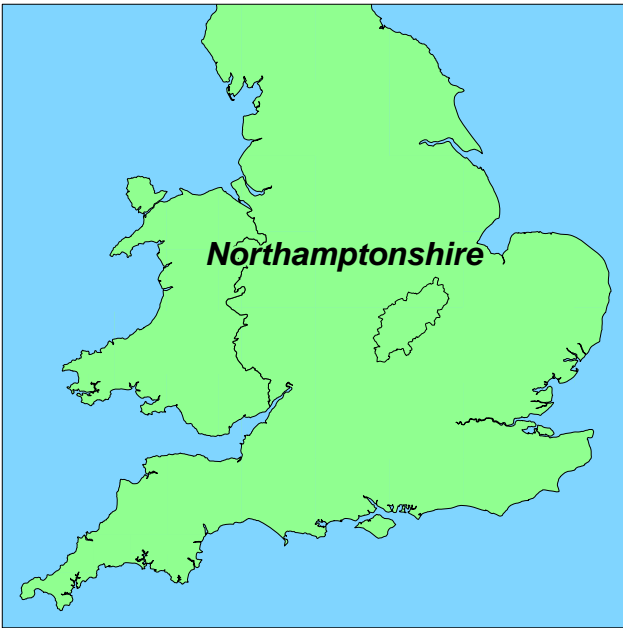
It is apparent that the churchyard has been used as a cemetery for a long time and earlier excavations (Hayward 2001) have found a high density of burials, but it would appear that the area investigated here contains possibly a much lower burial density. Disarticulated bone fragments suggest that some disturbance of burials has taken place. It is likely that some burials will survive between the depth of 1.20m and 1.70m below current ground level in this area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 1969 Towcester Sheet 202, *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales)*

Hayward, S, 2001 *St Bartholomew's Church, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire, Archaeological Trail Excavation*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report

RCHME 1983 *Greens Norton, St Bartholomew* unpublished report, Royal Commission of Historic Monuments England



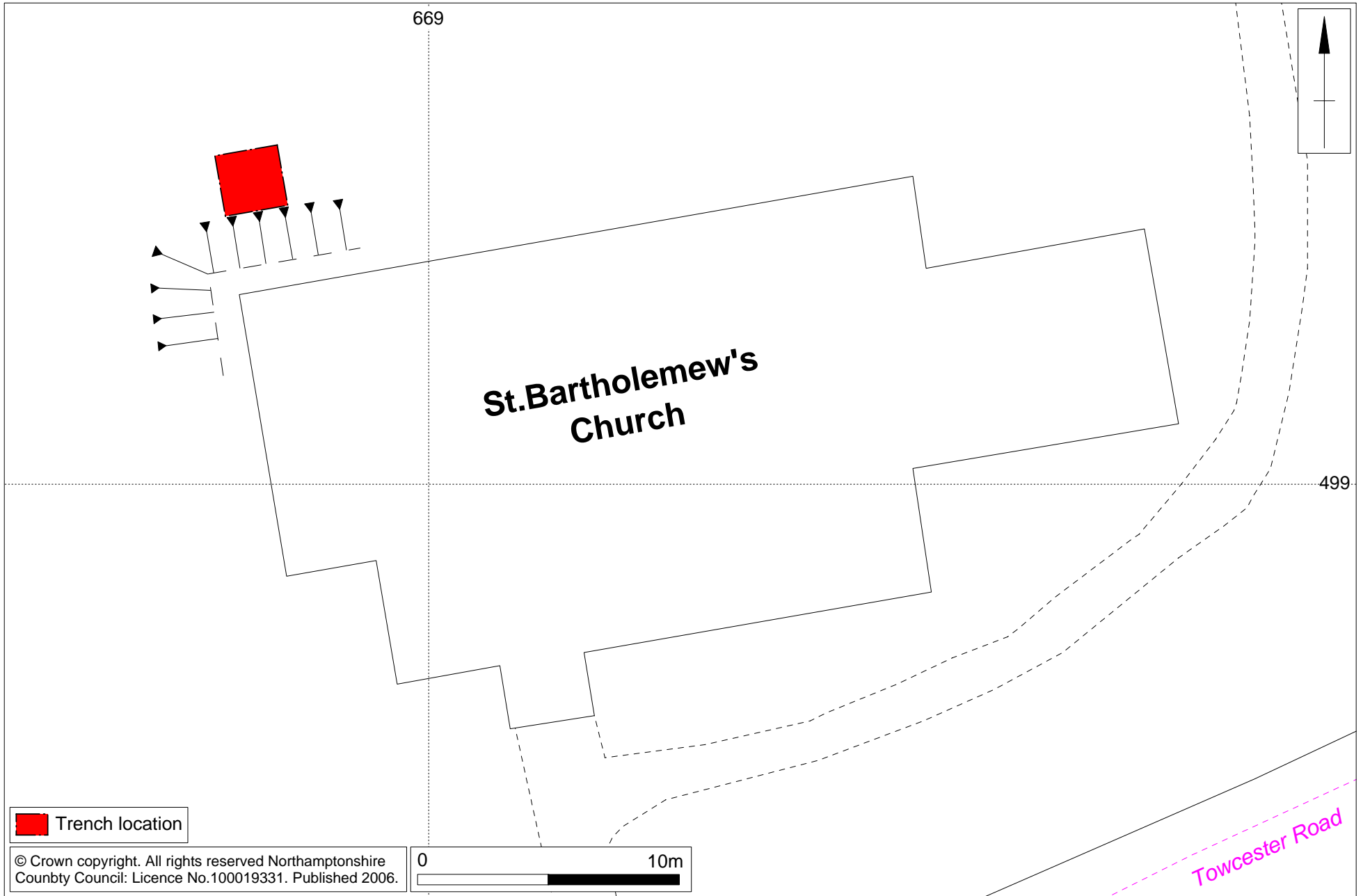
Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

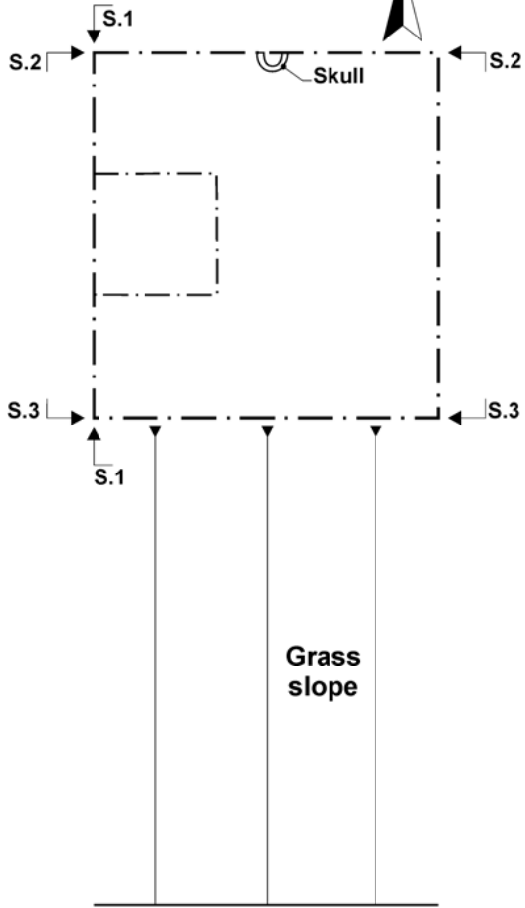
Scale 1:200

Trench location

Fig 2



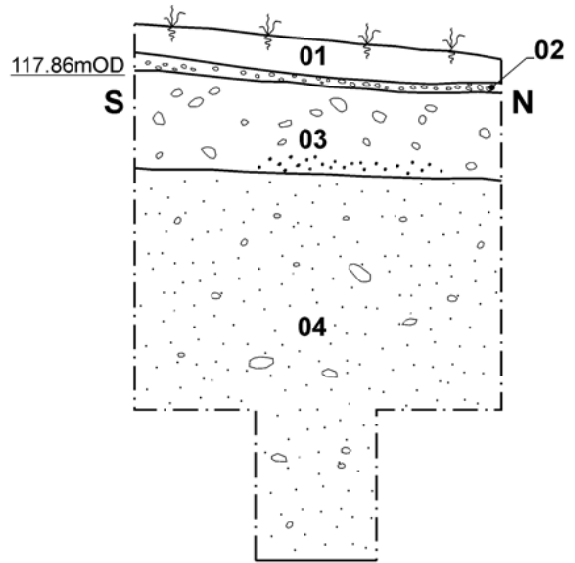
Trench Plan



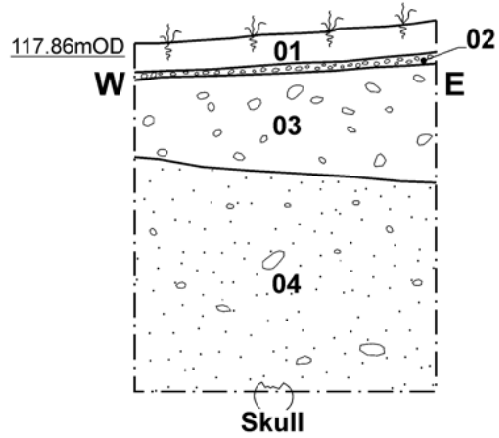
Brick path

North-west corner of church

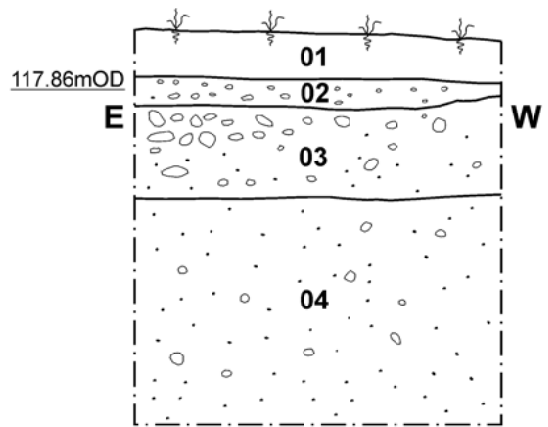
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



0 1m

Trench Plan and Sections Fig 3