

# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: ST MARY'S OLD CHURCH CLOPHILL BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 0919 3885

*on behalf of Clophill Heritage Trust*



Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc

September 2011

ASC: 1425/CSM/3



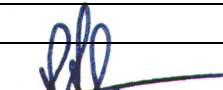
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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	CSM	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1425
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-102784	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	BEDFM 2011.50
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Clophill		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Clophill		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 0919 3885		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	6,070 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Derelict church		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Conversion of church to a hostel.		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	Pre-planning		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	29/06/11-008/07/11		
<i>Client:</i>	Clophill Heritage Trust 104 High Street Clophill Bedfordshire MK45 4BJ		
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## Internal Quality Check

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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In June/July 2011 an archaeological evaluation was carried out at St Mary's Old Church, Clophill, Bedfordshire in response to a proposed development to convert the church into a hostel.*

*The church, a Grade II\* listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is thought to have been built in the 14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> century, but may be of earlier origin. It was replaced by a larger church constructed in the centre of the village in 1848 and, despite being used as a mortuary chapel until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, has become a ruin. It has been highly disturbed since the roof was removed in 1957 resulting in damage to the historic fabric of the building and to the buried heritage assets.*

*The evaluation uncovered a disturbed 18<sup>th</sup> century vault and a further possible 19<sup>th</sup> century highly disturbed vault, a single partially articulated Christian burial, and a rough wall/foundation possibly linked to the earlier construction of the church. The remains of a brick and tile floor that was possibly associated with the known renovations carried out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and significant levels of 20<sup>th</sup> century made-ground/dumped deposits were also uncovered, along with a number of discrete undated features possibly modern intrusions associated with disturbance the church has experienced in more recent years. A possible earlier ground horizon containing sherds of late medieval reduced ware pottery was identified both within and outside the church.*

*Despite the parlous state of the church and the damage done to it in recent years, the evaluation demonstrated that a significant level of features and finds have survived which could be affected by the proposed development.*

## 1. Introduction

1.1 In June/July 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at St Mary's Old Church, Clophill, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Clophill Heritage Trust* (CHT), and was carried out according to a brief (Firth 2011) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Central Bedfordshire Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Central Bedfordshire Archaeology Team*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2011).

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), and the *Central Bedfordshire Local Validation Checklist* (Minor Developments) in order to inform proposals for the development of the site.

### 1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered*

*Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

#### 1.4 ***The Site***

##### 1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The development site is located in Central Bedfordshire, in the parish of Clophill, to the north east of the village of the same name, at NGR TL 0919 3885 (Fig. 1).

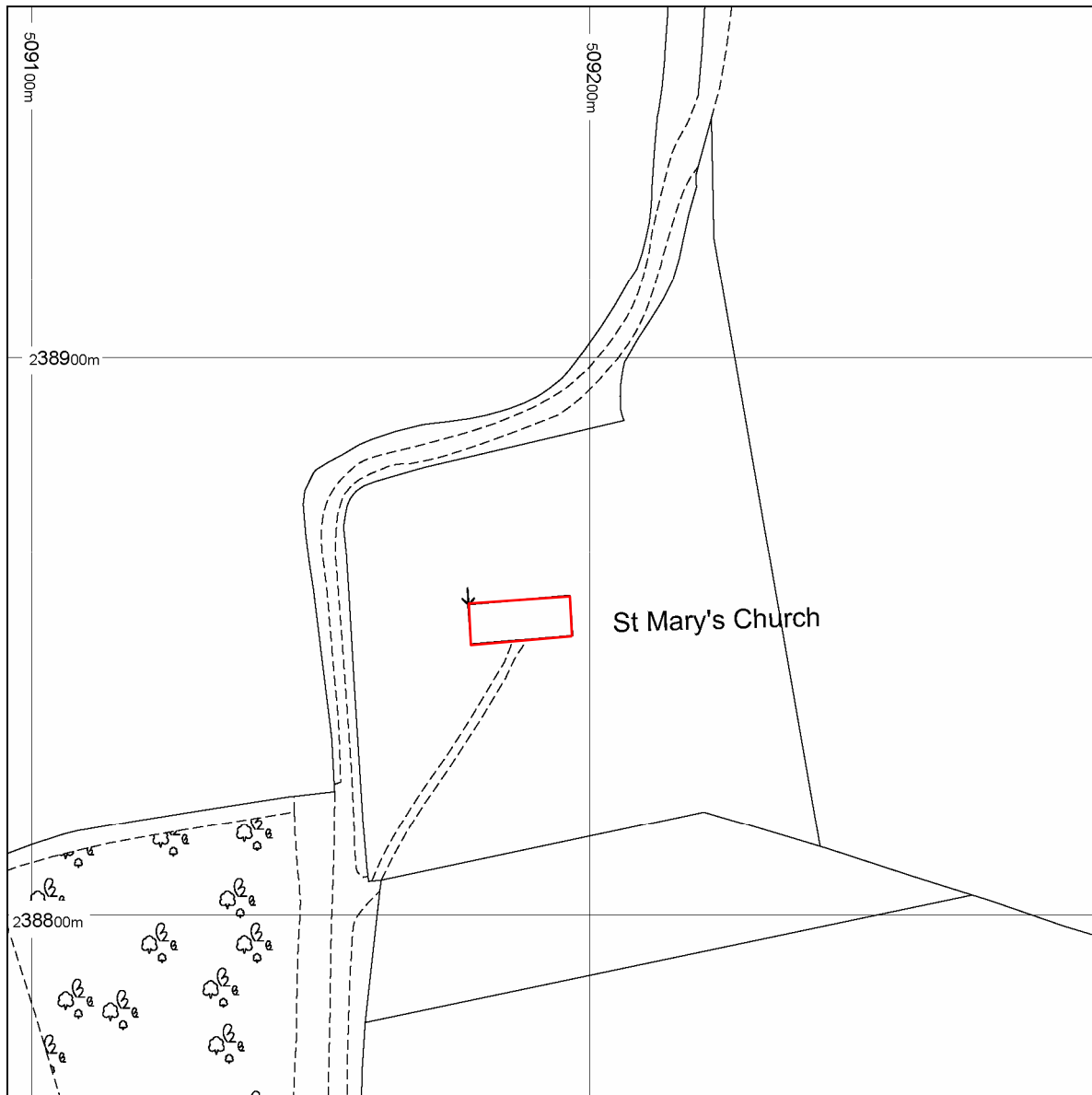
The churchyard is roughly rectangular and is bounded by Church Lane to the north and west, a burial ground to the south and fields to the east (Fig. 2).

##### 1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The church lies on the edge of the Greensand Ridge. The soils of the area belong to the Ashley Association, which are characterised as *fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging, associated with similar but wetter soils. Some calcareous and non-calcareous slowly permeable clayey soils over chalky till* (Soil Survey 1983, 572q). The underlying geology comprises Cretaceous Gault (BGS, Sheet 203). The site lies on sloping ground, at an elevation of *c.85mAOD*.

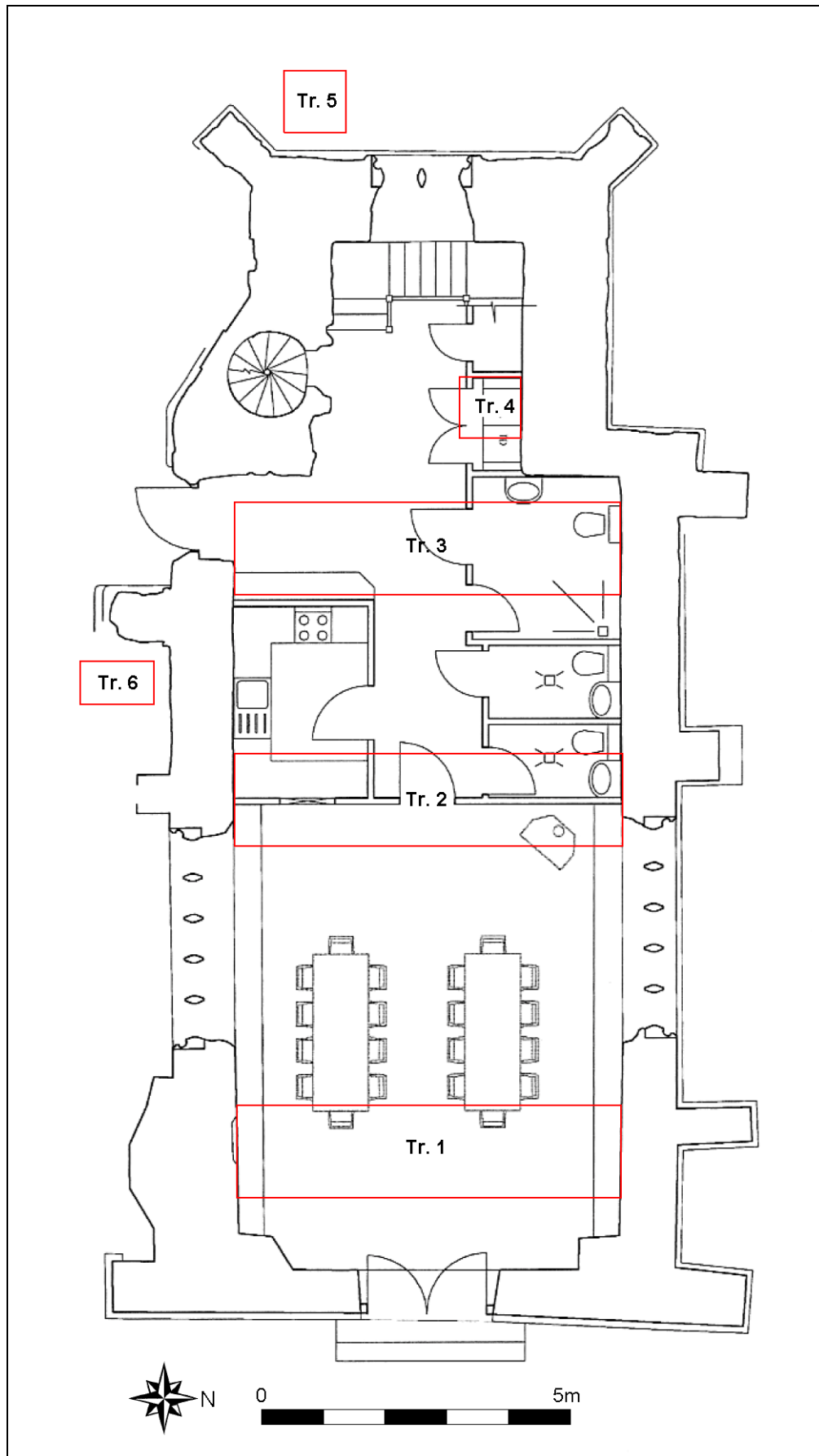
##### 1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises the conversion of the church into a hostel (Fig. 3).



**Figure 2:** Site plan (scale 1:1250)





**Figure 3:** Proposed development and trench location plan (scale 1:100)

## 2. Aims & Methods

### 2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site
- To identify the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site.

### 2.2 *Standards*

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

### 2.3 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 3.3), which required:

- Hand excavation of a maximum of 35 sq m of trial trenching and test pits. The locations for these are shown on Figure 3.

### 2.4 *Constraints*

Due to the erection of scaffolding, Trench 1 was moved *c.*0.4m to the east, and Trench 6 was resized to measure *c.*1.2 × 0.7m.

### 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) and other readily available sources. The HER has only a few entries for the immediate environs of the church. The CHT and HER also hold a number of sketches/paintings of the interior of the church.

3.2 ***Prehistoric*** (before 600BC-AD43)

The early development of the Clophill area is not well understood, and there is a dearth of known finds and sites from the prehistoric periods. This is likely to be a reflection of the lack of archaeological work carried out in the area, rather than a lack of human activity during these periods.

3.3 ***Roman*** (AD43-c.450)

As with the previous periods, there is surprisingly little evidence for human activity in the vicinity of the development site during the Roman period. The closest known major site is located c.10km to the east of the development site, at Shefford where a wealthy Roman cemetery was identified in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The only evidence for Roman occupation in the immediate area was found in the form of pottery and building debris has been uncovered in Chicksands Wood, c.0.75km to the north east of the development site (HER2770).

3.4 ***Saxon - Medieval*** (c.450-1500)

A church is known to have existed in Clophill as early as 1140-1146 when it was given to Beaulieu Priory by Robert de Albini (VCH online). St Mary's Old Church is thought to date back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century (HER2476), although Page described the western tiebeams in 1908 as being moulded and possibly as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid.*). The tower arch has also been described as being of 13<sup>th</sup> century character, although the additional proviso of the possibility of a Victorian date for the work (Hicks 2010) could apply to both arch and tiebeam. The most recent specialist inspection of the church, undertaken by Hicks in 2010, noted the thickness of the nave and former chancel wall, which could suggest a Saxon origin for the present church. It is possible that much of the perpendicular work in the church was commissioned by Roger de Grey, who purchased the manor of Cainhoe and Clophill in 1415, or by his son, who married into the Pembroke family, whose coat of arms has been found on fragments of the church window glass.

The building, which is Grade II\* Listed and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 83), is of ironstone with Totternhoe clunch dressings and comprises a tower and aisleless nave. The medieval church, which fell into decline when a larger parish church was built in the centre of the village, continued in use as a mortuary chapel into the early 20th century.

It has been suggested that the village of Clophill used to be centred around the development site, an 18<sup>th</sup> century map (BLARS: L33 286 F72) shows buildings surrounding the church – possibly the remnants of the early village (see Section 3.5).

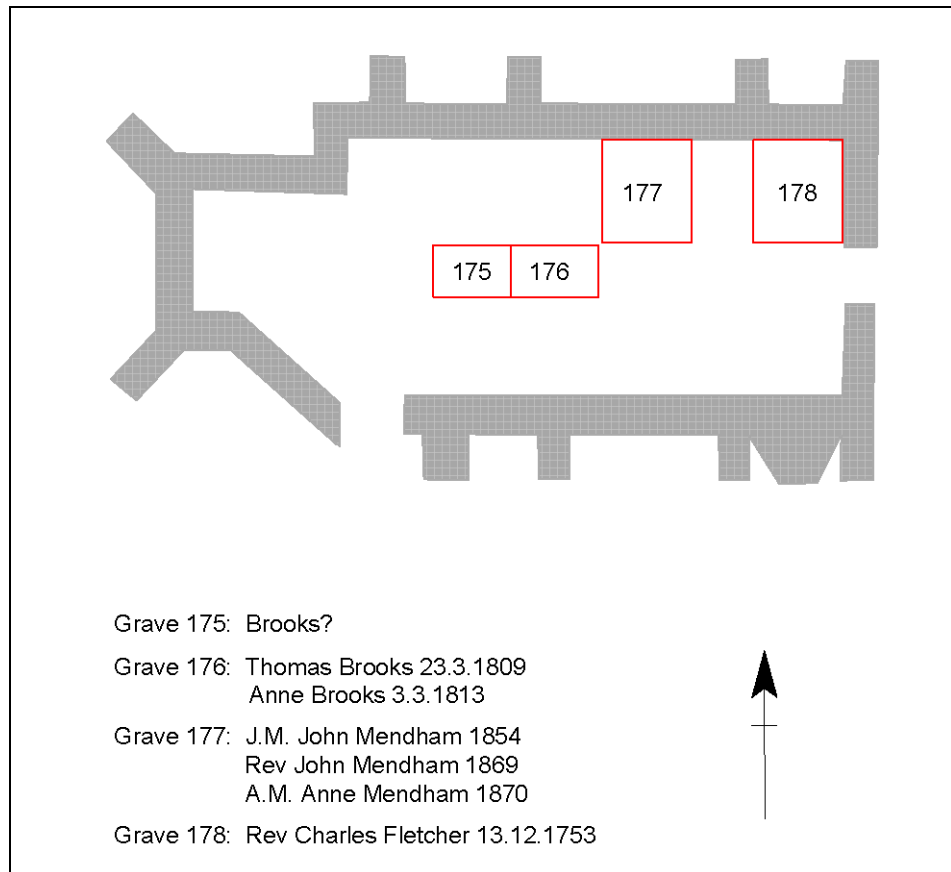
### 3.5 *Post-Medieval - Modern* (1500- present)

In 1802 the chancel of the old church was paved and three years later a new desk and pulpit were built, all at the expense of the rector. The east end of the chancel was rebuilt in 1819 and in 1841 a north aisle capable of seating 200 people was proposed but not built as the rector became seriously ill. The present church of St Mary was established in 1848 and is now a Grade II Listed Building (HER3721). The chancel and the galleries in the old parish church were removed in 1849 and further alterations made the following year to allow the church to be used as a mortuary chapel (<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/>). In 1947 a map of St Mary's Old Church was produced by a local villager named William Gilett (Fig. 4). The plan indicates that four vaults/graves are known to exist inside the church.

Despite some repairs undertaken shortly before the VCH was published in 1908, by the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century the church was in a poor state with lead being stolen from the roof. A grant of faculty was received in 1957 to move roof timbers, coloured glass, wall tablets and woodwork from the development site to the new church (Allden 1978). In more recent years, the disuse of the church has resulted in much vandalism and other anti-social activity, and as a result the building is in a poor state (Bedford Borough Council).

There is documentary evidence for a 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century malthouse, on Great Lane c.0.35km to the northwest of the development site. The building has now been demolished (HER9133). There are also two extraction pits within the vicinity of the development site, with one sand pit located immediately to the west of the church (HER9136, 9139).

A 1719 map of the Manor of Clophill (BLARS: L33 286 F72) shows two small buildings in the field to the east of the church, and a larger building in the field to the west, which may represent HER9133. By the publication of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (OS) at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, these buildings had disappeared.



**Figure 4:** Reproduction of William Gilett's 1947 burial plan (*not to scale*)

## 4 Results

### 4.1 General

A total of six trenches/test pits were hand excavated to target the areas most likely to be affected by the proposed development. Four of these were inside the church (Trenches 1-4), while the remaining two were immediately outside the church walls to the west and south (Trenches 5 & 6).

Trenches 1-3 measured  $c.6.2 \times 1.5\text{m}$ ; Trenches 4 and 5 measured  $c.1 \times 1\text{m}$ , and Trench 6 was  $c.1.2 \times 0.7\text{m}$ .

Detailed information regarding the trial trenches and their contents appears in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 5, 6 & 8: Plates 1-4)

Trench 1, which was located towards the eastern end of the church, was excavated to a depth of  $c.0.13\text{-}0.53\text{m}$ . At the northern end of the trench was made-ground (101), which consisted of loose, light brown yellow sand with frequent small sub-angular/rounded stones. A concentration of medium-large sub-rounded/angular fragments of sandstone and ironstone (102) was found within this layer (101). No bonding material was present (Plate 1).

Immediately adjacent to layer (101) was a rectangular brick vault (103). The vault measured  $c.1.85\text{m}$  wide. It was constructed of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century reddish orange bricks with a shallow frog. The bricks measured  $c.23 \times 10 \times 6\text{ cm}$ , and were bonded with white lime mortar. The vaulted roof was mostly destroyed and as a result the vault was backfilled with made-ground (104). This consisted of loose, light-mid orange brown, gravelly sand with frequent small sub-angular/rounded stones/pebbles and brick fragments (Plate 2).

South of the vault the stratigraphy of the trench consisted of made-ground (105) that was  $>0.4\text{m}$  deep. It comprised loose, light-mid yellow orange brown sand with frequent small-large sub-angular/rounded stones. A number of the larger stones were limestone and ironstone masonry, originally part of the church. Further finds included iron fencing, 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century glass, plastic, occasional disarticulated human bone fragments, wood, and brick fragments (Plate 3).

The church foundations were partly visible at both ends of the trench. They consisted of medium-large sub-angular ironstone pieces that were visible to a maximum depth of  $c.0.25\text{m}$  BGL (below ground level) (Plate 4).

### 4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 5, 6 & 8: Plates 5-9)

Trench 2 was in the centre of the church, and was  $0.3\text{-}0.8\text{m}$  deep. Towards the northern end of the trench was feature [221]. Its full shape in plan and profile was not visible, except for its southern side which was linear, gradually sloping, and orientated E-W. Its fill (218) consisted of loose, yellow sand that contained no finds. Cut into this feature were two fairly straight sided features with concave bases, [212] and [214]. Feature [212] was  $c.0.42\text{m}$  deep and contained fill (213) that consisted of loose, mid grey brown silt with no finds. Feature [214] was  $c.0.58$  deep and contained primary fill (215) made up of loose mid grey brown silt with occasional small sub-angular

stones and no finds, and secondary fill (216) that consisted of loose, light-mid yellow brown sandy material with frequent small sub-angular stones and no finds. It is possible that these features were modern intrusions/pits (Plate 5).

In the centre of the trench was a concentration of backfilled material, possibly a vault (204). It consisted of small-large stones including church masonry, 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century brick and floor tiles, and also contained a small number of disarticulated human bones deriving from a single young adult burial (Plate 6).

At the southern end of the trench was made-ground (205). It was *c.*0.18m deep and consisted of compact mid grey silty sand with frequent small sub-angular stones, masonry, mortar fragments and also contained a small number of disarticulated human bones deriving from a single child burial. Underlying deposit (205) was layer (210). It consisted of loose, mid brown silt that contained sherds of late medieval reduced ware and animal bone. Within the layer was a partially articulated burial (SK207). The burial was orientated W-E, typically Christian, and extended beyond the western baulk. The burial was partially disturbed as the bones from the pelvis down were missing. The surviving bones were in a poor-fair condition, fully fused suggesting an adult burial and were slender and gracile, possibly female. No obvious pathology was observed (Plate 7).

A rectangular feature [219] was also observed at the southern end of the trench that underlay deposit (205) and cut into layer (210). The feature measured *c.*0.63 × >0.48 × 0.06m and contained fill (220) that consisted of loose yellow sand with no finds, believed to be a modern intrusion.

At the southern edge of the trench was a concentration of medium-large limestone and ironstone pieces (208). Towards the eastern end of the concentration the stones appeared to be dumped to form a rough wall, while to the western end the stones were laid out to form a more regular wall or foundation. The stones were not bonded together (Plate 8).

The church foundations (209) were fully visible at the north end of the trench, to a depth of *c.*0.5m BGL (Plate 9).

#### 4.4 **Trench 3** (Fig. 5, 7 & 8: Plates 10-15)

Trench 3 was at the western end of the church. It was excavated to a depth of *c.*0.18m. At the northern end of the trench the remains of a tiled floor (312) were uncovered. The tiles were red or yellow in colour and each measured 16.5 × 16.5 × 4cm. The floor was set into cream lime mortar (313) (Plate 10).

In the centre of the trench were the remains of a brick floor (311), which was also visible near the church entrance, west of the trench. The bricks were red, measured 23 × 11 × 4cm, and were set into cream lime mortar (314) (Plates 11 & 12).

Underlying the floor surfaces was made-ground (302). It consisted of loose mid brown silty material with frequent small sub-angular/rounded stones. A sondage was excavated towards the northern end of the trench, to a depth of *c.*0.85m. It revealed a series of made-ground deposits (303-305) (Appendix 1) that contained pegtiles, a construction nail, and a fragment of 20<sup>th</sup> century glass. The northern section of the sondage revealed a high concentration of dumped medium sub-angular/rounded limestone fragments (Plates 13 & 14).

Towards the southern end of the trench was a small circular pit [307] that measured  $c.0.5 \times 0.7 \times 0.16\text{m}$ . It was filled by (308), soft dark grey yellow sand with heat affected areas and abundant flecks of charcoal, an indication of burning. No finds were uncovered. Pit [307] cut a N-S oriented linear feature [309]. It was filled by (310), of compact mid grey yellow silty sand mixed with frequent fragments of mortar. Both these features were cut into made ground (306), a loose burnt orange/black sandy silt (Plate 15).

#### 4.5 **Trench 4** (Fig. 5 & 8: Plates 16)

Trench 4 was located against the north wall of the tower, and was excavated to a depth of  $c.0.8\text{m}$ . The east, west and southern sections consisted of made-ground (401) (Appendix 1), to a depth of  $c.0.35\text{m}$  BGL. The tower foundations (400), which were  $0.27\text{m}$  deep, were revealed in the northern section and the stonework had clearly been damaged. Underlying the church foundations (400) and made-ground (401) was a backfill deposit (402). It was  $c.0.3\text{m}$  deep, and consisted of loose, light yellow orange sand with finds that included a 1992 crisp packet and a 1994 beer can, brick fragments and medium limestone/ironstone fragments. Beneath this was made-ground (403) that consisted of loose, mid brown orange sand with finds of 20<sup>th</sup> century glass, 19<sup>th</sup> century lead comes, CBM and a construction nail (Plate 16).

#### 4.6 **Trench 5** (Fig. 5 & 9: Plates 17-18)

Trench 5 was located on the exterior of the church to the west of the tower. It was excavated to a depth of  $c.1.15\text{m}$  max. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil (500) to a depth of  $c.0.3\text{m}$ , underlying which was made-ground (501). This was  $c.0.45\text{m}$  deep and consisted of loose, light-mid yellow brown, silty sand containing 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century glass, CBM, animal bone and clay pipe stems. Towards the base of the deposit was a high concentration of medium-large sub-angular/rounded limestone/ironstone fragments; a result of dumping. Underneath this was made ground (502),  $c.0.1\text{m}$  deep, made up of loose, light yellow fine sand under which was layer (503),  $>0.35\text{m}$  deep. It consisted of loose, mid brown sandy silt with moderate small sub-angular stones and finds of late medieval reduced ware and 19<sup>th</sup> century lead comes (Plates 17 & 18).

#### 4.7 **Trench 6** (Fig. 5 & 9: Plates 19)

Trench 6 was located on the exterior of the church to the south of the nave. It was excavated to a depth of  $c.1.11\text{m}$ . The stratigraphy comprised topsoil (600) to a depth of  $c.0.2\text{m}$ , underlying which was made-ground (601). This measured  $c.0.35\text{m}$  deep and consisted of loose, mid brown sandy silt. Within (601) was a lens of limestone, brick and mortar fragments and a lens of ironstone and mortar fragments. Underlying this was layer (602),  $>0.55\text{m}$  deep, consisting of loose, light-mid orange brown, silty sand with moderate small sub-angular stones, medium ironstone and finds of late medieval reduced ware, roof tiles, 19<sup>th</sup> century window glass and lead comes, construction and coffin nails, iron fittings, and a clay pipe stem (Plate 19).





**Plate 1:** Trench 1: made-ground (101) and stone concentration (102), looking W (*scale 1m*)



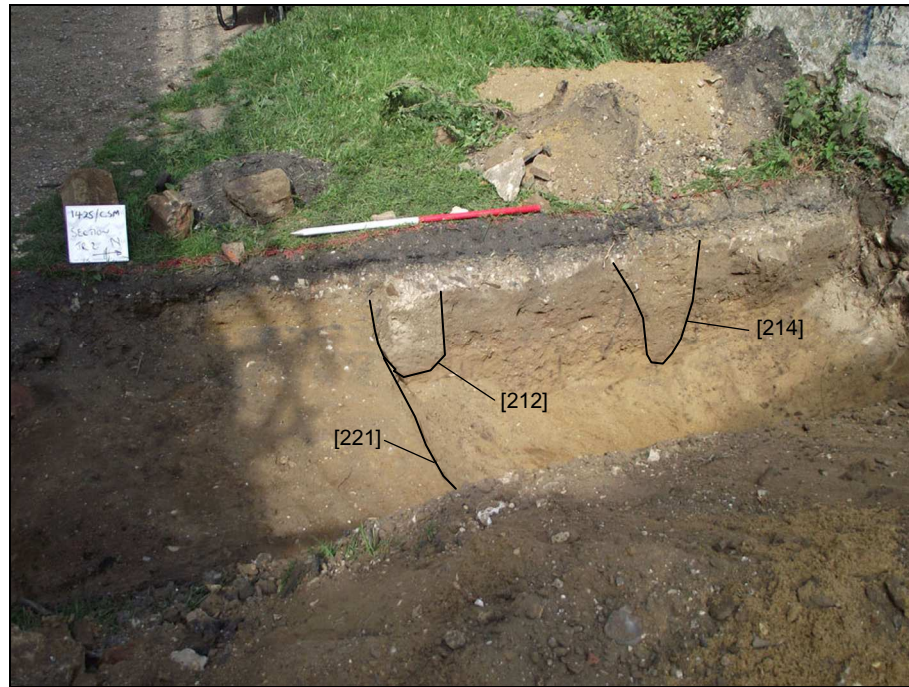
**Plate 2:** Trench 1: vault (103) and backfill (104), looking W (*scale 1m*)



**Plate 3:** Trench 1: made-ground (105), looking W (scale 1m)



**Plate 4:** Trench 1: church foundations, looking S (scale 1m)



**Plate 5:** Trench 2: features [211], [212] and [214], looking NW (scale 1m)



**Plate 6:** Trench 2: vault? (204), looking NW (scale 1m)



**Plate 7:** Trench 2: Christian burial SK207, looking W (Scale 500mm)



**Plate 8:** Trench 2: rough wall (208), looking S (scale 2 × 1m)



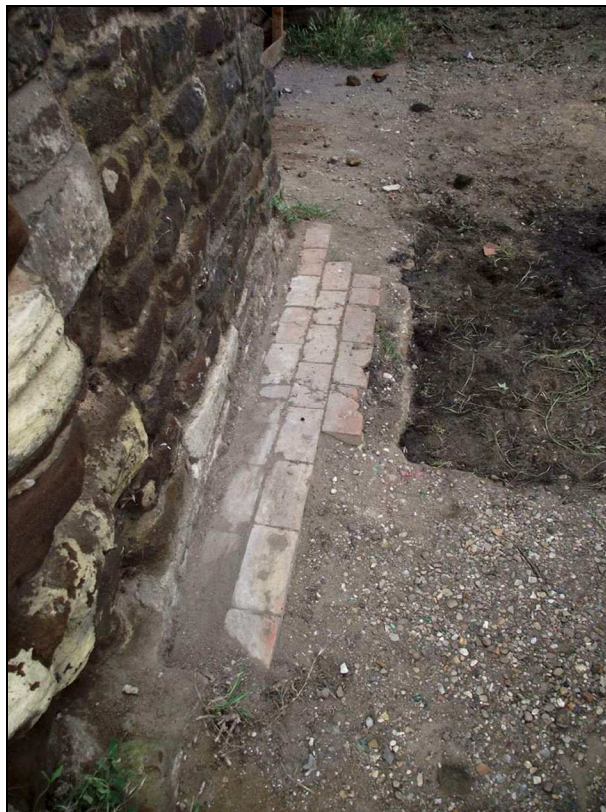
**Plate 9:** Trench 2: church foundations (209), looking N (scale 1m)



**Plate 10:** Trench 3: tile floor (312), looking N (scale 500mm)



**Plate 11:** Trench 3: brick floor (311), looking E (*scale 500mm*)



**Plate 12:** Trench 3: brick floor possibly the same as (311), looking N



**Plate 13:** Trench 3: high concentration of stones uncovered in sondage, looking N (*scale 1m*)



**Plate 14:** Trench 3: sondage, looking E (*scale 1m*)



**Plate 15:** Trench 3: pit [307] and feature [309], looking S (scale 1m)



**Plate 16:** Trench 4: stratigraphy, looking N (scale 1m)





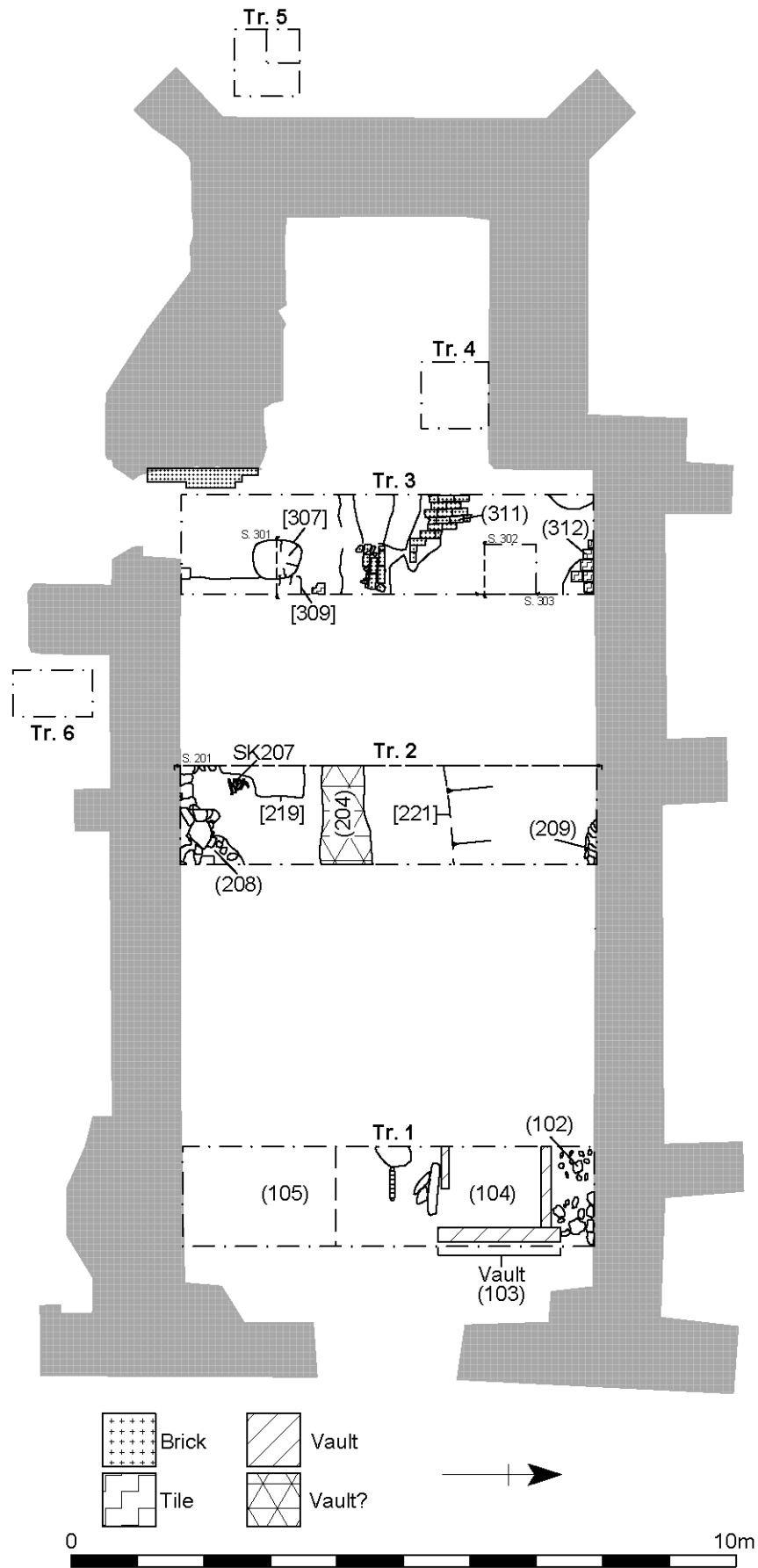
**Plate 17:** Trench 5: concentration of stone within deposit (501), looking E (*scale 1m*)



**Plate 18:** Trench 5: stratigraphy, looking W (*scale 1m*)



**Plate 19:** Trench 6: stratigraphy, looking N (*scale 1m*)



**Figure 5:** Overall plan of trenches (scale 1:100)

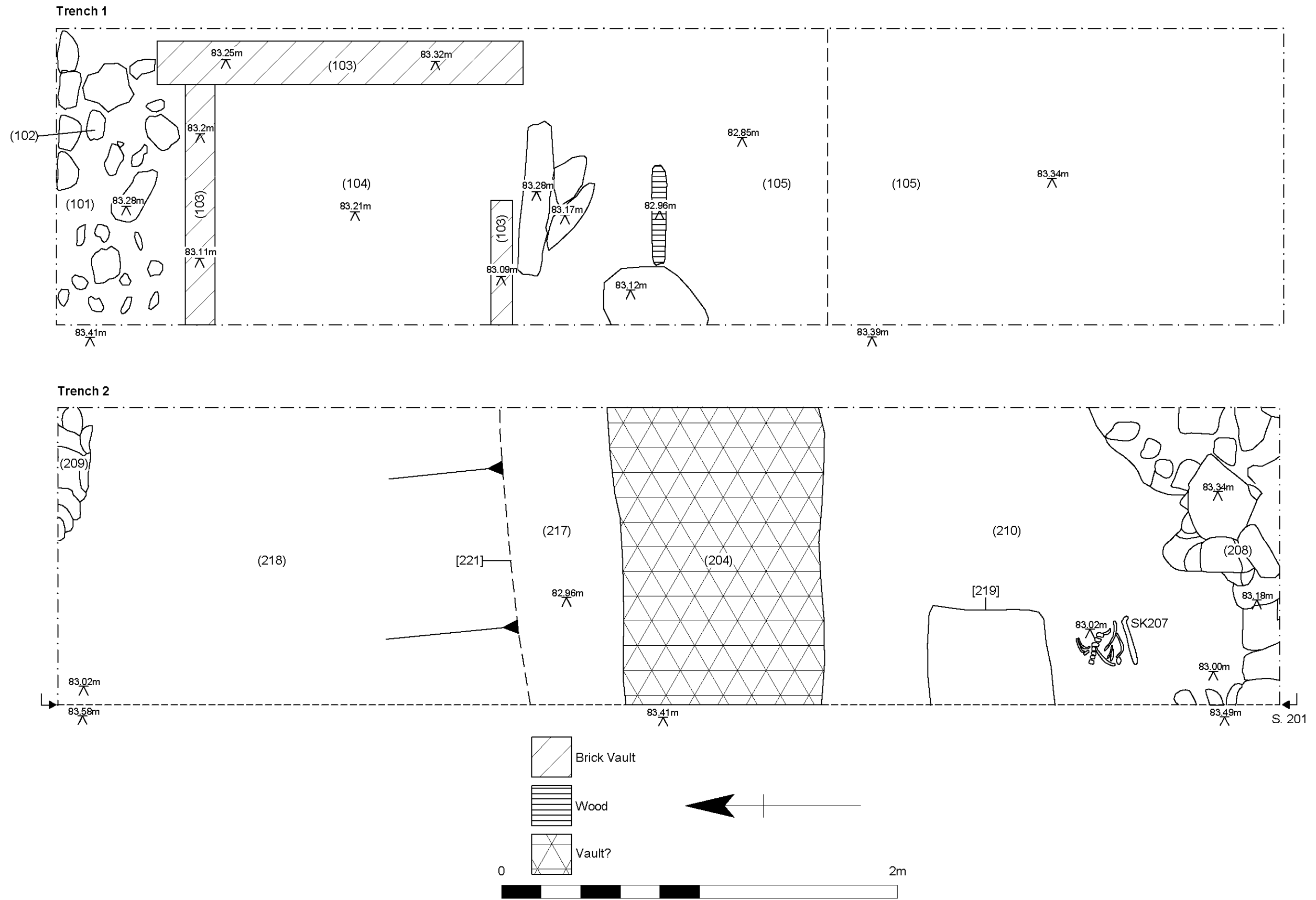


Figure 6: Plan of Trenches 1-2 (scale 1:20)

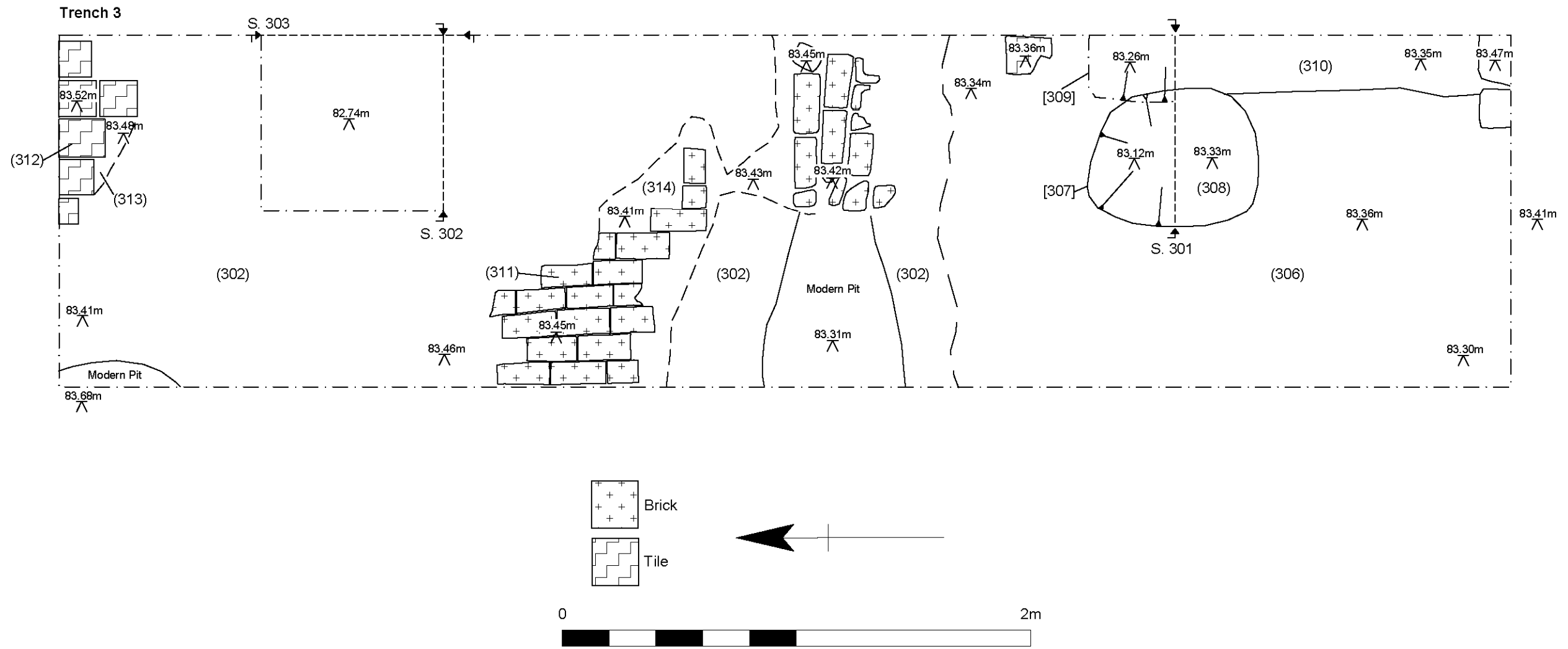


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 3 (scale 1:20)

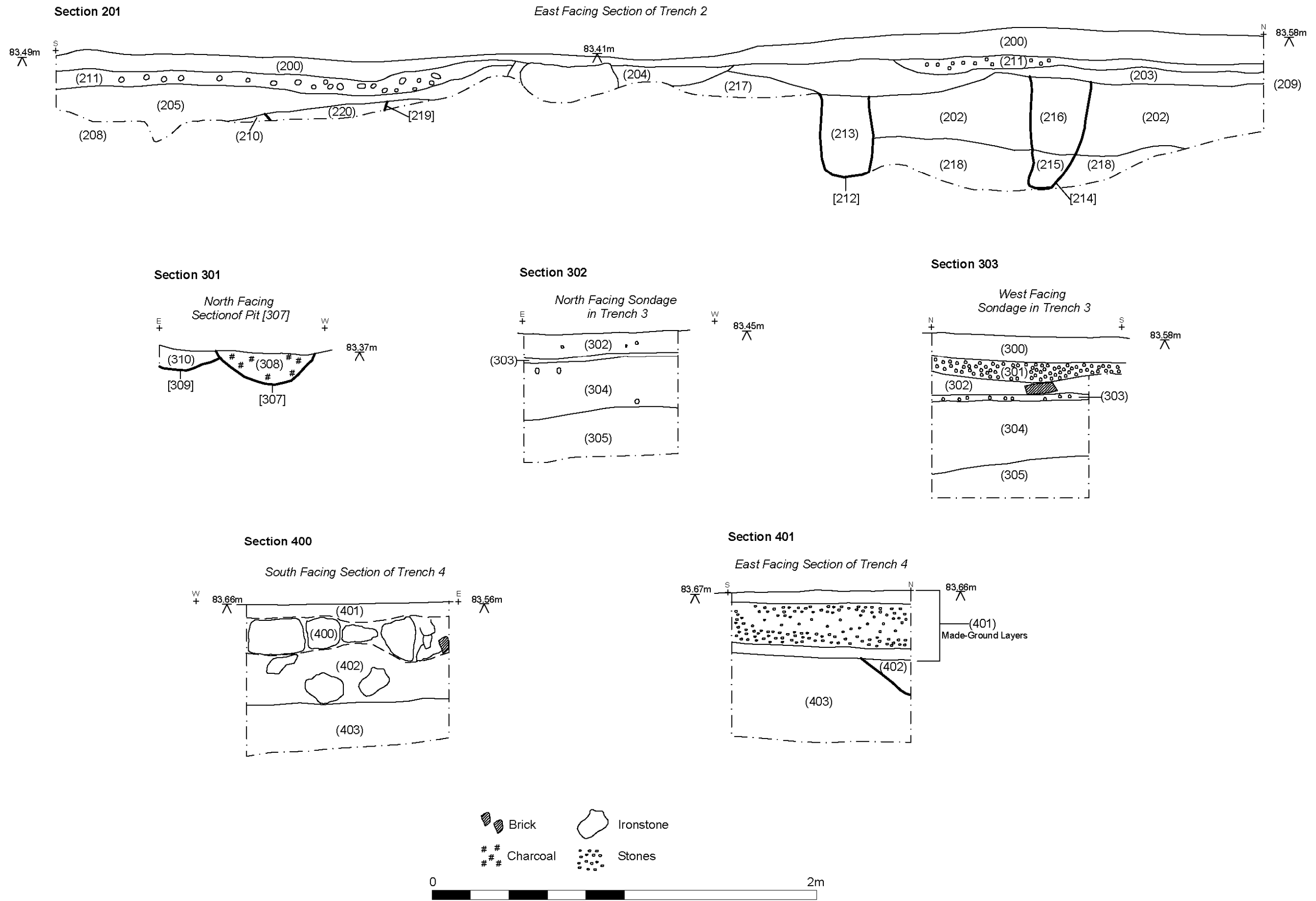
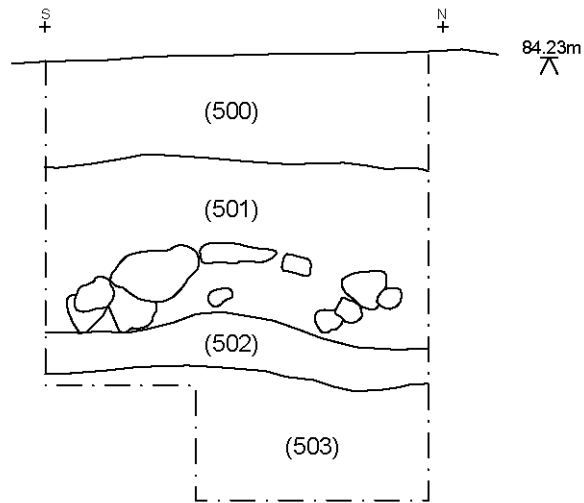


Figure 8: Section Drawings (scale 1:20)

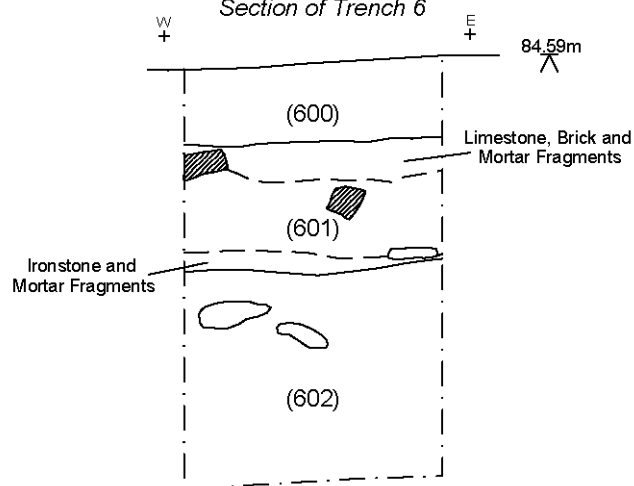
**Section 500**

East Facing Section of Trench 5



**Section 600**

South Facing Section of Trench 6



 Ironstone/Sandstone

 Brick



**Figure 9:** Section Drawings (scale 1:20)

## 5. Conclusions

The evaluation revealed two possible disturbed 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century vaults. William Gilett's 1947 church plan (Fig. 4) indicates that the vault uncovered in the NE corner of the church, in Trench 1, was grave 178 belonging to Rev Charles Fletcher who died 13<sup>th</sup> December 1753. The highly disturbed and backfilled possible vault found in the centre of the church, in Trench 2, was thought to be either grave 175 or 176. Grave 175 possibly belonged to the Brooks family, while grave 176 contained Thomas Brooks, who died 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1809, and Ann Brooks who died 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1813.

The central trench, Trench 2, revealed the remains of a rough wall/foundation at its southern end. It was overlying a layer that contained 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a partially articulated Christian burial. As the burial was uncovered within a layer containing 15<sup>th</sup> pottery it is possible that the burial was medieval also. The test pits excavated in the exterior of the church to the west of the tower and south of the nave also revealed a layer containing significant amounts of 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, along with post-medieval finds thought to be intrusive. The rough wall/foundation, found in Trench 2, and layers containing 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, found in Trench 2 and the church exterior test pits point to an earlier ground horizon.

Towards the western end of the church, in Trench 3, the remains of a brick and tile floor were uncovered, overlying a series of made-ground deposits. This activity is thought to be linked to the renovations carried out at the church in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The tiles may well be Victorian but the bricks appear to be early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

A number of discrete undated features of unknown function were also uncovered in the central and western trenches, such as the possible pits towards the northern end of Trench 2 and the heat affected pit in Trench 3. It is likely that such features are relatively modern intrusions, as the church has undergone much disturbance. Such disturbance is also evident in the high levels of made-ground present on the site, containing evidence such as masonry deriving from the church, CBM, 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century construction/coffin nails, 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century glass and 19<sup>th</sup> century lead comes. In particular towards the eastern end of the church it is likely that such made-ground was actually linked to the demolition of the chancel.

### ***Confidence Rating***

The works were carried out in line with the project design and with the full co-operation of the client and daily monitoring by the county archaeologist. Therefore the results are given a high confidence rating.



## 6. Heritage Asset Assessment

### 6.1 *Heritage Assets and their Significance*

As a Grade II\* Listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 83), St Mary's Old Church is a nationally designated heritage asset of the highest significance.

The results of the evaluation uncovered the remains of a disturbed and backfilled 18<sup>th</sup> century vault towards the NE corner of the church, and a further highly disturbed 19<sup>th</sup> century possible vault towards the centre of church. The vault towards the NE corner of the church had experienced some disturbance as the roof was no longer intact, resulting in the vault being backfilled. The vault walls, however, were still intact. The vault can be identified as having been the burial place of Rev. Charles Fletcher and as such is of considerable local significance. It is thought that, owing to the vault being disturbed, the burial was relocated outside the church. However, this account is anecdotal.

The possible vault to the west of this could be seen as being of lesser significance as there are no masonry remains to confirm its identity and it cannot positively be linked to named individuals. Nonetheless, as an indication of the burial patterns within the church and the socio-economic implications for the parishioners it is of considerable archaeological interest. The partially articulated burial found in Trench 2 within a layer containing 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery indicates that the burial was medieval. This is also of great significance, as the burial may relate to earlier elements of the church.

The central trench inside the church revealed the remains of a rough wall/foundation overlying a deposit which contained 15<sup>th</sup> century late medieval reduced ware pottery and animal bone. Although the stonework was quite compacted, the remains did not appear to be structural, other than the spread footing of the nave wall. However, it is possible that this may have represented remains of an earlier building on the site, or deposited building material from the original church construction. Certainly the combination of the masonry remains and 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery deposits inside and outside the church is of great significance in the consideration of the site's chronology and usage prior to becoming a place of worship.

Like many other churches in the region, St Mary's was in need of a considerable amount of attention in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to bring it up to the standards necessary for congregational use and to safeguard its structural integrity. The modifications made at this time may have included the tiled floor discovered in Trench 3. Very little remains in the documentary or archaeological record of the church interior and so these small areas of flooring must be considered to be of some local significance.

A number of discrete undated, but probably modern features were found in the central and western trenches. There were also several made-ground deposits both inside and outside the church relating to the decline and subsequent disturbance the church has undergone. Such activity is of little significance but confirms the high level of disruption the church has been subjected to.

Any hitherto unrecorded pre-medieval archaeological remains in the churchyard itself would have been at great risk of damage if not destruction as the burial population increased. As a result any such remains may be of great local and possibly regional significance, particularly if they were associated with an earlier church on the site.

## 6.2 *Impact of the Proposed Development*

The proposed development impacts on the historic fabric of the medieval church and the buried heritage assets within and outside its walls. The overall impact of the proposed development at St Mary's Old Church is undoubtedly positive. The church has long been in a state of ruin and as such has attracted the unwanted attention of anti-social behaviour. The development will ensure that the historic building is safeguarded from further damage and decay and is brought into mainstream use that will also hinder dubious activities.

The evaluation was intended to not only inform the historic environment record but also help refine construction design. It is understood that the proposed development will require the reduction of the interior floor levels and the construction of a French drain to the exterior of the church. These actions will impact upon the archaeological deposits recorded in the evaluation and appropriate archaeological mitigation will be required.

The single articulated uncoffined burial discovered during the evaluation is unlikely to be unique, and the significance and sensitivity of archaeological remains (particularly human) within churches would suggest a degree of archaeological intervention would be required relative to the level of disturbance of the below ground assets.

The heritage assets in the churchyard, which will almost certainly be affected by ground reduction and service trenches, are most likely to be medieval and post-medieval burials although the possibility of encountering earlier archaeological remains cannot be discounted. The dual considerations of disturbing human remains and the possible loss of archaeological features during groundworks outside the church walls would also indicate the importance of archaeological mitigation.

Any decisions regarding the level and nature of any further archaeological mitigation will be made by the archaeological team at Central Bedfordshire Council and English Heritage.

## 7. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by *Clophill Heritage Trust*. The writer is grateful to Ali Bradbury for her assistance. The project was monitored by *Central Bedfordshire Archaeology Team* on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Adrienne Gordon for historical information, and Godfrey Knock from *Springer Garden Services* for constructing the protective shelter at such short notice.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc and Gareth Shane BSc. The report was prepared by Carina Summerfield-Hill and edited by Karin Semmelmann and Bob Zeepvat.

## 8. Archive

8.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. Original specialist reports and supporting information
12. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

8.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum.

## 9. References

### ***Standards & Specifications***

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
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- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
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### ***Secondary Sources***


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- Simco, A 1984 *Survey of Bedfordshire: The Roman Period* Bedfordshire County Council.
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

### ***Internet Sources***


- Bedford Borough Council:  
<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Clophill/OldSaintMarysChurchClophill.aspx>

## Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables


Trench 1							
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>						
	<b>Length</b>	6.2	<b>Width</b>	1.5	<b>Depth</b>	0.13-0.53	
	<b>Levels</b>						
	<b>Trench top North</b>			83.41m OD			
	<b>Trench base North</b>			83.28m OD			
	<b>Trench top South</b>			83.39m OD			
	<b>Trench base South</b>			83.34m OD			
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>						
	<b>N</b>	09195/38857		<b>S</b>	09195/38850		
	<b>Orientation</b>			N-S			
<b>Reason for Trench</b>			Trench within footprint of proposed development				
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Width (max: mm)</b>	<b>Thickness (max: mm)</b>	<b>Depth (BGL: mm)</b>		
100	Layer	Loose mid-dark brown silty sand with moderate small sub-angular/rounded stones - <b>topsoil</b>	>1500	100	0		
101	Deposit	Loose light brown yellow sand with frequent small sub-angular/rounded stones - <b>made-ground</b>	>1500	?	100		
102	Deposit	Concentration of medium-large sub-angular/rounded limestone and ironstone within (101) - <b>made-ground</b>	>1500	?	100		
103	Structural	Vault constructed of reddish orange bricks, bound with white lime mortar. Bricks have a shallow frog and measure 23 × 10 × 6 cm. Roof of vault mostly destroyed - <b>vault</b>	1860	?	100		
104	Deposit	Loose, light-mid orange brown gravelly sandy with frequent small sub-angular/rounded stones/pebbles, and brick fragments - <b>vault backfill</b>	1400	?	100		
105	Deposit	Loose, light-mid yellow/orange brown sandy material with frequent small-large stones. Finds included large limestone and ironstone masonry part of the church, iron fencing, 20 <sup>th</sup> century glass, plastic, occasional disarticulated human bone fragments, wood, brick fragments - <b>made-ground possibly associated with the demolition of the chancel</b>	>1500	>400	100		

<b>Trench 2</b>						
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	6.2	<b>Width</b>	1.5	<b>Depth</b>	0.3-0.8
	<b>Trench top North</b>			83.58m OD		
	<b>Trench base North</b>			83.02m OD		
	<b>Trench top South</b>			83.49m OD		
	<b>Trench base South</b>			83.00m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
	<b>N</b>	09189/38857		<b>S</b>	09190/38850	
<b>Orientation:</b>			N-S			
<b>Reason for Trench:</b>			Trench within footprint of proposed development			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Width (max: mm)</b>	<b>Thickness (max: mm)</b>	<b>Depth (BGL: mm)</b>	
200	Layer	Loose mid-dark brown silty sand with moderate small sub-angular/rounded stones - <b>topsoil</b>	>1500	150	0	
211	Deposit	Loose gravel material - <b>made-ground</b>	>1500	80	150	
203	Deposit	Loose gravel material containing masonry and brick fragments and finds of lead cames, glass, animal bone and an iron nail - <b>made-ground at northern end of trench underlying (211)</b>	>1500	70	230	
205	Deposit	Compact mid grey silty sand with frequent small sub-angular stones, masonry, mortar fragments and disarticulated human bone - <b>made-ground at southern end of trench underlying (211)</b>	>1500	185	230	
204	Deposit	Concentration of red bricks with traces of white lime mortar, floor tiles, church masonry, disarticulated human bone - <b>vault backfill underlay (200)</b>	>1500	?	60	
217	Deposit	Loose, mid orange sand - <b>made-ground underlying (203) and (204)</b>	>1500	?		
202	Deposit	Loose, mid grey brown silt with moderate small sub-angular/rounded stones with finds of glass, creamy white mortar and CBM - <b>made-ground at northern end of trench underlying (203)</b>	>1500	370	300	
218	Fill	Loose, fine yellow sand, no finds - <b>fill of feature [221]</b>	>1500	?	670	
221	<b>Cut</b>	Full shape in plan and section not visible, aside from its southern side that was linear and gradually sloping, orientated E-W – <b>modern intrusion?</b>				
213	Fill	Loose, mid grey brown silt with no finds - <b>fill of feature [212]</b>	?	425	300	
212	<b>Cut</b>	Only visible in section - fairly straight sided with a concave base - <b>modern intrusion?</b>	?	425	300	
216	Fill	Loose, light-mid yellow brown sandy material with frequent small sub-angular stones and no finds - <b>fill of feature [214]</b>	?	400	255	
215	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silt with occasional small sub-angular stones with no finds - <b>fill of feature [214]</b>	?	200	655	
214	<b>Cut</b>	Only visible in section - fairly straight sided with a concave base - <b>modern intrusion?</b>	?	600	255	


210	Layer	Loose, mid brown silt containing finds of medieval pottery and animal bone - <b>former ground horizon?</b>	>1500	?	280
220	Fill	Loose, yellow sand with no finds - <b>fill of feature [219]</b>	630	?	280
219	<b>Cut</b>	Square in plan - <b>modern intrusion? Underlying (205) and cuts (210) layer</b>	630		280
SK207	Burial	Partially articulated adult female? burial, orientated W-E, no visible grave cut - <b>Christian burial within layer (210)</b>	300	?	335
208	Structural	Concentration of medium-large limestone and ironstone, towards the eastern end of the concentration the stones appeared to be dumped, while to the western end the stones were laid out more regular - <b>wall or foundation</b>	>1500	3500	270
209	Structural	Medium-large sub-angular limestone - <b>church foundation visible at the northern end of the trench</b>	>1500	500	0


Trench 3						
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	6.2	<b>Width</b>	1.5	<b>Depth</b>	0.18
	<b>Levels</b>					
	<b>Trench top North</b>			83.68m OD		
	<b>Trench base North</b>			83.41m OD		
	<b>Trench top South</b>			83.41m OD		
	<b>Trench base South</b>			83.30m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
	<b>N</b>	09184/38857		<b>S</b>	09185/38849	
	<b>Orientation</b>			N-S		
<b>Reason for Trench</b>			Trench within footprint of proposed development			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Width (max: mm)</b>	<b>Thickness (max: mm)</b>	<b>Depth (BGL: mm)</b>	
300	Layer	Loose mid brown silty sand with moderate small sub-angular/rounded stones - <b>topsoil</b>	>1500	130	0	
301	Deposit	Gravel - <b>made-ground</b>	>1500	100	130	
312 313	Structural	<b>Tile floor</b> - constructed with either red or cream/white tiles that each measure 16.5 x 16.5 x 4cm, set into cream lime mortar (313)			230	
311 314	Structural	<b>Brick floor</b> - constructed with red bricks that each measured 23 x 11 x 4cm, set into cream lime mortar (314)	780		230	
302	Deposit	Loose mid brown silty material with frequent small sub-angular/rounded stones - <b>made-ground</b>	>1500	70	230	
303	Deposit	Compact white mortar - <b>made-ground</b>	>750	33	300	
304	Deposit	Loose, mid grey brown silt with moderate small sub-angular/rounded stones with finds of glass, CBM and an iron nail - <b>made-ground</b>	>750	370	333	
305	Deposit	Loose, fine yellow sand - <b>made-ground</b>	>750	>220	703	
306	Deposit	Loose burnt orange/black sandy silt - <b>made-ground</b>	>1500	?	230	

308	Fill	Soft dark grey yellow sand with evidence of red scorching and abundant flecks of charcoal to indicate burning, no finds – <b>fill of pit [307]</b>	500	160	230
307	<b>Cut</b>	Circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base, cuts feature [309] – <b>pit cuts (306)</b>	500	160	230
310	Fill	Compact mid grey yellow silty sand mixed with frequent fragments of mortar, contains iron nails – <b>fill of feature [309]</b>	.260	100	230
309	<b>Cut</b>	Linear in plan, orientated N-S, moderately sloping side and flat base, cut by pit [307] – <b>wall foundation?? cuts (306)</b>			

Trench 4						
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	1	<b>Width</b>	1	<b>Depth</b>	0.8
	<b>Trench top North</b>			83.56m OD		
	<b>Trench base North</b>			82.86m OD		
	<b>Trench top South</b>			83.67m OD		
	<b>Trench base South</b>			82.86m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
	<b>Centre</b>			09182/38853		
	<b>Orientation</b>			N-S		
	<b>Reason for Trench</b>			Trench within footprint of proposed development		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Width (max: mm)</b>	<b>Thickness (max: mm)</b>	<b>Depth (BGL: mm)</b>	
400	Structural	Medium-large sub-angular limestone - <b>Church tower foundations</b>	/	270	0	
401	Deposits	Series of deposits consisting of compact, dark black silt, loose, mottled light yellow/white sandy gravel and loose, light-mid peach/red sandy gravel with frequent small sub-rounded/rounded stones - <b>made-ground</b>	>1000	350	0	
402	Deposit	Loose, light yellow orange sand that contained a 1992 crisp packet and a 1994 beer can, brick fragments and medium limestone/ironstone - <b>backfilled deposit</b>	c.300	300	270	
403	Deposit	Loose, mid brown orange sand with finds of 20 <sup>th</sup> century glass, lead, CBM and an iron nail - <b>made-ground</b>	>1000	>440	270	



<b>Trench 5</b>						
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	1	<b>Width</b>	1	<b>Depth</b>	0.81-1.15
	<b>Levels</b>					
	<b>Trench top North</b>			84.23m OD		
	<b>Trench base North</b>			83.08m OD		
	<b>Trench top South</b>			84.23m OD		
	<b>Trench base South</b>			83.36m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
	<b>Centre</b>			09177/38851		
	<b>Orientation</b>			N-S		
<b>Reason for Trench</b>			Trench within footprint of proposed development			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Width (max: mm)</b>	<b>Thickness (max: mm)</b>	<b>Depth (BGL: mm)</b>	
500	Layer	Loose mid brown silty sand with moderate small sub-angular/rounded stones - <b>topsoil</b>	>1000	300	0	
501	Deposit	Loose, light-mid yellow brown, silty sand that contained animal bone, glass, brick fragments and clay pipe stems. Towards the base of the deposit there was a high concentration of medium-large sub-angular/rounded limestone; a result of dumping - <b>made-ground</b>	>1000	450	300	
502	Deposit	Loose, light yellow fine sand - <b>made-ground</b>	>1000	100	750	
503	Deposit	Loose, mid brown sandy silt with moderate small sub-angular stones that contained medieval pottery and lead fragments - <b>former ground horizon?</b>	>1000	>350	850	

<b>Trench 6</b>											
						<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
						<b>Length</b>	1.2	<b>Width</b>	0.7	<b>Depth</b>	0.73-1.11
						<b>Levels</b>					
						<b>Trench top North</b>			84.59m OD		
						<b>Trench base North</b>			83.6m OD		
						<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
						<b>Centre</b>			09188/38848		
						<b>Orientation</b>			N-S		
						<b>Reason for Trench</b>			Trench within footprint of proposed development		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Width (max: mm)</b>	<b>Thickness (max: mm)</b>	<b>Depth (BGL: mm)</b>						
600	Layer	Loose mid brown silty sand with moderate small sub-angular/rounded stones - <b>topsoil</b>	>700	200	0						
601	Deposit	Loose, mid brown sandy silt, within which were lenses of limestone, brick and mortar fragments and ironstone and mortar fragments that did not appear to form anything solid – <b>made-ground</b>	>700	350	200						
602	Deposit	Loose, light-mid orange brown, silty sand with moderate small sub-angular stones, medium ironstone that contained medieval pottery, CBM, glass, iron nails, iron window fitting, clay pipe stem and lead cames – <b>former ground horizon?</b>	>700	>550	550						

## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: St Mary's Old Church, Clophill, Bedfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1425/CSM
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	√	√	Tr 2: SK 207, looking W (scale 500mm)
2	√	√	Tr 2: SK207 and wall foundation (208), looking S (scale 500mm)
3		√	Tr 2: Backfill concentration (204), looking E (scale 2×1m)
4	√	√	Tr 2: Wall foundation (208), looking N (scale 2×1m)
5	√	√	Tr 2: General shot, looking N (scale 1m)
6	√	√	Tr 2: General shot, looking S (scale 1m)
7	√	√	Tr 2: Church foundations (209), looking N (scale 1m)
8	√	√	Tr 2: East facing section, oblique angle, looking NW (scale 2×1m)
9	√	√	Tr 2: East facing section, S end, looking W (scale 1m)
10	√	√	Tr 2: East facing section, N end, looking W (scale 1m)
11		√	Tr 2: East facing section, S end, looking W (scale 1m)
12	√	√	Tr 1: General shot, looking N (scale 2×1m)
13		√	General working shot
14		√	General working shot
15	√	√	Tr 1: Stone concentration (102), looking W (scale 1m)
16		√	Tr 1: Stone concentration (102) and vault (103), looking W (scale 1m)
17		√	Tr 1: Vault (103), looking W (scale 1m)
18	√	√	Tr 1: Vault (103), looking W (scale 1m)
19		√	Tr 1: Vault (103) and made-ground (105), looking W (scale 1m)
20	√	√	Tr 1: Vault (103) and made-ground (105), looking W (scale 1m)
21	√	√	Tr 1: General shot, looking S (scale 2×1m)
22		√	Tr 1: Vault (103), looking W (scale 1m)
23		√	Tr 1: Vault (103), looking W (scale 1m)
24	√	√	Tr 1: East facing section, looking W (scale 1m)
25	√	√	Tr 1: Church foundations, looking N (scale 1m)
26	√	√	Tr 1: Church foundation, looking S (scale 1m)
27	√	√	Tr 5: Concentration of stones (501), looking E (scale 1m)
28		√	Tr 5: Concentration of stones (501), vertical shot (scale 1m)
29	√	√	Tr 3: Tile floor (312), looking N (scale 500mm)
30		√	Tr 3: Tile floor (312), looking N (scale 500mm)
31		√	General working shot
32		√	General working shot
33		√	General working shot
34		√	General working shot
35	√	√	Tr 5: Stratigraphy, looking E (scale 2×1m)
36	√	√	Tr 5: Stratigraphy, looking E (scale 2×1m)
37		√	Tr 5: General shot, looking SE (scale 2×1m)
38	√	√	Tr 3: General shot, looking N (scale 1m)
39	√	√	Tr 3: General shot, looking S (scale 1m)
40	√	√	Tr 3: General shot, looking N (scale 1m)
41		√	Tr 3: Brick floor (311), looking S (scale 1m)
42		√	Tr 3: General shot, looking N (scale 1m)
43	√	√	Tr 3: Pit [307], looking S (scale 1m)
44	√	√	Tr 3: Test Pit, backfilled rubble, looking N (scale 1m)
45	√	√	Tr 5: Stratigraphy, looking W (scale 2×1m)
46		√	Tr 5: Stratigraphy, looking E (scale 2×1m)
47		√	General working shot

SITE NAME: St Mary's Old Church, Clophill, Bedfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1425/CSM
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
48		√	General working shot
49		√	General working shot
50	√	√	Tr 3: Test pit, stratigraphy, looking S ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
51		√	Tr 3: Brick floor (311), looking E ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
52		√	Tr 3: Brick floor (311), looking E ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
53		√	Tr 3: Brick floor (311), looking E ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
54		√	Tr 3: Tile, looking E ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
55		√	Tr 3: Brick floor (311), looking N ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
56		√	Tr 3: Test pit, stratigraphy, looking E ( <i>scale 1m</i> )
57		√	General working shot
58		√	General working shot
59		√	General working shot
60	√	√	Tr 6: Stratigraphy, looking N ( <i>scale 2×1m</i> )
61		√	Brick floor outside Tr 3, looking W ( <i>scale 1m</i> )
62	√	√	Tr 4: Stratigraphy, looking N ( <i>scale 1m</i> )
63		√	Tr 4: Stratigraphy, looking N ( <i>scale 1m</i> )
64	√	√	Tr 4: Stratigraphy, looking W ( <i>scale 1m</i> )
65		√	Brick floor outside Tr 3, looking N

### Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Animal Bone		Other Finds		
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)	Type	(no)	(g)
105					Glass	22	123
					Clay pipe stem	1	2
					Iron nails	11	170
					Lead cames	2	26
					Disarticulated human bone	8	27
202					Glass	2	3
					Cream mortar	5	22
					CBM	1	1
203			3	71	Lead cames	2	20
					Glass	12	22
					Iron nail	1	29
204					Disarticulated human bone	34	433
205					Disarticulated human bone	4	4
210	3	17	1	22			
300					Iron nail	1	24
304					CBM	2	178
					Iron nail	1	9
					Glass	1	6
310					Iron nails	3	42
403	1	2			CBM	2	115
					Glass	13	88
					Lead cames	4	58
					Iron nail	1	69
501			1	12	CBM	8	2312
					Glass	11	87
					Clay pipe stems	5	20
503	10	43			Lead cames	2	10
602	15	89			CBM	9	667
					Glass	7	12
					Iron nails	6	30
					Iron window fitting	1	113
					Clay pipe stem	1	2
					Lead cames	3	135
					Lead	2	

Note: Disarticulated human remains were re-interred

## Appendix 4: Finds Reports

### Pottery

*Anna Slowikowski*

A total of 29 pottery sherds of late medieval reduced ware were recovered from Trenches 2, 4, 5 and 6 (Fig. 20) that date to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The sherds are all jar-like vessels that do not appear to derive from any of the known kilns in the vicinity. One possibility is that they are from the Flitwick kiln, c.8.6km SW of the site.

Context	Date	Bedford Type	Fabric	Type of Vessel
210	15 <sup>th</sup> century	E01	Late medieval Reduced Ware	Jar?
403	15 <sup>th</sup> century	E01	Late medieval Reduced Ware	Jar
503	15 <sup>th</sup> century	E01	Late medieval Reduced Ware	Jar?
602	15 <sup>th</sup> century	E01	Late medieval Reduced Ware	Jar



**Figure 20:** Trench 6: Late medieval reduced ware pottery from (602) (scale 50mm)

## Ceramic Building Material

Karin Semmelmann

The greatest number of fragments of CBM were recovered from the test pits excavated to the west of the tower (Trench 5) and the south of the nave (Trench 6). Trench 6 produced 9 pieces of probable roof tile, some 12mm thick. The assemblage from Trench 5 was more diverse and included one definite pegtile, floor tiles, brick and a fragment of tile that had been recessed to accommodate a square section bar. This may have been part of bird screen used to protect a window or belfry opening.

The fabric of the floor tiles and the brick does not appear to be earlier than the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. They are fairly well puddled, with few inclusions and no Spanish (inclusions of finely sieved ash mixed with clay, *cf* Brunskill 1997, 86-87), which is a typical characteristic of 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century bricks.

Context	No.	Notes
202	1	Undiagnostic
204	2	1× Light red hand made floor tile with yellow lime based mortar 165 x 165 x 40mm 1×red handmade brick. 220×105×35mm. Traces of yellow lime mortar
304	2	2 x pegtile fragments
311	1	Sample of brick floor: red brick with yellow lime mortar. 230 x 110 x 40mm
312	1	Sample of tile floor: Yellow floor tile with some stone inclusions (1-10mm). Hand made, fairly well puddled. 165 x 165 x 41mm. Evidence for use of cheese wire on upper face.
403	2	1 x dark red piece 15mm thick with notch on one side. Possible floor tile
501	8	1 x pegtile 2 x fragments 12mm thick with mortar attached: possible tile 1 x 12mm thick fragment with mortar and 10 x 12mm recess in upper face with two nail holes to one side 1x fairly well puddled brick with few inclusions and horizontal skintlings (100 x 100 x 60mm) has hard, 10mm thick, (?)cement based mortar on one face 1 x biscuit coloured floor tile 15mm thick with lip on one side 1 x 25mm thick under fired red floor tile with cream and green pigmentation on upper surface 1 x under fired red floor tile up to 20mm thick with mortar on one side
602	9	Probably all roof tile pieces. 12mm thick with mortar remains on one or two pieces

### References

Brunskill, R.W 1997 *Brick Building in Britain*.

## Iron Objects

*Karin Semmelmann*

A total of 25 iron objects, predominantly nails, were recovered from 7 contexts within all but Trench 5, which lay to the west of the tower. They were fairly heavily corroded and many were incomplete. Nonetheless, it was possible to identify some as construction or coffin nails.

The construction nails came in a variety of forms. Some had slight heads whereas others had substantial rectangular heads; the latter type was often used in the construction of roofs. They were predominantly machine cut, but it was not possible to determine whether they were early or later (ie 1820s onwards) nails, due to the level of corrosion.

Most of the construction nails were recovered from Trenches 3 and 4. Trenches 2 and 5 had no construction nails in at all and Trench 1 had a mixture of nails and other metalwork in a dump layer to the south of a burial vault. Amongst these fragments were what could have been a window stay and some unidentified curved pieces. Six heat affected pieces testify to a small but intense fire in that part of the church where two of the fragments had fused together.

The coffin nails also came in a variety of sizes according to need; the most interesting of which was found in Context 203 and had a dimpled rose head. This is the only coffin nail to have been found inside the church; the others were recovered from Trench 6 to the south of the nave.

There was little datable material within the assemblage and nothing of particular significance. The nails appeared to be largely machine cut and therefore more likely to be indicative of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century repair than original construction.

Context	No.	Notes
105	12	6 x pieces heat affected nails, two fused together. All appear to be square section. Up to 70mm long. 2 x heavily corroded pieces, possibly wire nails. Larger one 800mm long with 8mm dia head. Construction nails. 1 x 55mm long shaft with 13mm wide sub rectangular head. 1 x curved wire nail. Shank initially 90mm long then curves and is another 58mm long. Heavily corroded. 1 x 150mm long curved fragment of iron with short hook at one end. Shank 7 x 5mm wide. 1 x L-shaped piece with rectangular head. Shank 70mm to start of 20mm long curve. 8mm square section with either a rust covered knob or a rust lump towards one end.
203	1	Hand wrought coffin nail with dimpled rosehead 22mm dia. Shank 50mm long with two tapered sides.
300	1	Construction nail with rectangular head. 70mm long shank with 10mm x 10mm wide sides.
304	1	Square section nail with small head. 72mm long tapered shank. Cut construction nail.
310	3	Construction nail with rectangular head. 80mm long shank with 10 x 10mm wide sides. 2 x square section fragments.
403	1	Construction nail with rectangular head. 120mm long shank with 30mm long head.
602	6	1xNail shank, 65mm long with 4mm x 5mm wide sides. 1xHand wrought tapered nail with rosehead. Shank 45mm long x 4mm wide sides.



Context	No.	Notes
		1×Machine cut tapered nail with irregular rosehead. 34mm long shank. Possible coffin nail. 1×Machine cut possible coffin nail. Shank 29mm long with 5mm x 4mm wide sides. 2 x heavily corroded fragments.



**Figure 21:** Trench 2: hand wrought coffin nail with dimpled rosehead from (203)  
(scale 50mm)



**Figure 22:** Construction nails from (105) (scale 50mm)

## References

Visser, T. Nails: clues to a buildings history (<http://www.uvm.edu/histpres/203/nails.html>)

## Lead Objects

*Carina Summerfield-Hill*

A total of 13 fragments of lead were recovered from the trenches, aside from Trench 3. The lead derived predominantly from post-medieval milled lead comes (Fig. 21) forming part of the church windows. The lead comes were inlaid with unstained glass. A straight mill mark with 4/20mm spacing was present in the heart of the comes, with no numbers, names or dates being observed. The comes were thought to be 19<sup>th</sup> century in date (*pers comm.* Sam Kelly and Jo Dillon). Two further lead objects, likely fittings, were also recovered from Trench 6 (Fig. 22).



**Figure 23:** Trench 6: Lead came inlaid with unstained glass from (602)  
(scale 50mm)



**Figure 24:** Trench 6: Lead objects from (602) (scale 50mm)

## References

- Kelly, S 2010 Company: Salisbury Cathedral Stained Glass, Wiltshire. *Personal Communication.*  
Dillon, J 2011 Objects Conservator, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. *Personal Communication.*  
<http://www.buildingconservation.com/articles/leadstainedglass/leadstainedglass.htm>

## Glass

### Carina Summerfield-Hill

A total of 68 sherds were recovered from all six trenches. The assemblage consisted of 19<sup>th</sup> century unstained window glass and 20<sup>th</sup> century window and bottle glass (Fig. 23 & 24).

Context	No.	Notes
105	22	9× unstained window glass (19 <sup>th</sup> century) 4×orange bottle glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century) 4×green bottle glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century) 5×clear bottle glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century)
201	3	2×unstained window glass (19 <sup>th</sup> century) 1×clearr bottle glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century)
202	2	1×unstained window glass (19 <sup>th</sup> century) 1×greenish glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century)
203	8	6×unstained window glass (19 <sup>th</sup> century) 1×brown glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century?) 2×clear glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century)
304	1	1×unstained window glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century?)
403	13	4×unstained window glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century) 2×brown bottle glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century) 2×green bottle glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century) 5×clear bottle glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century)
501	11	3×unstained window glass (19 <sup>th</sup> century) 3×unstained window glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century?) 2×green bottle glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century) 1×brown bottle glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century) 1×clear bottle glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century) 1×light green bottle glass (20 <sup>th</sup> century)
602	7	7×unstained window glass (19 <sup>th</sup> century)



Figure 25: Trench 5: Glass recovered from (501) (scale 50mm)



**Figure 26:** Trench 6: 19<sup>th</sup> century unstained window glass from (602) (*scale 50mm*)

## Appendix 5: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	St Mary's Old Church, Clophill, Bedfordshire	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-102784
Short Description:	<p>In June/July 2011 an archaeological evaluation was carried out at St Mary's Old Church, Clophill, Bedfordshire in response to a proposed development to convert the church into a hostel.</p> <p>The church, a Grade II* listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is thought to be 14<sup>th</sup> century but may well be of earlier origin. It was replaced by a larger church constructed in the centre of the village in 1848 and, despite being used as a mortuary chapel until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, has become a ruin. It has been highly disturbed since the roof was removed in 1957 resulting in damage to the historic fabric of the building and to the buried heritage assets.</p> <p>The evaluation uncovered a disturbed 18<sup>th</sup> century vault and a further possible 19<sup>th</sup> century highly disturbed vault, a single partially articulated Christian burial, and a rough wall/foundation possibly linked to the earlier construction of the church. The remains of a brick and tile floor that was possibly associated with the known renovations carried out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and significant levels of 20<sup>th</sup> century made-ground/dumped deposits were also uncovered, along with a number of discrete undated features possibly modern intrusions associated with disturbance the church has experienced in more recent years. A possible earlier ground horizon containing sherds of late medieval reduced ware pottery was identified both within and outside the church.</p> <p>Despite the parlous state of the church and the damage done to it in recent years, the evaluation demonstrated that a significant level of features and finds have survived which could be affected by the proposed development.</p>		
Project Type:	Evaluation		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	HER 2476	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	Grade II* listed SAM 83
Current land use:	Church and churchyard	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	Church	Monument period:	14 <sup>th</sup> century
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century disturbed vaults, Christian burial, medieval pottery, 18 <sup>th</sup> century+ brick/tile floor, rough wall/foundations		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0919 3885
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	St Mary's Old Church, Clophill, Bedfordshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	6,070 sq. m	Height OD: (metres)	84.8807
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Hanna Firth 2011	Project design originator:	Calli Rouse BA PIFA
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA	Supervisor:	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc
Sponsor / funding body:	Clophill Heritage Trust		
PROJECT DATE			
Fieldwork start date:	29/06/11	Fieldwork end date:	08/07/11

<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bedford Museum BEDFM 2011.50	Pottery, CBM, Iron Objects, Clay pipe stems, glass	
Paper:		Pd, report, site records and drawings, b&w photographs and negatives	
Digital:		CD containing all digital files	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: St Mary's Old Church, Clophill, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1425/CSM/2		
Author(s):	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc		
Page nos	53	Date:	01/09/11