



## Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:  
CHURCH OF ST PETER  
CHURCH LANE  
WRESTLINGWORTH  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 2590 4736

*on behalf of Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parochial Church Council*



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February 2012

ASC: 1476/WSP



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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	WSP	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1476
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-118944	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	BEDFM 2012.6
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Wrestlingworth		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 2590 4736		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	2643 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Churchyard		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Improvement to surface water drains		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	N/a		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	N/a		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	24/01/12-26/01/12		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Bruce Deacon Architect Ltd 8 East End Lane Wilden Bedford MK44 2QN		
<i>Client:</i>	Parochial Church Council Church of St Peter Church Lane Wrestlingworth Bedfordshire		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Bruce Deacon		

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Carina Summerfield-Hill	<i>Date:</i>	08/02/12
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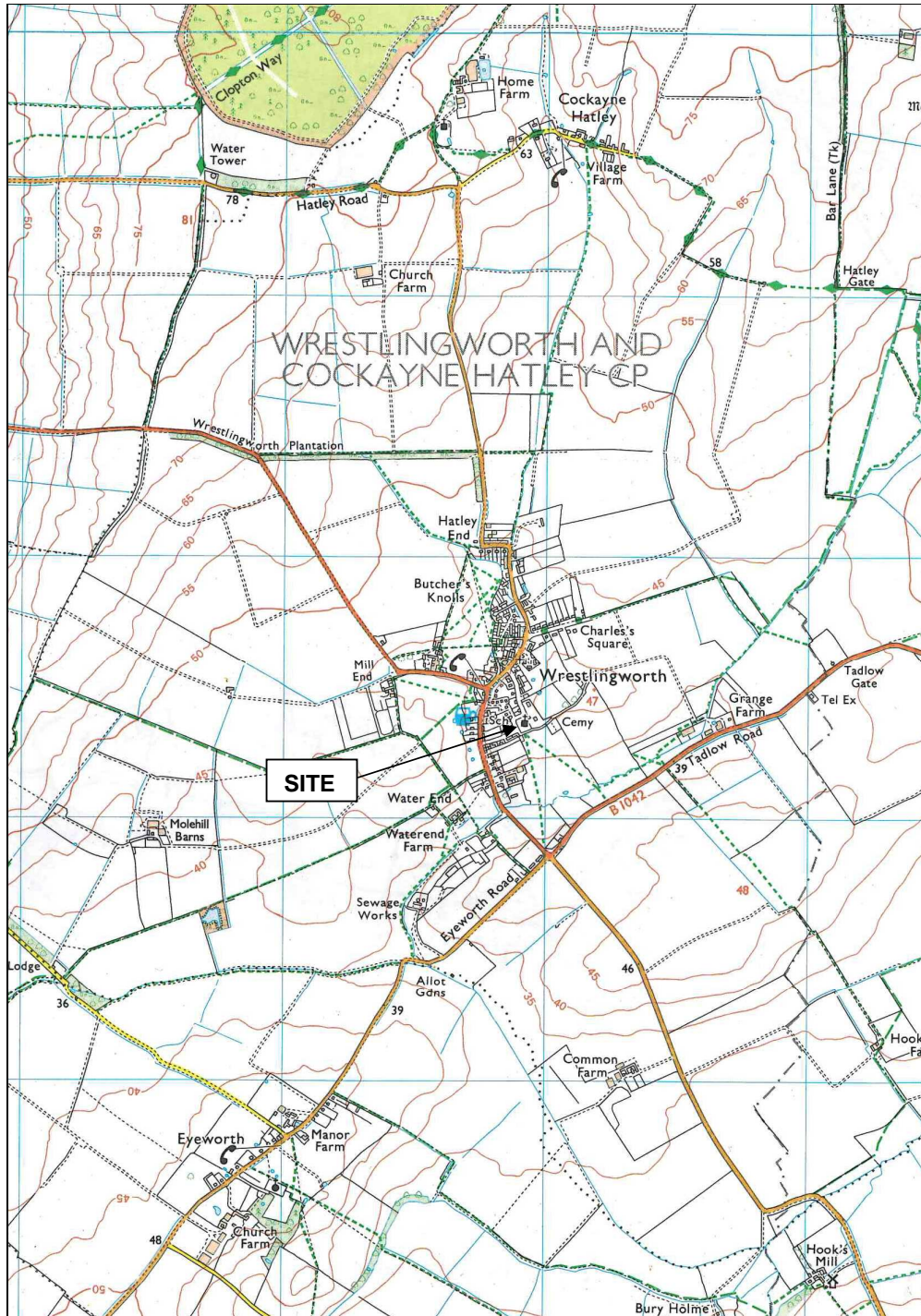


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In January 2012 a watching brief was carried out the Church of St Peter, Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire during the improvements to the surface water drainage. The work uncovered nine articulated/partially articulated Christian burials. Five of which was preserved in-situ, whilst the remaining four were fully excavated and a rapid analysis carried out. Moderate levels of disarticulated human remains and two disarticulated skulls were also uncovered. The works revealed no earlier church foundations or any further evidence to increase our understanding of the west tower.*

### 1. Introduction

1.1 In January 2012 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at the Church of St Peter, Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Bruce Dean Architects Ltd on behalf of Wrestlingworth and Cockernhoe Hatley Parochial Church Council, and was carried out according to a brief (Baker 2011) prepared by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor of St Albans (DAA).

#### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required by the DAA, under the terms of a faculty from the Chancellor of the Diocese of St Albans.

#### 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 site is located in the village of Wrestlingworth, in the parish of Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley. It is within the administrative district of central Bedfordshire, and is centred at NGR TL 2590 4736 (Fig. 1).

The church is centred on a rectangular plot of land with the vicarage to the east, residential properties to the north and west and open fields to the south. Access is provided via Church Lane to the south and west.

The Church of St Peter is a Grade I listed building with 12<sup>th</sup> century origins. It is constructed of rubble walls comprising a mixture of cobbles and ironstone, and Ashlar dressings, mostly of clunch, and a slate roof. The church consists of a chancel, nave with aisles, south porch, and a west tower.

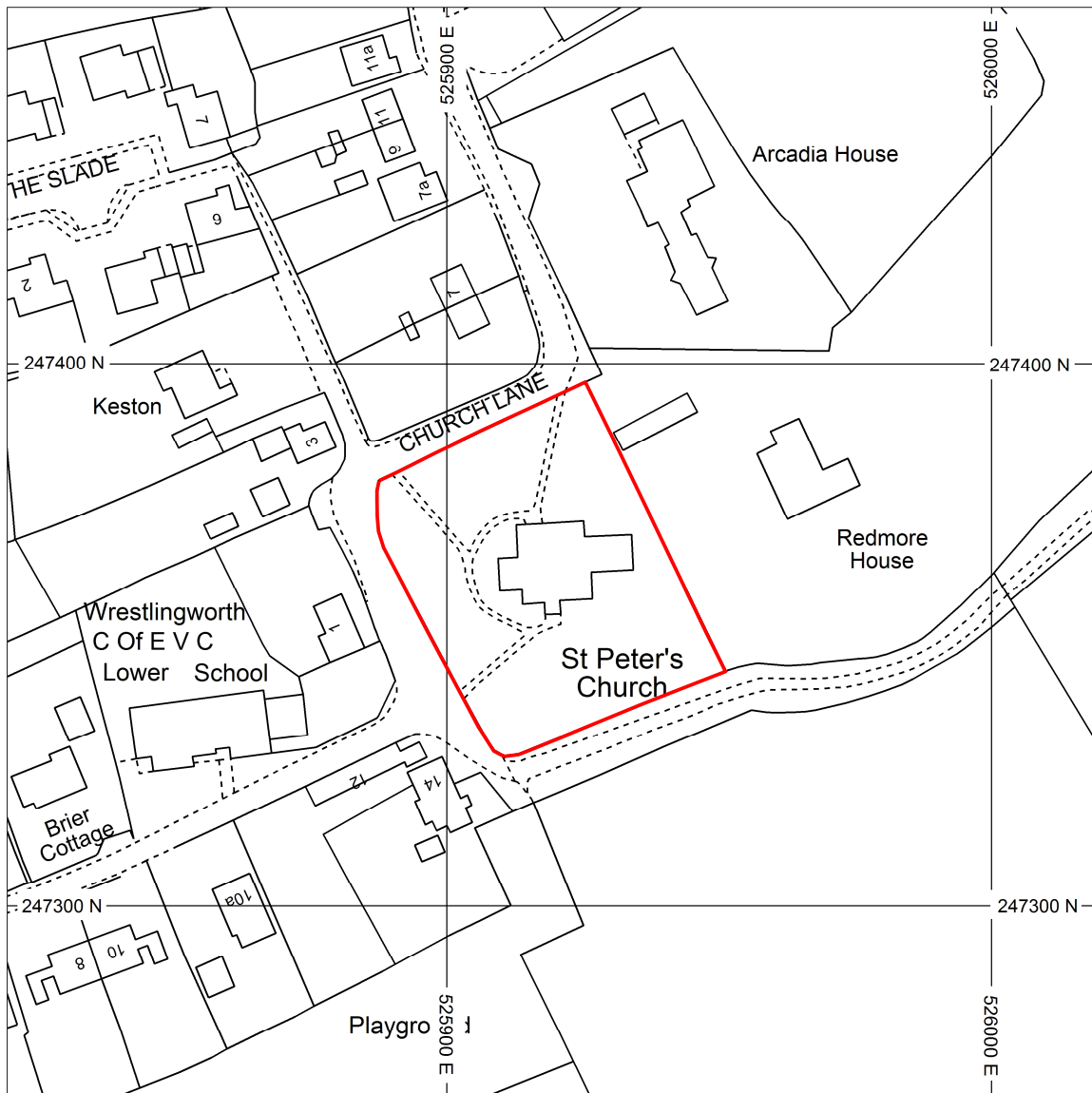
##### 1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the site derive from the *Evesham 3 Association*, that are described as *slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils*. Some

*slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey soils* (Soil Survey 1983, Sheet 6, 411c). The geology for the area comprises a *Quaternary Deposit* of the *Lowestoft Formation of Till: chalky, sandy, stony clay* at the surface. Underlying which is the solid formation at rockhead of the *Gault Formation* consisted of mudstone (BGS, Sheet 204). The general topography of the site consists of a gentle slope upward from Church Lane up to the church. The ground is approximately 47m OD.

#### 1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of improvements to be made to the surface water drainage at the Church of St Peter (Fig. 3).



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

## **2. Aims & Methods**

### **2.1 Aims**

As described in the brief (Section 2), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To observe and record any archaeological evidence encountered in the course of the works, especially in relation to increasing understanding of the west tower, as this is seen as one of the most important early structures in the diocese.

### **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 brief (Section 4), which required:

- Archaeological attendance during the excavation of the new gullies and soakaways in order that structural evidence, significant deposits and human remains may be recorded.

### **2.4 Constraints**

The work was carried out with full cooperation of the client and in line with the requirements of the DAA, and no constraints were encountered.

### **3. Archaeological & Historical Background**

- 3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site.

This section has been compiled with information from Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and ASC'S library.

- 3.2 Wrestlingworth is a small rural parish lying on the borders of Cambridgeshire. There is no mention of Wrestlingworth in the Domesday survey of 1086. However, by the early 13<sup>th</sup> century two manors are known to have existed in the parish, Kendals Manor and Hereford's Manor (Page 1908:255-259).

- 3.3 The Church of St Peter is Grade I listed building, situated to the south of the village (HER 1155). It has 12<sup>th</sup> century origins and consists of a chancel, nave with north and south aisles, south porch and west tower. The church is constructed of rubble walls comprising a mixture of cobbles and ironstone, and Ashlar dressings, mostly of clunch, and a slate roof.

The church was originally made-up of an aisleless nave and a chancel. It was, however, enlarged in the early part of the 13<sup>th</sup> century by the addition of a south aisle to the nave, and during the late 13<sup>th</sup> century a north aisle was added. In the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century the west tower was constructed, and a modern south porch added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Page 1908: 255-259; Pevsner 1968:175).

- 3.4 The advowson of the church was granted in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century to Newnham Priory by Elias Taillebois. At the dissolution of Newnham Priory, the rectory became the property of the crown and at the time of writing the *Victorian County History* in 1908, the right of presentation was carried out by the Lord Chancellor (Page 1908: 255-259). Today the Church of St Peter, Wrestlingworth is in the Church of England, Diocese of St Albans.

- 3.5 The Church of St Peter's churchyard (HER 8997) is within Wrestlingworth Conservation Area and includes a number of Grade II listed gravestones constructed of limestone dating to the 17-18<sup>th</sup> century (HER 14478, 14475, 14477).

The Old Rectory is immediately north-east of the church and dates to the post-medieval period (HER 13430).



## 4. Results

### 4.1 Introduction

A series of new gullies and soakaways were mechanically excavated within the churchyard of the Church of St Peter. Soakway 1, 3 and 4 required part of a new drainage gully to be excavated until it met the existing drainage. Soakaway 2 was tapped directly into an existing drainage pipe which was exposed at the south-east corner of the soakaway trench.

A total of nine articulated/partially articulated burials, two complete skulls and a moderate level of disarticulated human remains were uncovered. Five of the articulated burials were left in-situ, whilst the remaining four were fully excavated, lifted and rapidly analysed.

A total of three site visits were made, the details of which are presented in Appendix 1, while burial and osteological analysis is presented in Appendix 3.

### 4.2 Stratigraphy

The site stratigraphy comprised:

0-0.3m deep of topsoil, comprising mid-dark, loose, silty material;

0.3- 0.93+ m deep of cemetery soil comprising mid yellowish brown, soft silty clay with moderate flecks of chalk, and small-medium sub-angular stones.

The natural stratum was not breached.

### 4.3 Soakaway 1 & Associated Drainage Gullies (Fig.3; Plates 1-3)

Soakaway 1 and two associated drainage gullies were excavated at the south-eastern side of the churchyard.

The drainage gullies were orientated north-south and measured c.6-11.5m long, c.0.4m wide and c.0.4m deep. All that was found within these gullies was small amount of disarticulated human remains.

Soakaway 1 measured c.1.7m long, c.1.5m wide and c.1.12m deep. The soakaway contained a moderate level of disarticulated human remains.

### 4.4 Soakaway 2 (Figs 3-4; Plates 4-5)

Soakaway 2 was situated to the south-west of the south porch. It measured c.1.94m long, c.1.3m wide and c.1.12m deep. The soakaway contained six articulated/partially articulated burials (SK1-6), along with a single disarticulated complete skull (Skull 1) and a moderate level of disarticulated human remains.

The articulated burials were typically Christian laid out in an extended, supine position, orientated west-east, with the head to the west. The level at which the articulated burials were found ranged between c.0.83-1.22m+ BGL (below ground level).

The burials found towards the southern end of the trench (SK 1-4) overlay one another, whilst the two burials found at the northern end of the trench, SK 6 cut SK 5.

The actual grave cuts could not be distinguished within the cemetery soil, though they would have been present. The presence of two metal studs in close proximity to the burial SK 6 would suggest that the individual had been buried in a coffin.

4.5 ***Soakaway 3 and Associated Drainage Gullies*** (Figs 3 & 5; Plates 6-7)

Soakaway 3 and two associated drainage gullies were situated towards the northern side of the churchyard, north of the church tower.

The drainage gullies were orientated north-south and northwest-southeast. They measured *c.*5-12m long, *c.*0.4m in wide, and *c.*0.5m deep. No finds, feature or deposits were identified,

Soakaway 3 measured *c.*1.7m long, *c.*1.42m in wide, and *c.*1.23m deep. The soakaway contained a single articulated burial (SK 7), a disarticulated complete skull (Skull 2), and a moderate amount of disarticulated human remains. The articulated burial and complete skull were found at the base of the soakaway trench and beyond the limit of excavation. As a result they were exposed, recorded in-situ and left in place. The burial SK7 was again typically Christian and was believed to have been a coffin burial, as a small piece of metal decorative coffin fitting, an iron nail and metal stud were found associated with the burial.

4.6 ***Soakaway 4 and Associated Drainage Gully*** (Figs 3 & 5; Plates 8-9)

Soakaway 4 and two associated drainage gullies were situated towards the north-eastern end of the churchyard, north of the chancel.

The drainage gullies were orientated north-east-south-west, and measured *c.*4m long, *c.*0.4m wide and *c.*0.4m deep. No finds, features or deposits were identified.

Soakaway 4 measured *c.*1.7m long, *c.*1.5m wide, and *c.*1.1m deep. The soakaway contained two articulated burials (SK8 & 9), and very little disarticulated human remains. The burials were typically Christian and were found at the base of the soakaway and beyond the limit of excavation. As a result they were recorded in situ and left in place. Burial SK 8 was thought to be a coffin burials as traces of degraded wood were found outlining part of the body.



**Plate 1:** Soakaway 1, looking E (*scale 2×1m*)



**Plate 2:** Drainage gullies associated with Soakaway 1, looking N (*scale 2×1m*)



**Plate 3:** Stratigraphy of drainage gully associated with Soakaway 1, looking W (*scale 1m*)





**Plate 4:** Soakaway 2, looking NW (*scale 2×1m*)



**Plate 5:** Soakaway 2, burials SK 5&6, looking NW (*scale 500mm*)



**Plate 6:** Soakaway 3 and associated drainage gullies, looking north-west (*scale 1m*)



**Plate 7:** Soakaway 3, burial SK 7, looking north (*scale 500mm*)

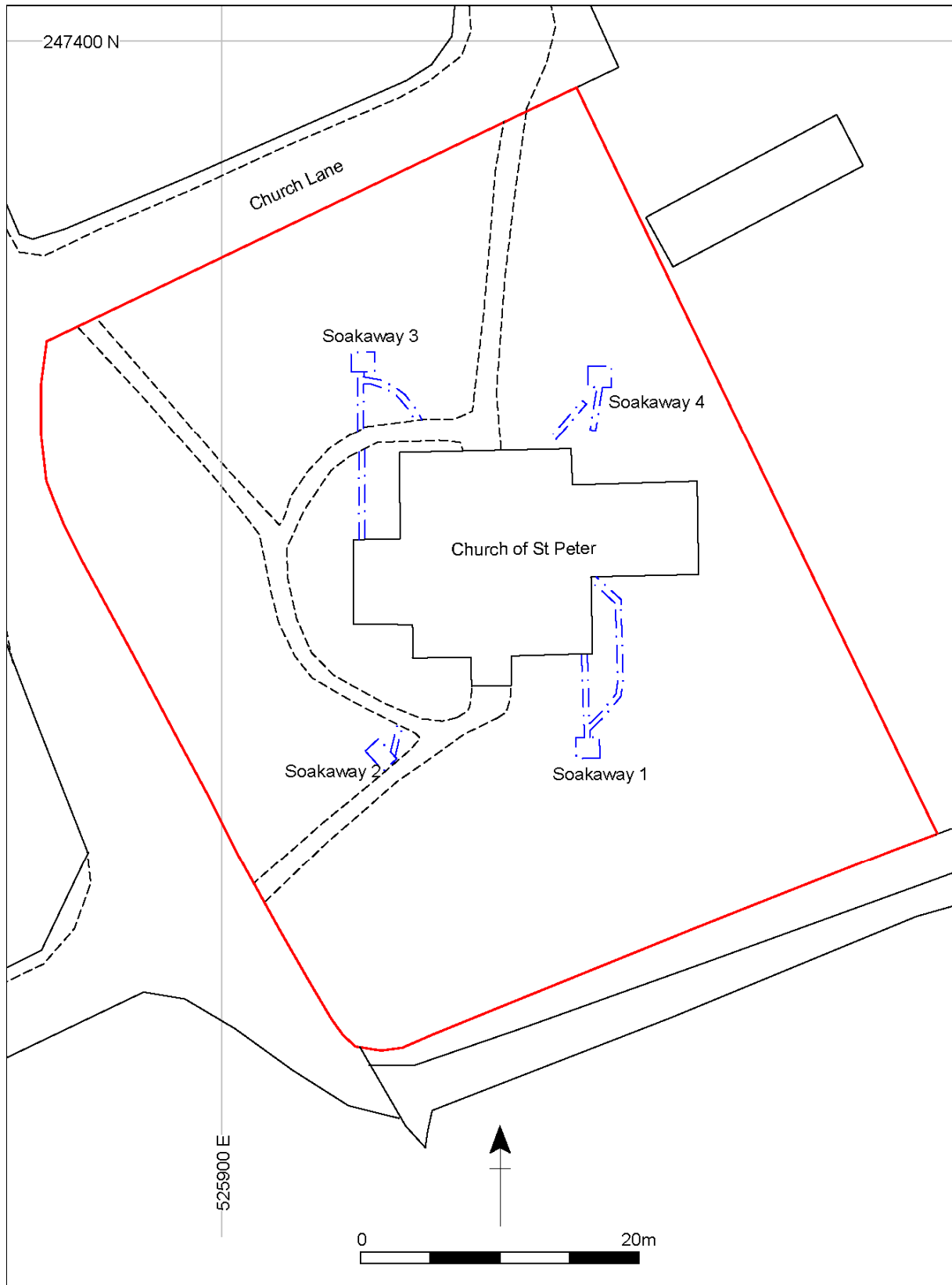


**Plate 8:** Soakaway 4, looking south (*scale 2×1m*)





**Plate 9:** Soakaway 4, burial SK 8, looking north (*scale 500mm*)



**Figure 3:** Location plan of drainage work (scale 1:400)

Soakaway 2

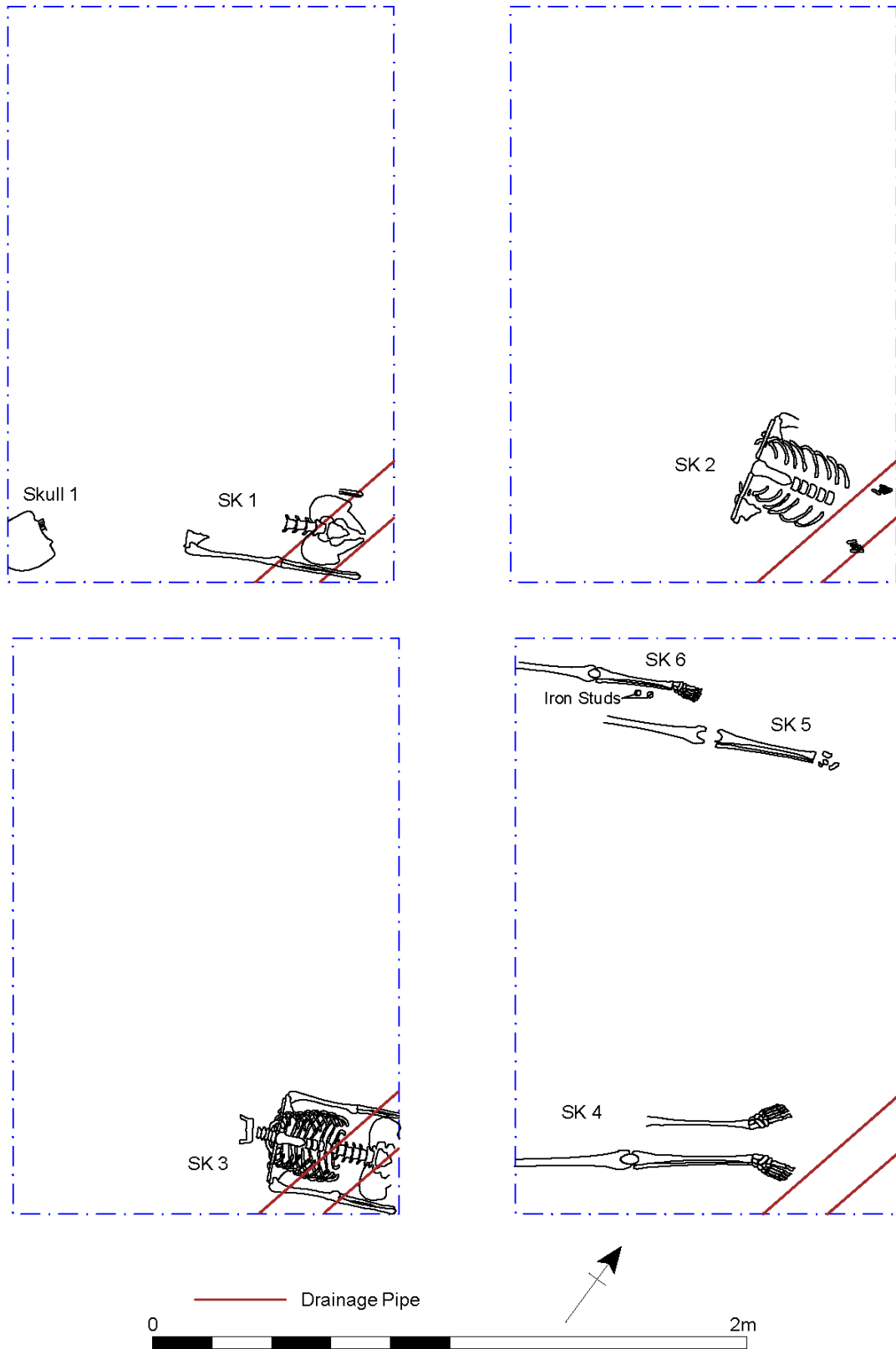
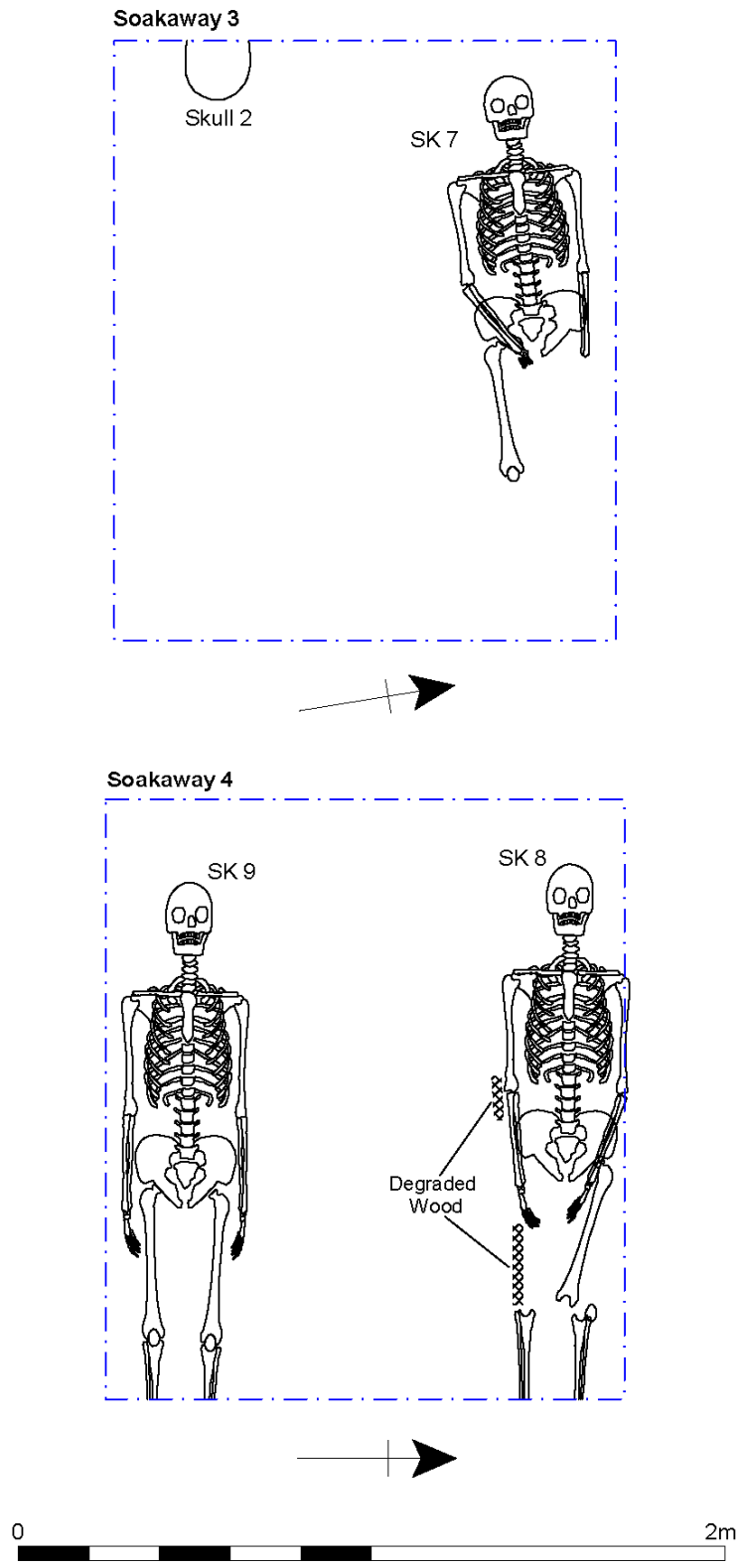


Figure 4: Soakaway 2: plan of burials SK1-6 (scale 1:20)





**Figure 5:** Plan of Soakaway 3 & 4, burials SK7-9 (scale 1:20)

## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The excavation uncovered a total of nine articulated/partially articulated burials, two complete skulls and a moderate level of disarticulated human remains.

Regarding the disarticulated remains, moderate levels were recovered from Soakaway 1-3 to the south and north-west of the church, with very little being recovered from Soakaway 4, to the north-east. The lower level of disarticulated remains to the north-east of the church suggests less intercutting of burials in this part of the cemetery. The drainage gullies also did not reveal disarticulated remains, which is likely due to their shallow depth.

The articulated burials comprised a single adolescent/sex unknown, one younger adult possibly male, one older adult male, one adult female, one adult possibly female and four adults/sex unknown. Six of the burials derived from Soakaway 2 (SK 1-6), one burial from Soakaway 3 (SK 7) and two burials from Soakaway 4 (SK 8 & 9). The two disarticulated skulls recovered from Soakaway 1 & 2 were both adults, one of which was female (Skull 1), whilst the sex was undetermined for Skull 2.

The burials were typically Christian. They were orientated W-E, with the head to the west, in an extended, supine position with no grave goods. Three of burials were thought to be coffin burials as traces of degraded wood, metal studs, iron nails and a metal decorative coffin fitting were recovered. Due to the lack of dateable finds it was not possible to determine an actual date for the burials.

In all cases the burials extended beyond the limit of excavation, therefore there was a lack of complete burials recovered. From such a small amount of burials, no detailed statistical analysis can be carried out, and no full conclusion as to the demography and health of the population may be confidently reached. The exact cause of death of individuals is not generally apparent, as no traces are present on the skeletons. The pathological analysis of the burials did however identify cases of AMTL (ante-mortem tooth loss), a healed bone fracture, spinal osteoarthritis and spina bifida occulta.

- 5.2 The works revealed no earlier church foundations or any further evidence to increase our understanding of the west tower, which is seen as one of the most important early structures in the diocese.

### 5.3 *Confidence Rating*

The works were carried out in line with the requirements of the DAA, with full co-operation of the client and in good site conditions. Therefore the results are given a high confidence rating.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The project was commissioned by Bruce Deacon Architect Ltd on behalf of the Wrestlingworth and Cockernhoe Hatley Parochial Church Council. The writer is grateful to Bruce Deacon for his assistance. The project was monitored by David Baker the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor of St Albans (DAA). Thanks are also due to site manager Colin Watkins and his team.

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

## **7. Archive**

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum

## 8. References

### *Standards & Specifications*

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

### *Secondary Sources*

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Brooks, S. T and Suchey, J. M. 1990 'Skeletal Age Determination Based on the Os Pubis: A Comparison of the Ascadi-Nemeskeri and Suchey-Brooks Methods' *Human Evolution* **5**: 227-238.
- Buikstra, J.E. and Ubelaker, D. H. 1994 *Standards for Data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains*. Arkansas 118/BCB99 Archaeological Survey Research Series **44**.
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- Roberts, C and Manchester, K. 2005 *The Archaeology of Disease*. Third Edition, Sutton Publishing Ltd, United Kingdom.
- Schwartz, J. H. 1995 *Skeleton Keys*. Oxford University Press (Oxford)
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

## Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project: CHURCH OF ST PETER, WRESTLINGWORTH		Project No/Code: 14761WSP0	Sheet: 1 of 6
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 24/07/12	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 7:45	Finish: 16:45	
Completed by:			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: GOOD SITE CONDITIONS / RAINY WEATHER			
Observations: OBSERVED DRAINAGE GULLIES AND SEWERAGE 1. GULLIES MEASURED c.0.4m (W) AND c.0.4m (D). SEWERAGE 1 MEASURED c.1.7m (L), c.1.5m (W) + c.1.12m (D). SEWERAGE 2 (MEASURED c.0.5m (D)). TOPSOIL, UNDERLYING WHICH WAS THE CHURCH, SOIL COMPRISING A MID YELLOW ST BROWN, SET SILTY CLAY WITH MODERATE FLICKS OF CHALK AND SMALL - MED STONES. VERY FEW DISARTICULATED HUMAN REMAINS WERE FOUND WITHIN DRAINAGE GULLIES + SEWERAGE 1. CONTAINED A MODERATE LEVEL OF DISARTICULATED REMAINS. SEWERAGE 2 WAS STARTED AND UNCOVERED DISARTICULATED REMAINS ALONG WITH THREE ARTICULATED BURIALS (SK1-3). SEWERAGE 2 WILL CONTINUE TODAY.			
Comments: AND UNCOVERED DISARTICULATED REMAINS ALONG WITH THREE ARTICULATED BURIALS (SK1-3). SEWERAGE 2 WILL CONTINUE TODAY.			

**A.S.C. LTD** **WATCHING BRIEF RECORD**

Project: CHURCH OF ST PETER, WRESTLINGWORTH		Project No/Code: 1476/WSP	Sheet: 3 of 6
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 25/07/12	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 7.50	Finish: 16.30	
Completed by: CS			
<b>Development Type:</b>			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: GOOD SITE CONDITIONS / DRY WEATHER			
Observations: CONTINUED EXCAVATION OF SEARAWAY 2, UNCOVERING SK 4. THE PARTIAL REMAINS OF TWO FURTHER ARTICULATED BURIALS SK 5 + 6 WERE ALSO UNCOVERED BUT WERE ABLE TO REMAIN IN-SITU AS THE SEARAWAY WAS NOT EXCAVATED DEEPER. SEARAWAY 2 MEASURED C. 1.3m (W) 1.96m (L) AND C. 1.12m (D) EXCAVATED SEARAWAY 3 THIS CONTAINED A FAIR AMOUNT OF DISARTICULATED REMAINS AND A FULLY ARTICULATED BURIAL SK 7. AGAIN THIS BURIAL COULD BE LEFT IN-SITU AS IT WAS FOUND AT THE BASE OF THE SEARAWAY. SEARAWAY 3 MEASURED C. 1.7 x 1.42m TO A DEPTH OF C. 1.23m (D) A DRAINAGE TRENCH WAS ALSO EXCAVATED TO SEARAWAY 3. THIS MEASURED C. 0.4m (W) AND C. 0.5m (D) SEARAWAY 4 WAS EXCAVATED, THIS CONTAINED BURIALS SK 8 + 9 THAT WERE ALSO LEFT IN-SITU AS THEY WERE FOUND AT THE BASE OF THE SEARAWAY. SEARAWAY 4 MEASURED C. 1.1 x 1.5m TO A DEPTH OF C. 1.1m (D).			
Comments: SEARAWAY 3 MEASURED C. 1.7 x 1.42m TO A DEPTH OF C. 1.23m (D) A DRAINAGE TRENCH WAS ALSO EXCAVATED TO SEARAWAY 3. THIS MEASURED C. 0.4m (W) AND C. 0.5m (D) SEARAWAY 4 WAS EXCAVATED, THIS CONTAINED BURIALS SK 8 + 9 THAT WERE ALSO LEFT IN-SITU AS THEY WERE FOUND AT THE BASE OF THE SEARAWAY. SEARAWAY 4 MEASURED C. 1.1 x 1.5m TO A DEPTH OF C. 1.1m (D).			

Will RETURN TOMORROW TO DO A RAPID  
ANALYSIS OF EXCAVATED/LIFTED ARTICULATED  
BURIALS.

A.S.C. LTD		WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project: CHURCH OF ST PETER, WRESTLINGWORTH		Project No/Code: 1476 / WSP	Sheet: 6 of 6
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 26/07/12	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 8:15	Finish: 12:15	
Completed by: CS			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: GOOD SITE / WEATHER CONDITIONS			
Observations: WENT TO RAPIDLY ANALYSE THE BURIALS THAT WERE FULLY OCCUPIED AND WERE - SK1 - SK4 EVIDENCE OF A HEALED FRACTURE SPINAL BIFIDA OCCULTA, + ANTI- MOLTM TEETH LOSS WAS IDENTIFIED			
Comments:			

## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Church of St Peter, Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Beds			SITE NO/CODE: 1476/WSP
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	√	√	Soakaway 2: SK 1, looking SE ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
2	√	√	Soakaway 2: SK 2, looking SE ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
3	√	√	Soakaway 1: post-ex, looking E ( <i>scale 2x1m</i> )
4	√	√	Soakaway 2: SK 3, looking SE ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
5	√	√	Soakaway 2: disarticulated skull 1, looking S ( <i>scale 200mm</i> )
6	√	√	Soakaway 2: SK 4, looking SE ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
7	√	√	Soakaway 2: SK 5&6, looking NW ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
8	√	√	Soakaway 2: post-ex, looking N ( <i>scale 2x1m</i> )
9		√	Soakaway 2: stratigraphy, looking NE ( <i>scale 2x1m</i> )
10	√	√	Drainage trenches associated with soakaway 1, looking N ( <i>scale 2x1m</i> )
11		√	Drainage trenches associated with soakaway 1, looking S ( <i>scale 2x1m</i> )
12		√	Drainage trench associated with soakaway 1, stratigraphy, looking W ( <i>scale 1m</i> )
13		√	General shot of drainage associated with soakaway 1, looking NW
14		√	General shot of soakaway 2, looking NW
15		√	Excavation of drainage trenches associated with soakaway 3, looking N
16	√	√	Soakaway 3: SK 7, looking N ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
17	√	√	Soakaway 3: disarticulated skull 2, looking W ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
18		√	Soakaway 3: metal decorative coffin fitting associated with SK 7
19	√	√	Soakaway 3: post- ex, looking NE ( <i>scale 2x1m</i> )
20		√	Soakaway 3: stratigraphy, looking N ( <i>scale 2x1m</i> )
21		√	General shot of soakaway 3, looking NE ( <i>scale 1m</i> )
22	√	√	Soakaway 4: SK 8, looking N ( <i>scale 500mm</i> )
23		√	Soakaway 4: SK 8, skull detail, looking N
24	√	√	Soakaway 4: post-ex, looking NE ( <i>scale 2x1m</i> )
25		√	Soakaway 4: stratigraphy, looking N ( <i>scale 2x1m</i> )
26		√	General shot of soakaway 4, looking SW ( <i>scale 2x1m</i> )
27		√	General shot of church: north aisle, looking SW
28		√	General shot of soakaway 4 & church: chancel & north aisle, looking SW
29		√	SK 1: healed fracture ( <i>scale 200mm</i> )
30		√	SK 1: healed fracture, detail ( <i>scale 100mm</i> )
31		√	SK 3: spina bifida occulta of sacrum ( <i>scale 200mm</i> )
32		√	SK 3: spina bifida occulta of sacrum ( <i>scale 200mm</i> )
33		√	SK 3: cut mandible ( <i>scale 200mm</i> )
34		√	SK 3: cut mandible ( <i>scale 200mm</i> )
35		√	General shot of churchyard, looking SW
36		√	General shot of churchyard & church tower, looking E
37		√	General shot of church: north aisle & tower, looking S
38		√	General shot of church: north aisle & chancel, looking SE



## **Appendix 3: Specialist Report – Burial & Human Osteology**

### ***Introduction***

Nine articulated/partially articulated human burials were excavated, as well as a moderate amount of disarticulated human remains, including two complete skulls. A detailed list of the assemblage appears in Tables 1 & 2.

Regarding the articulated remains, the assessment of sex of the individuals was based, where possible, around the morphological characteristics of the skull and pelvic regions (Schwartz 1995: 280-281; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Individuals that could not be confidently sexed, due to a lack of preservation or where the burial extended beyond the limit of excavation, are termed 'Sex Unknown'. The assessment of the age of the individuals was based primarily on epiphyseal fusion of the long bones (Schwartz 1995: 185-222), and where possible the auricular surface (Lovejoy *et al.* 1985), pubic symphyasis (Brooks and Suchey 1990), and dental development (Ubelaker 1978). For this report ages are categorized as adolescent (12-18), adult (18+), younger adult (20-35), and older adult (35-50). Note the term adult is used when preservation does not allow a more precise age range to be assigned.

### ***Articulated/partially articulated burials***

The articulated/partially articulated burials were the only remains to be osteologically analysed, whilst the disarticulated human remains were merely collected. Disarticulated remains are of little scientific value as it is not possible to carry out full analysis and combine data on such remains.

### ***Preservation & Completeness***

Generally the bones show evidence of fairly good surface preservation, the bone being hard and dry with some evidence of cracking. The majority of the burials found in Soakaway 2 were disturbed, most likely a result of intercutting of graves. Whilst the burials in Soakaway 3 and 4 were fairly intact with original positioning.

In all cases the burials extended beyond the limit of excavation, therefore no complete burials were recovered.

### ***Depth***

The excavations revealed that the fully articulated burials were found between c.0.83-1.22 below ground level (BGL), and it is most likely that further burials were present below the limit of excavation. See Table 3 for full details.

### ***Burial Position, Grave type & Date***

The burials all displayed the typical layout of Christian burials being extended and supine with no grave goods and orientated W-E.

It was not possible to observe a grave cut for the individuals. Obviously a grave cut is present but was not visible within the cemetery soil. Three of the burials (SK6, 7 & 8) show signs of having a coffin type burial. As finds of coffin nails, metal studs, traces of a metal decorative coffin fitting and degraded wood were uncovered (Plate 10). Unfortunately none of these finds were an aid to dating the burials.

### ***Age and Sex***

The age and sex categories of the nine articulated/partially articulated individuals comprise the following (Table 1):

- Adolescent/Sex Unknown – 1
- Younger Adult/Male? – 1
- Older Adult Male - 1
- Adult/Female – 1
- Adult/Female? - 1
- Adult/Sex Unknown – 4

### ***Pathology***

The identification of any abnormalities present on the bone/teeth of the articulated individuals was assessed in order to build up a fuller picture of the health of past populations (Table 1&2). Only three of the burials, and one of the disarticulated skulls (Skull 1) showed signs of pathology. They are as follows:

**SK 1:** An older adult male with a healed bone fracture towards the distal ends of the bone shaft of the right radius and ulna (Plate 11 & 12).

Slight lipping was present around the body margins of the lumbar vertebrae. Such lipping indicates the beginnings of a proliferative deposit of new bone at joint margins in order for the joint to cope with stress by spreading the load (Roberts & Manchester 2005: 135). This condition indicates the degenerative joint disease, spinal osteoarthritis, and can be associated with physical activity and age.

**SK 3:** An adult, possibly female, who had the development defect of spina bifida occulta along the crest of the sacrum. This is a 'neural tube defect' where incomplete fusion of the posterior neural arches of the sacral segments is present. This condition can also affect the lumbar vertebrae. The spinal cord does not protrude out of the space, and thus no complications occur such as infection or paralysis. The condition is not usually detected during life and has no effect on the person's life (Roberts & Manchester 2005: 55; Plate 13).

**SK 8:** An adult, possibly female, with the dental pathology of ante-mortem tooth loss (AMTL), which is the loss of a tooth during lifetime. AMTL was seen on the lower dentition of this individual (right and left PM<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>1-3</sub>). The condition is very common and is linked to the age, diet and the oral hygiene of the individual.

**SKULL 1:** An adult female who's dentition on the left side of the maxilla showed that teeth I<sup>1</sup>-C were heavily worn down to the tooth root indicative of advancing age, and teeth PM<sup>2</sup>-M<sup>3</sup> were lost ante-mortem.

### ***Conclusion***

The work uncovered nine articulated/partially articulated human burials. They were laid out in an extended, supine position, orientated W-E. The grave type was established for three of burials as iron nails, metal studs, a metal decorative coffin fitting and degraded wood were found, indicative of coffin burials. Due to a lack of finds none of the burials could be dated.

No evidence for the causes of death was present on the skeletons. This is common as disease and internal organ failure will often leave no trace on the skeleton. From such a small sample no conclusions can be reached regarding the overall health of the population. All that can be

stated is that there was evidence of AMTL, spinal osteoarthritis, a healed fracture and spina bifida occulta, all of which are fairly common pathologies.

Upon completion of the project the remains, both articulated and disarticulated, were reburied within the cemetery.



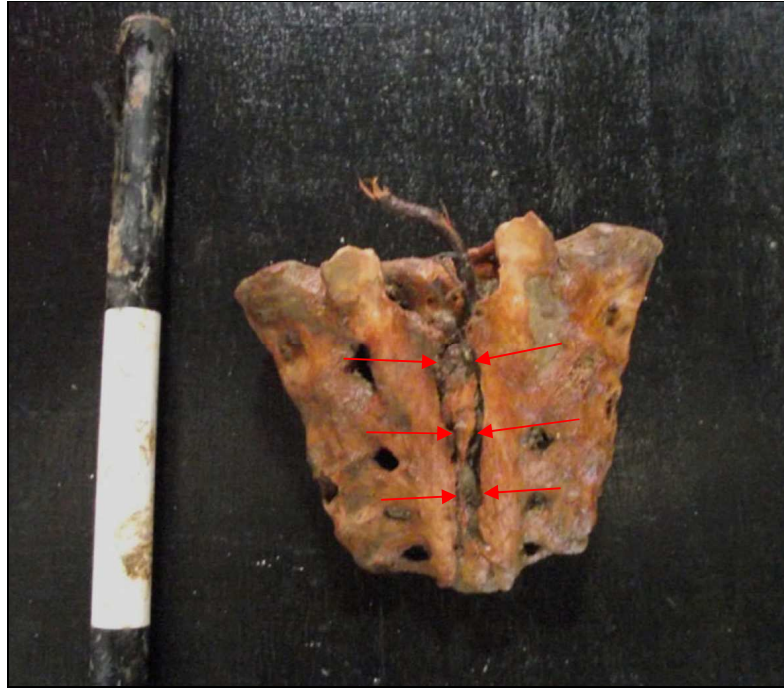
**Plate 10:** Metal decorative coffin fitting associated with burials SK 7



**Plate 11:** SK 1 - healed fracture to the right radius and ulna at the distal end of the bone shaft (*scale 200mm*)



**Plate 12:** SK 1 - detail of healed fracture (*scale 100mm*)



**Plate 13:** SK 3 - spina bifida occulta of the sacrum (*scale 200mm*)

**Table 1: Articulated/partially articulated burials**

Sk	Preservation/ Disturbance	%	Age	Sex	Ageing Methods/ Pathology
1	Fair bone preservation. Burial highly disturbed as skull and left side of upper body not present	<30% Burial extended beyond the limit of excavation	Older Adult	Male	<b>Ageing Method</b> Bones fully developed and fused = 18+ years old  Auricular Surface: left & right side Phase IV = 35-39 years old  <b>Pathology</b> Healed bone fracture to the right radius and ulna at the distal end of the shaft  Slight lipping of the joint margins of the lumbar vertebrae – osteoarthritis
2	Fair bone preservation with some breakage, and incomplete bones. Burial partially disturbed as skull was not present	<20% Burial extended beyond the limit of excavation	Adult	?	<b>Ageing Method</b> Bones fully developed and fused = 18+ years old
3	Fair bone preservation with some breakage. Burial partially disturbed as mandible has been cut through and cranium was not present	<50% Burial extended beyond the limit of excavation	Adult	F?	<b>Ageing Method</b> Bones fully developed and fused = 18+ years old  <b>Pathology</b> Spina bifida occulta present on the crest of the sacrum
4	Good bone preservation with evidence of bone breakage. Burial partially disturbed as part of left lower and upper leg, and pelvis was not present	<20% Burial extended beyond the limit of excavation	Adult	?	<b>Ageing Method</b> Bones fully developed and fused = 18+ years old
5	Fair bone preservation with evidence of breakage and incomplete bones.	<15% Burial cut by SK 6	Adult	?	<b>Ageing Method</b> Bones fully developed and fused = 18+ years old
6	Fairly good bone preservation with evidence of cracking.	<20% Burial extended beyond limit of excavation	Adol	?	<b>Ageing Method</b> Bone unfused = under 18y years old
7	Fairly good bone preservation with some bone breakage. Partially disturbed as lower left leg and right leg was not present	<70%	Adult	?	<b>Ageing Method</b> Bones fully developed and fused = 18+ years old

8	Good bone preservation. Partially disturbed as right femur was no present	<85% Burial extended beyond the limit of excavation	Adult	F	<b>Ageing Method</b> Bones fully developed and fused = 18+ years old  <b>Pathology</b> AMTL to the left and right lower PM <sub>2</sub> , M <sub>1-3</sub> dentition
9	Good bone preservation	<90%	Younger Adult	M?	<b>Ageing Method</b> Bones fully developed and fused = 18+ years old  Pubic symphysis (Left side only) phase III <u>Mean Age</u> <u>S.D</u> <u>95% Range</u> 28.7      6.5      21-46

**Table 2: Disarticulated skulls**

Skull	Condition	Age	Sex	Ageing/Pathology
1	Fairly good bone preservation with some breakage to the maxilla, while the mandible was not present	Adult	F	<b>Ageing Method</b> Cranium had fully development and fused =18+ years old  <b>Pathology</b> Dentition of left side of the maxilla – I <sup>1</sup> -C – heavily worn only tooth roots present PM <sup>1</sup> – post-mortem tooth loss PM <sup>2</sup> -M <sup>3</sup> – anti-mortem tooth loss
2	Fairly good bone preservation with some breakage. Mandible was not present	Adult	?	<b>Ageing Method</b> Cranium had fully development and fused =18+ years old

**Table 3. Articulated burial – Grave type, finds and levels**

SK	Grave Type/Finds	BGL* SKULL	BGL* SACRUM	BGL* FEET	BGL* OTHER
1	Coffin?				Vertebrae – c.0.83m
2	Coffin?				Vertebrae – c.0.94m
3	Coffin?				Mandible – c.1m Vertebrae – c.1.05m
4	Coffin?			c.1m	Knee – c.1.04m
5	Coffin?			c.1.22m	
6	Coffin Finds: metal studs				Knee – c.1.22m
7	Coffin Finds: iron nails, metal studs, metal decorative coffin fitting	c.1.2m			Pelvis – c.1.03
8	Coffin Finds: degraded wood	c.1m	c.1.06m		Lower legs c.1.1m
9	Coffin?	c.1.1m			

\*BGL – below ground level

## Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Church of St Peter, Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-118944
Short Description:	In January 2012 a watching brief was carried out the Church of St Peter, Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire during the improvements to the surface water drainage. The work uncovered nine articulated/partially articulated Christian burials. Five of which was preserved in-situ, whilst the remaining four were fully excavated and a rapid analysis carried out. Moderate levels of disarticulated human remains and two disarticulated skulls were also uncovered. The works revealed no earlier church foundations or any further evidence to increase our understanding of the west tower.		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	Grade I Listed
Current land use:	Churchyard	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No
Monument type:	Church	Monument period:	12 <sup>th</sup> + century
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Christian burials		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 2590 4736
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Church of St Peter, Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire, SG19 2EU		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	2643 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	47m OD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	David Baker	Project design originator:	n/a
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA	Supervisor:	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc
Sponsor / funding body:	Wrestlingworth and Cockernhoe Hatley Parochial Church Council		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	24/01/12	End date:	26/01/12
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2012.6)	None	
Paper:		Brief, report, site records, b&w photographs and negatives	
Digital:		CD containing all digital files including digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: Church of St Peter, Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1476/WSP/1		
Author(s):	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc		
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