



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF & EXCAVATION:
CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS
GREAT HORMEAD
HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Hormead & Wyddial Parochial Church Council



**Teresa Hawtin BA MSc PIFA &
Karin Semmelmann BA MA AIFA**

July 2007

ASC: 844/GHC/2

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	GHC	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	844
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Great Hornead		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Hornead		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 39977 29565		
<i>Present use:</i>	Churchyard		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of parish room and link building		
<i>Area investigated:</i>	c.140 square metres		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	3/04/1543		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	East Hertfordshire District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	23/04/07 – 08/05/07		
<i>Client:</i>	Great Hornead Parochial Church Council c/o Atelier MLM Architects Woodlands Beechwood Drive Aldbury Hertfordshire HP23 5SB		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Peter Melvin		

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<i>Primary Authors:</i>	Teresa Hawtin & Karin Semmelmann	<i>Date:</i>	July 2007
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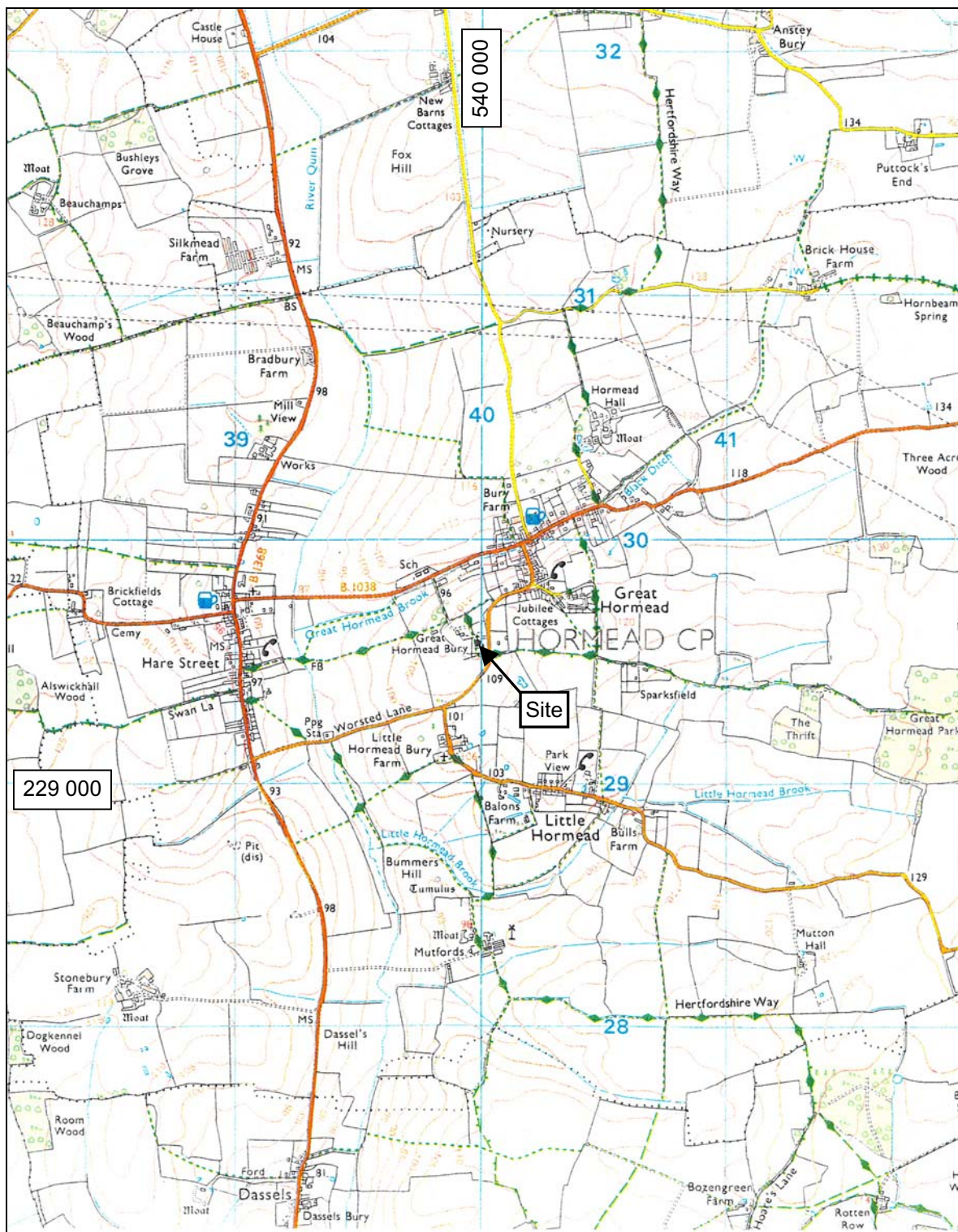


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In April and May 2007 excavations and a watching brief were undertaken at St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, during the construction of new parish rooms and a link structure to the west of the tower. Ten foundation pits were archaeologically excavated, and a watching brief was maintained during subsequent ground reduction, and related works in and around the tower. The whole or partial remains of nearly fifty individuals, probably all of 18th to 20th-century date, were revealed. Evidence was recovered of coffin construction and fittings, of vault construction and of stacked burials. It was possible to assign names to a small number of individual burials.

Demonstrably modern burials were reburied as soon as possible, along with any associated artefacts, while older burials were subject to rapid osteological assessment on site. This revealed instances of a number of pathological conditions, such as osteoporosis, periostitis and Hyperostosis Frontalis Interna. A range of dental conditions were also observed, including dental caries, calculus and abscesses. One individual had a groove in his teeth, probably caused by smoking a clay pipe.

Observations made in the tower generally confirmed existing ideas regarding the dating and function of the structure. An area of possible green paint in the southwest corner of the tower was found to be copper staining. Excavations to the west of the tower revealed evidence for three constructional phases.

1 Introduction

1.1 In April and May 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief and excavation at St. Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 39977 29565; Figs 1 & 2). The project was commissioned by *Hornead and Wyddial Parochial Church Council*, and was carried out under the terms of a *Faculty* from the Consistory Court of the Diocese of St Albans dated 7th February 2005, and according to a *Brief* (Tinniswood 2006) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *East Hertfordshire District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Hertfordshire County Council*, and a *Project Design* prepared by ASC (Semmelmann 2007). The relevant planning application reference is 3/04/1543.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief has been required as a planning condition under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the construction of a parish room and a link building (Fig. 3).

1.3 *Location & Description*

St Nicholas Church is a Grade II listed building that is situated to the southwest of the village of Great Hornead (Fig. 2). The church is thought to date from the 13th century and has a 14th –15th century tower. It was heavily restored in 1872-24 by A W Blomfield, who also had the chancel rebuilt and the south porch added (Pevsner 2002, 152).

The watching brief site is accessed by a footpath from the northeast corner of the churchyard. There is a storm water drain and a drainage gully running along the north

and west of the church. The former meets up with another drain at the western end of the south aisle, and the combined pipe extends south-eastwards to a soakaway (Fig. 4).

1.4 Geology & Topography

Great Hornead Church is located on high ground to the south-west of the village of Great Hornead, at an elevation of *c.*110m OD. The lane linking Great and Little Hornead passes to the east of the churchyard: to the north and west are the grounds of the house known as *Great Hornead Bury*. To the north and west the ground falls away to Great Hornead Brook: to the east it rises steadily. Soils in the area belong to the Hanslope association (Hodge *et al* 1984, 209-210), consisting of a dark greyish-brown slightly calcareous clay loam (A horizon) over a calcareous olive-brown slightly stony clay (B horizon). The underlying stratum consists of a chalky till.

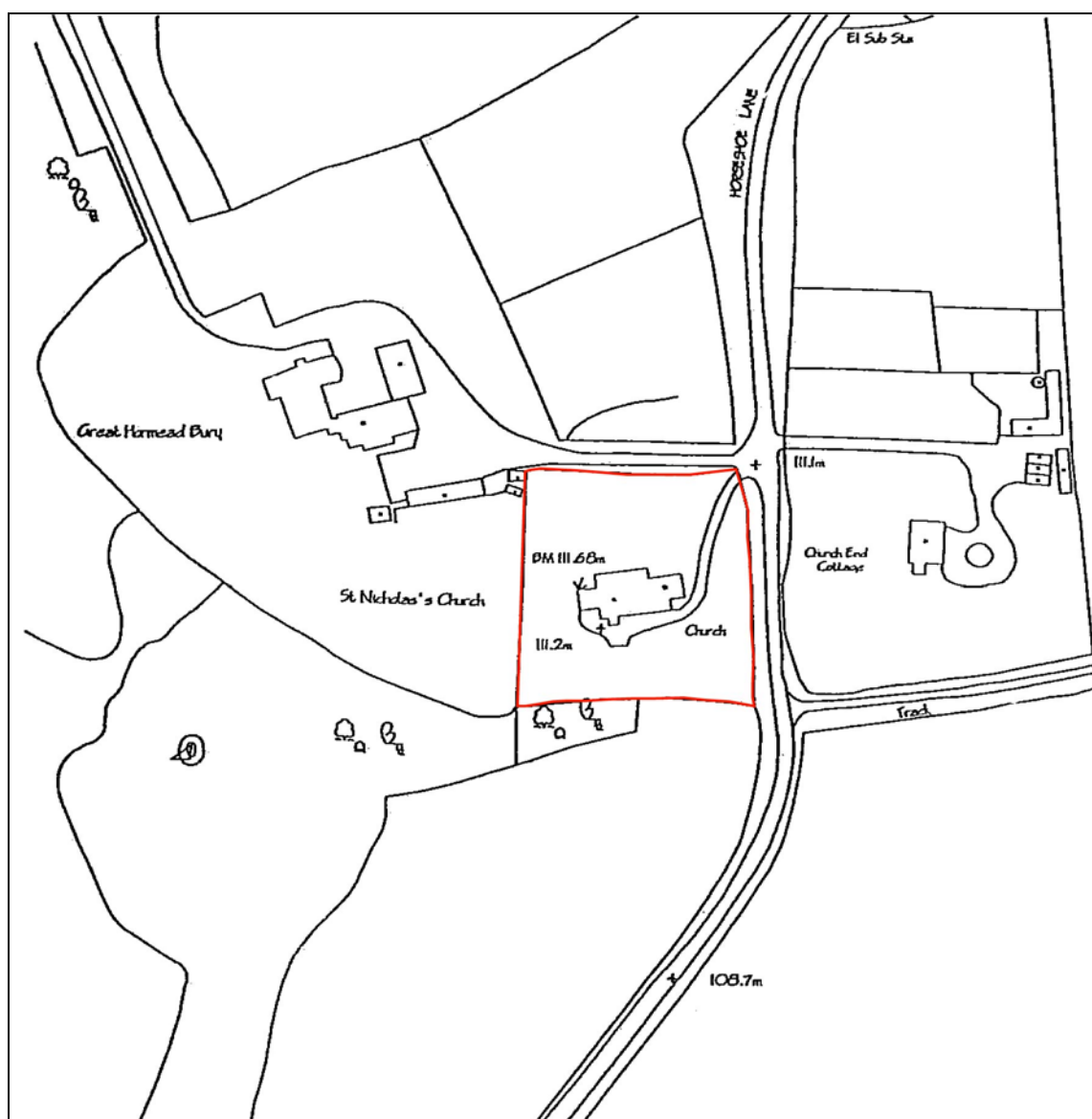


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:2000)

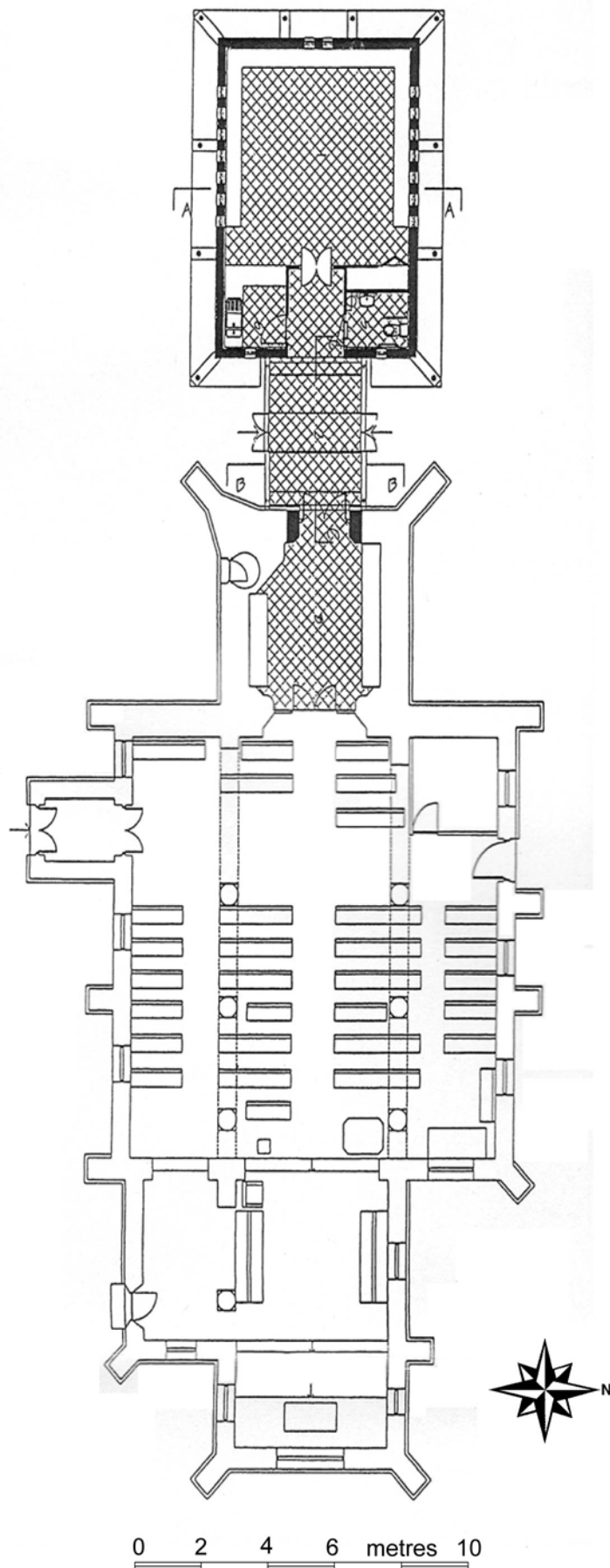


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:200)

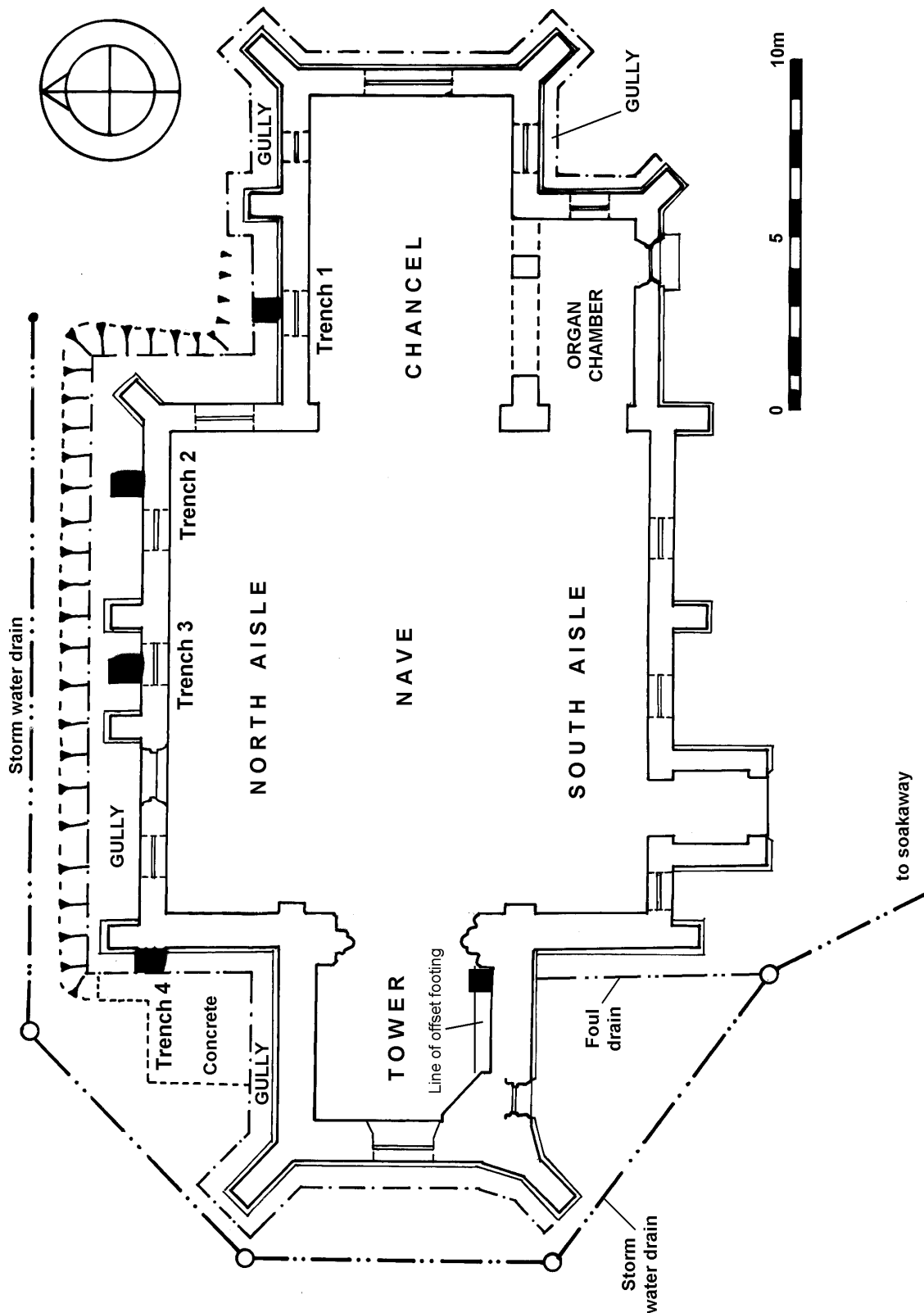


Figure 4: Services (scale as shown)
(after Zeepvat 1999)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the *Brief* (Section 4), the aims of the watching brief and excavation were:

- The investigation and recording of the surviving archaeological remains within the development area
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research
- The appropriate dissemination and publication of the research results
- The long term conservation and storage of the project archive
- The appropriate excavation, analysis and re-internment of human burials

2.2 Standards

The work conformed, where possible, to the *Brief* and *Project Design*, to the terms of the *Faculty*, to the relevant sections of the Institute of 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), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH1991), to the guidelines outlined in *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains* (McKinley & Roberts 1993) and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The methodology set out in the *Brief* (Section 4) was modified following subsequent discussions with the AA and the Diocesan Archaeological Adviser (DAA), David Baker. The methods utilised were:

Phase I:

- Monitoring of the excavation of the pits for the pads to support the concrete raft.
- Rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits. Stratified deposits were excavated stratigraphically
- Burials encountered within the pits were fully excavated. Burials were not excavated beyond the limits of the pit. Machine excavation was stopped when burials were identified, and they were rapidly uncovered by hand, planned at a scale of 1:50, photographed and a brief assessment of age, sex and any obvious pathologies was made.
- Brick vaults encountered within the pits or during the subsequent groundworks were fully uncovered before the roof was removed by the groundworks team.
- If the burials within the vaults were within the pits or above the level of the reduced dig they were recorded and exhumed. If the burials were below the level of the reduced dig and were not going to be destroyed they were recorded and left in-situ. The vault was then backfilled with sufficient sand to protect the burials from disturbance, followed by crushed hardcore.

Phase II:

- Monitoring of the soil, overburden and subsoil stripping during ground reduction works.
- Rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits identified.
- Burials encountered during ground reduction were fully excavated. Burials were not chased beyond the limits of the reduced dig and were excavated and recorded as detailed above.
- Brick vaults were dealt with as detailed above.
- Any grave cuts or other archaeological features visible were planned, but if the burials were below the level of the ground reduction they were not excavated.

General:

- All spoil was briefly examined for disarticulated bones and other artefacts before being removed from site.
- Disarticulated human remains were stored on site prior to reburial. Articulated human remains were not removed from site prior to reburial. Any artefacts or coffin fittings associated with the burials were reburied with the human remains.
- Some artefacts retrieved from the backfills of graves or from the general cemetery soil were removed from site.
- The lowering of the floor in the tower was not monitored, as it had been recorded during archaeological investigations in 1999 (Zeepvat 1999).
- Most of the drainage works were not monitored during this project as the system utilised drains installed under archaeological supervision in 1999 (Zeepvat 1999). That part of the system installed in this phase was dug into an area where the ground reduction had been monitored at an early stage.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 St Nicholas' Church lies within *Area of Archaeological Significance 54*, as designated in the East Hertfordshire Local Plan. This notes that Hornead was a medieval settlement.
- 3.2 At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086), Hornead is recorded as having only one priest, in the *vill* which can be identified as Little Hornead, where the church of St Mary dates from the 11th or 12th century, and was the original parish church for Hornead. St Nicholas' Church was constructed in about 1200, adjacent to the manor house for Great Hornead (now *Great Hornead Bury*). It was thus conveniently located for the lord of the manor, but not for the villagers of Great Hornead, who had to walk up to 500m uphill to reach it.
- 3.3 The oldest part of the present church is the nave, constructed in the 13th century. The first main addition to the church was the north aisle, constructed in the late 13th century. In the 14th century the south aisle was added, and the nave was lengthened by a single bay to the west. Later that century the first stage of the tower was built over the nave extension. Also in the late 14th century a clerestory was added to the nave. In the 15th century an extra stage was added to the tower, bringing it to its present height.
- 3.4 In the 19th century St Nicholas' Church appears to have undergone three periods of restoration and refurbishment. The first, begun in 1849 by the Rev. Charles Coulson, consisted mainly of replacing internal fixtures and furnishings. The second, carried out between 1872-74 while the Rev. Coulson was still vicar, involved rebuilding the chancel and constructing the south porch and organ chamber. Under his successor, the Rev. George Smith, the organ, heating system and various internal fixtures and fittings were provided.
- 3.5 A concrete channel was constructed around the north and east sides of the church in the 20th century to improve drainage and reduce dampness in the tower, north aisle and chancel. This was replaced by a shingle-filled gully, and a new storm and foul water drainage system was installed in 1999 (Zeepvat 1999: Fig. 4). The work was subject to a watching brief, undertaken by ASC.
- 3.6 Twenty-one graves and two isolated grave markers were known to lie within the development area (Fig. 5). Three 2 × 2m test pits were hand excavated within the footprint of the new building in 2004 (Fig. 5). These revealed five grave cuts in Test Pit 1, four in Test Pit 2 and a single grave cut in Test Pit 3 (Crank, Grant, & Grassam 2004, 6-8). All were rectangular, orientated east to west and at depths of 0.15 – 0.18m below the present ground surface (*ibid*, 9).

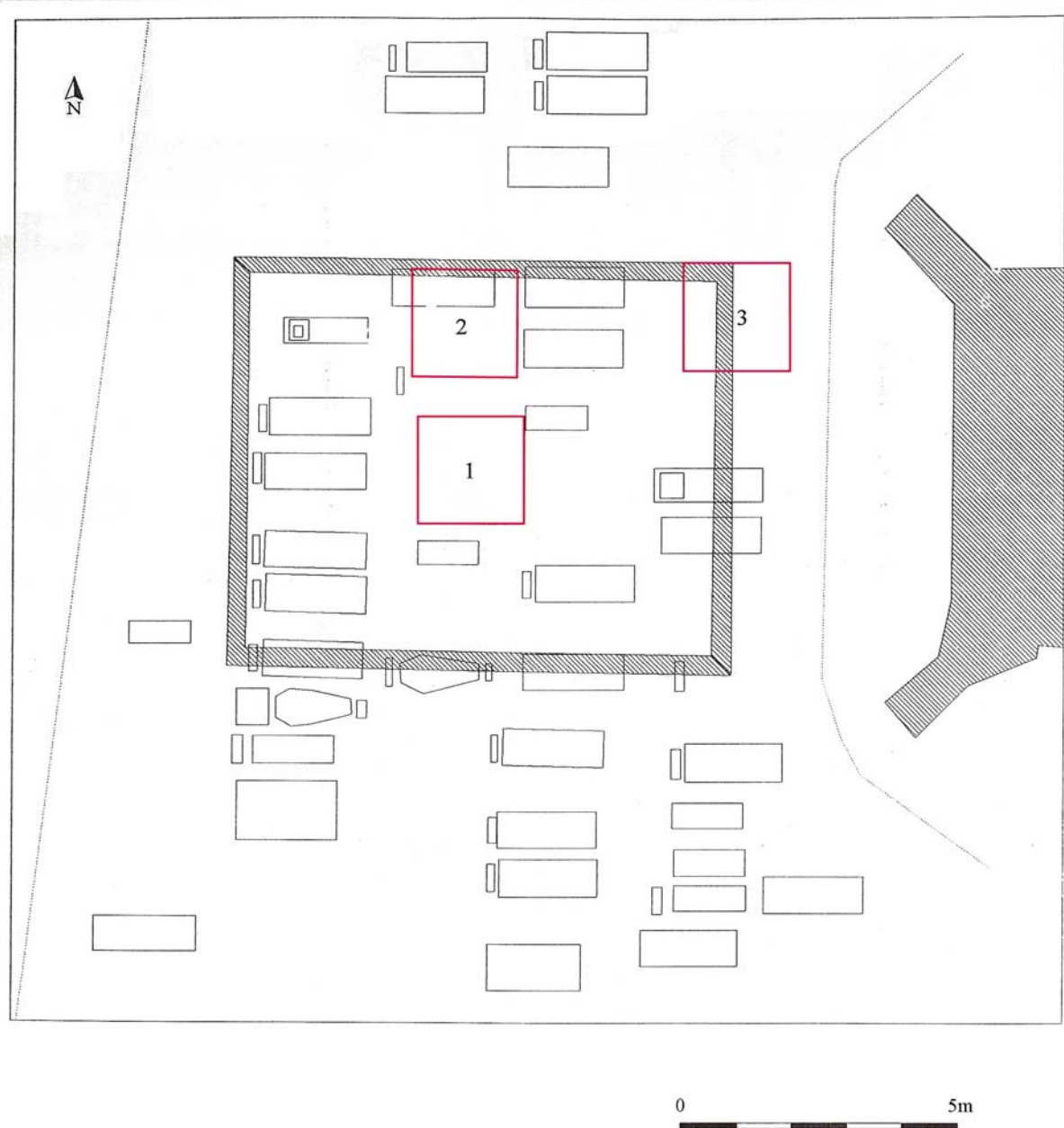


Figure 5: Location of test pits (scale as shown)
(after Crank et al 2004)

4 Results

4.1 Phase 1

- 4.1.1 Prior to the commencement of groundworks all surviving grave markers were removed from the area by the building contractors, Bakers of Danbury. The monuments had been transcribed in 2004 by the Hertfordshire Family History Society (Herts FHS) and subsequently published (Herts FHS 2007). Three monuments (Herts FHS nos F3, F10 and F23) were relocated to the south of the site, adjacent to the western boundary fence (Herts FHS 2007: 15 & 33-34). The other gravestones and the lead cross from monument F23 were temporarily placed outside the north side of the church tower.
- 4.1.2 Ten pits were mechanically excavated by the contractors for the pads to support the concrete raft (Fig. 6). Pits 1-6, 8 and 9 were rectangular, and Pits 7 and 10 were pentagonal. All pits were excavated down to undisturbed natural strata, which consisted of mid orangey-brown gravely clay containing moderate medium to large flint nodules. This overlay the chalk bedrock, which also contained flint nodules. Undisturbed natural strata were encountered at depths of 1.6 – 1.7m below ground level.
- 4.1.3 Forty-five articulated burials were uncovered during the excavation of the pits (Appendix 3: Fig. 7). Very few grave cuts were visible before the graves were encountered and it was not possible to hand-clean exposed surfaces.
- 4.1.4 The churchyard was probably levelled in the past. This was a common practice during the medieval and post-medieval periods to allow burial to continue in an already full churchyard. Possible evidence of this was seen in the form of a layer of redeposited chalk, which was visible in several of the pits towards the western area of the site (Plate 1). This layer was up to 0.25m thick and was *c.*0.3 – 0.5m below ground level. Grave cuts were more frequently visible in the eastern area of the site, adjacent to the church tower, where the redeposited chalk was not encountered.
- 4.1.5 Disarticulated human bones were retrieved from all the pits. There was surprisingly little disarticulated bone present, given the length of use (and re-use) of the churchyard. A larger quantity of disarticulated bone was found in Pits 9 and 10, in the southeast corner of the site.
- 4.1.6 Several artefacts were retrieved that were not directly associated with burials. These included a fragment of animal bone, tile fragments, a metal button, a coin (Plate 2) and a fragment of pottery (see Section 4.5: Appendix 1). Any artefacts directly associated with burials, such as coffin fittings, shroud pins and buttons from clothing, were boxed up with the relevant burial, to be reburied with them.

4.2 Phase 2

- 4.2.1 No articulated burials were encountered during the main ground reduction works. A modern soakaway was uncovered between Pits 5 and 6 (Plate 3: Fig. 8) and one grave cut was visible to the southwest of Pit 5 (Plate 4: Fig. 8).

- 4.2.2 Numerous disarticulated human bones were retrieved during the ground reduction works, along with a post-medieval brick and a fragment of partially glazed tile, also post-medieval. Various modern bricks and grave surrounds were also present but were not retained. The lower portion of a broken headstone and a footstone were retrieved and placed with the headstones that had been moved previously.
- 4.2.3 Further ground reduction was undertaken for two drainage runs close to the western wall of the church tower, within the area of the proposed link building (Fig. 8). Five articulated burials were encountered during this work, one of which (HB 46) had been disturbed by earlier (unmonitored) excavation when a modern drainage pipe was removed.

4.3 *The Burials*

4.3.1 *General*

All the burials encountered were extended, supine and orientated approximately west-east, with the head to the west, as is the custom in Christian burial grounds. Most were contained within coffins, which were identifiable from the survival of degraded wood, metal coffin fittings or in some cases staining of the soil around the human remains. Of the fifty burials encountered, seventeen had no surviving evidence of having been coffined, twenty-nine were inhumed in coffins, and four were in coffins within brick vaults.

Coffins were generally polygonal, being wider in the region of the upper torso and tapering at the foot end (Plate 5). One coffin (HB 3) had a painted inscription on the lid, positioned above the torso, which read "EMMA HARDY – DIED FEB 5TH 1927 – AGED 63 YEARS" (Plate 6). Both HB 40 and HB 41 had inscribed gilded metal plates on the coffin lids, again positioned above the torso. These two burials were stacked and the plates were very similar in style and shape. The coffin plate of HB 40, the upper burial, was unreadable (Plate 7) but that of HB 41 read "MARIA WATKINS – THOROGOOD – DIED 28TH SEPT 1945 – AGED [68 YEARS]" (Plate 8). The text was indented.

4.3.2 *Coffins & Shrouds*

Coffin fittings varied between individual burials, but many coffins had small round-headed studs positioned around the outside (Plates 9 & 10). The wooden coffin of Burial HB 49 only survived as a stain, but studs and nails delineated the original shape. The studs were positioned *c.*20mm apart and the nails were located *c.*100mm apart. Some studs from the burials were gilded.

Coffin handles and decorative plates were retrieved from many burials and varied in shape and flamboyance (Plates 11 & 12). Some coffin handles were circular, attached by a mount, but most were open, elongated U-shaped, of varying sizes. In Burial HB 43 fragments of the outer covering of the coffin also survived, onto which the studs and decorative plates were attached (Plate 9). The material would probably have originally been black with a glossy surface, contrasting with the polished gilt fittings.

Some individuals appear to have been wrapped in shrouds. One (HB 28) had four degraded shroud pins attached to the skull. Two (HB 12 and 14) had green staining on the skulls, consistent with possible shroud pins. A further two individuals had green staining elsewhere on the skeleton, although it cannot be ascertained whether this was the result of contact with shroud pins or other copper-alloy objects.

4.3.3 *Vaults*

Two brick vaults were uncovered, both of which were similar in plan to the coffins (Plates 13 & 14). Burial HB 28 (cut [0811]) comprised a single individual in a shallow brick vault located within and east of Pit 8 (Fig. 7). Burials HB 43, 44 and 45 (cut [1101]) were stacked in a much deeper brick vault, which was encountered during the ground reduction work between Pits 4 and 8 (Fig. 8).

Both structures had vaulted roofs (Plates 15 & 16). The deeper vault had three iron straps positioned across the top of the walls, probably to support the roof (Plate 17). The interior walls of both vaults appeared to have been painted white, presumably limewash (*cf* Plates 13, 14, 17 & 18). The western end of the deeper vault seemed to have been bricked up from the outside, as the mortar was much rougher and the brickwork less even (Plate 18). This may have been related to its reopening for subsequent burials.

The first brick vault was fully excavated. A monument had been removed from above the grave which read:

“This stone is placed here by direction and at the expence (*sic*) of the officers of The General Penitentiary at Millbank as a testimony of the respect. To the memory of Samuel Green, a faithful coadjutor with them in their public service. He died 27th day of March 1821 aged 32” (Herts FHS 2007, F10, Plate 19).

The burial within this vault was a single individual, and the results of a brief osteological assessment were consistent with the inscription on the associated monument. The individual was coffined and, although the wood had almost completely disintegrated, several decorative fittings and handles were present (Plate 20: see also Plate 12). The vault was internally 1.9m long, up to 0.6m wide and the base was 1.35m below ground level. The bricks measured 225 × 110 × 65mm and were set in stretcher bond. At the base of the vault were two brick pads, each comprised of a row of bricks with their long axis parallel to the long axis of the vault (Plate 21). These were located below the shoulder area (0.25m from the western end of the vault) and the lower legs (0.25m from the eastern end of the vault). Their purpose would have been to allow the straps used to lower the coffin to have been withdrawn after use.

The brickwork of the western end of this vault directly overlaid another burial, HB 29, although the bones seemed not to have been disturbed. This burial was above another, HB 30, but the two do not appear to have been buried within the same grave cut as the lower legs and feet of Burial HB 29 were directly above the pelvis and upper legs of Burial HB 30.

The second brick vault excavated was first encountered in the excavation of Pit 4, which revealed its northwestern corner. This was blocked up until the Phase

It works, when it was possible to uncover it fully. The monument from this burial had been moved prior to the groundworks. The transcription names the individual as Rebecca Walby, who died 7th April 1833 aged 77 years (Herts FHS 2007, F23, plate 22). During excavation it became clear that the vault contained three individuals, and further investigation revealed that the monument had inscriptions on two more faces that had not been transcribed. The inscriptions were weathered, but appeared to read as follows (uncertain characters in square brackets and ... represents unreadable words):

Rear face of the memorial:

To the memory of William Walby who died 25th Feb 184[3] aged 7[9] years

Right-hand face of the memorial:

In this vault ... Remains [of] Rebecca Wife of William Wyman of Little Hornead ... child of Rebecca Walby Who died 17 ... 18[5]8 Aged 65 years

As this vault was not within any of the pits, and the burials housed in it were below the level of the intended ground reduction, it was possible to excavate it, record the burials and leave the remains *in-situ*. The vault contained three stacked coffins, Burials HB 43, 44 and 45, which had collapsed and degraded. Again there were two brick pads, similar to those in Burial HB 28. The base of the vault rested on the natural chalk bedrock and mineral residues on the bones and surviving wood suggested that the vault had periodically flooded (Plate 23). The bones within this vault were also more poorly preserved than any others on site. The interior of the vault measured 2.0m long, up to 0.8m wide, and the base was 1.84m below ground level. The upper burial was 1.40m below ground level. The bricks used in the vault measured 220 × 105 × 65mm.

The remains of the uppermost burial, HB 43, were very poorly preserved. The few vertebral bodies that were present exhibited pink-coloured staining, which is frequently seen in post-medieval human remains. Although the mechanism behind the staining is not clear, it has been associated with being in close contact with coffin fittings (N. Powers, *pers. comm.*).

The excavation of the pits encountered brickwork possibly relating to a further three vaults, at the southeastern corner of Pit 3, the northern end of Pit 5 and at the edge of excavation southwest of Pit 9 (Fig. 7). These were not uncovered during the ground reduction works, and so were not investigated further.

4.3.4 *Identification of Individuals*

It was possible to link a further two burials with grave markers that had been moved. Burial HB 38 in Pit 10 appeared to align with the location of monument F22, which named the individual as Margart (*sic*) Bull, who died in 1743 aged 40 years (Herts FHS 2007). In Pit 2 the base of a broken headstone was present at the eastern end of the pit, below which a skull (HB 2) was present in the baulk. This headstone appeared to be the base of monument F8, marking the burials of James Wilcox, who died in 1835 aged 20 years, and Amelia Wilcox, who died in 1843 aged 22 years (*ibid.*). No other burials could be confidently attributed to a specific burial marker.

4.3.5 *Stacked Burials*

In addition to the stacked burials within the brick vault, there were a few other instances of stacking. In Pit 6, Burial HB 15 was stacked above Burial HB20, which in turn overlay Burial HB 21. The western (head) end of the burials was encountered in Pit 6 and the eastern (foot) end of one coffin (HB 24), was seen in the adjacent pit, Pit 7, which is likely to have been the other end of Burial HB 15. All three burials had wooden coffins surviving, although the wood was degraded.

In Pit 10 Burials HB 40 and HB 41 were also stacked and again had surviving, degraded, coffins. A round hole had been cut through these burials, in the exact location of the right patella of HB 40 (Plate 25). This appeared to be an auger hole, which went through Burial HB 40 and stopped with Burial HB 41. The right patella of HB 40 had been displaced through the hole into the lower burial, but fortunately no other bones had been disturbed.

Also in Pit 10, Burial HB 25 was almost directly above Burial HB 27 (Plate 26). There was no evidence of coffins, but the very close alignment of the two skeletons suggests that they had been buried within the same grave cut.

Burials HB 47 and HB 50 were uncovered in the area of deeper ground reduction close to the church tower. They were also closely aligned, with HB 47 almost directly overlying HB 50, and may have been buried within the same grave cut.

4.3.6 *Intercutting Burials*

Very few intercutting burials were encountered, suggesting that the churchyard had been well managed. A number of disarticulated bones were recovered, but far fewer than would normally have been expected for a burial ground used over such a long period of time. It is possible that when gravediggers encountered earlier burials they either worked around them or removed them completely and reburied the bones elsewhere.

Burial HB 14 in Pit 6 had been truncated mid-torso, with the upper part of the body still remaining *in-situ* (Plate 27). The proximity of this burial to the multiple burial of HB 15, HB 20 and HB 21 suggests that it was probably this grave cut that caused the disturbance.

In Pit 9, Burial HB 34 was cut by Burial HB 36, which had truncated the right side of the skeleton above the patella (Plate 28). The only other truncated burial encountered was HB 46. This had been truncated at an earlier stage of the project during removal of a modern drainage pipe close to the church tower. The right half of the body and the vertebrae and sacrum remained *in-situ* and apparently undisturbed, whereas the left half of the skeleton had been cleanly removed (Plate 29).

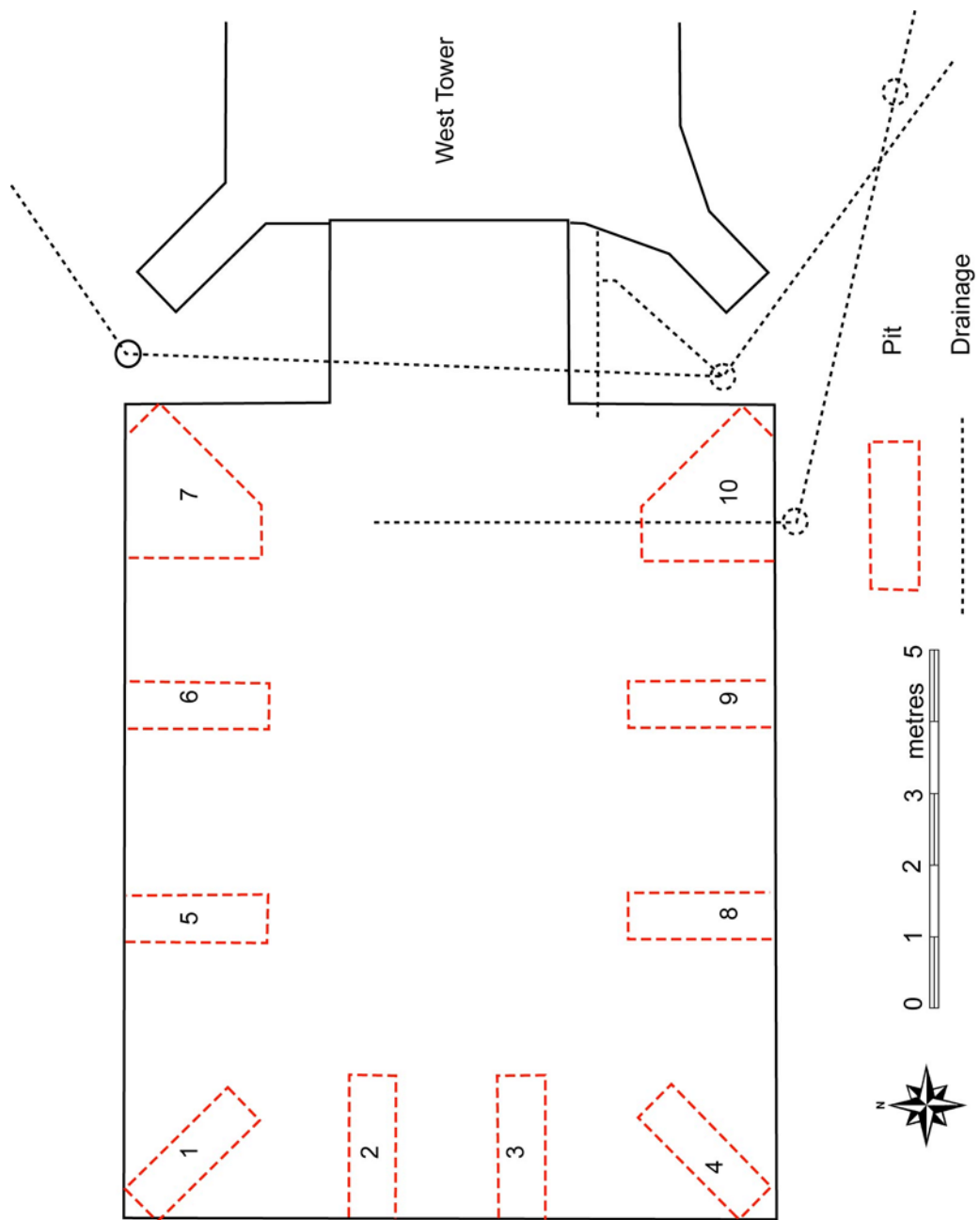


Figure 6: Location of foundation pits/pads (scale 1:100)

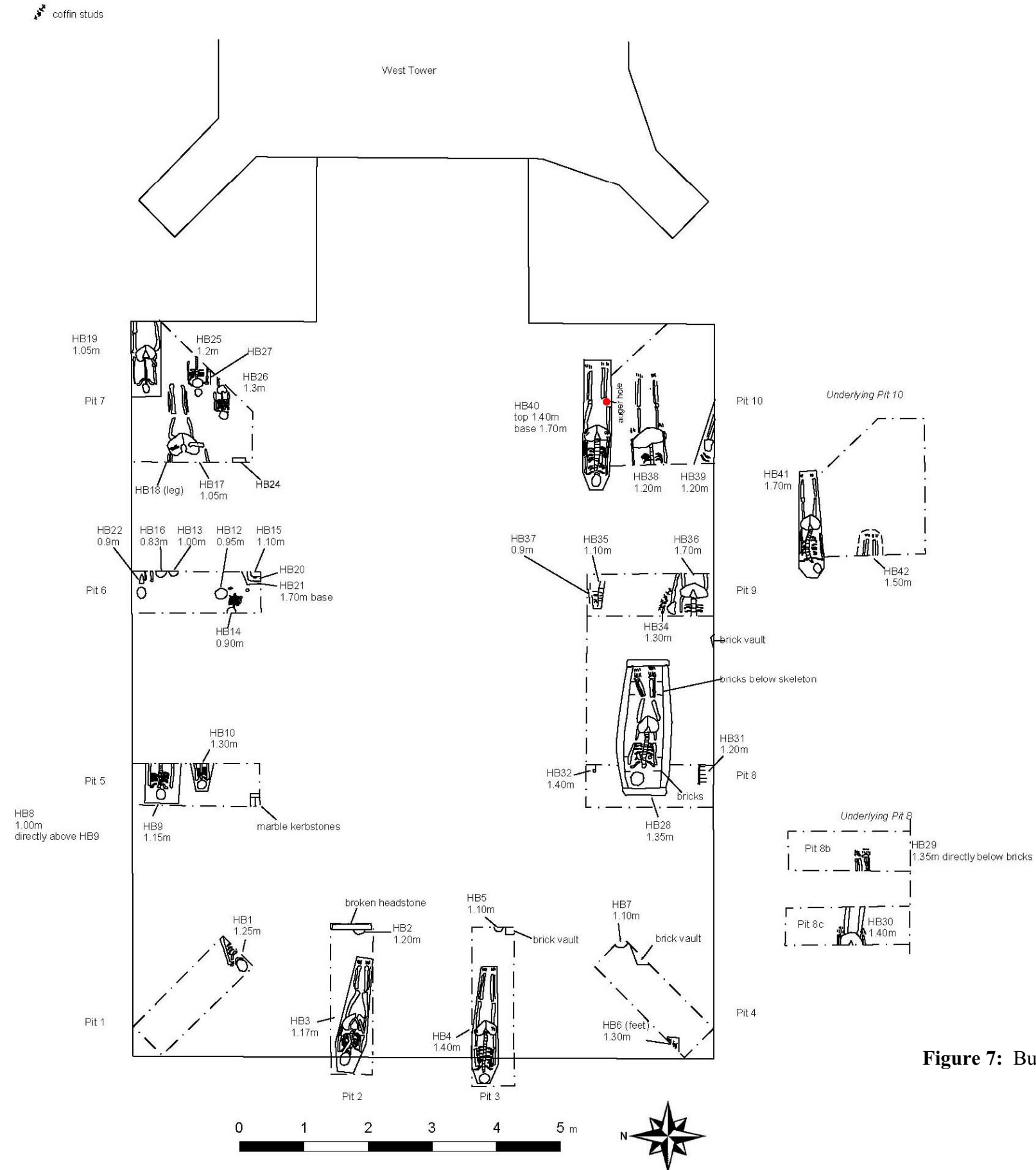


Figure 7: Burials within the foundation pits (scale 1:75)

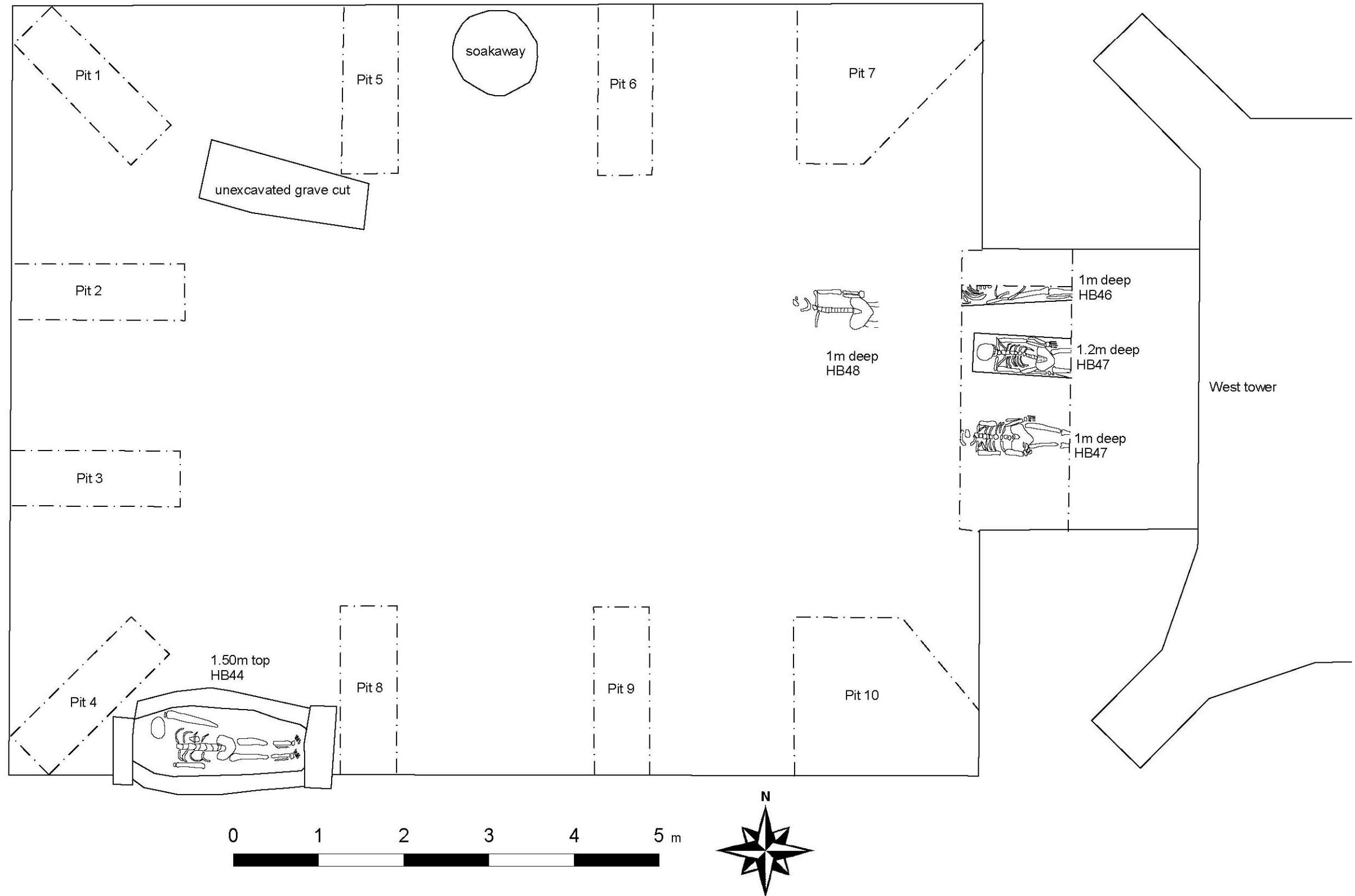


Figure 8: Burials encountered during ground reduction (scale 1:50)

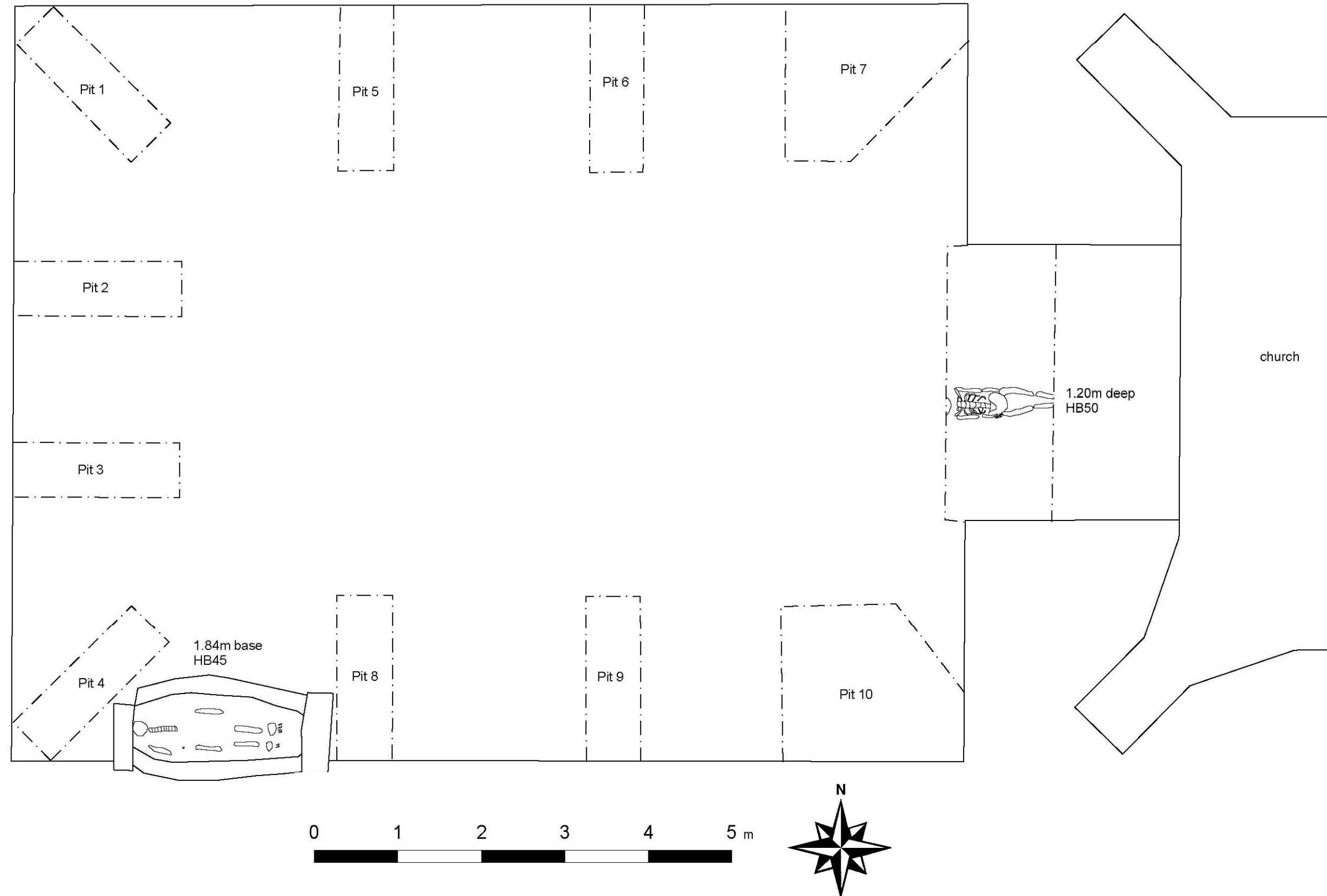


Figure 9: Lower burials encountered during ground reduction (scale 1:50)



Plate 1: Pit 2, showing layer of redeposited chalk and Burial HB3



Plate 2: Coin from the backfill of Burials HB 40 & 41



Plate 3: Modern soakaway between Pads 5 & 6

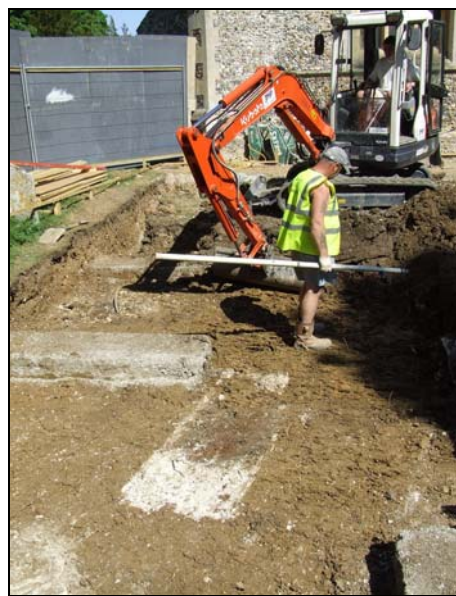


Plate 4: Grave cut exposed during ground reduction



Plate 5: Burial HB 3



Plate 6: Burial HB3, coffin lid inscription (Emma Hardy)



Plate 7: Burial HB40, coffin plate in situ



Plate 8: Burial HB41, coffin plate after cleaning



Plate 9: Burial HB 43, studs attached to the outer covering of the coffin



Plate 10: Burial HB 49, showing coffin stud and nail alignments



Plate 11: Burial HB43, selection of coffin fittings



Plate 12: Burial HB 28, shield-shaped decorative plate



Plate 13: Burial HB 28, interior of brick vault



Plate 14: Burial HB 44, showing coffin-shaped interior of brick vault



Plate 15: Burial HB 28, roof of brick vault



Plate 16: Brick vault containing Burials HB 43, HB 44 & HB 45 before opening



Plate 17: Burials HB 43-45, iron straps across brick vault



Plate 18: Burials HB 43-45, west end of vault



Plate 19: Monument F10, from above
Burial HB 28



Plate 20: HB28, interior of vault (facing east) with
decorative coffin plates *in-situ*



Plate 21: HB28, brick pad at the base of the vault



Plate 22: Monument F3, from
above Burials HB 43-45



Plate 23: Burial HB 43, skull *in-situ*, showing white
mineral deposits



Plate 24: Burials HB 20 and HB 21,
partially excavated



Plate 25: Burial HB 40, showing probable auger hole

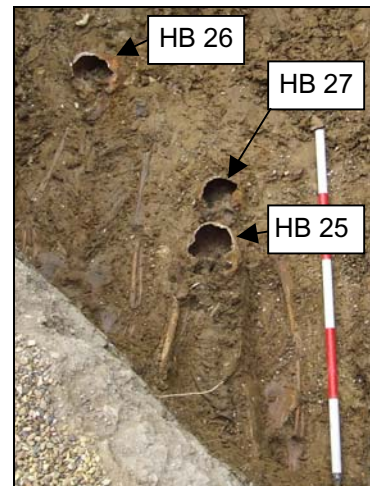


Plate 26: Burials HB 25, HB 26 and HB 27



Plate 27: Burial HB 14, showing truncation.



Plate 28: Burial HB 34, Right tibia *in-situ* and coffin stud alignment



Plate 29: Burial HB 46

4.4 Osteological Assessment

- 4.4.1 Three burials (HB 3, HB 40, HB 41) were known to be of 20th century date, and were reburied as soon as possible. A further three individuals (HB 43, HB 44, HB 45) were left inside their brick vault when it was backfilled as they were not at risk from destruction. A further seven burials (HB 4, HB 6, HB 15, HB 20, HB 21, HB 24, HB 36) were suspected to be of 20th century date, based on preservation and smell. No further analysis was carried out on these individuals. The remaining thirty-seven burials consisted of one complete skeleton (HB 28), nine greater than 75% complete, nine 50-75% complete, ten 25-50% complete, three less than 25% complete, and six which consisted only of the skull.
- 4.4.2 Full details of the osteological assessment appear in Appendix 3. Of the burials that included appropriate elements for assessment of age and sex characteristics, there were fifteen males, six possible males, eleven females and six possible females. Four infants and juveniles were present (plus the disarticulated remains of a further three), six young adults, two mid-adults, eight older adults and thirty indeterminate adults. As this burial population was only partially excavated and subjected to only a very brief osteological assessment, it is not possible to undertake any useful statistical analysis of these figures.
- 4.4.3 However, some interesting conditions were noted. Two female individuals, HB 3 and HB 35, had extremely lightweight bones and probably suffered from osteoporosis. Burial HB 3 was Emma Hardy, who died in 1927 aged 63 years.
- 4.4.4 Several individuals exhibited extensive ante-mortem tooth loss (AMTL), particularly the older adults. Burial HB 20 had been buried with her upper denture plate (Plate 30), and the associated burial HB 21 had both upper and lower dentures (Plates 31 & 32). These dentures appeared to be of late 19th or 20th-century date, and the state of preservation of the human remains and the coffins suggest a 20th-century date. Burial HB 21 also had facial hair attached to the dentures.
- 4.4.5 Examples of dental caries, calculus and abscesses were present, as would be expected in a population of this date. One individual, HB 7, had a groove in his teeth, probably caused by smoking a clay pipe. It affected his left mandibular canine and first premolar and left maxillary second incisor and canine (Plate 33) and measured a maximum of 9.06mm in diameter.
- 4.4.6 The cranium of Burial HB 4 had a irregular rounded hole in the right occipital (Plates 34-36) measuring approximately 6 × 4cm. The edges were smooth and well-healed, indicating that the individual had survived for a substantial period of time after the injury had occurred. Without further analysis it is difficult to determine the cause of the injury. It could be a trepanation hole or a depressed fracture where the displaced bone has been surgically removed. This burial was of a similar depth, alignment and state of preservation to Burial HB 3 and was probably 20th century in date.

- 4.4.7 Hair survived in several burials, all either of or suspected to be of 20th-century date. In addition to the aforementioned facial hair of Burial HB 21, Burials HB 28, HB 13 and HB 41 all had remnants of head hair attached to the skull. Burial HB 40, dated 1948, had remnants of pubic hair (Plate 37) and personal artefacts including safety pins and orange plastic buttons. The associated Burial HB 41 had a gold wedding ring on her finger, which had adhered to the coffin lid (Plate 38). Both individuals displayed extensive osteophytosis and other age-related degeneration.
- 4.4.8 Burial HB 28 had an area of periostitis (inflammation of the bone) on his face, in the zygomatic and maxillary region, probably indicating an infection of some sort.
- 4.4.9 The skull of Burial HB 43 had severe *Hyperostosis Frontalis Interna* (HFI; Plate 39), which is reasonably common in the post-medieval and modern skeletons of post-menopausal women (N. Powers *pers. comm.*). It involves excessive bone growth inside the skull behind the forehead, and may be linked to hormone changes.



Plate 30: Burial HB 20, upper denture plate



Plate 32: Burial HB 21, upper denture plate



Plate 31: Burial HB 21, skull with dentures in place



Plate 33: Burial HB 7, showing pipe groove



Plate 34: Burial HB 4 skull with perforation, right side



Plate 35: Burial HB 4, rear view showing perforation



Plate 36: Burial HB 4, detail of perforation



Plate 37: Burial HB 40, pelvis showing pubic hair



Plate 38: Burial HB 41 phalanx with ring, attached to coffin fragment



Plate 39: Burial HB 43, detail of skull, showing HFI

4.5 *Artefacts*

The excavation and watching brief revealed few finds apart from coffin nails, studs and fittings, shroud pins and personal jewellery, all of which were re-interred with their owners. Details of the finds, other than those associated with burials, appear in Appendix 1. Only the following appear worthy of more detailed comment.

Coin

A single copper-alloy coin was recovered from the backfill of Burials HB 40 & 41 (Context 1013), and is illustrated in Plate 2. This has been identified as a rose farthing token of Charles 1, dated *c.*1625-34.

Brick

The single complete brick recovered from an unstratified context on the site was quite long, slim and unfrosted, pale red in colour and measured 21.5 × 10.5 × 4.0cm thick, and was probably produced in the 17th century.

Nail

A single nail, approximately 4" (10cm) long was discovered below HB 3. It was hand made with a T-shaped head and a tapered body. Its length and size is indicative of a masonry nail.

5 The Tower

- 5.1 The tower (Plate 40), which has diagonal buttresses and tiled pyramidal roof, is a late 14th-century addition to the church and has a 15th-century upper stage. Its internal dimensions are 3.71m east-west by 4.30m north-south. The church was heavily restored 1872-73 by A. Blomfield, when the chancel was largely rebuilt (Pevsner 2002, 152).
- 5.2 The window in the west wall is dated 1901, and the wall below is of flint and stone with lime plaster *c.*4mm thick (Plate 41). There are two apertures in the north wall, which appear to be 19th century. The upper one has a single door with a central knob and side catches. The lower one has two small doors, hinged on the right with clasps on the left (Plate 42). The former staircase in the southwest corner of the tower has been blocked (Plate 43) and a fire-proof safe was installed in the 1920s. In the arch above the safe there is some indistinct graffiti and what appears to be green paint but is, in fact, some copper staining from the 1950s electrical wiring (Plate 44).
- 5.3 A wooden screen (Plate 46) separates the tower from the nave. This appears to be of late 19th or early 20th-century date, and was extended in 1966 to fill the arch (Hornead Church Guide).
- 5.4 The wooden floor is of relatively recent date. When it was lifted in 1999, it was noted that the underlying wall was offset and contained impressions of a former tiled floor at the same level as the present one (Zeepvat 1999). The layers revealed below the floor were as follows:
- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 0.00 - 0.04m | Brown-grey clay with flint, brick and stone fragments. |
| 0.04 - 0.06m | Loose yellow sandy mortar. |
| 0.06 - 0.11m | Chocolate-brown friable clay(?). |
| 0.11 - 0.13m | Loose yellow sandy mortar. |
| 0.13 - 0.29m | Flint rubble, mortar fragments etc. in a grey soil matrix. |
| 0.29m + | Brown clay. |
- 5.5 A 3.40m wide area of ground to the west of the tower was reduced by 0.68m (Plate 47), revealing three distinct constructional phases. The flint and stone wall above ground level was set in cement mortar and this was seen to extend approximately 0.60m below the non-reduced ground level. The wall below this was of flint and stone set in sand, approximately 0.27m high, and lay above a 0.33m section of flint in chalk walling.
- 5.6 The west wall of the tower was breached below the window during the course of the present development, to allow the insertion of a door to link the church to the new parish room. The wall was then rebuilt with bricks and reinforced by RSJs (Plate 48).



Plate 40: West elevation of tower



Plate 41: West wall, interior



Plate 42: North wall, interior



Plate 43: Blocked door in the southwest corner

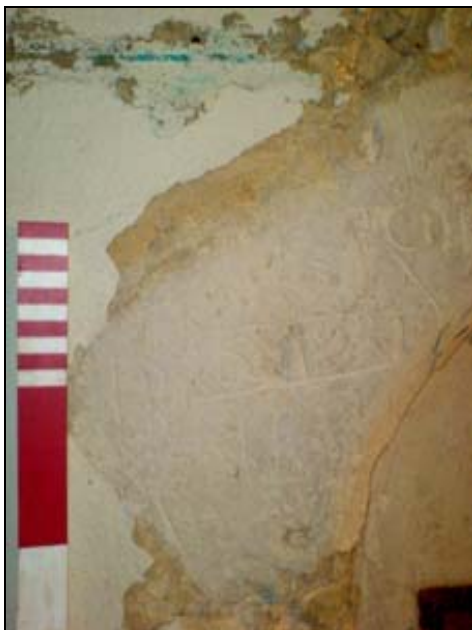


Plate 44: Graffiti & paint over blocked door



Plate 45: South wall



Plate 46: Partition wall



Plate 47: External ground reduction



Plate 48: New opening in the west wall

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 The archaeological works undertaken at St Nicholas' Church in advance of the new parish rooms revealed the whole or partial remains of nearly fifty individuals, probably all of 18th to 20th-century date. Many burials had been encoffined, and two brick vaults were revealed and examined. Evidence was recovered of coffin construction and fittings, of vault construction and of stacked burials. It was possible to assign names to a small number of individual burials, either by their association with surviving memorials or by the discovery of coffin inscriptions or plates. A low incidence of disarticulated human bone suggests that the graveyard was generally well managed during the period concerned, and only a few instances were noted of intercutting burials. The modern burials were re-interred as soon as possible and, following discussions with the AA and the DAA, the remainder were buried without further extensive study as it was felt that the small number of burials and the known pathologies were insufficient to provide meaningful statistical demographic or pathological information.
- 6.2 The burials were subject to rapid osteological assessment on site, which revealed instances of a number of pathological conditions, such as osteoporosis and *Hyperostosis Frontalis Interna* (HFI). One 19th-century individual (HB 28) had periostitis on his face, indicating a bone infection. Another (HB 4) had an irregular rounded hole in his skull, which did not appear to have been fatal, and could have resulted from an injury or a surgical process, such as trepanning, or relieving of a depressed fracture. A range of dental conditions were also observed, including dental caries, calculus and abscesses, as would be expected in the population during this period. Burials HB 20 and HB 21 had been buried with their dentures. One individual, HB 7, had a groove in his teeth, probably caused by smoking a clay pipe.
- 6.3 Apart from coffin nails, studs and fittings, shroud pins and personal jewellery, all of which were re-interred with their owners, the excavation revealed very few finds, as might be expected in a churchyard. A copper-alloy token of Charles I was recovered from the backfill of Burials HB 40 & 41. The only other finds were a metal button (Context 0512), a nail (Context 0212) and fragments of brick and tile. While the tile is undiagnostic, the brick appears to be of 17th-century date.
- 6.4 Observations made in the tower as part of this project generally confirmed existing ideas regarding the dating and function of the structure, and tied them in with observations made in 1999. An area of possible green paint in the southwest corner, above the present safe, was found to be copper staining from electrical wiring. Excavations to the west of the tower revealed evidence for three constructional phases.

7 Acknowledgements

The writers are grateful to Hornead and Wyddial Parochial Church Council for funding this project and to Mr. Norman Oliver, for providing information about the church and copies of entries in the Burials Register. Thanks are also due to Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Unit and to David Baker, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, for their help and advice during the course of the fieldwork. The site visit made by David and Evelyn Baker during the groundworks was particularly helpful and gratefully acknowledged.

We would especially like to thank the groundworks team from Bakers of Danbury for their assistance, patience and co-operation throughout the project. We are also grateful to Geoff Abbey, who acted as clerk of works, for his support and advice, and to Natasha Powers of MoLSS for her osteological advice.

The excavation and watching brief were undertaken by Teresa Hawtin, Nigel Wilson, Zoe Clarke and Karin Semmelmann. Building recording was undertaken by Karin Semmelmann. This report was prepared by Teresa Hawtin and Karin Semmelmann and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA, who managed the project.

8 Archive

8.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. Finds records
7. Site record drawings
8. List of photographs
9. Original specialist reports and supporting information
10. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

8.2 The archive will be deposited with Hertford Museum. All finds have been returned to the church.

9 References

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Appendix 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Animal Bone		Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)	Type	(no)
0100			1	23	Tile fragments	2
0200					Tile fragments	2
0212					Nail (not from coffin)	1
0512					Metal button	1
0711	1	21				
1013					Cu-alloy coin, Charles I	1
1200					Brick (215x105x40mm)	1
					Tile fragment	1
From test hole in tower wall					Peg tile (round hole)	1

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 844/GHC
No.	Shot	Digital	Subject
1	0101	☒	HB1 when first exposed
2, 3	0102, 0103	☒	HB1 after cleaning
4	0104	☒	Pit 1 fully excavated NW end
5	0105	☒	Pit 1 fully excavated SE end
6	0201	☒	Coffin of HB3 when first exposed
7-17	0202-0212	☒	Name on coffin of HB3
18-22	0213-0217	☒	Coffin of HB3 fully exposed
23-26	0218-0221	☒	HB3 during excavation – working shot
27, 28	0222, 0223	☒	HB3 after cleaning
29, 30	0224, 0225	☒	HB3 after cleaning – lower limbs
31	0226	☒	HB3 after cleaning – pelvis and lower limbs
32	0227	☒	HB3 after cleaning – upper body
33	0228	☒	HB3 after cleaning – mid body
34, 35	0229, 0230	☒	HB3 after cleaning – upper body
36	0231	☒	HB3 after cleaning – skull and torso
37	0232	☒	HB3 after cleaning – torso and pelvis
38	0233	☒	HB3 after cleaning – pelvis and femora
39	0234	☒	HB3 after cleaning – lower legs
40	0235	☒	HB3 after cleaning – skull and torso
41-46	0236-0241	☒	HB3 after cleaning
47	0242	☒	HB3 after cleaning – upper body
48	0243	☒	HB3 after cleaning – lower body
49-51	0244-0246	☒	HB3 after cleaning
52	0247	☒	HB3 after cleaning – upper body
53	0248	☒	HB3 after cleaning – mid body
54	0249	☒	HB3 after cleaning – lower body
55	0301	☒	Coffin of HB4 when first exposed
56, 57	0302, 0303	☒	HB4 after cleaning
58-60	0401-0403	☒	HB6 (feet) after cleaning
61	0404	☒	Profile of coffin of HB6 in section of pit 4 after further excavation
62	0405	☒	Brick vault of HB43-45 as found during excavation of pit 4
63-65	0406-0408	☒	Corner of brick vault of HB43-45 caught in pit 4
66-69	0501-0504	☒	HB9 after cleaning
70	0505	☒	HB9 after cleaning – skull
71	0506	☒	HB9 after cleaning – torso
72-74	0507-0509	☒	HB10 after cleaning
75	0601	☒	HB16 (skull)
76	0602	☒	HB14 (torso) after cleaning
77-80	0603-0606	☒	HB20-21 after cleaning
81-85	0607-0611	☒	HB21 after removal of HB20 and further cleaning
86, 87	0612, 0613	☒	HB21 – close-up of dentures in-situ
88-93	0614-0703	☒	HB22 after cleaning
94, 95	0704, 0705	☒	HB17 after cleaning – mid body
96-98	0706-0708	☒	HB17 during excavation – working shot
99-103	0709-0713	☒	HB19 after cleaning
104	0714	☒	HB19 after cleaning – skull and torso
105	0715	☒	HB19 after cleaning – torso and pelvis

SITE NAME: St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 844/GHC
No.	Shot	Digital	Subject
106	0716	☐	HB19 after cleaning – pelvis and femora
107	0717	☐	HB25-26 when first exposed
108-112	0718-0722	☐	HB25-27 during excavation – working shot
113-116	0723-0726	☐	HB25-27 after cleaning
117-119	0727-0729	☐	HB26-27 after removal of HB25 and further cleaning
120	0801	☐	Brick vault of HB28 when first exposed
121-128	0802-0809	☐	Brick vault of HB28 during excavation
129, 130	0810, 0811	☐	Brick vault of HB28 during excavation – skull visible inside
131-133	0812	☐	Brick vault of HB28 during excavation – bones visible inside
134-139	0815-0820	☐	Brick vault of HB28 during excavation – interior shot
140, 141	0821, 0822	☐	Brick vault of HB28 during excavation
142	0823	☐	Skull of HB28 after removal from brick vault
143, 144	0824, 0825	☐	HB28 after removal of vault roof (skull removed)
145	0826	☐	HB28 after removal of vault roof – foot end
146-149	0827-0830	☐	HB28 after removal of vault roof (skull removed)
150	0831	☐	HB28 after removal of vault roof – feet and lower legs
151	0832	☐	HB28 after removal of vault roof – legs and pelvis
152	0833	☐	HB28 after removal of vault roof – torso, pelvis and femora
153, 154	0834, 0835	☐	HB28 after removal of vault roof – upper body (skull removed)
155, 156	0836, 0837	☐	HB28 – coffin fitting
157-163	0838-0844	☐	HB29 (lower legs and feet) after cleaning
164-169	0901-0906	☐	HB34 (left os coxa, femur, hand and lower arm) after cleaning
170-173	0907-0910	☐	HB35 (torso, pelvis, femora) after cleaning
174-179	1001-1006	☐	HB38 after cleaning
180-183	1007-1010	☐	HB40 – close up of hair surviving in pubic region
184-188	1011-1015	☐	HB40 after initial cleaning, showing coffin plate
189	1016	☐	HB40 after initial cleaning – pelvis and legs
190	1017	☐	HB40 after initial cleaning – legs
191	1018	☐	HB40 after initial cleaning – coffin plate in-situ
192, 193	1019, 1020	☐	HB40 after initial cleaning – pelvis
194-196	1021-1023	☐	HB40 after removal of coffin lid and cleaning
197	1024	☐	HB40 after removal of coffin lid and cleaning – torso and pelvis
198	1025	☐	HB40 after removal of coffin lid and cleaning – mid body
199, 200	1026, 1027	☐	HB40 – legs, showing auger hole
201	1028	☐	HB40 – torso, pelvis and femora
202	1029	☐	HB40 after removal of coffin lid and cleaning – mid body
203, 204	1030, 1031	☐	HB40 after removal of coffin lid and cleaning – pelvis
205, 206	1032, 1033	☐	HB40 – detail of button on sternum
207	1034	☐	HB40 after removal of coffin lid and cleaning – pelvis
208	1035	☐	HB40 during excavation – working shot
209-211	1036-1038	☐	HB40 during excavation – skull and upper torso
212-214	1039-1041	☐	Skull of HB40 after excavation
215	1042	☐	HB41 – wedding ring and phalanx attached to coffin lid
216-219	1043-1046	☐	HB41 – coffin name plate after initial cleaning
220-223	1047-1050	☐	HB41 after cleaning (note disarticulated humerus at side of coffin)
224	1051	☐	HB41 after cleaning – torso and pelvis
225	1052	☐	HB41 after cleaning – pelvis and femora
226	1053	☐	HB41 after cleaning – lower legs and feet
227	1054	☐	HB41 after cleaning – feet

SITE NAME: St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 844/GHC
No.	Shot	Digital	Subject
228	1055	☐	HB41 after cleaning – legs
229	1056	☐	HB41 after cleaning – torso and pelvis
230	1057	☐	HB41 after cleaning – pelvis and femora
231	1058	☐	HB41 after cleaning – lower legs and feet
232	1059	☐	HB41 after cleaning – torso and pelvis
233	1060	☐	HB41 after cleaning – pelvis and femora
234	1061	☐	HB41 after cleaning – lower legs and feet
235	1062	☐	HB41 after cleaning – pelvis
236	1063	☐	HB41 after cleaning – torso
237	1064	☐	HB41 after cleaning (note disarticulated humerus at side of coffin)
238, 239	1065, 1066	☐	HB41 after cleaning
240-242	1067-1069	☐	Skull of HB41 after excavation
243, 244	1070, 1071	☐	HB41 – wedding ring and phalanx attached to coffin lid
245-248	1072-1075	☐	Wedding ring of HB41 after excavation
249-251	1101-1103	☐	Interior of brick vault of HB43-45 through small hole at head end
252-263	1104-1115	☐	Brick vault of HB43-45 during excavation
264	1116	☐	Brick vault of HB43-45 during removal of roof
265-268	1117-1120	☐	Interior of brick vault of HB43-45 during removal of roof
269	1121	☐	Brick vault of HB43-45 during removal of roof
270-272	1122-1124	☐	Interior of brick vault of HB43-45 during removal of roof
273-275	1125-1127	☐	Brick vault of HB43-45 during removal of roof
276	1128	☐	Interior of brick vault of HB43-45 during removal of roof
277, 278	1129-1130	☐	Brick vault of HB43-45 during removal of roof
279	1131	☐	Interior of brick vault of HB43-45 during removal of roof
280	1132	☐	Brick vault of HB43-45 during excavation – working shot
281-284	1133-1136	☐	Coffin fittings of HB43
285-288	1137-1140	☐	HB43 after cleaning – skull
289, 290	1141, 1142	☐	Brick vault of HB43-45 during excavation
291, 292	1143, 1144	☐	HB43 after cleaning – skull
293-296	1145-1148	☐	Skull of HB43 after excavation
297-303	1149-1155	☐	Skull of HB43 after excavation – internal surface, showing HFI
304, 305	1156, 1157	☐	HB44 after cleaning – skull (note skull of HB45 visible)
306	1158	☐	HB44 after cleaning – skull and torso
307	1159	☐	HB44 after cleaning – skull, torso and pelvis
308	1160	☐	HB44 after cleaning – skull
309	1161	☐	HB44 after cleaning – pelvis
310	1162	☐	HB44 after cleaning – pelvis and femora
311	1163	☐	HB44 after cleaning – torso
312-314	1164-1166	☐	HB44 after cleaning – feet and lower legs
315	1167	☐	HB44 after cleaning – skull
316	1168	☐	HB44 after cleaning – skull and torso
317	1169	☐	HB44 after cleaning – torso
318	1170	☐	HB44 after cleaning – torso, pelvis, femora
319	1171	☐	HB44 after cleaning – pelvis and upper legs
320	1172	☐	HB44 after cleaning – pelvis
321, 322	1173, 1174	☐	HB44 after cleaning – feet and lower legs
323-325	1175-1177	☐	Brick vault of HB44 – head end
326	1178	☐	HB44 after cleaning (note: white petals are from adjacent tree)
327	1179	☐	HB44 after cleaning – foot end

SITE NAME: St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 844/GHC
No.	Shot	Digital	Subject
328	1180	☐	HB44 after cleaning – head end
329	1181	☐	HB44 after cleaning
330-343	1182-1195	☐	Skull of HB44 after excavation
334	1186	☐	Skull of HB44 after excavation
335	1187	☐	Skull of HB44 after excavation
336	1188	☐	Skull of HB44 after excavation
344-349	1196-1201	☐	HB45 during excavation – working shot
350, 351	1202, 1203	☐	HB45 after cleaning
352, 353	1204, 1205	☐	HB45 after cleaning – mid body
354	1206	☐	HB45 after cleaning – skull and upper torso
355	1207	☐	HB45 after cleaning – torso
356	1208	☐	HB45 after cleaning – lower legs and ankles
357-359	1209-1211	☐	HB45 after cleaning – legs
360	1212	☐	HB45 after cleaning – skull
361	1213	☐	HB45 after cleaning – legs
362, 363	1214, 1215	☐	HB45 after cleaning – lower legs and feet
364	1216	☐	HB45 after cleaning – legs
365	1217	☐	HB45 after cleaning – skull
366-368	1218-1220	☐	HB45 after cleaning – upper body
369	1221	☐	HB45 after cleaning
370-377	1222-1229	☐	Skull of HB45 after excavation
378-380	1230-1232	☐	Unexcavated grave cut adjacent to pit 5
381-391	1233-1243	☐	Test hole under church window during excavation
392	1244	☐	Detail of window
393, 394	1245, 1246	☐	Test hole under church window during excavation
395-397	1247-1249	☐	Detail of window
398	1250	☐	Test hole under church window during excavation
399	1251	☐	Detail of tower
400-404	1252-1256	☐	Test hole under church window during excavation
405	1257	☐	Detail of tower
406	1258	☐	Test hole under church window during excavation
407	1259	☐	Detail of tower
408-413	1260-1265	☐	Test hole under church window after excavation
414, 415	1266, 1267	☐	Soakaway revealed during reduced dig between pits 5 and 6
416	1268	☐	Gravestone moved from site – D2
417	1269	☐	Gravestone moved from site – D3
418	1270	☐	Lead cross from monument D4
419-422	1271-1274	☐	Grave monument moved from site – D4
423-426	1275-1278	☐	Grave monument moved from site – B1 (HB28)
427-438	1279-1290	☐	Grave monument moved from site – A3 (HB43-45)
439, 440	1291, 1292	☐	Inside church tower – safe
441-477	1293-1329	☐	Inside church tower – Graffiti and surviving wall paint above safe
478	1330	☐	Door into church tower
479	1331	☐	Inside church tower – safe
480	1332	☐	Inside church tower – window
481	1333	☐	Inside church tower – safe
482, 483	1334, 1335	☐	Decorative helmet inside safe (from memorial inside main door)
484-492	1336-1344	☐	Inside church tower – Graffiti and surviving wall paint above safe
493, 494	1345, 1346	☐	Site shot – after excavation

SITE NAME: St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 844/GHC
No.	Shot	Digital	Subject
495-497	1347-1349	☐	Wall of church tower after reduced dig
498-501	1350-1353	☐	Site shot – after excavation
502-507	1401-1406	☐	HB46 after cleaning
508, 509	1407, 1408	☐	HB46 after cleaning and HB47 during excavation – working shot
510	1409	☐	HB46 after cleaning
511, 512	1410, 1411	☐	HB47 during excavation – working shot
513-516	1412-1415	☐	HB47 after cleaning (note coffin stain)
517	1416	☐	HB47 after cleaning – detail of mandible
518	1417	☐	HB47 after cleaning – skull and upper torso
519	1418	☐	HB47 after cleaning – torso and pelvis
520	1419	☐	HB47 after cleaning – femora
521-525	1420-1424	☐	HB48 after cleaning
526	1425	☐	HB48 after cleaning – skull and shoulder girdles
527	1426	☐	HB48 after cleaning – torso
528	1427	☐	HB48 after cleaning – pelvis
529	1428	☐	HB48 after cleaning
530-533	1429-1432	☐	HB49 during excavation – working shot
534-537	1433-1436	☐	HB49 after cleaning
538	1437	☐	HB49 after cleaning – skull and upper torso
539	1438	☐	HB49 after cleaning – torso
540	1439	☐	HB49 after cleaning – pelvis
541	1440	☐	HB49 after cleaning – skull
542	1441	☐	HB49 after cleaning
543-550	1442-1449	☐	HB50 during excavation – working shot
551	1450	☐	HB50 after cleaning
552	1451	☐	HB50 after cleaning – upper body
553	1452	☐	HB50 after cleaning – lower body
554	1453	☐	HB50 after cleaning – mid body
555, 556	1454, 1455	☐	HB50 after cleaning
557, 558	1501, 1502	☐	Buttons from HB40
559-561	1503-1505	☐	Safety pins from HB40
562, 563	1506, 1507	☐	Coin from backfill of HB40 [1003]
564-566	1508-1510	☐	Coffin studs from HB40
567, 568	1511, 1512	☐	Pubic hair from HB40
569	1513	☐	Vertebra from HB40
570	1514	☐	Rib from HB40
571, 572	1515, 1516	☐	Rib from HB40
573-579	1517-1523	☐	Skull of HB40
580-582	1524-1526	☐	Name plate from coffin of HB41
583-590	1527-1534	☐	Skull of HB41
591-595	1535-1539	☐	Hair from HB41
596, 597	1540, 1541	☐	Humerus from HB41
598, 599	1542, 1543	☐	Mandible from HB3
600-611	1544-1555	☐	Skull of HB3
612-629	1556-1573	☐	Skull of HB4
630, 631	1574, 1575	☐	Maxilla of HB7
632-639	1576-1583	☐	Maxilla and mandible of HB7
640, 641	1584, 1535	☐	Mandible of HB7
642, 643	1586, 1587	☐	Maxilla of HB7

SITE NAME: St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 844/GHC
No.	Shot	Digital	Subject
644, 645	1588, 1589	☐	Mandible of HB14
646	1590	☐	Mandible of HB20
647-650	1591-1594	☐	Upper denture of HB20
651-654	1595-1598	☐	Skull of HB20
655	1599	☐	Skull of HB20 with denture in place
656, 657	1600, 1601	☐	Upper denture of HB21
658, 659	1602, 1603	☐	Lower denture of HB21 (note hair attached)
660, 661	1604, 1605	☐	Mandible of HB21
662, 663	1606, 1607	☐	Skull of HB21 with dentures in place
664	1608	☐	Skull of HB21
665-667	1609-1611	☐	Skull of HB21
668	1612	☐	Mandible of HB28
669-675	1613-1619	☐	Skull of HB28
676	1620	☐	?Coffin fitting of HB28
677-679	1621-1623	☐	Skull of HB43 displaying HFI
680, 681	1624, 1625	☐	Skull of HB43
682, 683	1626, 1627	☐	Mandible of HB48
684-686	1628-1630	☐	Skull of HB49
687	1701	☐	West tower: general shot
688	1702	☐	West tower: ground reduction
689	1703	☐	West Tower: stonework detail
690-691	1704-5	☐	<i>West Tower: west wall</i>
692	1706	☐	<i>West Tower: west wall detail</i>
693	1707	☐	<i>West Tower: blocked door & safe in southwest corner</i>
694	1708	☐	<i>West Tower: east wall</i>
695		☐	<i>West Tower: partition wall</i>
696		☐	<i>West Tower: north wall</i>
697		☐	<i>North elevation of church</i>

Appendix 3

Burials Summary

Pit no.	Burial no.	Cut no.	Fill no.	Coffin present	Portion of skeleton retrieved	Approx. age	Approx. sex	Pathologies visible	Notes	Depth bgl*
1	HB 1	0101	011 1	Yes	Skull, left arm and shoulder, ribs, vertebrae	Mid-adult	Male		Coffin nails retrieved. Fragments of tile and animal bone in grave fill.	1.25m
2	HB 2	0201	021 1	Yes	Skull	Adult	Unknown		Skull from below broken headstone F8	1.20m
2	HB 3	0202	021 2	Yes	Complete, including thyroid	Adult (63)	Female	Possible osteoporosis (bones very light). Extensive AMTL	Coffin had inscription painted on: "EMMA HARDY DIED FEB 5TH 1927 AGED 63 YEARS"	1.17m
2			020 0	No	Disarticulated humerus	Adult	Unknown			
3	HB 4	0301	031 1	Yes	Complete	Adult	Male	Large healed hole in skull - possible trepanation or depressed fracture	Probably 20th Century - very similar alignment, depth and state of preservation to HB 3	1.40m
3	HB 5	0302	031 2	No	Skull	Juvenile	Unknown		Possibly disarticulated	1.10m
4	HB 6	0401	041 1	Yes	Feet	Adult	Unknown		Probably 20th Century based on preservation of coffin	1.30m
4	HB 7	0402	041 2	No	Skull	Mid-older adult	Male		Pipe groove present, max. diameter 9.06mm, affecting left mand. canine and PM1 and maxillary I2 and canine	1.10m
5	HB 8	0501	051 1	No	Leg and foot (semi-articulated)	Infant / Juvenile	Unknown		Above HB9	1.00m
5	HB 9	0502	051 2	Yes	Skull, torso, arms	Young adult	Male		Coffin nails retrieved.	1.15m
5	HB 10	0503	051 3	Yes	Skull, torso, arms	Older adult	Male	Extensive AMTL, caries		1.30m
5	HB 11	0504	051 4	Yes	Skull, arm	Young adult	Poss. female		Coffin nails retrieved. Third molar erupting so approximately 18-25 years	
6	HB 12	0601	061 1	Yes	Skull, cervical vertebrae	Adult	Poss. male		Green stain above right zygomatic. Coffin nail retrieved.	0.95m
6	HB 13	0602	061 2	Yes	Skull	Adult	Male		Coffin handle retrieved. Possible hair survival	1.00m
6	HB 14	0603	061 3	No	Partial skull and ribs (truncated mid-torso)	Young adult	Female	Abscess on left mandibular first molar	Severe tooth attrition. Green stain on occipital. 2 mandibles retrieved.	0.90m
6	HB 15	0604	061 4	Yes	End of coffin only	Unknown	Unknown		Probably 20th Century. Probably the other end of HB 24. Stacked directly above HB 20	1.10m
6	HB 16	0605	061 5	No	Skull	Adult	Poss. male			0.85m
6			060 0	No	Disarticulated leg and arm bones	Adult	Unknown			
7	HB 17	0701	071 1	No	Vertebrae, arms, pelvis, legs, feet	Young adult	Female			1.05m
7	HB 18	0702	071 2	No	Legs	Adult	Unknown		Below left os coxa of HB 17	1.10m
7	HB 19	0703	071 3	Yes (remnants)	Skull, torso, right arm, pelvis, femora	Adult	Poss. male		Severe tooth attrition	1.05m
6	HB 20	0604	061 4	Yes	Skull	Adult	Female		Probably 20th Century. Upper denture. Stacked between HB 15 and HB 21	1.30m

Pit no.	Burial no.	Cut no.	Fill no.	Coffin present	Portion of skeleton retrieved	Approx. age	Approx. sex	Pathologies visible	Notes	Depth bgl*
6	HB 21	0604	061 4	Yes	Skull	Adult	Male		Probably 20th Century. Upper and lower dentures. Hair surviving - attached to both dentures so probable beard. Stacked below HB 21	1.50m
6	HB 22	0606	061 6	Yes	Skull, torso, right humerus and scapula	Adult	Male			0.90m
6	HB	0606	061	No	Left arm	Adult	Unknown		May belong to HB 22	0.95m
* bgl = below (current) ground level					Disarticulated pelvis, legs, etc.	Infant	Unknown		Disarticulated, near HB 20	
6			060 0	No	Disarticulated vertebrae, leg and arm bones	Adult and Juvenile	Unknown		Disarticulated, above HB 20	
6	HB 23	0607	061 7	Yes	Top of cranium	Adult	Unknown			0.90m
7	HB 24	0704	071 4	Yes	Coffin end only	Unknown	Unknown		Coffin fittings retrieved. Possibly the other end of HB 15. Probably 20th century	1.20m
7	HB 25	0705	071 5	No	Skull, torso	Adult	Poss. female			1.20m
7	HB 26	0706	071 6	No	Skull, torso	Adult	Poss. male			1.30m
7			070 0	No	Disarticulated bones including juvenile leg and pelvis	Adult and Juvenile c. 8-10 years	Unknown			
7	HB 27	0707	071 7	No	Skull, torso, arms, pelvis	Adult	Male		Below HB 25, same level as HB 26.	1.30m
8	HB 28	0801	081 1	Yes	Complete, including thyroid	Adult (32)	Male	Periostitis on facial area, tooth caries and calculus	Brick vault with monument: Samuel Green, died 1821 aged 32 years. 4 shroud pins attached to skull (with staining) and remnants of hair. Vault 1.35m deep, 1.9m long, 0.6m wide	1.20m
8	HB 29	0802	081 2	Yes	Feet and lower tibiae and fibulae	Adult	Unknown		Directly below bricks of vault containing HB 28	1.35m
8	HB 30	0803	081 3	No	Lumbar vertebrae, pelvis, femora, ulnae, radii, hands	Adult	Unknown			1.40m
8	HB 31	0804	081 4	Yes	Left arm, ribs				Coffin stain. Some green staining on bones	1.20m
8	HB 32	0805	081 5	No	Skull and upper body	Infant c.12-18 months	Unknown		Humeri: R 98.3mm; L 98.4mm	1.40m
9	HB 33	0901	091 1	No	Disturbed jumble of legs, ribs, skull, scapula	Adult and juvenile	Some male, some unknown		Leg bones very large so likely to be male.	
9	HB 34	0902	091 2	Yes	Left leg, arm, os coxa, right tibia and patella	Adult	Female		Coffin nails retrieved. Cut by grave HB 36	1.30m
9	HB 35	0903	091 3	Yes	Ribs, vertebrae, arms	Adult	Poss. female and poss. male	Possible osteoporosis (female)	Grave was struck by machine bucket at end of pit. Main burial female, additional left os coxa male. Green stain on left os coxa near auricular surface	1.10m
9	HB 36	0904	091	Yes	Pelvis, femora, lumbar	Adult	Possible male		Probably 20th century. Large bone size	1.70m

Pit no.	Burial no.	Cut no.	Fill no.	Coffin present	Portion of skeleton retrieved	Approx. age	Approx. sex	Pathologies visible	Notes	Depth bgl*
			4		vertebrae, lower arms				so likely to be male. Coffin fittings retrieved	
9	HB 37	0905	0915	No	Leg	Adult	Unknown			0.90m
9			0900	No	Various disarticulated bones	Adult	Unknown			
10	HB 38	1001	1011	Yes	Vertebrae, pelvis, arms, legs	Adult	Female		Decayed coffin, handle retrieved.	1.20m
10	HB 39	1002	1012	Yes	Pelvis, femora, lower arm	Adult	Female			1.20m
10			1000	No	Various disarticulated bones	Adult	Unknown			
10	HB 40	1003	1013	Yes	Complete	Older adult (88)	Male	Extensive osteophytes on vertebrae, patellae, ribs, etc. and other degenerative signs. Complete AMTL	Well-preserved, including pubic hair. Sternal foramen. Artefacts within burial included buttons and safety pins. Coffin fittings included nails and screw. Unreadable name plate. Stacked above HB 41. Probably Thomas Thorogood, died 1948 aged 88 years	1.40m
* bgl = below (current) ground										
10	HB 41	1003	1013	Yes	Complete	Older adult (68)	Female	Extensive osteophytes, possible infection of zygomatic sinus	Name plate on coffin: "MARIA WATKINS THOROGOOD DIED 28TH SEPT 1945". Stacked below HB 40. Septal foramen. Wedding ring on phalanx. Survival of head hair below skull.	1.70m
10	HB 42	1004	1014	No	Feet and lower legs	Adult	Poss. female		Bone size small so likely to be female	1.50m
Brick vault between pits 4 & 8	HB 43	1101	1111	Yes	Potentially complete, but badly degraded - cranium, femora, tibiae, phalanges and vertebral bodies retrieved	Older adult (65)	Cranium appears male, but monument inscription suggests female	Extensive HFI. Pink staining on vertebrae	Poorly preserved. Upper burial of 3 in brick vault. Monument inscription suggests that this one is Rebecca Wyman, died ?1858 aged 65.	1.40m
Brick vault between pits 4 & 8	HB 44	1101	1111	Yes	Complete	Older adult (79)	Male	Complete AMTL	Sternal foramen. Middle burial of 3 in brick vault. Monument inscription suggests that this is William Walby, died ?1843 aged ?79	1.50m
Brick vault between pits 4 & 8	HB 45	1101	1111	Yes	Potentially complete, but badly degraded - skull and leg bones retrieved, shadows in torso region	Older adult (77)	Female		Lowest burial of 3 in brick vault. Monument inscription suggests that this is Rebecca Walby, died 7th April 1833 aged 77.	1.80m
Between pits 7 & 10	HB 46	1201	1211	No	Right torso, os coxa, leg, arm and vertebrae.	Adult	Male		Left half truncated away by earlier unmonitored machine digging	1.00m
Between pits 7 & 10	HB 47	1202	1212	Yes	Skull, torso, arms, femora, tibiae	Adult	Poss. female		Coffin stain	1.00m
Between pits 7 &	HB 48	1203	1213	Yes	Partial skull, torso, arms, pelvis, femora	Older adult	Female	Complete mandibular AMTL, extensive maxillary	2 coffin nails retrieved	1.00m

Pit no.	Burial no.	Cut no.	Fill no.	Coffin present	Portion of skeleton retrieved	Approx. age	Approx. sex	Pathologies visible	Notes	Depth bgl*
10								AMTL		
Between pits 7 & 10	HB 49	1204	121 4	Yes	Skull, torso, arms, pelvis, femora	Young-mid adult	Male		Coffin studs and nails delineating shape of coffin	1.20m
Between pits 7 & 10	HB 50	1205	121 5	No	Skull, torso, arms, pelvis, femora, tibiae	Adult	Poss. female		Possibly in the same grave cut as HB 47 [1202]	1.20m
General			120 0	No	Various disarticulated bones	Adult	Unknown		Disarticulated bones found during ground reduction works in general cemetery soil	

* bgl = below (current) ground level

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead		
Short Description:	<p>In April and May 2007 excavations and a watching brief were undertaken at St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, during the construction of new parish rooms and a link structure to the west of the tower. Ten foundation pits were archaeologically excavated, and a watching brief was maintained during subsequent ground reduction, and related works in and around the tower. The whole or partial remains of nearly fifty individuals, probably all of 18th to 20th-century date, were revealed. Evidence was recovered of coffin construction and fittings, of vault construction and of stacked burials. It was possible to assign names to a small number of individual burials.</p> <p>Demonstrably modern burials were reburied as soon as possible, along with any associated artefacts, while older burials were subject to rapid osteological assessment on site. This revealed instances of a number of pathological conditions, such as osteoporosis, periostitis and Hyperostosis Frontalis Interna. A range of dental conditions were also observed, including dental caries, calculus and abscesses. One individual had a groove in his teeth, probably caused by smoking a clay pipe.</p> <p>Observations made in the tower generally confirmed existing ideas regarding the dating and function of the structure. An area of possible green paint in the southwest corner of the tower was found to be copper staining. Excavations to the west of the tower revealed evidence for three constructional phases.</p>		
Project Type:	Watching Brief & Excavation		
Site status:	Listed Grade II	Previous work:	Zeepvat 1999 (WB) Crank et al 2004 (eval)
Current land use:	Church & churchyard	Future work:	unknown
Monument type:	Church & burial ground	Monument period:	Postmed - modern
Significant finds:	Burials and coffin fittings / post-med		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 39977 29565
District:	East Herts	Parish:	Great Hornead
Site address:	St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, Herts		
Study area	c.140 sq. m.	Height OD: (metres)	c.110m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	A Tinniswood, HCC	Project design originator:	K Semmelmann, ASC
Project Manager:		Director/Supervisor:	T Hawtin
Sponsor / funding body:	Hornead & Wyddial Parochial Church Council		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	23 rd April 2007	End date:	4 th May 2007
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Hornead Church	Burial contents re-interred. Other finds returned to church	
Paper:	Hertford Museum	1 box	
Digital:	Hertford Museum	1 CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief & Excavation: St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, Hertfordshire.		
Serial title & volume:	ASC reports, ref 844/GHC/2		
Author(s):	Karin Semmelmann & Teresa Hawtin		
Page nos	50	Date:	25 th June 2007

Appendix 5: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: St Nicholas' Church Great Hornead		
County: HERTFORDSHIRE	District: East Herts	
Village/Town: Great Hornead	Parish: Great Hornead	
Planning application reference: 3/04/1543		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Hornead & Wyddial Parochial Church Council c/o Atelier MLM Architects Woodlands Beechwood Drive Aldbury Hertfordshire HP23 5SB		
Nature of application: Construction of parish rooms		
Present land use: Churchyard		
Size of application area: n/a	Size of area investigated: c.140 sq. m.	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 39977 29565	Site code: 844/GHC	
Site director/Organization: Bob Zeepvat / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Watching Brief & Excavation		
Date of work:	Start: 23 rd April 2007	Finish: 4 th May 2007
Curating museum: Hertford		
Related SMR nos: ?	Periods represented: postmed - modern	
Relevant previous summaries/reports Zeepvat 1999 (WB); Crank et al 2004 (eval)		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>In April and May 2007 excavations and a watching brief were undertaken at St Nicholas' Church, Great Hornead, during the construction of new parish rooms and a link structure to the west of the tower. Ten foundation pits were archaeologically excavated, and a watching brief was maintained during subsequent ground reduction, and related works in and around the tower. The whole or partial remains of nearly fifty individuals, probably all of 18th to 20th-century date, were revealed. Evidence was recovered of coffin construction and fittings, of vault construction and of stacked burials. It was possible to assign names to a small number of individual burials.</p> <p>Demonstrably modern burials were reburied as soon as possible, along with any associated artefacts, while older burials were subject to rapid osteological assessment on site. This revealed instances of a number of pathological conditions, such as osteoporosis, periostitis and Hyperostosis Frontalis Interna. A range of dental conditions were also observed, including dental caries, calculus and abscesses. One individual had a groove in his teeth, probably caused by smoking a clay pipe.</p> <p>Observations made in the tower generally confirmed existing ideas regarding the dating and function of the structure. An area of possible green paint in the southwest corner of the tower was found to be copper staining. Excavations to the west of the tower revealed evidence for three constructional phases.</p>		
Author: K Semmelmann & T Hawtin	Date: 26 th June 2007	