

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
STEEPLE CLAYDON
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: SP 7053 2674

on behalf of Steeple Claydon Parochial Church Council



Jenny Richards BA PIFA

August 2008

ASC: 975/SMC/2

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	SMC	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	975
<i>OASIS ref:</i>		<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Steeple Claydon		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Steeple Claydon		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 7053 2674		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	unknown		
<i>Present use:</i>	Churchyard		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of parish rooms		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	00/0710		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Aylesbury Vale District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	1 st August 2007 – 25 th July 2008		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Steeple Claydon Parochial Church Council 3 Maple Leys Steeple Claydon Buckinghamshire MK18 2RJ		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr Paul Firth		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	J Richards BA PIFA	<i>Date:</i>	21 st August 2008
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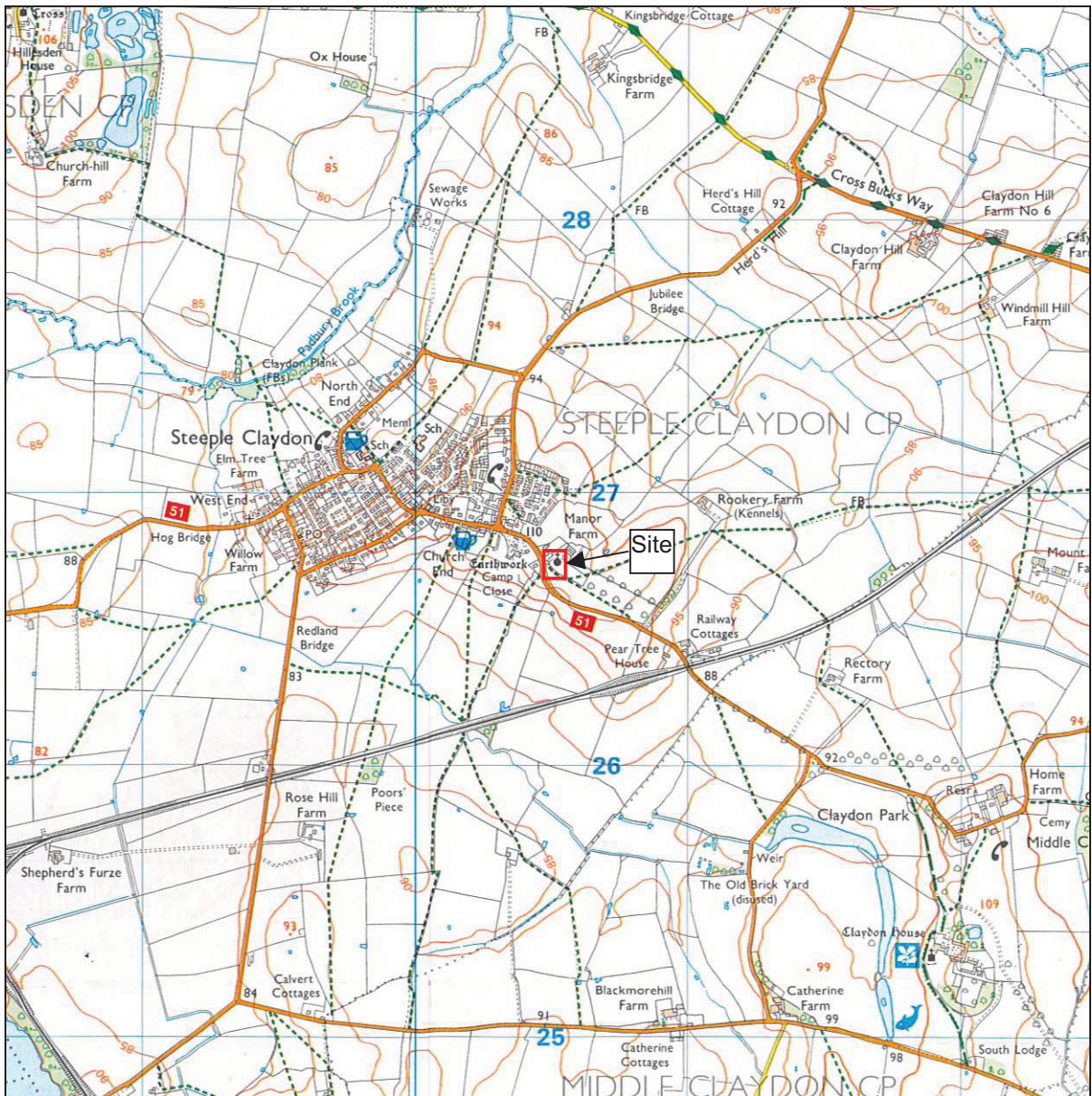


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

Between April 2007 and July 2008 ASC carried out a watching brief at St Michael's Church, Steeple Claydon, Buckinghamshire during groundworks for the construction of the new parish room known as the Mark Bullman Parish Room Project. A large quantity of disarticulated human bone fragments was recovered during ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches. These were retained at the church for reburial. Two partial skeletons were uncovered during excavation of a new septic tank. These were of probable 18th or 19th century date, and the only obvious sign of pathology was some tooth decay to one of the skeletons. They were removed under faculty and retained at the church for reburial. No archaeologically significant finds were observed during this watching brief, but five 19th century tombstones that had been reused as a footpath outside the vestry were noted, and fragments of 19th and 20th century pottery, glass and ceramic grave markers were also observed.

1. Introduction

1.1 In July 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at St Michael's Church, Steeple Claydon, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by Steeple Claydon Parochial Church Council, and was carried out according to a brief (Radford 2007) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Aylesbury Vale District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service* (BCAS), and a project design prepared by ASC. The relevant planning application reference is 00/0710.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

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 Archaeological Organisation* by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *Management*

The project was managed by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA, and was carried out under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

1.5 *The Site*

1.5.1 *Location & Description*

The site is situated in the burial ground of the church of St Michael, Steeple Claydon, Buckinghamshire (Figure 1). The church is situated on the east side of the village and the site lies on the north side of the church, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 7053 2674 (Figure 2).

Access to the site is from the southwest, through the churchyard gate. A detailed service survey had not been undertaken, but a number of manhole covers were noted, on the north side of the site.

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area comprise the *Wickham 2 Association*; typically slowly permeable fine loamy and clayey soils (Soil Survey 1983). The site is essentially flat and lies at an elevation of *c.*109m OD.

1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The development proposal comprises the construction of a new parish room, known as the *Mark Bullman Parish Room Project* (Figure 3).

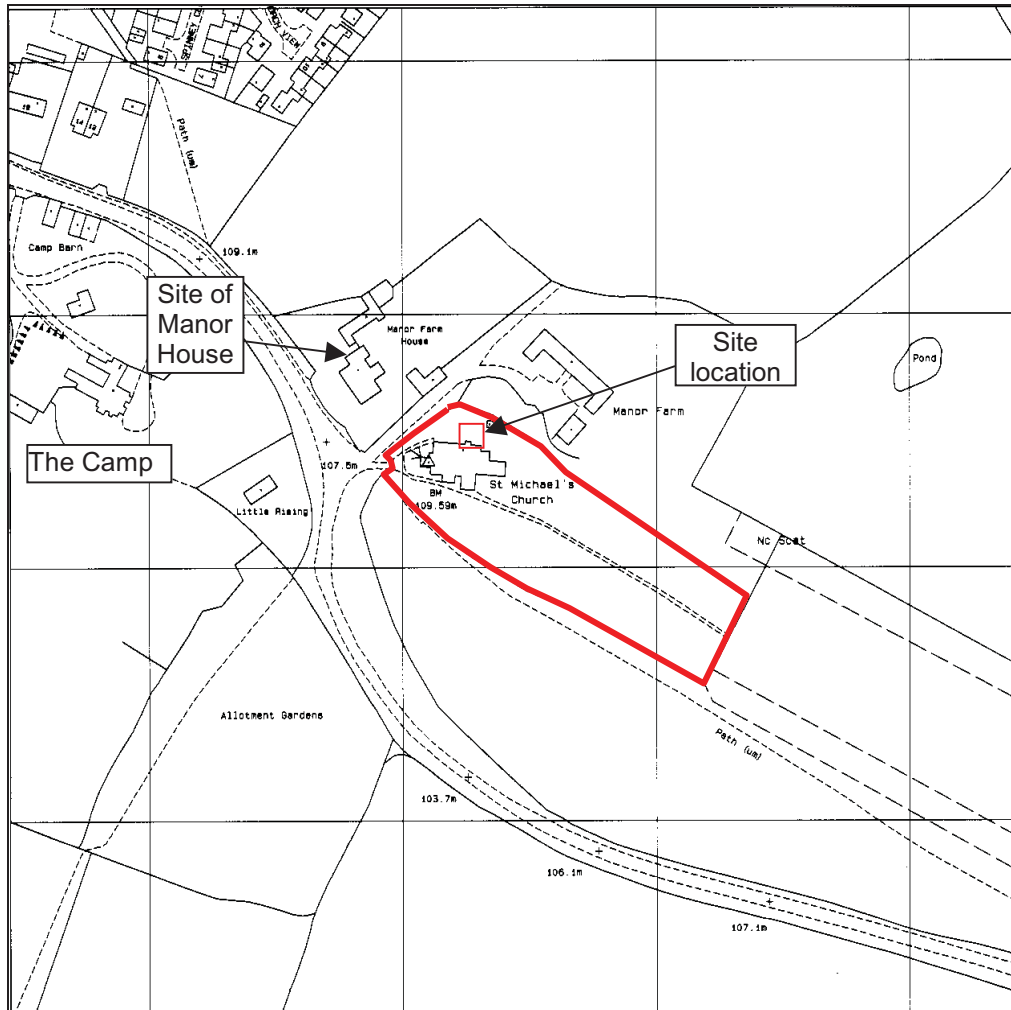


Figure 2: Site plan (Scale 1: 2,500)

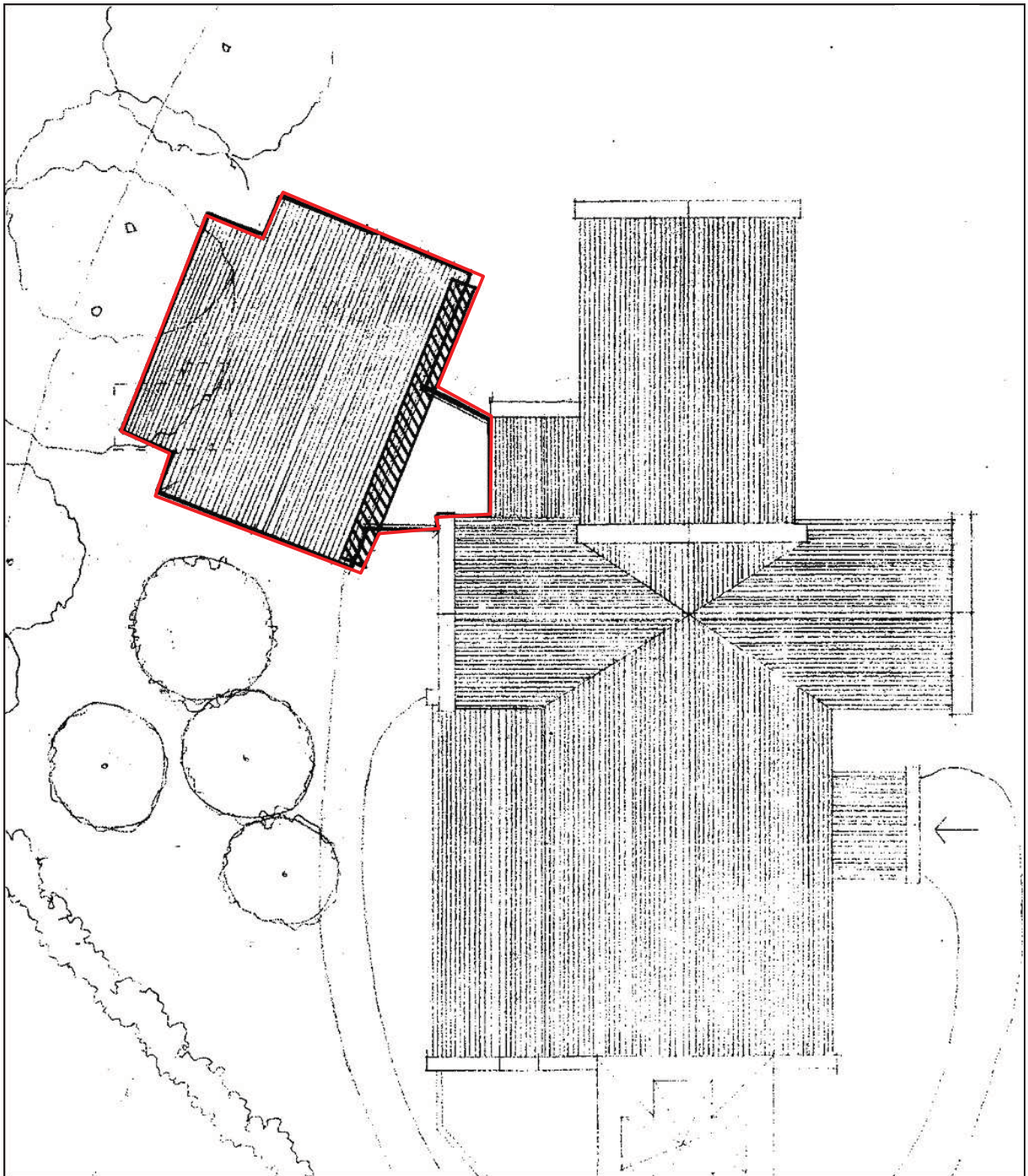


Figure 3: Plan of the Site, showing the Proposed Development (Scale 1:200)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief, the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains, including human remains and environmental, revealed by the development programme
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.
- Particular regard was paid to the potential for disturbance of human remains

2.2 *Standards*

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 8a), which required:

- A detailed watching brief was maintained during all works with the potential to effect archaeological remains
- An archaeologist was in attendance during excavation works for footings, ground beams, slabs, service runs, etc.
- A contingency was in place, allowing for appropriate archaeological excavation, recording and reporting, of any significant archaeological remains, notably human remains, which may be disturbed as a result of the works (Fell 2007, section 6.3)

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

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

This section has been compiled with information from readily available sources.

3.2 Little is known of the prehistoric and Roman periods in Steeple Claydon and the village probably originated during the Saxon period.

3.3 The village is mentioned in the Domesday survey (1086), where it is referred to as *Claindone*. Little detail is given of the village, but the land was held by *Alric Cook* and was valued at £16 (Morris 1978).

3.4 Steeple Claydon probably developed during the medieval period and the main part of the village is centred to the west of the site. A building known as *Manor Farm* lies immediately to the northeast of the church (Fig. 2). This occupies the site of the medieval manor of the *Chaloners*, which was demolished during the 18th century (Page 1927, 226).

12.5 The church is dedicated to St Michael (Page 1927, 228; RCHM 1913, 272). The origin of the building is uncertain, but the chancel dates to the 14th century and the south wall of the nave was constructed during the 15th century (Pevsner & Williamson 1994, 643). The church was extensively modified during the 19th century, notably with the addition of the steeple in 1862 (*ibid*).

3.6 The site lies within the burial ground of the church. A number of 19th century headstones are present on the north side of the church, but none are present within the footprint of the proposed building. An archaeological trial trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building in 2002 (Fell and Marshall 2002) and articulated burials were recorded at a depth of c.770-980mm.

3.7 A complex of earthworks are situated to the west of the church adjacent to a house known as *The Camp* (Fig. 2). It is known that Oliver Cromwell slept in *The Camp* on the night of 3 March 1644 and the earthworks may have been a fortification constructed by the parliamentary forces at that time (Page 1927, 226).

4. Results

- 4.1 Work on the new parish rooms officially began on 1st August 2007, and the watching brief commenced on this date. No groundworks were undertaken between this date and July 2008, when five further archaeological monitoring visits were made during the excavation of the raft foundations and a new septic tank and drains.
- 4.2 A thin layer of turf overlay dark blackish brown silty clay topsoil between 100mm and 300mm thick. This covered a loose and friable mid brown silt graveyard soil. The natural strata was reached at a depth of 1.60m below existing ground level and comprised a firm yellowish orange sandy clay with small limestone inclusions.
- 4.3 Disarticulated human bone fragments were concentrated in areas of ground disturbance as would be expected. These areas included an archaeological evaluation trench excavated by ASC in 2002, a modern drain and the foundations of a small outbuilding. The north side of the site had suffered a great deal of root disturbance caused by the mature trees that form the northern boundary of the site.
- 4.4 *Hand-Excavated Foundation Trench*
An archaeological monitoring visit was made on 1st August 2007 as part of the official start of the development. A trench 2m long and 0.70m wide was excavated by hand to a depth of 0.75m (Figure 4). No archaeological features were observed. A small amount of disarticulated human bone fragments was recovered from the obviously disturbed mid brown silty soil and retained for reburial. Occasional fragments of stone building rubble were also observed in this trench.
- 4.5 *Raft Foundations*
Ground reduction within the footprint of the new building was carried out using a mini-digger with a toothless bucket. The formation level for the new building was 525mm below the interior floor level of the church. Trenches for the beams supporting the raft foundation were excavated using a 600mm wide toothed bucket to a depth of 650mm below the interior floor level of the church.

Frequent inclusions of disarticulated human bone fragments and occasional fragments of 20th century pottery and glass vessels were observed within the graveyard soil. Also found were two stoneware objects with glazed upper surfaces and unglazed bodies (Plates 5 and 6). These were numbered 4 and 14 and would have marked the location of grave plots prior to the erection of a headstone.

Brick foundations for a former outbuilding were observed in the northwest of the development area (Figure 4). These foundations were 7 courses of bricks deep and were 0.30m wide, except in the southern corner where the footings were 0.30m thick concrete. This suggests two phases of building.

Manhole covers for a septic tank and associated drains were observed within the footprint for the new building (Figure 4). The manholes were 0.50m in diameter and lined in plastic, and the cut for the drain or soakaway, leading away from the septic tank to the northeast, was 0.60m wide. The septic tank was drained and then filled with concrete but not removed.

4.6 *Septic Tank and Drain*

Two partial articulated burials were observed during the excavation of the new septic tank.

These burials were at a depth of 1.50m below existing ground level and were located within separate, intercutting, graves with dark brown clayey-silt fills. They both cut the natural strata, mid orange clay with rare inclusions of limestone flecks.

Two iron coffin handles were observed within the fill of Grave 1 as well as several iron coffin nails. Three small copper rings were also observed (Plate 10), these were found close to the coffin handles and may relate to the handles' attachment to the coffin.

Both skeletons were adults, as the long bones present had fully fused. Skeleton 1 is tentatively suggested as female on the basis of the size of the long bones. Only the upper part of Skeleton 2 (the skull, neck vertebrae and scapulae and collar bones) was within the trench, and the machine bucket had removed part of the skull, making sex identification difficult. Skeleton 2 displayed signs of decay (cavities) to the teeth of the lower jaw (Plate 9), but no other obvious signs of pathology were observed.

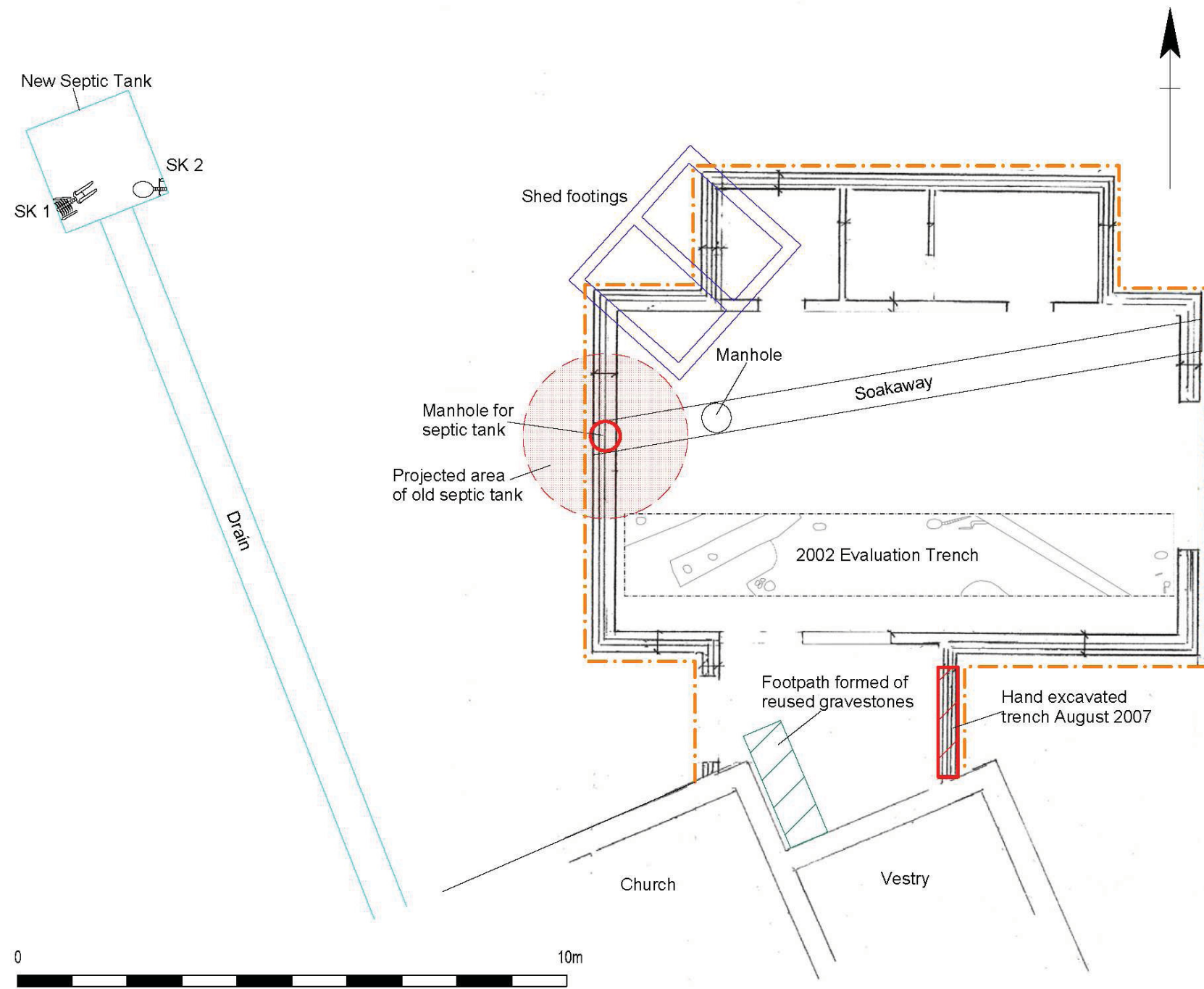


Figure 4: Site plan (Scale 1:100)



Plate 1: Overview of site during ground reduction



Plate 2: Overview of site after digging foundations



Plate 3: Section showing cut for service trench from disused septic tank (Scale 1m)



Plate 4: Example of gravestone which had been reused as a footpath outside the vestry



Plate 5: Stoneware "plot marker"



Plate 6: View of "plot marker" from side



Plate 7: Skeleton 1 from west (Scale 1m)



Plate 8: Skeleton 2 from north (Scale 1m)



Plate 9: Lower jaw of Skeleton 2, showing tooth decay



Plate 10: Coffin handle, button and copper rings (Scale 20cm)



Plate 11: Section of septic tank pit



Plate 12: Excavating drain to new septic tank

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The raft foundations were designed to minimize the impact of the development on archaeological remains following the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by ASC in 2002. This evaluation had identified articulated burials at a depth of between 770mm and 940mm below ground level. The location of the new septic tank was chosen to avoid disturbance to areas of known graves.
- 5.2 A large quantity of disarticulated bone fragments was recovered during the groundworks for the raft foundation. These were retained in the vestry for reburial, as required by the faculty. A small assemblage of late 19th to 20th century artefacts (fragments of glazed china vessels, glass bottles and vases) was also recovered and retained for reburial.
- 5.3 Two partial skeletons were uncovered during the excavation for a new septic tank. These were oriented roughly east-west within separate, but intercutting, grave cuts at a depth of 1.50m below existing ground level. The only obvious sign of pathology was some tooth decay apparent to the second skeleton.
- 5.4 No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief and the impact of the development is therefore negligible.
- 5.5 *Confidence Rating*
A high confidence rating is attached to this watching brief as site conditions were good, and full co-operation was received from the clients and other contractors. However, the possibility that some small bone fragments or complete small bones (e.g. fingers and toes) were not recovered from the soil as it was removed cannot be ruled out.

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by *Steeple Claydon Parochial Church Council*. The writer is grateful to Warren Fraser and Bruce Clarke of *Elmtree Construction* for their assistance. The project was monitored by David Radford of the *Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service* on behalf of the local planning authority, and by Julian Munby, Diocesan Archaeological Advisor to the *Diocese of Oxford*.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Jenny Richards BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Jenny Richards and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. Site record drawings
7. Skeleton recording sheets
8. List of photographs
9. B/W prints & negatives
10. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with *Buckinghamshire Museum*.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd 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)*.
- Munby, J. 2007 *St Michael's Church, Steeple Claydon: Advice Letter*. Diocese of Oxford
- Radford D, 2007 *St Michael's Church, Steeple Claydon. Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Fell D & Marshall G, 2002 '*St Michael's Church, Steeple Claydon. An Archaeological Evaluation on behalf of Steeple Claydon Parochial Church Council*'. ASC.
- Morris, J. 1978. *Domesday Book. Buckinghamshire*. History from the Sources. Phillimore.
- Page, W. (ed). 1927. *The Victoria History of the County of Buckinghamshire*. 4.
- Pevsner, N. & Williamson, E. 1994. *The Buildings of England. Buckinghamshire*. Penguin.
- RCHM. 1913. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Buckinghamshire*. HMSO.
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: STEEPLE CLAYDON ST. MICHAELS CHURCH		Project No/Code: 975 / SMC		Sheet: 1 of		
Client/Developer: STEEPLE CLAYDON PCC		Date of visit: 15 th AUGUST 2007.				
Contact: PAUL FIRTH		Phone:				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 15:45		Finish: 17:40		
Completed by: DFEU						
Development Type:						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Footings	<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> Levelling	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarrying	<input type="checkbox"/> Pipelines	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: WARM AND SUNNY.						
Observations: MONITORING OF FOOTINGS FOR NEW PARISH ROOM. TRENCH BEING HAND EXCAVATED ADJACENT TO CHURCH DOOR. OBVIOUSLY DISTURBED MID BROWN SILTY SOIL. FAIRLY LOOSE. OCCASIONAL FRAGMENTS OF STONE - PROBABLY FORMER BUILDING MATERIAL. SMALL FRAGMENTS OF DISARTICULATED HUMAN BONE - EARLY DECAYED AND FRAGMENTARY. TRENCH IS 750MM DEEP AND 700MM WIDE.						
Comments: FURTHER VISITS REQUIRED AS F TO MONITOR REMAINING FOUNDATION TRENCHES						



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH		Project No/Code: 975 / SMC.		Sheet: 1 of	
STEEPLE CLAYDON.		Date of visit: 15/07/08.			
Client/Developer STEEPLE CLAYDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.					
Contact: BRUCE CLARKE (ELMTREE CONSTRUCTION)				Phone: 07808 311614.	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 9:25		Finish: 16:25	
Completed by: JR					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling ✓	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: DRY, SUNNY. GRAVEYARD.					
Observations: GROUND REDUCTION OF FOOTPRINT USING MINIDIGGER WITH TOOTHLESS BUCKET. TO 500mm ^{525mm} BELOW FLOOR LEVEL OF CHURCH. WILL BE USING RAFT FOUNDATION 650mm DEEP MINIMUM . SEE SKETCH SHEET FOR DETAILS. 100mm TURF OVER MID BROWN SILT (GRAVEYARD DEPOSIT) WITH INCLUSIONS OF LIMESTONE RUBBLE AND TILE/BRICK FRAGS (BUILDING RUBBLE). LAND DRAIN (PLASTIC) IN CORNER 50mm DOWN, COVERED BY GRAVEL. SANDSTONE FLAGS FOOTPATH LEADING TO DOORWAY. AND THE DRAIN AGAINST CHURCH WILL USED FORMER GRAVESTONES REMOVED - RETAINED BESIDE TRENCH DATES 1830s - 1901 FRAGS OF DISARTICULATED BONE WITHIN GRAVEYARD SOIL DEPOSIT. ALSO FRAGS OF CEMENT MORTAR(?) + MOD POT (WHITE GLAZED CHINA). "MANHOLE" COVERS FOR SEPTIC TANK - TO BE FILLED IN TOMORROW (PUMPED OUT TODAY)					
Comments: INFORM CHURCH ABOUT GRAVESTONES. + BONES. EMAIL DAVID RADDER RE: PROGRESS					



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH		Project No/Code: 975 1SMC.		Sheet: 2. of	
STEEPLE CLAYDON.		Date of visit: 16/07/08.			
Client/Developer STEEPLE CLAYDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL					
Contact: BRUCE CLARKE (ELMTREE CONSTRUCTION)				Phone: 07808311614.	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 8:30.		Finish: 16:30	
Completed by: JR					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: DRY, CLOUDY. GETTING MORE OVERCAST AS DAY PROGRESSED					
Observations: SEPTIC TANK WAS FILLED WITH CONCRETE FIRST THING THIS MORNING, BEFORE ARCHAEOLOGIST ON SITE :- NO ARCH. IMPLICATIONS. GROUND REDUCTION CONTAINING DEPOSITS AS YESTERDAY. FURTHER DISARTICULATED REMAINS AND SHERDS OF MODERN POT AND BOTTLE GLASS, INCLUDING A "BOOTS THE CHEMIST" BOTTLE AREA OF BRICK PAVING (SEE SKETCH SHEET) ^{AND BRICK} FOOTINGS FOR SHED (?) / OUTBUILDING (?) ADJACENT TO HEAP HEAP OF BRICK RUBBLE. PLOT MARKERS (?) "4" + "14" FOUND AND RETAINED WITH OTHER FINDS. LINE OF SOMERWAY FROM SEPTIC TANK OBSERVED ON NE-SW 0.5M WIDE, PHOTOGRAPHED. MACHINING HALTED AT 15:00 (FOR NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL REASONS) ALLOWING RECORDING OF OBSERVATIONS SO FAR.					
Comments: * WORK WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW.					



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH		Project No/Code: 975 / SMC.	Sheet: 3. of
STEEPLE CLAYDON		Date of visit: 17/08/08.	
Client/Developer STEEPLE CLAYDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.			
Contact: BRUCE CLARKE (BLUNTREE CONSTRUCT.)		Phone: 07808 311614	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 8:20.	Finish: 16:20.	
Completed by: JL			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY, OVERCAST.			
Observations: EXCAVATION OF RING BEAM MONITORED TODAY, AS WELL AS REMAINDER OF LEVELLING TO BASE OF FLOOR SLAB, FURTHER TRACES OF DISARTICULATED BONE. NO DIGGING FROM 9:45-11:45 (SETTING OUT) ALLOWED FOR SOME ANALYSIS OF FINDS + OVERVIEW PHOTOS ETC (30 MIN TEA BREAK ALSO) TRENCH FOR BEAMS EXCAVATED WITH 600MM TOOTHED BUCKET, TO DEPTH OF 650 MM BELOW FLOOR LEVEL INSIDE CHURCH (125MM BELOW FORMATION LEVEL). STILL WITHIN THE MD BROWN SILTY GRAVEYARD DEPOSIT, NO DEANRES OBSERVED. LOTS OF ROOT DISTURBANCE TO NORTH SIDE. SHED FOOTINGS 30CM WIDE AND 7 COURSES DOWN FROM ORIGINAL GROUND LEVEL. EXCEPT CORNER WHICH WAS 20CM DEEP CONCRETE.			
Comments: PHONE JULIAN MURBY (DIOCESAN ARCHAEOLOGIST) RE: IS ANY FURTHER ANALYSIS OF BONES + FINDS. NEEDED. ALL FOOTINGS NOW MONITORED, NEW SEPTIC TANK, SOAKAWAY + DRAINAGE WILL BE DUG LATER. WAREND WILL CONTACT US.			



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH.		Project No/Code: 975 / SMC	Sheet: 4 of
STEEPLE CLAYDON.		Date of visit: 24/7/08.	
Client/Developer STEEPLE CLAYDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.			
Contact: BRUCE CLARKE (ELMTREE CONSTRUCTION)		Phone: 0708311614	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 7:45	Finish: 15:45.	
Completed by: SR			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DM, SUNNY.			
Observations: MONITORED EXCAVATION OF NEW SERVICE TRENCH AND SEPTIC TANK (JETTING OUT B-9). SOME DISARTICULATED BONE FRAGMENTS RECOVERED FROM SPOIL HEAP (8). SEPTIC TANK PIT EXCAVATED USING 1.60m WIDE TOOTHLESS BUCKET. - MID GREY BROWN FINE SILT 300mm THICK OVER LIGHT ORANGE BROWN SANDY SILT WITH RARE INCLUSIONS OF LIMESTONE ROOTS OF YEW TREE RUNNING THROUGH BOTH DEPOSITS. AS ARE OCC BRICK/TILE FRAGS AND CHARCOAL. TWO GRAVE CUTS CONTAINING ARTICULATED REMAINS OBSERVED AT 1m BELOW GROUND LEVEL. FACULTY FOR REMOVAL OBTAINED, SKELETONS CLEANED, PHOTOGRAPHED, DRAWN AND LIFTED. THREE FRAGS OF ANIMAL BONE ALSO OBSERVED WITHIN CUTS.			
Comments: SERVICE TRENCH TO SEPTIC TANK WILL BE EXCAVATED TOMORROW			



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: ST MICHAELS CHURCH STEEPLE CLAYDON.		Project No/Code: 9751	Sheet: 5 of
Client/Developer STEEPLE CLAYDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL		Date of visit: 25/7/08	
Contact: BRUCE CLARKE (EUMTREE CONSTRUCTION)		Phone: 0708311614	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 10:00	Finish: 14:00.	
Completed by: SR			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY + SUNNY			
Observations: DRAIN FROM CHURCH TOILETS TO SEPTIC TANK EXCAVATED. NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED. NO HUMAN REMAINS OBSERVED			
Comments: NO FURTHER VISITS			

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: St Michael's Church, Steeple Claydon			SITE NO/CODE: 975/SMC
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		✓	Working shot of hand excavated foundation trench
2		✓	Working shot of hand excavated foundation trench
3		✓	Working shot of hand excavated foundation trench
4		✓	Working shot of hand excavated foundation trench
5		✓	Working shot of hand excavated foundation trench
6	✓	✓	Hand excavated foundation trench from north east
7	✓	✓	Hand excavated foundation trench from north
8	✓	✓	Site from north east
9	✓	✓	Working shot of ground reduction
10	✓	✓	Stripped area from east
11	✓	✓	Stripped area from south
12	✓	✓	Stripped area from south west
13	✓	✓	Example of tombstone that had been reused as footpath
14	✓	✓	Manholes for septic tank and drain
15	✓	✓	Glass bottle and fragments of ceramic vessels
16	✓	✓	Working shot showing foundations of outbuilding
17	✓	✓	Grave markers and other ceramic fragments
18	✓	✓	Section showing cut for modern drain
19	✓	✓	Modern drain from west
20	✓	✓	View of church entrance
21	✓	✓	Footings of outbuilding from east
22	✓	✓	Working shot of stripped area
23		✓	Working shot of stripped area
24		✓	Working shot of stripped area
25		✓	Working shot of stripped area
26	✓	✓	Close up of grave marker
27	✓	✓	Close up of grave marker
28	✓	✓	Close up of grave marker
29	✓	✓	Working shot
30	✓	✓	Footing trenches from west
31	✓	✓	Skeleton 1 from east
32	✓	✓	Skeleton 2 from north
33	✓	✓	Pit for septic tank from north showing location of skeletons
34	✓	✓	Pit for septic tank from west showing location of skeletons
35	✓	✓	Lower jaw of Skeleton 2
36	✓	✓	Coffin handle and associated objects
37	✓	✓	West facing grave section
38	✓	✓	East facing grave section
39	✓	✓	Excavating drain to septic tank
40	✓	✓	Excavating drain to septic tank

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	St Michael's Church, Steeple Claydon		
Short Description:	Between April 2007 and July 2008 ASC Ltd carried out a watching brief at St Michael's Church, Steeple Claydon, Buckinghamshire during groundworks for the construction of the new parish room. A large quantity of disarticulated human bone fragments was recovered during ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches. Two partial skeletons were uncovered during excavation of a new septic tank. These were of probable 18 th or 19 th century date, and the only obvious sign of pathology was some tooth decay to the second of these skeletons. These were removed under faculty and retained at the church for reburial. No archaeologically significant finds were observed during this watching brief, but five 19 th century tombstones that had been reused as a footpath outside the vestry were noted, and fragments of 19 th and 20 th century pottery, glass and ceramic grave markers were also observed.		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None
Current land use:	Graveyard	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Disarticulated human remains, articulated human remains, 19 th and 20 th century glass and pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	
District:	Aylesbury Vale	Parish:	Steeple Claydon
Site address: (with postcode if known)	St Michael's Church, Steeple Claydon, Buckinghamshire		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)		Height OD: (metres)	109
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	D. Radford	Project design originator:	D. Fell
Project Manager:	K. Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	J. Richards
Sponsor / funding body:	Steeple Claydon Parochial Church Council		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	1 st August 2007	End date:	25 th July 2008
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	N/a	N/a	
Paper:	Buckingham Museum	Site records, report, project design, B&W photos and negatives	
Digital:	Buckingham Museum	CD Rom with copies of all digital files including photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: St Michael's Church, Steeple Claydon, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 975/SMC/2		
Author(s):	J Richards BA PIFA		
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