

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
BRINKWORTH
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

ANDREW TOWNSEND ARCHITECTS

on behalf of

BRINKWORTH PCC

CA PROJECT: 2146
CA REPORT: 08020

MARCH 2008


COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY



ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
BRINKWORTH
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2146
CA REPORT: 08020

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date	6 March 2008
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date	19 March 2008
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Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:500)

SUMMARY

Project Name: St Michael and All Angels Church
Location: Brinkworth, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 0128 8441
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 14 January 2008
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Site Code: MCB 06

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2008 during groundworks associated with the installation of new drains in the churchyard at St Michael and All Angels Church, Brinkworth, Wiltshire.

Probable *in situ* graveyard soils were identified in both of the excavated drainage trenches, but no intact burials were encountered within these deposits. Where small quantities of disarticulated human bones were disturbed, they were retained at the church for safe keeping and subsequent re-burial by Brinkworth Parochial Church Council.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Andrew Townsend Architects (ATA) on behalf of the Brinkworth Parochial Church Council (PCC) at St Michael and All Angels Church, Brinkworth, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 0128 8441; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the installation of new drains in the churchyard at St Michael and All Angels Church, Brinkworth, Wiltshire. The objective of the archaeological watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Brief for Archaeological Consultant (ATA 2006), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2006). The fieldwork also followed the *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 1999), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (English Heritage 2005).

The site

- 1.4 The site comprised the churchyard of the medieval parish church of St Michael and All Angels, which is situated near the centre of Brinkworth village. The site is bounded to the north, south and east by residential properties and to the west by fallow agricultural land (Fig. 2).
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay of the Middle Jurassic era (BGS 1974). The natural substrate was not reached during the course of the observed groundworks.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The church mainly dates from the 14th century, although the chancel was substantially rebuilt in 1889 (Cherry and Pevsner 1975, 142). The building is primarily constructed of limestone ashlar and coursed rubblework with stone slate and lead sheet roof coverings (English Heritage 2007).

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2006). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of two trenches for the installation of new drains in the churchyard. All groundworks were undertaken by the building contractors using a mechanical excavator (Fig 2).
- 1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 Graveyard soils 103 and 203, comprising mid grey brown sandy clays were identified in both trenches 1 and 2. Both of these deposits contained small quantities of disarticulated human bone. Deposit 103 was overlain by a dump of modern material (102), probably associated with the construction of an existing concrete drainage channel adjacent to trench 1. This was in turn sealed by topsoil 101. Deposit 203 was overlain by subsoil 202 and topsoil 201.
- 2.2 No other features of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The excavation of the drainage trenches revealed probable *in situ* graveyard soils within trenches 1 and 2. No intact burials were encountered in these trenches, probably due to later re-working of the soils. Where small quantities of disarticulated human bone were disturbed, they were retained at the church for safe keeping and subsequent re-burial by Brinkworth PCC.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

ATA (Andrew Townsend Architects) 2006 *St Michael's Church, Brinkworth, Wiltshire: Specification and Schedule of Works (Draft)*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 252 Swindon, 1:63,360*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006 *St Michael and All Angels Church, Brinkworth, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Cherry, B. and Pevsner, N. 1975 (2nd edition) *The Buildings of England: Wiltshire*, Harmondsworth, Penguin Books Ltd

English Heritage 2007 <http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk> (IoE Reference No: 315633) (accessed 6 March 2008)

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 (ground level= 95.55m AOD)

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
101	Layer	Topsoil	0.10m
102	Layer	Mixed rubble deposit.	0.35m
103	Layer	Graveyard soil. Mid grey brown sandy clay.	>0.20m

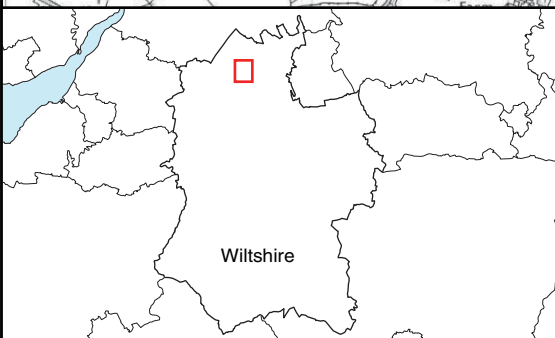
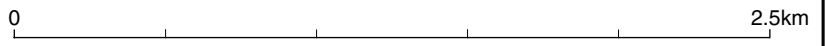
Trench 2 (ground level= 92.25m AOD)

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
201	Layer	Topsoil	0.10m
202	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay.	0.45m
203	Layer	Graveyard soil. Mid grey brown sandy clay.	>0.20m

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	St Michael and All Angels Church, Brinkworth, Wiltshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2008 during groundworks associated with the excavation for and installation of new drains in the churchyard at St Michael and All Angels Church, Brinkworth, Wiltshire. Probable <i>in situ</i> graveyard soils were identified in both of the excavated drainage trenches, but no intact burials were encountered within these deposits. Where small quantities of disarticulated human bones were disturbed, they were retained at the church for safe keeping and subsequent re-burial by Brinkworth Parochial Church Council.	
Project dates	14 January 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Not Known	
Future work	Not Known	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	St Michael and All Angels Church, Brinkworth, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	3500m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 0128 8441	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Andrew Townsend Architects	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Trench recording forms, plans
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>St Michael and All Angels Church, Brinkworth, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 08020		

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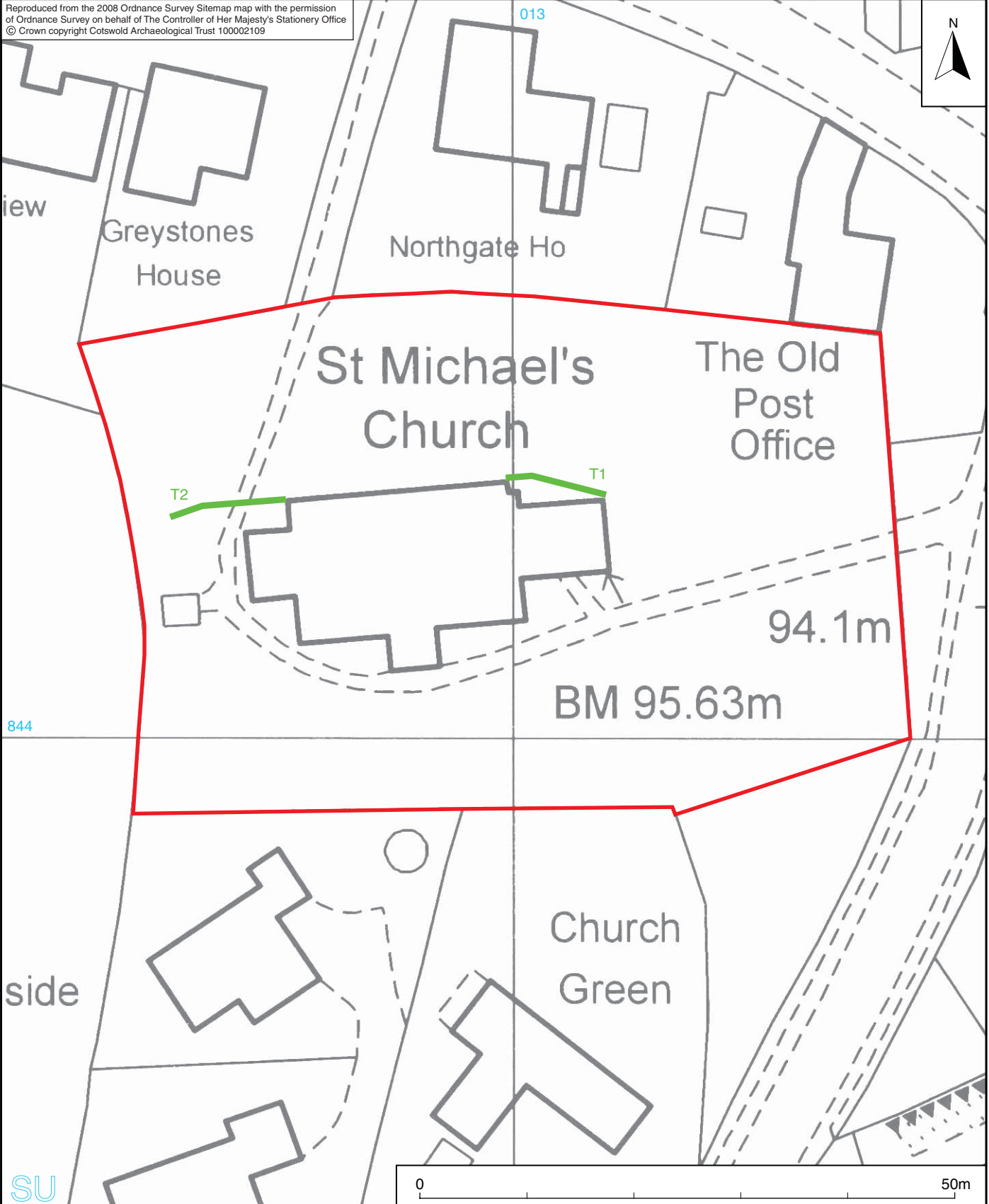


 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
**St Michael and All Angels Church
 Brinkworth, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:25,000@A4	2146	1



- site
- observed groundworks



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
**St Michael and All Angels Church
 Brinkworth, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE
**The site, showing location of
 observed groundworks**

<i>DRAWN BY</i>	<i>SCALE</i>	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
LG	1:500@A4	2146	2