

Holy Trinity Church  
Newton St Loe  
Bath  
BANES

Archaeological Monitoring and  
Recording report

March 2018



context one  
HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY



*Looking after the past, today...*



Holy Trinity Church  
 Newton St Loe  
 Bath  
 BANES

for

**C1 project code: C1/AMR/17/TNB**

**Holy Trinity Church**

**REPORT**

Prepared by Richard McConnell, Director and Clare Randall, Archaeological Officer  
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Approved by Dr Cheryl Green, Post-excavation Manager

Signed

Date 28/03/18

Issue 01

**PROJECT DETAILS**

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 Historic Environment Record ref. N/A  
 Collecting Museum Roman Baths Museum  
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Front cover image: north side of Holy Trinity Church towards vestry, looking SE

## Summary

*Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of a Faculty issued by the Diocese of Bath and Wells for structural repairs to the vestry at Holy Trinity Church, Newton St Loe, Bath. The project was commissioned by Chedburn Dudley Architects on behalf of their client, Holy Trinity Church.*

*The primary reason for the requirement was to ensure that any human remains encountered during underpinning groundworks could be identified and dealt with in an appropriate manner.*

*All the areas observed showed considerable evidence of modern disturbance relating to previous installation of services as well as a prior episode of underpinning works on the vestry. No archaeological features or deposits were observed. There was no evidence of burials and no finds were observed or collected.*

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of a Faculty issued by the Diocese of Bath and Wells on 15 April 2015, for structural repairs to the vestry at Holy Trinity Church, Newton St Loe, Bath, BANES (the 'Site'). The project was commissioned by Chedburn Dudley Architects on behalf of their client, Holy Trinity Church.
- 1.2 The primary reason for the archaeological requirement was to ensure that any human remains encountered during underpinning groundworks could be identified and dealt with in an appropriate manner.
- 1.3 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.

## 2. The Site

- 2.1 The Site (centred on NGR ST 370108 164887) covers c. 10 square metres within the area of the churchyard around the vestry on the north-eastern side of Holy Trinity Church, which is situated on the north-western edge of Newton St Loe (**Figure 1**). Trees and fields are situated to the north and west and dispersed residential buildings to the east. The Site is largely situated on level ground at an average height of c. 60m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The recorded geology for the Site is Blue Lias Formation - Limestone and Mudstone, Interbedded (BGS 2018). The soils are characterised as shallow and lime-rich over chalk or limestone (CSAIS 2018).
- 2.2 The Church of the Holy Trinity is Grade II\* Listed (HE No. 1129501) and still functions as a church and churchyard. There is evidence of a church on the site since the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD, but the current building is 14<sup>th</sup> century, with the addition of a 15<sup>th</sup> century tower. The building was refurbished in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and the north aisle and vestry were added during these works in 1857. Underpinning works were carried out to the vestry in around 2000.

## 3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:
  - identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during groundworks;
  - determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
  - recover environmental information, which may provide further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
  - provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate
- 3.2 The research objectives were to:
  - determine whether there was any evidence of human remains and/or the historic foundation/development of the church

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (December 2014). C1 adhered to the *Code of Conduct* of the CIfA (1985, rev. 2000, 2014), and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA, 2014, rev. 2015) at all times during the course of the investigation.

- 4.2 Prior to the commencement of Site works, the excavation methodology was agreed between those responsible for carrying out the groundworks and C1 to ensure that all parties were aware of the monitoring requirements.
- 4.3 An archaeologist was on Site to monitor all specified groundworks with the aim of identifying and recording any human remains and archaeological features/deposits present. All groundworks were carried out with a Takeuchi TB216 tracked mini-digger fitted with a 0.60m wide toothless grading bucket.
- 4.4 By default, core details of the deposit sequence across the Site was recorded on a C1 *pro-forma* profile form in digital format using an iPad mini tablet. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts.
- 4.5 A photographic record of the monitoring and recording was carried out during groundworks and involved the sole use of digital images. The photographic record also included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.6 A series of 15 pile cores were first drilled in a radial pattern around the western, northern and eastern sides of the vestry designed to support poured concrete ‘beams’ that will extend under the vestry walls at 8 locations. The piling work, due to its nature, did not merit any archaeological monitoring. The piles were largely arranged in pairs to support the beams, with the ground over and between each pair reduced by 0.60m to accept the beams. This effectively involved the excavation of seven separate trenches with a 0.60m wide toothless bucket. On the western side, it was proposed to cross the two radial trenches here with a further trench, centrally placed between the western wall of the vestry and the eastern end of the north aisle wall. Given space constraints, it was ultimately decided to carry out the ground reduction by excavating larger areas that would encompass a number of trenches. This included reducing the entire area between the western vestry wall and the north aisle wall and a similar area on the eastern side. A further excavated area over three trenches along the northern vestry wall completed the ground reduction. The excavation at the western end of the vestry was fully monitored although monitoring of three test pits/trenches on the northern, north-eastern and eastern sides were sufficient to adequately determine the character of the sub-surface deposits.

## 5. Results

- 5.1 The excavation of the cable trench was observed over a distance of c. 25m (**Figure 1**). This only impacted the topsoil (100), which was a very dark brown (10 YR 3/2) friable silty sandy clay with frequent angular limestone fragments (<0.02m). The trench was crossed by other existing services and was much disturbed (**Plate 1**). No archaeological features or deposits were observed.
- 5.2 In the area of ground reduction around the vestry and north aisle wall, all of the groundwork excavation clearly showed that the works area has been significantly disturbed through a combination of the original vestry construction, later services and underpinning work (**Plate 2**). There was little cohesion to the deposit sequence in any of the excavation areas or test pits and it was only possible to confirm that the soils were clayey in nature. The homogeneity of the deposit sequence continued to at least the full depth of ground reduction and comprised fragments of ashlar, concrete blocks, clay water pipes pieces and, on the eastern side, some permeable membrane left from the previous underpinning works.
- 5.2 Excavation against the north aisle wall showed the foundation to be at least 0.55m below the lower course of the wall plinth and was similar for the foundation of the angled buttress on the north-east corner of the vestry (**Plate 3**). Here the foundation stepped out from the wall by approximately 0.28m. No archaeological features or deposits, and no evidence of burials were observed.

## 6. The finds

- 6.1 No finds were encountered during archaeological monitoring.

## 7. Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 All of the areas observed showed considerable evidence of modern disturbance relating to the previous installation of services as well as a prior episode of underpinning works on the vestry. No archaeological features or deposits were observed. There was no evidence of burials seen and no finds were observed or collected.

## 8. Archive

- 8.1 The archive comprises two parts: the digital archive including site records and images; and the physical archive comprising the artefact/ecofact assemblage.

### Digital archive

- 8.2 As no archaeological evidence was encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into this report and as such, the digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.

### Physical archive

- 8.3 There is no artefact/ecofact assemblage in this instance.

### Dissemination: report

- 8.4 Copies of this report will be submitted to the following:
- client and/or agent
  - the HES so that it can be included as part of the county Historic Environment Record (HER)
  - the ADS, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>)

### Dissemination: publication

- 8.5 By default, a short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next county archaeological journal the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*.

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- |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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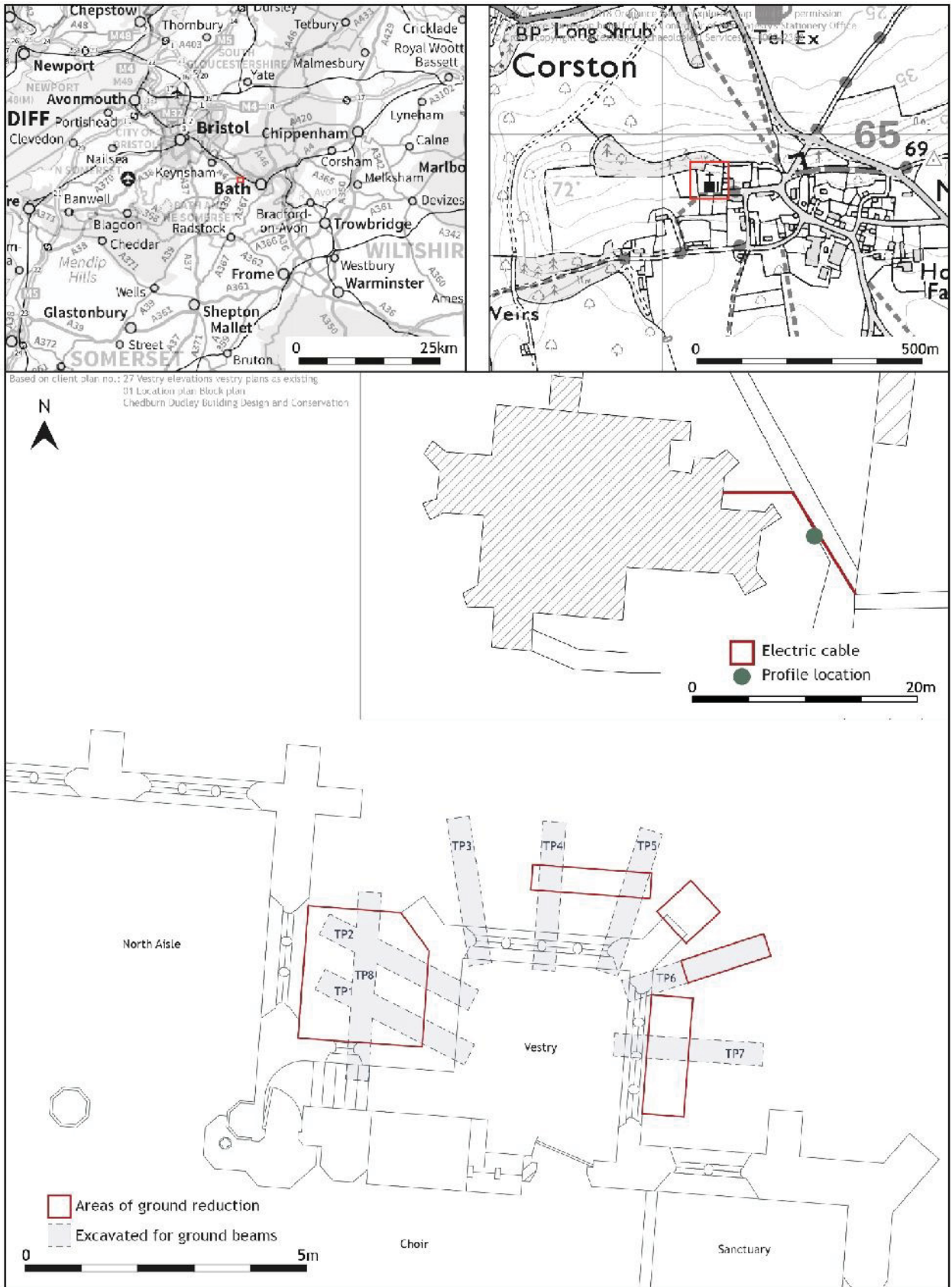


Figure 1. Site setting, areas observed and profile location





Plate 1. Electric cable trench (facing W; 1m scale)



Plate 2. Deposit by the wall (facing S)



Plate 3. North-east corner buttress with projecting foundation (facing SW)

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