

All Saints Church
Weston
Bath
BANES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION

REPORT

July 2019

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**All Saints Church
Weston
Bath
BANES**
for

C1 project code: C1/EVA/19/AWB

All Saints Church

REPORT

Prepared by	Clare Randall, Richard McConnell & Tara Fairclough
Date	09/07/19

Approved by	Richard McConnell
Signed	
Date	24/07/19

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PROJECT DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref.	N/A
Planning Application ref.	N/A
Local Planning Authority	Bath and North East Somerset
Scheduled Monument Consent ref.	N/A
Historic Environment Record ref.	N/A
Collecting Museum	Roman Baths Museum and Pump Rooms
Museum accession code	N/A
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Context One Archaeological Services Ltd

Front cover: Recording of Tr2, view from the north-west

Summary

Context One Heritage & Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation through trial trenching in June 2019 to accompany a planning application for the construction of a new community centre adjoining All Saints Church, Weston, Bath, BANES. The project has been commissioned by Mr Tom Peryer on behalf of All Saints Church.

All Saints Church is Grade II Listed and dated to the 15th century although heavily modified in the 19th century. The churchyard is closed although there are a number of surviving headstones and ledger stones indicating that the graveyard once extended into the proposal area. Three, c. 2m long x 1m wide trenches were excavated between the extant grave markers to ascertain the depth, sequence and character of any burials or human remains that might be present.

The only definitive evidence for burials was in Tr3 where the eastern end of a 17th/18th century stone tomb, and a possible Victorian earth-cut grave was encountered. A stone capping covering a brick-lined void with sloping brick sides in Tr2 suggest two brick vaults constructed side by side, with the capping merely covering the void between the two. The brickwork could be as early as the late 18th century although a Victorian date is perhaps more likely.

There was surprisingly no evidence for intercutting graves or historic episodes of disturbance save for the very few instances of disarticulated bone encountered. This has to be a testament to a tradition of organisation within the churchyard and a less crowded burial space than expected. A clay/mortar layer was observed in all three trenches. This is likely to be related to the construction debris/landscaping resulting from the adjacent late 19th/early 20th century extensions to the church.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out an archaeological evaluation through trial trenching on 3 July 2019. The results of this investigation (this report) will accompany a planning application for the construction of a new community centre at All Saints Church, Weston, Bath, BANES (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project was commissioned by Mr Tom Peryer on behalf of All Saints Church.
- 1.2 The evaluation was requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Bath & North East Somerset (BANES) on the advice of the county Historic Environment Service (HES), South West Heritage Trust (SWHT) via the BANES Conservation and Case Officer, Ms Caroline Waldron. In a reply to an email consultation request (undated) Ms Waldron stated:
- “Given the foundation date for the church, the potential for recovering human remains beyond the visible graves is incredibly high. There remains a potentially major issue with the archaeological implications of excavating human remains from the churchyard. The addendum Archaeology letter contains insufficient information concerning the significance and complexity of the human burials likely to be impacted by the proposals. Prior to submitting the formal application, further assessment, in the form of test pitting/trenching must be carried out.”*
- 1.3 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the trial trenching methodology (McConnell & Fairclough 2019); trial trenching; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.
- 1.4 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 189 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2018).

2. The Site

- 2.1 The Site (centred on NGR ST 73083 66353) covers c. 160 square metres and is located on the north-east corner of All Saints Church in the centre Weston, a suburb of Bath located in the north-west of the city (**Figure 1**). All Saints Church and churchyard is bounded to the north and east by residential development and to the west and south by Church Street and Church Road respectively. Generally, the churchyard slopes down from c. 68m in the north-east to c. 60m in the south-west while the Site is largely situated on level ground at an average height of c. 63m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The recorded geology is Charmouth Mudstone Formation - Mudstone (BGS, 2019). There is no recorded superficial (drift) geology. The soils are characterised as shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone (CSAIS, 2019).
- 2.2 All Saints Church is designated as a Grade II Listed Building. The Historic England List Entry (no. 1394036) describes the church as follows:

“Parish church. C15 tower, church rebuilt 1830-1832, enlarged with the addition of new chancel and transepts 1893, memorial chapel added 1921. Main church by John Pinch the Younger, chancel and transepts by E Harbottle of Exeter, memorial chapel by Mowbray A Green. MATERIALS: Limestone ashlar with slate roof. PLAN: West tower, five-bay nave, north and south aisles and porches, and chancel. STYLE: Perpendicular style. EXTERIOR: Mullioned and transomed windows, three-light to aisles under castellated parapets with moulded coping to tops of embrasures and merlons, crocketed finials to off-set buttresses, moulded plinth, three-light mullioned and transomed windows with cinquefoil heads and panel tracery. East end, choir, chancel and transepts, have panelled off-set angle buttresses up to parapet that has moulded coping, panels of wavy lines with trefoils to each side, and string course below, mask stops to hoodmoulds and five-light east window under shouldered gable. North side has later C19 single storey additions between transept and chancel with similar unpanelled parapet, flat arches and foliate stops to one, two and three-light windows and octagonal stacks to angles of church and choir. Transepts have four-light windows. Tower divided into three stages by moulded string courses, diagonal off-set buttresses, moulded coping to castellated parapet with crocketed finials and octagonal stair turret to south-east corner. Upper stage has hoodmoulds over two-light louvred bell openings, central stage has clock to west face just below string course and trefoil heads to two-light louvred openings below. Tudor-arched door has label mould. No windows to west ends of aisles. Gabled south porch has similar but smaller castellation to aisles with diagonal buttresses and cross to finial. Crocketed ogee architrave has two engaged colonnettes to each side and fleur-de-lys finial to double panelled oak doors. To right of south transept steps up to planked oak door with ornamented strap hinges. INTERIOR: Nave has shallow-pitched panelled oak ceiling with bosses and arch braces with decorative spandrels and

moulded corbels. Aisles, of almost same height, have flat panelled ceilings. Shallow-pointed compound piers with round caps at impost level of engaged colonnettes reach ceilings of aisles. West bay has gallery. FITTINGS and GLASS: All post 1893 except for east window which is c1860. Chancel west and south screens, stalls and stone reredos all 1893. Chancel north and south windows are c1902 of Morris and Co. type. South east chapel has good east window of 1893 and south one of 1898. Transepts have matching large windows, c1898 on south and c1902 on north. Nave has font of 1892 and stone and marble pulpit of 1893. One south window is 1914, one is 1934. The foundation stone of the church was laid 7th August 1830, and it was consecrated 11th June 1832. (Colvin H: A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1660-1840: London: 1978-: 638; Orbach J: Card Index of Bath Architects and Streets: 1978-)."

- 2.3 The proposed community centre will be positioned on the north-east corner of the church and will include the removal of much of the 20th century choir vestry and vicar's vestry. The churchyard is closed although there are a number of surviving headstones and ledger stones indicating that the graveyard once extended into the proposal area.
- 2.4 The Historic Environment Record (HER) identifies a number of heritage assets, dating to various periods, within the environs of the Site. Weston is noted as a settlement with early medieval origins and is within the City of Bath World Heritage Site. The Domesday Settlement of Weston (**HER ref. MBN10141**) records Upper and Lower Weston with two prominent landowners: Bath Abbey and Arnulf of Hesdin. Other heritage assets relating to the medieval period include findspots of pottery and a wall (**HER ref. MBN30214**) to the north and a medieval arrowhead (**HER ref. MBN30213**) noted to the south-east. The HER lists several entries indicating that Weston's medieval landscape sits within an older Roman setting. A Roman Road Bath-Biton (**HER ref. MBN10177**) is located to the south of Site while a Roman building and road (**HER ref. MBN1674**) are noted to the north-west. The Site is included within the Bath Conservation Area.

3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:
- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits encountered;
 - 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:
- identify the presence/absence of human remains
 - determine the level at which articulated burials are encountered and/or natural deposits
 - ascertain the likely sequence of graves to provide broad data on likely grave population in the proposal area
 - identify the presence of structural remains relating to the evolution of the church
- 3.3 The broader research objectives accord with one research aim of the South West Archaeological Research Framework 2008 & 2012 (SWARF):
- Research Aim 60: Use the excavation of medieval burials to study wider population and social issues

4. Methodology

- 4.1 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA), 1994, rev. 2001, 2008, 2014) and in accordance with the *Somerset Archaeological Handbook* (2017). 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. The fieldwork methodology is summarised below.
- 4.2 C1 gave notification of the commencement of the works to the HES, and Mr Steve Membery and Ms Tanya James visited the Site to monitor archaeological fieldwork on 3 July 2019. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the Site archive.
- 4.3 The archaeological evaluation consisted of three trenches, each of which were intended to measure 2m long x 1m wide and laid out to a pre-defined trench plan (**Figure 1**). This would represent 4% of the proposal area. However, all the trenches were extended slightly to help clarify the character of the features/deposits encountered. The excavated trench dimensions were as follows:
- Trench 1 (Tr1): 2.40m x 1.0m
Trench 2 (Tr2): 2.60m x 1.0m
Trench 3 (Tr3): 2.30m x 1.0m
- 4.4 A 1 tonne Doosan DX10z 360-degree tracked machine equipped with a 0.80m wide toothless (grading) bucket was used to remove topsoil/overburden under the constant supervision of C1 archaeological staff. Machine excavation continued in level spits for a depth of c. 1.2m. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts.
- 4.5 Once machine work was completed, the trenches were examined and, where necessary, cleaned using hand tools. Core details of each trench were recorded on C1 *pro-forma* evaluation trench forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. This included logging a representative section of each trench to allow an understanding of the stratigraphy. A digital photograph of each trench in plan and section was taken in .jpg format.
- 4.6 All archaeological features/deposits were recorded using standard C1 *pro-forma* context forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. Stratigraphic relationships were recorded using a “Harris-Winchester matrix” diagram. Soil colours were logged using a Munsell soil colour chart. All archaeological remains were levelled to Ordnance Datum using an Ordnance Survey bench mark. A photographic record of the evaluation was carried out and involved the sole use of digital images. This included photographs illustrating in both detail, and general context, the principal features discovered. The photographic record also included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.7 Disarticulated remains encountered during excavation were temporarily placed to one side as excavation continued and reinterred when the trench excavation was completed. An area around the trenches was cordoned off during the evaluation to prevent public view of any possible graves/human remains.

5. Results

- 5.1 The deposits and features encountered during the evaluation are listed and described in **Appendix 1** and illustrated in **Figure 1**. The deposits and features encountered within the trenches are summarised below. Context numbers for cuts appear in square brackets, e.g. [104]; layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (102). Deposit colours were matched on Site against a Munsell soil colour chart and described below with their Munsell hue and reference, e.g. brownish yellow (10YR 6/8).
- 5.2 The deposit sequence was similar in all three trenches. The topsoil (100), (200) and (300) was a very dark grey, friable silty clay, 0.12-0.15m deep, with occasional angular stone fragments (<0.03m) and a moderate quantity of very small stones. Considerable root disturbance was noted in all areas. In Tr1 and Tr3 this was situated over a greyish brown compacted clay (101) and (301), 0.30m deep, with occasional subangular stones

(<0.06m). The natural deposits in all three trenches (103), (203) and (305) comprised yellowish brown compacted clay with brownish yellow mottles and moderate flecks of manganese.

- 5.3 In Tr 1 (**Plate 1**), a grave soil (102), 0.65m deep, was located beneath the subsoil. This was a yellowish brown mottled compacted clay with moderate amounts of small to very small stones, and mortar flecks. There were also occasional larger mortar lumps (<0.04m) and angular stone, and very occasional charcoal flecking. There was one relatively large fragment of stone measuring >0.55m long, 0.15m wide by 0.38m deep; this was similar to the stones seen in tomb F2 (see below). This deposit was similar to (201) in Tr2, which was situated directly beneath the topsoil (200), and was a greyish brown compacted clay, 0.28m deep, with moderate subangular stones (<0.05m), and occasional large stones (<0.30m) with some mortar flecking. The deposit contained some disarticulated human remains and coffin fittings. A mortar and clay deposit was also encountered in Tr 3, (302), and was 0.75m deep. This contained moderate amounts of small to very small stones; mortar flecks; occasional larger mortar lumps (<0.04m); some angular stone; and very occasional charcoal flecks.
- 5.4 Structures were encountered in Tr2 and Tr3. In Tr2, this comprised a brick-lined void with a stone cap which tapered in plan feature (F1(202)) (**Plates 2 & 3**) that gently tapered from west to east. The stones measured up to 0.80m long and 0.60m wide and were orientated west-north-west and east-south-east. The stones were laid in a line and appeared to cap a brick lined cavity below. On closer inspection, utilising a camera inserted into the space beneath the stones, the cavity appeared to be a narrow space between two brick walls, which appeared to taper towards the east (**Plate 4**). The south wall seemed to lean away to the south and it is possible that it represents the outer wall of a tomb. If this is the case, the north wall may represent another outer wall of a second tomb, and what can be seen beneath the stone slabs is the void between two brick tombs, with possibly one or both of them being arched. F2 (303) (**Plates 5 & 6**) was a stone tomb constructed of Bath stone and orientated roughly east-west. There did not appear to be a construction cut for this feature and it appeared that the tomb was covered over by landscaping layers associated with the late 19th century and early 20th century extensions to the church.
- 5.5 A suspected articulated burial was observed at the base of Tr3 (F3 (304)) (**Plate 5**). This included the exposure of part of a skull and soil stain which probably defined the outline of a coffin. Several nails and a coffin handle in the surrounding soil appeared to support this. The burial extended into the rest of the trench in an easterly direction and was oriented as expected. It was not possible to determine from how high in the sequence the grave was cut, due to the disturbance of the overlying deposits.

6. The finds

- 6.1 Some disarticulated human remains were observed in context 201 in Tr2; these were noted and reinterred where found. Ferrous coffin fittings were seen in deposit (201), but not retained. Further coffin fittings were observed around burial F3 and left *in situ*. Part of a post-medieval/modern glass bottle was seen in section in (301) but not collected.

7. Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The only definitive evidence for burials was in Tr3 where the eastern end of a tomb was encountered at 0.45m below the ground surface; an earth-cut grave was also noted on the bottom of the trench at a depth of 1.20m. There was too little of the tomb exposed to establish the presence of a burial within the stone surround although the presence of a skull and an outline of a former coffin in the lower grave indicated a complete burial. Ironically, the lower grave probably represents a later interment than its stone-lined neighbour, possibly Victorian, although a medieval date should not be ruled out. Despite being buried, the tomb fits the type encountered elsewhere in the churchyard and, as such, perhaps a 17th/18th century date is reasonable.
- 7.2 The stone capping covering a brick-lined void in Tr2 is more problematic. Although the stone capping might indicate the covering to a tomb, the sloping sides to the walls beneath is more likely to suggest two brick vaults constructed side by side, with the capping merely covering the void between the two. The brickwork could be as early as the late 18th century although a Victorian date is perhaps more likely.

- 7.3 There was surprisingly no evidence for intercutting graves or historic episodes of disturbance save for the very few instances of disarticulated bone encountered. This has to be a testament to a tradition of organisation within the churchyard and a less crowded burial space than expected.
- 7.4 A clay/mortar layer was observed in all three trenches. This is likely to be related to the construction debris/landscaping resulting from the adjacent early 20th century extensions to the church. This disturbance is probably the reason the tomb in Tr3 was covered with soil and why an isolated grave kerb stone was encountered in Tr1.
- 7.5 The evaluation has demonstrated that despite the lack of surface grave markers, there are undisturbed burials within the proposal area and those encountered were located between 0.45m and 1.20m below the present ground surface. While the density of burials are less than anticipated, it is not possible to provide a realistic estimate for the grave population across the proposal area from the sample evaluated, and this was never likely. However, the trial trenching does provide some information on the presence of burials without markers and the levels at which the burials might be encountered. Should the proposal go ahead, and the ground is reduced in common with the adjacent vestry then, it is likely that all such burials will be impacted.

8. Other considerations

- 8.1 The NPPF requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 199). The archive comprises two parts: the paper/digital archive including site records and images; and the artefact/ecofact assemblage.

Paper/digital archive

- 8.2 Where archaeological features/deposits are recorded, the archive generated from this usually comprises site records, drawings and photographs either in paper format or born-digital data. Within three months of the conclusion of a project this is normally transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository such as the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as scanned paper records or native born-digital data. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, as set out on their website.
- 8.3 As little archaeological evidence was encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into this report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.

Physical archive

- 8.4 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding human remains and any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). However, in accordance with NPPF (para. 199), there is a presumption that the landowner will transfer ownership of this assemblage to a receiving institution (usually a museum) once it has been fully assessed and/or analysed. Receiving institutions store the assemblage and make it publicly accessible. In the event that the designated museum cannot receive the physical archive, the material will be stored for a time-limited period with C1.
- 8.5 In this case no artefactual or ecofactual material was collected, so there is no physical archive.

Dissemination: report

- 8.6 Copies of the 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

- 8.7 By default, a short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next county archaeological journal or equivalent periodical.

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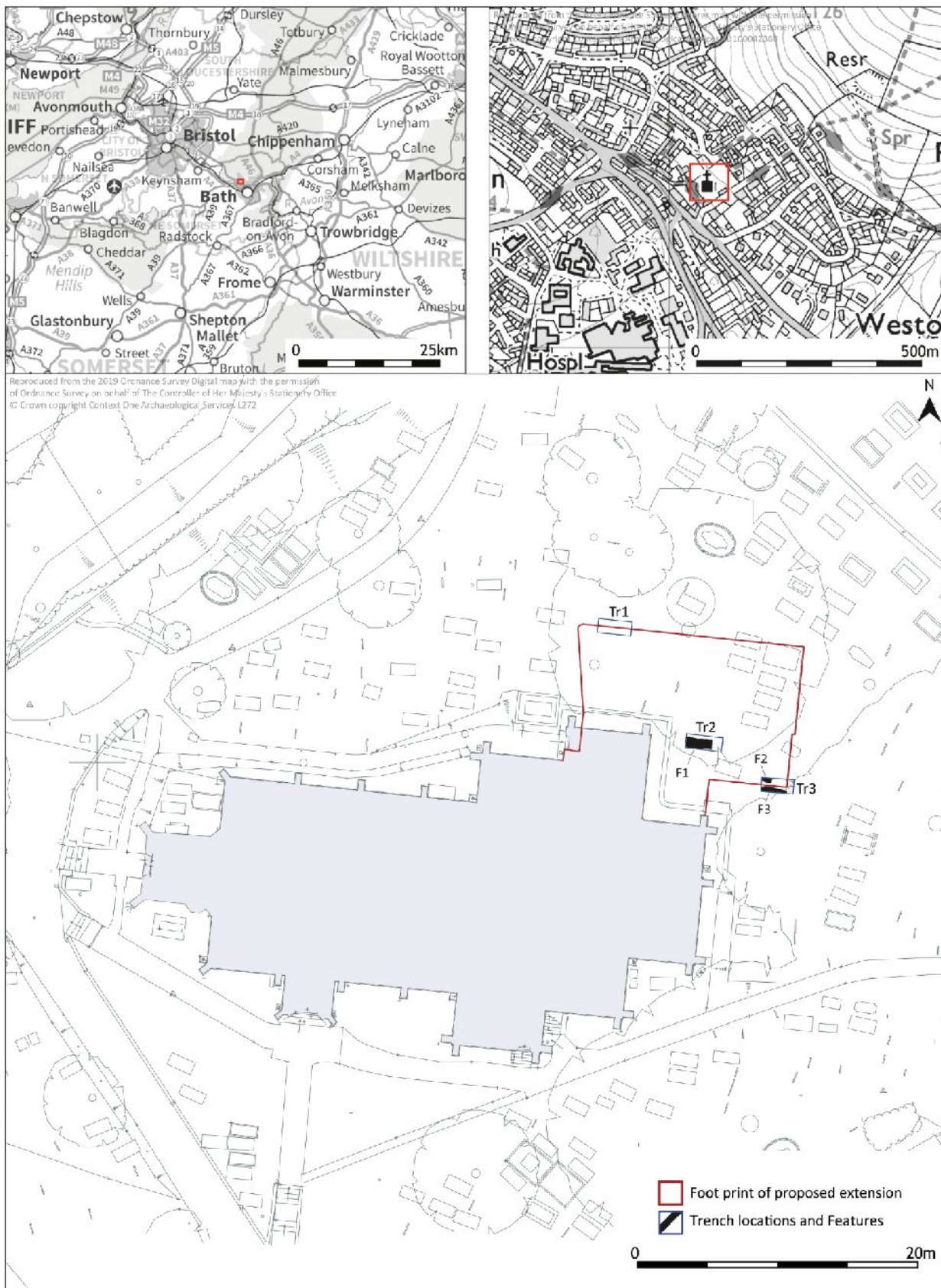


Figure 1. Site setting, trench locations and features



Plate 1. Trench 1 (1m and 0.50m scales; facing E)



Plate 2. Trench 2 (1m and 0.50m scales; facing W)



Plate 3. Trench 2. F1: tapering capstones above brick-lined void (1m scale; facing N)



Plate 4. Trench 2. F1: sloping brick walls of possible vaults (facing E)

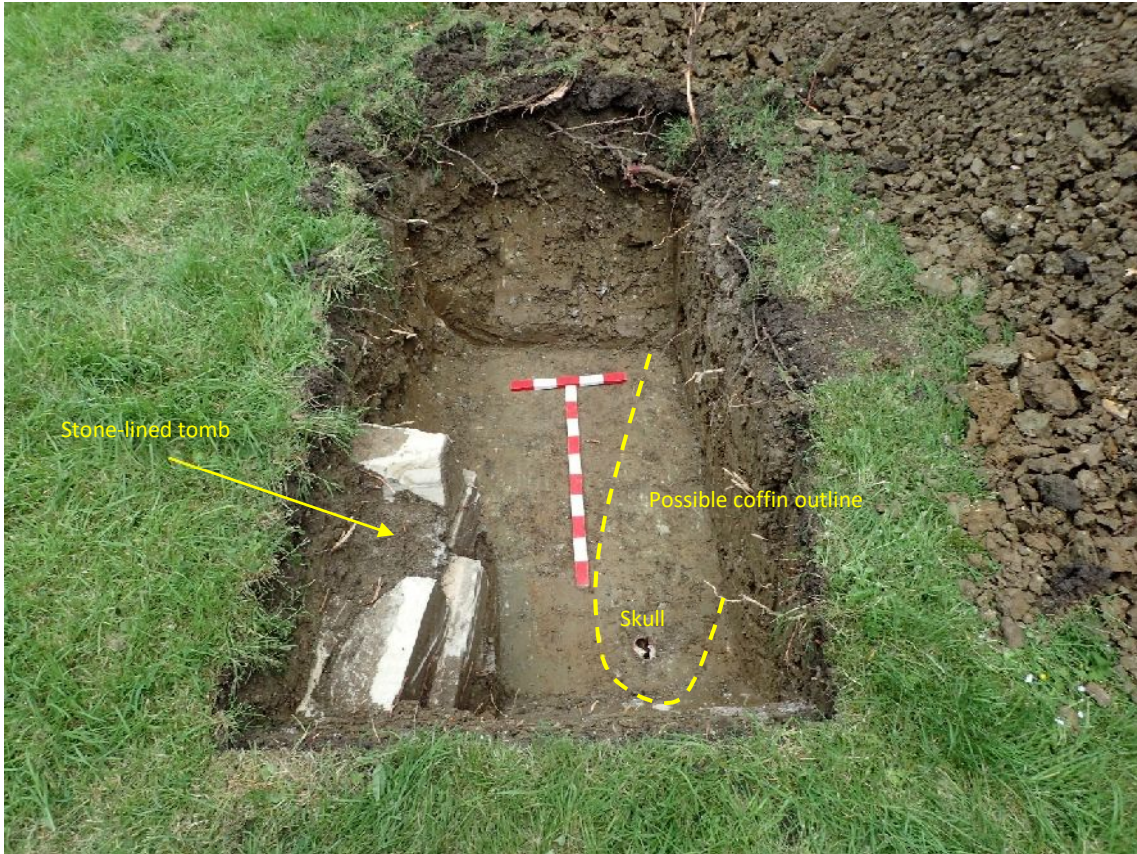


Plate 5. Trench 3. F2: stone-lined tomb and F3 grave (1m and 0.50m scales; facing E)



Plate 6. Trench 3. F2: tomb stone lining (0.50m scale; facing N)

Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	ABOVE	BELOW	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH (m)
100	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) friable silty clay with occasional (15%) angular stone fragments <0.03m and moderate very small stones. Contains lots of root disturbance	101	NA	2.40	1.00	0.12
101	Modern	Layer	Subsoil. Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) compacted clay with occasional (5%) subangular stones <0.06m	102	100	2.40	1.00	0.30
102	Unknown	Layer	Deposit. Yellowish brown small mottles (10YR 5/6 - 5/8) compacted clay with moderate (10%) small to very small stones, as well as mortar flecks. Occasional larger mortar lumps <0.04m and angular stone. Very occasional charcoal flecking. One relatively large fragment of stone >0.55m long, 0.15m wide and 0.38m deep.	103	101	2.40	1.00	0.65
103	Geological	Layer	Natural. Yellowish brown with brownish yellow mottles (10YR 5/8 & 10YR 6/8) compacted clay with moderate flecks of manganese.	NA	102	2.40	1.00	>0.05
200	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) friable silty clay with occasional angular stone fragments <0.03m and moderate (15%) very small stones. Contains lots of root disturbance.	201	NA	2.60	1.00	0.15
201	Modern	Layer	Deposit. Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) compacted clay with moderate (10%) subangular stones <0.05m. Occasional large stones <0.30m and some mortar flecking. Some disarticulated human remains and coffin fittings observed but returned to the trench before backfilling.	202	200	2.60	1.00	0.28
202	Post-med	Structure	Structure F1. Brick lined, stone capped feature. Stones measure up to 0.80m long and 0.60m wide and are orientated WNW-ESE. The stones are laid in a line and appear to cap a brick lined cavity below. On closer inspection the cavity appeared to be a narrow space between two brick walls, which may taper towards the east. The south wall seemed to lean away to the south. The stones capping these brick structures appear to be below (201).	203	201	1.85	1.00	NA
203	Geological	Layer	Natural. Yellowish brown small mottles (10YR 5/6 - 5/8) compacted clay with occasional (5%) small stones <0.02.	NA	202	2.60	1.00	0.05
300	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) friable silty clay with occasional angular stone fragments <0.03 and moderate (15%) very small stones. Contains lots of root disturbance.	301	NA	2.30	1.00	0.15
301	Modern	Layer	Subsoil. Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) compacted clay with occasional (5%) subangular stones <0.05m. Glass bottle seen in section. The handle of a coffin was observed.	303	300	2.30	1.00	0.30
302	Post-med	Layer	Mortar and clay deposit. Moderate (10%) small to very small stones, as well as mortar flecks. Occasional larger mortar lumps <0.04m and angular stone. Very occasional charcoal flecking.	304	303	2.30	1.00	0.75
303	Post-med	Structure	Tomb F2. Stone grave/tomb constructed of Bath stone and orientated roughly E-W. Stones roughly same dimensions and appearance as the stone in Tr1. There doesn't initially appear to be a construction cut for this feature, in fact mortar/clay layer (302) appears to be stuck against it. It may be that this feature was subsumed by landscaping associated with the late C19 and early C20 extensions to the church. There is the suggestion of another cut in the base of the trench that appears to respect this but it is unknown if they are related.	302	301	>0.75	>0.35	0.45
304	Unknown	Burial	Burial F3. F3 was observed at the base of the trench initially as the top of a skull and on closer inspection the outline of a coffin could be seen with associated coffin furniture (nails). The rest of the burial is noted as	305	302	>1.55	>0.50	1.20

			extending into the rest of the trench in a east direction as would be expected. As disturbed mortar/clay layer is above F3, it is not possible to determine where from/how high in the sequence it is cut.					
305	Geological	Layer	Natural. Yellowish brown with brownish yellow mottles (10YR 5/8 & 10YR 6/8) compacted clay with moderate flecks of manganese.	NA	304	2.30	0.35	1.20

Hillside : Hunger Hill : East Stour : Gillingham : Dorset : SP8 5JS

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