

Church of St Mary
the Virgin
New Park Street
Devizes
Wiltshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING &
RECORDING

REPORT

November 2020

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Church of St Mary the Virgin
New Park Street
Devizes
Wiltshire


for

C1 project code: C1/AMR/20/MDW

**St Mary's Future Group - Parochial Church
Council of St John with St Mary, Devizes**

REPORT

Prepared by	Dr Cheryl Green
Date	26/11/20

Approved by	Richard McConnell
Signed	
Date	26/11/20

Issue	01
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PROJECT DETAILS

Interim Faculty petition no.	2019-043039
Planning Application ref.	20/03841/FUL
Local Planning Authority	Wiltshire Council
Scheduled Monument Consent ref.	N/A
Historic Environment Record ref.	N/A
Collecting Museum	Wiltshire Museum, Devizes
Museum accession code	DZSWS:46-2020
OASIS reference	contexto1-407263

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Front cover image: St Mary's church from the south-east (©Context One Heritage & Archaeology)

Summary

Context One Heritage & Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during the excavation of trial holes and boreholes at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, New Park Street, Devizes, Wiltshire. St Mary's is a Grade I Listed building, and the work was carried out under an Interim Faculty issued by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Salisbury (petition no. 2019-043039). The purpose of these initial investigations was to identify the depth and character of the archaeology, to help inform design proposals for the re-ordering of the church interior which will cause minimal disturbance to the ground. Ultimately, the reordering works will form part of more extensive improvements to the church, centred on the construction of a new extension within the graveyard for which planning permission has recently been approved (20/03841/FUL). The boreholes were positioned within the area of the new extension, with the purpose of establishing the depth to which burials extend and therefore what the most appropriate foundation solution might be. The project has been commissioned by St Mary's Future Group, a sub-committee of the Parochial Church Council of St John with St Mary.

St Mary's church dates to the early 12th century but was substantially rebuilt in the later 15th century and subject to extensive 19th century restoration. Although the Norman chancel survives, the western end of the church has been lost amongst the later work, and evidence of the 12th century layout may only be retrievable from archaeological investigations. The graveyard was 'beautified' during the 18th century, in conjunction with several phases of levelling; this may explain why the 15 articulated skeletons excavated during a recent archaeological evaluation by Headland Archaeology Ltd were all dated to the 19th to early 20th centuries. An abundance of disarticulated human bone recovered during the evaluation is testimony to the extensive disturbance of the pre-19th century graveyard, and the presence of 'cemetery soils' which yielded this material.

The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording relates to the hand-excavation of 12 trial holes, mostly within the church but also immediately adjacent to the chancel, and two boreholes within the graveyard. The exterior trial holes suggests that significant archaeological remains are unlikely to survive immediately adjacent to the north side of the church. The boreholes within the graveyard suggest that the area subject to development is unlikely to contain multi-period burials. Nevertheless, if it reflects a similar burial pattern to that identified during the 2012 evaluation there may be c. 300 articulated burials within the new building footprint requiring excavation. Inside the church, while an extensive 1854 restoration appears to have removed any earlier floors or horizons, cut features and structural remains have been identified within a proposed 0.60m impact zone. These mostly relate to burials, which have been exposed throughout much of the church at depths of 0.50m below the floor slab. However, the discovery of a single partially articulated skeleton at a depth of 0.40m suggests that some excavation of human remains may be necessary. Any deeper groundworks within the church will undoubtedly encounter intact burials, as indicated by the presence of a coffin within the deepest trial hole in front of the chancel arch. An intact brick vault within the tower seems to be coterminous with the large ledger stone that covers it. Any ground reduction would necessitate the lowering of the vault walls and inverted excavation of the soil (containing coffin furniture) on the vault roof. Finally, the identification of some possible pre-15th century foundations suggest there may be some potential for identifying evidence for the phasing and historical development of the church fabric.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during the excavation of trial holes and boreholes at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, New Park Street, Devizes, Wiltshire (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). St Mary's is a Grade I Listed building, and the work was conducted under an Interim Faculty issued by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Salisbury (petition no. 2019-043039). The project was commissioned by St Mary's Future Group, a sub-committee of the Parochial Church Council of St John with St Mary.
- 1.2 The investigations took place in advance of a major reordering project comprising 'Demolition of existing vestry, to be replaced with new single storey extension with a new link through doorway. New landscaping to create level access, and internal reorder of existing church'. Listed Building Consent (LBC) is not required for the reordering project as the proposals fall within the provisions of the Ecclesiastical Exemption Order 2010 and internal matters are being dealt with as part of a Faculty application to the Salisbury Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). The proposed new extension is subject to the secular planning process and has recently been approved (Wiltshire Council (WC) ref. 20/03841/FUL), with Condition 8 stating the following:

"Notwithstanding the details submitted as part of the application, no development shall commence on site until a written programme of archaeological investigation, which shall include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, along with details of the relocation of the skeletal remains, has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. The programme of archaeological work shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

REASON: To ensure that buried archaeology is not harmed as a result of the development."

- 1.3 Further information is set-out in a consultation response letter dated 27 May 2020 from Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire County Archaeologist) to Jane Sanger (Planning Officer, WC) which states:

Matters Considered:

The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record informs that the proposals impact a Grade I Listed Building (1251640) , the Church of St Mary with Norman origins but rebuilt in the 15th century. An archaeological evaluation carried out in 2011 in relation to an earlier application (Headland Archaeology, report of 2012) established that there are burials of nineteenth to early twentieth century date within the 'cemetery soil'. It is clear that this revised application has the potential to impact on buried human remains and the applicants will need to commission a new Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how the heritage assets with archaeological interest will be mitigated (National Planning Policy Framework Policy paragraph 199). This should follow Historic England's Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England, 2017. The programme of archaeological investigation can be made a condition of planning permission.

Conditions:

An archaeological condition is required to be attached to any grant of consent for the application, to secure a programme of excavation relating to all groundworks associated with this development. Prior to any work starting, a written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing all on site and off site works will need to be submitted and approved by the local planning authority."

Historic England were also consulted on the proposal. In a letter dated 26 June 2020 from Jacquie Smith (Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas) to Karen Guest (Case Officer, WC) it was stated:

"We strongly support the advice of the Local Authority Archaeological Officer, Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger in prioritising an understanding of the archaeological impacts of the proposed development prior to developing a final design including foundation design. This will contribute to any final proposals being able to demonstrate that impacts on important and sensitive archaeological remains have been minimised as far as possible. This can have the added benefit of assisting in managing the costs associated with archaeological work in the interests of the delivery of the scheme overall."

- 1.4 The purpose of the present programme of investigations is to identify the depth and character of any archaeology; to enable the formulation of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy; and to help inform design proposals so that minimal disturbance is caused to heritage assets.
- 1.5 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy; archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.
- 1.6 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 189 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2019).

2. The Site

2.1 St Mary's Church (centred on NGR SU 00599 61609) is located near the centre of Devizes, within a large plot shared with several other buildings and bounded to the east by Commercial Road, to the north by New Park Road, to the west by New Park Street (A361), with the A361 also forming the south side (**Figure 1**). The church is surrounded by its graveyard, with the main pedestrian access from the corner of New Park Street by the Castle Hotel along the church path to the south door. Alternative access is gained from New Park Street along a church path leading straight to the church tower. The church is largely situated on level ground at an average height of c. 133m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The recorded geology is glauconitic sandstone of the Upper Greensand formation (BGS 2020). There is no recorded superficial (drift) geology. The soils are characterised as slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loam and clay (CSAIS 2020).

2.2 St Mary's Church is designated as a Grade I Listed Building. The Historic England List Entry (no. 1251640) describes the church as follows:

"Of Norman origin but rebuilt in C15 except for chancel, with west tower, aisles and nave. Tall and very fine west tower, diagonal buttresses decorated with buttress shafts and pinnacles in relief. Crowning pinnacles. Octagonal stair turret. Paired 2 light bell stage openings. 4 light Perpendicular west window with transom, niches flanking. Aisle and clerestory 3 light Perpendicular windows. Gargoyles and battlement cresting with pinnacles. Norman chancel with characteristic square stone blocks, flat buttresses and corbel table. East window Victorian but above on gable end of C15 body an original canopied niche with C15 statue of the Virgin. 2 storeyed crenellated south porch, the entrance with reused Norman zig zag bands up the arch. The interior of the chancel has 2 bay rib vaulting, fat roll mouldings, intersecting arches around walls, though only a fragment on the south wall is original. The C15 body of the church has a fine timber roof, low pitch over the nave with tie beams and tracery over. An inscription records the rebuilding of the church by William Smythe who died in 1436. 5 bay arcades with octagonal piers, double hollow chamfered arches. Low panelled chancel arch. Tall arch to tower which has tierceron-star vault, bosses, large circular opening for bell ropes. The tower is a dominating feature of the street scene."

2.3 The historic and archaeological background for the Site has been well addressed within a number of documents pertaining to Devizes and to St Mary's itself, including a detailed historic building assessment (McMurray 2009), and a WSI (Heaton 2011) prepared for the evaluation (Headland Archaeology Ltd 2012). The Site lies within the Devizes Conservation Area and within an Area of Higher Archaeological Potential (COM6) as defined by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in its Extensive Urban Survey; this provides a coherent account of the development of the town following the founding of the motte and bailey castle in c. AD 1080 (WC 2004). The settlement developed within the bailey, and the town's distinctive street layout fossilizes the semi-circular defences, the lines of which have been confirmed by several limited archaeological investigations within the town. Until the 14th century, the areas outside New Park Street are understood to have been a late medieval extra-mural development, which place St Mary's on the eastern edge of the settlement but within the outer ditches of the latest manifestation of the defences (Heaton 2011).

2.4 St Mary's is one of two churches of Norman origin within Devizes; it has been said that St John's served the castle garrison, and that St Mary's was founded to serve the town which developed around the castle. However, on the basis that the garrison had its own chapel, it seems more likely that both churches were constructed between c. 1120 and 1135 by bishop Roger of Salisbury for his new borough, with St John probably built first (Tatton-Brown 2009, 1). Although there has been some localised artefactual evidence for

prehistoric and Romano-British land use and settlement, any potential earlier remains on the Site will have been compromised by c. 700 years of interment within the churchyard, which is understood to have been relatively intensively used (*ibid.*). This seems to have been confirmed by utilities work close to the church building which have not encountered *in situ* remains (*ibid.*). Indeed, the three trial trenches excavated by Headland Archaeology Ltd on the north-west side of the church found a quantity of disarticulated human and animal remains from the disturbance of earlier burials, creating ‘cemetery soils’, and no archaeological deposits (Headland 2012, 2 & 5). However, 15 sets of articulated human remains were excavated during the investigations. These were dated as 19th to early 20th century, with interment in the graveyard believed to have ceased in 1936, although burials during this time are thought to have been sporadic (*ibid.*, 3). Coffins were only sometimes visible as a dark stain, while coffin furniture associated with the burials was typical of the 19th century. This included coffin handles attached to decorated plates (all iron), coffin lid plates (depositum plates) in the form of shields on some individuals (one with an inscription) or an ‘urn and flowers’ design (dated 1830s to 1860s) (*ibid.*, 4). The evaluation estimated that 848 articulated burials might be present within the former proposed development area, that there was a high degree of trauma present in the excavated skeletons, and that skeletal material may be very well preserved (*ibid.*, 5).

- 2.5 In terms of its history, the fabric of St Mary’s is primarily 12th and 15th century but subjected to an over-enthusiastic Victorian ‘restoration’, although research carried out for the historic building assessment revealed evidence for a much more complicated architectural history (McMurray 2009, 40). The vaulted chancel survives from the early 12th century church, however the layout of the western part of the building has been lost owing to 13th, 14th and 15th century alterations (*ibid.*). During the 13th century, work included the addition of the south porch, a possible addition of the north aisle, raising of the chancel roof, and possible additional windows in the chancel (*ibid.*). Both aisles appear to have been rebuilt in the 14th century, although it might be that the south aisle was merely extended westwards by one bay. The 15th century witnessed more profound changes, resulting from wholesale rebuilding of the western part of the church by William Smyth, along with work in the nave and rebuilding of most of the tower (*ibid.*). As such, St Mary’s is predominantly a combination of early 12th and later 15th century work, and must rank as one of the most important medieval Wiltshire churches (Tatton-Brown 2009, 4). In the 17th century the chancel was probably re-roofed and in the 18th century a new gallery added, along with significant work to ‘beautify’ the churchyard in conjunction with several phases of levelling (McMurray 2009, 40); this may explain the absence of burials pre-dating the 19th century noted during the evaluation (see above). The 19th century saw a succession of ‘improvement’s’, most notably the 1854 restoration that included the removal of the box pews and galleries, the installation of a central heating system, and construction of a vestry on the north side of the chancel. Towards the end of the century the tower almost collapsed (*ibid.*, 41).

3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:

- recover and record any disarticulated human remains;
- record any articulated human remains and leave *in-situ*;
- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits;
- determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
- provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate

- 3.2 The research objectives were to:

- determine whether any *in-situ* burials lie undisturbed within the areas subject to investigation;
- determine whether there are any further instances of skeletal trauma, to further expand the data recovered during the evaluation;
- determine whether there is any evidence specifically relating to the evolution 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) and in accordance with the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995). 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 Prior to the commencement of Site works, the excavation methodology was agreed between those responsible for carrying out the trial holes/ boreholes and C1 to ensure that all parties were aware of the monitoring requirements.
- 4.3 Of the twelve trial holes, three were excavated immediately adjacent to the north side of the church, with the nine interior trial holes spread throughout the nave with one in the tower (see **Figure 1**). The two boreholes were positioned in the graveyard, and within the area of the new extension. It was intended that the trial holes would measure 0.40m square, however in the event this proved too small to be workable in reaching the required depth of 0.60m below the floor slab. As such, the trial holes varied between 0.45m x 0.75m and 0.85m x 1.10m. Excavations ceased once natural deposits were reached, in some cases above the 0.60m target depth, or (for TH8 and TH9) archaeological deposits continued well below this depth. It was intended that TH7 be taken down to 1.20m in order to investigate the implications of accommodating a raised stage across the area in front of the chancel arch (at the east end of the nave). In the event natural deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.95m and further excavation was not necessary. TH4, TH5 and TH9 were excavated beneath pew platforms, and floorboards were lifted above TH10 and TH11; due to a deep void beneath the boards, these trial holes had the least ground impact. Flagstones were removed above TH7, TH8 and TH12. TH6 was abandoned as it came down onto a Victorian heating duct that runs from the boiler room beneath the north aisle, continuing southwards along the central aisle.
- 4.4 An archaeologist was on Site to monitor the excavation of all the trial holes and to inspect the columns from the boreholes, with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological human remains/features/deposits present. Provision was made to allow extra time for the appropriate excavation and recording of human remains/features/deposits revealed as a result of the investigations.
- 4.5 By default, core details of the deposit sequence within each trial hole were recorded on C1 *pro-forma* profile forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts and any residual human bone.
- 4.6 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. Trial holes with archaeological features/ deposits were drawn at a scale of 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections. Depths relative to Ordnance Datum were calculated using a cross-section of the church generated from a non-intrusive survey carried out in April 2013 by Demaus Building Diagnostics Ltd. A photographic record of the monitoring and recording was carried out, and involved the sole use of digital images. This included photographs illustrating in both detail, and general context, the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record also included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.7 It was not anticipated that any burials would be contained within the confines of the trial holes (with the possible exception of infants) and that the removal of human remains would be limited to disarticulated bone. In the event, only one partially articulated skeleton was encountered. The recording noted the position of the grave cut, alignment, burial position and stratigraphic relationships. An osteoarchaeologist inspected the remains however as only part of the skeleton was exposed it was not possible to carry out metrical (age, sex and height) and pathological (disease, injury or deprivation) examination.
- 4.8 All remains were treated in accordance with the *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (Historic England 2017).

5. Results

- 5.1 In accordance with standard archaeological practice, each deposit recorded during the investigation was given a unique context number, with cuts shown in square brackets, e.g. [104] and layer/ fill/structure numbers shown in standard brackets, e.g. (102). Deposit colours were matched on Site against a Munsell soil colour chart and described against the relevant hue, e.g. brownish yellow, with the full reference, e.g. (10YR 3/1). The recorded contexts encountered during the investigation are listed and described in **Appendix 1**, with the text below providing an overview of the deposit sequence and by TH type. A summary of each TH is also provided in **Table 1** below, with the depth below ground level (BGL) at which archaeology and/ or natural deposits was encountered. This data is also represented schematically as a series of profiles on **Figure 2**, with maximum depths given in relation to Ordnance Datum.

Exterior trial holes

- 5.2 The three exterior trial holes were positioned along the north side of the nave and chancel, exposing variations in foundations relating to different phases of the church (**Figure 1**). The foundations of the Norman chancel adjacent to the vestry comprise a single course of oolitic limestone ashlar with diagonal tooling marks, below the plinth course and overlying a lower foundation of greensand rubble bonded by greensand (**Figure 3**). Despite having a Victorian construction date, the vestry foundation employs similar sized oolitic ashlar blocks to the chancel, also with diagonal tooling, but with three courses above a lower greensand foundation. At the east end of the north aisle TH2 exposed a 0.50m wide foundation of oolitic limestone rubble set within a soft yellow lime mortar (**Figure 4**). Within TH3 the north-east corner of the nave was observed to sit directly on a foundation comprising two courses of oolitic limestone rubble, over a lipped greensand foundation (**Figure 5**).
- 5.3 In terms of deposits, TH1 encountered a thin band of white cement at the base of the vestry foundation, associated with its construction in the mid-19th century. The construction trench for the vestry cut through the natural greensand and had been backfilled with redeposited greensand. Due to the width of the foundation in TH2, the natural greensand could only be reached in one small area beneath a deep deposit of crushed brick and concrete abutting the limestone foundation. TH3 was entirely dug through an identical layer of crushed brick and concrete, abutting the foundations (**Figure 6**). Neither the edge nor the base of this deposit was reached.

Interior trial holes

- 5.4 The deepest area of investigation was at the eastern end of the nave, in front of the north side of the chancel arch. Beneath the floor slab, TH7 was excavated through a c. 0.40m deep layer of 19th century made ground (702) (703), incorporating a curved brick retaining wall with loose pieces of architectural stone on the north side, and layers of broken brick and cement on the south side (**Figure 7**). This directly overlay a mixed fill (706) yielding abundant disarticulated human bone and coffin nails, but also modern white china and 19th century brick. This deposit filled at least four intercutting graves ([707] [708] [709] [710]), cutting the natural greensand and with the bases of the graves at depths of between 0.80m and 0.95m BGL (**Figure 7**). This would suggest that the emptying of these graves was contemporary with the deposition of the made ground above. Within the south section, cement layer (703) was overlain by a deep soil deposit (701), which directly underlay the adjacent ledger stone. This section also contained the decayed wooden outline of a coffin and grave (704) within a grave cut [705] (**Figure 8**). Although the upper part of the coffin had been truncated by the 19th century work, this suggests that intact burials survive south of the TH. The graves may not relate to the ledger stones as they have all been re-laid, but it is still interesting to note the inscriptions on each ledger (the numbers refer to an existing plan showing the locations of all memorials within the church, with the accompanying details):

Ledger no. 7 - John Hope (d. 1689) & Eliz Hope (d. 1755, age 68);

Ledger no. 8 - Edward Phillips (clothier, d. 1767 age 31) and Hannah Phillips (his wife, d. 1757 age 35);

Ledger no. 9 - Robert Hulbert (d. 1742 age 43).

- 5.5 TH8 beneath the tower similarly exposed deep disturbance from the insertion of at least one brick-built vault and other walling, to the extent that the investigation did not reach the natural greensand. The vault had

been constructed in two phases with the lower part of the wall (806) built using stretcher bond (**Figures 9, 10 & 11**). The upper part of the wall (805) comprised three courses, the topmost course partly removed when the concrete (800) and compact layer with brick fragments and concrete (801) were deposited against the vault. Nevertheless, the remaining bricks appeared to support the massive ledger stone that covers the vault. The bond could not be ascertained as thick white cement adheres to the exterior surface, but the bricks are slightly thicker than those used for the lower wall (806), suggesting they were added at a later stage perhaps when the occupant was laid to rest. The north-east corner of the vault was found in the south-east corner of the TH. The interior was lime rendered, and is partially filled with loose soil (**Figure 12**). While this might suggest a previous episode of disturbance, the presence of compressed soil adhering to the underside of the vault roof or ledger stone preserves the approximate shape of a coffin lid, and iron coffin furniture (possibly a coffin handle) seem to protrude. The ledger stone (no. 29, measuring 0.91m wide by 1.87m long) records the presence of four individuals, and although badly worn the following inscription has been recorded:

*“Beneath is inter’d / The REVD. MR JOHN NEEDHAM /
Who died 24th of Jany 17-- / Aged 65 / Also /
JAMES FILKES / Son of Abel & Eliz Filkes /
Who dies Sept 20th, 1796 / aged 7 years & 7 months /
Also of / SAMUEL FILKES / who dies the 24th April 1799 /
Aged 71 years / ABEL FILKES Gent 20 Dec, 1815 / aged 65 years”*

Other burials known to have taken place within the tower, and for which ledger stones have been removed, include “Mary Smith d 16 Jan 1721/2; Grace Smith d 17 Aug; James Filks d 23 Nove 1745, Ann Filks d 6 June 1761, Children of the above here interred Elizabeth Filks d 9 Dec 1754, Mary Filks d 12 Aug 1759, John Filks d 17 April 1760, Ann Needham d 26 Aug 1775; Sarah Filkes d Oct 1719, John Filkes d 1 August 1728; Dionisia Cooke d 18 Nov 1733”

Within the opposite north side of the TH were the remains of another brick wall (803) (**Figure 10**); this may represent an additional segment to the vault, although without exposing the full width and extent this cannot be proven. This abutted a greensand wall (810), and the construction cut [804] disturbed the backfill (812) of the construction cut [811] for this wall which strongly suggests it was earlier. Both the vault construction cut [808] and the wall trench [811] cut through a deep layer of redeposited natural (813) mottled with soil with crushed mortar and charcoal flecks, and at 0.85m BGL the natural greensand had not been reached. It is possible that (813) is a more consolidated backfill layer within an earlier vault, contrasting to the very loose and void-ridden backfills (812) and (809) of the construction cuts. Alternatively, deposit (813) may suggest that this area was subject to deep disturbance perhaps associated with the construction of the tower.

- 5.6 Within the south aisle, TH12 encountered two graves [1204] [1206], the latter cutting a possible earlier burial soil (1207), at only 0.50m BGL and directly below deep layers of Victorian concrete and make-up (**Figure 13**). Burial [1206] appeared to contain a partially articulated skeleton, comprising a skull attached to the spine. However, the collar bone and shoulder blade have been disturbed, if indeed they belong to the same burial, and the right side of the skeleton has been cut through by the adjacent grave [1206]. The natural greensand was not encountered within this TH, which was excavated to a depth of 0.60m BGL, suggesting that this area may contain numerous burials.
- 5.7 The remaining five interior trial holes were excavated beneath the voids underlying the pew bases. The voids varied in depth from 0.20m (TH9), 0.28m (TH10), 0.30m (TH4 & TH5) and 0.36m (TH11); given the present floor base is broadly level throughout the church this reveals that the depth of the underlying solid floor varies slightly. Of these, only TH4 (within the north aisle) did not expose any archaeology. This area had been subject to recent disturbance associated with the insertion of shuttered concrete pads to support the pews. A 19th century layer (401) yielded some disarticulated human bone but there was no underlying burial, the natural greensand encountered at a depth of 0.60m BGL (**Figure 14**). Both TH5 (north aisle) and TH9 (nave) exposed a 19th century mortar trample (500) (900) above a make-up layer (501) (901), associated with the construction of the dwarf brick walls that supported the pews. The make-up directly covered the natural greensand at depths of 0.40m and 0.50m BGL respectively, but also sealed two graves [504] and [506] in TH5 (**Figure 15**) and one grave [904] in TH9 (**Figure 16**). All three graves contained residual bone, including an isolated skull pressed within the north-west corner of TH9, suggesting they have been subject to some disturbance.

Subsidence of the very loose grave fill (903) during the investigation suggests the presence of large voids; this was confirmed by John Mann through hand-drilled auguring, and would suggest that partially collapsed coffins occupy this area. The 19th century make-up in TH9 also sealed a greensand foundation (906) within a shallow cut [907]; aligned west to east, this ran beneath the easternmost pier of the south arcade and may relate to a sleeper wall. Within the south aisle, TH10 and TH11 exposed a 19th century layer measuring 0.08m and 0.10m respectively (1000) (1101), and overlying graves [1002] and [1102] (**Figures 17 & 18**). The presence of disarticulated bone suggests that these graves may have been subject to some disturbance. TH11 also contained two greensand stones set within greensand (1104), aligned west to east; on the basis that this shares the same form as the foundations of the exterior walls seen in TH's 1-3 and for the sleeper wall in TH9, this might represent a foundation for a wall which no longer exists.

TH	Dimensions (m)	Max depth (m)	Depth of archaeology BGL (m)	Depth of natural BGL (m)	Comments
1	0.60 x 0.60	0.70	-	0.70	Exterior L-shaped TH between vestry & chancel. Foundations of oolitic limestone ashlar above greensand rubble extended to depth of just under 0.70m
2	0.65 x 0.95	0.75		0.75	Exterior TH at E end of N aisle. Foundation of oolitic limestone rubble 0.50m wide extended to depth of just under 0.75m. Abutted by solid deposit of crushed brick & concrete
3	0.80 x 0.80	0.70	-	-	Exterior TH at NE corner of N aisle. Foundation of oolitic limestone rubble above lower foundation of greensand to depth of 0.65m BGL. Abutted by solid deposit of crushed brick & concrete
4	0.45 x 0.75	0.70	-	0.60	Interior TH beneath N aisle pew. Disturbance from recent activity associated with insertion of shuttered concrete pads to support pews. Constructed upon Victorian layer with disarticulated human bone above natural greensand
5	0.65 x 0.80	0.75	0.50	0.50	Interior TH beneath N aisle pew. Ground surface at 0.47m below floorboards. Layers associated with construction of dwarf walls supporting pews. Overlay edges of two graves cutting natural greensand
6	0.50 x 0.50	-	-	-	Interior TH opposite S door beneath floor slab. Abandoned as broke through roof of heating duct which extends to depth of 2.16m in this location
7	0.85 x 1.10	0.95	0.47	0.48	Interior TH at E end of nave beneath floor slab. Covered c. 0.40m of solid Victorian deposits possibly for pulpit, above backfill of 4 disturbed graves. Outline of one <i>in situ</i> wooden coffin in S section
8	0.75 x 0.90	0.85	0.20m	-	Interior TH within tower beneath floor slab. Covered 0.16m of solid Victorian concrete with broken brick overlying N wall of brick-built vault. Note: inspection of the vault shows some of brick roof still extant directly below ledger stone. Construction cut for vault and for further wall in N side of TH, but cut through very soft redeposited soil & natural greensand not reached
9	0.60 x 1.00	0.70	0.40	0.40	Interior TH beneath nave pew. Ground surface at 0.35m below floorboards. Layers associated with construction of dwarf walls supporting pews. Overlay edge of single grave & edge of greensand sleeper wall probably for arcade

10	0.60 x 1.10	0.62	0.50	0.50	Interior TH beneath S aisle floorboards. Ground surface at 0.40m below floorboards. Layer associated with Victorian activity. Overlay edge of single grave
11	0.60 x 1.20	0.70	0.55	0.55	Interior TH beneath S aisle floorboards. Ground surface at 0.44m below floorboards. Layer associated with Victorian activity. Overlay edge of single grave & edge of greensand foundation
12	0.60 x 1.10	0.60	0.50	-	Interior TH beneath S aisle floor slab. Covered c. 0.45m of Victorian deposits, above backfill of 2 disturbed graves & a possible cemetery soil

Table 1. Summary of TH's with depths of archaeology &/ natural geology

Boreholes

- 5.8 Two boreholes were taken within the graveyard to the north of the vestry by Core Geotechnics (see **Figure 1**). The draft logs reveal that BH1 went through evaluation trench 3 excavated by Headland Archaeology Ltd in 2012, and comprised 0.40m topsoil above trench backfill to 1.80m. This directly covered the natural, recorded as a greenish brown glauconitic clayey silty fine to medium sand. BH2 recorded 0.30m of topsoil, overlying 0.30m of made ground (dark greenish brown very silty fine to medium sand with rare oolitic limestone and flint). This covered a further 0.70m of made ground, comprising loose greenish brown slightly gravelly silty fine to medium sand, which overlay the natural glauconitic sand at a depth of 1.30m BGL. With the exception of a few fragments of human bone from the evaluation trench backfill in BH1, no other human bone was observed.

6. The finds

- 6.1 No finds were collected, although nails and modern china was noted within the 19th century deposits and fills, including the backfill (706) of the intercutting graves in TH7. Disarticulated human remains were collected, photographed, and were mostly reburied within TH7, although the bone recovered from TH's 9-12 were reburied within the holes from which they came. The single partially articulated skeleton in TH12 was not disturbed and was reburied, as the full extent may be exposed during the reordering works and allow a more complete record to be made.

7. Discussion & Conclusions

- 7.1 The three exterior trial holes exposed differing forms of foundation to the church; the chancel, vestry and eastern wall of the north aisle had well-constructed foundations of c. 0.70-0.75m depth, whereas the north aisle foundation consisted of greensand rubble bonded by greensand to a depth of 0.65m. This might explain why in TH3 the foundation was abutted by a deep layer of cement with broken brick, which appears to have been used to reinforce the foundation. This must relate to a newspaper report that 'important work was done in the way of concreting round, but not under the foundations' (Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 24th February 1898). Given that the edge and base of this deposit was not reached within TH3, and that it was also present against the foundations within TH2, it seems likely that a wide trench was excavated around part of the church at least and the cement mixture poured in. As such, it may be the case that no archaeological remains survive adjacent to this side of the church. Similarly, the construction trench for the vestry, built as part of the 1854 restoration, has removed any archaeological deposits immediately north of the chancel.
- 7.2 The boreholes did not confirm the presence of cemetery soils or burials within the footprint of the new extension, although BH1 was situated above the 2012 evaluation trench which did contain eight skeletons and nine further graves at a depth of 0.96m BGL. To the east, BH2 may have fallen between burials, which might suggest that use of the graveyard was not intense, and both boreholes suggest that in this part of the graveyard there are no earlier burials beneath those of the late 19th to early 20th century (i.e. below the raised level of the graveyard).

- 7.3 The eight interior trial holes that were excavated have established that the work carried out during the 1854 restoration project effectively scalped the floor down to the natural greensand. This is not surprising given the scale of the projects undertaken as set-out in the following extract from the 1854 proposals:

“To take down all the present galleries pews and seats and remove the flooring and paving. To clear out the earth within the church for ventilation under floors and for new paving. To form air channels. To alter and repair vaults or other works disturbed with brickwork in cement. To remove and refix such monument or stones as may be necessary. To make good foundations when exposed with brick or stone in cement. To lay new floors of 1 deal on fir joists with oak curb and new paving of Hawkam stone with stone steps...W Carpenter, Architect”
(Wiltshire & Swindon Record Office D1/61/8/15)

As a result of the above work, no pre-Victorian floor horizons or deposits were found to have survived. The dwarf brick walls supporting the pew bases, and through which the underfloor heating pipes run, were constructed directly on a very compact make-up layer with broken brick and cement, and directly overlying the natural greensand. A layer of cement trample derived from construction of the walls extended between the walls.

- 7.4 Despite the absence of earlier floor horizons, all but one of the trial holes beneath the pews revealed that the Victorian horizon directly sealed burials which were cut into the natural greensand. The only trial hole with no archaeology was TH4, at the western end of the north aisle. The upper fills of the graves exposed within the nave, north aisle and south aisle had been disturbed by the Victorian work, however they may be intact at further depth. This appears to be supported by the very soft fills collapsing into voids, probably caused by decaying coffins. Graves were also present beneath the south aisle slab, including a partially articulated skeleton at only 0.50m BGL which had been cut through by an adjacent grave. A series of intercutting graves (at least four) in front of the chancel arch suggests this area attracted a particularly high number of graves. However, the burials within these graves had been removed, and the presence of broken 19th century brick and white china within the single backfill suggests this was done in one episode. This was probably associated with the laying down of a deep rubble base in this location for the installation of the pulpit, which is shown in this position on a late 19th century photograph. The outline of a partially truncated wooden coffin in the south section of TH7 and the discontinuation of the rubble suggests that intact burials are likely to survive throughout the rest of the eastern end of the nave.
- 7.5 Possible evidence specifically relating to the evolution of the church is limited to a short stretch of greensand foundation within TH11, towards the western end of the south aisle. This is disassociated from any upstanding walling, and may possibly relate to an earlier south aisle wall. A similar foundation was also exposed in TH9 however this is aligned with the south aisle piers and probably relates to a sleeper wall. Within the tower, just south of the north wall, a short west to east alignment of greensand stones were exposed near the bottom of TH8. This may provide a tantalizing glimpse of an earlier phase of construction however it had been chopped through by a brick wall along the same orientation suggesting that a Victorian repair to a vault. Such repairs were one of the general objectives set-out within the 1854 Carpenter account (see above) and the brick vault on the south side of the test hole was also subject to such repairs. Having said that, the monumental ledger stone covering this vault is unlikely to have been moved since the last burial in 1815, the soil pressed to the underside seemingly preserving a coffin shape and fragments of coffin furniture. This suggests that the vault contained stacked coffins that have rotted and collapsed into the underlying burials. The test hole itself may have come down within one segment of a vault which might explain the depth of redeposited soil, although alternatively this deposit could have been derived from construction of the tower, or perhaps was even associated with an external cemetery soil predating the 15th century tower.
- 7.6 In conclusion, the exterior trial holes have revealed 19th century reinforcement of the foundations, and in conjunction with the construction of the vestry it seems unlikely that any significant archaeological remains survive immediately adjacent to the north side of the church. The boreholes within the graveyard suggest that the area subject to development is unlikely to contain multi-period burials. Nevertheless, if it reflects a similar burial pattern to that identified during the 2012 evaluation there may be c. 300 articulated burials within the new building footprint, occupying a horizon between 0.95m and 1.30m below the ground surface. Inside the church, while the extensive 1854 restoration appears to have removed any earlier floors or horizons, cut features and structural remains have been identified within the proposed 0.60m impact zone.

These mostly relate to burials, exposed throughout much of the church at depths of 0.50m, however in most cases only the upper part of the grave cuts will be impacted and the fills have been previously disturbed. It is anticipated that most of the associated skeletons will lie deeper within the graves and will not require excavation, although the discovery of a single partially articulated skeleton at a depth of 0.40m may not be the only case of a burial within the impact zone. Crucially, the evidence for intercutting burials and a coffin burial in front of the chancel arch suggests that the proposed deeper groundworks at the east end of the nave will encounter intact burials. Within the tower, the intact brick vault seems to be coterminous with the large 18th century ledger stone that covers it. The ground reduction would necessitate the lowering of the vault walls and inverted excavation of the soil (containing coffin furniture) adhering to the vault roof. Also, given that the vault likely still contains the decayed coffins and remains of the four occupants it would be preferable to re-set the ledger stone in the same location. Finally, the identification of some possible pre-15th century foundations suggest there may be some potential for identifying evidence for the phasing and historical development of the church fabric.

- 7.7 In conjunction with the excavation required for the graveyard, a suitable methodology for the interior works needs to be developed. It is suggested that this should comprise the hand removal of modern deposits under archaeological supervision; hand cleaning, mapping and recording of archaeological features; archaeological excavation of features/ deposits within the impact zone, and any targeted investigation where this is essential for interpreting the remains. It should also be noted that the voids within the graves and vaults will require stabilising to avoid any future subsidence problems.

8. Acknowledgements

- 8.1 Context One would like to thank Tony Scorer (St Mary's Future Group) for providing the author with various documents, particularly on the ledger stones, that have proved invaluable in writing this report. We would also like to thank Clare Younger at Chedburn Codd for her support and Gaiger Construction and Development for their assistance on site.

9. Archive

- 9.1 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

- 9.2 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.

- 9.3 In this instance, all relevant data has been incorporated into the assessment report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.

Physical archive

- 9.4 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). However, it is usual practice for the landowner to 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. Alternatively, the landowner can choose to keep the assemblage but arrangements must be made to ensure its long-term curation and public accessibility in accordance with NPPF.

- 9.5 In this instance, there is no physical archive to deposit.

Dissemination: report

- 9.6 Copies of the report will be submitted to the following:
- client and Salisbury DAC
 - 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/>)

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Figure 1. Site setting with trial hole and borehole locations

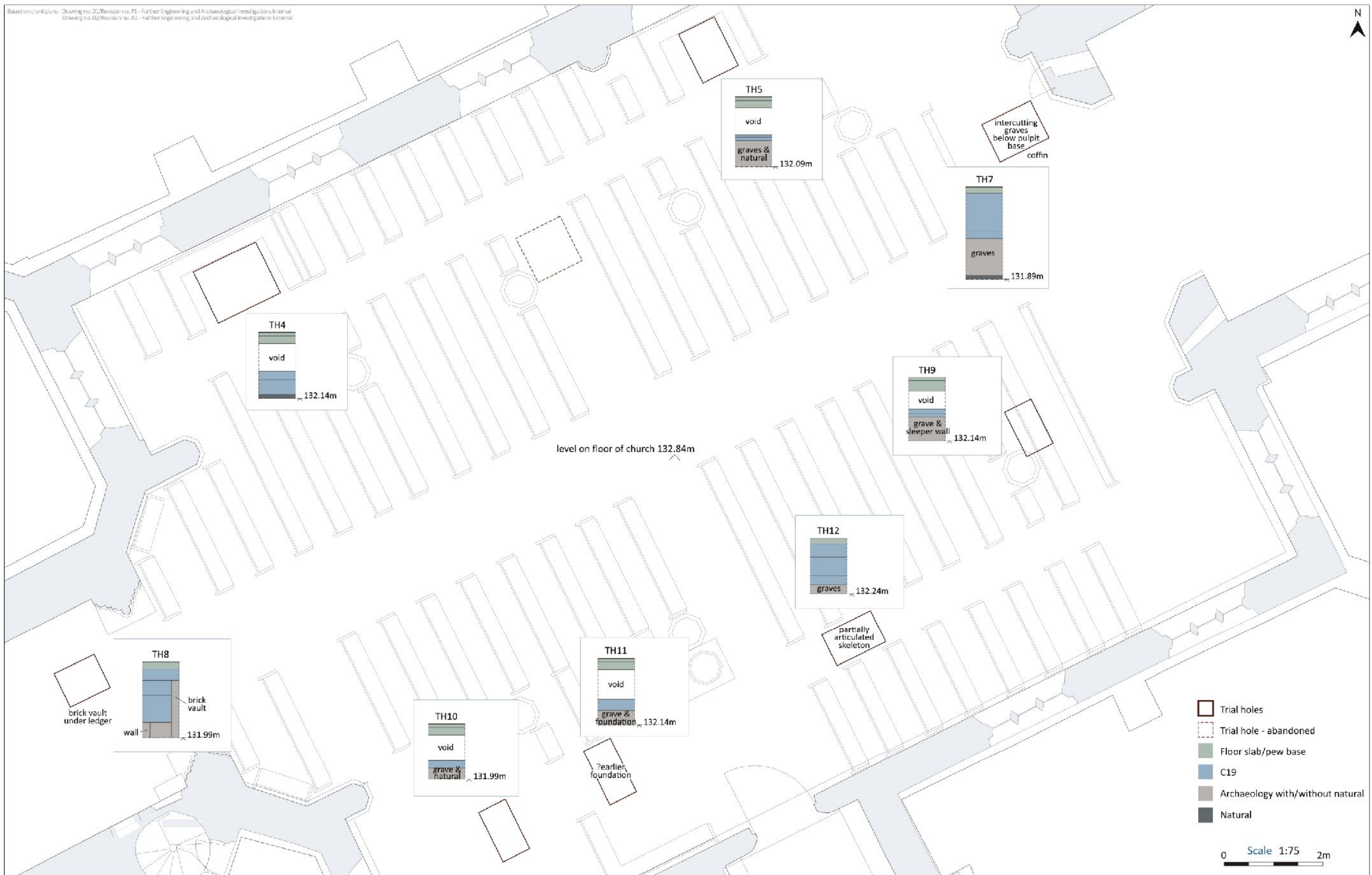


Figure 2. Detailed plan of internal trial holes with schematic profiles & key features



Figure 3. TH1 (looking S; 0.5m scale)



Figure 4. TH2 (looking S; 0.5m scale)



Figure 5. TH3 (looking S; 0.5m scale)



Figure 6. TH2 (looking E; 0.5m scale)



Figure 7. TH7 showing intercutting graves below hardstanding for former pulpit (looking W; 0.5m & 1m scales)



Figure 8. TH7 showing intercutting graves & intact coffin in S section (looking S; 0.50m & 1m scales)



Figure 9. TH8 showing vault & walls (looking S; 0.5m & 1m scales)



Figure 10. TH8 showing vault & walls (looking W; 0.5m scale)



Figure 11. TH8 showing vault (looking S; 0.5m scale)



Figure 12. Interior of vault showing lime rendered walls & soil adhering to roof with coffin furniture protruding (looking W)



Figure 13. TH12 showing skeleton within grave & cut by grave to S (looking N; 0.5m scale)



Figure 14. TH4 (looking E; 1m scale)



Figure 15. TH5 showing graves (looking W; 0.1m scale)



Figure 16. TH9 showing grave & sleeper wall (looking W; 0.5m & 1.00m scales)



Figure 17. TH10 showing grave (looking W; 0.5m & 1.00m scales)



Figure 18. TH11 showing grave & foundation (looking W; 0.5m & 1.00m scales)

Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	FINDS	EARLIER THAN	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS / DEPTH (m)
TH4									
400	Modern	Layer	Very loose recent layer. Greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) soft sandy loam soil with abundant crushed mortar, cement & charcoal	-	VOID	401	-	-	0.10
401	Modern	Layer	Shallow Victorian make-up layer. Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) soft sandy loam with very common crushed mortar, greensand & brick fragments	Residual human bone, nails	400	402	-	-	0.10
402	Geological	Deposit	Natural greensand. A friable, olive grey (5Y 4/2) sand		401	-	-	-	-
TH5									
500	Modern	layer	Victorian trample layer abutting Victorian dwarf walls. A cemented, light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) sandy loam with abundant crushed brick & mortar fragments		Void below floorboards	501	-	-	0.02
501	Modern	layer	Victorian make-up layer sealing disturbed graves & undisturbed natural greensand A soft, olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy loam with very common crushed mortar, greensand & brick fragments	Residual human bone, occasional nail	500	503, 505	-	-	0.04
502	Geological	deposit	Natural greensand. A friable, olive grey (5Y 4/2) sand		504, 506		-	-	-
503	Post-med	fill	Loose disturbed backfill of grave. A soft, olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy loam with occasional crushed mortar & charcoal	Residual human bone x 1 left in situ	501	504	-	Only 0.10 of N edge within trench	Only excavated to depth of 0.28 after greensand reduction
504	Post-med	cut	N side of disturbed grave cut aligned W-E with vertical straight side		503	502	-	-	0.28
505	Post-med	fill	Loose disturbed backfill of grave. A soft, olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy loam with occasional crushed mortar & charcoal	Residual human bone x 2 left in situ.	501	506	-	Only 0.10 of W edge within trench	Only excavated to depth of 0.10 after greensand reduction
506	Post-med	cut	SW corner of disturbed grave cut aligned W-E with vertical straight sides		505	502	-	-	0.28

TH7									
700	Modern	layer	Concrete bonding for ledgers, although almost non-existent in some areas		Ledger stones	701	-	-	0.05
701	Modern	layer	Make-up layer above concrete (703) & sealing backfill (706) of graves. A soft, olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy loam with very common brick fragments, greensand, charcoal & crushed mortar, human bone. Contemporary with (702)	Residual human bone, white china, nails	700	703	-	-	0.30
702	Modern	layer	Deliberate dump of hard core with slightly curved 3-course brick wall running through it. Some thick deposits of cement but also large pieces of stone (some architectural) with cement. As this is in the position of the former pulpit it is likely to have been a substantial sub-base for this structure		700	703	-	-	0.30
703	Modern	layer	Hard layer of cement recorded with underlying very compacted layer of soil with cement. Likely intended to seal backfill (706) of graves before installation of pulpit		701, 702	704, 706	-	-	0.08
704	Post-med	fill	Coffin outline in S section (shown by decayed wood which continues into W section as if for handle). Set within & filled with a soft, dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) loamy sand containing sparse crushed mortar	Residual human bone	703	705	-	-	0.30 (coffin 0.20m)
705	Post-med	cut	Cut for grave with coffin aligned W-E with vertical straight sides. Must have cut disturbed grave [710]		704	Nat	-	-	0.30
707, 708, 709, 710	Post-med	cut	Series of grave cuts in that order, with [707] & [710] cut by grave with coffin [705]. Aligned W-E with vertical straight sides. Homogenous backfill as graves removed in one episode & backfilled, presumably to stabilise ground before pulpit erected here	Residual human bone	706	Natural	-	-	Max 0.40m
706	Modern	fill	Backfill following removal of graves. A soft, olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) loamy sand with crushed mortar, large pieces of greensand & some oolite, including some shaped stones & one piece with moulding possibly from arch with some red paint on face	Carved stone, residual human bone, decayed coffin wood, coffin nails	703	707-710	-	-	Max 0.40
TH8									
800	Modern	layer	Victorian concrete with broken brick overlying wall (803) & brick vault (805).		-	801	-	-	0.25
801	Modern	layer	Compacted layer with some broken brick & concrete, overlying wall (803) & abutting brick vault (805)		800	802, 805	-	-	0.18

802	Modern	fill	Backfill of construction cut [804] for brick wall (803). Compacted, olive grey (5Y 4/2) sand with common greensand fragments		801	803	-	0.18	-
803	Modern	wall	Three courses of a brick wall aligned W-E in N edge of TH & abutting stone wall (810). Same brick type as used for brick vault (806), & possibly belongs to another section or a vault of similar date		802	804	-	-	-
804	Modern	cut	Construction cut for brick wall (803), cutting through backfill (812) of construction cut [811] for stone wall (810). Aligned W-E with straight vertical sides		803	807	-	0.18	-
805	Modern	wall	Upper part of brick vault aligned W-E, comprising single skin below a course of bricks laid N-S which probably formed base of support for ledger stone. This support appears to have been previously removed as ledger stone now rests on broken brick & concrete. Exterior largely covered in white cement		801	806	-	-	0.18
806	Modern	wall	Lower part of brick vault aligned W-E with NE corner exposed in SE corner of TH, constructed of single skin of bricks laid in stretcher bond. 6 courses of N wall exposed but voids in construction cut allowed probing with trowel that established that it continued to greater depth. Camera placed inside vault shows 7 courses, & internal wall lime rendered. External wall not rendered. White cement used for brick bonding		805, 809	808	-	-	-
807	Modern	deposit	Redeposited natural abutting wall (806) & sealing construction trench for this wall & for wall (810), therefore deposited after both these walls were built. However, cut by construction cut for wall (803). A soft, light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) loamy sand with sparse crushed mortar, fragments of greensand & charcoal flecks		804	809, 812	-	0.58	0.25
808	Modern	cut	Construction cut for brick wall (806) of vault aligned W-E with steep straight sides		806	813	-	0.18	-
809	Modern	fill	Very loose backfill of construction cut for brick wall (806) of vault, containing large voids. A soft, dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) loamy sand with sparse crushed mortar, fragments of greensand & charcoal flecks		807	806	-	0.18	-
810	Post-med	wall	Remnant of wall constructed of greensand with no bonding material aside from very loose backfill (812) of construction cut [811]. Width could not be established as within N wall of TH, but at least two courses present. As construction cut continues eastwards it is likely that wall also continued in this direction, but truncated by brick wall (803)		812	811	-	-	-
811	Post-med	cut	Construction cut for wall (810). Continued eastwards even though wall itself truncated by brick wall (803). Aligned W-E with steep straight sides		810	813	-	0.10	-
812	Post-med	fill	Very loose backfill of construction cut for wall (810). Contained numerous large voids so probably gradually infill as opposed to deliberate, although might be a result of gradual settling. A soft, olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) loamy sand with sparse crushed mortar, fragments of greensand & charcoal flecks		807	810		0.10	
813	Med/Post-med	deposit	Redeposited natural mixed with soil, possibly associated with construction of tower. A soft, olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) with mottles of olive grey (5Y 4/2) loamy sand/ sand with sparse crushed mortar, fragments of greensand & charcoal flecks		808, 811		-	-	-
TH9									

900	Modern	layer	Victorian trample layer abutting Victorian dwarf walls. A cemented, light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) sandy loam with abundant crushed brick & mortar fragments		Void below floorboards.	901	-	-	0.02
901	Modern	layer	Victorian make-up layer sealing disturbed grave, sleeper wall & undisturbed natural greensand. A soft, light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) sandy loam with very common crushed mortar, greensand & brick fragments	Residual human bone, occasional nail	900	903, 905	-	-	0.05
902	Geological	deposit	Natural greensand. A friable, olive grey (5Y 4/2) sand		904, 906	-	-	-	-
903	Post-med	fill	Backfill of disturbed grave. A soft, olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy loam with occasional crushed mortar & charcoal. Fill started to creak & collapse during excavation therefore presumed collapsing wooden coffin. Several fragments of decayed coffin present in backfill	Residual human bone x 4 - radius, rib, vertebrae, phalange - plus skull left in situ.	901	904	-	Only 0.33m of W end within trench	Only excavated to depth of 0.28m
904	Post-med	cut	W end of disturbed grave. Aligned W-E with straight vertical sides		903	902	-	-	0.28
905	Med	fill	Backfill of sleeper wall trench surrounding large greensand stones. A friable, olive brown (2.5Y 4/6) sandy loam with occasional flecks of mortar		901	906	-	0.55	0.10
906	Med	wall	Probable sleeper wall for S arcade. Four greensand stones aligned W-E, largest stone measuring 0.38m. Runs below shallow foundation of pier (908) & below Victorian dwarf wall		905, 908	907	-	-	-
907	Med	cut	Shallow cut for sleeper wall (906). Aligned W-E with straight vertical sides & flat base		906	902	-	-	0.28
908	Med	deposit	Shallow soil & stone foundation below pier. A friable, dark olive brown (2.5Y 3/3) sandy loam with occasional small mortar fragments plus 0.10m oolitic stone rubble protruding from pier base by 0.10m		Pier base	905	-	-	0.15
TH10									
1000	Modern	layer	Layer of cement with greensand fragments beneath bricks supporting floor. Not dwarf walls as elsewhere but pillars of bricks		Void	1001	-	-	0.10
1001	Post-medieval	fill	Fill of disturbed grave. A soft, dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) loamy sand with occasional crushed mortar & tiny frags of greensand & charcoal flecks	Some residual human bone	1000	1002	-	-	-
1002	Post-medieval	cut	Disturbed grave aligned W-E		1001	1003	-	0.35	-
1003	Post-medieval	layer	Possible grave soil. A friable, olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) loamy sand with occasional crushed mortar & charcoal flecks		1002	0	-	-	-

TH11									
1100	Modern	layer	Layer of cement with greensand fragments beneath bricks supporting floor. Not dwarf walls as elsewhere but pillars of bricks		Void	1101	-	-	0.08
1101	Post-medieval	fill	Fill of disturbed grave. A soft, dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) loamy sand with occasional crushed mortar & tiny frags of greensand & charcoal flecks	Some residual human bone	1100	1102	-	-	-
1102	Post-medieval	cut	Disturbed grave aligned W-E		1101	1103, 1104	-	-	-
1103	Post-medieval	layer	Possible grave soil. A friable, olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) loamy sand with occasional crushed mortar & charcoal flecks		1102	0	-	-	-
1104	Med/Post-med	structure	Possible wall foundation, unrelated to existing walls. Two rubble greensand stones set within redeposited natural sand. Same as in TH9 & for lower foundations of outer walls seen in TH1-3.		1100	Nat	0.60	0.25	-
TH12									
1200	Modern	layer	Make-up layer for south aisle. A soft, olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy loam with moderate crushed mortar, greensand, brick, wood, bone.	Residual human bone	Slabs	1201	-	-	0.15
1201	Modern	layer	Make-up layer following construction of dwarf brick walls. Cement with greensand & oolitic limestone fragments, level with base of dwarf walls		1200	1202	-	-	0.18
1202	Modern	layer	Layer sealing graves. Compacted light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) sandy loam with sparse crushed mortar, greensand & brick fragments		1201	1203	-	-	0.12
1203	Post-medieval	fill	Fill of disturbed grave. A soft, dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) loamy sand with occasional crushed mortar & moderate to tiny frags of greensand & charcoal flecks	Residual human bone	1202	1204	-	-	-
1204	Post-medieval	cut	Grave cutting earlier grave with disturbed skeleton. Aligned W-E with straight vertical sides		1203	1205	-	-	-
1205	Post-medieval	fill	Fill of disturbed grave, with partially intact skeleton of a young individual perhaps. A soft, dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) loamy sand with occasional crushed mortar & tiny frags of greensand & charcoal flecks. Skeleton comprised skull with spine partially exposed. Bone very porous. Shoulder blade & collar bone at wrong angle & looks too large to go with this body	Residual bone, but also skull with vertebrae	1204	1206	-	-	-
1206	Post-medieval	cut	Possible grave cut for partially intact skeleton (1205) seen in plan only, cut by grave [1204] & possibly cutting other grave soil (1207) .		1205	1207	-	-	-
1207	Post-medieval	layer	Possible grave soil. A friable, olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) loamy sand with occasional crushed mortar & charcoal flecks		1206	-	-	-	-

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