

St Leonard's Church
Keevil
Trowbridge
Wiltshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING &
RECORDING

REPORT

January 2020

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St Leonard's Church
Keovil
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
for

C1 project code: C1/AMR/19/LKW

St Leonard's Church

REPORT

Prepared by Dr Cheryl Green
Date 23/01/20

Approved by Richard McConnell
Signed 
Date 29/01/20

Issue 01

PROJECT DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref. N/A
Planning Application ref. 19/02525/FUL
Local Planning Authority Wiltshire Council
Scheduled Monument Consent ref. N/A
Historic Environment Record ref. N/A
Collecting Museum Wiltshire Museum
Museum accession code N/A
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Front cover image: St Leonard's Church from the north-north-east showing route of pipe trench alongside church path

Summary

Context One Heritage & Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring and recording relating to the construction of a new kitchenette and WC with associated services as a condition of granting planning permission at St Leonard's Church, Keevil, Wiltshire. The church is a Grade II Listed building. The project was commissioned by Chedburn Codd on behalf of their client, St Leonard's Church.*

St Leonard's Church dates to the 13th century with episodes of restoration during the 15th-16th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Constructed from Limestone ashlar with a stone slate chancel roof and leaded nave, the plan comprises a west tower, south aisle and nave, chancel and north chapel, and north and south porches. In addition to the archaeological potential associated with the church, Keevil is recorded as having Saxon origins and three holloways are recorded running west of the church.

Despite this archaeological potential, no evidence was observed during monitoring of groundworks. The excavation of pipe trenches revealed a simple sequence of modern topsoil, over a disturbed subsoil, directly above natural alluvial clays. A deep soil horizon with occasional disarticulated human bone was encountered along the periphery of the works, probably deriving from re-worked burial soils and indicating the boundary with the graveyard.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording relating to the construction of a new kitchenette and WC with associated services as a condition (no. 2) of granting planning permission (planning reference: 19/02525/FUL) at St Leonard's Church, Keevil, Wiltshire (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The church is a Grade II* Listed building. The project was commissioned by Chedburn Codd on behalf of their client, St Leonard's Church.
- 1.2 The monitoring and recording was requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Wiltshire Council (WC) on the advice of the county Historic Environment Service (HES). The Case Officer's Report prepared by Mr Steve Vellance on the proposal dated 2 May 2019 quoted the following HES advice:

"The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development site is situated within an area of archaeological interest. Keevil is recorded as having Saxon origins, referred to as Kefle Wirtim in 964 and three holloways have been noted running west of the church. The Church of St. Leonard is a Grade II Listed Building (national ref. 1262746). The listing description states the church dates to the 13th century with 15th and 16th century details and 19th and 20th century restorations."*

- 1.3 Historic England was also consulted on the proposal. In a letter dated 3 May 2019 to Mr Vellance from Mr Samuel Souter (Assistant Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas, Historic England) it was stated:

"Historic England has been involved with this scheme for some time, and has assisted in its evolution to a stage where we are largely supportive. We have recently provided comments to form part of the associated Faculty Petition, which we repeat here, and add to where necessary."

The Church of St Leonard is a parish church with significant phases of development dating to the 13th, 15th and early 16th century, with further restorations in the 1860s and c1910. It is built of limestone ashlar, with stone slate chancel and lead nave roofs. The plan consists of a west tower, south aisle and nave, chancel and north chapel, and north and south porches. It is Grade II listed and sits within the Keevil Conservation Area.*

The proposal, in May 2017, had evolved to see the location of an equal-access WC situated within the west tower porch; currently an unused entrance to the church (via the tower base). We commented that the eastern tower porch is 19th century (rebuilt 1873) and incorporates a four-centred panelled tunnel-vault comparable to St James', Trowbridge. It encloses an original Tudor-arched doorway and timber door within the tower; this being a significant architectural and functional feature contemporaneous with the tower construction (15th/early-16th century). We did not object to the provision of the toilet within this porch – it being a much later addition and there being minimal physical intervention required - and indeed considered it a suitable reuse of a currently neglected and unutilised space.

The revision to the previous scheme, which now retains access from the tower into the west porch, is welcomed - this eradicates any disturbance to this historic door and archway which is, rightly, assessed as being of high architectural significance. The loss of the gates is unfortunate but is, on balance, considered reasonable, and the intention to retain and reuse within the church grounds is commendable and welcomed. The new oak door and internal panelling to the west porch WC is suitable, and should result in a high quality conversion; further, the internal alterations, whilst involving the loss of some features of the porch, is again considered reasonable.

We raised concern during the faculty petition process over the addition of the soil vent pipe which runs up the tower adjacent to the porch - this was considered to be an unfortunate addition to this elevation. Having sought an alternative with the architects, we are pleased to have arrived at a compromise which sees the pipe lowered and pushed further towards the porch; this tucks it in behind the buttress and will minimise its prominence to a satisfactory extent (we note this revision has not yet been uploaded onto the application's website). We raise some concern over the new footpath connecting the existing main access path to this west porch WC conversion. There is a noticeable gradient here

and as such we question how much excavating will be required to comply with regulations for an equal-access toilet. It also appears uncomfortably close to an iron-railed grave, and so some consideration of how it may impact this is required. Furthermore, a prior archaeological assessment may be required in order to establish the impact of the construction of this path and pipework. We refer you to the ChurchCare Archaeology guidance note for further advice on works affecting archaeological and human remains. We also recommend consulting the Diocesan Advisory Committee's archaeology advisor at an early stage.

Overall, subject to addressing our concerns outlined above, we consider this to be a positive scheme enabling a greater and more flexible use of this important Grade II listed asset."*

- 1.4 The concern regarding the depth of excavation required for the new path in order to facilitate level access was subsequently addressed, and the Case Officer's Report stated that following extensive consultations, it was confirmed that minimal excavation would be required to lay the path.
- 1.5 Listed Building Consent for the works was not required due to ecclesiastical exemption although the proposal was subject to a Faculty issued by the Salisbury Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- 1.6 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which sets out the project strategy; archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.
- 1.7 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 199 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2018).

2. The Site

- 2.1 St Leonard's Church (centred on NGR ST 91764 57985) is located on the southern flank of Keevil, a village and civil parish, c. 4km east of Trowbridge (**Figure 1**). The church is bounded to the north by a small residential development clustered around School Close, and to the east, south and west by agricultural land. The church is largely situated on level ground at an average height of c. 64m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The recorded geology is Sandsfoot Formation - Sandstone (BGS 2019). There is no recorded superficial (drift) geology. The soils are characterised as Lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (CSAIS 2019).
- 2.2 St Leonard's Church is designated as a Grade II* Listed Building. The Historic England List Entry (no. 1262746) describes the church as follows:

"Anglican parish church. C13, C15 and early C16, 1860s and c1910 restorations. Limestone ashlar, stone slate chancel roof, lead nave. Plan: west tower, south aisle and nave, chancel and north chapel, north and south porches. North porch is gabled with moulded pointed doorway, string course, coped verge. North side of nave has 3-light Perpendicular window either side of porch, buttresses carried up to crocketed pinnacles above battlemented parapet, second gabled porch to left and 3-light Perpendicular window to left, square sanctus bellcote on east gable end of nave. Chancel has Tudor-arched priest's door with hoodmould, moulded lancet to right and 2-light Perpendicular window to left, diagonal buttresses to east end, 3-light Perpendicular east window, C18 wall tablet to left, south side has lancet and 2-light Perpendicular window. Cast-iron rainwater heads dated 1867. Early C16 south aisle has blind east wall, three 3-light Perpendicular windows, buttresses carried up to crocketed pinnacles on south side, blocked doorway to gabled porch with diagonal buttresses, battlemented parapet with gargoyles, blocked west window. Three stage west tower with low C19 porch with original Tudor-arched doorway within, set back buttresses and string courses, middle stage has arrowloops, bellstage has 3-light Perpendicular windows with pierced stone louvres, cornice with gargoyles to battlemented. parapet polygonal stair turret with arrowloops on south east corner. Interior: Five-bay tie-beam roof to nave with moulded beams and cusping between struts, panelled roof with bosses. Tall moulded tower arch with C20 wooden screen, 1715 Royal Arms hung in tower. Three bay south aisle with additional chapel bay at east end, moulded pointed arches on piers, cusped piscina on south wall at east end. North chapel with same mouldings as south chapel, head of Tudor-arched doorway to former rood loft stairs on east wall. Moulded pointed chancel arch same as chapel arches, early C20 traceried screen. C19 four-bay chancel ceiling, barrel-vaulted with moulded ribs, C19 panelled stone reredos with mosaics of Four Evangelists and St Leonard and St Aldhelm, C19 communion rail. Other fittings: C19 stone polygonal pulpit,

*C15 octagonal font bowl on pier with four shafts by north door; 1909-10 seating. Some good C19 stained C19 glass in chancel and chapels, unsigned. Monuments: C17 and C18 tablets in-chancel include pedimented tablet with heraldic arms and volutes to John Harris died 1657. Several C18 tablets in north chapel to Beach family of Keevil Manor (q.v.), north wall tablets include cartouches to William Gaisford died 1754 and marble tablet by Ford of Bath to Jane Talbot died 1768. Large marble tablet in south chapel to Edward Blagdon died 1750. Several small brass plaques in church, such as one in north chapel to Elizabeth Gaisford died 1720. Large benefactions board dated 1852 on north wall of nave, gifts of George Tayler. (N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England, Wiltshire, 1975; J.N. d'Arcy, Church Guide*)."*

- 2.3 The proposed kitchenette and WC will be located within the existing church building while the associated services will be excavated in the churchyard, on the north-west corner of the church and subsequently buried beneath a new pathway providing disabled access to the new WC.
- 2.4 The county Historic Environment Record (HER) identifies a number of heritage assets, dating to various periods, within the environs of the Site. Keevil is recorded as a village with Saxon origins (**HER ref. ST95NW400**) and a Saxon coin (**HER ref. ST95NW402**) was discovered c. 500m south-west of the church. An undated linear ditch (**HER ref. ST95NW623**) located to the north-west of the Site may represent a filled-in holloway of medieval date. The HER lists several entries indicating that Keevil's medieval landscape sits within an older prehistoric and Roman setting. Bronze Age pottery fragments (**HER refs. ST95NW151 and ST95NW152**) and Romano-British pottery (**HER ref. ST95NW303**) are noted to the south-west and west respectively while a Neolithic flint axe is located to the south. The Site is included within the Keevil Conservation Area.

3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:
- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during groundworks;
 - determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
 - recover environmental information, which may provide further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
 - provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate
- 3.2 The research objectives were to:
- determine whether there 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 groundworks and C1 to ensure that all parties were aware of the monitoring requirements.
- 4.3 Ground reduction was carried out within the west porch and along the route of the new 1.5m wide path (see **Figure 1**) to a depth of 0.25m, using a 1.5 tonne slew fitted with a 0.95m toothless grading bucket. The pipe trench was excavated along the centre of the new path and alongside the existing church path, to a width of 0.35m wide and 0.85m deep. Three further connecting trenches were excavated at the north-west and south-west corners of the west porch and along the west side of the north porch, with inspection pits excavated at

the junctions with the main pipe trench. For this element of the work the machine was fitted with a 0.30m wide bucket.

- 4.5 By default, core details of the deposit sequence across the Site were recorded using C1 *pro-forma* profile forms in digital format using an iPad mini tablet. The frequency with which profiles were recorded was based on any variation of the deposit sequence. Soil colours were logged using a Munsell soil colour chart. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts. A photographic record of the monitoring and recording was carried out and involved the sole use of digital images. The photographic record included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.6 A small number of disarticulated and fragmented human remains were collected together during the monitoring and works, and re-buried within the pipe trench prior to backfilling.

5. Results

- 5.1 In accordance with standard archaeological practice, each deposit recorded during the investigation was given a unique context number and is shown in standard brackets, e.g. (100). Deposit colours were matched on Site against a Munsell soil colour chart and described against the relevant hue and reference, e.g. brownish yellow (10YR 6/8). Details of all the recorded deposits have been tabulated in **Appendix 1** and are summarised below.
- 5.2 Ground reduction for the new path entailed the entire removal of topsoil (100) and approximately 0.05m of underlying subsoil (101) (**Figures 2 & 3**). Excavations of the pipe trenches established that the subsoil (101) continued to a depth of 0.40-0.50m, comprising brown (7.5YR 4/3) clay loam (**Plate 4-6**). The presence of limestone fragments matching the stone used for the church fabric suggests these were chippings derived from phases of construction and restoration. However, it also contained occasional coffin nails, fragments of human bone and CBM, suggesting that in places this layer has been re-worked in the post-medieval and modern periods. This layer directly overlies the clay natural (102) at a depth of 0.60-0.65m.
- 5.3 Within the Victorian porch, the subsoil (101) was overlain by a 0.35m deep formation layer (103) for the blue lias paving (**Plate 7**).
- 5.4 The access pit excavated to the north-west of the church and the four test pits excavated alongside the existing path (see **Cover photo**) recorded a deep soil layer (104), beneath the topsoil (100) and above the clay natural (102). This comprised a dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) sandy silt loam with sparse limestone fragments and a few fragments of human bone.

6. The finds

- 6.1 The occasional fragment of late post-medieval and modern CBM was observed during archaeological monitoring and a small quantity of fragmented human bone was collected and reburied. No finds were removed from the Site.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Despite the archaeological potential, no archaeological features or finds were identified during monitoring of the groundworks that could be associated with the medieval phase of St Leonard's or indeed the Saxon origins of the village. Excavation of the pipe trenches revealed a simple sequence of modern topsoil, over a disturbed subsoil, directly above natural alluvial clays. Limestone fragments within the subsoil were probably derived from phases of church construction and repair, however it is apparent that this deposit has been subject to re-working in the post-medieval and modern periods. A deep soil horizon with occasional disarticulated human bone was encountered along the periphery of the works, including alongside the existing church path. This was probably derived from re-worked burial soils and indicates the boundary with the graveyard to the west and north-west.

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 no archaeological evidence was encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into this assessment 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 On this occasion, there is no physical archive to deposit.

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.

9. Bibliography

- | | |
|--|---|
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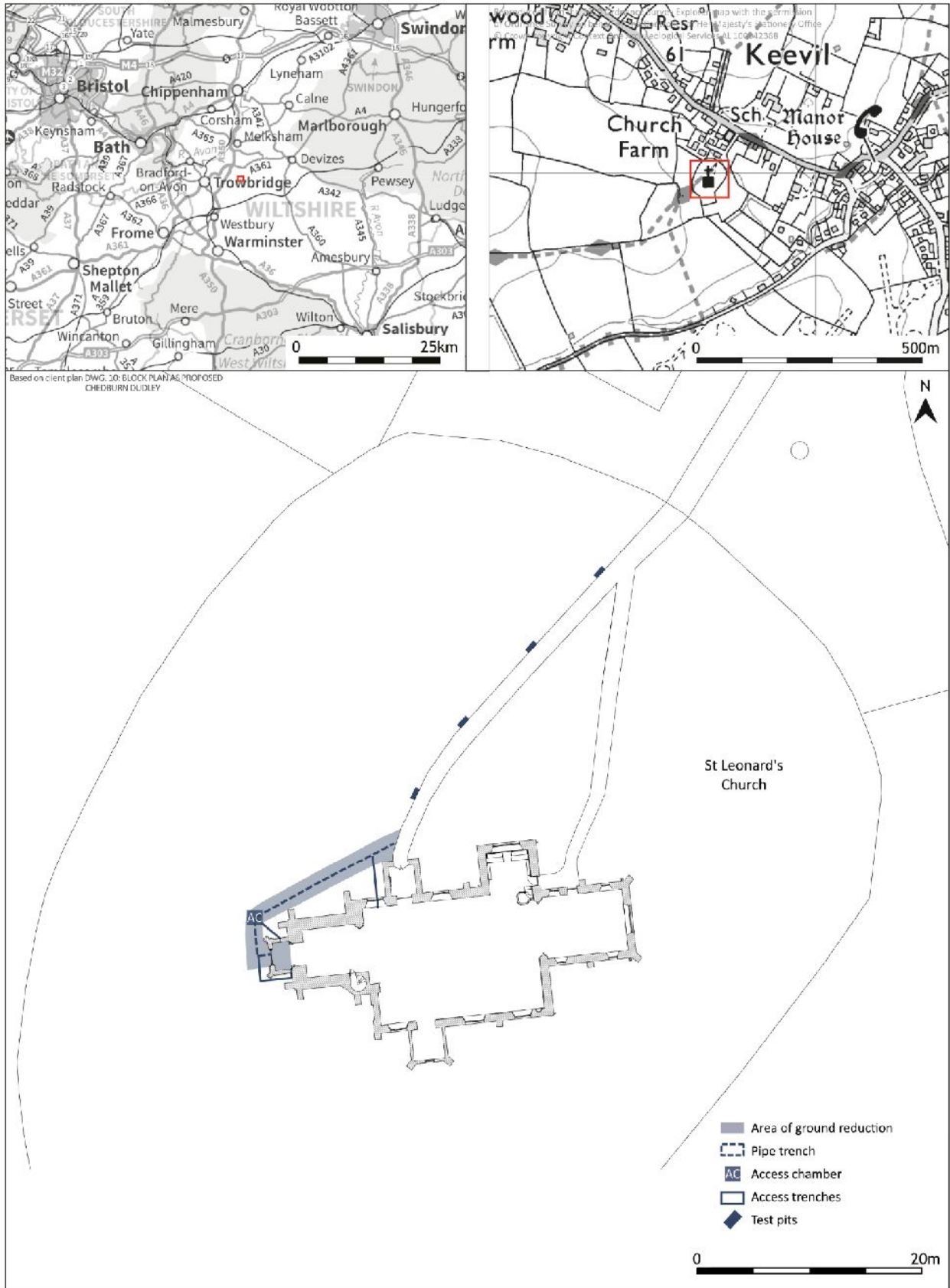


Figure 1. Site setting, exterior groundworks & test pits



Figure 2. Ground reduction for new path adjacent to W porch (from S)



Figure 3. New path adjoining existing path to N porch (from W)



Figure 4. Service trench along W side of N porch (from N; 1m scale)



Figure 5. Pipe trench along N side of church (from WSW)



Figure 6. Representative profile (from E; 1m scale)



Figure 7. Ground reduction within W porch (from W; 1m scale)

Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH (m)
100	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown (7.5YR 3/3) soft silty clay with sparse small (<0.02m) to medium (<0.10m) sized limestone fragments. Some patches of modern aggregate possibly from earlier path	NA	-	101, 104	-	-	0.15-0.20
101	Post-medieval/modern	Layer	Subsoil. Brown (7.5YR 4/3) friable clay loam with moderate inclusions of small (<0.02m) to medium (<0.10m) sized limestone fragments. Occasional coffin nails & CBM observed but not collected. Occasional human bone fragments gathered for reburial	100	-	102	-	-	0.40-50
102	Natural	Layer	Natural. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) firm clay	101	-	NA	-	-	>0.10
103	Modern	Layer	Make-up. Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) friable sandy clay loam with very common small (0.02m) to medium (max 0.10m) size limestone fragments, crushed mortar & stone, & charcoal flecks	Paving within porch	-	101	2.5	1.5	0.35
104	Post-medieval/modern	Layer	Re-worked burial soil. Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) friable sandy silt loam with sparse small (0.02m) to medium (max 0.05m) size limestone fragments & charcoal flecks	100	-	102	-	-	0.60-0.70



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