



making sense of heritage

St Peter's Church Ropley, Hampshire

Archaeological/Building Recording Watching Brief



Ref: 111180.02
November 2015



**St Peter's Church
Ropley, Hampshire**

Archaeological/Building Recording Watching Brief

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Alexander Design, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church, Ropley, to carry out an Archaeological/Building Recording Watching Brief on investigative groundworks which took place at the Grade II Listed St Peter's Church, Ropley, Hampshire. The church was severely damaged by a fire in 2014 and proposals exist to rebuild St Peter's with a newly designed church.

The intention of the investigative works was to assess the stability of the surviving walls and to experiment to establish the best way to stabilise the walls and foundations. It was proposed that the structural soundness of the walls would be examined through the excavation of test pits at various points along the base of the walls. Emergency provision for these investigative works was granted by the Diocesan Chancellor of the Winchester Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).

The work was carried out between the 9th and 14th October 2015. Thirteen test pits were hand excavated in a variety of locations around the outside and across the interior of the church. All hand excavation was monitored under archaeological supervision and the deposits and masonry were hand recorded and photographed. Where *in situ* human remains were identified, all excavation stopped at this level. Disarticulated human remains were collected by the archaeologist and carefully reinterred into the respective test pit during backfilling.

The results of the archaeological watching brief on the outside Test pits have shown that the east end of the church is founded directly onto the underlying natural chalk. The south wall of the south-east chapel is founded onto a buried soil that pre-dates the building of the church. The oldest parts of the west end of the nave, including the west and south walls, are founded on medieval flint foundations. The late 19th century north aisle wall has been constructed off concrete foundations cut through deep deposits of loose up-cast, thought to originate from numerous burials over a long period. The west wall of the nave has been re-faced externally, probably at the same time as the north aisle was built, as it is founded on the same concrete as the north wall.

Internally, there was evidence of early, probably medieval, burials on the north side of the arcade. Excavation of a test pit revealed a grave against the north side of the original nave wall. Other test pits within the nave and east chancel revealed brick-lined graves and brick-vaulted tombs.



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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Alexander Design, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's, Ropley and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to John Alexander and Andrew Bonner in this regard. The assistance of Adrian Coleman contractor on-site is also acknowledged.

The watching brief was carried out by Bob Davis who also compiled this report. The finds were analysed by Lorraine Mephram. The illustrations were prepared by Bob Davis and Will Foster. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Matt Rous.



St Peter's Church Ropley, Hampshire

Archaeological/Building Recording Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Alexander Design, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church, Ropley (hereafter 'the Client'), to carry out an Archaeological/Building Recording Watching Brief during investigative works at the Grade II Listed St Peter's Church Ropley, Hampshire.
- 1.1.2 On the 19th June 2014, St Peter's Church was mostly destroyed by fire. All of the church contents were destroyed, as was most of the structural woodwork including the roof. All of the walls have been affected by the fire, although the porch was largely untouched.
- 1.1.3 Following the fire, proposals exist to rebuild St Peter's with a newly designed church which it is hoped will bring the church community and the village together. In order to achieve this end, the intention of the works was to investigate the stability of the surviving walls and to experiment to establish the best way to stabilise the walls and foundations. It was proposed that the structural soundness of the walls would be examined through the excavation of test pits at various points along the base of the walls, both internally and externally.
- 1.1.4 Emergency provision for these investigative works (DAC case ref: C302/15/500) was granted by the Diocesan Chancellor of the Winchester Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), who stated in an email dated 20 August 2015:
- "I grant emergency permission for investigation and experimentation as set out in the letter dated the 28th July 2015 from Andrew Waring Associates, subject to strict compliance with the condition stipulated by the Head of the DAC."*
- 1.1.5 As mentioned, St Peter's Church is a largely medieval building which is Grade II Listed and situated within a conservation area. In addition, it was considered that the interred remains of generations of parishioners were likely to be situated immediately adjacent to the surrounding the walls of the church, both internally and externally. In order to avoid disturbance of graves a programme of ground penetrating radar (GPR) had previously been carried out at the church (J. Alexander pers. comm.) so that the investigative test pits could be targeted away from obvious burials. However, there was no guarantee that the investigative works would not disturb some human remains. Consequently the DAC recommended the works be subject to an archaeological/building recording watching brief and a copy of the results should be provided to the DAC and the Hampshire Record Office.
- 1.1.6 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2015) which was sent for approval to the DAC prior to the commencement of the works.

1.2 Site location and historical description

- 1.2.1 St Peter's Church is located in the village of Ropley, which lies approximately 6 km to the east of New Alresford and 10 km to the south-west of Alton in east Hampshire (**Figure 1**). The church is situated towards the north-east end of the village centred on NGR 464588 131967, approximately 20 m to the north of Church Street. The site lies at approximately 125 m aOD. The solid geology of the area is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation, Cretaceous chalk formed 84-89 million years ago (BGS 2015).
- 1.2.2 A detailed description of the church can be found in the British History Online entry for Ropley (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/vol3/pp55-58>). Brief selected passages are reproduced below:
- 1.2.3 St Peter's Church consists of a chancel which measures 21 ft. by 14 ft. 3 in. (6.4 m by 4.34 m) with north and south chapels, and nave 44 ft. by 19 ft. (13.41 m by 5.79 m) with north aisle, south-east tower, and south porch. The oldest parts of the building belong approximately to the middle of the 12th century.
- 1.2.4 The walling is of flint rubble with dressings of chalk and brown sandstone. A south chapel was added to the chancel in the latter part of the 13th century, and probably about the same time (or perhaps somewhat earlier) the north transept chapel was lengthened westward, and made to open to the nave by an arcade of two bays with a round central column. It is not clear at what date the existing wooden southeast tower was built within the south-east transept chapel, but this may have been a 14th century alteration.
- 1.2.5 In the early part of the 19th century a north chapel was added to the chancel, and in 1896 the north transept chapel was lengthened westward and became a north aisle of equal length with the nave, its east and west walls being pulled down and a new north arcade of four bays built, the old arcade of two bays being destroyed. At the same time the west wall of the nave was heightened in gable form, having previously ended with a level top, the west end of the nave roof being hipped.
- 1.2.6 The building is recorded as site number 13798 on the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR). There are several designated heritage assets within c.50 m radius of the church including four Grade II Listed table tombs situated within the immediate churchyard as well as three Grade II Listed houses comprising Dover Cottage (c.35 m to the south), Fordes (c.45 m to the south-east) and Post House (c.55 m to the south-east).
- 1.2.7 As discussed, the Church of St Peter's is Grade II Listed. The Listing description defines the church as:

'Norman nave (11th century) with 12th century transepts, 13th century chancel with south chapel, 14th century timber-framed bell tower inset into the south transept, south porch c1700, north chapel (vestry) of 1846, and north aisle (obliterating the north transept) of 1896. The exterior is mainly of 1896; flint walls with stone and brick dressings, and a tile roof of 3 ridges. The oldest part of the structure is the south wall of the nave, and the south transept, with 14th century walling to the south chapel, and these sections contain a 12th century doorway, a 15th century Perpendicular south door, a 16th century window to the nave, and a small 14th century window to the chapel; elsewhere the details are Victorian. Interior: generally Victorian, but there are medieval piscinas, a 15th century octagonal font, a Royal Coat of Arms with Queen Anne device but later lettering GIII 1791, and a hatchment. Old photographs show that the restoration of 1896 included drastic changes, with the removal of Georgian fittings and a west gallery.'



2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Project aims

- 2.1.1 The aims of the project, as set out in the WSI, were to record the archaeological and built heritage resource during development within the specified areas using appropriate methods and practices, in compliance with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of ClfA (ClfA 2014b).

2.2 Project Objectives

- 2.2.1 The following objectives were identified:

- *To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits and standing structures, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works; including*
- *To ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
- *To confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
- *To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains; and*
- *To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.*
- *To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and*
- *To prepare a report on the results of the archaeological/building recording watching brief.*

3 METHODS

- 3.1.1 Thirteen test pits were excavated numbered 1-13. In all cases the test pits were dug by hand under constant archaeological supervision. While the test pits were still open they were also inspected by the Architect and Project Engineer. The locations of the test pits were situated as close as possible to their originally planned positions, however, where access was not possible (e.g. due to the presence of articulated human remains), the test pit was relocated to best inform the nature of the foundations of the church. The final location of all of the test pits is shown on **Figure 1**. Where human remains were discovered, the test pit excavation was terminated and no further excavation took place. A small quantity of disarticulated human bone was found in the deposits in some test pits (likely disturbed by previous internments) and, where so, was carefully re-deposited into the test pit during backfilling. No *in situ* burials were disturbed.

- 3.1.2 Each test pit was assigned a unique number and features and deposits were allocated individual numbers. The test pits were hand cleaned and the most relevant cross-section and plan were drawn at an appropriate scale, 1:10 for vertical sections and 1:20 for plans. Each test pit was photographed using a Canon EOS 5D Mark III full frame digital camera

(with 22.3 megapixel capability). A selection of the photographic archive is presented in this report as **Plates 1-30**.

- 3.1.3 The features and deposits encountered in each test pit were entered onto Wessex Archaeology *Pro-forma* sheets. A full list of the test pit records are shown in the appendix. Significant archaeological artefacts were retained for archaeological assessment and dating. The results of the finds assessment appear in the finds section of this report

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 For clarity, the following results are presented in Test pit numerical order. Detailed test pit summary sheets are presented in the **Appendix**. Seven test pits were placed around the exterior of the building, two around the interior of the building and four small test pits across the floor area at the request of the Architect and/or the Project Engineer.

- 4.1.2 In all cases, excavation ceased where the underlying natural chalk was identified, where *in situ* human remains were identified or suspected, or significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

4.2 Test pit 1

- 4.2.1 This test pit was located against the external face of the north wall of the north-west corner of the church (**Figure 2**). The masonry of the north wall consisted of a plinth wall of squared limestone blocks with un-coursed flint walling above. The base of the plinth wall was at present ground level where a damp course of slate overlay a footing wall of flints below ground level. The flint footings were, in turn, constructed off a deep foundation of poorly cast concrete (**Figure 3, Plates 1-2**). The base of the concrete foundation was not clearly established as *in situ* human remains were uncovered. The test pit was excavated through disturbed ground considered to relate to the many burials located here. Prior to 1896, when the north aisle was constructed, this area was outside of the old church's footprint and therefore part of the burial ground. The excavation of the foundation trench for the concrete foundations of the north wall had cut through existing graves in this area.

- 4.2.2 The nature and materials used in this part of the church are consistent with the late 19th century date of the construction of this part of the church.

4.3 Test pit 2

- 4.3.1 This test pit was located against the east wall of the north-east corner of the church (**Figure 2**). The east facing masonry was exposed in this test pit and consisted of a brick built corner and flint east wall. The brick corner was constructed from red bricks laid in English bond, no damp course was observed. The brickwork was bonded into the coursed flint east walling and appeared contemporary. Both the corner and east wall at this location were constructed directly on the underlying natural chalk (**Figure 4, Plates 3-4**).

- 4.3.2 The ground level along the east end of the church had been altered along the foot of the east wall. The ground level of the burials to the east of the wall is considerably higher. This probably created an issue with moisture penetrating the solid masonry along this end of the church. In order to alleviate this, a modern French drain has been excavated along the foot of the east wall. This consisted of a trench filled with ceramic water pipes which discharged rainwater from the east end of the roofs into a gulley drain at the north end. Additional drainage is created with a plastic membrane and infilled with pea shingle. It is assumed that the excavation of this drain would have disturbed some burials in this

location and some fragments of disarticulated human bone were found below the drain. The appearance of the bricks and nature of the building in the north-east corner is consistent with a 19th century date.

4.4 Test pit 3

- 4.4.1 This test pit was located in a central position along the east wall of the church (**Figure 2**). The coursed flint walling in this location was built directly off the underlying natural chalk into which the French drain had excavated a short depth (**Figure 5, Plates 5-6**). Although the flint wall has been repointed in cementitious mortar it is assumed to be the 13th century wall mentioned in the listing description.

4.5 Test pit 4

- 4.5.1 This test pit was located at the junction between the south wall of the 13th century chapel and the south-east corner buttress of the tower (**Figure 2**). The masonry recorded in this test pit consisted of two principal phases. The south flint wall of the 13th century chapel, although partly covered by later render and roof tiles, was founded on an old topsoil layer. This was mid-reddish brown silty clay approximately 0.18 m in depth. A single unabraded sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this layer. Below this layer was well-defined darker brown silty clay with occasional large flint nodules present. It is possible that this layer is a remnant colluvium (hillwash). Directly below this layer was hard natural white chalk (**Figure 6, Plates 7-8**).
- 4.5.2 The other, secondary, phase was the south-east tower buttress. This consisted of upper flint walling built off a stone and flint plinth footing with limestone chamfered sill. The footings were built off a concrete foundation cut into the underlying natural chalk (**Plate 9**). The buttress had been clearly cut into the fabric of the south wall of the chapel as the foundation cut was visible in section (**Figure 6**).

4.6 Test pit 5

- 4.6.1 This test pit was located against the south-east corner of the south-east buttress of the 13th century chapel (**Figure 2**). The buttress had a stepped profile and was constructed from narrow bricks which suggest a 17th or early 18th century date. Constructed to prevent a rotation of the south wall of the chapel, the buttress was built partly against the south and east walls of the chapel. The buttress was built off an underlying dark brown soil layer of silty clay with no visible foundations (**Figure 7, Plates 10-12**).

4.7 Test pit 6

- 4.7.1 This test pit was located against the junction between the south end of the east wall of the nave and the north side of the south-east buttress of the nave (**Figure 2**). The west wall at this location consisted of coursed flint walling built off a squared limestone plinth with chamfered sill. The plinth wall was built off a footing wall constructed from a mixture of stone and flint. Between the two, was a slate damp course. At the base of the footing wall there was a double stepped brick footing built off a wider concrete foundation. The base of the concrete foundation was found in this test pit at 0.92 m below the present ground level. The concrete was poorly cast, quite loose and bore a resemblance to concrete seen in test pits 1, 7 and 9. The buttress footings were slightly different in that below the slate damp course the footings were entirely of brick and also double stepped at the base (**Figure 8, Plates 13-15**).
- 4.7.2 No burials were disturbed in this test pit and the present topsoil and turf line buried an older soil horizon and subsoil layer. The concrete foundations clearly cut through this

earlier soil which, consisted of dark brown silty clay on top of hard white natural chalk. The chalk was identified at 0.65 m below the present ground surface (**Figure 8**).

4.8 Test pit 7

4.8.1 This test pit was located at the junction of the north end of the east wall of the church and the north-west angled buttress (**Figure 2**). The upper part of the west wall differed slightly in this part of the church. The squared limestone face was built off a footing wall of flints with a slate damp course between. The flint footing was founded directly onto a weakly cast concrete foundation similar to that seen in test pits 1, 6 and 9. The north-west angled buttress was founded differently. The squared and tooled limestone blocks were constructed on top of a brick footing with a double stepped base. This, in turn, was built off the same concrete layer as the west wall (**Figure 9, Plates 16-17**).

4.8.2 The excavated soil in this test pit was largely up-cast material from burials comprising very loose chalky soil containing disarticulated human bone fragments. A possible *in situ* infant burial was encountered at a depth of 0.45 m so excavation was stopped at this level.

4.9 Test pit 8

4.9.1 This test pit was located internally in the south-west corner of the nave (**Figure 2**). The test pit exposed the lower parts of the west and south wall of the nave. These were thought to be contemporary as they were constructed from similar large flints set in a pale brown lime mortar. At the junction of the two walls limestone quoins were visibly tied-in. The flint walls appeared to be built off a wider flint foundation of large flint nodules set in similar lime mortar. The south wall had a wider foundation than the west wall which appeared flush vertical with the upper wall (**Figure 10, Plates 18-20**). The flint foundation was cut into an old topsoil layer. This consisted of mid brown silty clay with poorly sorted chalk pieces. Directly below this layer, and at 0.65 m below floor level, compact white natural chalk was recorded.

4.9.2 The deposits directly below the internal floor surface formed a succession of horizontal layers which consisted of a thick concrete layer onto which the parquet flooring was laid. The parquet floor blocks were set in bitumen. Below the concrete wall a well-defined thin rammed chalk layer, on top of a compacted layer of mid-brown sandy soil. Below this, was a very thin but well defined layer of compacted chalk. At the bottom of the sequence was a thick layer of loose orange sand directly on top of the relic topsoil. This suggests a significant amount of build-up and preparation for the floor level inside this part of the nave. The various layers may represent several historic floor levels.

4.10 Test pit 9

4.10.1 Located internally in the north-east corner of the church (**Figure 2**), this test pit exposed the base of the interior of the north and west walls. These two walls were faced internally with red brick laid in a mixed bond of late 19th century date. Until the fire, the wall finish was hard render. The bases of the walls were set on brick footings with double steps, an upper step of three courses and a lower single step. The brick footings were built off a deep concrete foundation, the base of which was not clearly defined (**Figure 11, Plates 21-22**).

4.10.2 The depositional sequence below the parquet flooring in this part of the church was different to that seen in the south-west corner. Immediately below the concrete sub-base of the parquet flooring was a deep layer of mixed dark brown silty clay with poorly sorted chalk pieces. Disarticulated human bone was recovered from this layer similar to that present in test pits 1 and 7. Below this mixed layer was a loose, chalky up-cast created

from multiple burials excavated prior to the construction of this part of the church in the late 19th century. Excavation was halted at approximately 1.02 m below floor level due to the likelihood of disturbing *in situ* burials. However, a small area of natural chalk was observed beneath the concrete foundation below the north wall. This may be an indicator that the concrete foundations in test pits 1, 7 and 9 terminate at this level.

4.11 Test pit 10

4.11.1 Located within the north aisle and just to the north of the north arcade, this test pit targeted the deposits alongside the north arcade (**Figure 2**). Directly below the concrete base of the parquet flooring, a thin layer of compact mixed soil was found. This is thought to represent a levelling medium for the concrete sub-base. The test pit appears to have been excavated directly on the line of a grave cut. A well-defined vertical edge was identified on the south side of the test pit. This grave cut was filled with a very loose chalky backfill. Consequently, no further excavation took place due to the likelihood of disturbing *in situ* human remains (**Figure 12, Plates 23-24**).

4.11.2 The grave cut had truncated an old soil layer visible in the side of the test pit. This consisted of mid-brown compact silty clay flecked with chalk pieces. The grave is thought to pre-date the north extensions of the church and would have originally been excavated along the north wall edge of the original nave.

4.12 Test pit 11

4.12.1 This test pit was located within the nave and across the central aisle (**Figure 2**). After removal of the parquet flooring blocks and the sub-base concrete beneath, the test pit uncovered the exposed west end and south side of a brick-lined tomb (**Figure 13, Plates 25-26**). The tomb was not formally covered by a slab and the fill consisted of very loose chalk.

4.13 Test pit 12

4.13.1 This test pit was located toward the west end of the nave in a central position (**Figure 2**). Removal of the concrete sub-base to the parquet flooring revealed a layer of compacted mixed soil and chalk above a thin layer of lime mortar. A buried soil layer consisting of mid-brown silty clay with poorly sorted flints and chalk pieces was encountered below. This directly overlies natural hard white chalk at approximately 0.5 m below existing floor level (**Figure 14, Plates 27-28**).

4.14 Test pit 13

4.14.1 This test pit was located in the centre of the lower step of the east chancel (**Figure 2**). The encaustic tiled floor was laid on a thin bed of cementitious mortar in this location. Directly below the mortar was a 'marble' slab and the upper face of a brick arched burial vault (**Figure 15, Plates 29-30**). No further excavation took place in this test pit.

5 FINDS

5.1.1 The only finds made during the fieldwork were two sherds of pottery. Both are undiagnostic body sherds. The first, from Trench 4 (buried soil **405**), is in a hard-fired, relatively fine Romano-British greyware, while the second, from Trench 12 (buried soil **1205**), is in a grog-tempered fabric of Late Iron Age or Romano-British date.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 The deposits and building fabric recorded in the various test pits have assisted in enabling a broad phasing of the construction of St Peter's to be understood. The documented beginnings of the church start in the 11th century and continue through to the 14th century. The church continued to be adapted and expanded up until the late 19th century, when it reached its full form.
- 6.1.2 The earliest identified remains would appear to be the buried topsoil recorded in test pits 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12. This topsoil appears to date from the pre-church landscape and contained background evidence of late Iron Age and Roman occupation in the vicinity. The earliest parts of the church would appear to have been built directly onto this surface. The hard natural underlying chalk is a very stable stratum on which to found the building and, where this was exposed (particularly along the east and south sides of the church), the flint walls were constructed directly onto the underlying chalk and or existing topsoil with no introduced foundation considered necessary.
- 6.1.3 The 11th century and later church would have been surrounded by a graveyard leading to intensive disturbance of the ground in the immediate vicinity of the church over the centuries. Some of these burials appear to have been excavated very close to the walls. There was evidence of this within Test pit 10, where an east-west grave cut was identified very close to what originally was the north wall of the nave. There is also evidence, particularly in the north-west corner of the church, that this area was used extensively for burials over a long period. Within Test pits 1, 7 and 9 deep deposits of burial up-cast were identified. The north-east corner was similarly disturbed by burials.
- 6.1.4 The presence of graves in close proximity to the walls is not surprising and appears to be particularly prevalent in medieval cemeteries, where the graves of children, especially young children, would sometimes be grouped along the sides of the church that adjoined the cemetery (Newman 2001, 74).
- 6.1.5 Within the interior of church, the test pits revealed a variety of deposits including a buried soil layer, early flint foundations and, as expected, post-medieval brick-lined burials and vaults. Test pit 8 in the south-west corner was founded on deeper flint foundations. These deeper foundations are thought to be as a result of the location of the church. The church sits on the shallow east-west slope of a hill and, it is likely that, the builders terraced the church into the slope on the east end to alleviate the need for very deep foundations on the west side.
- 6.1.6 The location of the post-medieval tombs is not surprising, given their location. The present parquet flooring and the underlying concrete base have been formed over these features. It is not fully understood exactly how many below floor burials exist. Certainly, under the altar area within the chancel, Test pit 13 revealed the presence of older slab and post-medieval brick vaulting, the extent of which was not determined.
- 6.1.7 The north side and west end of the church have arguably experienced the most disturbance, with a late 19th century north arcade and aisle added in this area. This extension of the church has been formed over a previous burial area which is illustrated by the depth of up-cast material in this area and the quantity of disarticulated human bone present in the excavated material. The north and west end of the church appear to have been founded on a continuous cast concrete foundation. This continuous foundation implies that the west end of the church has been re-fronted as the concrete was not identified in the interior Test pit 8. The new west frontage is founded on the concrete while the interior of the west end is founded on earlier flint footings.



7 ARCHIVE

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 The project archive is currently held by Wessex Archaeology at our offices in Salisbury. It is recommended that the archive should be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust, under the Accession Number **A2015.62**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

7.2 Preparation of Archive

- 7.2.1 The complete site archive, which may include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Hampshire County Museum Services, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the WA project code (**111180**), and a full index will be prepared.

7.3 Security Copy

- 7.3.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

7.4 Copyright

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be copied for development control, planning and educational purposes without recourse to the Copyright owner, the copyright owner to be given full acknowledgment in any reproduction of material.
- 1.1.2 This document and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. All remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of this document and subsequent report.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

Newman, P. 2001, *Daily Life in the Middle Ages*, McFarland & Company

Wessex Archaeology 2015 *St Peters Church Ropley Hampshire Written Scheme of Investigation/Building Recording Watching Brief* Unpublished client report reference 111180.01

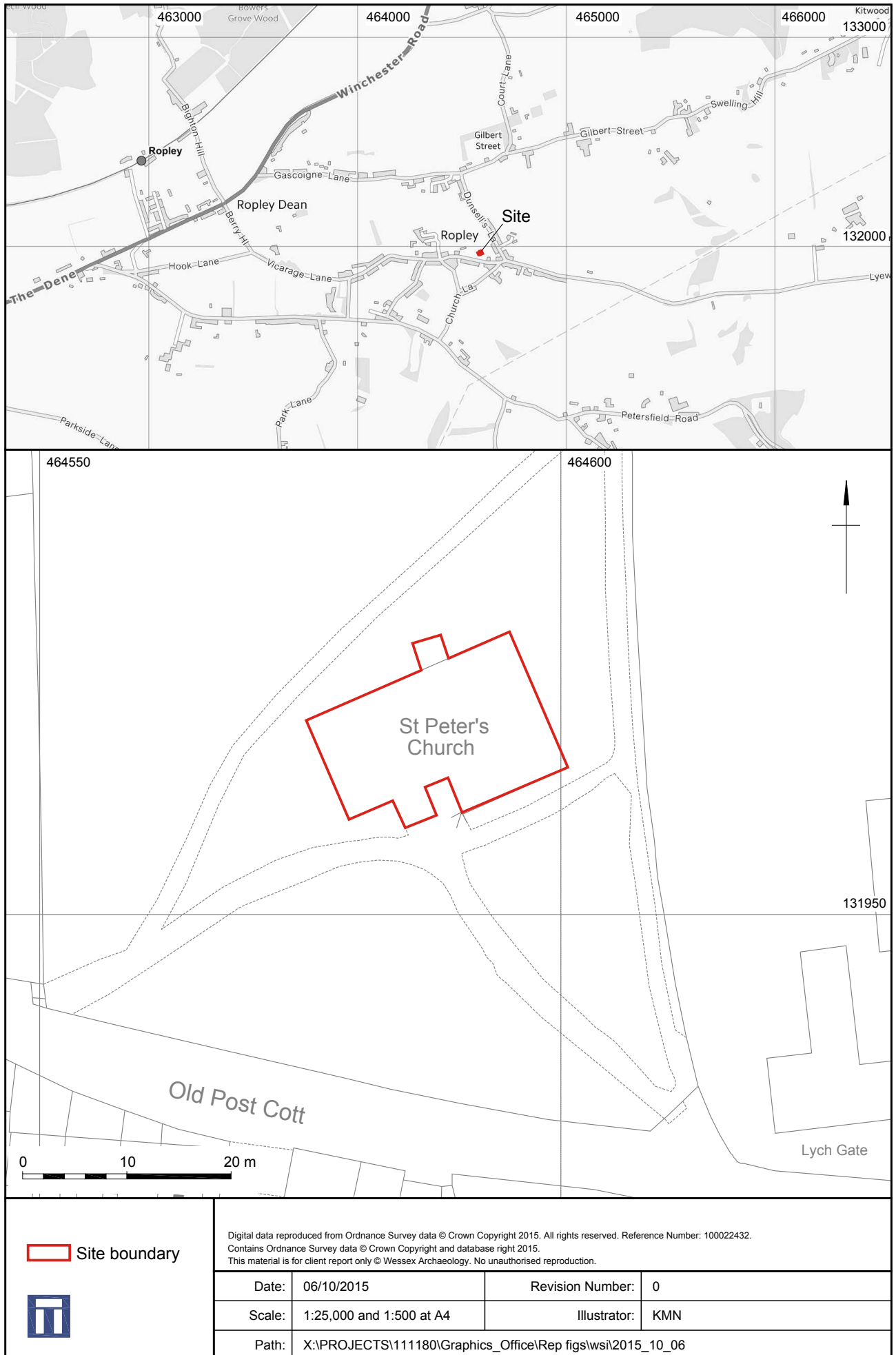


8.2 Sources

On line sources

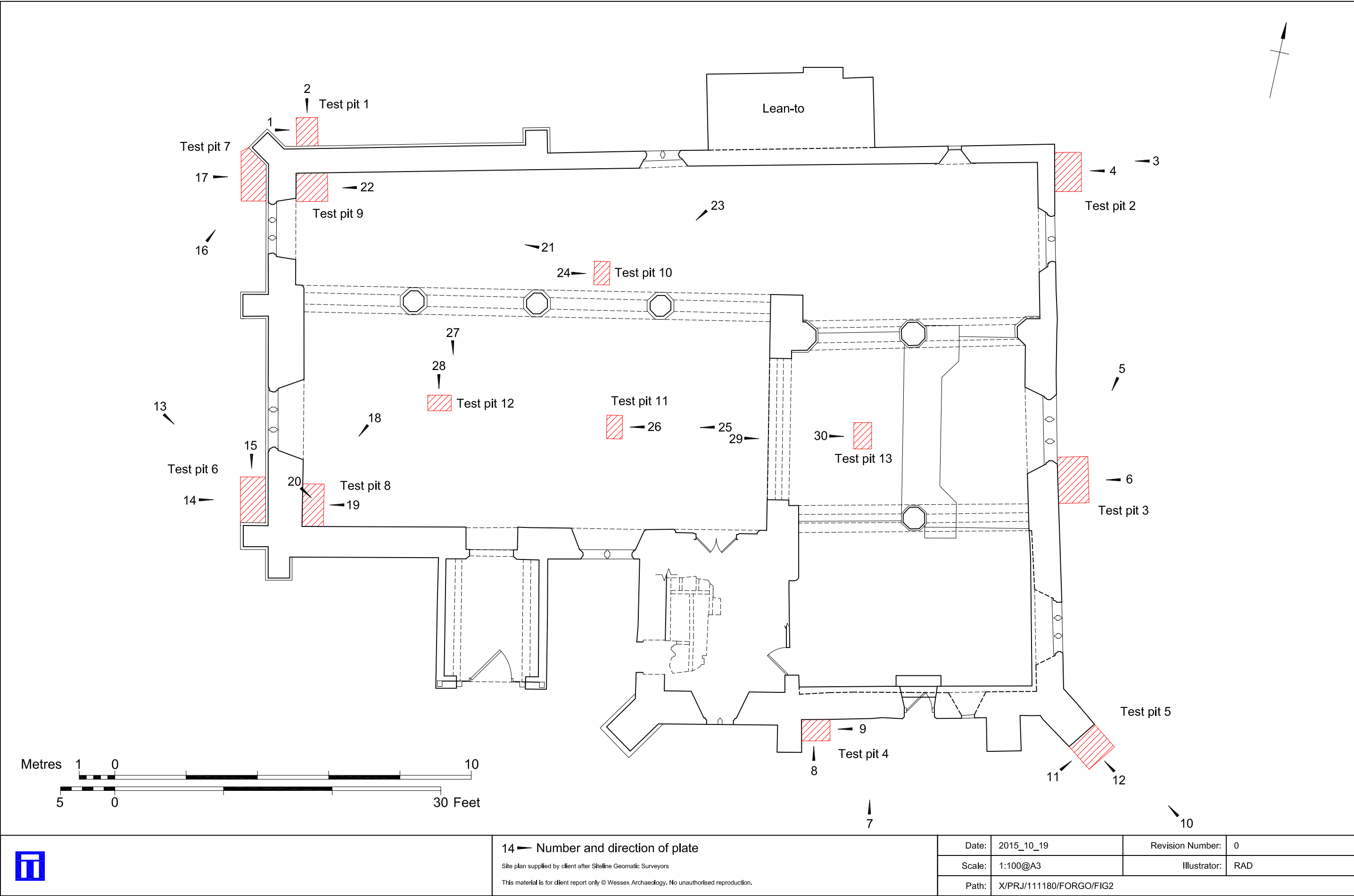
<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk>

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/vol3/pp55-58>



Site location

Figure 1



St Peters Church plan showing locations of test pits also showing number and direction of plates

Figure 2

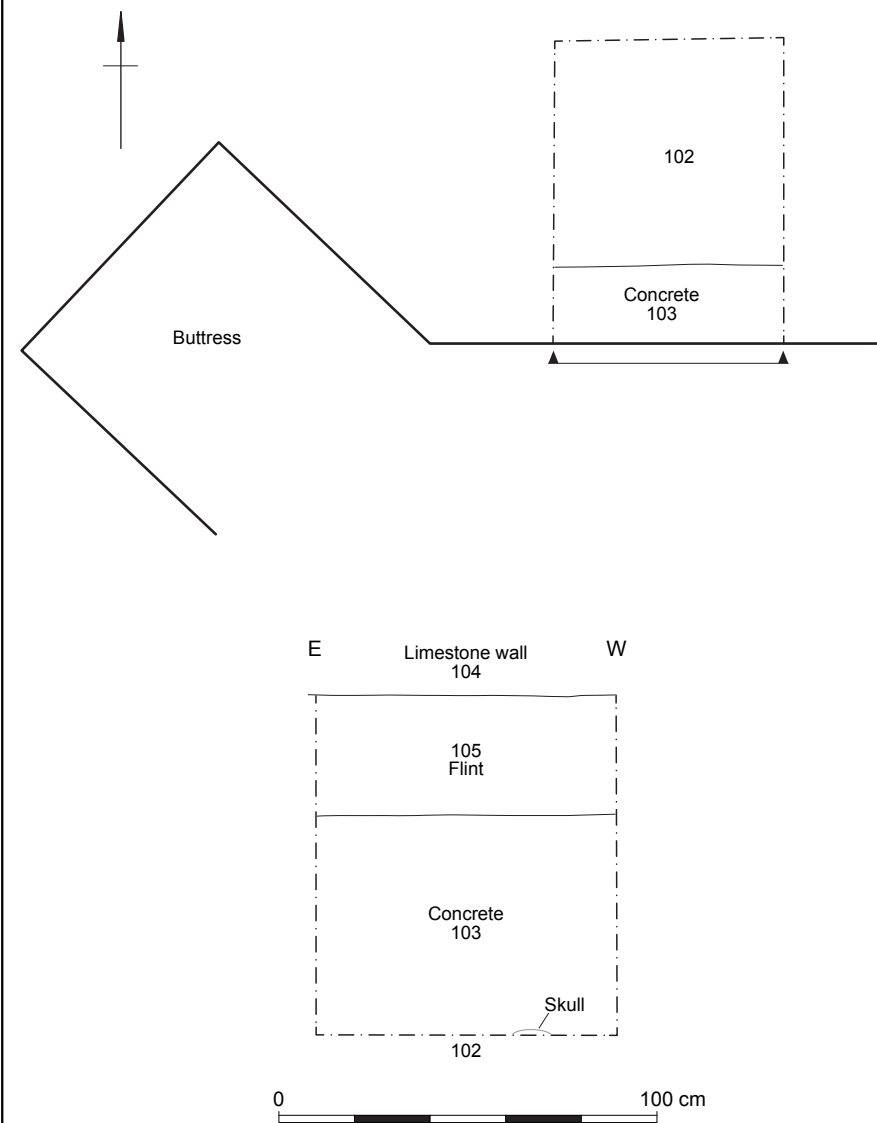


Plate 1: Test pit 1 viewed from west (scales 0.5m & 1m)



Plate 2: Test pit 1 viewed from north (scale 1m)



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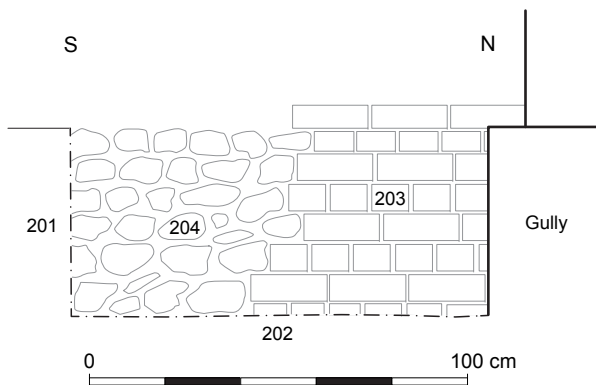
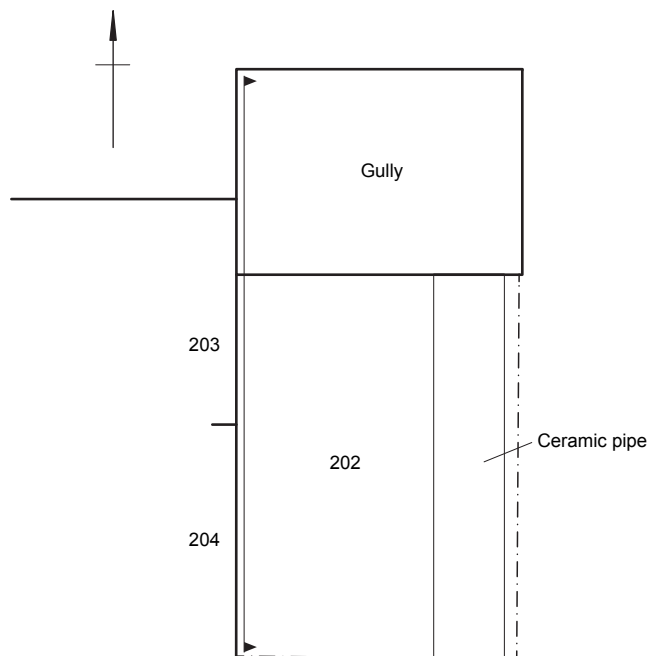


Plate 3: Test pit 2 viewed from east (scales 0.5m & 1m)



Plate 4: Test pit 2 viewed from east (scales 0.5m & 1m)



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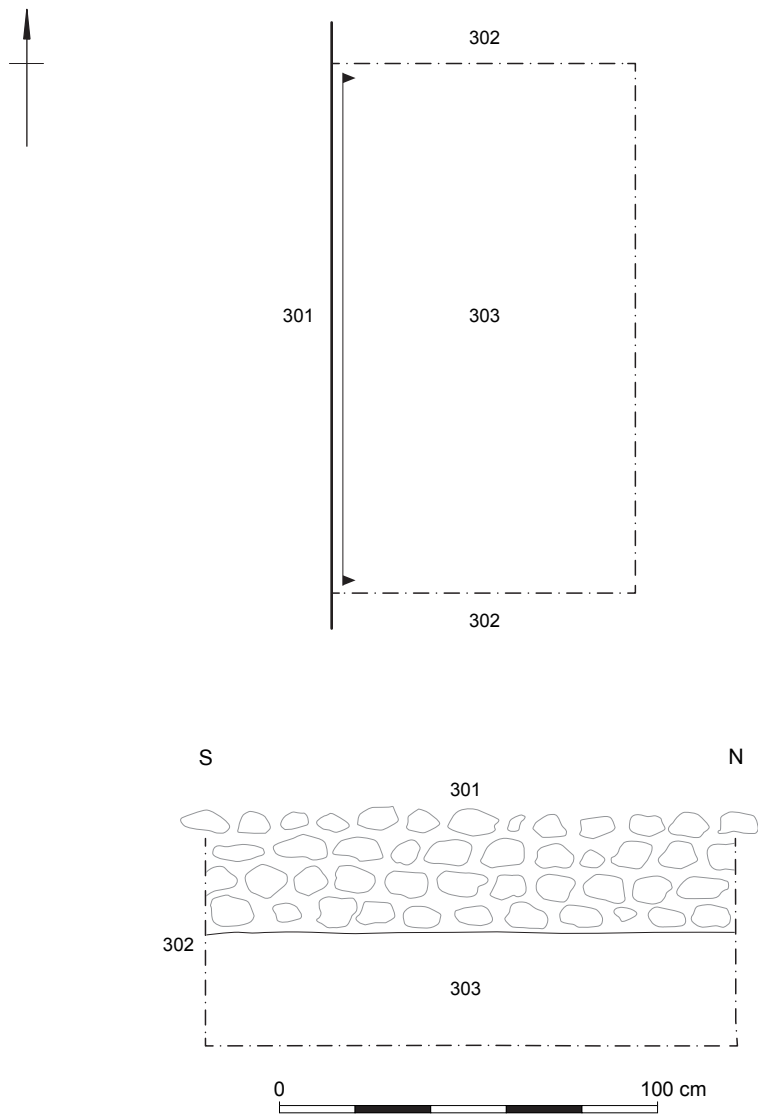


Plate 5: Test pit 3 viewed from north (scale 0.5m)

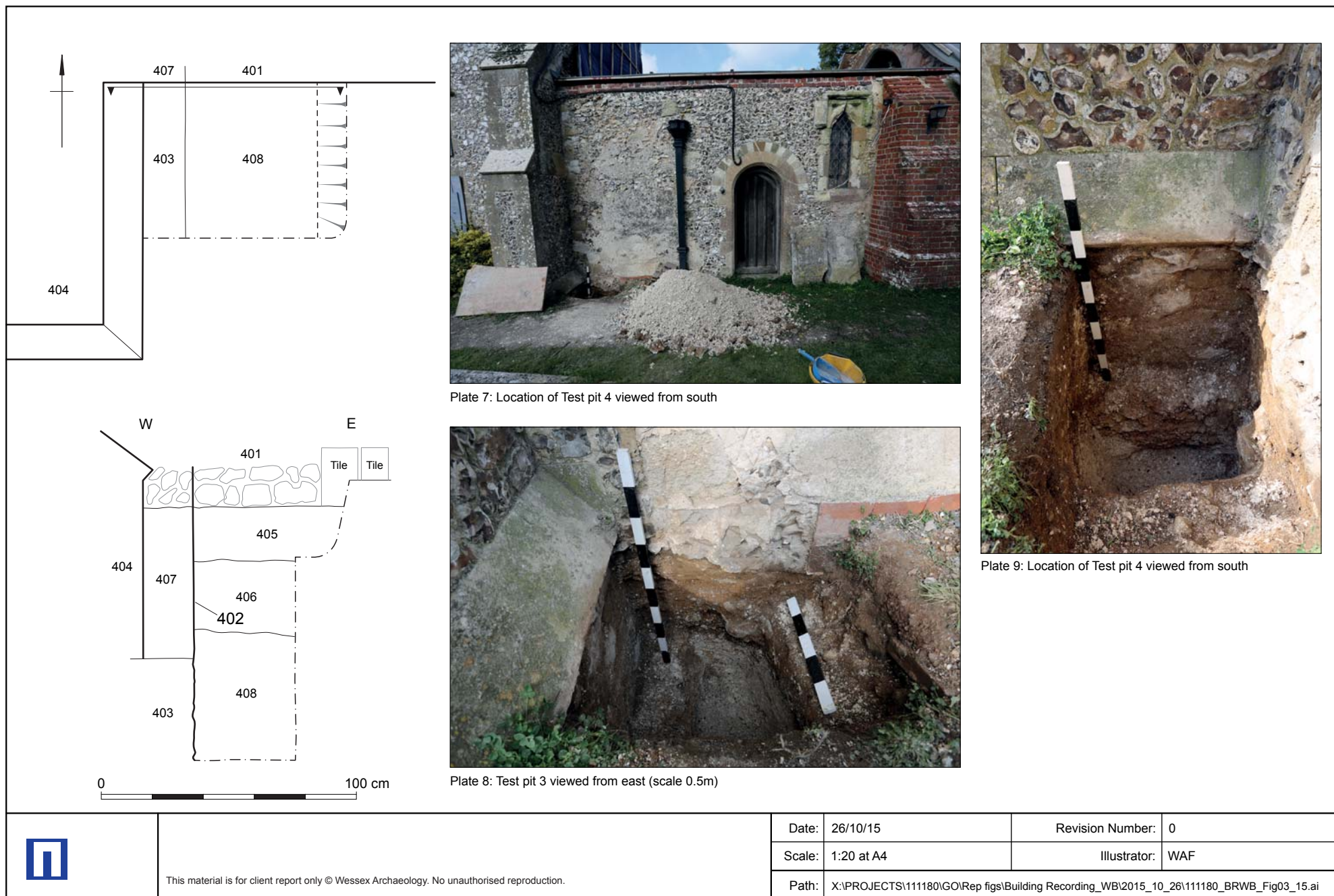


Plate 6: Test pit 3 viewed from east (scale 0.5m)



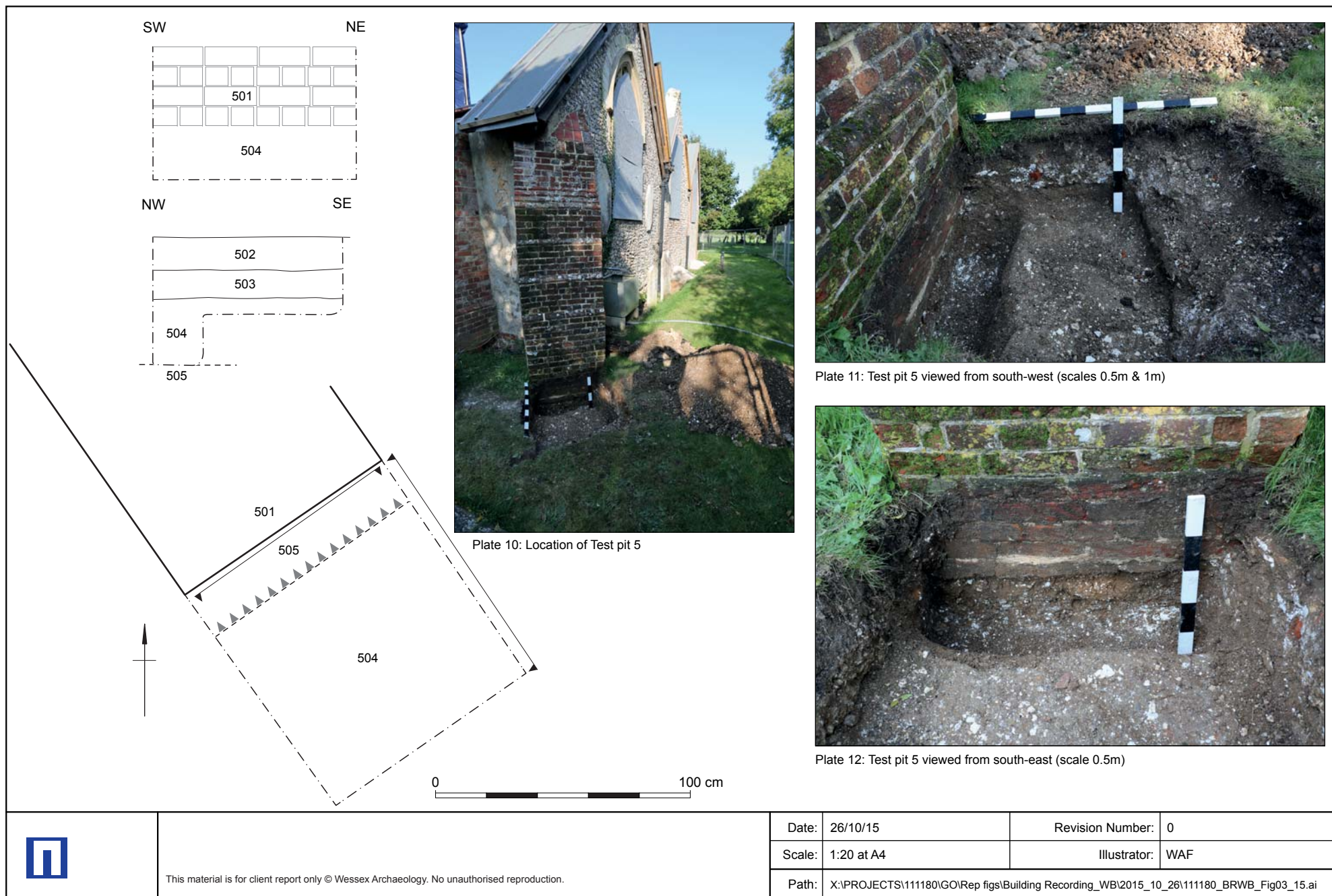
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Plan and elevation of Test pit 4

Figure 6



Plan and cross sections of Test pit 5

Figure 7

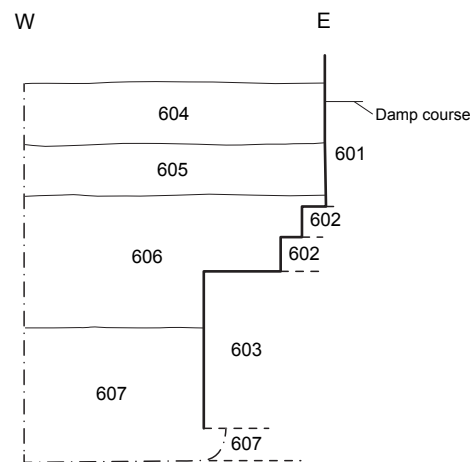
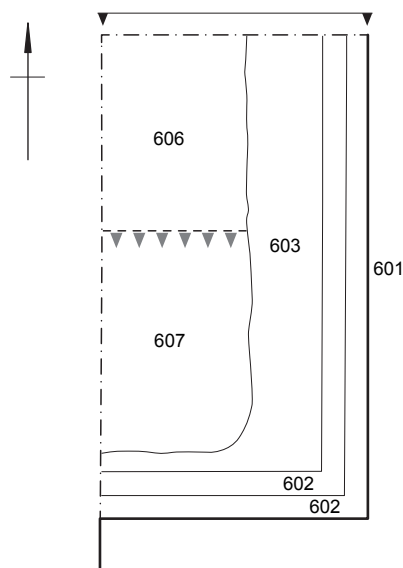


Plate 13: Location of Test pit 6 viewed from north-west



Plate 14: Test pit 6 viewed from west (scales 0.5m & 1m)

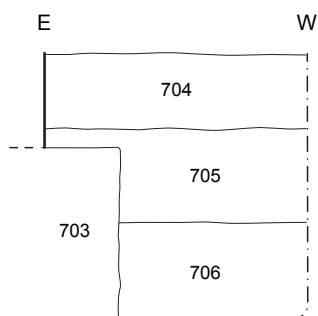
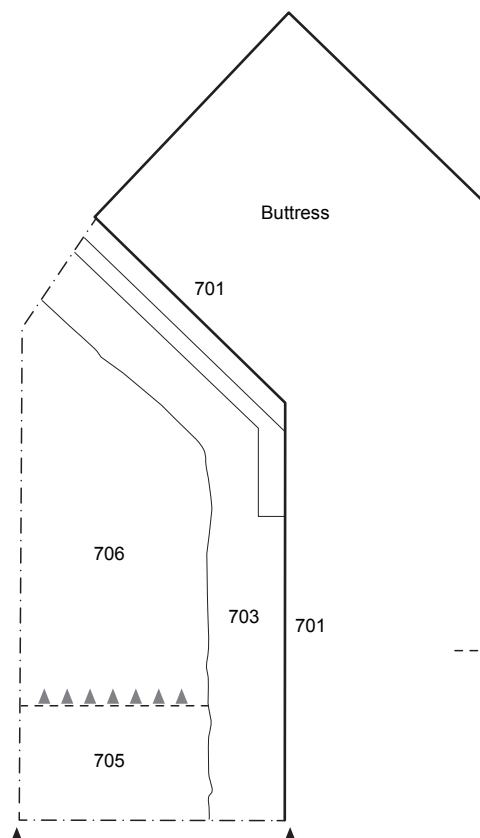


Plate 15: Test pit 6 viewed from north (scales 0.5m & 1m)



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0 100 cm



Plate 16: Location of Test pit 7 viewed from south-west

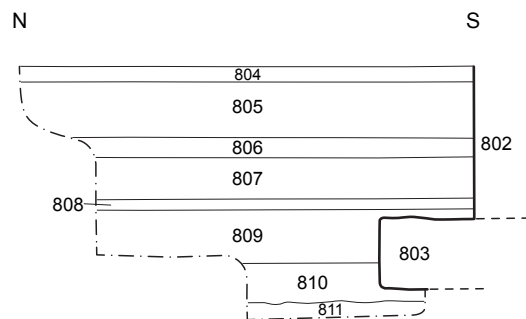
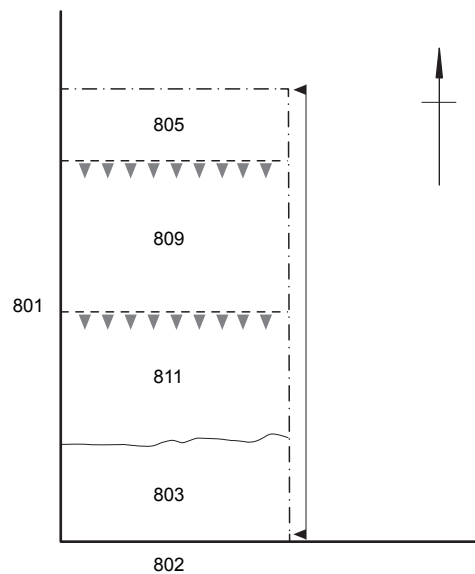


Plate 17: Test pit 7 viewed from west (scales 0.5m & 1m)



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0 100 cm



Plate 18: Location of Test pit 8 viewed from north-west



Plate 19: Test pit 8 viewed from east (scales 0.5m & 1m)

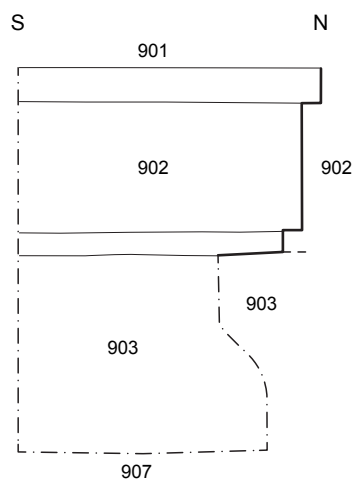
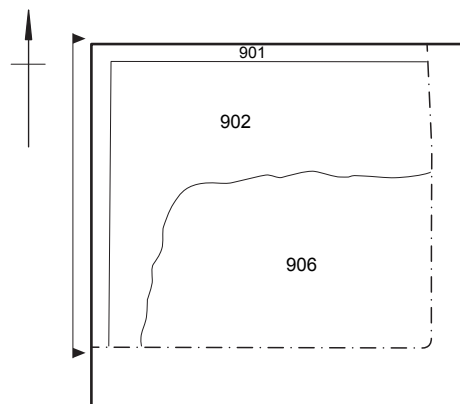


Plate 20: Test pit 8 oblique view of deposits recorded in west facing section (scale 0.5m)



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0 100 cm



Plate 21: Location of Test pit 9 viewed from the east



Plate 22: Test pit 9 viewed from east (scales 0.5m & 1m)



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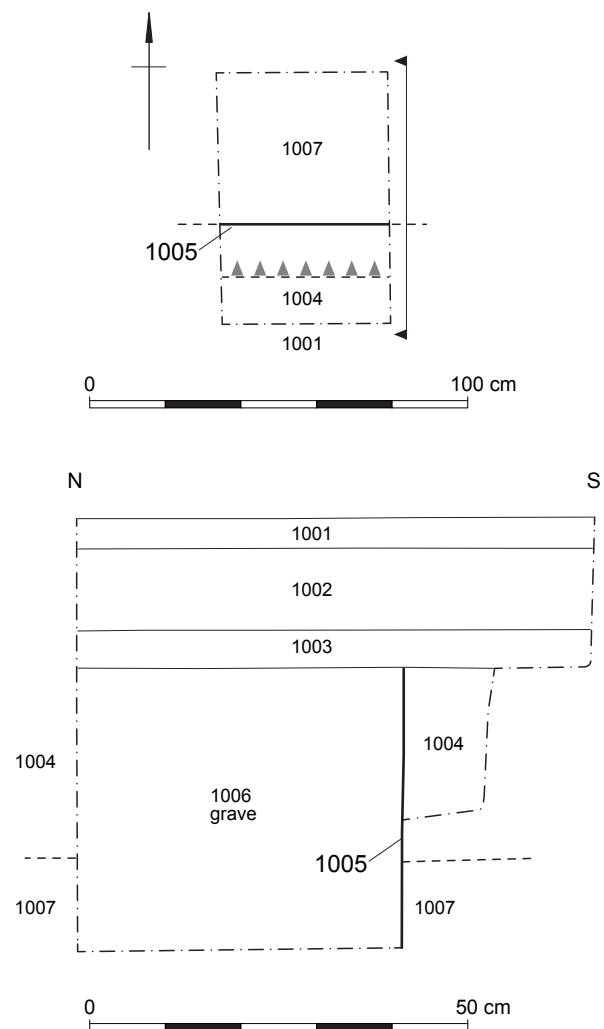


Plate 23: Location of Test pit 10



Plate 24: Test pit 10 viewed from west (scales 0.5m & 1m)



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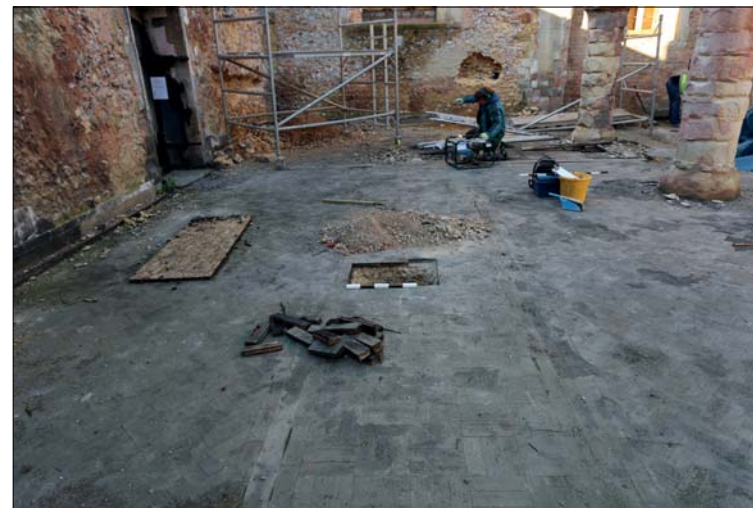
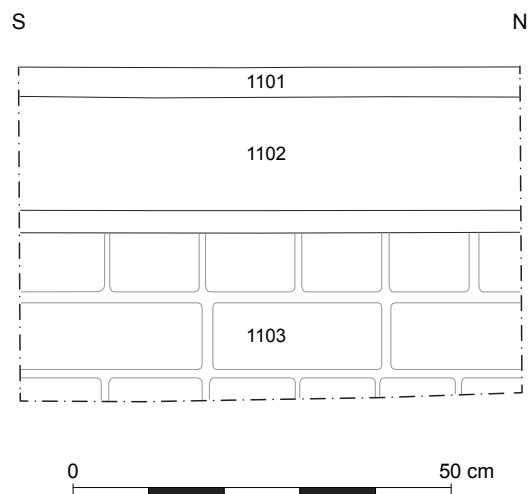
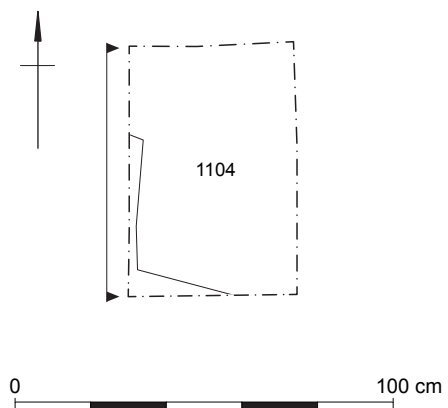


Plate 25: Location of Test pit 11



Plate 26: Test pit 11 viewed from east (scale 0.5mvz)



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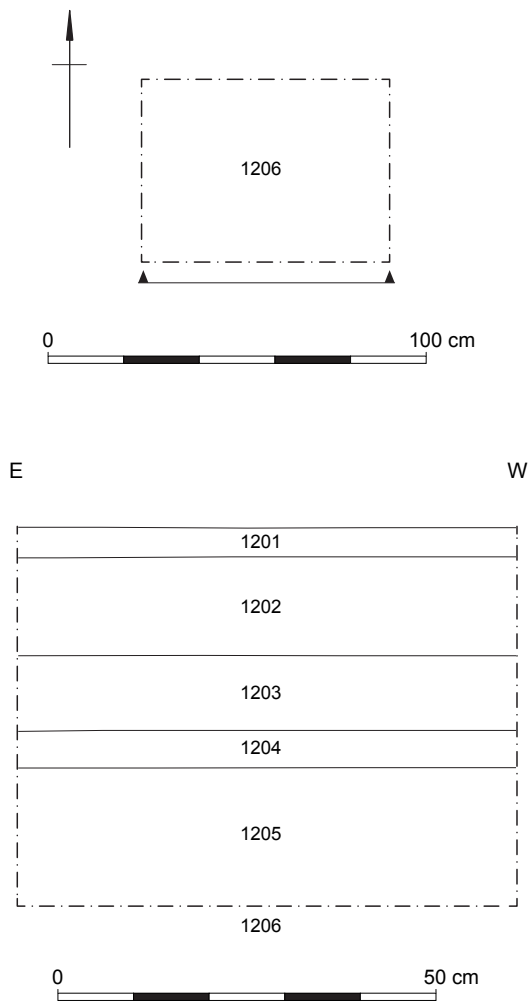


Plate 27: Location of Test pit 11



Plate 28: Test pit 11 viewed from east (scale 0.5mvz)



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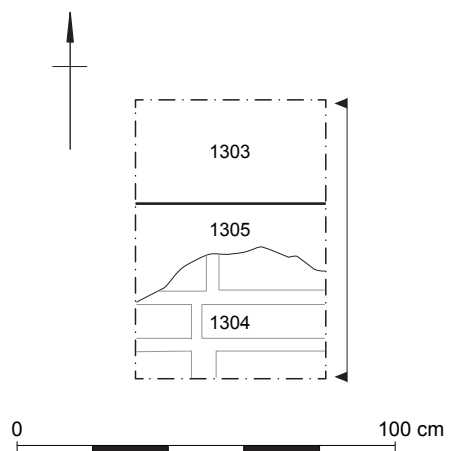


Plate 29: Location of Test pit 13

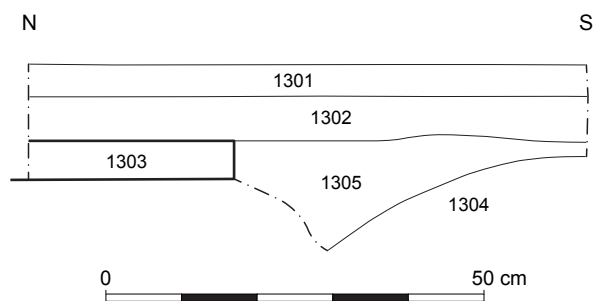


Plate 30: Test pit 13 viewed from west



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APPENDIX : TEST PIT SUMMARIES

Test pit 1		Max Depth: 0.90m	Length: 0.80m	Width: 0.60m
Context	Type	Description		Depth below ground surface (m)
101	layer	Mid brown silty clay topsoil and thin turf line. Occasional chalk pieces		0 – 0.15m
102	Layer	Orange brown loose soil with abundant poorly sorted chalk pieces and flints. Containing disarticulated human bone (not kept). Fairly loose build-up of church yard burial up-cast. At base of dig whole skull uncovered so dig halted		0.15m – to base of trench
103	Concrete	Poorly formed concrete foundation to north wall of church. Contains some brick frags. Not bottomed due to human burial		
104	Flint/stone wall	North wall of church. Flints laid randomly and set in cementitious mortar. Squared limestone base below plinth level.		
105	Flint wall	Flint walling directly on top of concrete foundation to north wall. Possibly below damp course level.		

Test pit 2		Max Depth: 0.50m	Length: 1.20m	Width: 0.75m
Context	Type	Description		Depth below Ground surface (m)
201	feature	French drain dug along entire east end of church. Consists of two ceramic pipes buried in deep layer of pea shingle. Also includes two layers of membrane. Gulley at north end. The digging of this drain has disturbed burials.		0 – 0.30m
202	layer	Loose chalky soil part of foundation backfill of east wall. Contained disarticulated human bone (not kept)		0.30m – 0.50m
203	Brick walling	Brick wall forming the north-east corner of church. Bricks are 19 th century in appearance, laid in English bond and set in cementitious mortar		
204	Flint walling	Part of east wall of church. Formed at the same time as the brick north-east corner and tied into the brickwork. Set		



Test pit 3		Max Depth: 0.55m	Length: 1.40m	Width: 0.80m
Context	Type	Description		Depth below ground surface (m)
301	<i>Flint wall</i>	East wall of church. Centre section of three. Coursed flint possibly been repointed as cementitious mortar used.		
302	<i>feature</i>	French drain dug along entire east end of church. Consists of two ceramic pipes buried in deep layer of pea shingle. Also includes two layers of membrane.		0 - 0.30m
303	<i>layer</i>	Natural hard white chalk. Flint wall above founded directly onto this layer		0.30m - .055m

Test pit 4		Max Depth: 1.20m	Length: 0.80m	Width: 0.60m
Context	Type	Description		Depth below ground surface (m)
401	<i>wall</i>	Flint south wall of south chapel. Surface rendered and partly covered with roof tiles for damp proofing		0 – 0.20m
402	<i>cut</i>	Foundation trench cut for south-east stone buttress of south tower		1.20m
403	<i>layer</i>	Concrete foundation of buttress. Fairly weak mix of medium sized gravel with some cbm frags. Pale brown in colour		0.30m thick
404	<i>wall</i>	Coursed limestone walling of buttress visible below ground level		0.72m deep
405	<i>layer</i>	Mid reddish brown silty clay – old topsoil! South wall of chapel appears to cut into this layer. Well defined with few inclusions, single sherd of Roman pottery found		0.20m – 0.38m
406	<i>layer</i>	Darker brown soily chalk directly below 405. Large flint nodules present and poorly sorted chalk pieces. Possibly colluvium		0.38m – 0.60m
407	<i>layer</i>	Dark brown soil mixed with chalk. Backfill of buttress foundation cut		0 – 1.40m
408	<i>layer</i>	Natural hard white chalk		



Test pit 5		Max Depth: 0.50m	Length: 1.10m	Width: 0.85m
Context	Type	Description		Depth Below ground surface (m)
501	wall	Steeped brick buttress. Constructed from predominantly narrow bricks 20cm x 6cm x 10cm laid in English bond		
502	layer	Mid brown silty clay topsoil and turf line		0 - 0.13m
503	layer	Loose chalky soil with small brick frags etc. Some flint nodules, pale brown in colour		0.13m - 0.24m
504	layer	Dark brown silty clay. Old subsoil layer poorly sorted chalk pieces quite dense		0.24m - 0.50m
505	layer	Top of natural white chalk just appearing in base of trench		0.50m -

Test pit 6		Max Depth: 1.0m	Length: 1.28m	Width: 0.84m
Context	Type	Description		Depth below ground surface (m)
601	wall	Part brick part stone base of west wall and south-west buttress of church. Contains damp course slate		0 - 0.33m
602	footings	Steeped brick footings for west wall of church and south-west buttress. Two steps forming spread footings to wall and contemporary buttress		0.33m - 0.50m
603	concrete	Foundation to west wall and south-west buttress. Fairly loose with frags of brick present. Similar to that seen in test pit 1		0.50m - 0.91m
604	layer	Silty clay topsoil and turf line. Dark brown in colour		0 - 0.16m
605	layer	Slightly lighter brown silty clay with more poorly sorted chalk pieces		0.16m - 0.30m
606	layer	Dark brown silty clay. Old buried topsoil. West wall foundations cut through this layer		0.30m - 0.55m
607	layer	Natural hard white chalk		0.55m - 1.0m



Test pit 7		Max Depth: 0.65m	Length: 1.55m	Width: 0.70m
Context	Type	Description		Depth Below ground surface (m)
701	wall	Buttress and west wall to north-west corner of church. Part brick and part flint		0 – 0.25m
702	footings	Steeped footings of north-west buttress. Similar to that seen in test pit 6 except that the stepping does not extend to the west wall.		
703	concrete	Foundations to buttress and west wall. Fairly loose poorly formed and similar in appearance to that seen in test pits 1 and 6		0.25m - 0.65m
704	layer	Topsoil and turfline. Dark brown silty clay with some small pieces of cbm, window glass, slate (not kept)		0 – 0.20m
705	layer	Mid brown silty clay with poorly sorted chalk pieces. Fairly loose not compacted possible up-cast from burials		0.20m - 0.45m
706	layer	Loose chalky soil containing disarticulated human bone (not kept) at base of excavated layer was a possible infant burial in-situ but truncated by concrete foundation so test pit terminated.		0.45m – 0.65m

Test pit 8		Max Depth: 0.65m	Length: 1.20m	Width: 0.60m
Context	Type	Description		Depth Below floor level(m)
801	wall	West wall of church interior. Constructed in coursed flint set in a pale orange brown lime mortar.		
802	wall	South wall of church interior. Constructed in the same manner as the west wall. Where the two walls meet, there are squared limestone quoins. These reach to base of both walls beneath present floor level.		0.34m
803	foundation	Large flint nodules forming the foundation of both south and west walls. Appears to be single construction phase. Flints set in sandy lime mortar		0.28m deep
804	Floor covering	Wooden parquet flooring blocks set in bitumen		0 - 0.04m
805	layer	Concrete base to parquet floor		0.04m – 0.19m
806	layer	Rammed chalk below concrete		0.19m – 0.24m
807	layer	Mid brown sandy soil, possible levelling medium quite compact		0.24m – 0.35m
808	layer	Compact thin chalk layer		0.35m – 0.38m
809	layer	Distinct well defined layer of orange/brown sand		0.38m - 0.52m
810	layer	Mid brown silty clay with poorly sorted chalk pieces		0.52m – 0.60m
811	layer	Natural hard white chalk to base of pit		0.60m – 0.65m



Test pit 9		Max Depth: 1.02m	Length: 0.80m	Width: 0.88m
Context	Type	Description		Depth Below floor level (m)
901	wall	West and north walls of church interior. Red brick construction set in cementitious mortar. Very mixed bond as not face work. Rendered wall surface		
902	footings	Brick footings with slate damp course. Three courses before single step laid in stretcher bond		
903	concrete	Foundation to walls. Similar to that seen in test pits 1,6 and 7. Fairly loose and undercut to north. Not bottomed		0.50m – 1.02m
904	layer	Wooden parquet flooring blocks set in bitumen		0 - 0.04m
905	layer	Concrete base to parquet floor		0.04m – 0.19m
906	layer	Deep layer of mixed dark brown silty clay. Poorly sorted chalk pieces fairly loose texture containing some disarticulated human bone (not kept). Possible burial up-cast giving way to...		0.19m – 0.62m
907	layer	Very loose chalk containing disarticulated human bone (not kept) Test pit terminated at this level with the possibility that natural chalk was identified below the concrete foundation 903 on the north side		0.62m - 1.02m



Test pit 10		Max Depth: 0.57m	Length: 0.66m	Width: 0.44
Context	Type	Description		Depth Below floor level (m)
1001	layer	Wooden parquet flooring blocks set in bitumen		0 - 0.04m
1002	layer	Concrete base for parquet floor		0.04m - 0.015m
1003	layer	Compact pale brown soil flecked with chalk, some cement present?		0.15m - 0.20m
1004	layer	Mid brown compact silty clay. Possible old sub-soil cut by later grave 1005		0.20m - 0.40m
1005	cut	Well defined vertical cut for probable grave. Most noticeable on south side but probably on north as well. Appears directly under layer 1003 and orientated east-west		0.20m - 0.57m
1006	layer	Fill of grave cut 1005. Consisting of very loose chalk		0.20m - 0.57m
1007	layer	Natural hard white chalk cut through by grave 1005 and visible in the north and south sides of test pit		0.45m - 0.57m

Test pit 11		Max Depth: 0.42m	Length: 0.66m	Width: 0.44m
Context	Type	Description		Depth below floor level (m)
1101	layer	Wooden parquet flooring blocks set in bitumen		0 - 0.04m
1102	layer	Concrete base to parquet flooring		0.04m - 0.19m
1103	layer	Thin compact chalky soil		0.19m - 0.22m
1104	feature	Two small exposed sections of brick lined tomb. Red brick visible in west and south sides of test pit		0.22m - not found
1105	layer	Loose chalky fill of brick tomb		-



Test pit 12		Max Depth: 0.50m	Length: 0.66m	Width: 0.44m
Context	Type	Description		Depth below floor level (m)
1201	layer	Wooden parquet flooring blocks set in bitumen		0 – 0.04m
1202	layer	Concrete base of parquet floor		0.04m – 0.17m
1203	layer	Mixed soil and chalk. Compacted poorly sorted small pieces of chalk		0.17m – 0.27m
1204	layer	Thin lime mortar possibly part of 1203. Well defined		0.27m – 0.32m
1205	layer	Buried soil mid brown silty clay poorly sorted flints and chalk quite compact. Single pot sherd found		0.32m – 0.50m
1206	layer	Top of hard white natural chalk		0.50m –

Test pit 13		Max Depth: 0.23m	Length: 0.74m	Width: 0.50
Context	Type	Description		Depth Below floor level(m)
1301	layer	Ceramic floor tiles to alter		0 – 0.04m
1302	layer	Concrete base to floor. Brick pieces set in cement		0.04m – 0.10m
1303	feature	Stone slab possibly covering tomb possibly on top of vault 1304		0.10m - 0.15m
1304	feature	Vaulted brick arch of tomb below alter plinth. Red brick and salt glazed bricks		
1305	layer	Compacted chalk layer directly on top of brick arch to vault 1304. Possible levelling medium to slab 1303.....test pit terminated		0.23m



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