

# ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, SEVENOAKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS 1993

POST EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH DESIGN



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

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**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SEVENOAKS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS 1993**

**POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND REVISED RESEARCH DESIGN  
PROPOSALS FOR POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS**

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**OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

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## 1 Summary

During the last months of 1993 the Oxford Archaeological Unit excavated the interior of St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks, Kent, in advance of proposed developments by the Parochial Church Council. It was possible to trace the architectural development of the church from its foundation, probably in the 11th century, through to the present day. Four hundred and twenty graves spanning a period of c. 800 years were recorded and excavated. A wide range of artefacts, including prehistoric flints, building materials, coffin furniture and textiles was recovered.

## 2 Project background

### 2.1 Location

The Parish Church of St Nicholas is located near the top of the gentle slope on which the town of Sevenoaks is built (NGR TQ 5312 5431). It lies at the top end of the busy High Street.

### 2.2 Historical background

The church first appears in documentary sources in the *Textus Roffensis* of 1122. It may be a pre-Conquest foundation, since it was the main church of a large parish at an early date. The Papal Registers of 1218 mention the church and an individual named Aaron who was the 'chaplain and clerk.' Later references suggest that non-resident rectors were more interested in the politics of the church than they were in St Nicholas. In 1404 the Rector was ordered to repair the glebe barns and the chancel (a requirement which may be represented by the buttresses added to it) under a penalty of £40. The Parish Registers date back to 1559.

### 2.3 Previous work

Archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1990 (Hicks and Ward 1990) and by the Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1992 (Wilkinson 1992b). Test pits were located within the nave and aisles and were intended to assess the character, extent, quality and date of surviving archaeological deposits.

Green sandstone foundations were found to underlie both nave arcades. Medieval floor layers were not present in any of the test pits because of truncation in the Victorian period. Medieval or earlier sandstone features and postholes were noted in some pits, although their exact character could not be determined. Graves were found in most pits and these included post-medieval examples in lead coffins within brick vaults.

### 2.4 Background to the church excavation

The Parochial Church Council's *Building for the Gospel* project will create a suite of parish rooms as an undercroft below the present day floor levels. This will involve excavation of the space below the floor to a depth of c. 4 m, thereby destroying all surviving archaeological deposits. The west tower and the adjacent half of the westernmost bay of the nave will not be affected. Planning permission was granted in September 1991 and is valid for 5 years. It was a condition of the permission that a programme of archaeological works had to be undertaken before building began. This programme had to be in accordance with a written specification and timetable approved by the District Planning Authority. The works are also subject to the terms of a faculty granted by the Diocese of Rochester.

## 2.4.1 Methodology

### 2.4.1.1 Excavation

The PCC was responsible, under archaeological supervision, for the removal and storage of all existing fittings, the present floor, and associated rubble make-up, as well as any underfloor services which required removal. The entire church was excavated, with the exception of the present-day vestry, W tower and N and S porches. The Oxford Archaeological Unit was responsible for all other excavation, which was carried out by hand. The Oxford Archaeological Unit's standard system was used for all context, sample and finds recording (Wilkinson 1992a).

### 2.4.1.2 Human remains

A detailed discussion of the human remains is warranted in view of the fact that the original specification required that they be assessed and recorded by an osteologist on site while excavation proceeded.

All articulated remains were individually recorded on skeleton sheets. Burials were additionally photographed. The original proposal required the presence of an osteologist on site for an appropriate period of the excavation to record basic skeletal data as follows: condition, age, sex, stature and potential. This level of recording was stipulated on condition that skeletal remains would receive long-term storage in an ossuary to be provided by the PCC and would therefore be available for detailed analysis in the future. The analysis of metrical, non-metrical and dental data and pathological condition was to be undertaken only following MAP2-style assessment and the selection of individual skeletons or groups of skeletons. It was envisaged that where individuals of particular significance, either intrinsically or pathologically, required more detailed analysis, special provision would have to be made. Charnel was quantified by context and minimum number of individuals estimated. The Oxford Archaeological Unit's standard system was used for the storage of skeletons and associated environmental samples (Wilkinson 1992a).

In the initial stages of excavation the requirements for the basic recording of

skeletal data were complied with. However, as the policy of the PCC on reburial and retention was revised during the excavations it was decided to increase the level of recording as far as possible to incorporate pathology, dental data and a certain amount of metric analysis. This change in the level of recording has implications for the quantity and standard of skeletal data which have already been recovered.

## 2.5 Results to date

### 2.5.1 A brief description of the phasing and dating of the church building (see Fig. 1)

A small number of prehistoric artefacts provide the only evidence for activity prior to the construction of the first church, which was a two-celled structure consisting of a rectangular nave, measuring 13 x 6.5 m, and a chancel, measuring 3 x 6 m. This phase may date to the later 11th century. Only a few burials had taken place in the graveyard to the N of the church before a narrow aisle, c 2 m wide, was added to the nave on that side.

The second major phase of building involved the addition of a long narrow chancel which extended the church by 10 m to the E. Transepts were built immediately to the N and S and these encroached on the earlier external cemetery. The earliest burials within the church appear to date to this period.

The next development was the addition of a chapel to the S of the chancel which is likely to be the Chantry or Lady Chapel built by the Rector, Henry of Ghent, in 1257. Probably at around the same time, a western extension measuring 4 m and with unusually deep foundations was made to the north aisle. Adjacent to this, just to the W of the nave, a bell casting pit was excavated, suggesting that these new deeper foundations may have supported a bell tower.

A major phase of redevelopment which greatly increased the space within the church took place in the 13th century. A new aisle, twice as wide as that on the N, was added to the S of the nave. The present-day nave arcades were constructed and these extended the church by 5 m to the W. This phase appears to have ended with the demolition of the old north aisle and the bell tower to make way for a new aisle which mirrored the dimensions of its counterpart to the S.

In the 15th century the northern or St Peter's chapel and the choir vestry were built, and the chancel was extended by 3.5 m to the E. The windows of the earlier S aisle were replaced and these greatly increased the light passing through the nave. Further new windows, together with the construction of the present choir arcades, created a bright open space at the E end of the church. This phase ended with the addition of the tower to the W of the nave. Although the unusual height of the tower in relation to the nave suggests that the addition of a clerestory was also intended, this was not undertaken until the 19th century.

In the first half of the 17th century a large family vault was constructed in the Chantry, which had been dissolved in 1535. The vault, built by Sir George Scott, was later used by the Amherst family. Vaults and brick-lined graves proliferated in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Burial Boards Act prohibited intramural burial in the 1850s and the law was variously reinforced by pastoral measures. The vaults and brick-lined graves of St Nicholas were permanently closed in 1878, by which time no fewer than 37 had been constructed.

### 3 Assessment (summaries)

#### 3.1 Quantification of data

##### 3.1.1 Site records

RECORD TYPE	QUANTITY
Contexts	2032
Matrices	1
Plans	1226
Sections/elevations	24
Finds/architectural details	88
B+W films	57
Colour slide films	72

##### 3.1.1.1 Stratigraphy and site phasing

The absence of floor levels which would have aided the construction of a tight stratigraphic sequence means that the phasing of structures and burials will depend largely on the typology of the finds and their distribution. The dating of vaults and brick-lined graves is likely to be rather more straightforward as the methods of construction are often quite closely datable. At least one vault was a 17th-century type, defined by its stone and brick construction with purpose-built entrance steps and stone flagged floor. It is hoped that dendro-chronological analysis on a strickle recovered from the bell-casting pit will provide a founding date.

A basic assessment of the stratigraphy has already been undertaken by M Webber (site director). This has involved the examination of all written and drawn records resulting in the production of a draft matrix and phase plan. The broad breakdown of context type is contained in the following table.

LOCATION	GRAVE CUTS	COFFINS	OTHER	TOTAL
Nave	108	93	302	503
Chancel	44	25	93	162



North Aisle	139	81	279	499
South Aisle	129	58	249	436
Throughout			164 (structural features)	164
Throughout			268 (vaults)	268
Total	420	257	923	2032

Preliminary phasing suggests that there are 116 medieval and 141 post-medieval burials. At least a third of the medieval burials are likely to be early.

### 3.2 Artefactual

MATERIAL	OBJECT TYPE	QUANTITY
FLINT	Worked pieces	43
METAL (ex. coffin furniture)	Copper-alloy (ex. pins)	16
	Copper-alloy pins	76
	Iron	18
	Lead	12
	Silver	2
	Pewter	4
	Unspecified	6
Metal (coffin furniture) <sup>1</sup>	Name-plates/breast-plates	103
	Plaques/motifs	163
	Coffin lace (tin)	4
	Escutcheons	25
	Grips and grip plates (paired)	342
	Unspecified	152
	Coffin nails	122
	Coffin studs	73
	Coffin screws	8
	Coffin brackets	28
Unspecified	152	
BUILDING MATERIALS	Decorated floor tiles	86
	Plaster mouldings	22
	Decorated wall plaster	7

<sup>1</sup> The terminology employed here is derived from the undertaker's trade and was revived for use in the Spitalfields report.

MATERIAL	OBJECT TYPE	QUANTITY
	Mortar samples and worked stone	227
GLASS	Vessels	2
	Bottles	4
	Jewels	2
	Beads	2
	Decorated window glass	41
	Undecorated window glass	134
	Unspecified	9
TEXTILES	Coffin coverings	68
	Burial garments	30
	Coffin trims	8
	Samples	23
DAUB/CLAY	Unfired clay	10
	Unfired clay (grave lining)	1
	Bell mould and core	4
	Daub	2
ORGANICS	Leather	4
	Paper	3
	Mother of pearl	3
	Shell	1
	Bone	5
TOTAL		2047

### 3.3 Environmental

MATERIAL	TYPE	QUANTITY
ANIMAL BONE	Small mammal	12
	Larger mammal	3
	Fish	1
WOOD	Coffins	81
	Other	2
COFFIN PACKING		29
SOIL SAMPLES	Coffins/graves/skeletons	100
	Structural features	17
MISCELLANEOUS	Plant remains	36
	Human hair	22
	Insect remains	7

MATERIAL	TYPE	QUANTITY
	Resin	6
	Human finger nails	4
	Ash	2
	Shell	2
	Eggshell	1
	Charcoal	1
TOTAL		326

### 3.4 Human remains

During the excavation of the church interior approximately 420 graves were examined. This exceeded the upper end of the range estimated following evaluation (200-400) though many of these were incomplete due to the digging of later graves. In addition disarticulated remains were also present in considerable quantities. The evaluations (Hicks and Ward 1990; Wilkinson 1992b) suggested that in some cases the latter were collected in antiquity, and deposited in discrete groups of charnel. This finding was confirmed by excavation.

A total of 308 burials have already been recorded to the revised level specified in section 2.4.1.2. A further 54 were excavated in the last three days of excavation during which time the osteologist could not be in attendance. Provision for these burials is considered below. The remaining grave contexts (58) fell into one of three categories as follows: graves which had been substantially cut away and contained no human remains; burials which survived as no more than a soil stain; burials within lead coffins which were partially fleshed and therefore considered unsuitable for osteological examination. A proportion of the burials (109) were returned to the PCC for reburial in compliance with its request (although not in an ossuary as stipulated in the specification).

## 4 Statement of potential

### 4.1 Stratigraphic

The stratigraphic records have the potential to provide a detailed history of the architectural development of the church, which spans a period of nearly 900 years. The elucidation of the early medieval ground plan will be of particular interest. It is hoped to relate the sequence of internal features and structures including floor levels and tombs to the development of the ground plan, which is likely to be directly related to variations in Christian worship and burial ritual. The sequence and dating of intra- and extra-mural burials will be related to church development<sup>2</sup>. These have the potential to contribute to cemetery and mortuary studies, in which late medieval and post-medieval groups are under-represented. The study of vault construction and use may illuminate changes in patronage, as

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<sup>2</sup> Certain burials were external to one or more phases of church development and therefore described as 'extra-mural'.

their construction is often linked to the endowment of church extensions and restoration schemes.

Bell casting pits are not commonly recovered and the examination of the feature and its associated finds may contribute to our understanding of bell-casting technology. Dendrochronological analysis of a timber strickle recovered from the bell pit may enable us to ascertain the date of the founding. (tasks 004, 006)

## 4.2 Artefactual

Severe truncation, and other disturbances, ensured that the small number of finds recovered were not representative of the original assemblage, and therefore largely unsuitable for statistical analysis. Coffin furniture and human remains are likely to prove exceptions to this.

### 4.2.1 Pottery

Pottery sherds, although relatively few, provide the most important source for dating the stratigraphic sequence. Few of the later examples have potential for analysis, but the earlier medieval sherds form an interesting group, of value to local pottery studies. A group of probable 12th-century sherds recovered from the ash fill of a coffin are of special interest and may aid in elucidating the origins and context of this deposit. The ash fill may have been an attempt to preserve the body before burial, which suggests that it may have travelled some distance to the grave. (task 006)

### 4.2.2 Building materials

Building materials recovered from pre 18th-century contexts are likely to provide information on interior structures, as well as roofing and flooring arrangements. The bulk of this artefact category was recovered from 18th- and 19th-century contexts. Diagnostic or interesting pieces were separated on site and these include decorated wall plaster, plaster mouldings and floor tiles. These will help to distinguish stratigraphic phases and provide valuable evidence for internal decoration. There is some potential for the production of a typology of local building materials, but this is not of high priority.

Mortar samples were taken from each recorded structure, but although it was hoped that these could be used to compare technological developments or changes through time, it is already clear that several phases of rebuilding, re-pointing and re-rendering have taken place. In these circumstances any detailed scientific examination of the material would be of limited value.

Moulded stone pieces have some potential for dating and the discussion of decorative detail. A few display toolmarks, which are indicative of the stone working techniques employed and may be of some value as a dating method. One fragment requires illustration. (tasks 005, 006)



### 4.2.3 Metalwork

#### 4.2.3.1 Coffin furniture

Coffin furniture is only rarely mentioned in the archaeological literature, particularly examples of later medieval and post-medieval date. Although parallels for some of the material have been recovered elsewhere, eg at St Mary-le-Port, Bristol (Watts and Rahtz 1986), the only other known assemblage of comparable size and interest is that from Spitalfields (Reeves and Adams 1993). A cursory examination of the St Nicholas assemblage indicates that there is a wider range of types and styles of furniture than was recovered from Spitalfields, and the material has the potential to increase our knowledge of design, typology and chronological development. In addition, the inscriptions from breast plates may be compared with the inscriptions on funerary monuments. A study of the transition from medieval iron brackets to the elaborate lead, copper and tin decoration of the 18th century would be of value. The preservation of wood grain, and possibly textiles, in the iron decomposition products of some of the earlier furnishings may provide the only clues regarding width of planks used, the type of wood employed in construction and the associated textiles. (tasks 005 and 006)

#### 4.2.3.2 Other metalwork

The typology and manufacture of copper pins has been given some attention in the archaeological literature. However, the majority of these examples are associated with burials and are likely to indicate variations in burial dress. These may help to phase burials. Few of the remaining artefacts were associated with structural features or burials and most appear to be of limited potential. With few exceptions little more than descriptive cataloguing will be necessary.

#### 4.2.4 Textiles

The majority of textile finds were recovered from 18th- and 19th-century coffins and cover the period of the Industrial Revolution. They are certain to provide a valuable body for comparison with other groups and have considerable potential for the study of textile production and dyeing technology, as well as that of fashion and burial custom. Textile remains from earlier contexts have considerable potential and warrant further detailed study. (tasks 005, 006)

#### 4.2.5 Glass

The majority of pieces are window glass, some of which is decorated and medieval in date. The study of the distribution and typology of the material should further discussion of glazing schemes and is likely to be of some value in the identification of stratigraphic phases. (task 005)

#### 4.2.6 Daub

Daub samples may provide evidence for internal features or structures. Analysis of the materials associated with the bell casting pit have the potential to illuminate bell casting technology. The cope or outer bell mould should be analysed for details of its composition and the possibility of reconstruction should be considered. (tasks 005, 006)

#### 4.2.7 Flint

Little is known about prehistoric activity in Sevenoaks and its environs. Flint artefacts and flakes, and a few sherds of possibly prehistoric pottery are, therefore of considerable importance. (tasks 005, 006)

### 4.3 Environmental

#### 4.3.1 Coffin packing material

This was recovered from 18th- and 19th-century coffins and will provide data for comparison with similar material from elsewhere. Sawdust packing was recorded at Spitalfields, where it absorbed body fluids and appeared to aid the preservation of the bone (Molleson *et al.* 1993, 11). The environmental samples taken from earlier graves may produce evidence of less obvious packing material as well as plant and insect remains. (task 005, 006)

#### 4.3.2 Wood

Identification of coffin wood, particularly when derived from the coffin of a named individual, has considerable value in the discussion of coffin manufacture and supply and is also likely to provide some information regarding date. Elm was the most commonly used wood although with the advent of french polishing in the 19th century oak enjoyed a brief period of use. At Spitalfields elm, oak and pine were all in use (Reeves and Adams 1993, 80). Wood veneers appeared towards the beginning of the 1880s (Litten 1985). (tasks 005, 006)

#### 4.3.3 Plant remains

Plant remains were found predominantly within 18th- and 19th-century coffins and graves; these samples represent floral deposits. At present, little discussion of this aspect of Christian burial ritual is to be found in the archaeological literature. Their study may indicate the season in which burial took place, and their obvious presence in predominantly later burials prompts the consideration that evidence for similar inclusions may be present in less visible form within earlier graves. It is suggested that floral tributes in the form of wreaths made their appearance in the late 1860s (Litten 1991, 170). However, the placing of petals and herbs such as lavender and rosemary within coffins was taking place at St Nicholas in the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries. (task 005)

#### 4.3.4 Soil samples

Samples from the abdominal and pelvic regions of skeletons may contain data pertaining to diet and health though this is by no means certain. Evidence indicating the season of burial or the inclusion of floral tributes, more obviously present in the later burials, might also be discernible. Preservation of both skeletal material and wood is variable across the site and it is therefore possible that plant remains may survive in less visible form. (task 007)

#### 4.3.5 Miscellaneous samples

The samples from the ash burial warrant detailed study because the excellent level of preservation within a probable 12th-century coffin may provide environmental data and indicate the origins and context of the deposit. Resinous substances, possibly including pitch, were apparently used as adhesives in coffin construction and may therefore provide information of technological importance. Samples of human hair could provide information pertaining to hair colour, hairdressing and infestation. Sampled insect remains will provide information about the processes involved in the degradation of coffins and their contents. Limited analysis of insect remains has already been undertaken at Spitalfields (Molleson *et al.* 1993, 12-13). (task 005)

#### 4.3.6 Animal bone

The assemblage is not considered to be worthy of detailed study.

### 4.4 Human remains

A total of 253 individuals have been retained for future analysis. The retention policy was based largely on the categories of preservation and completeness and where reburial occurred it was not undertaken until the skeleton was as fully recorded as the nature of the material would allow. It is not proposed at this stage that a detailed analysis of all the burials retained should be undertaken. At least two relatively small groups merit extraction and examination in exhaustive detail. (task 003)

Preliminary phasing strongly suggests that at least 24 burials are likely to be early medieval (dating from approximately the 12th century), and it is proposed that these should be studied as a coherent group. Special interest attaches to two of these burials, one of which is almost certainly that of a priest who was buried wearing his vestments with a chalice on his chest. The second is that of a skeleton buried in a coffin filled with ash, who was wearing a copper-alloy belt buckle. Also among this number are a possible family group of ten individuals who were buried within a single grave cut outside the chancel. (task 003)

Some skeletons could be clearly identified and aged by their associated coffin plaques (approximately 36 were assessed and 20 were retained). These merit full and detailed examination complemented by appropriate documentary research. At this stage all examination of this group has been undertaken without reference to the information contained on the plaques. This group has potential, albeit on

a smaller scale than Spitalfields, as a reference sample for analytical studies to aid the evaluation of skeletal methodologies including the assessment of growth, maturity and age at death (Molleson *et al.* 1993, 10). It is additionally hoped that detailed study may illuminate the skeletal assessment of family relationships. (task 003)

Charnel data should be tabulated for publication. A large group of disarticulated bone contained within a wooden box located below a 19th-century brick vault is particularly interesting. This group has been retained for further detailed analysis. (task 002)

The final report should include a synthesis of the basic recording data as well as the results of the more detailed analysis to be undertaken and their bearing on documentary evidence. (task 003)

The full potential of the Sevenoaks assemblage extends beyond even the detailed study outlined here, and cannot be realised within the scope of the present project. The size and nature of the sample justifies further detailed examination and statistical analysis. A comparison of the medieval and post-medieval samples would be an interesting and rewarding aspect of such work. The post-medieval sample has few parallels and merits detailed study in its own right. This aspect of analysis was excluded from consideration by section 2 of the specification, which provided for storage by the PCC.

#### 4.5 Historical

The Parish Registers, which go back to 1559, merit detailed examination as do the Bishops' transcripts housed in the Diocesan Records Office. St Nicholas has variously been described as being within the diocese of Rochester and the exempt Deanery of Shoreham. While in the Deanery of Shoreham it would have been exempt from episcopal jurisdiction. Many of the references which appear in the church documents are to phases of repair and development. It is likely that at least some of these can be related to the ground plan of the church at various points throughout its history.

The excavation recovered the name-plates of over 100 individuals, many of whom were part of large and well-known families, such as the Lambardes and the Amhersts. The 16th-century antiquarian William Lambarde, originally buried at Greenwich, where he died, was later removed to St Nicholas for reburial. Research into the life histories of these individuals has the potential to illuminate issues of church patronage as well as many aspects of the social and economic conditions of the town in the 18th and 19th centuries. It will be complement the proposed osteological research.

## 5 Research aims

### 5.1 Excavation aims.



The excavation research design was prepared by D Miles for the OAU in May 1993. The aims of the project were stated as follows:-

- 1 To determine the character, date and extent of pre-church activity.
- 2 To examine the evidence for an early medieval ground plan.
- 3 To define successive ground plans.
- 4 To elucidate the structural development of the church.
- 5 To examine the sequence of internal features and structures eg screens, fonts, free-standing monuments, brick vaults.
- 6 To examine the sequence, dating and arrangement of burials and relate them to the structural development of the church.
- 7 To carry out the basic recording of all human skeletal remains with a view to assessing which were worthy of further detailed study.

All of the excavation objectives have been met. At least three of the themes which appear in the English Heritage document *Exploring Our Past* (1991) can be addressed: Processes of Change, Church Archaeology, and Patterns of Industry and Craftsmanship. The elucidation of earlier medieval activity is highlighted as being of particular importance and both the archaeological features and the human remains dating to this period merit detailed treatment. The transition from late medieval to post-medieval traditions, particularly details of adaptation and overlap, are poorly understood.

## 5.2 Revised research aims

The project aims have been revised in the light of the results of excavation and post-excavation assessment and can be restated as follows:

- 1 To define the precise nature of the prehistoric activity on the site, and to place it within a local framework.
- 2 To elucidate the structural history of the church
  - 2.1 To define the archaeological evidence for the earliest church.
  - 2.2 To describe the subsequent development of the church.
  - 2.3 To describe the sequence of internal structures and features with a view to interpreting their function and relating them to the history of the structure
- 3 To define the sequence, dating and organisation of burials and relate them

to the structural development of the church.

- 3.1 To identify the wealth and status of the population groups buried within the church.
  - 3.2 To define the age and sex composition of the population groups buried within the church.
  - 3.3 To identify variations in burial ritual and consider their chronological and socio-economic implications
  - 3.4 To distinguish similarities and/or differences between the earlier medieval and post-medieval samples.
  - 3.5 To describe the nature of any osteological indicators of familial relationships.
  - 3.6 To assess the accuracy of current methods of ageing and sexing.
- 4 To define changes through time in technology, craftsmanship and decorative style.
- 4.1 To identify processes of craftsmanship, weaving and dyeing .

## 6 Methods

### Prehistoric

- 1 A specialist report on the prehistoric flints will be produced. Each piece will be individually examined and described. The assemblage will be compared with any other extant local groups. The possibly prehistoric sherds will also be examined. (Aim 1; task 006)

### Structural

- 2.1 A full and detailed analysis of the context records, plans and sections will be undertaken. (Aim 2; task 004)
- 2.2 A phased site matrix along with phase plans showing the various stages in church development will be produced. (Aim 2; task 004)
- 2.3 The evidence for internal structures and features and the burial sequence will be described and related to the phases of structural development of the church. (Aims 2 and 3; task 004, 009)
- 2.4 A descriptive catalogue of graves and vaults will be compiled. (Aim 3; task 004, 009)
- 2.5 Documentary references to the history of the church will be examined. It is hoped that references to building and/or repair will relate in some cases to archaeological phases. (Aim 2; task 012)
- 2.6 The structural development, history and use of the church will be discussed in relation to evidence from comparable sites. (Aim 2; task 009)

### Osteological

- 3.1 The results of the assessment of the entire human bone assemblage will be presented as a catalogue incorporating data on preservation, completeness,

- age, sex, stature, pathology and dental health. (Aim 3; task 003)
- 3.2 Selected groups, including the early medieval burials and the named individuals, will undergo detailed analysis. Particular attention will attach to the testing of current ageing methods and the possibility of tracing family relationships. (Aim 3; tasks 002, 003)
- 3.3 In addition attempts will be made to trace all the named individuals buried within the church and to clarify family relationships. (Aims 2 and 3; task 012)

#### Finds

- 4.1 A basic appraisal of all categories of artefact will be undertaken and a descriptive catalogue will be produced. (Aim 4; task 005)
- 4.2 There will be short discussions of all finds according to functional category. (Aim 4; task 005)
- 4.3 Certain categories of finds will require specialist examination and reports. These include pottery, wood, building materials, textiles and flint. (Aim 4; task 006)
- 4.4 Coffin construction and furniture will be studied in detail; this is an unusually interesting assemblage and one which is likely to merit detailed statistical analysis. Dating evidence will be fed into the stratigraphic analysis. (Aims 2, 3, 4; tasks 005, 006)