

Proposed Toilet Building St Peter's Church Cranbourne Berkshire



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology

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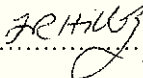
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Prepared by: James Mumford
Position: Smalls Works Project Supervisor
Date: 1st July 2005

Checked by: Dan Dodds
Position: Small Works Project Manager
Date: 8th July 2005

Approved by: Jon Hiller
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 8th July 2005

Signed.....  PP. N. SHEPHERD
OA HEAD OF
FIELDWORK.

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Oxford Archaeology

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Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

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Cover Plate: trenches across grave yard from the north-west.

SUMMARY

In May 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Peter's Church, Cranbourne, Berkshire (NGR SU 9265 7217). The work was commissioned by Cranbourne PCC in advance of construction of a new toilet block. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or graves.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In May 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Peter's Church, Cranbourne, Berkshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Cranbourne PCC in respect of a planning application for the construction of a toilet block (Planning Application No. 03/00561).
- 1.1.2 A condition for a watching brief had been attached to planning permission by the Principal Archaeologist for Bracknell Forest Borough Council (BSMR, 2004).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the condition (OA 2005).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on London Clay at 72 m above OD. The Church of St Peter's is located on the west side of Hatchet Lane, Winkfield, at National Grid Reference SU 9265 7217.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2005) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 St Peter's Church was constructed in 1849 by Benjamin Ferrey, the famous church architect. The church is built of flint and bands of red brick. The building was much improved over the following four decades with additions of stained glass windows by well known artists.
- 1.3.3 The proposed construction may impact upon a number of graves in the churchyard and as a consequence an archaeological watching brief was to be undertaken during ground works.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To record the extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of the archaeological remains within the area of the site affected by all of the proposed works.
- 2.1.2 To excavate and record archaeologically any and all surviving remains that may be disturbed or destroyed by the construction works.
- 2.1.3 To signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the watching brief.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The work was carried out by a mini excavator with toothless buckets. The septic tank was excavated first, followed by the foundation pads and service trenches. These works were all carried out under archaeological supervision (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:200 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (OAU, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

Foundation Pads (Figs 2 and 3, section 2)

- 3.1.1 These consisted of six square holes 0.50 m x 0.50 m x 1 m and cut into an orange brown clay (3), which was overlain by a 0.30 m thick layer of pinkish brown silty clay (2). This had been cut by a service trench (4) for a water pipe to the church. It measured 0.15 m wide x 0.30 m in depth with a fill of yellow brown silty clay (5). These were all sealed below a 0.15 m thick very dark grey brown silty clay topsoil (1).

Service Trenches and Septic Tank (Figs 2 and 3, Sections 1, 3 and 4)

- 3.1.2 This was a 0.50 m wide trench with a depth falling from 0.40 m to 0.60 m and ran into a 2 m square x 1.6 m deep pit. These works exposed a similar series of soil horizons as in the foundation pad holes. To the west of the septic tank hole a modern rubbish pit (6) was partly exposed in the trench. It measured 1.40 m x 0.40 m x 0.30 m with a dark brown silty clay loam (7) and cut through the topsoil (1).

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The ground works for the new building did not reveal any archaeological features or grave cuts within the excavations. An old service trench for a water pipe and a small 20th century rubbish pit were exposed in the excavations and relate to the use of the church.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	Layer	0.15 m			Topsoil
2	Layer	0.30 m			Sub Soil
3	Natural				Natural Clay
4	Cut	0.30 m	0.15 m		Water pipe trench
5	Fill				Fill of trench
6	Cut	0.15 m	0.40 m	1.40 m	20th Century rubbish pit
7	Fill				Fill of pit

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 2005 St Peter's Church, Cranbourne, Berkshire Written Scheme of Investigation

BSMR, 2004 St Peter's Church, Hatchet Lane, Winkfield: Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief

OAU, 1992 Field Manual (ed. D Wilkinson)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: St Peter's Church, Cranbourne, Berkshire

Site code: WINSPC 05

Grid reference: NGR SU 9265 7217

Type of watching brief: Ground works for the construction of new toilet block in church grave yard.

Date and duration of project: A total of five site visits from the 17th to 24th May 2005.

Area of site: 4 m² new building and 52 m service trenches.

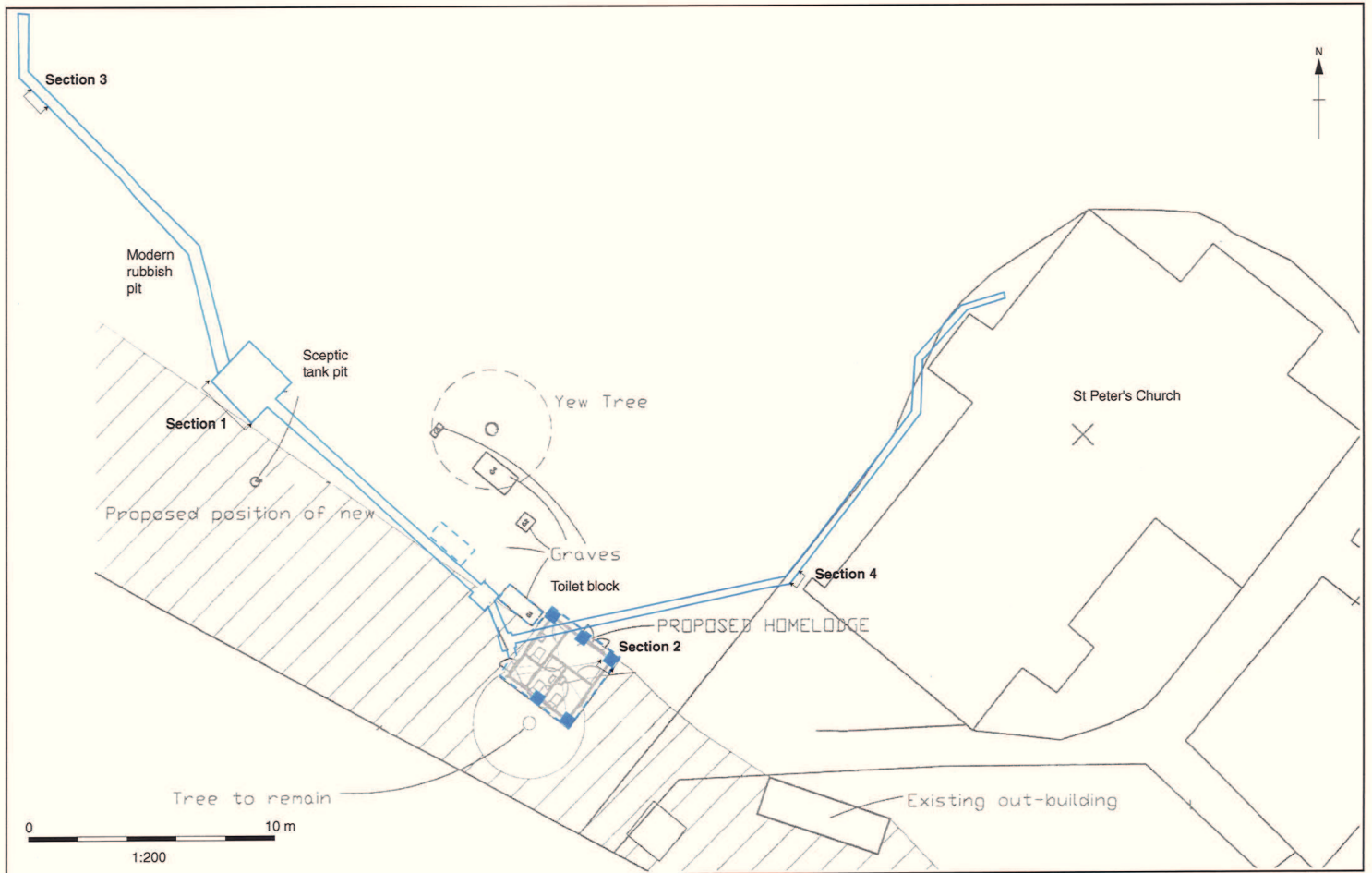
Summary of results: The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or graves.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Reading Museum in due course, under the following accession number: REDMG 2005.56



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Figure 1: Site location.



Foundation pad hole

Figure 2: Site plan showing location of sections

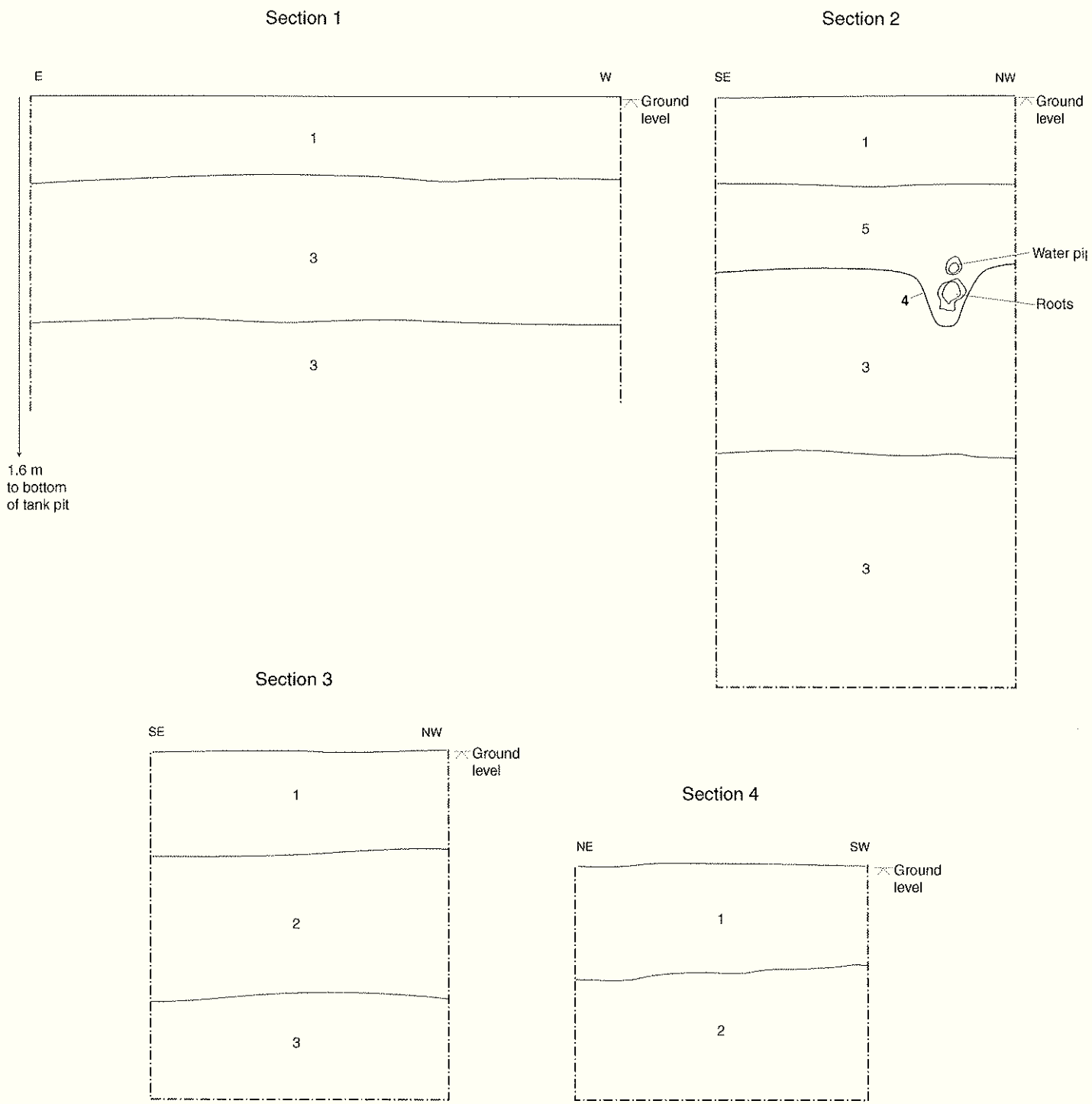


Figure 3: Sections 1-4



Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606
e: lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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