

All Saints Church
Soulbury
Buckinghamshire



**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



Oxford Archaeology

May 2004

**Client: Soulbury Parochial Church
Council**

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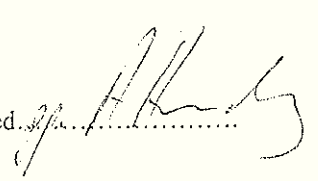
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SOULBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE***ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*****CONTENTS**

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SUMMARY

In May 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at All Saints Church, Soulbury, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 8820 2705). The work was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council in advance of a new heating system. The watching brief revealed 19th century floor make up.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In May 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at All Saints Church, Soulbury, Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Parochial Church Council in respect of the installation of a new heating system.
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, Julian Munby, on behalf of the Diocese, and also by Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service, acting on behalf of the Planning Authority.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The church is in the ancient parish of Soulbury in north Buckinghamshire and has developed on an area of high ground lying at c 115 m OD. Quaternary drift deposits cover the whole study area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared from the previous watching brief (OA 2003) and is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 The earliest parts of the church are the nave (originally aisleless), chancel and chancel arch – all dating to the early 14th century. It has been subject to numerous later alterations and additions, including a substantial restoration in 1863, which included the restoration of the chancel. The church possibly lies within the precinct of a Manor house, the location which is as yet unknown.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The 19th century tiles were lifted and a channel for the new heating pipes excavated into the floor make up. This was archaeological recorded.
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100. All channels 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* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The channels were excavated in the floors where the pipe work could not be fitted under the raised wooden floor of the pews and in the ducting of the old 19th century heating system (Fig. 2). The trenches were 0.15 m - 0.25 m wide and between 0.11 m - 0.25 m in depth. They cut into a floor make up of compact light reddish brown coarse silty sand (1) with mortar and sandstone fragments. This was sealed below 0.1 m thick layer of dark grey sandy cement (2) base for the Minton red and black floor tiles (3).
- 3.1.2 Where the new pipe work cut through the step of the north door of the north aisle (Fig. 2), the trench was 0.3 m wide and 0.2 m in depth through the step exposing a plain worked stone face with a rubble sandstone core (4), which was sealed below a 0.1 m thick layer of dark grey sandy cement (2) base for the Minton red and black floor tiles (3).

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 watching brief did not reveal any archaeological deposits or remains pre-dating the 19th century renovation of the church. The 19th century renovations have clearly truncated a lot of the floor space of the church. This could be seen in the floor space below the pews. Where the disturbed floor make up (1) had been levelled for the construction of the pew bases and present floor.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
1	Layer				Floor make up	
2	Layer	0.01 m			Base for floor tiles	
3	Layer	0.025 m	0.11 m	0.11 m	Floor tiles	
4	Layer	0.20 m			Rubble core	

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 2003 *All Saints Church, Soulbury, Buckinghamshire* Archaeological Watching Brief Report.

OA, 1992, *Fieldwork Manual* (1st edition, ed. D Wilkinson)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: All Saints Church, Soulbury, Buckinghamshire

Site code: SOASC 04

Grid reference: NGR SP 8820 2705

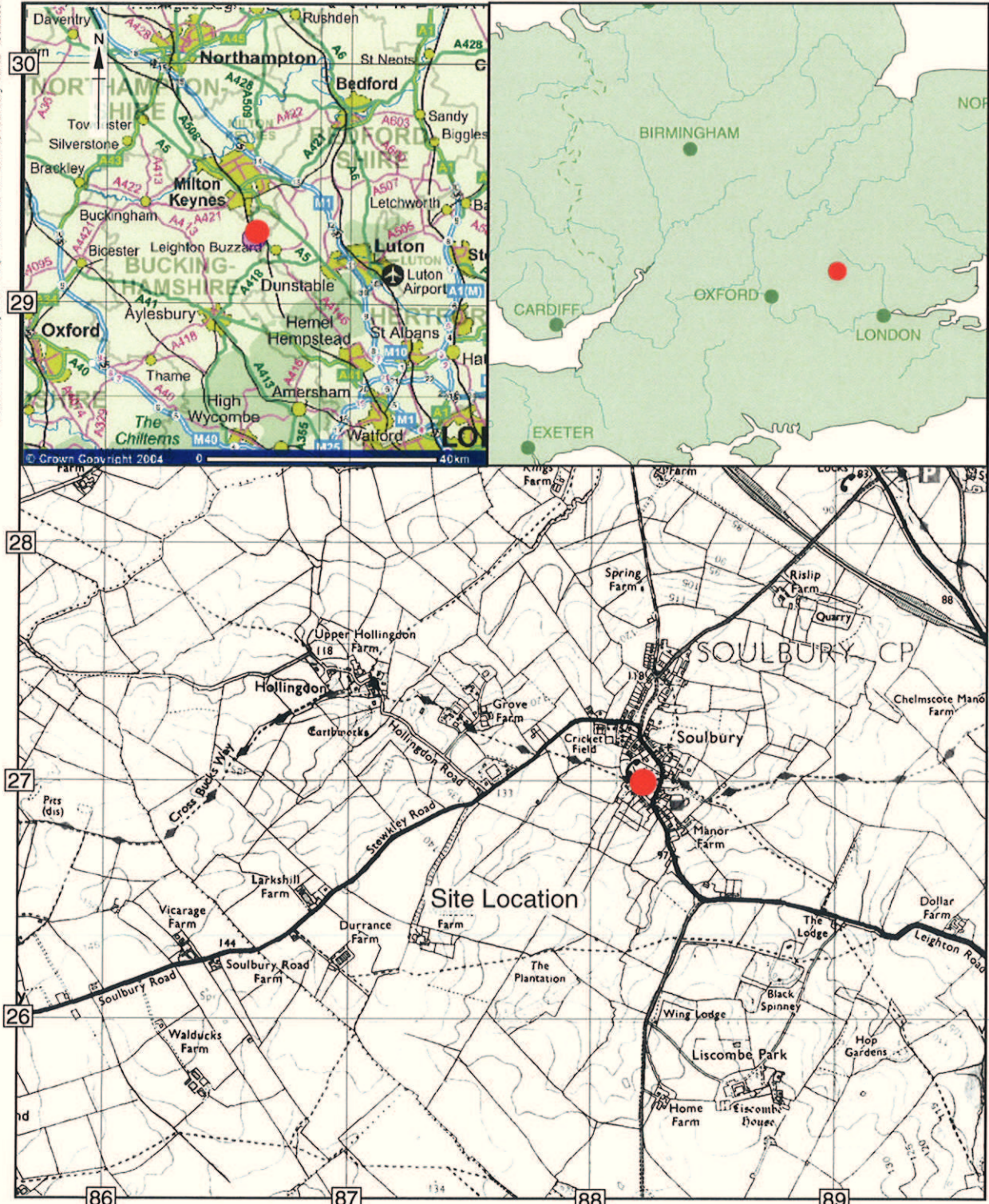
Type of watching brief: Excavation of floor areas prior to installation of new heating.

Date and duration of project: Two visits on the 4th and 14th May 2004.

Area of site: 14 m x 9 m

Summary of results: The watching brief revealed 19th century floor make up.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: AYBCM 2004.29



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

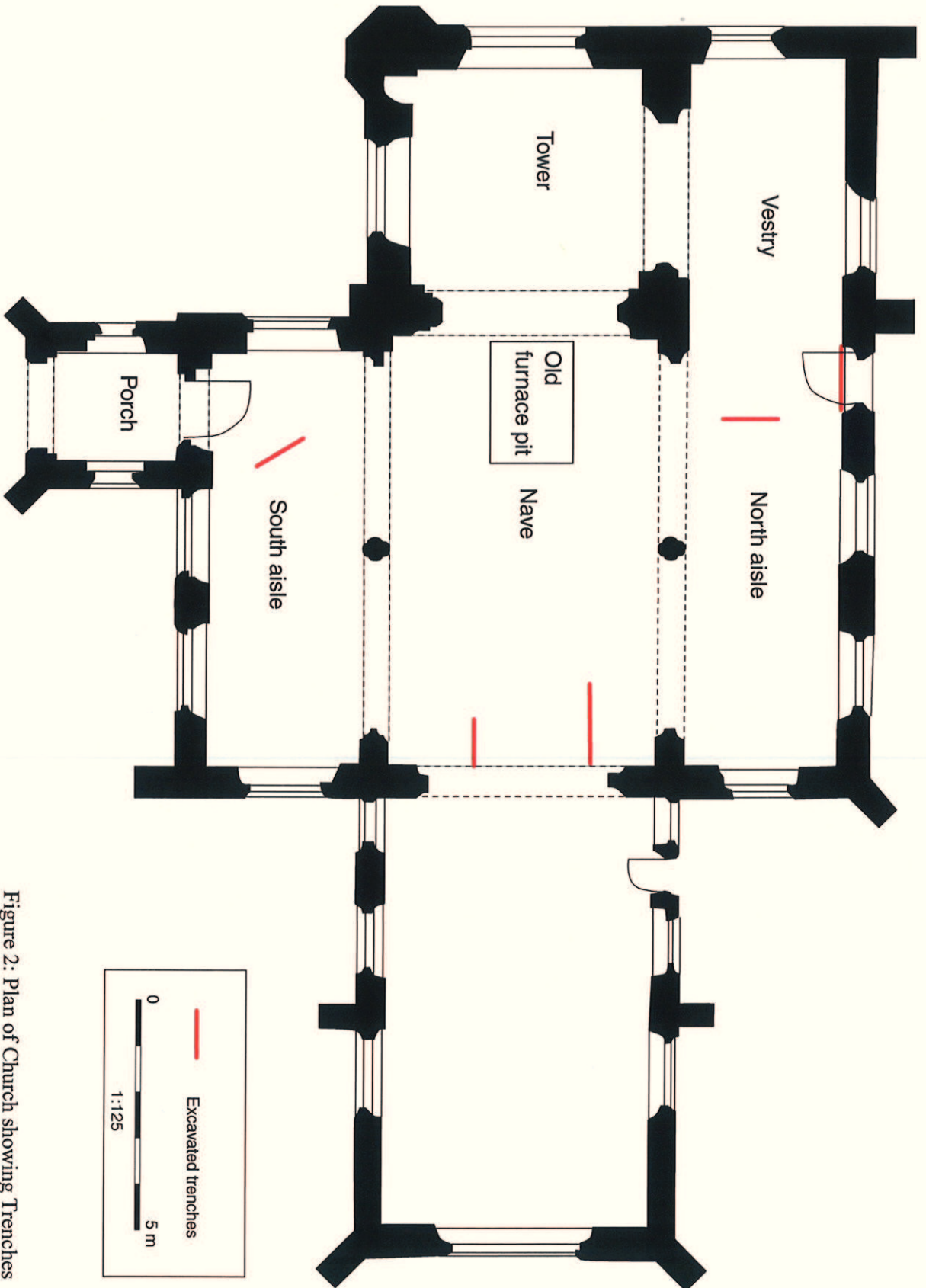


Figure 2: Plan of Church showing Trenches



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