

St Andrew's Church Chaddleworth West Berkshire

Archaeological
Watching Brief Report



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St Andrew's Church Chaddleworth, West Berkshire

NGR SU 412 779

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

In April and May 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Andrew's Church, Chaddleworth, West Berkshire (NGR SU 412 779). The work was commissioned by Roger Pope Associates in advance of new drainage and a soakaway. The watching brief revealed a burial and disturbed graveyard soils. Mid-20th century concrete underpinning to the south side of the church was also observed.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In April and may 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Andrew's Church, Chaddleworth, West Berkshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Roger Pope Associates in respect of laying new French drains along the south side of the church.
- 1.1.2 The OA worked to a project brief, which was set by Julian Munby, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on clay with flints at 185 m above OD. The site is situated at the north of the village and is to the west of Chaddleworth House.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the Archaeological Recording Specification from the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor for the project reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The church at Chaddleworth was originally built during the 11th century and some Norman features from this period survive, including the west tower. Alterations were made during the 13th and 16th centuries. Two family chapels were added to the north side of the church in 1706 and 1765. During the restoration in 1851, Street added a new chancel (Pevsner, 1966).

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 Three test pits were excavated by the site contractors to evaluate the ground conditions. The new drains were then hand-excavated with the original designs altered slightly on the basis of the results from the test pits. A new soakaway was excavated to the south of the church (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 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* (ed. D. Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

Test Pit 1

- 3.1.1 This pit (Figs 2 and 3, section 1) measured 0.6 m x 0.5 m x 0.4 m and was excavated against the south wall of the church. It cut into a cultivated graveyard soil of light reddish brown silty clay (1). This had been cut by the foundation trench (2) for the south wall (10) of the church, which was filled by a light reddish brown silty clay (3) between cut and wall. Also within the layer (1) was a patch of reddish brown silty clay (4) with bone.
- 3.1.2 This deposit was sealed below a 0.16 m thick layer of dark gray brown silty sand loam topsoil (14), which had been cut by the 19th century cut for brick lined drain (5). This had vertical sides and flat base measuring 0.5 m wide and 0.3 m in depth. It was filled by a hardcore and mortar base (6) with blue brick drain (7) laid on top

Test Pit 2

3.1.3 This pit measured 0.6 m x 0.5 m x 0.4 m and exposed late 20th century concrete underpinning beneath a blue-brick drain (Fig. 2).

Test Pit 3

3.1.4 This was excavated against the new chancel south wall and measured 0.6 m x 0.5 m x 0.5 m. It cut into a cultivated graveyard soil light reddish brown silty clay (1), which had been cut by the foundation trench (8) for the 1851 chancel extension. The foundation trench was filled with dark brown silty clay (9) between the wall (11) and cut (8). It was sealed by topsoil (14), which had been cut by the brick lined drain (7), as was seen in test pit 1 (Figs 2 and 3, section 2).

French Drain

- 3.1.5 This was cut from the porch along the south wall of the church to the east end of the chancel. It was 0.6 m to 0.7 m wide and to depth of 0.4 m. It cut into graveyard soil (1) and exposed more of foundation trench (2) as seen in test pit 1. Also it partly exposed a grave (12) that measured 1.6 m x 0.4 m x 0.48 m (partly exposed in test pit 1 as (4), see above), which had vertical sides rounding to a flat base. It was filled by a dark reddish brown silty clay (13) with a partly disturbed skeleton that had been damaged during 19th-century drain installation (Fig. 3).
- 3.1.6 The drain from the south door of the nave to around the east side of buttress was left due to the underpinning. From the buttress, the drain ran into the old drain at southeast corner of church. A new soak away measuring 1 m x 1 m x 1 m was excavated to the south of the church in line with the south nave door running from the new drain. It was connected by a trench 0.4 m wide and 0.5 m in depth, which cut through graveyard soil (1) and across an old path of clay with a flint base. This was 0.2 m thick and covered with gravel. Also noted was an old gravestone laid within the soil, though no burial was disturbed beneath it. These deposits were all sealed under a 0.16 m to 0.2 m thick layer of topsoil (14) (Fig. 2).

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 A coffin handle was recovered from grave cut (12) and dates to late 18th or early 19th century (J Reeve and M Adams, 1993).

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 exposed a number of archaeological features. These were the edges of the foundation trenches for the constriction of the nave and chancel. The exposure of a disturbed grave and deposit of charnel, which were cut into graveyard soil and sealed below topsoil.
- 4.1.2 These had all been cut or were below the 19th century brick lined drain. Also noted was the late 20th century concrete underpinning along part of the length of the church nave wall. One grave from the late 18th to early 19th century was disturbed in the course of the works.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Туре	Depth	Width	Length	Comments	Finds
1	Layer					
2	Cut	0.10 m	0.20 m		Foundation cut	
3	Fill				Fill of cut 2	
4	Deposit				disturbed grave fill	
5	Cut	0.24 m	0.50 m		Drain along south wall	
6	Fill				Base of brick lining	
7	Structure				Brick lining	
8	Cut				19th century Foundation cut	
9	Fill				Fill of cut 8	
10	Wall				Medieval wall	
11	Wall				19th Century wall	
12	Cut	0.48m	0.40 m	1.65 m	Grave	
13	Fill				Fill of grave	Coffin handle
14	Layer	0.16 m			Topsoil	

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

D Wilkinson (Ed), 1992; OAU Fieldwork Manual

Berkshire Archdeaconry: Newbury Deanery St Andrew's Church, Chaddleworth Archaeological Recording Specification

Pevsner, 1966 Buildings of England, Berkshire

J Reeve and M Adams, 1993 The Spitalfields Project Volume 1-The Archaeology Across the Styx. CBA Research Report

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: St Andrew's Church, Chaddleworth, West Berkshire

Site code: CHAD 03

Grid reference: NGR SU 412 779

Type of watching brief: Excavation of new drains and soakaway for church.

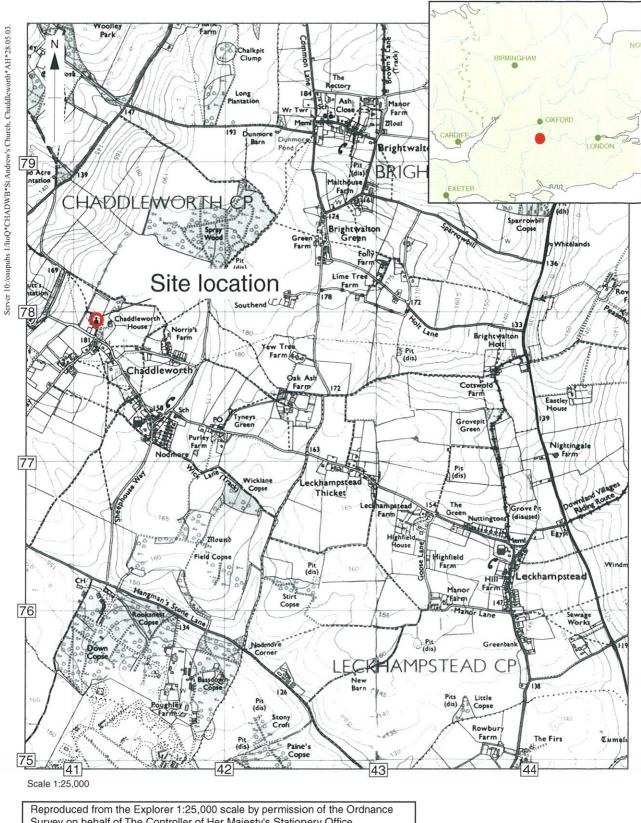
Date and duration of project: A total of three visits from the 18/3/2003 to 6/5/2003.

Area of site: 26 m x 0.7 m

Summary of results: The watching brief revealed a burial and disturbed graveyard soils and

mid 20th century concrete under pinning to the south side of the church.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with West Berks Heritage Service, The Wharf, Newbury, Berks, RG14 5AS in due course, under the following accession number:



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Figure 1: Site location

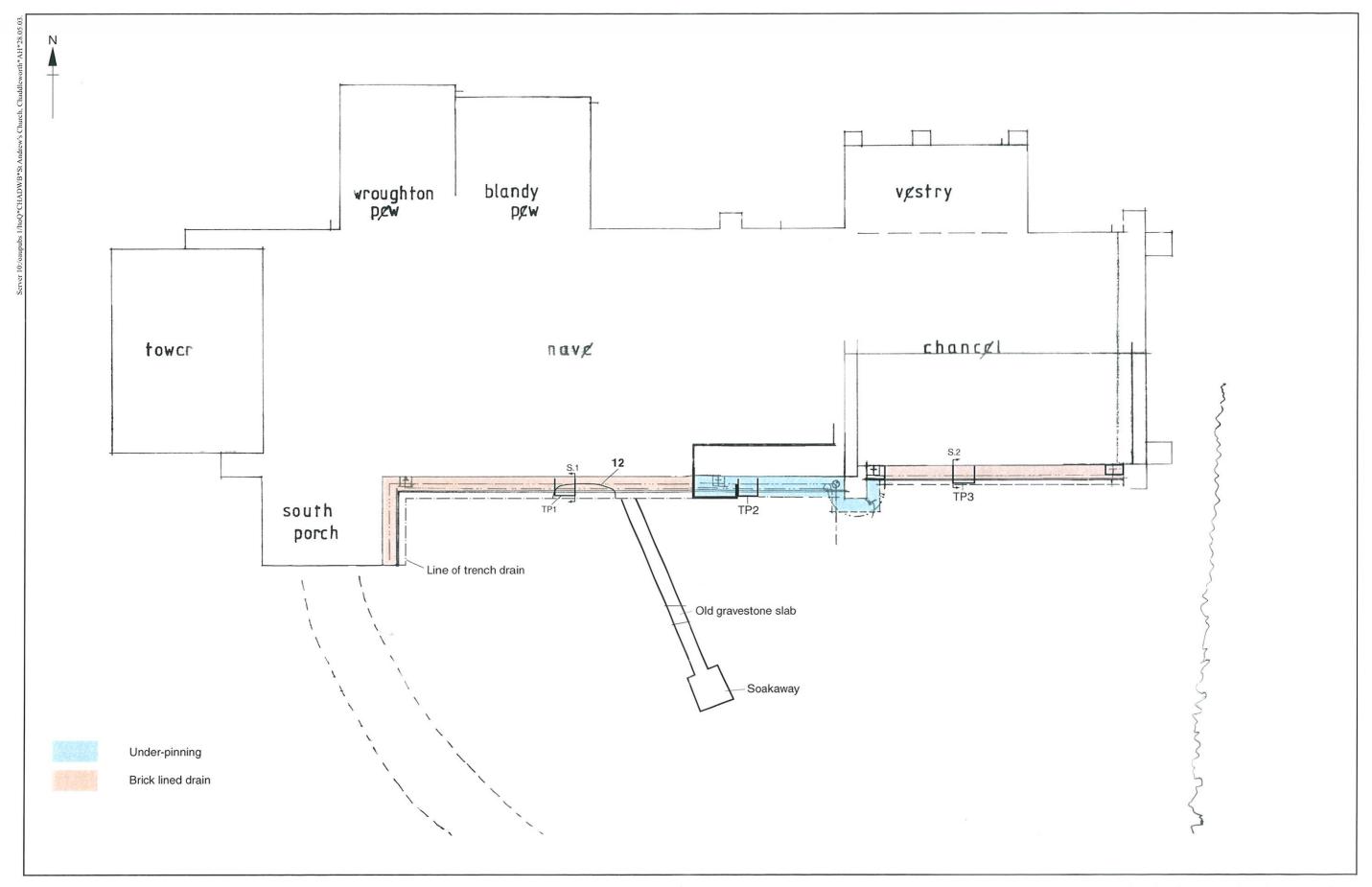
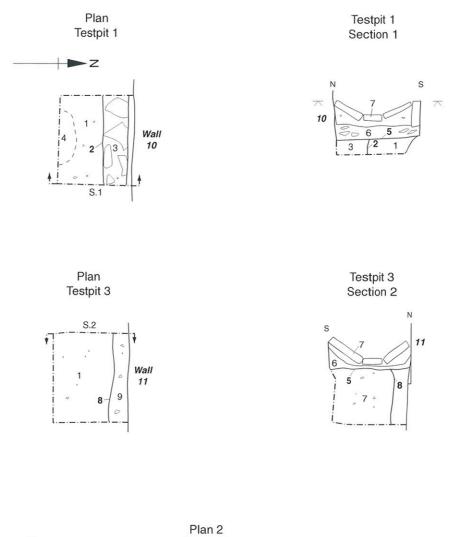


Figure 2: Plan of church showing location of testpits and sections



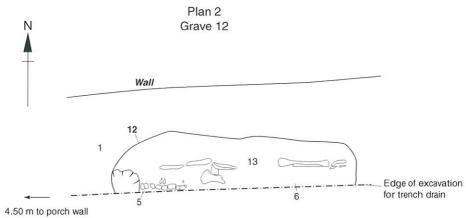
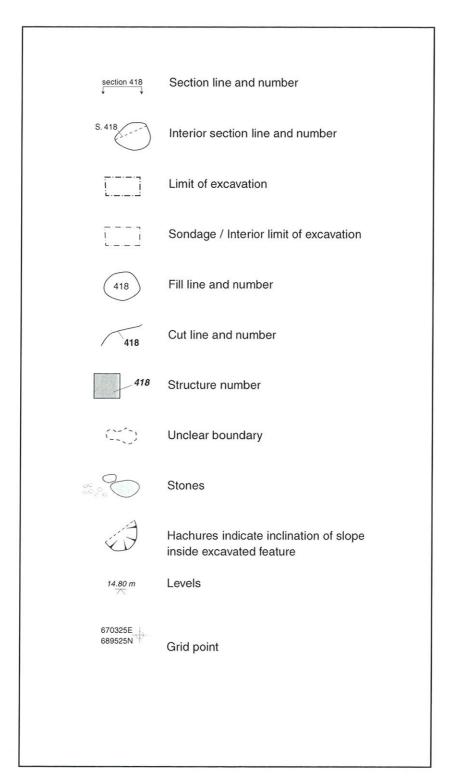


Figure 3: Plan of testpits and sections and grave 12





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