

Land at Twitty's, St Helen's Churchyard Abingdon, Oxon

The OAU were commissioned by Sidleys Chartered Surveyors to undertake a watching brief during renovation works on land adjacent to St Helen's Churchyard. The work involved two site visits to remove human remains beneath the floor of the existing almshouses known as Twitty's. The skeletal assemblages were to be quickly assessed by the OAU human bone specialist A. Boyle before reburial. It was agreed with Hugh Coddington (Assistant County Archaeologist) that the work would not require a complete report but that a note of the quantity of remains would be sufficient.

The human skeletal remains

By A Boyle

A quantity of largely disarticulated remains were recovered during a watching brief. The remains comprised nine distinct groups and represented the remains of 11 individuals. There were nine adults (six males, one female, two unsexed) and two subadults (probable adolescents). One of the male skeletons had advanced carious decay and an impacted canine.

Conclusion

The remains were all post-medieval and recovered from a loam deposit which extended beneath the floor of the four almshouses. The remains are to be reburied within the adjacent churchyard of St Helens's Church.

Duncan Wood