Stony Stratford Community Church Stony Stratford Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire



# Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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# Stony Stratford Community Church, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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#### Summary

In June 2016 Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief on the excavation of new service trenches on the south-eastern side of the Stony Stratford Community Church. The watching brief revealed a tiled surface of probable 18th century date which was postdated by several brick built shaft graves of 19th century date, the upper parts of which were recorded and removed. Two earth-cut graves were also identified and recorded. Wall footings associated with the later phases of modifications to the church building were also identified.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was appointed by David Grindley Architects on behalf of Stony Stratford Community Church to undertake an archaeological watching brief on service diversion trenches in the hard-standing to the south-east of the church, ahead of the construction of an extension on the north-western side of the church.
- 1.1.2 A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA and agreed with Nick Crank, the Senior Archaeological Officer for Milton Keynes Council (OA 2016).
- 1.1.3 The service trenches were excavated in the hard-standing between Horsefair Green and the current church building, within the area formerly used as the graveyard. Four trenches were excavated in total.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken between the 6th and the 16th of June 2016.

#### **1.2** Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The development area fronts on to the western side of Horsefair Green in Stony Stratford (centred on SP 7883 4028), with a second entrance off Cofferidge Close to the north (Fig. 1). The site is south of the High Street and north of Silver Street within the central part of Stony Stratford. The site lies at approximately 68m aOD (above Ordnance Datum).
- 1.2.2 The development site has the extant Church building on it and the area is surrounded by hard-standing, paths and shrubbery. Gravestones are stacked to both sides of the area.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the development area is complex. The site is on a confluence of the Rutland Formation mudstone formed 165 to 172 million years ago and the Blisworth Limestone Formation formed 165 to 168 million years ago (Jurassic Period). The area is overlain by River Terrace Deposits consisting of sands and gravels formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (bgs website).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the church is described in a *Building Record and Historical Background* by Paul Woodfield (2012) and details from this are incorporated within the summarised background below.

#### Roman

1.3.2 Stony Stratford is positioned on Watling Street which was the major Roman route from London to Holyhead and lay between the Roman settlements at Towcester and Fenny Stratford. In addition, its location was important as a crossing point on the River Ouse.



1.3.3 Roman pottery, coins, silver and other artefacts have been found, and it has been suggested that there may well have been a military post at Stony Stratford. The Old English place name derives from the Ford on the Stone Street, the stone street being Watling Street.

#### Medieval

- 1.3.4 Watling Street continued to be a major thoroughfare into the late medieval period. The proximity to the River Ouse also made Stony Stratford an easily accessible settlement for the establishment and successful development of businesses and trades.
- 1.3.5 A small number of remains have been found through archaeological investigations, including a pit at the rear of 110 High Street (Wilson 2008) a cesspit behind 81 High Street (CBA 2001), medieval remains behind 75 High Street (Ivens 2004) and a 14th-16th century structure near 2 Market Square (Rouse 2007).

#### Post-medieval

- 1.3.6 The market town was divided into two portions corresponding to the ecclesiastical parishes of St Giles and St Mary Magdalen. The western side was formerly in the parish of Calverton, and the common lands, with the exception of Horse Fair Green, were enclosed under the 1787 Act dealing with Calverton in 1782. The suburb of Calverton End is still included in that parish.
- 1.3.7 Both travellers and passing trade were facilitated by the number of inns including: The Cross Keys (1475), The Rose and Crown (1480), The Swan (1526), The Cock (1529), The White Horse (1540), The George (1609), The White Hart (1615), The King's Head (1640), The Crown (1666), The Barley Mow (1667) The Talbot (1680) and The Angel (1693) and others.
- 1.3.8 The arrival and expansion of railways in the 19th century had a detrimental effect on the numbers of travellers, stage coaches and business within Stony Stratford.
- 1.3.9 According to the 1787 Enclosure Act 'the piece of land called Horsefair was to remain open and unenclosed'. There had been a weekly Friday fair of horses, from which it derived its name, since 1622. Although the fairs had ceased by 1792 the land remained preserved for the public. The Calverton Court Rolls from 1836 to 1896 record several occurrences of misuse. On 28 October 1857 the Great Court Leet recorded that: "The timber lying on the Horsefair ought not to be there and is a nuisance." The sawpit was ordered to be filled in, and a year later two residents, Mrs Warren and Mr Knighton were ordered to remove their gardens on the Horsefair itself before 1st January 1859. The Lord of the Manor, responsible for the general upkeep of Horsefair, sold his manorial rights in or over the Market Square, Silver Street and Horsefair Green to the Stony Stratford Street Commissioners in 1901. It was then that Horsefair was fenced and tidied up. The War Memorial Garden was completed in 1922.

### Stony Stratford Community Church History

- 1.3.10 In 1651 the meeting of the General Baptists of the Midlands decided to send out messengers to plant new churches in their area. It is not clear whether Stony Stratford was then identified as a local community requiring a meeting place but other nearby centres were.
- 1.3.11 It seems that the Baptists were already active in neighbouring villages, particularly in South Northamptonshire, for which Stony Stratford was a convenient centre. The Baptist community however was, it seems, only served by itinerant pastors meeting, usually covertly, in barns or private houses.



- 1.3.12 In 1657, John Emerson of Cosgrove, a yeoman, and W Fortnell of Paulerspury took a lease from William Hartley of a plot of land measuring 48 x 20 lying south west of 'The Cofferidge'. The units of this measurement are not stated but they were probably yards. In May of that year, a building was erected that was able to accommodate a hundred people. No details of this building are recorded.
- 1.3.13 James Slye of Potterspury, writing in the early 19th century records that a George Martyn was the first pastor at Stony Stratford.
- 1.3.14 From 1661, various Acts of Parliament were enacted that suppressed nonconformity. These acts together constituted the Clarendon Code. The Conventicle Act (1664) in particular forbade more than five persons meeting for worship in any place other than a Church of England church. Charles II's attempt to introduce religious freedom in the Royal Declaration of Indulgence Act, 1672, was withdrawn by Parliament in 1673.
- 1.3.15 The rigours of the Clarendon Code were modified by the Toleration Act of 1689, although marriage could still not take place outside the established church. Meetings of five or more persons could only take place in registered places, and not in private houses. Many restrictions survived until the Doctrine of the Trinity Act of 1813.
- 1.3.16 In Stony Stratford a worthy minister and pastor, John Brittain, Messenger of the Church, died in 1733, after which the community decayed rapidly.
- 1.3.17 The earliest Assembly Book for Stony Stratford has been lost, and the present registers of Meeting Minutes survives only from 1835. It is currently held in the County Record Office [NB/18/1-3].
- 1.3.18 It is recorded in 1824 that the Baptist Community in Stony Stratford, 'over the last thirty years, had been so reduced as to excite the fear of its becoming extinct'.

#### Phase 1

1.3.19 The current community church is on the site of the Baptist chapel founded in 1656-57, according to a documentary lease referring to a plot of land lying south-west of 'The Cofferidge'. Some fittings of the 17th-century building remain, and also a wooden window frame, preserved in the vestry.

#### Phase 2

- 1.3.20 In 1823 a Mr John E Simmons, late of the University or Glasgow, was invited to the pastorate and ordained pastor of the Baptist Church at Stony Stratford. He 'laboured amongst us' drawing up a new covenant, and completed the rebuilding of the church started by his predecessor John Goodrich. In 1830 Simmons died and it is recorded that during his time the church was much edified under his ministry.
- 1.3.21 On the 26th June 1823 a church meeting was assembled in the Horse Fair to commemorate the rebuilding of the chapel, of which there is a preserved printed flyer framed in the church itself.
- 1.3.22 A note in the minute book describes the church as having two vestries behind the pulpit, one above the other, the pulpit opening into the lower one, and the upper one having sliding doors to the meeting room. It was from there 'that old Aston, the Town Crier set and started the tunes and led the singing' (Woodfield 2012, 3). A circular gallery was made over the pulpit. This was still used as a singing gallery, but later the sliding doors were relocated into the new school room after it was built In 1907. Remains of this arrangement can still be seen on the back wall of the chapel.

### Phase 3

1.3.23 In 1907, according to the Minutes of June 24th, £30 had been donated to assist in the purchase of land at the rear of the chapel, from a Mr Negus, providing it could be

obtained for the building of the necessary additional accommodation which was to include two classrooms, a lavatory and a vestry.

- 1.3.24 Plans were prepared by the Building Committee (no architect or designer is mentioned), and at the same time it was agreed not to proceed with the building of classrooms and a porch already planned for the front (Horsefair Green side) of the building,
- 1.3.25 Further monies were donated, and a contractor, Mr AP Hawtin of Northampton engaged, the contract price being £339, although the outcome price was £450. Foundation stones were laid and the work completed by October 14th, 1907. It is of red brick, with a low-pitched roof, half-hipped at the ends, and is roofed with large slates.
- 1.3.26 A strip of land, the whole length of the building and some 5m wide was obtained to extend the burial ground. This is not positively identified on the ground, but, if the assumption of the original land size is correct, then it may well be along the eastern side of the church, against 6 Horsefair Green.

#### Phase 4

1.3.27 In 1930, a subsequent phase of work included the erection of a large meeting hall at the rear, measuring 12.2m x 8.2m, also of brick, with a slate roof and four round-headed windows facing Cofferidge Close. This was linked in to the chapel by a pair of double doors. It seems that this work caused the original two-storey vestries to be removed and the openings in the north wall bricked up, although this may have taken place after the 1907 school rooms were built.

#### Phase 5

1.3.28 In 1935, a major building phase was carried out, the erection of a new Sunday School room. It was completed on the 25th May 1935 and opened for pupils on September 26th. It was paid for by an old scholar then living in the USA (\$250) and with other donations from ex scholars. The new building cost £1,400, plus an additional sum of £100 for fitting out. This is the brick building at the side of the chapel with stone dressings, and bearing the date in the gable.

#### Phase 6

1.3.29 In 1955-56 on the front Horsefair Green elevation, a brick single storey flat roofed porch with stone dressings was constucted. It was designed by Wilfrid Haworth, a member of the congregation and the manager of the local gasworks.

#### Phase 7

- 1.3.30 In 1985, the last major phase of construction took place on the end of the meeting hall, with the building of two store rooms (one serving the hall), lavatories, and a large well appointed kitchen. This block further included a stairway to an upper lounge within the roof space, largely lit by roof lights.
- 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The general aims of the watching brief were to:
  - (i) identify and characterise any archaeological remains (if present) or deposits that the proposed development may remove or impact during future works;
  - (ii) identify the depth and density of any archaeological features or artefacts across the site;



- (iii) disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Milton Keynes HER.
- 2.1.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were to:
  - (iv) investigate and characterise any evidence of Roman activity in the hinterland of Watling Street;
  - (v) identify any features or structures associated with the medieval town of Stony Stratford;
  - (vi) determine the nature of the possible graveyard associated with the church and its date;
  - (vii) identify any features or structures associated with the earlier phases of the church's construction.
  - (viii) any findings of the watching brief will be reviewed in the context provided by the Solent-Thames Regional Research Framework.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The project involved the excavation of trenches to re-direct services ahead of a proposed extension to the northern side of the church (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.2 Initially an OA site Supervisor was in attendance to monitor the intrusive works. However, it soon became evident that an osteoarchaeologist would also be required to advise and record the burial structures and human skeletal remains uncovered.
- 2.2.3 A licence from the Ministry of Justice was obtained allowing the human remains to be disturbed (Licence Number 16-0126).
- 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of deposits

### Trench 1

- 3.1.1 The earliest deposit uncovered was a reddish brown sandy clay, 14, interpreted as the natural geology. This was sealed by a thin layer of dark greyish-brown silty clay, 41, possibly the remnant of a former ploughsoil. This in turn was overlain by 6, an area of mortar bedding which supported 20, a floor surface comprising around twenty remaining fragments of thin paving bricks or tiles, with the upper surfaces worn smooth from use (Figs 2, 3 and 5). Where tiles were absent, their impressions were preserved in the upper surface of deposit 6 (Plate 13). The tiles date from the 18th or 19th century (see Section 4.2 below). Layers and tile surface 20 were also cut by burial construction cuts 37 and 42 (see below).
- 3.1.2 At the south-eastern end of the trench a stone wall, 31, ran parallel with Horsefair Green and the construction (39) had partially removed bedding layer 6 (Figs 2 and 3, Plate 3). The wall which was formed of roughly dressed limestone with a rubble core, was bonded in a buff grey sandy mortar. The wall footing was stepped and wider than the wall it supported. The wall was not present across the whole width of the trench, and the gap may represent a former entrance, with evidence of dressed north-east and north-west facing edges. The construction trench for the wall had been backfilled with a mid brownish-grey silty clay, 40, which contained a single sherd of pottery dating from *c* 1650-1800.



- 3.1.3 Layer 40 was overlain by a mid brownish grey sandy clay layer, 32, which contained frequent sub-angular limestone fragments, with maximum dimensions of up to 200mm. A sherd of pottery recovered from layer 32 also dated from 1650-1800, although it was probably of 18th century date (see 4.1 below). Deposit 3, located further to the north, is interpreted as being the same as 32, and both are likely to represent an episode associated with the remodelling of the church.
- 3.1.4 Layer 2 was cut by a series of graves (33, 4, 17, 22, 30 and 43) which are described in Section 3.2 below. The skull of Skeleton 34 (Grave 33), an earth-cut burial, was removed and reburied as close to its original position as possible, as it was located within the impact area of the new service trench. Grave 33 had been cut by grave group 30 (containing burials 26 and 27).
- 3.1.5 A cut feature, 12, was present towards the northern end of the trench and truncated grave fills 18, 44 and burial structure 22 (Figs 2, 3 and 5; Plate 1). This was filled by a mixed mid reddish-brown silty clay, 13, which contained pottery dating from 1860-1900. It is probable that 12 represents the trench in which wall footing 16, from the 1955-56 porch extension sits. Deposit 21, which infilled grave structure 4, is also likely to date from this period, and probably represents the backfilling of a grave uncovered during construction works. The current tarmac surface, 1, overlay all the deposits and structures described above (Fig. 5).

#### Trench 2

- 3.1.6 The earliest deposit uncovered in Trench 2 was a dark grey-brown sandy clay layer, 47, interpreted as being the same as layers 3 and 32 in Trench 1 (Fig 2; Plate 4). In the southern corner of the trench a small area of deposit 2 (see above) remained above 47, and this was cut by a brick-shaft grave, 50, only the corner of which was present within the confines of the trench. The grave is described in section 3.2 below.
- 3.1.7 An electric cable was present within the centre of the main part of the trench. This had been capped by concrete blocks, and was sealed by tarmac layer 1.

#### Trench 3

- 3.1.8 Layer 47 (see above) was also identified within the southern end of Trench 3, and was the earliest deposit identified in this part of the trench (Fig 2; Plate 5). To the north, separated from layer 47 by a concrete beam (63) was layer 54, a firm dark greyish brown clay which contained a sherd of pottery dating from 1780-1840. Layer 54 was overlain by 53, a light orange-brown sandy gravel, which may have been used as a bedding layer for a mortar surface 52, which sat above it. Surface 52 was a compact whitish-yellow sandy mortar containing fragments of stone slate and brick.
- 3.1.9 On the southern side of the trench a wall footing, 51, ran for 6.3m and was constructed of roughly hewn limestone blocks. The wall appeared to have been incorporated into the footing of the brick-built church, but was on a slightly different alignment. Any relationship between the wall and the deposits to the east (54 and 47 for example) had been removed by service trench 56 (filled by 57).
- 3.1.10 Service trench 56 was post-dated by a layer of concrete, 63 (above), which overlay service trench infill 57, and abutted wall footing 51, and the service trench was also post-dated by construction cut 58 (filled by 59) related to the construction of the current chapel. On the north-eastern side of the trench, the brick footing for the Sunday School building (60, filled by 61) was revealed.
- 3.1.11 The layers and structures described above were sealed by layer 55, made ground of recent date overlain by tarmac surface 1.



#### Trench 4

- 3.1.12 The earliest deposit uncovered within Trench 4 was the natural yellow-brown sandy clay geology, 71. This was cut by a posthole, 74, which had an irregular profile, perhaps indicative of the post having been manipulated during removal (Figs 2, 4 and 5; Plate 6). The single fill, 75, was a yellow-grey silty clay which contained no finds. Fill 75 was overlain by a layer of mottled mid grey-brown silty clay, 70, probably a re-worked burial soil, which contained disarticulated human bone, and a fragment of tile dating from the 16th to 19th centuries.
- 3.1.13 Layer 70 was cut by burial 71 (Skeletons 66 and 67; see Section 3.2 below).
- 3.1.14 A rectangular cut, 72, relating to a former service, was filled by 73, a mixed construction rubble. A live water pipe was also present, but the trench for this was difficult to discern within deposit 70. This was sealed by the current tarmac surface 1 and associated sub-base.

#### 3.2 The grave structures and burials

- 3.2.1 A total of six grave structures and two earth-cut graves were found on the south side of the church. These contained a total of seven inhumation burials. Evidence for four coffins was also observed. Disarticulated human bone was discovered in three contexts on the south and north-east sides of the church.
- 3.2.2 During the ground-works several gravestones that had been relocated to the periphery of the area were examined. These were generally in a worn condition, but two dates were legible: 1811 and 1827.

#### Methodology

- 3.2.3 All human remains were examined on site by an osteoarchaeologist, in accordance with nationally accepted guidelines (Brickley and McKinley 2004) and the written scheme of investigation (OA 2016). Where it was not possible to rebury remains *in situ*, these were lifted and reburied in a secure location within the site boundary, as close as practicable to the original burial location.
- 3.2.4 All grave structures and coffin fittings were recorded using Oxford Archaeology proforma context sheets and photographed *in situ*. Where possible, coffin fittings were carefully removed from the grave by hand for further photography and recording, then replaced in their original location within the grave. All coffin fittings were classified by reference to the Spitalfields typological series (Reeves and Adams 1993) and Oxford Archaeology's unpublished corpus of coffin fittings from various sites. Classifications were denoted using the relevant type codes, eg CCS followed by the relevant number, was employed for those types that matched those from Spitalfields (Reeves and Adams 1993). Any new types were assigned the present site code (STCOCH) and a number.

### Results

#### Articulated bone

3.2.5 An osteological summary of the inhumation burials is presented in Table 1. Full details are recorded in the primary archive.

Skeleton	Completeness	Condition	Age	Sex	Stature	Pathology
8	>20%	Excellent	Adult (>18 vears)	U	-	Left and right femora bowed and thickened. Left and right
			youroy			tibiae thickened. Evidence of
						rickets? Or
						inflammation/infection?
26	75-100%	Excellent	Mature adult	M?	-	All maxillary and mandibular



			(>45 years)			dentition lost ante mortem
27	75-100%	Excellent	Adult (>18 years)	F?	-	Ante mortem tooth loss
34	>20%	Excellent	Older child (6- 12 years)	U	-	-
49	>10%	Excellent	U	U	-	-
66	75-100%	Good	Middle adult (36-45 years)	F?	155.37c m (+/- 3.72cm)	-
67	25-50%	Good	Neonate/infant ?	U	-	-

Table 1: Osteological Summary. Key: M? = probable male, F? = probable female, U = unknown

- 3.2.6 All skeletons were in a good or excellent condition, consistent with Mckinley's grade 0 or 1 for surface erosion (McKinley 2004, 16). Three individuals were approximately 100% complete. The full extent of skeletons 8, 34 and 49 could not be observed, so minimum amount of completeness was recorded.
- 3.2.7 The assemblage comprised four adults, two juveniles and one individual of unknown age. Of these, one middle and one mature adult were identified. In terms of sex, one probable male and two probable female adults were identified. Of the two juveniles, one was an older child, and the other was likely to be a neonate or very young infant. Stature could only be estimated for one individual, skeleton 66. This gave an estimated height of 155.37cm (+/- 3.72cm), or 5ft 1 inch.
- 3.2.8 Dental pathology was only observed in skeletons 26 and 27, with 26 being completely edentulous and 27 exhibiting substantial ante mortem tooth loss in both the maxilla and mandible. In terms of skeletal pathological observations, thickening and bowing of the long bones of the legs of skeleton 8 may indicate the presence of rickets, or inflammation and infection of the bones. It was not possible to clarify this as the affected bones were not removed from the grave, so could not be fully examined.

#### Disarticulated bone

3.2.9 Disarticulated human bone was recovered from three contexts in three trenches (38 in trench 1; 54 in trench 3; 64 in Trench 4). This represents a minimum of 2 individuals, including one young adult probable female and one juvenile. A summary of the recovered bone is presented in Table 2.

Context	Summary of Disarticulated Remains
38	1x skull, 1x right humerus, 1x right os coxae, and paired left and right femora, tibiae and fibulae.
	Likely belong to the same individual, a young adult (18-25 years) probable female individual
54	Five small fragments of juvenile tibia
64	Three adult vertebral body fragments, seven adult rib shaft fragments

Table 2: Summary of disarticulated bone per context

#### Grave Structures

3.2.10 Five grave structures (4; 17; 22; 30; 43) were present in trench 1, and one single brick grave structure (50) was present in Trench 2. A summary of each grave is presented here, with full details being recorded within the primary archive.

#### Structure 4

3.2.11 Structure 4 and was only visible in the north east facing section of Trench 1. This was built from moulded unfrogged red bricks. The structure was not fully excavated, being at least eight courses of bricks deep and one skin thick. Bricks were bonded with mid yellowish brown coarse sandy mortar. There was no covering - capping or vaulting -



present on the top of the grave shaft; it is presumed that 4 was truncated during construction of the church extension in the 1950s. No human remains were encountered in this grave.

#### Grave Group 17

3.2.12 This grave comprised a moulded, unfrogged red brick shouldered grave vault 7, capped with brick vaulted roof 5. The structure was not fully excavated, though observation of the internal structure revealed 7 to be one skin thick and at least eight courses deep (Plate 7). Bricks were laid on bed, ashlar, and bonded with mid yellowish brown coarse sandy mortar. Vaulted roof 5 was at least eight courses wide, and constructed using full sized red bricks that had been cut down slightly to key in to the vaulting. Grave 17 contained skeleton 8 and coffin 9.

#### Structure 22

3.2.13 This structure was only visible in plan, in the north end of Trench 1. The grave was constructed using moulded unfrogged red bricks. Observations indicated that the structure was one skin thick and at least one course deep. Bricks were laid on bed and were bonded using a mid-greyish brown sandy mortar. No capping or vaulting was present. The structure was filled by the concrete footing for the 1950s' church extension. No human remains were encountered in this grave.

#### Grave Group 30

3.2.14 This grave comprised a shouldered double grave vault 24 and 25, covered with mudstone capping 23. Multiple flat, unfinished irregular shaped stones were used to construct 23. These were not bonded to brick vault 24, but simply rested on the top course of brickwork. Structure 24 represented the upper layer of the double grave and 25 the lower layer (Plate 8). Both 24 and 25 were constructed using moulded, unfrogged red bricks bonded with mid-yellowish brown sandy mortar. Structure 24 was seven courses deep and one skin thick. Structure 25 was at least six courses deep. Two iron bars (coffin rests) were embedded in the top course of brickwork of 25. Grave 30 contained skeletons 26 and 27, and coffins 28 and 29 (Plate 9).

#### Structure 43

3.2.15 This structure was only visible in the south west facing section of Trench 1. This was built from moulded unfrogged red bricks. The structure was not fully excavated, being at least seven courses of bricks deep. Bricks were laid on bed, ashlar, and bonded with mid yellowish brown coarse sandy mortar. There was no capping or vaulting present over the top of the grave shaft; it is presumed that 43 was truncated during construction of the church extension in the 1950s. This structure did not contain human remains.

Grave Group 50

3.2.16 This was the only grave structure encountered in trench 2, comprising a shouldered brick grave shaft (46) constructed using moulded, unfrogged red bricks. Shaft 046 was at least 12 courses deep, and bonded with mid- yellowish brown coarse sandy mortar. No vaulting or capping was present: the grave shaft was heavily truncated by modern electrical services, and contained skeleton 49.

### Finds

3.2.17 The remnants of a total of four coffins were found. A summary of these is presented in Table 3. Full details are recorded in the primary archive.

Coffin	Associated Skeleton	Grave Group	Description	Date Range (after Reeve and Adams, 1993)
9	8	17	Wooden coffin, shape unclear (rectangular or shouldered?). One iron nail visible. Highly fragmented.	-



28	26	30	1x visible iron grip, 5x visible iron grip plates (stamped design). 1x shield shaped iron outer breastplate, good condition. 1x (presumed iron) headplate, fair condition. 1x iron footplate, good condition. Shouldered wooden coffin, >10 iron coffin nails, >1 iron	Grip plate design
			grip, too corroded to identify design. 4x iron grip plates, good condition, type CCS3 ( <b>Plate 10</b> ). Multiple iron studs. Multiple stamped iron lid motifs including one new type (STCOCH1: angel and harp motif? <b>Plate 11</b> ). 1x iron headplate and 1x iron footplate (both good condition) Fittings heavily co-mingled with those of coffin 29.	CCS3 = 1768- 1842
29	27	30	>10 iron coffin nails. 1x shield shaped iron outer breastplate, good condition, type CCS48 (Plate 12). Fittings heavily co-mingled with those of coffin 28.	Outer breastplate design CCS48 = 1835
68	66 and 67	69	Shouldered wooden coffin, coffin base stain only. No associated metal fittings.	-

Table 3 finds

# 4 FINDS

### 4.1 Pottery

by John Cotter

- 4.1.1 A total of twelve sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 507g were recovered from six contexts (Table 4). This is all post-medieval apart from two sherds from a possible late medieval or early post-medieval vessel. As the assemblage was quite small, and produced a few items of note, it was catalogued in some detail (on Excel spreadsheet). The method of quantification was limited to sherd counts and weights per fabric per context. Vessel forms, decoration and any other points of interest were noted in a comments field where appropriate. Full catalogue details and spot-dates may be consulted in the site archive. Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994) whereas post-medieval pottery fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MOLA 2014).
- 4.1.2 The assemblage is mostly in a fresh but fragmentary condition. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented and all typical of the wares commonly found in Buckinghamshire and neighbouring Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. In terms of dating there is a fairly strong presence of 18th and early 19th-century pottery.
- 4.1.3 The earliest vessel is in Potterspury ware and comprises two joining rim sherds from a very worn/weathered bowl with internal glaze (Ctx 38). This may be of late medieval or early post-medieval date; a date in the region of *c* 1400-1600 is suggested. Potterspury (Northamptonshire) lies just a few miles north of Stony Stratford and was a pottery producing centre from the later 13th century into the early post-medieval period (Mellor 1994, 140-143). There are several fabric variants. Post-medieval pottery production, in a finer orange fabric, also took place in the mid/late 17th century at Potterspury, and as late as the mid-18th century in the nearby village of Yardley Gobion (Mayes 1968). These later redware products included vessels with white slip-trailed decoration resembling the slipwares of Brill (Bucks) and Harlow in Essex ('Metropolitan slipware').
- 4.1.4 Context (35) produced a complete deep bowl profile in fine red earthenware with simple slip-trailed decoration. This was associated with a Creamware sherd of c 1760-1830. The bowl has tentatively been identified as post-medieval Brill slipware (Fabric BRSL), and is certainly similar in fabric, but an alternative identification as a Potterspury-type



slipware cannot be ruled out. A few other post-medieval redware (PMR) sherds from the site might also be from the Potterspury area.

4.1.5 A few small sherds of Staffordshire-type refined whitewares and Creamwares date to the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The latest piece is a dish rim of *c* 1860-1900 in refined whiteware (REFW PNTD) with a blue-painted border (13).

Context	Spot-date	Fabric	No.	Weight	Comments
13	c 1860-1900	REFW PNTD	1	8	Dish/plate rim Refined whiteware with painted blue concentric border lines next to rim. May once have had transfer- printed dec in the missing centre of plate. Later 19C
13	c 1860-1900	PMR	1	5	Body sherd (bo) post-med red earthenware. Jar/jug with int brown glaze and horiz grooves ext. Probably 18-19C
32	c 1650-1800	BRSL	1	2	Fresh bo fro ?bowl/jar. Post-med Brill slipware. Glazed redware with single near vertical line of trailed slip dec. Prob 18C
35	c 1760-1830	CREA DEV	1	1	Small bo Developed Creamware
35	c 1760-1830	BRSL	4	278	Brill Slipware? Joining fresh sherds. Deep bowl with curved wall and beaded rim (diam 200mm) and flat pad base. Very simple decorative scheme in white slip comprising c5-6 trailed vertical lines from the rim to the base angle internally under a clear brown glaze allover int. Unglazed ext. Probably late 18C or possibly E19C? Nb, this might be a v smooth, orange example of post-med Potterspury slipware (Northants)? It contains some large micaceous iron-rich clay pellets and has a generally more micaceous matrix than Brill slipware - similar to the ?late med vessel in (38) below.
38	c 1400-1600	OX68	2	79	Probably Potterspury ware (OX68), Northants. Joining rim sherds (fresh breaks). Wide bowl with steeply flaring walls and simple thickened rim with slight ext bead. The ext surface is v flaky and abraded with no original surface left. Soft very laminated smooth fabric with abundant fine mica, sparse quartz and moderate v coarse inclusions of red- brown 'grog' (iron-rich clay pellets) 1-5mm across and which protrude from the worn ext surface. Light grey core with oxidised orange surfaces/margins - worn ext is light brown beneath outer layer/surface of orange. Lower internal surface of bowl covered in a partially decayed clear glaze - now opaque and light grenish-brown in places; glaze probably covered the

# Table 4: Pottery



					missing bowl floor. Horizontal turning grooves int a little below the rim. Rim diam c330mm (9%). Surviving height c53mm. Possibly within c1480-1600 on general parallels?
40	c1650-1800	PMR	1	108	Post-med redware but possibly a Potterspury area product? V smooth fabric similar to (38) but pellets of coarse red 'grog' faily sparse. Some fine streaks of white/pale grey clay. Colour as (38). Blue-grey core with oxid orange-brown surfaces/margins. Fresh sherd thick- walled curving walled deep bowl with heavy bead rim (diam 250mm). Clear glaze allover int - showing the same decay lower down as the bowl in (38). Poss 18-E19C??
54	c 1780-1840	PEAR PNTD	1	26	Pearlware with painted decoration. Footring base from teabowl or teacup. Fairly strong blue tint to glaze. Painted dec worn-off but 'ghost' of dec survives as small stylized florette or posey in the centre of base - in the Chinese style - the stems survive as black (decayed green?) lines in places
TOTAL			12	507	

# 4.2 Ceramic building material

by John Cotter

- 4.2.1 A total of 11 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 17.826kg were recovered from six contexts (Table 5). These mostly represent complete bricks and paving bricks sampled from brick-lined shaft graves, and a floor surface. A detailed catalogue of these, with fabric descriptions and all measurable dimensions, was recorded on an Excel spreadsheet.
- 4.2.2 The sample includes four complete unfrogged orange-red bricks (from graves) and a few broken brick-ends in a similar fabric. The complete bricks are in a fresh condition and all of fairly similar appearance. Their size and neatly-made appearance dates them to the 19th century. Four large fresh fragments come from three separate paving bricks. These are in an identical light orange fabric (different from the bricks above) with streaks and pellets of white/cream clay; they are all c 35mm thick and all have worn upper surfaces. An 18th or 19th century dating for these seems likely. The paving bricks represent areas of flooring cut by the 19th-century shaft graves (Gerry Thacker, pers. comm.). This sequence of events accords with the dating suggested here.
- 4.2.3 Context (32) produced a worn fragment of uncertain brick or quarry/paving tile in a sandy light brown fabric resembling medieval Potterspury ware (see pottery assessment); it may be of late medieval or early post-medieval date and thus the earliest piece of CBM recovered from the watching brief.

Table 5: Ceramic building material



Context	Spot- date	Brick	Paving brick	No.	Weight	Comments
4	19C	1		1	2890	Complete unfrogged red brick. Very fresh. The upper surface mostly obscured by a layer of white mortar. Neatly made. Horizontal stacking impression on one long side. Length 215mm, Width 100mm, Thickness 67mm
5	19C	1		1	3557	Complete unfrogged red-orange brick. Very fresh. Upper and lower surfaces partly obscured by a layer of white mortar. Neatly made. Horizontal stacking impression on one long side. Length 230mm, Width 113mm, Thickness 72mm. Similar to brick in (4) above but larger
5	19C	1		1	3432	Complete unfrogged red-orange brick. Very fresh. Upper and lower surfaces partly obscured by patches of thick white mortar. Neatly made. Horizontal stacking impression on one long side. Length 230mm, Width 113mm, Thickness 70mm. Almost identical to brick in (5) above
5	19C	1		1	1415	Broken unfrogged red-orange brick end. Very fresh. Upper and lower surfaces partly obscured by patches of thick white mortar. Neatly made. Horizontal stacking impression on one long side. Length ?, Width 110mm, Thickness 70mm. Almost identical to bricks in (5) above
20	18-19C		2	2	1499	Complete but chipped light orange paving brick or rectangular quarry (paving) tile. Fine fabric with swirls and coarse pellets of white clay/marl. Upper surface heavily worn from use. Lower surface fresh, sanded. Neatly made. Length 215mm, Width 110mm, Thickness 35mm
24	19c	1		1	2747	Complete unfrogged red-orange brick. Fresh but some wear/weathering on sides. Some cream clay pellets present in fabric and several coarse inclusions/pebbles of flint, quartz and ironstone up to 25mm across. Horizontal stacking mark along one side. Length 227mm, Width 107mm, Thickness 70mm
32	18-19C		2	2	2083	Large end fragments from two separate rectangular paving bricks. Identical to that in (20). Both worn on upper surface
32	18-19C	1		1	199	Worn frag or flake of brick or quarry tile/paving brick. The only surface surviving is the sanded underside. No surviving edges. Frag has a max surviving thickness of 24mm and max surviving length of 117mm. Distinctive light brown ?lower



						surface/margins with a dark grey core. Fairly smooth with fabric and inclusions resembling medieval/post-med Potterspury ware. Possibly 14-17C?
70	16-19C?	1		1	4	Shapeless worn scrap of sandy orange- brown soft brick?
TOTAL		7	4	11	17826	

### 4.3 Metal and glass

By Ian R Scott

4.3.1 There are just six iron objects from four contexts (Table 6). The finds are undoubtedly recent in date. This is certain in the case of the iron window frame and the coal tongs.

Context	Reference number	Item and notes
3	1	<b>Nail</b> , small square head, tapered square section stem and chisel tip. Fe. L: 95mm
3	2	Nail, incomplete (2 frags). Fe. Not measured.
31	3	Nail stem fragment. Fe. Not measured
55	4	Strip. Fe. Not measured
73	5	Window frame fragment with glass which looks quite modern. Fe. Probably modern. extant: 150mm
73	6	Window frame fragment with glass which looks quite modern. Fe. Probably modern. L extant: 150mm

Table 6: Metal objects

4.3.2 There are just four pieces of glass from three contexts. The sherd from a soda water (no. 3) is of 19th-century date, the etched window glass from context 13 (no. 2) is almost certainly quite modern, although a precise date is not possible. The window glass from context 35 (no 3) is possibly post-medieval in date. The small vessel sherd from context 35 (no. 4) is undiagnostic and cannot be closely dated.

Table 7: Glass

Context	Reference number	Item and notes
2	1	<b>Soda water bottle.</b> Thick-walled sherd of pale green glass, probably from a soda water bottle, and possibly from a 'Torpedo' type bottle of mid to late 19th-century date. Not measured.
13	2	Window glass. Glass with flat regular surface. One surface has been sandblasted or acid etched to create a frosted finish. Colourless with yellow green tint. Modern. 62mm x 57mm; Th: 2.5mm.
35	3	<b>Window glass.</b> Pale olive green glass with iridescent weathering. Possibly post-medieval rather than modern glass. 40mm x 27mm; Th: 2mm.
35	4	<b>Vessel glass?</b> Small slightly curved sherd in pale green glass. Undiagnostic as to date and form. 19mm x 15mm

### By Alison de Turberville

4.4.1 A single fragment of worked stone was recovered from context 032. This piece was examined and any features recorded including the presence of tool marks and type of moulding.

Table 8: Stone

Context	Material	Weight	Description	Date
32	Limestone		Corner fragment of worked limestone measuring 190mm x 155mm x 90mm. The two sides are roughly cut with a raised lip and tool marks can be seen on the smoother surfaces. The upper face has some incised score lines but no discernible pattern. The underside is very rough but has been smoothed out. The fractured edge reveals a darkened patch indicating there was a metal fixing or bar in this location. Due to the rough nature of the worked surfaces and the presence of the metal staining it is likely that this piece of stone formed part of a drain or similar functional object.	Medieval/Post Medieval

# 4.5 Animal bone

### By Lena Strid

Table 9: Animal bone

Context	Description			
2	Sheep tibia epiphysis, refits tibia in context 32, 35g			
19	Cow pelvis, medium mammal rib, calf humerus, 329g			
31	Unfused pig first phalanx, 5g			
32	Unfused sheep tibia, epiphysis in context 2, 9g			
54	Sheep/goat metacarpal, 6g			

# 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 Within Trench 1 the fragmentary brick surface, 20, sat upon mortar layer 6, and probably dated from the 18th century, representing the earliest structural remains uncovered. Surface 20 is likely to be a yard surface and probably pre-dates the 1823 rebuilding of the church (Phase 2 above). Wall 31, the former boundary wall between the church property and Horsefair Green, was shown to post-date layer 6, and could well relate to the Phase 2 church re-build. The backfill of the construction cut relating to the wall (40) contained pottery dating from 1650-1800, as did layer 32 which overlay it, and the pottery in both instances is likely to be residual. Where relationships were present the brick built graves could also be shown to post-date layer 6 and surface 20.



The majority of the other deposits and structural remains post-dated the burials and 5.1.2 relate to the church in the 20th century.

#### The burials

- 5.1.3 A total of eight graves were archaeologically investigated, and a minimum number of nine individuals were found. These comprised five adults and three juveniles, and one individual of unknown age. Of these, one young, one middle and one mature adult were identified. In terms of sex, one probable male and three probable female adults were identified. Of the three juveniles, one was an older child, one was likely to be a neonate or very young infant. Age could not be determined for the third juvenile individual as the bones were too fragmentary.
- 5.1.4 Seven articulated skeletons were found within five graves. Human remains were not observed in the remaining three graves, as these were not fully excavated. Two of the skeletons (26 and 27) were dated to the post-medieval period by their associated coffin remains. Skeleton 8 is also likely to date to the same period, as the coffin remains and associated grave structure were of a similar type to those encountered in grave group 30.
- 5.1.5 The skeletons were well preserved, and comprised a mixed group of adults and juveniles, males and females. The presence of a male and a female skeleton (26 and 26) in double grave 30 may represent the remains of a married couple, although this supposition is tentative. Further interpretations pertaining to the demographic make-up of the population and comparisons to contemporary populations are precluded by the small size of the assemblage. Stature could be estimated for one female (155.37cm); this was somewhat lower than average female stature for the post-medieval period (1.60m, Roberts and Cox 2003, 369).
- 5.1.6 Skeletons 26 and 27 exhibited significant levels of ante-mortem tooth loss. Antemortem tooth loss is usually the end result of other (progressive) dental conditions, for example dental trauma, periodontal disease, progressive dental caries or dental wear (Soames and Southam 1985, 31). This may be an indication of poor oral health (conducive to oral disease) or a diet rich in cariogenic foods such as sugar and starch, leading to progressive caries and tooth loss (Hillson 1979,150).
- 5.1.7 Skeleton 8 exhibited bowing and inflammation in the long bones of the lower limbs. As the bones were not removed from the grave vault, it was unclear whether these pathological changes were the result of rickets (vitamin D deficiency) or non-specific infectious disease (eg periostitis or osteitis). Without further evidence, the diagnosis remains unconfirmed.
- 5.1.8 The disarticulated bone represents a minimum number of two individuals. It is likely to derive from graves disturbed either during subsequent grave digging or 20th-century ground-works e.g. construction of the church extension or installation of services.
- 5.1.9 The brick vault and brick-lined shaft graves are typical examples of brick-grave structures used in Britain during the 18th and 19th centuries (Cherryson et al. 2012, 52-4). Such structures are often surmounted by above-ground memorials such as grave stones or recumbent ledgers (ibid). No evidence of above-ground markers was found in association with the vault and brick-lined graves at Stony Stratford, though it is possible these may have been removed during mid-20th-century construction works, and indeed several gravestones are located at the edges of the plot.
- 5.1.10 The coffin fittings formed a large and significant part of the assemblage from Stony Stratford, although the majority could not be examined in detail. Coffin fittings are the

v.1



most frequently recovered coffin remains from the post-medieval period. The number and quality of coffin fittings from Stony Stratford may be indicative of the wealth and status of the deceased, although it is worth noting that even those of lower socioeconomic status went to considerable effort to bury family members with lavish funeral ceremonies and as many accompanying funerary accoutrements as they could afford (Curl 2000, 195; 206-9). The cherub motifs observed on fittings from coffins 028 and 029 were very common throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, and were amongst the most common design found at Christchurch Spitalfields (Reeves and Adams 1993, 87; Cherryson *et al.* 2012, 72).

5.1.11 Standard post-medieval coffins comprise a single thickness wooden case decorated with a few fittings (typically iron). Coffins belonging to the middle and upper classes often comprise double thickness of wood, or an outer wooden case with an inner lead shell (Litten 1991, 100-2). It has also been postulated that triple-shell coffins were most traditionally used in brick lined graves; the lack of wood preservation at Stony Stratford makes it impossible to determine whether this type of coffin was utilised at this site.

Context	Туре	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Comments	Finds	Date
1	Layer	0.14	-	-	Tarmac surface	-	Modern
2	Layer	0.24	1.75	-	Made ground	Animal bone	-
3	Layer	0.3	0.86	-	Made ground	Fe Nail	-
4	Structure	0.55	0.55	-	Brick shaft grave	Brick	19th century
5	Structure	0.16	0.65	-	Vaulted roof of grave 17	Brick	19th century
6	Layer	0.04	-	-	Mortar bedding layer for floor 20	Tile	18th-19th century
7	Structure	0.7	0.75	-	Brick shaft grave	-	19th century
8	Skeleton	-	-	-	From grave 17	-	19th century
9	Coffin	-	-	-	From grave 17	-	19th century
<u> </u>		1.2	0.75			-	
	Cut			-	Cut for grave 7		19th century
11	Cut	0.54	0.7	-	Cut for grave 4	-	19th century
12	Cut	0.6	0.9	-	Construction cut	-	-
13	Fill	0.6	0.9	-	Fill of 12	Pottery	1860-1900
14	Layer	-	0.4	-	Natural	-	-
15	Cut	0.54	0.68	-	Construction cut for current church porch	-	20th century
16	Structure	0.65	0.68	-	Concrete foundation in 15	-	20th century
17	Group	-	-	-	Burial group 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18	-	19th century
18	Fill	-	0.75	-	Infill of grave 007	-	-
19	Fill	0.54	0.64	-	Backfill of grave cut 10	Animal bone	-
20	Structure	-	0.4	1.0	Tile floor	Tile	18th – 19th century
21	Fill	0.6	0.4	-	Infill of grave cut 004	-	-
22	Structure	0.06	0.12	-	Possible shaft grave cut by 15	-	-
23	Structure	0.12	0.62	-	Capstone for grave 30	-	19th century
24	Structure	0.55	0.8	-	Brick shaft grave	Brick	19th century
25	Structure	0.00	0.8	2.13	Brick shaft grave	-	19th century
26	Skeleton	-	-	-	From grave 25	-	19th century
20	Skeleton		-	-	From grave 25	-	
28	Coffin	-	-	-	Coffin for skeleton	-	19th century 19th century
29	Coffin fittings	-	-	-	26 Coffin 28	-	19th century
30	Group	-	-	-	Burial group double burial 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 37, 38	-	19th century
31	Structure	0.45	0.25	0.5	Wall footing	Animal bone, Fe nail	-
32	Layer	0.3	0.2	-	Made round	Tile, Pottery,	Tile 18th –

Appendix A. Archaeological $C$	ONTEXT INVENTORY	,
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						Stone,	19th
						Animal bone	century, Pot 1650-1800
33	Cut	-	0.35	-	Cut for grave	-	-
34	Skeleton	-	-	-	From grave 33	-	-
35	Fill	-	0.35	-	Backfill of grave	Pottery	1760-1830
36	Group	-	-	-	Burial group 33, 34, 35	-	-
37	Cut	0.55	0.8	-	Cut for graves 24 and 25	-	19th century
38	Fill	0.5	1.08	-	Backfill of cut 37	Pottery	1400-1600
39	Cut	0.55	0.7	-	Cut for 31	-	-
40	Fill	0.55	0.7	-	Backfill of 39	Pottery	1650-1800
41	Layer	-	0.65	1.6	Beneath 6	-	-
42	Cut	0.58	0.56	-	Cut for probable shaft grave		19th century
43	Structure	0.58	0.33	-	Brick shaft grave	-	19th century
44	Fill	0.58	0.56	-	Fill of 42	-	19th century
45	Fill	0.58	0.07	-	Fill of 11	-	-
46	Structure	-	-	-	Brick shaft grave	-	19th century
47	Layer	0.26	1.9	2.1	Made ground	-	-
48	Cut	1.3	-	-	Cut for 46	-	19th century
49	Skeleton	-	-	-	From grave 46	-	19th century
50	Group	-	-	-	Burial group 46, 48, 49	-	19th century
51	Structure	0.14	0.1	6.3	Stone wall	-	-
52	Layer	0.1	0.8	1.6	Mortar floor	-	-
53	Layer	-	0.8	3.9	Made ground	-	-
54	Layer	-	1.6	2.55	Made ground	Pottery, Animal bone	1740-1840
55	Layer	0.22	1.4	9.4	Made ground	Fe strip	Modern
56	Cut	-	0.25	9.2	Construction cut for service	-	-
57	Fill	-	0.25	9.2	Fill of 56	-	-
58	Cut	-	0.2	1.85	Construction cut for church	-	20th century
59	Fill	-	0.2	1.85	Fill of 58	-	20th century
60	Cut	-	0.25	10.2	Cut for 061	-	20th century
61	Fill	-	0.25	10.2	Fill of 060	-	20th century
62	Cut	-	0.9	0.95	Construction cut	-	-
63	Structure	-	0.9	0.95	Concrete footing and backfill of 62	-	-
64	Fill	0.5	0.5	1.7	Fill of grave 65	-	-
65	Cut	0.5	0.5	1.7	Cut for grave	-	-
66	Skeleton	-	-	-	From grave 65	-	-
67	Skeleton	-	-	-	Infant grave 65	-	-
68	Coffin	-	0.4	1.65	Coffin grave 65		
69	Group	-	-	-	Burial group 64, 65, 66, 67, 68		
70	Layer	0.74	-	-	Made ground	Brick?	16th-19th century
71	Layer	-	-	-	Geology	-	-



72	Cut	0.4	0.7	-	Cut of pit	-	-
73	Fill	0.4	0.7	-	Fill of 72	Fe fitting, Fe tongs	Modern?
74	Cut	0.29	0.28	0.7	Posthole cut	-	-
75	Fill	0.29	0.28	0.7	Fill of 74	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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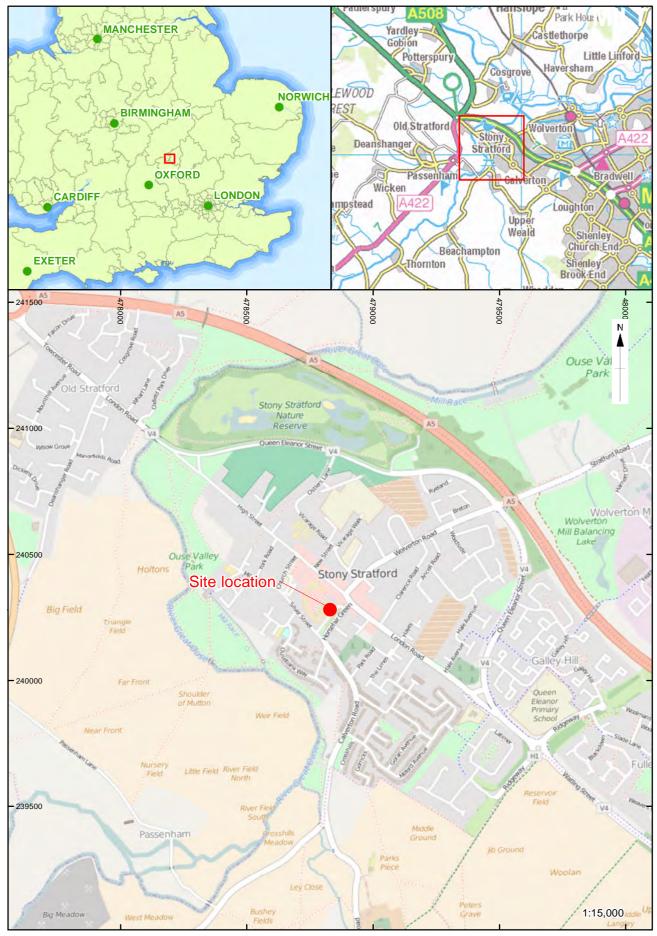
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Woodfield P. 2012. The Community Church (Baptists) Horsefair Green Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes. Building Record and Historic Background. Assessment of proposed new works. Unpublished client document.

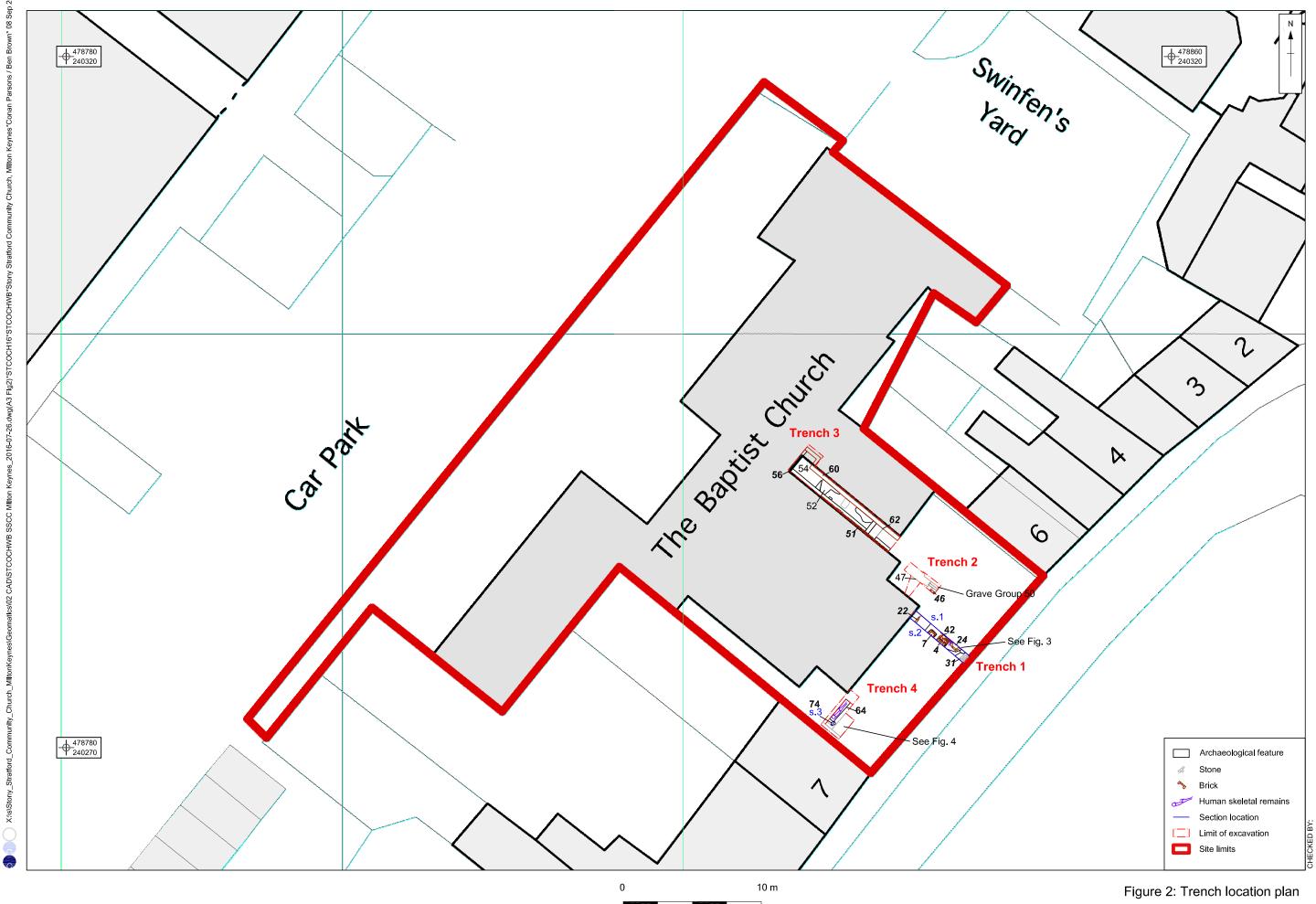
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Appendix C. Summary of Site DETAILS						
Site name:	Stony Stratford Community Church, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire					
Site code:	STCOCH16					
Grid reference:	Centred at NGR SP 7883 4028					
Type of watching brief:	Intermittent, Burials					
Event number:	EMK1285					
Date and duration of project:	6th-23rd June 2016 (intermittent)					
Area of site:	C 100m2					
Summary of results:	During June 2016 Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief on the excavation of new service trenches on the south- eastern side of the Stony Stratford Community Church. The watching brief revealed a tiled surface of probable eighteenth century date which was postdated by several brick built shaft graves of nineteenth century date, the upper parts of which were recorded and removed. Two earth cut graves were also identified and recorded. Wall footings associated with the later phases of modifications to the church building were also identified.					
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Oxford and will be transferred to the Buckinghamshire County Museum under the accession number AYBCM:2016.46 in due course.					



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Figure 1: Site location

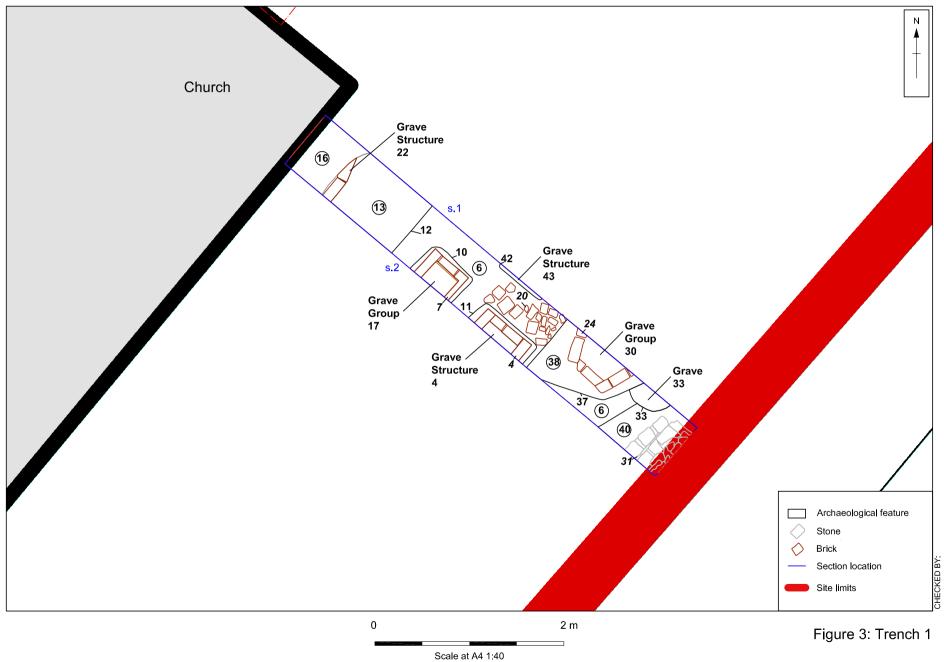


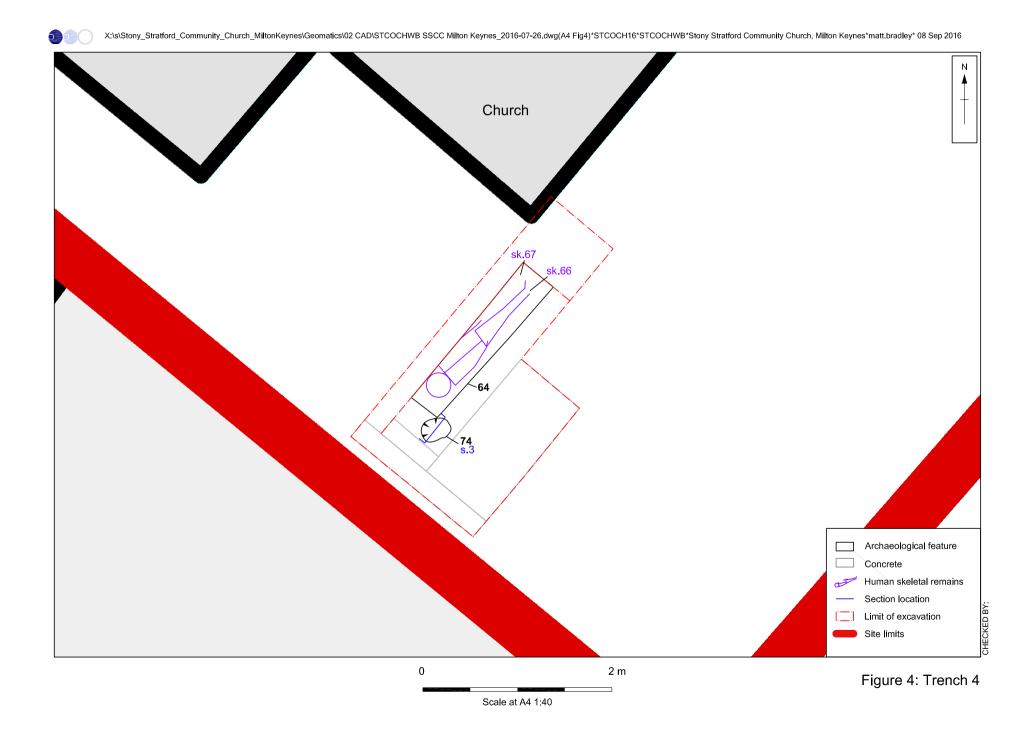


Scale at A3 1:250



X:\s\Stony\_Stratford\_Community\_Church\_MiltonKeynes\Geomatics\02 CAD\STCOCHWB SSCC Milton Keynes\_2016-07-26.dwg(A4 Fig3)\*STCOCH16\*STCOCHWB\*Stony Stratford Community Church, Milton Keynes\*matt.bradley\* 08 Sep 2016





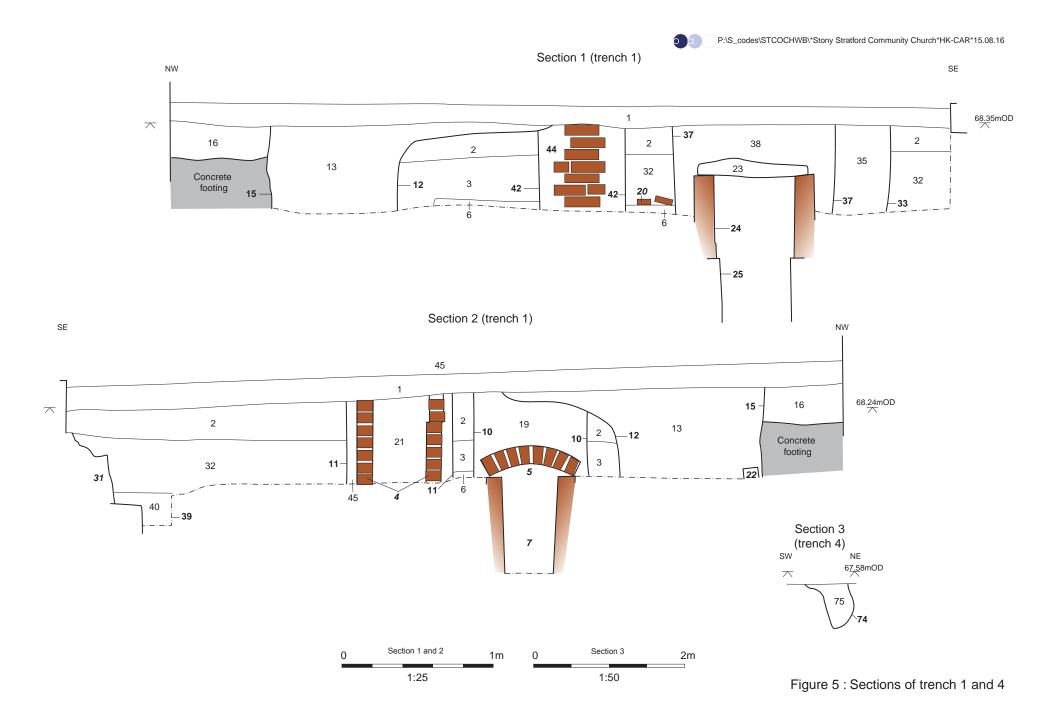




Plate 1: Section 1 part 1

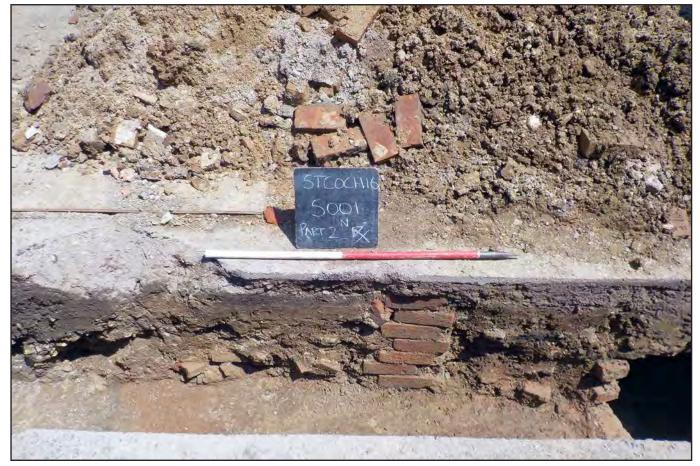


Plate 2: Section 1 part 2



Plate 3: Section 1 part 3



Plate 4: Trench 2



Plate 5: Trench 3



Plate 6: Trench 4

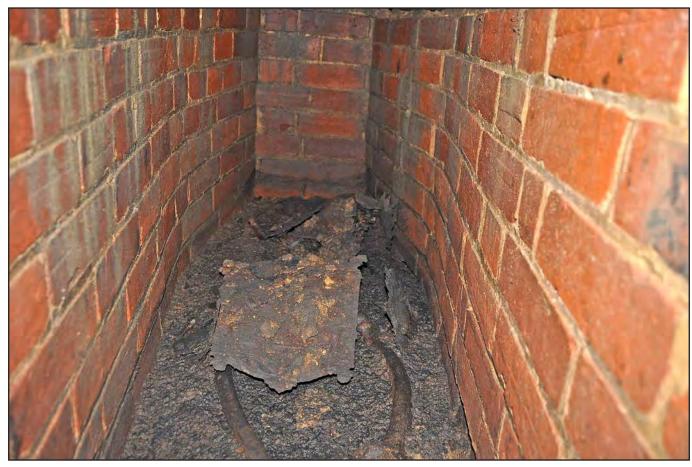


Plate 7: Grave Group 17

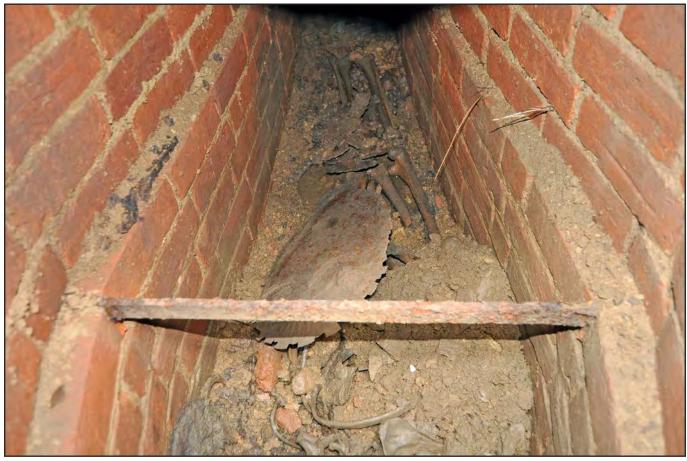


Plate 8: Grave Group 30

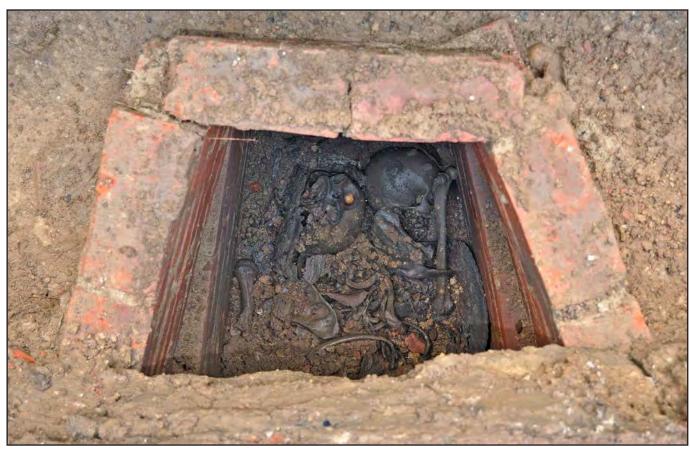


Plate 9: Grave Group 30



Plate 10: Coffin plate coffin 28

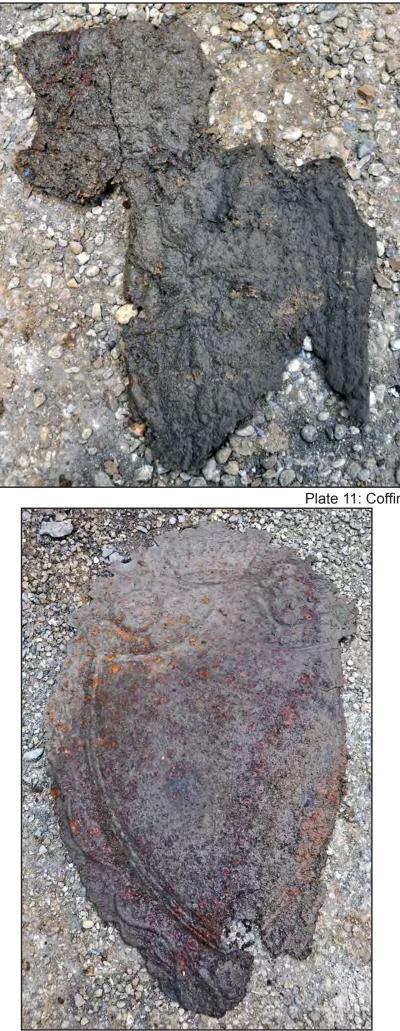


Plate 11: Coffin Plate coffin 28

Plate 12: Coffin plate coffin 29



Plate 13: Surface 6 cut by grave 10



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