

St Nicholas Church Chadlington



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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Prepared by: Helen Webb
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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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St Nicholas' Church, Chadlington, Oxford

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

In October and November 2007, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Nicholas' Church, Chadlington, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP332211). The work was commissioned by Acanthus Clews Architects on behalf of the Incumbent and Church Wardens and was carried out during the installation of a disabled lavatory and mezzanine floor in the tower, under floor heating and wall lights throughout the church and the digging of service trenches in the churchyard.

The watching brief within the church revealed a series of limestone footings for wooden beam floor supports of Victorian or earlier date. A tunnel of unknown function was revealed at the eastern end of the central aisle, running below the chancel and down to the crypt/current boiler room. This had been used during the Victorian period as a heating pipe conduit.

The service trench on the eastern side of the churchyard revealed no in situ archaeology, but within the service trench on the western side of the church, 14 medieval earth-cut graves were revealed. From these, 11 skeletons (5 adults and 6 subadults) were excavated. In addition, a probable post-medieval, earth cut grave and an 18th - early 19th century stone lined shaft grave were revealed. Although not excavated, adult skeletal remains and the remains of a coffin were visible within the shaft grave.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 During the 9th-11th and 30th October, and the 19th-22nd November 2007, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Nicholas' Church, Chadlington, Oxfordshire. The work was commissioned by Acanthus Clews Architects on behalf of the Incumbent and Church Wardens. Edgar Taylor Ltd. carried out the ground works in respect of a planning application for a new disabled lavatory and mezzanine floor in the tower of the church and provision for a kitchen in the south aisle. Associated works included the installation of new underfloor heating and wall lights, and a trench across the churchyard for mains water, gas and drainage, inspection chambers were provided for the latter.
- 1.1.2 An archaeological brief was prepared by Julian Munby, Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (DAA) to the Diocese of Oxford, detailing the requirements for an archaeological watching brief and recording during these works (Munby 2003).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how the requirements of the brief would be met (OA 2007).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The village of Chadlington is located approximately 3.5 miles south of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. St Nicholas' Church is situated on the east side of the village and lies at 127.67m above OD. The underlying geology is oolitic limestone (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet no. 218).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The Place-name Chadlington, c. 3.5 miles south of Chipping Norton, is thought to derive from the Old English for *Ceadala's Hill*, or it may have connections with St Chad (Keighley, no date). In the Domesday book Chadlington is referred to as *Cedelintone*. Chadlington overlooks the broad Evenlode valley towards the remnants of the royal forest of Wychwood, which, at the time of Domesday in 1086, covered much of what is now West Oxfordshire (*ibid.*). Many kings of England hunted within this forest and hunting rights were jealously guarded (Jessup 1975, 15). The forest was gradually cleared, leaving just 1,500 acres remaining. This was finally enclosed in the mid 19th century (*ibid.*).

1.3.2 Chadlington's location, in the area of the Cotswold Hills which lie across the north-western part of Oxfordshire, most likely brought it the prosperity of the Cotswold wool trade in the 14th and subsequent centuries, as was the case for other similarly located places such as Witney, Chipping Norton and Burford (*ibid.*, 14-15).

1.3.3 St Nicholas' church, Chadlington is of Norman origin (1066-1189) and some original features still remain. The nave was originally Norman and the head of a blocked clerestory window, also of this date, remains above the north arcade (Sherwood and Pevsner 1974, 524). The existing nave and aisles, in the Early English style, date to the 13th century and the west tower dates to at least the 12th century (Munby 2003). Further additions, including the south porch, date to the 14th and 15th centuries. The nave has a timber king post roof, but the other roofs date to the 19th century. In 1870 the chancel was rebuilt (Munby 2003).

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 To record any archaeological remains within the area of disturbance that will be caused by the excavation of the drainage trenches and inspection chambers within the churchyard, and the installation of the kitchen, lavatory, mezzanine, underfloor heating and lighting within the church.

2.1.2 To recover selected artefacts from the excavated material.

2.1.3 To establish the number, character, location and depth of burials that may be

affected by the above works.

- 2.1.4 To remove the human remains and associated coffins and coffin fittings (with the exception of lead coffins) that will be impacted upon by these works, following on site recording.
- 2.1.5 To undertake rapid on site analysis of the articulated human remains by a qualified osteoarchaeologist.
- 2.1.6 To determine the character of the walls and footings where any holes may be made in the building fabric of the church.
- 2.1.7 To determine the character of the masonry and any decoration following the removal of any plaster.
- 2.1.8 To make available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The internal church floor was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mini-digger fitted with a 0.5 m wide toothed bucket, until archaeological contexts were encountered. Ground reduction was then undertaken by hand, by an archaeologist from OA, until the required depths were reached. A continuous archaeological presence was maintained during the removal of the central aisle area.
- 2.2.2 The service trenches within the churchyard were dug, under archaeological supervision, using a mini-digger fitted with a 0.5 m short-toothed bucket. This is with the exception of the southernmost part of Trench 2, which was dug by hand. Excavation by machine proceeded in spits down to the top of graves.
- 2.2.3 Each grave group, comprising the grave, associated skeleton, coffin and coffin fittings (where they survived) were assigned a unique context number. Where necessary, skeletons and any remains of associated coffins and coffin fittings, were hand excavated and lifted with due care and regard to the sensitivities involved. Only skeletal remains exposed in the trench were excavated, thus skeletons were not excavated beyond the limits of the trench.
- 2.2.4 All excavation, recording and lifting of human remains was undertaken in accordance with the methods detailed in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson 1992).
- 2.2.5 Following their rapid examination (where appropriate) by a qualified osteoarchaeologist, all human remains were re-buried in a suitable location within the same trench in which they were found.
- 2.2.6 Archaeological deposits beneath the central aisle were planned at scale of 1:20 (Figure 3) and the location of the service trenches (Figure 2) was drawn at a scale of 1:500. All graves were planned at a scale of 1:20 (Figures 5a and 5b)

and sections were drawn, where appropriate, at a scale of 1:20 (Figure 6). A photographic record was made of all excavated features. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

Intramural archaeological deposits

- 3.1.1 The pews within the church had been removed prior to the watching brief, as had the timber floor boards within each of the pew areas. The walkways within the church – along the central, north and south aisles, and between the north and south entrances – were surfaced by 0.11 by 0.11 m square, red quarry tiles (1), set on to a thin cement bedding (2) and screed layer (15). These were removed by machine. Floor supports, in the form of a series of dwarf walls were revealed below the edges of each of the walkways. The walls were constructed in limestone blocks and had timber beams cemented onto their surfaces. Similar E-W floor support walls were also present below the timber floored areas and tiled walkways in the north and south aisles (Plate 1) and within the nave, either side of the central aisle. Unlike those in the central aisle, occasional red bricks were included within these, and the finish of the limestone blocks was slightly better, suggesting a slightly later date.
- 3.1.2 The E-W floor supports from the central aisle include (4) (9) (10) (11) (16) (17) (24) and (25) and were approximately 0.3 m high and 0.3 - 0.4 m in width. A number of the timber beams that were cemented onto the dwarf walls had bevelled edges. These were probably re-used roof timbers, possibly purlins, longitudinal timbers that are set in the plane of a roof to support the rafters. The floor support walls were occasionally separated by c. 0.2 m gaps, most likely to allow the air to circulate beneath the floor. In the eastern half of the central aisle area, two parallel N-S dwarf walls (12) and (13) were present and appeared to be ventilation course walls, corresponding with ventilation gaps in the floor support walls to the north and south.
- 3.1.3 At the very eastern end of the central aisle a tunnel (20), constructed of limestone, was revealed (Plate 2). The walls of the tunnel measured between 0.3 - 0.4 m in width, and were 0.43 m in height. Its very western edge lay approximately 3.3 m from the step up to the chancel and continued eastwards below the chancel, turning southwards in the direction of the crypt (now the boiler room). Within the crypt itself an opening in the west wall, of similar dimensions to the tunnel (20), had been blocked up with bricks.
- 3.1.4 Upon removing the floor within the church, the Victorian heating pipe system, coursed around the outside of the nave area, was also revealed, running N-S in front of the chancel. Truncation of the north wall of the tunnel (20) where the heating pipe course coincided with it indicated that, while the actual pipe was no longer present within the tunnel, the tunnel *had* been used as a continuation for

the later heating pipe course (Plate 2). This was further evidenced by the heat blackened internal surfaces of the tunnel walls and undersides of the large limestone capping slabs (28) that had been placed over the tunnel. Where the north wall of the tunnel was truncated, a thin iron rod, probably a wall reinforcement, was revealed, running lengthways through the wall (Figure 3, Plate 2). A thin layer of cement (21) had been used to secure the capping slabs onto the tunnel walls. The very western end of the tunnel was not capped, and loose, limestone rubble (23) filled this end of the feature.

- 3.1.5 The original function of the tunnel was not clear but it is possible that it may simply have been a ventilation shaft. At less than half a meter in height and with an internal width of approximately 0.6 m, it would not have been large enough to allow human access, and the change in course from W-E, to southwards, would not have allowed for the movement of coffins through this tunnel. After recording, the tunnel was left in situ and re-used for the new under-floor heating pipes.
- 3.1.6 At the very western end of the central aisle area, two short stretches of W-E limestone wall, (26) and (27), projected from beneath the entrance into the west tower (Plate 3). These walls were roughly constructed of unfinished limestone slabs/fragments, with no real identifiable coursing. The function and date of these structures was unclear, at just 0.8 m (26) and 1.14 m (27) in length, but it is possible that they were associated with the foundations of the tower, or part of an older floor that originally sloped up to the level of the tower floor. Alternatively, they may simply have served as reinforcement for the Victorian heating pipe duct walls that ran alongside the outer edges of (26) and (27).
- 3.1.7 Loose rubble deposits (3) (6) and (18), predominantly made up of limestone with occasional slate, glass and ceramic building material fragments, filled the voids below the floor surface, that were created by the floor supports. These rubble deposits were similar to deposit (23) within tunnel (20).
- 3.1.8 Below the rubble deposits, away from the central aisle area, a thin layer of hard, lime cement (5) was present between the floor supports. Approximately 0.04 m thick, this layer was thought to be a sealing layer, possibly created to prevent mice/rats burrowing beneath the floor.
- 3.1.9 Along the central aisle, lime cement layer (5) was not present, and the rubble deposits directly overlay the compact, brown silty clay layer, with occasional limestone fragments (western part of central aisle: (19), eastern part of central aisle: (7), base of tunnel (20): (22)). This layer was not excavated as the level of impact had been reached, but two charnel deposits, (8) and (29), were revealed at the top of this layer. Charnel deposit (8) consisted of a femur, tibia, metacarpal, skull fragment and three small, unidentified long bone fragments, all adult and representative of at least one individual. This deposit was situated within layer (7) and was partly overlain by the west wall of tunnel structure (20). Charnel deposit (29) comprised a skull fragment, a small unidentified long bone fragment and a

cervical vertebra. These also represented the remains of at least one adult and were found within layer (19), between floor support walls (9) and (10).

Extra-mural archaeological deposits

Service Trench 1 (Figures 2,4 and 6)

3.1.10 This trench was located on the west side of the church. It was 0.5 m wide and ran north-south from the churchyard wall along the western edge of the existing churchyard path (106) (for 16.6 m), turning east (for 4.7 m) just beyond the tower. Here, it divided into two, one arm to enter through the south wall of the west tower and, one arm to enter the west wall of the south aisle (Figures 2 and 4).

3.1.11 The depth of the trench was maintained at 0.7 m throughout, with the exception of the last 1.8 m before the churchyard wall. Here, the depth had to be increased to 1.2 m to allow connection to the mains services in the road to the west of the church gate.

3.1.12 The underlying natural, compacted limestone fragments and slabs within an orange yellow sandy clay matrix (113), was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m below the current ground level at the very northern end of the trench. Depth increased southwards to 0.7 m at approximately 12.2 m along the trench. This was the level of impact therefore, beyond this point, the natural was not reached.

3.1.13 The natural was overlain by the graveyard soil (101), a layer of fairly loose, disturbed, mid greyish brown silty clay with fairly frequent limestone fragments (0.70 m + deep at the southern extent of the trench, to just 0.24 m at the northern end) (Figure 6). Fourteen medieval earth cut graves, one possible post medieval earth cut grave and one 18th - early 19th century shaft grave, were revealed in this deposit. These were exposed along a length of 10.8 m of the trench. These were sealed by a layer of organic topsoil/turf (100), up to 0.2 m thick in places.

Earth cut graves

3.1.14 The earth cut graves, all sub-rectangular, were aligned E-W (perpendicular to the line of the existing churchyard path). The highest surviving grave, (120), was encountered at a depth of c. 0.4 m below the modern ground surface and the lowest grave (112) was encountered at a depth of 0.66 m below the modern ground surface. They were organised in a N-S running row and some were intercutting. (Figs 5a and 5b).

3.1.15 The deepest grave, (103), had vertical sides and was the southernmost grave to be excavated. It had been filled with a re-deposited, yellow, limestone natural. The features of this grave (location, depth and profile) suggested a possible post-medieval date. All other graves were probably of late medieval date. These had been back-filled with a predominantly re-deposited graveyard soil (101). The nature of this fill meant that, in most cases, grave cuts were difficult to identify,

in full or at all. Where the edges of the graves were defined, they were found to be fairly tight against remains of the skeletons. This is with the exception of the possible post-medieval grave (103) where, although the skeleton was not reached, the width of the cut, 0.86 m, was much greater than that observed for any of the others (the widest of the medieval graves (119), measured 0.66 m).

3.1.16 Human skeletal remains were excavated from 11 of the 14 graves. Grave 109 contained an adult female and a perinate. No human remains or associated artefacts of burial were exposed in graves (103), (110), or (118) because they lay either below or beyond the limits of excavation. Grave (120) was heavily truncated and no human remains or other associated artefacts of burial survived.

3.1.17 All skeletons were lying in a supine (on their back) position with their heads at the west end of the graves. Arm positions could be observed in a few instances and were found to be either lying by the sides, or with one or both hands over the pelvis (Figures 5a and 5b, Plate 6). Observations relating to the positions of the skeletons was limited by the fact that none were exposed in their entirety.

Post-medieval shaft grave

3.1.18 An 18th or early 19th century shaft grave (102) was revealed within the E-W section of Trench 1. It was located near to grave (103) and was the southernmost grave to be excavated. Aligned E-W, parts of its eastern and northern edges were revealed (Figure 4). Three large limestone ledger stones (0.43 m below the current ground level) capped the grave, with smaller limestone slabs covering the gaps between the main stones (Plate 7). One of the smaller stones from the very eastern edge was removed during machining, and this allowed a somewhat restricted view into the grave (Plate 8). The remains of a probable wooden coffin, with iron fittings (including upholstery studs and a grip) were visible, as well as at least one adult skeleton. The internal walls of the shaft grave appeared to be stone lined, plastered and white-washed in places.

3.1.19 A small continuous stone ledge was present approximately halfway down the walls of the grave. This may have originally supported a rack for supporting coffins above earlier ones. The skeletal remains that were visible appeared to be quite disturbed, so it is possible that these do not represent the first burial within this grave, but a later one that was originally placed, in a coffin, on the supposed rack and has subsequently 'dropped down' onto an earlier burial, following the decay of coffin. The shaft grave was not excavated, nor were the *in situ* capping slabs lifted.

Service Trench 2

3.1.20 This 0.34 - 0.5 m wide trench was located on the east side of the church and, from the east wall of the vestry, ran eastwards for approximately 2.4 m before

turning north and running alongside the east wall of the chancel, for approximately 18 m up to the north churchyard wall. (Figure 2). Its depth ranged from 0.4 to 0.55 m, increasing to 0.7 m for the last 0.5 m before reaching the wall.

3.1.21 Natural was not reached within this trench, only the disturbed, mid greyish brown silty clay graveyard soil (101), sealed by a thinner layer of organic topsoil and turf (100) (up to 0.2 m thick), was encountered.

3.1.22 Where the trench changed its course from E-W to N-S (at the south west corner of the chancel), it was necessary to temporarily move an existing kerbed burial monument (Plate 9). Upon completion of the works, the monument was reinstated.

3.1.23 A very small amount of charnel and animal bone was recovered from the graveyard soil within this trench. No *in situ* burials were encountered.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 Relatively little dating evidence was recovered. A very small number of pottery fragments were found within the graveyard soil (101). These were identified on site as medieval in date and were not retained. No finds were recovered from any of the graves. Coffin fittings, in the form of two iron nails, were found in the graveyard soil (101). Additional coffin fittings including an iron grip and upholstery studs adhering to what appeared to be the remains of a wooden coffin, were visible through a small gap between the ledger stones capping the shaft grave (102). The shaft grave was not excavated therefore the coffin/fittings could not be recorded in any detail. A small amount of animal bone and charnel was recovered from the graveyard soil within Trenches 1 and 2 but this was not analysed.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were observed during the course of the watching brief on the excavation.

4 THE HUMAN SKELETONS

4.1 Methodology

4.1.1 Data on the completeness, condition, age, sex, stature and pathology were recorded for each skeleton where possible (Table 1). This recording was undertaken on-site by an osteoarchaeologist (Helen Webb). Recording of adult age and sex was based on the recommendations set out by Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994), Brickley and McKinley (2004) and Bass (1995, 26). Subadults were aged based on epiphyseal fusion and long bone lengths (Scheuer and Black 2000) and dental development (Morrees *et al* 1963). Stature was estimated by measuring the maximum lengths of the long bones and applying these to the

relevant formulae devised by Trotter and Gleser (1952, 1958) for white males and females. Only gross pathological lesions were recorded.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 A total of 11 skeletons were excavated from Trench 1, comprising five adults and six subadults. Among the subadults were two perinates that may have been stillborn, or they may have died during or shortly after birth. In most cases, only between 25% and 50 % of each skeleton was revealed (and excavated), as the service trench was 0.5m wide and ran perpendicular to the alignment of the burials. The overall preservation of the bone was generally good, with minimal surface erosion.

4.2.2 Stature could be calculated for four of the adults. According to the mean statures calculated for the later medieval period by Roberts and Cox (2003, 396) (171 cm for males and 159 cm for females), the individuals within this assemblage were of roughly average height for the period (give or take 2 - 3 cm), possibly with the exception of skeleton 116, which if in fact was male, would have been approximately 10 cm shorter than the average.

4.2.3 In terms of pathology, the assemblage was characterised mainly by evidence for joint disease, in the form of osteophytes and enthesophytes, notably involving the hip and spine. In addition, one skeleton (109a) showed evidence for dental caries, and another showed abnormal thickening of the cortical bone of the femur, possibly due to metabolic disease (Paget's disease), or possibly due to non-specific bone infection (osteitis).

Table 1. Osteological data recorded on-site for each of the 11 skeletons excavated

Burial No.	Completeness (% present within trench)	Condition	Age	Sex	Stature (cm)	Bone measured for stature	Observations/summary pathology
105	c. 25 %	Good	YOUNG CHILD (2 – 4 years)	?			
107	< 25 %	Good	PERINATE	?			
108	25 – 50 %	Good	ADULT (age undetermined)	?Male			Marginal osteophytes on left acetabulum, very thickened cortical bone and reduced medullary cavity of left femur
109 a	c. 50 %	Good	ADULT (age undetermined)	Female	161.79	Left humerus: 309 mm	Marginal osteophytes of the lumbar vertebrae (bodies), gross occlusal cavity on right mandibular M1
109 b	< 25 %	Good	PERINATE	?			
112	c. 25 %	Good	OLDER CHILD (8.5 – 9.5 years)	?			
114	25 – 50 %	Excellent	YOUNG ADULT (20 – 24 years)	Male	169.24/ 172.56	Left radius: 237 mm/ left ulna: 258 mm (respectively)	Enthesophytes between the superior articular facets of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae
115	25 – 50 %	Poor	OLDER	?			Small abnormal bone

			CHILD- ADOLESCENT (12 – 14 years)				growth (spicule) on ectocranial surface at ?sagittal suture
116	< 25 %	Good	ADULT (age undetermined)	?	160.78/ 161.55 (if male), 155.71/ 156.94 (if female)	Left fibula: 328 mm/ left tibia: 329 mm (respectively)	
117	25 – 50 %	Poor - Good	YOUNG CHILD (4 – 4.5 years)	?			
119	25 – 50 %	Good	ADULT (age undetermined)	?Male	173.87	Right femur: 467 mm	Large enthesophyte on anterior edge of left auricular surface

Condition (after McKinley 2004): Excellent = excellent cortical preservation (IFA grade 0); Good = some erosion of cortical surface (IFA grades 1-2); Poor = cortical surface very eroded/weathered (IFA grade 4)

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The watching brief on the central aisle of the church revealed a series of limestone footings for timber beam floor supports. These were similar in nature to the Victorian floor supports revealed outside the central aisle, but were possibly slightly earlier in date, given that their limestone blocks were not as well faced and no bricks were present within the walls, as seen in the Victorian examples. The loose rubble was deposited after the limestone and timber beam floor supports were laid. The bedding deposits for the tiled floor had then been laid over the loose rubble deposits.
- 5.1.2 The original function of the tunnel (20) at the eastern end of the central aisle (running below the chancel and down to the crypt/current boiler room) was not ascertained, but during the Victorian period it had been utilised as part of the heating pipe course. At the very western end of the central aisle, two short stretches of rough, limestone walling were revealed, but the extent of the works did not allow their function to be ascertained.
- 5.1.3 At the level of impact, no *in situ* burials were revealed within the church; the only human bone found comprised two charnel deposits within the top of the compact soil layer below the loose rubble under the central aisle. These were left *in situ*.
- 5.1.4 Most archaeology was encountered within service Trench 1, on the western side of the church. A total of 11 skeletons, probably dating to the later medieval period, were recovered from 14 earth cut graves, some of which were intercutting. Where the edges of the grave cuts could be defined (with the exception of grave 103), they were found to be relatively tight against the remains of the skeletons. This suggests that they had probably been buried uncoffined. During the medieval period, most people who were buried within a churchyard were wrapped in a shroud and placed directly in the ground. Wide, regularly shaped, well finished graves were therefore unnecessary (Gilchrist and Sloane 2005, 111; Jupp and Gittings 1999, 104). The tendency for the burials to lie at relatively shallow depths (between 0.4 and 0.66 m below the current

ground level) is also a common feature of medieval burials, in part explained by the fact that the grave was dug during, or after, the Requiem mass (Jupp and Gittings 1999, 104; Friar 2003, 70). Gilchrist and Sloane (2005, 131) give average dimensions for medieval graves, usually around 0.4m wide and varying between approximately 0.4 m and 0.7 m deep. These dimensions are certainly in keeping with the burials revealed in Trench 1.

- 5.1.5 In terms of the burial population, little can be said regarding the distribution of males and females, as only four of the individuals could be sexed, but it was perhaps interesting to note that there was quite a high proportion of subadult burials (6/11: 54.5 %) within this relatively short stretch of trench, including two perinates/new born infants (one of whom was buried apparently lying on the chest of an adult female), two young children (between 2 and 4.5 years), an older child (8.5 - 9.5 years) and an older child-adolescent (12 - 14 years). Gilchrist and Sloane (2005, 67) highlight that zoning of burials by age is evident in some churchyards for infants and juveniles. In a presumed lay cemetery at the Augustinian priory of Saints Peter and Paul, Taunton, Somerset, excavations to the south-west of the church uncovered 20 infants (*ibid.*). It is also stated that infant burials sometimes clustered around features such as porches, paths or boundary walls (*ibid.*). The burials from St Nicholas' church were found alongside the current path and it is possible that this follows the line of a path that was contemporary with these.
- 5.1.6 One of the grave cuts (103), the southern most earth cut grave, situated just to the north of the shaft grave (102), may have been post-medieval. Its backfill consisted mainly of redeposited natural rather than the graveyard soil (as with the other graves) indicating that it had been dug much deeper into the natural. In addition, this grave cut was much wider than the other graves - probably to allow insertion of a coffin - with its very steep, vertical edges clear in section. The skeleton was not revealed within this grave at the level of impact.
- 5.1.7 The shaft grave revealed within the E-W section of Trench 1 was not excavated and the internal structure and burial/s could be viewed through only a small gap between the limestone capping slabs. However, the style of the visible coffin grip indicated a date of 18th or early 19th century for this grave. The use of shaft graves was most popular in the later part of the 18th century to the Victorian period, when they ensured a secure plot for family burials within increasingly overcrowded churchyards. It is likely that more than one individual had been buried within shaft grave 102.
- 5.1.8 Aside from a few fragments of charnel, no in situ archaeology was revealed in Trench 2 along the eastern side of the church.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
1	Layer	0.01 m			Church floor surface, 0.11 x 0.11 m square red quarry tiles	
2	Layer	0.03 m			Concrete bedding layer for floor tiles (1)	
3	Layer	0.27 m			Loose rubble	
4	Masonry	0.30 m	1.85 m	0.38 m	Floor support wall	
5	Layer	0.04 m			Thin, lime cement layer - sealing layer over soil (7)	
6	Layer	0.11 m			Loose rubble and soil	
7	Layer	?			Compact soil layer - not excavated	Charnel deposit (8)
8	Charnel deposit				Human bone charnel deposit - femur, tibia, metacarpal, skull frag. x3 long bone frags. (all adult)	
9	Masonry	0.30 m	1.73 m	0.34 m	Floor support wall	
10	Masonry	0.30 m	1.80 m (E-W), 1.0 m (N-S)	0.36 m	Floor support wall	
11	Masonry	0.30 m	1.00 m	0.40 m	Floor support wall	
12	Masonry	0.28 m	1.50 m	0.30 m	Ventilation duct wall	
13	Masonry	0.29 m	1.50 m	0.30 m	Ventilation duct wall	
14	VOID					
15	Layer	0.13 m			Scree bedding layer for tiled floor (1)/(2)	
16	Masonry	0.30 m	1.72 m +	0.40 m	Floor support wall	
17	Masonry	0.30 m	0.80 m	0.33 m	Floor support wall	
18	Layer	0.20 m			Loose rubble	
19	Layer	?			Compact soil situated between walls (9), (10) and (13)	Charnel deposit (29)
20	Structure	0.43 m		0.60 m (internal width of tunnel)	Walled tunnel structure - orientated E-W, runs eastwards below chancel	

21	Layer	0.03 m			Concrete layer securing capping slabs (28) over tunnel structure [20]	
22	Layer	?			Compact soil layer at base of tunnel - not excavated. Probably same as (7)	
23	Layer	0.25 m			Rubble deposit within structure [20]	
24	Masonry	0.30 m	2.65 m	0.40 m	Floor support wall	
25	Masonry	0.30 m	2.04 m	0.36 m	Floor support wall	
26	Masonry	0.28 m	0.80 m	0.35 m	Short stretch of wall, possibly part of west tower foundations	
27	Masonry	0.30 m	1.14 m	0.32 m	Short stretch of wall, possibly part of west tower foundations	
28	Masonry	0.07 m	1.00 m (max. slab size)	0.60 m (max. slab size)	Limestone capping slabs over tunnel feature [20]	
29	Charnel deposit				Human bone charnel deposit - skull frag. long bone frag. cervical vertebrae (all adult)	
100	Layer	0.20 m			Turf and topsoil	
101	Layer	0.12 m			Graveyard soil	Animal bone, human bone, x2 Fe nails
102	Structure	?	1.60 m +	0.80 m +	Shaft grave with limestone capping slabs	Human bone, remains of coffin and fittings visible within but not excavated
103	Cut	0.59m +	0.60 m +	0.86 m	Grave cut	
104	Fill	0.59m +	0.60 m +	0.86 m	Grave fill	Human bone (charnel)
105	Grave group	0.51 m (depth of skeleton below GL)	0.38 m +	0.32 m	E-W grave with young child burial	
106	Structure	<0.15m	17 m +	1.8 m	Concrete path with	

					scree/hardcore bedding layer	
107	Grave group	0.56 m (depth of skeleton below GL)	c. 0.18 m	c. 0.30 m	Grave with perinate burial	
108	Grave group	0.44 m (depth of skeleton below GL)	0.50 m +	c. 0.46 m	E-W grave with adult burial	
109	Grave group	0.40 m (depth of skeleton below GL)	0.50 m +	0.48 m	E-W grave with adult and perinate burial. Right arm of adult truncated by 120.	
110	Grave group	0.52 m +	0.16 m +	0.32 m	E-W grave, skeleton not revealed	
111	VOID					
112	Grave group	0.66 m (depth of skeleton below GL)	0.50 m +	0.42 m	E-W grave with older child burial	
113	Layer	0.08 m +			Natural	
114	Grave group	0.65 m (depth of skeleton below GL)	0.50 m +	0.58 m +	E-W grave with young adult burial	
115	Grave group	0.54 m (depth of skeleton below GL)	0.32 m +	0.49 m	E-W grave with older child/adolescent burial	
116	Grave group	0.63 m (depth of skeleton below GL)	0.22 m +	0.38 m	E-W grave with adult burial	
117	Grave group	0.62 m (depth of skeleton below GL)	0.38 m +	0.39 m	E-W grave with young child burial	
118	Grave group	0.63 m (depth of skeleton below GL)	0.20 m +	0.52 m	E-W grave, skeleton not revealed	

119	Grave group	0.61 m (depth of skeleton below GL)	0.52 m +	0.65 m	E-W grave with adult burial	
120	Grave group	0.40 m	0.50 m +		E-W grave, no skeleton present, S edge not defined	

GL - present day ground level

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: St Nicholas Church, Chadlington, Oxfordshire

Site code: CHADNT07

Grid reference: SP 332 211

Type of watching brief: Excavation and recording of intra-mural archaeological deposits during removal of the church floor in the nave and north and south aisles, and of extra-mural deposits (graves) within two machine dug trenches through the church yard.

Date and duration of project: October - November 2007 (intermittent)

Area of site: Intra-mural: c. 14m x 13 m; Trench 1: 4.7 m (E-W) x 16.6 m (N-S), max. 0.5 m wide; Trench 2: 2.4 m (E-W) x 18 m (N-S), max. 0.5 m wide.

Summary of results: Intra-mural archaeological deposits: Victorian and possibly earlier limestone footings for wooden beam floor supports, tunnel of unknown function at the eastern end of the central aisle running below the chancel and down to the crypt/current boiler room. Extra-mural archaeological deposits: 14 medieval earth cut graves from which, 11 skeletons (5 adults and 6 subadults) were excavated. A possible post medieval, earth cut grave. An 18th - early 19th century stone lined shaft grave with adult skeletal remains and remains of a coffin visible within.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2007.114



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Figure 1: Site location

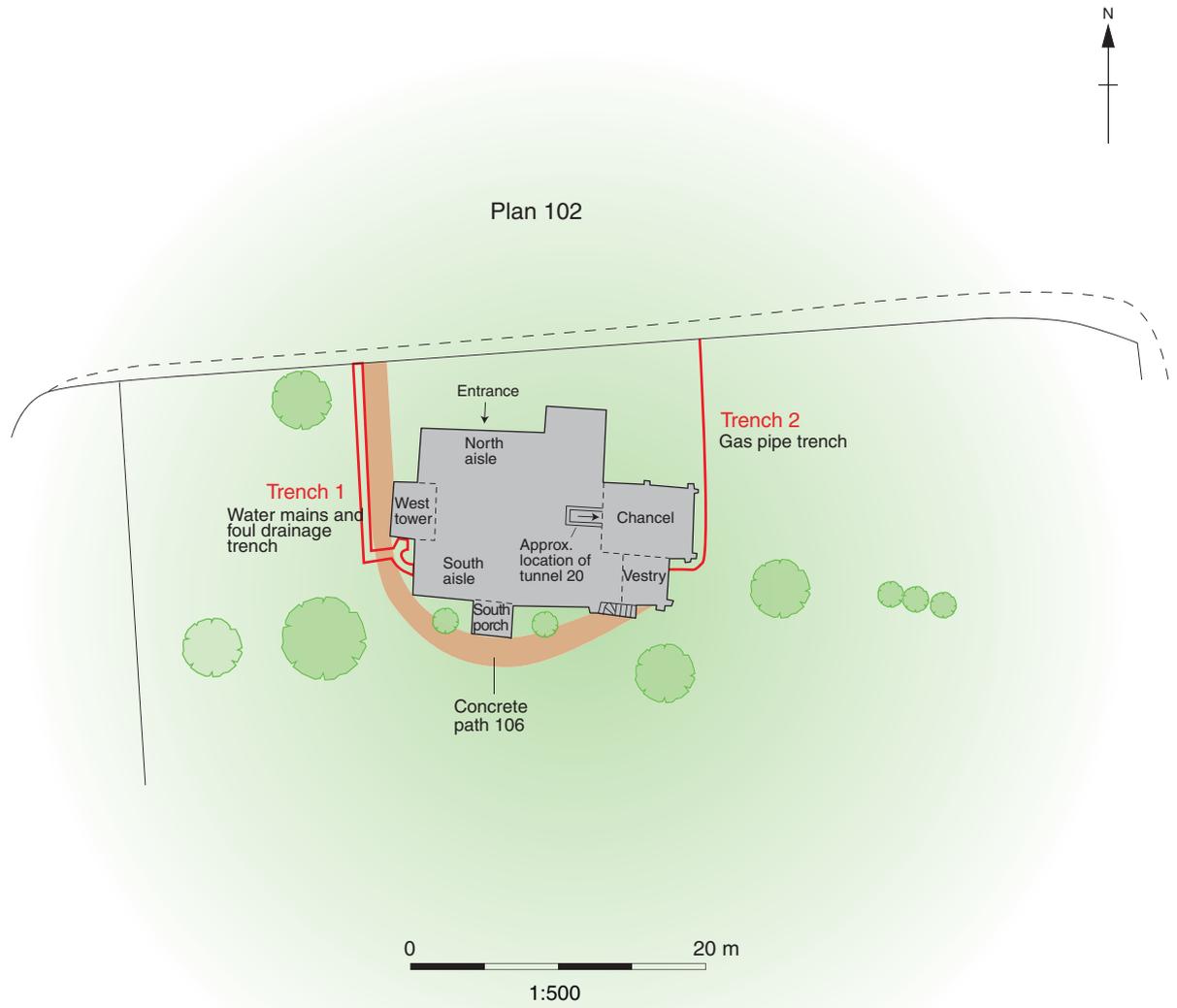


Figure 2 : Plan showing church and approximate locations of service trenches and tunnel 20

Plan 1 (Eastern section)

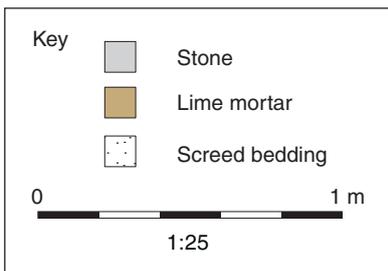
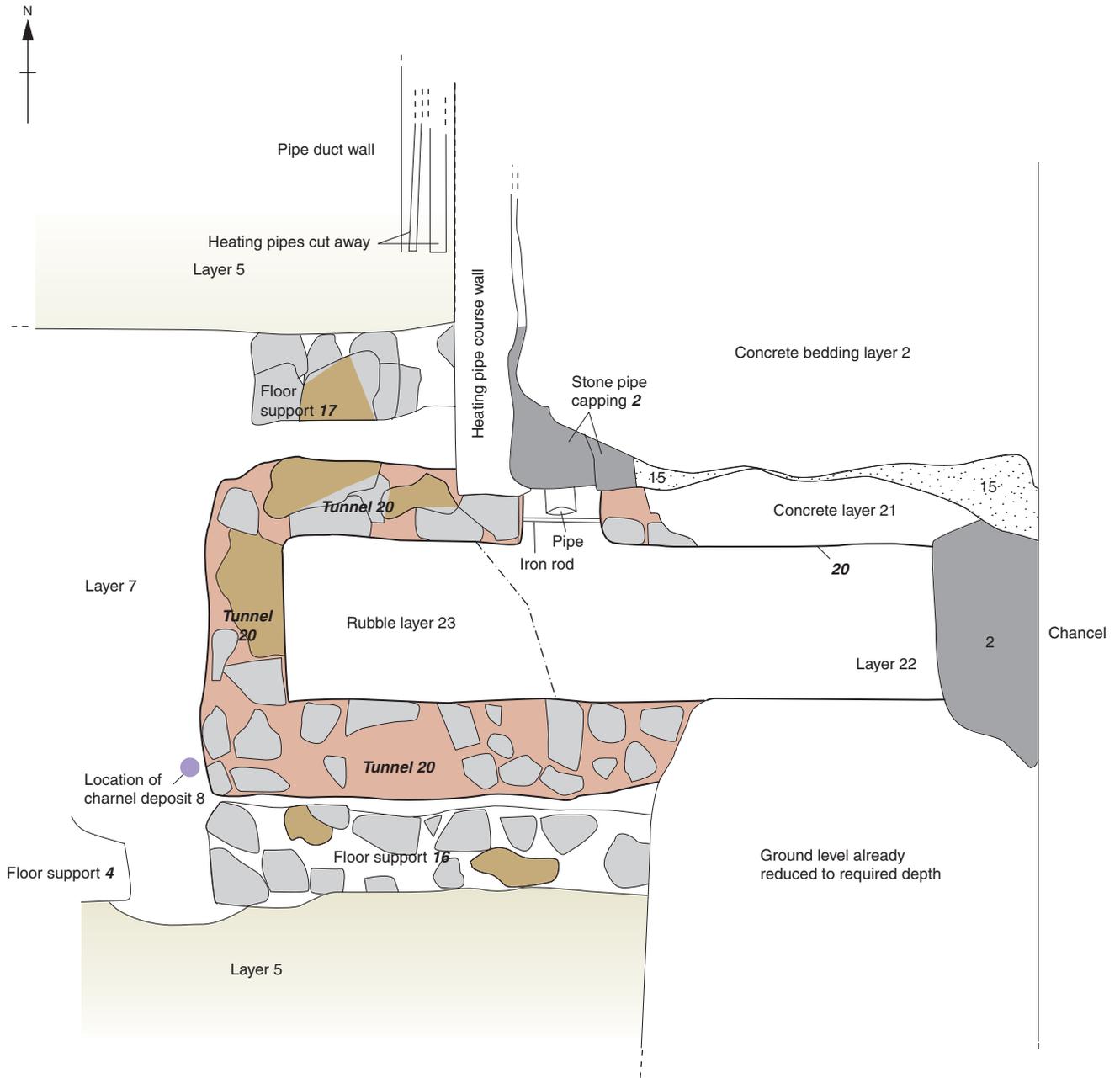


Figure 3 : Plan showing tunnel 20

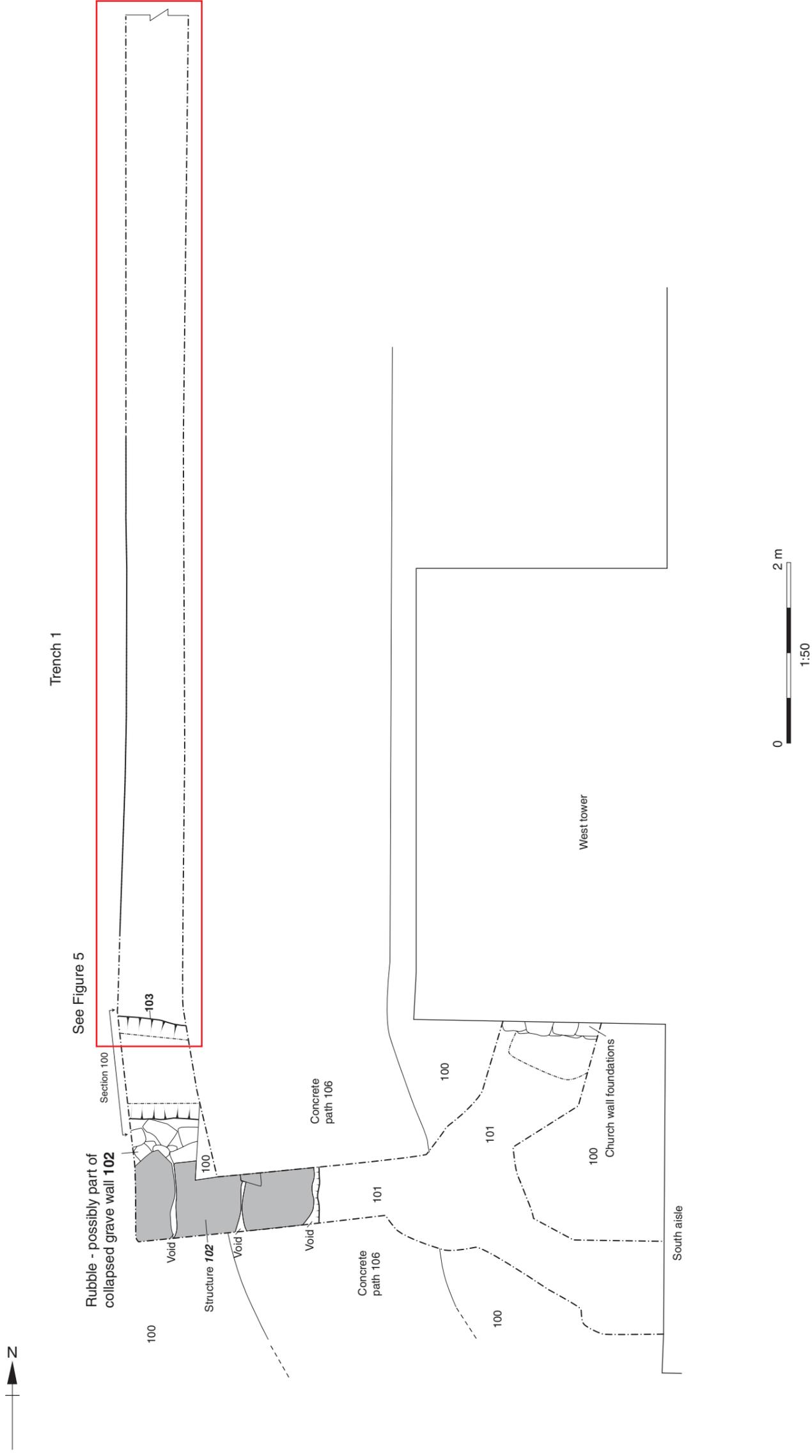


Figure 4: Plan showing Trench 1 and the location of shaft grave 102 and grave 103

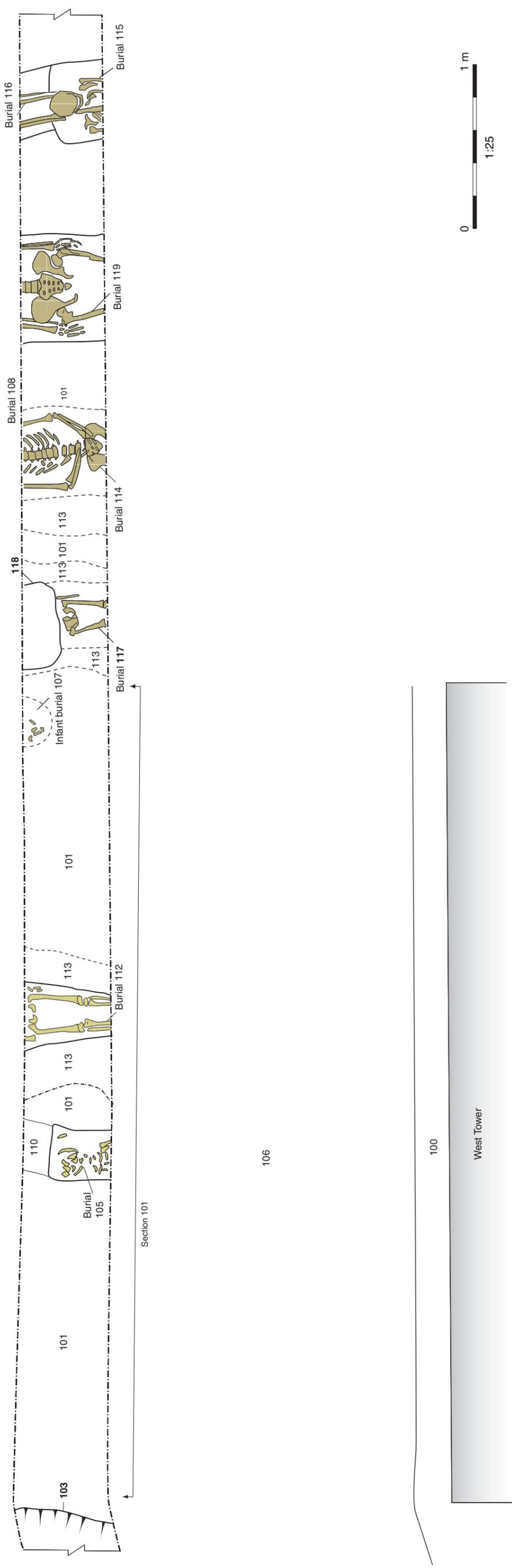


Figure 5b: Plan showing the location of burials 105, 110, 112, 107, 117, 118, 114 and 119

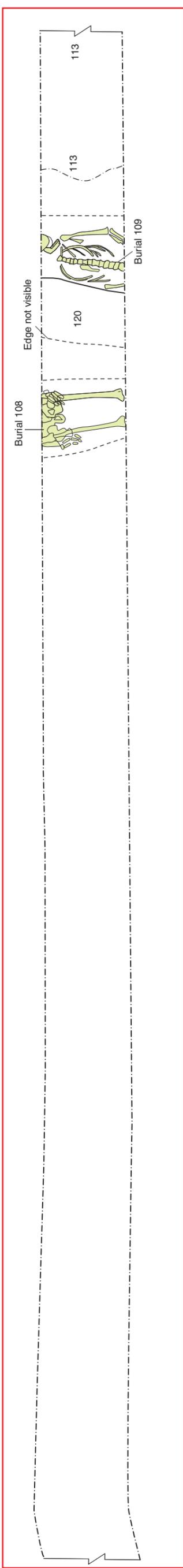


Figure 5a: Overlay to Figure 5b showing the location of later burials 108 and 109

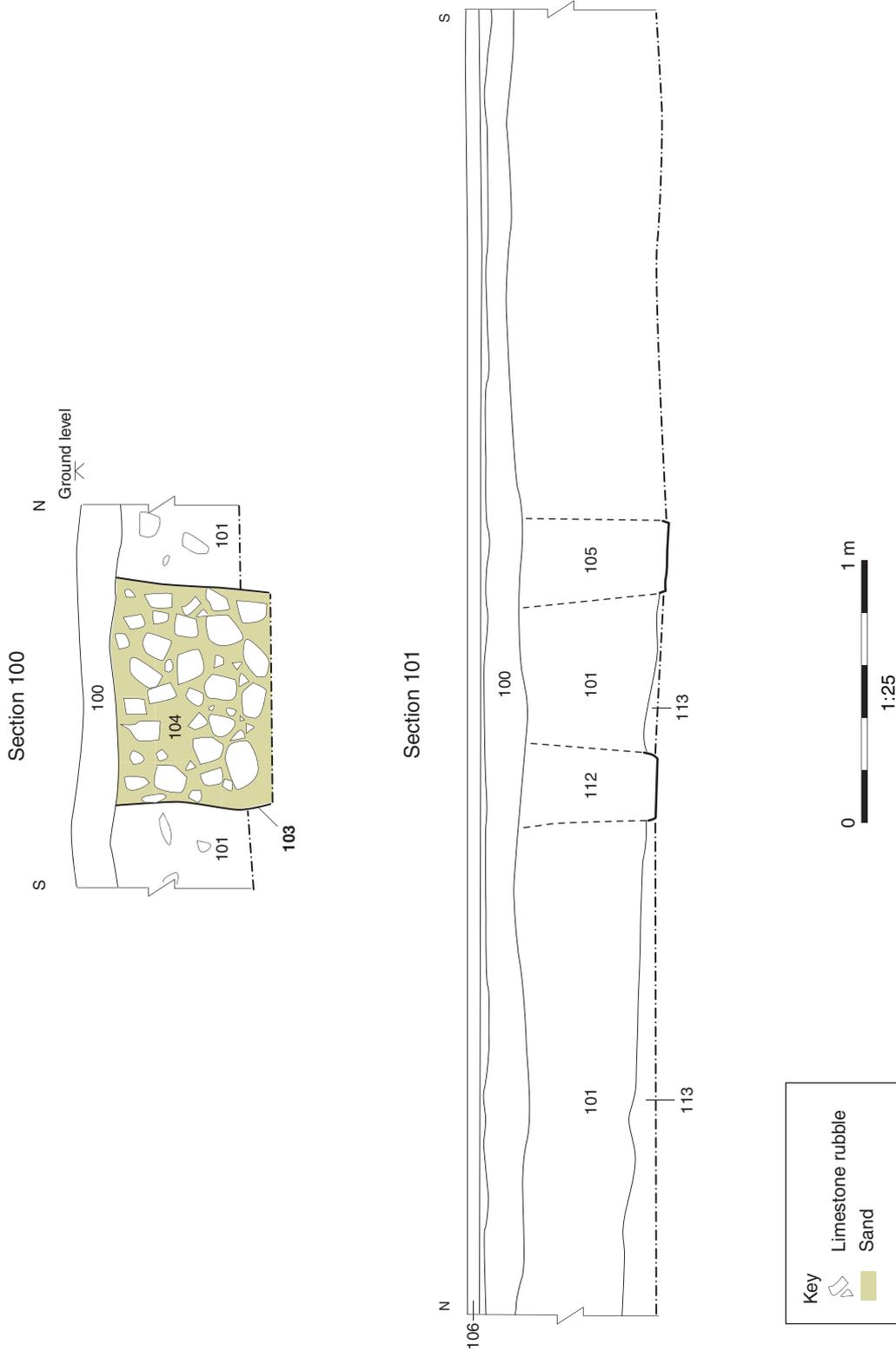


Figure 6: Trench 1, sections 100 and 101



Plate 1: Victorian floor supports, east end of north aisle (looking north)



Plate 2: West end of tunnel 20, (looking north-west). Note the truncation of the north wall by the Victorian heating pipes



Plate 3: West end of central aisle (looking towards west tower). Note the Victorian heating pipe course either side of the doorway and the two short stretches of masonry (26) and (27) protruding from beneath the tower



Plate 4: Trench 1, looking north. Skeletons 114 (at bottom of image) and 109a, at top of image



Plate 5: Trench 1, looking west. Feet of skeleton 116, truncated by burial 115



Plate 6: Trench 1, looking west. View of skeleton 114. Note the position of the hands over the pelvis



Plate 7: Trench 1, looking west. Shaft grave 102



Plate 8: Trench 1, looking west. View inside shaft grave 102 (looking west)



Plate 9: Trench 2, looking south. Note the rear kerbstone of grave monument temporarily removed



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

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

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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Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES