

**ST THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH,
HAVERFORDWEST,
PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF & BUILDING RECORDING
2020**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
for: Mr Andrew Rudkin



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ST THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF & BUILDING RECORDING 2020

By

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Mr Andrew Rudkin

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF & BUILDING RECORDING 2020**

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**ST THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH, PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2020**

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief and building survey (Level 1) during groundworks associated with the conversion into a dwelling of St Thomas a Becket Church, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (SM 9536 1541).

The church is grade II listed. It is thought to have 12th century origins, and retains some medieval masonry but largely dates to 19th century rebuilds. The surrounding churchyard has associated potential medieval origins.

The watching brief was carried out on a service trench excavated alongside the church and along the cemetery path. Eight previously unmarked burials were partially exposed and recorded, along with an earlier boundary ditch. The burials were largely left in situ, with fragments of two removed for later reburial within the cemetery. A photographic record of the building is also included within the report.

CRYNODEB

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD i gynnal brîff gwylio archeolegol ac arolwg adeiladu (Lefel 1) yn ystod gwaith daear sy'n gysylltiedig â newid i annedd o Eglwys St Thomas a Becket, Hwlfordd, Sir Benfro (SM 9536 1541).

Mae'r eglwys wedi'i rhestru ar Radd II. Credir ei fod yn gwreiddyn o'r 12fed ganrif, ac yn cadw rhai o waith maen canoloesol ond yn dyddio mwyaf i ailadeiladu'r 19eg ganrif. Mae gan y fynwent gyfagos gwreiddyn canoloesol posibl.

Cynhaliwyd y brîff gwylio ar ffos wasanaeth a gloddiwyd wrth ochr yr eglwys ac ar hyd llwybr y fynwent. Cafodd wyth o gladdedigaethau heb farcio o'r blaen wedi agored yn rhannol a gofnodi, ynghyd â ffos ffin gynharach. Gadawyd y claddedigaethau yn eu lle yn mwyaf, gyda darnau o ddau wedi'u tynnu i'w ail claddu yn ddiweddarach yn y fynwent. Mae cofnod ffotograffig o'r adeilad wedi'i gynnwys yn yr adroddiad hefyd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr Andrew Rudkin of St Thomas a Becket Church, Haverfordwest, to undertake an archaeological watching brief and building recording survey during ground works associated with the change of use from a church to a dwelling at St Thomas a Becket Church, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (SM 9536 1541), planning application numbers 19/1184/PA and 19/1185/LB.
- 1.1.2 The works included the establishment of services to connect with an accommodation pod constructed internally within the Church building. The new accommodation pod occupies the ground floor level of the tower, nave and west and mid portions of the northern aisle. The service trench runs from a pumping station situated on the northern side of chancel, continuing westwards along and parallel to the northern aisle of the church to then connect with the internal accommodation pod just to the east side of the porch. The service trench then continues around the porch to head westwards across the churchyard along the existing pathway, connecting with the main public services situated immediately outside the western gate of the churchyard.
- 1.1.3 St Thomas a Becket church is Grade II Listed, considered to have been established in the 12th century, and surrounded by a graveyard enclosure that may have been in use since the medieval period. Due to the archaeological potential and importance of the development area Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM), in their role as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (Pembrokeshire County Council) and the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) recommended that archaeological mitigation would be required associated with the proposed development.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of archaeological mitigation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services. This outlined the methodology by which an archaeological watching brief would be undertaken upon any works could potentially expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. A programme of historic building recording, to Level 1 standard as defined in the Historic England 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2016), was also to be undertaken in order to provide detail to supplement an existing Heritage Impact Assessment (Scourfield 2020). This WSI was approved by the archaeological advisors to the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works.
- 1.1.5 The site work was carried out in August and September 2020. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA 2014) and the building survey in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures (*ibid* 2014).

1.2 Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the watching brief and historic building recording was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services, which was approved by the planning authority prior to works commencing. The WSI outlined the project objectives as:

- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the archaeological mitigation.
- To monitor ground works in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- Historic Building Recording of the church building to Level 1 standard
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

1.2.2 The overall works was summarised as:

Archaeological attendance and recording during ground works associated with foul drainage excavation and any other excavation at St Thomas a Becket Church, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, and the production of a report and archive.

1.2.3 As part of the initial planning application for the development a Heritage Impact Statement (Scourfield 2020) was written. DAT-DM acknowledged the good standard of the Heritage Impact Statement but requested that an additional photographic record of the existing interior and exterior of the church be carried out during the watching brief. This photographic record was not intended to be exhaustive, but (at Level 1 standard) would complement the photographs in the Heritage Impact Statement.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background, and provides a summary and discussion of the results of the watching brief and historic building recording. It has been prepared in accordance with the appropriate CIfA standards and guidance (CIfA 2014).

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN). Sites recorded in the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMS) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Monument (SM), Listed Building (LB). Sites are located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD).

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found within the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

1.6.1 The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 –c.AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period –	1536 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

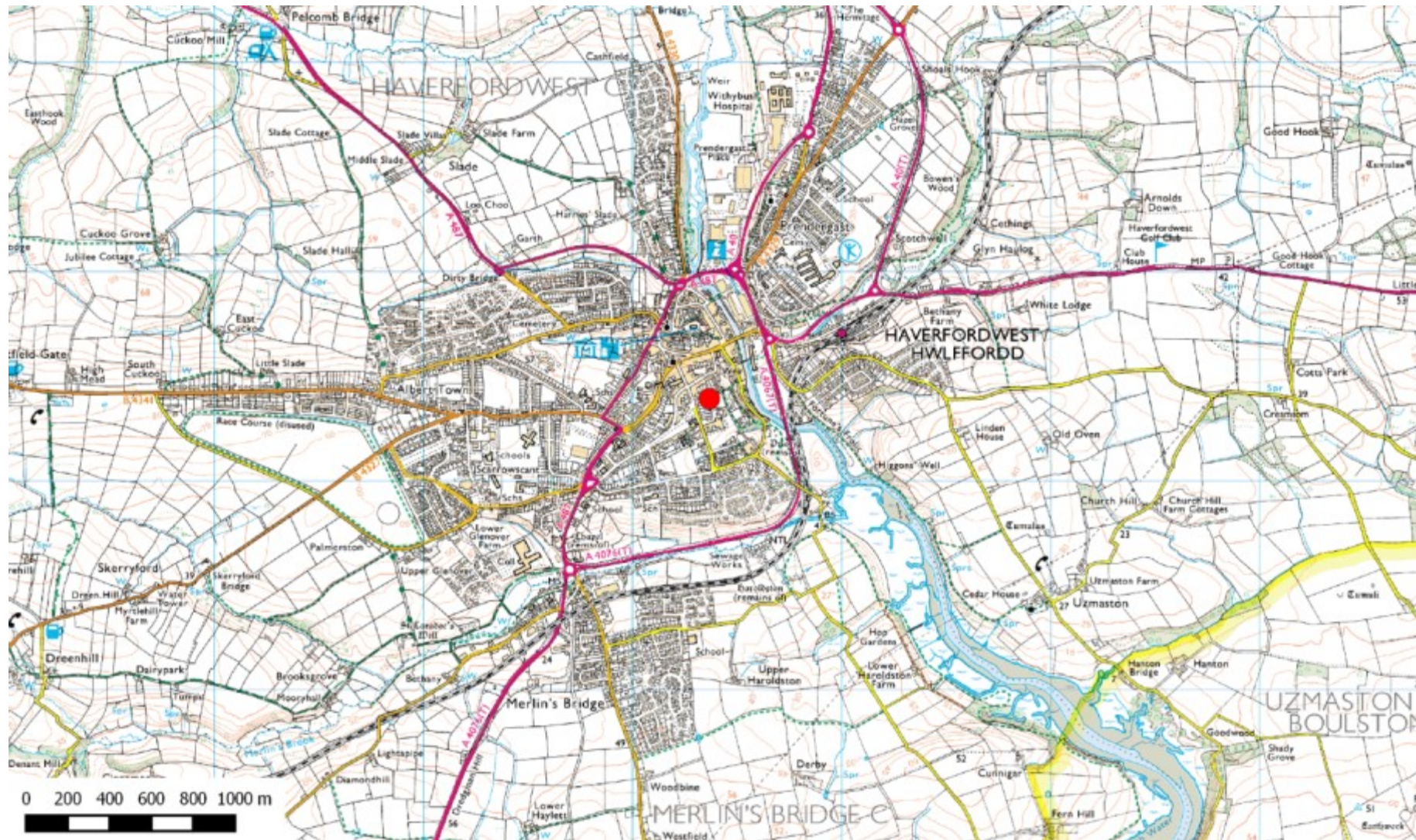


Figure 1: Site location map.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE. Licence No 100020930.



Figure 2: Plan depicting route of new service run highlighted by (orange) line.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location, Topography and Geology

- 2.1.1 St Thomas a Becket Church is situated to the northeast of St Thomas Green and to the rear of both Market Street to the west and Goat Street to the north. The Church is situated within the medieval parish of St Thomas, which together with the two other Haverfordwest Parishes, St Martin's and St Mary's, form the historic county town of Haverfordwest in central Pembrokeshire (SM 9536 1541; Figure 1, Photo 1).
- 2.1.2 The church is positioned within a rectangular churchyard on a commanding promontory which overlooks the medieval castle to the north, Haverfordwest Priory to the southeast and the upper reaches of the western Cleddau River to the east. Modern housing occupies the land to the south of church, relating to the expansion of the town during the Victorian/early modern periods.
- 2.1.3 The underlying solid geology of the site is mixed in this vicinity, with the church sited on a ridge of mudstone and sandstone. The mudstones come from the Millin Mudstone Formation and the Portfield Formation And Haverford Formation, bounded by sandstones of the Gasworks Sandstone Formation. A short distance to the west lies interbedded sandstone and conglomerates of the Twrch Sandstone Formation, with narrow bands of limestone also lying to the north and south of Haverfordwest (British Geological Survey mapping portal).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The historical development of the church is described in detail within Heritage Impact Assessment undertaken in association with this development (Scourfield 2020). St Thomas a Becket Church (PRN 3327; NMR NPRN 300440; Photo 1) is believed to have 12th century origins and retains a 15th century tower at its western end, however, much of the present-day nave, chancel and north aisle were subsequently rebuilt during the 19th century.
- 2.2.2 The earliest mention to the church is first referenced around 1210AD when the church was granted to Haverfordwest priory by Robert Fitztancred, who was the grandson of Tancred (founder of Haverfordwest). St Thomas, to whom the church is dedicated, was canonized in 1173, the church therefore presumably dates to some point between 1173 and 1210 (Scourfield 2020). It is assumed the church would have predated the suburb of St Thomas and was therefore located outside the medieval town walls, settlement subsequently developing around the church.
- 2.2.3 Little is known about the layout of the medieval church, although the current plan is evidently based on the old church. The western tower is of a style typically 15th century in date, and elements of the south wall of the nave are also thought to be medieval, possibly 13th to 14th century. The remainder of the church was rebuilt in the 17th century, presumably from necessity as this was not a noted period of church building. In the 1850s the nave and chancel were much rebuilt again, under E.M. Goodwin of London. In the 1880s the north aisle was built under E.H. Lingen Barker of Hereford, which included the porch, vestry and organ chamber. The church was then refitted with new pews, pulpit, tiled pavements and the stained-glass east window. The church currently has a Victorian Urban appearance.

- 2.2.4 The church is grade II listed (Cadw listed building reference 12038). Cadw (Cof Cymru) describes the church as being:

'Anglican parish church, C12 origins, first mentioned 1210, but mostly rebuilt in C19 apart from tall C15 tower. The tower is stone vaulted and has traceried bell-lights, similar to those at Johnston and Steynton. Body of the church rebuilt first in the C17, then in 1853-5 leaving only a part of the S wall possibly early medieval. The chancel was wholly new. A W gallery had been inserted in 1820 by Joseph Mathias, and in the earlier C19 the tower W door and window were inserted. The work of 1853-5 was probably by E. M. Goodwin who drew up plans in 1851. It cost £1,200. The tomb of Richard le Palmer was found under the floor. New seating, a marble font and organ were installed in this restoration. N aisle added with porch, vestry and organ chamber 1881 by E.H. Lingen Barker of Hereford, probably replacing an original aisle as footings for one had been found. The E window, chancel tiles and pulpit were inserted then. The work cost £1,200. The carved wood reredos was added in the early C20 by J. Coates Carter. The church of one of three medieval churches in Haverfordwest, the only Welsh town to have so many.'

- 2.2.5 The churchyard gates and railings to St Thomas a Becket Church (Cadw listed building reference 60652) are also included in the Grade II listing. These are described as:

'Churchyard gates and railings to Church of St Thomas. 1857, to plans by William Phillips, church secretary and architect, the ironwork by Stephen Green of Haverfordwest. Churchyard gatepiers, gates and railings. Two cast-iron square Gothic gatepiers with plinths, shallow gothic panel each face, moulded cornice and gilded Gothic finial on pedestal. Finial is a fiate cross with four arms. Double gates with spearhead finials above top rail and double mid-rail. Thin plain wrought iron railings, short length from S pier to corner of No 5 Church Lane, long length following footpath around N and E sides of churchyard. Scrolled fleur-de-lys finials to stanchions.'

- 2.2.6 In recent years the church has been closed to services with the last being undertaken in August 2012, and it is now under private ownership. The present owners have commenced emergency repairs upon the roof and windows which have both been damaged in the past due to water inundation.



Photo 1: View northwest of St Thomas a Becket Church from the southeast corner of the churchyard

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 This watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief and the CIfA Code of Conduct (2014). The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), detailing the archaeological works proposed, was approved by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority prior to the works commencing.
- 3.1.2 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual¹ used by DAT Archaeological Services. A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout this watching brief. All contexts encountered during this watching brief were recorded.
- 3.1.3 An archaeological exhumation licence (Licence No. 20-0096, issued 28/05/20) was also obtained from the Ministry of Justice in advance of the works commencing due to the likelihood of the works exposing human remains.
- 3.1.4 The groundworks requiring observation comprised the excavation of a service trench along the northern side of the building. This excavation was undertaken in three stages, and has been laid out in the following report to reflect the method of investigation.

¹ DAT Archaeological Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology.

3.2 Building Recording

- 3.2.1 The initial Heritage Impact Assessment (Scourfield 2020) included a detailed history of the site and a selection of photographs. DAT-DM requested an additional photographic record of the existing interior and exterior of the church be carried out during the watching brief. This scheme of historic building recording has been undertaken to a Level 1 standard as defined in the Historic England '*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*' (2016). This level of recording is described thus:

Level 1 is essentially a basic visual record, supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the building's location, age and type. This is the simplest record, not normally an end in itself but contributing to a wider aim. Typically it will be undertaken when the objective is to gather basic information ...

Level 1 surveys will generally be of exteriors only, although they may include superficial interior inspection for significant features. Only if circumstances and objectives allow will any drawings be produced, and these are likely to take the form of sketches.

- 3.2.2 Based on the Level 1 record as defined in the Historic England guidelines (2016) the following has been undertaken:

Written Record

- The building's precise location, as a National Grid reference and in address form.
- A note of any statutory designation (listing, scheduling or conservation area) and non-statutory designations (historic parks and gardens registers, local lists etc).
- The date of the record, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and, if an archive has been created, its location.

Drawn Record

- Sketched plan, section, elevation or detail drawing, roughly dimensioned.

Photographic Record

- A general view or views of the building (in its wider setting or landscape).
- The building's external appearance. Typically a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building, and give an overall impression of its size and shape.
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.

3.3 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 3.3.1 The fieldwork was undertaken during the 31st of August through to the 4th of September 2020.

3.4 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.4.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and

curation (Brown 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

- 3.4.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.
- 3.4.3 This report is fully representative of the results of the fieldwork.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 All numbers within the text within square brackets [] refer to the unique context number given to all individual deposits using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with the DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual. A list of contexts is recorded in Section 7.
- 4.2 The following results are split into three Phases to reflect the manner in which the ground works were undertaken, and do not reflect the phasing of the archaeological findings themselves.

Phase 1 (Vestry and north aisle)

- 4.3 Excavation of the service trench began at the twin pumping station located to the east of the vestry and to the north of the chancel. The trench then ran westwards along the north facing external wall of the vestry for 3.5m before turning gently southwest for 1m, to then continue westwards following the edge of the north facing wall of the north aisle for around a total length of 14m. The average width of the excavated trench was 0.4m wide and around 0.6m deep. The trench was excavated by a tracked 360° excavator using a flat bladed bucket.
- 4.4 The natural superficial geology was first viewed near to the north west corner of the vestry and was formed of firm light yellowish brown clay [1002]. This deposit was recorded at around 0.58m below existing ground level and was observed throughout most of the phase 1 area of groundworks.
- 4.5 During the phase 1 area of groundworks two separate burials were encountered (see figure 3, photos 3 & 4). The easternmost burial [1003] was located next to the northwest corner of the vestry, and contained the remains of an infantile burial, including skeletal remains of the main torso and both upper and lower limb bones. No associated grave cut or grave fill could be discerned within the exposed area, and the burial appeared to lie upon the natural superficial geology [1002], arranged on a northeast by southwest alignment.
- 4.6 The second burial encountered [1011] comprised the remains of a stone-slab built crypt, which was partially exposed along the northern edge of the crypt. The crypt was left *in situ*, however the interior was visible through a collapsed capstone. The internal structure was found to contain a brick lining, but with no evidence for any coffin or skeletal remains visible. Due to the location of the crypt close to the north wall of the northern aisle it was considered likely that the crypt would have pre-dated the Victorian rebuild of the north aisle. Both burials were left intact and preserved with the depth of the trench raised slightly to continue above the remains.
- 4.7 Along the northwest corner of the vestry the remains of a redundant clay drain was removed whilst excavating the service trench, thought to have belonged to a series of drains probably installed during the Victorian renovation of the church (photo 2).
- 4.8 Sequentially the next deposit recorded comprised of a homogenous demolition layer formed of light to mid grey silty-clay [1001], which continued to a maximum thickness of 0.30m and included frequent fragments of mortar, small pieces of slate and occasional small sub-angular stones. The overlying topsoil [1000] comprised well sorted blackish silty-clay, which measured a consistent depth of 0.20m throughout the entire service trench.

Phase 2 (Northern Porch and entrance pathway)

- 4.9 During the subsequent phase of excavations the service trench turned northwest after entering the church at the junction of the northern aisle and porch, to continue diagonally across the entrance path before turning sharply westwards to join with the main cemetery path. Along this route a further four individual burials were encountered, these being [1012]/[1013], [1015]/[1004], [1016]/[1006] and [1009] (figure 3 & 4). The burials were only partially exposed due to the narrow nature of the service trench, and all had been cut into the natural superficial geology [1002].
- 4.10 Overlying the superficial geology a dark brown silty-clay cemetery soil was recorded [1008], which appeared well mixed and contained a single sherd of pottery (figure 3), and was 0.26m thick.
- 4.11 Skeletal remains were exposed within the southernmost burial [1012]. These comprised a pair of adult femur with adjoining fibula bones (photo 6). The directional placement of these bones suggested the individual had been laid with their head placed to the east rather than the traditional placement to the west. The slight remains of an accompanying grave cut [1013] were also apparent on both southern and northern edges of the burial, which contained a light yellowish brown silty clay grave fill [1014]. This burial was encountered at 0.60m below existing ground level and was located at a sufficient depth to be preserved and left unaffected by the excavation of the service trench.
- 4.12 A second burial [1015] found a short distance to the north of [1012] comprised the skeletal remains of a left pelvic ilium and left femur (photo 7). The remains appeared disturbed but had no fresh breaks, and it is considered likely that the burial had been truncated by the overlying path constructed sometime during the late Victorian period. The associated grave cut [1004] was visible in the southwest facing section of the trench, comprising a shallow cut with a concave base, measuring 0.60m wide by 0.30m deep. Within the confines of the grave cut the remains of a dark brown silty-clay grave fill had been deposited [1005]. This grave had been cut into both the superficial geology [1002] and overlying deposit [1008]. Due to the shallow nature of the buried remains the skeletal remains were recorded and exhumed to allow for the necessary depth of the service trench to be reached.
- 4.13 The northernmost burial [1016] within phase 2 comprised the partial remains of a cranium, partial upper rib cage and right humerus (photo 8). The burial had been placed within a shallow cut [1006], concave in section and measuring 0.65m wide by 0.37m deep. A single fill was visible within the confines of the cut, and comprised a light yellowish brown silty-clay [1018]. Similar to burial [1013], it is assumed that the poor preservation of the skeletal remains was caused by disturbance from the construction of the overlying Victorian path. This grave had been cut into both the superficial geology [1002] and overlying deposit [1008]. Due to the shallow nature the skeletal remains were recorded and exhumed to allow for the necessary depth of the service trench to be obtained.
- 4.14 Grave cut [1006] was partially truncated by a later grave cut [1009], (photo 9). This grave cut [1009] had also been excavated to a significantly deeper depth to adjacent grave [1006], and from a higher level as visible within the southeast facing section, with steeper cut sides. No skeletal remains were observed within the exposed cut and it is assumed that any remains are most likely present at a depth greater

than the base of the service trench. This grave had been cut into both the superficial geology [1002] and overlying deposit [1008]. The exposed grave cut measured 0.52m wide by 0.52m deep and contained a light yellowish-brown silty-clay [1010], which contained two small iron objects that are assumed to be the remains of coffin nails.

- 4.15 All four burials found within the phase 2 area of works had been placed on a similar west-south-west by east-north-east alignment.
- 4.16 The overlying concrete path within the phase 2 area of works measured between 0.08m and 0.10m thick.

Phase 3 (Main entrance path and churchyard gates)

- 4.17 After turning westwards from the porch entrance path, the service trench continued for a further 33m along the main cemetery path before connecting with the public mains just outside the main churchyard gates. During this final phase of groundworks a further two burials were encountered along with the remains of a linear ditch (figure 3).
- 4.18 Burial [1017] (photo 11), encountered midway along this section of the service trench, comprised the remains of both femurs, probably belonging to a young adolescent. No associated grave cut could be discerned and it appeared that the burial had been placed within a dark brown silty-clay cemetery soil [1008] that was also recorded during phase 2. This burial was revealed at 0.60m beneath existing ground level and had been placed on a west-north-west by east-south-east alignment. Due to the depth of required groundworks it was possible to preserve the burial and leave the remains intact.
- 4.19 A second burial [1018] was discovered towards the western end of the trench (photo 12). This was contained within a grave cut [1022], which had been cut into the natural superficial geology [1002]. The surviving remains comprised a single exposed left radius, which was present within the northern side of the grave suggesting that burial had been laid on a west-north-west by east-south-east alignment. Also within the confines of the grave cut a dark brown silty-clay grave fill had been deposited [1023]. Due to the depth of the burial it was possible to leave the remains intact.
- 4.20 Approximately four meters from the churchyard gate a linear ditch [1019] was revealed within the base of the service trench (photo 13 & 14). The ditch was placed on a northwest by southeast alignment and had been cut into the natural superficial geology [1002]. At this point the service trench became significantly deeper in order to attach to the main public services located outside the main gate, therefore confines of the trench, and stability of the trench edge, prevented close investigation. Measured from outside the trench the ditch was 1m wide and contained a dark brown silty-clay fill [1020]. In section the ditch was first visible at 0.67m below ground level and was overlain by a significant accumulation of made-up ground.
- 4.21 Much of the trench largely cut through backfill of a previous electrical service trench along the northern side. However, the south facing section of the trench displayed the original soil profile, and it became apparent that cemetery soil [1008] became deeper the further the trench progressed away from the church and towards the churchyard gates.
- 4.22 Within the final phase of groundworks a deposit of light greyish brown silty-clay was recorded [1021] just to the east of ditch [1019], and above

deposit [1008]. It is assumed that this deposit was used to backfill a possible hollow on the edge of the churchyard.

- 4.23 Constructed over [1021] was the existing church pathway, which comprised a tarmac layer that in some places overlay a bedding layer of clay, together averaging 0.11m thick.



Photo 2: View southwest of Victorian French drain exposed north of vestry.



Photo 3: View west of infantile burial [1003] near to northwest corner of vestry,
1 x 1m scale.



Photo 4: View south of crypt [1011] encountered on external side of north aisle, 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 5: View west of completed phase 1 section of the service run, 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 6: View east of burial [1012], 1 x 0.5m scale.



Photo 7: View west of burial [1015], 1 x 0.5m scale.



Photo 8: View west of burial [1016], 1 x 0.5m scale.



Photo 9: View northwest of burials [1015], [1009] and [1016], 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 10: View west of grave [1009] following the lifting and recording of burials [1015 and 1016]. 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 11: View west of burial [1017], 1 x 0.5m scale.



Photo 12: View west of burial [1018], 1 x 0.5m scale.



Photo 13: Plan view, facing north, of ditch [1019], 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 14: Oblique view of ditch [1019], view northwest. 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 15: View west of final machine excavation works near to main church yard gates.

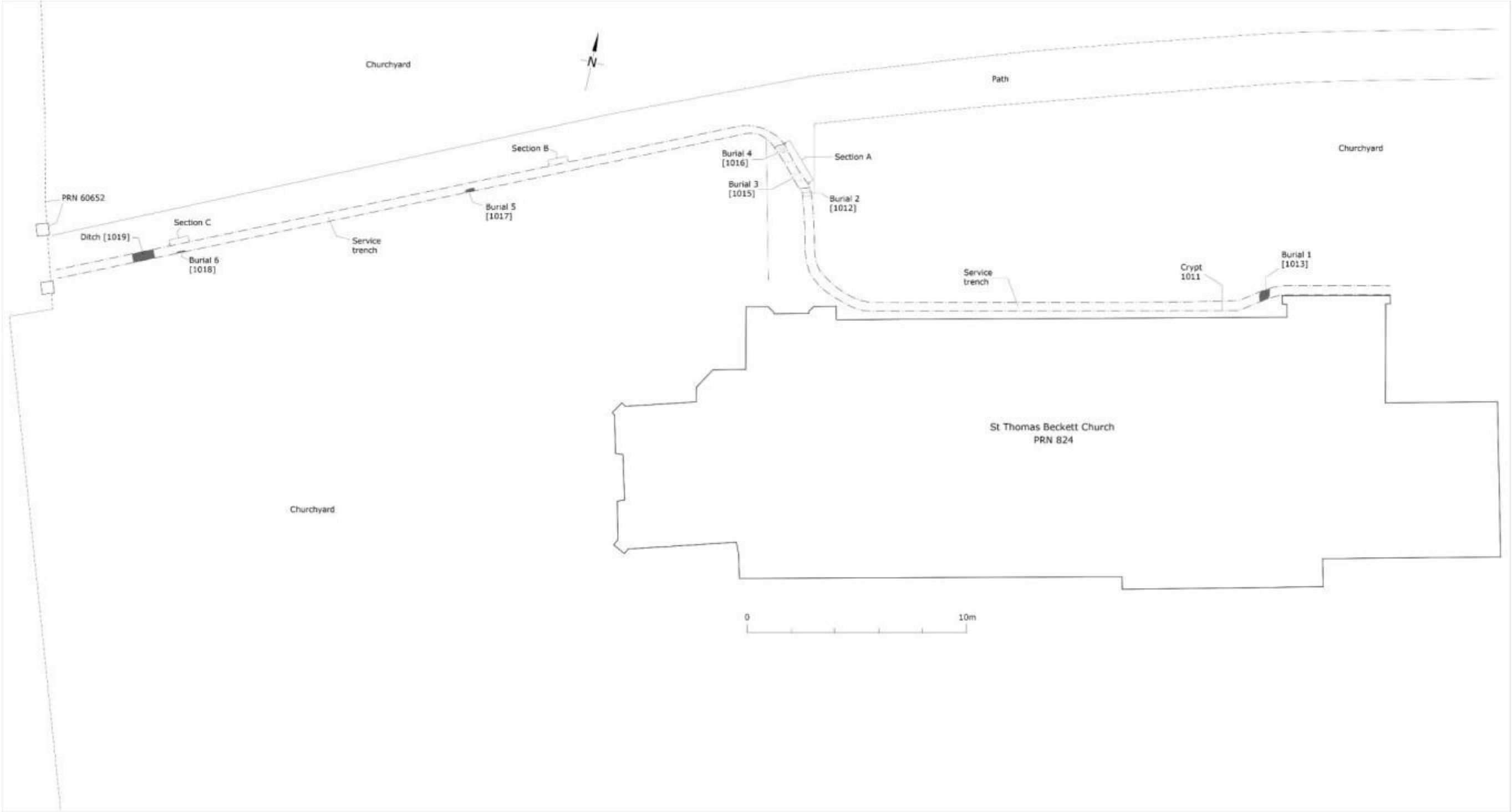


Figure 3: Plan of all burials encountered during groundworks, along with drawn section locations.

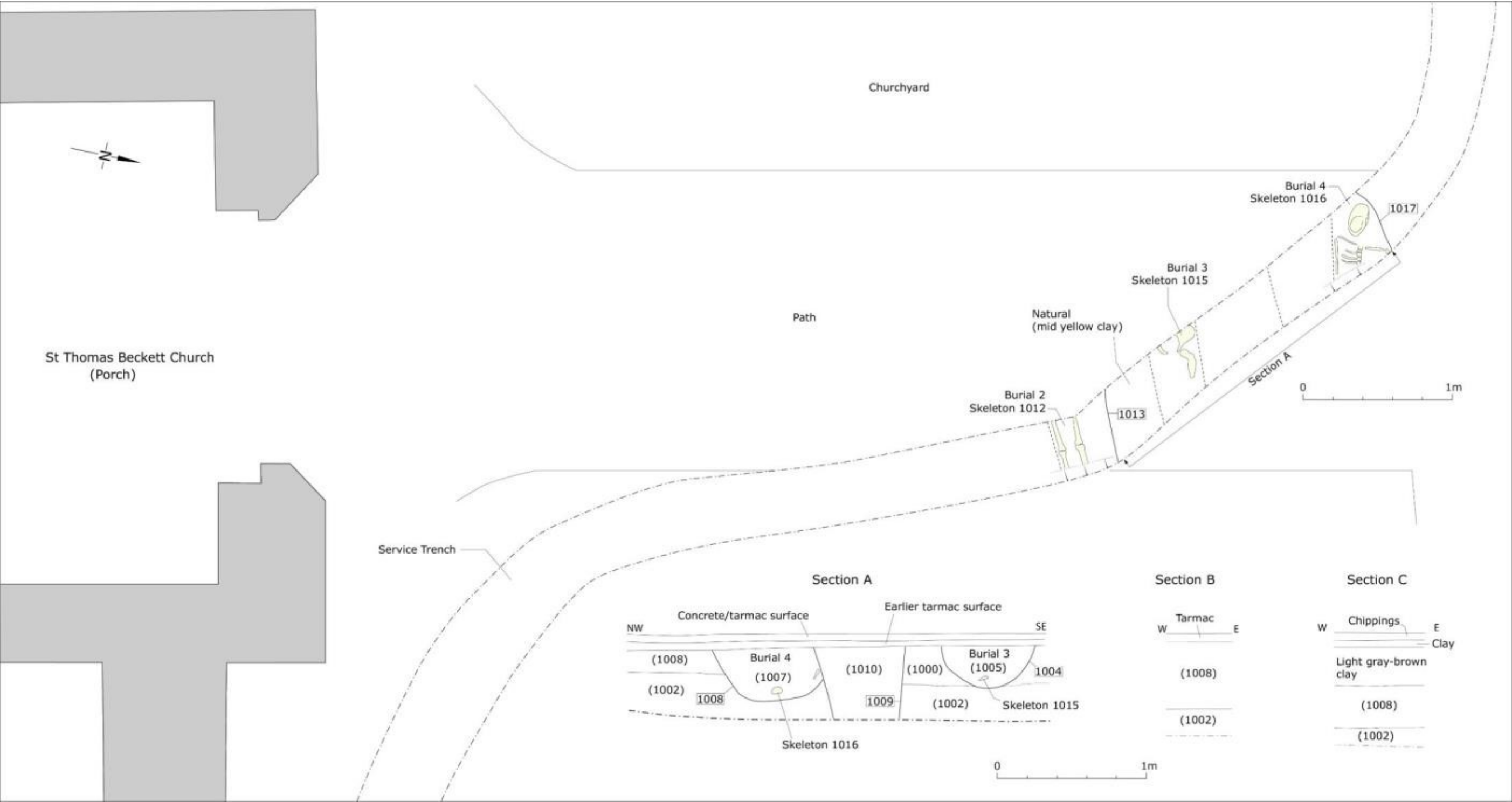


Figure 4: Detailed plan of phase 2 burials and accompanying southwest facing section.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief and Level 1 Building Recording has provided an appropriate record of works carried out in association with the conversion into a dwelling at St Thomas a Becket Church in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.
- 5.2 St Thomas a Becket church is believed to have 12th century origins, built at some point between 1173 and 1210. Some medieval fabric remains, including a 15th century tower, although the church largely dates from 19th century restoration works. The building is now Grade II listed.
- 5.3 Groundworks for the current development included the excavation of a service trench through the churchyard to the north of the church. The route of the service trench was determined to avoid known grave markers, and reduce the potential for disturbing unmarked graves, however the age of the churchyard suggests a high potential for burial across the development area, and therefore an archaeological watching brief was required and an exhumation licence was granted by the Ministry of Justice. A photographic record of the church (to Level 1 standard) was also required to supplement existing information.
- 5.4 The service trench revealed a typical sequence of natural superficial geology overlaid by a well-mixed cemetery soil [1008], which decreased in thickness as it approached the church. Throughout much of the service trench the upper layers were disturbed with the construction of the cemetery path, with the upper layers consisting of construction debris alongside the church, where the service trench diverged from the path.
- 5.5 The service trench uncovered the remains of eight previously unmarked burials in total ([1003], [1011], [1012], [1015], [1016], [1009], [1017] & [1018]). Only fragments of the burials were uncovered limiting the amount of information that could be determined, but these included at least one infant [1003], one adolescent [1017] and one adult [1012], the remaining burials were indeterminable. The skeletal remains were uncovered at varying depths, although the majority were uncovered at around 0.6m below current ground levels. Two shallower burials were uncovered ([1015] & [1016]), and one deeper burial ([1009]). The two shallower burials were exhumed, to be reburied at a later date within the cemetery; the remaining burials remained *in situ*.
- 5.6 The burials were in various states of preservation, with only partial skeletal remains surviving, and in one case [1011] no skeletal remains were visible. Two burials [1015] & [1016] had been disturbed by late post-medieval and modern activity, and at least one burial [1016] was disturbed by later burial activity. The presence of these burials does however illustrate the high potential for further previously unrecorded remains to exist throughout the cemetery area.
- 5.7 The presence of probable coffin nails within [1009] suggests the use of a coffin; otherwise no burial furniture or dressings were uncovered. The presence of the stone-slab crypt suggests a degree of hierarchy within the cemetery, with the more 'prominent' burials closer to the church building. Burial [1012] suggested the body was laid with the head to the east, a non-typical arrangement that may potentially indicate the presence of a member of the local clergy or someone from an ecclesiastical background.
- 5.8 The date of the burials have not been determined, no samples were retained for scientific analysis, and no dateable finds were recovered from the grave fills. One fragment of pottery was recovered from the

cemetery soils [1008], considered to be either late medieval or early post medieval in date (K. Murphy, pers.com), although this soil is likely to be heavily worked from the associated burial activity and a single fragment of pottery is an unreliable dating device for the surrounding burials. The similarity in depths may suggest a broadly contemporary date for many of the graves [1003], [1011], [1012], [1017] & [1018], although a slightly differing alignment for [1003] may suggest that burial is potentially earlier, as the alignment is similar to that of the 15th century tower, rather than the main body for the post-medieval church. However, no grave cut could be determined for this particular burial, and therefore the alignment could be determined by a number of differing factors. Amongst these burials [1016] was truncated by a later, deeper, burial [1009]. This in turn lay underneath, and was clearly earlier than, the cemetery path, which is believed to be Victorian in date as it provided access to the porch, added in 1881. The stone-slab built crypt [1011] may not necessarily be broadly contemporary due to its unique construction. The crypt however appeared to pre-date the construction of the north aisle of the church, which was also added in 1881, but the brick lining within the crypt suggests it is unlikely to be significantly earlier than the 19th century. Based on the depth of the burials, the two shallower graves [1015] & [1016] may therefore be the earliest burials recorded in the current works.

- 5.9 A ditch recorded in front of the current cemetery gates may represent an earlier cemetery boundary. If so, it is likely to predate the mapping evidence for the site, which demonstrates the current boundary was in place by 1840 (tithe map). The depth of the ditch would also suggest an early date.
- 5.10 A photographic record of the interior and exterior of the church was also carried out, and this is presented at the rear of this report.

6 SOURCES

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Personal communications

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7 CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context No	Description
1000	Topsoil- Well sorted blackish silty clay.
1001	Subsoil- light to mid grey silty clay (demolition layer). Present next to vestry and eastern side of north aisle.
1002	Natural superficial geology-Yellow clay which contained frequent small sub angular stones.
1003	Infantile burial found near to north west corner of vestry.
1004	Grave cut for burial [1015].
1005	Dark brown silty clay, fill of [1004].
1006	Grave cut for burial [1016].
1007	Dark brown silty clay, fill of [1005].
1008	Cemetery soil-Dark brown silty clay.
1009	Later grave cut which had cut adjacent earlier grave [1006].
1010	Mixed yellowish and brown clay, fill of [1009].
1011	Stone crypt structure found at eastern end of north aisle.
1012	Burial found in grave cut [1013].
1013	Grave cut for burial [1012].
1014	Light yellowish brown silty clay, fill of [1013].
1015	Burial found in grave cut [1004].
1016	Burial found in grave cut [1006].
1017	Young adolescent burial found along mid area of main cemetery path.
1018	Burial found at western end of main cemetery path and near to Churchyard gates.
1019	Ditch cut found near main Churchyard gates.
1020	Dark brown silty clay, fill of ditch cut [1019]
1021	Light greyish brown silty clay (previous landscaping deposit).
1022	Grave cut for burial [1018]
1023	Dark brown silty clay, fill of [1018]

Photo 16



DAT Archaeological Services



Photo 16: View east of nave, north aisle, ceiling and chancel in foreground, from base floor of tower.



Photo 17: View east along north aisle.



Photo 18: View west from chancel into the nave.



Photo 19: Early memorial located on the north wall of the chancel, dated 1723 and dedicated to the Brand and Walter family of Roch castle.



Photo 20: Stained glass window within eastern wall of the chancel.



Photo 21: View southeast of the pulpit, 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 22: View south of the memorial above the pulpit, dedicated to Phillips family and dated 1724.



Photo 23: Memorial located on southern wall of the nave, dedicated to the Chambers family and dated 1862, 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 24: View north of the ground floor entranceway to the tower staircase with modern graffiti present above doorway. 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 25: Memorial dedicated to Thomas Walters, dated 1823, found above the ground floor entranceway to the tower staircase.



Photo 26: Tombstone for Richard Le Palmer found inside the entrance doorway leading to the porch, dated to the 14th century. 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 27: Detail of engraving along the edge of the tomb. 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 28: View north of the staircase entrance doorway and adjacent window from the first floor of the tower.



Photo 29: View of wooden belfry underfloor from the first floor of the tower.



Photo 30: View south of blocked doorway used to access second floor of the tower from the tower staircase. 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 31: View north from tower parapet with views of Haverfordwest Castle and town.



Photo 32: View south east of Western Cleddau from the tower parapet.

External views of St Thomas a Becket Church



Photo 33: View northeast of the tower exterior.



Photo 34: Detail of family crest, suspected to be of the Phillips family, found on the west facing elevation of the main tower.



Photo 35: View southeast of Victorian northern porch entrance. 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 36: View southeast of northern wall of northern aisle of church. 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 37: View southwest of eastern gable wall of the chancel and adjoining organ chamber and vestry. 1 x 1m scale.



Photo 38: View northwest of St Thomas a Becket church from the southeast corner of the churchyard.

