



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Summary Report

St Mary's Church
Church Lane
Hawridge
Buckinghamshire



Quality Check

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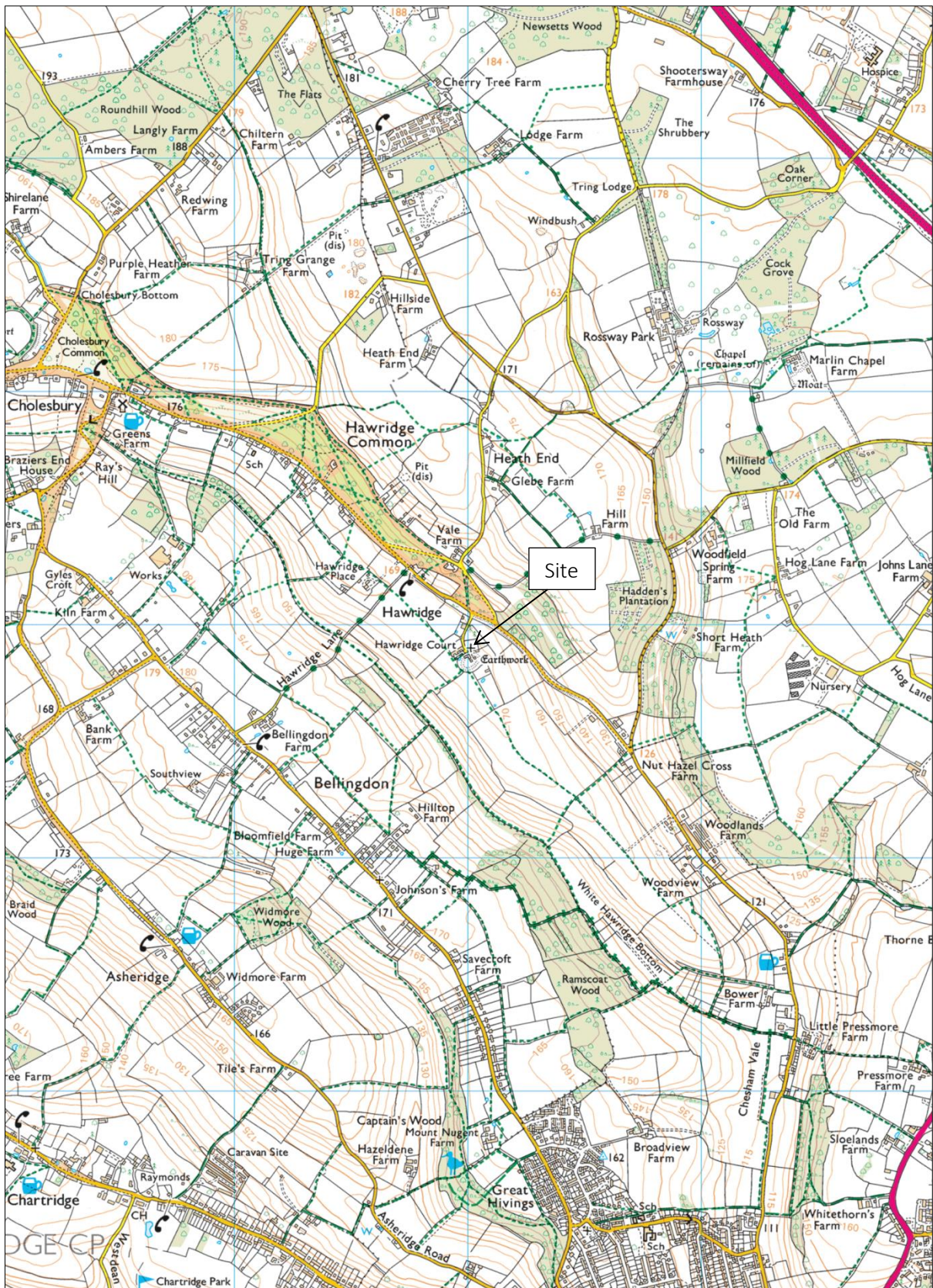


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Summary

In May 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Observation and Recording project at St Mary's Church, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire during the excavation of two rainwater discharge gullies serving newly installed downpipes. The two pits were excavated to a depth of only 0.3m and did not reach the archaeological horizon. As a result, no evidence of archaeological activity was identified during the project, although deposits may lie undisturbed at a deeper level.

1 Introduction

1.1 In May 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of St Mary's Church, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by David Arnold on behalf the St Mary's Parochial Church Council, and was carried out according to a Method statement prepared by KDK (Kaye 2019), and approved by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, Julian Munby.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been undertaken in order to fulfil Faculty requirements.

1.3 *The Site*

Location

St Mary's Church is located on Church Lane at the southeast side of the village of Hawridge, approximately 2km to the northwest of Chesham, in the civil parish of Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards, in the administrative district of Chiltern in the county of Buckinghamshire. The National Grid Reference for the site SP 95013 05906.

Description

The church is a Grade II listed building dating from the 13th century but rebuilt in the 19th century. It is described in the Historic England listing as follows (NHLE entry number 1332510):

Medieval chapel-of-ease rebuilt 1856. Architect: William White. Some old materials were re-used and some of the original fittings remain. Nave and chancel, knapped flint with brick bands and stone dressings. Tiled roof. Lancet and 2-light windows, Early English style. Wooden louvred bellcote at west end. Interior: Font is 13th century, circular bowl carved with floral motifs. (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1332510>)

Geology & Topography

St Mary's Church is located at approximately 173m AOD. The solid geology consists of chalk bedrock belonging to the *Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated)*. These were formed between 84 and 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, in an environment of warm chalk seas. The superficial deposits derive from the *Clay-with-flints Formation*, consisting of clay silt, sand and gravel. These deposited were formed up to 23 million years ago (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

Development Works

The works entailed the installation of new downpipes to the north and south elevations of the church. This required the excavation of two gullies beneath the downpipes to allow rainwater to discharge to the existing drains.



2 Results & Conclusion

Introduction

During the works, two pits were excavated on the north and south sides of the nave. Pit 1, to the south, was 0.7m wide by 1.1m long and Pit 2, to the north, was 0.7m wide by 0.9m wide (Fig. 2). The drains were uncovered swiftly and the only excavation required was to a depth of 0.3m.

Description

The general site stratigraphy consisted of a layer of dark greyish brown topsoil containing 19th/20th century CBM and concrete. The excavation of Pit 1 did not reach the base of this layer (Plate 1). The topsoil in Pit 2 was 0.25m deep, and beneath this was a layer of relatively modern light yellow-brown sandy made ground (Plate 2).

Conclusion

The excavations at St Mary's Church were insufficiently deep to reveal any archaeological remains although burials and archaeological features may lie undisturbed at a deeper level.



Plate 1: Pit 1, view north



Plate 2: Pit 2, view south

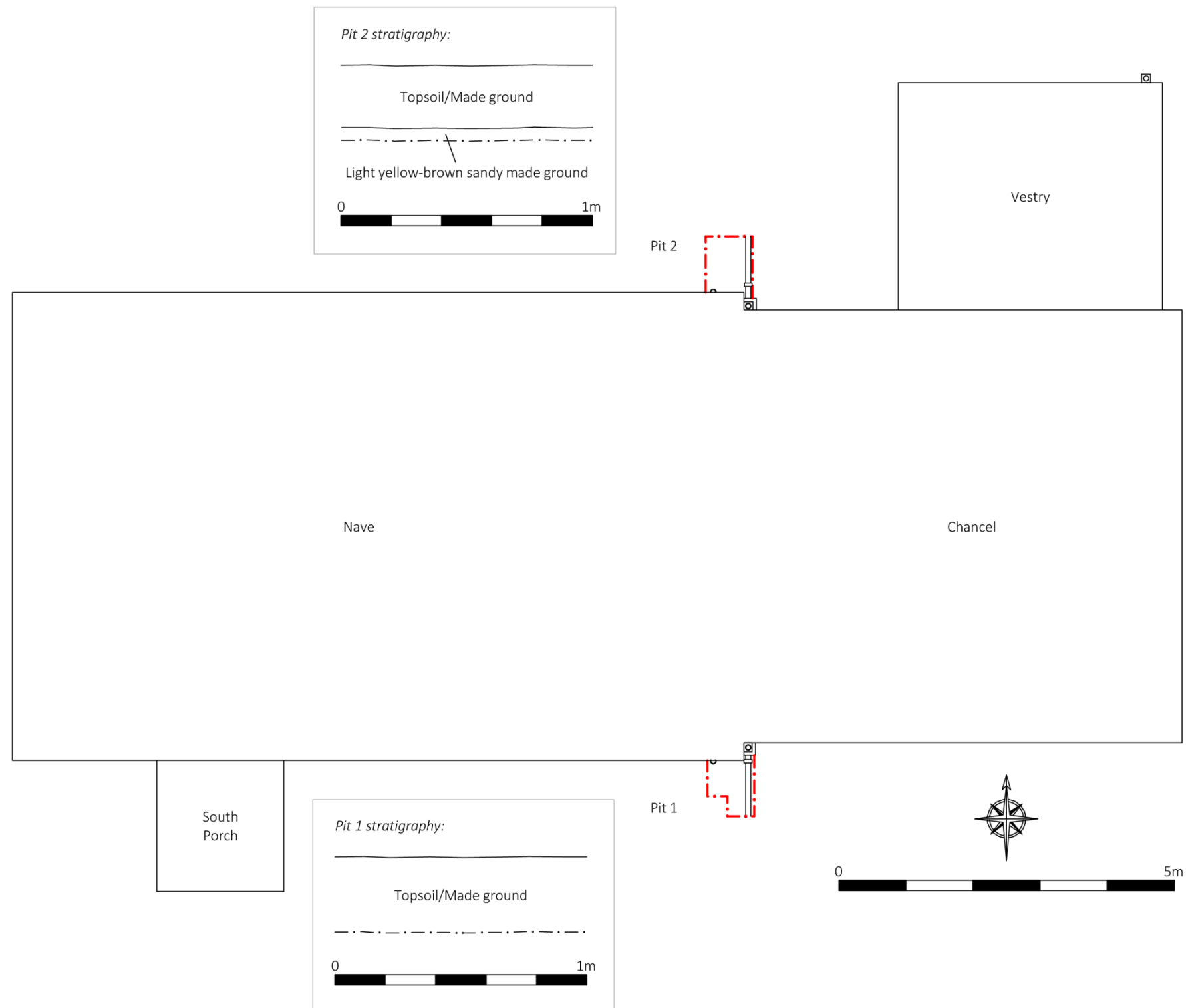


Figure 2: Site plan (1:75) and stratigraphy (1:20)



4 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to David Arnold for commissioning this report on behalf of the St Mary's Parochial Church Council. Thanks are also due to the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, Julian Munby, for monitoring the project.

Special thanks go to Russell Green and the staff of N.R. Green Builders for their hard work and co-operation on site.

The fieldwork was carried out by Chris Martin-Taylor BSc. The report was written by Chris Martin-Taylor, and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA.



Appendix: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	St Mary's Church, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire	Project Site Code	458/HSM
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-353637	Event/Accession no	N/A
OS reference	SP 95013 05906	Study area size	1.103m ²
Project Type	Observation & Recording	Height (mAOD)	173
Short Description	In May 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Observation and Recording project at St Mary's Church, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire during the excavation of two rainwater discharge gullies serving newly installed downpipes. The two pits were excavated to a depth of only 0.3m and, therefore, did not reach the archaeological horizon. As a result, no evidence of archaeological activity was identified during the project, although deposits may lie undisturbed at a deeper level.		
Previous work	-	Site status	Grade II listed
Current land use	Church and churchyard	Planning proposal	New downpipes and connections to existing drainage
Local Planning Authority	N/A	Planning application ref.	N/A
Monument type	Church	Monument period	Post-Medieval
Significant finds	-	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	-	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	Karin Kaye MA MCI/fA	Director/Supervisor	Chris Martin-Taylor BSc
Sponsor/funding body	St Mary's Parochial Church Council		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	02.05.2019	End date	02.05.2019
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies	-	
Paper		Development plans, Method Statement, Summary Report, fieldwork sheets	
Digital		All of the above in digital format onto a CD, as well as digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Summary Report: St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire		
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Author(s)	Chris Martin-Taylor BSc		
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