

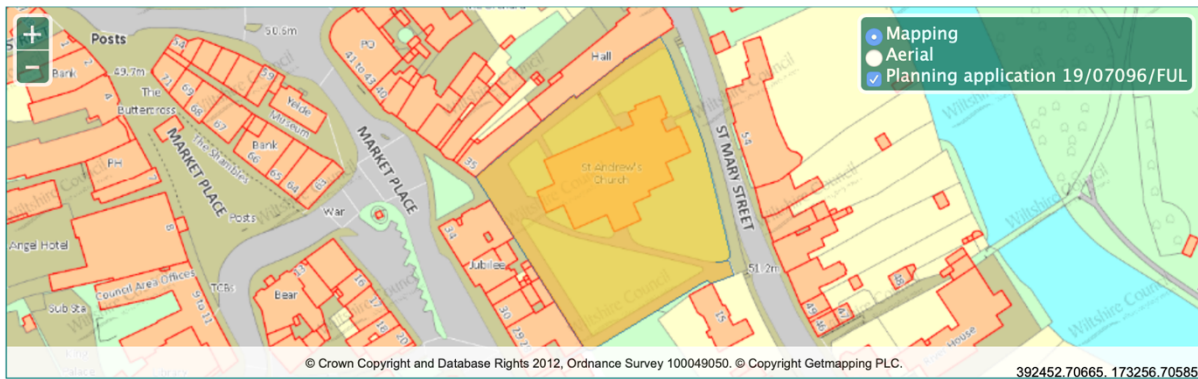
# Written Scheme of Investigation

## Archaeological Watching Brief

St Andrew's Church

Market Place, Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN15 3HT

Map showing planning application 19/07096/FUL



### Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological oversight and mitigation to be supervised by Dr Jacqueline Wilson at the request of the Wardens of St Andrew's Church.

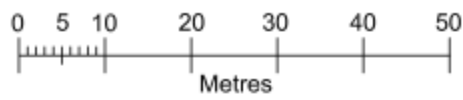
The archaeological mitigation will consist of a watching brief and will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed creation of five parking spaces at St Andrew's Church. The groundworks necessitate the removal of a topsoil layer to a maximum depth of sixteen inches which is to be replaced with Geoblok and returned as backfill material, The existing parking is under tarmac and this is to be removed and replaced with York Stone paving. (NGR: SO 13920 62896).

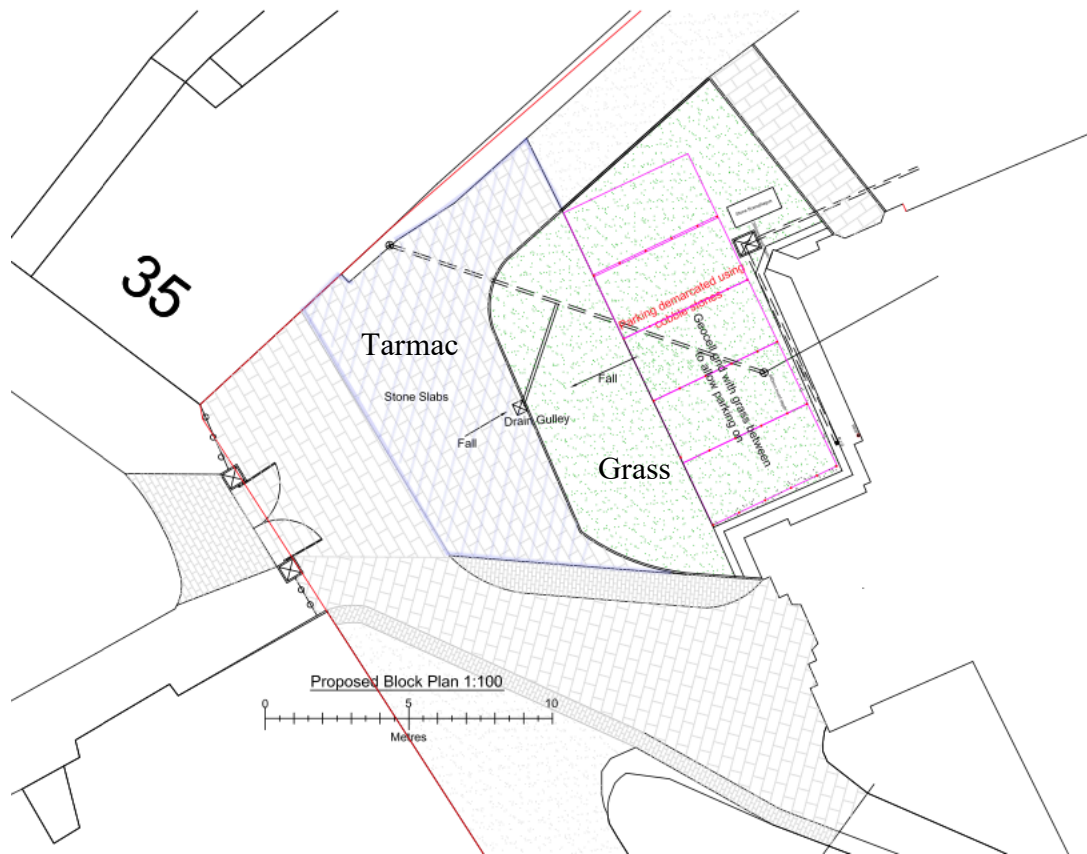
The level and extent of prior disturbance for previous groundworks in this area of the car park with no previous archaeological significance identified suggests the archaeological impact will be minimal. However, given the heritage and history of the church and extant burial areas





Proposed Block Plan 1:500





It is believed that there has been a church on the site of St Andrew's since the time of King Alfred the Great (849/899) who was associated with it however the oldest extant parts of the present church are from Norman times (circa 1120). The Church was extensively rebuilt in 1875/8 which includes the addition of a North Aisle. A soil pipe was laid through the area under inspection in 2011 which yielded no archaeological evidence. St Andrew's has been a closed churchyard since 1855 and there are no extant or previously known or recorded graves or grave markers in the areas being disturbed.

Groundworks may however reveal human remains and for this reason planning has been granted with a recommendation that an archaeological watching brief is carried out during groundworks to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

This WSI has been prepared by Dr Jacqueline Wilson ((JW) at the request of Mr Barry Hayward for the Church Wardens of St Andrew's Church.

Planning Permission has been granted by Wiltshire Council (Application Reference Number: 19/07096/FUL) which makes the following conditions (amongst others):

*No development shall commence within the area indicated until:*

- a. A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*
- b. The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

The methodology set out here has been written by Dr Wilson in her capacity as archaeological adviser to St Andrew's Church, the responsibility for compliance rest with the Church Wardens and the principal contractor. Wiltshire Council's planning requirements require that a watching brief of the area is undertaken while groundworks are in progress to ensure that any archaeology revealed is recognised, recorded and processed correctly.

The purpose of the archaeological mitigation is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains at the site of the groundworks, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the removal of topsoil. It also sets out arrangements for archiving of any archaeological material found and the associated records.

All work will be undertaken to the published standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

## 2. Site Description

St Andrew's Church is located off the Market Place in Chippenham. The churchyard (including the Church) occupies a site of approximately 0.63 Ha. The church is located 55m AOD (. No new burials have taken place in the churchyard sine 1855 and there is no record of burials or burial marker in the area to be disturbed.

The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Rubbly Limestone Cornbrash of the Jurassic era (BGS 2018)

## 3. Archaeological background

The churchyard has been in existence since at least 1120, but records suggest that it may have been as early as AD 850 as Ethelwitha, daughter of King Aethelwulf of Wessex was given in marriage to King Burgred of Mercia at the 'royal estate (villa regia) called Chippenham and Aethelfraed daughter of King Alfred is said to have been married to the King of Mercia on or

before 887. The church contains elements of a Norman church from 1120 and has been enlarged and modified a number of times, with a major rebuilding and enlargement taking place between 1875 and 1878 by Richard and John Darley. This enlargement included the addition of a North Aisle. It was noted that the excavation of the churchyard for this extension produced no evidence of earlier buildings or archaeology.

The area of the site to be disturbed with these groundworks is shown in and as stated earlier is unlikely to contain undisturbed archaeology (given the depth of groundworks and prior disturbance). The area presently under tarmac which is to be lifted and relaid with York stone was created sometime after the second world war but for which there are no records or archives. The total area of the groundworks is 92m<sup>2</sup>, of which 51M<sup>2</sup> is presently under grass and 41m<sup>2</sup> under tarmac.



#### 4. Objectives

This report sets out the program of works to ensure that the mitigation (watching brief excavation) will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014).

The objectives of the watching brief will be:

- to allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- to provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of any material recognised of archaeological interest or to indicate where an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to what she deems a satisfactory or proper standard. If significant archaeology is revealed ground works will be stopped while additional archaeologists are brought in to be consulted.

A written report will be compiled following the groundworks. In the event that archaeology of significance is identified sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken by Dr Wilson to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported and archived.

The report will include an assessment of the historic context within which any archaeological evidence revealed rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

#### 4.1. Site Specific Research Aims

The watching brief has the potential to expose previously unknown or unrecognised archaeology or artefacts, and as such this would be of historical importance and add greatly to the knowledge of Chippenham's historic area.

Although unlikely given the limited total area of groundworks there remains the possibility that digging within the churchyard could potentially lead to the excavation of human remains. Should articulated remains be uncovered during the site groundworks, then all work will be halted while consultation is made with an specialist osteoarchaeologist (see 6.5 below). Given the small area of groundworks this seems unlikely but Dr Wilson has a background in archaeological science and can readily advise on preservation in-situ, but if excavation is deemed necessary the correct excavation, removal and curation, and any later sampling strategies will be applied.

### 5. Timetable of works

#### 5.1. Groundworks

The programme of mitigation will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed extension to parking and this is due to commence in February 2020

#### 5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to Mr Barry Hayward, with a copy to Wiltshire Council and The Chippenham Museum within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

## 6. Fieldwork

### 6.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (2014).

An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during all intrusive ground works. If groundworks are carried out using a mechanical excavator, the latter will be equipped with a flat ditching bucket.

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork will not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist will record any finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.

Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not enter this area until archaeological recording has been completed. If significant archaeological features are revealed during the work a meeting between Barry Hayward and Dr Wilson will be called at the earliest convenience.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for a maximum of three days' uninterrupted access to any area deemed of archaeological significance and for a team of up to two further archaeologists to be employed, should be provided. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the programme commences and will follow a site meeting between Dr Wilson, Mr Barry Hayward.

### 6.2. Recording

Recording will be carried out using pro-forma context sheets if the groundworks reveal any context below the topsoil. The section will be related to Ordnance Survey datum, any features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries. Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 18.2 MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

### 6.3. Finds



The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014) will form the basis of any finds collection, processing and recording needed. .

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under The Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to the local museum to ensure they are stabilised by a UKIC qualified conservator.

#### 6.5. Human remains

In the event that articulated human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left in situ and protected during backfilling. Where preservation in situ is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated by a specialist osteoarchaeologist in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13 (1993).

A meeting with Mr Barry Hayward, the Chippenham Museum and Dr Wilson will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (6.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

#### 6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, Dr Wilson will seek specialist opinion and advice.

### 7. Monitoring

Dr Wilson will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and will be present on site once the work is underway. Any changes to the WSI that Dr Wilson may wish to make after approval will be communicated to Barry Hayward for approval on behalf of the Planning Authority.

### 8. Post-fieldwork programme

#### 8.1.1. Site archive

The report and any archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including any archaeological artefacts and any samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments' Record agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with ClfA Guidelines (Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives', 2014).

### 8.1.2. Analysis

Given the small area of groundworks it is unlikely that anything of archaeological significance will be revealed. However, should any artefacts or finds deemed significant be located, recovered and recorded and should further analysis be deemed necessary this will be undertaken in consultation with additional archaeological specialists. This will then be included alongside the following in the final report;

- A non-technical summary
- the location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, any artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered or additional contexts revealed) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of any deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts will be included if appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- If archaeologically significant and deemed necessary a detailed archive list will be appended at the rear of the report listing any contexts recorded, any samples finds and find types, any drawings and all photographs taken.

## 8.2. Reports and archive deposition

### 8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of the report associated with the mitigation (watching brief), together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to Mr Barry Hayward upon completion.

### 8.2.2. Additional reports

Copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record and the National Monuments Record if appropriate.

### 8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums' service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Copies of all reports and any archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

### 8.2.6. Finds deposition

Any finds, including artefacts and any samples taken, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the Chippenham Museum, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

## 9. Staff

The groundworks supervision will be undertaken by Dr Wilson. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of Mr Barry Hayward.

## Additional Considerations

### 10. Health and Safety

#### 10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work Dr Wilson will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the Wardens of St Andrew's Church (or their agent as necessary) for their information.

#### 10.2. Other guidelines

Dr Wilson will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002).

### 11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, Dr Wilson will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the reason for the groundworks.

### 13. References

*Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.*

*Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

*Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for excavation.*

*Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.*

*English Heritage, 2002. Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology.*

*English Heritage, 2006. Management Of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE).*

*McKinley, J., Roberts C., 1993, Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains, Technical Paper 13*

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*Prepared for Mr Barry Hayward, for the Church Wardens, St Andrew's Church Chippenham by*

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