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PROSPECT ARCHAEOLOGY

The Parish Church of St Andrew, Loxton, North Somerset



Archaeological Watching Brief



**PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW
Loxton, North Somerset**

Watching Brief Report

Prepared for
The Friends of St Andrew's Church

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CONTENTS**Page**

1.....	Summary
	1.0 Introduction
	1.1 Location & Geology
	1.2 Historical & Archaeological Context
3.....	1.3 Project Background & Acknowledgements
	2.0 The Archaeology
	2.1 Aims & Objectives
	2.2 Methodology
5.....	2.3 Results & Description
10.....	3.0 Material Evidence
	3.1 Overview
	4.0 Discussion
	4.1 Preservation & Extent
	4.2 Interpretation & Chronology
11.....	5.0 Conclusion

AppendixLIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 (p. 2): Location of the site

Fig. 2 (p. 4): Plan of the site showing location of investigation & distribution of features

Fig. 3 (p. 9): Drawing of full length of the exposed section

LIST OF PLATES

Front cover: View of the church of St Andrew from SE (July 2021)

Pl. 1 (p. 5): The site during removal of the boundary wall remains

Pl. 2 (p. 5): General view of the exposed section

Pl. 3 (p. 6): Section through ditch [123]

Pl. 4 (p. 7): Section through ditch [118]

Pl. 5 (p. 7): Burials as exposed to the S of the area

Pl. 6 (p. 8): Detail of building debris dump (103)

APPENDIX

- i) List of excavated contexts
- ii) Finds by material
- iii) Written Scheme of Investigation

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW, LOXTON, NORTH SOMERSET: REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

James L. Brigers, BA on behalf of the Friends of St Andrews Church, Loxton

NGR: ST 3763 5583

LAT. 51.298201; LONG. -2.8959033

North Soms Museums acc. no. WESTM:2021.15

SUMMARY

Monitoring was conducted at the above location during the removal of the east churchyard boundary wall at the above location. The works revealed a long and complex section which included the profiles of three un-dated but potentially early east-west aligned ditches sealed by an early ground surface which in turn was cut by a number of graves of probable medieval date. These were concentrated in an area immediately to the east of the church and were sealed by an extensive dump of building material including roof slates, wall plaster and medieval glazed tile. The position of some of the graves indicated that they had been cut by the construction of the post medieval wall, suggesting that the burial ground may have originally extended further to the east.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location & Geology (fig. 1)

1.1.1 The medieval parish church of St Andrew stands within its churchyard at the above grid reference in a secluded location between St Andrews Farm and Church Farm at the north eastern edge of the North Somerset village of Loxton, situated above the flood plain to the west of the Lox Yeo River and at the foot of the Mendip Hills. The underlying geology in the area of the site consists of clay of the Mercia Mudstone Group¹.

1.2 Historical & Archaeological Context

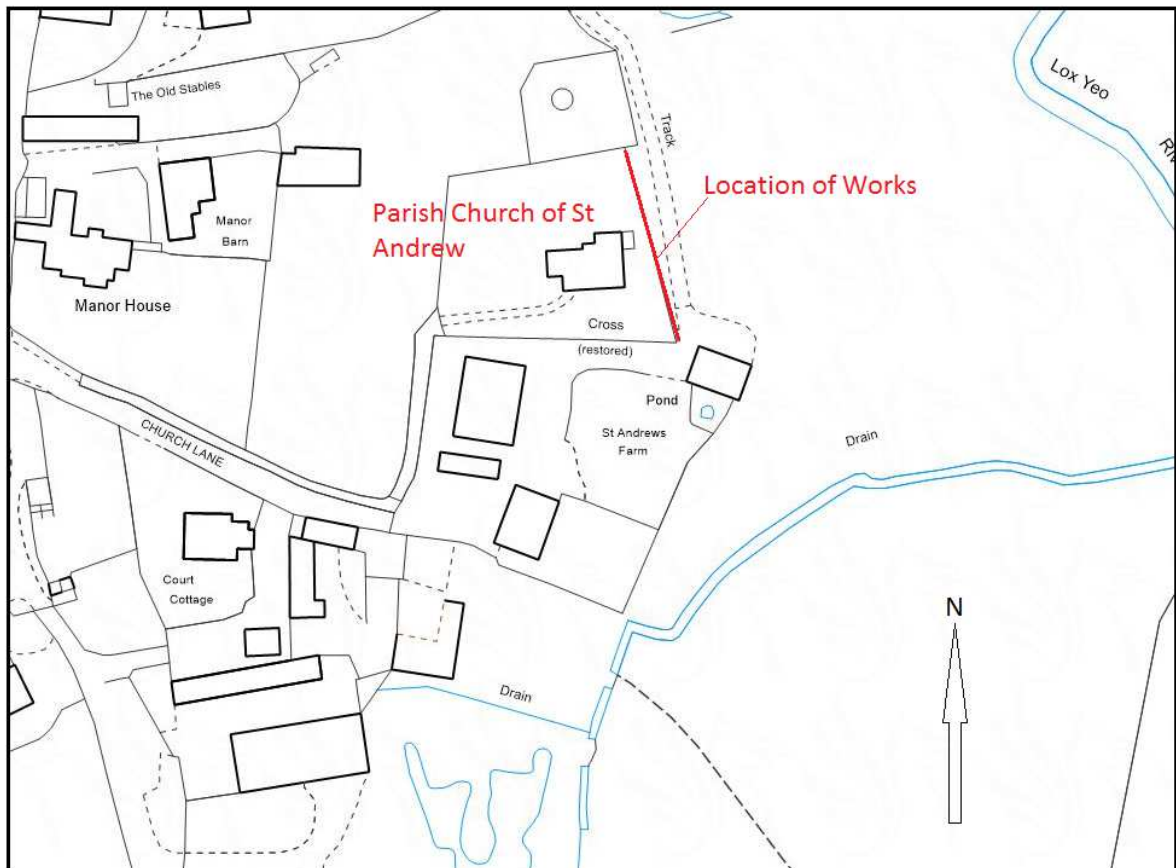
1.2.1 The settlement of Loxton most likely has Saxon origins and prior to the Norman Conquest was a moderately-sized rural estate in the hands of Wulfeva. Following the Conquest the lands passed into the hands of Count Eustace who held it directly of the King. In 1086 the settlement included a mill². The church of St Andrew is thought to have 11th century origins, although only a fragment of masonry within the south porch is ostensibly of this period. The remainder of the fabric of the existing building is predominantly of the 13th to 15th centuries with extensive restoration and extension in the early 20th.

¹ British Geological Survey, digital map data

² Thorn, C & F, eds. 1980 'Domesday Book: Somerset', para 17.4. Phillimore



Fig. 1: Parish Church of St Andrew. Location of the Site



1.2.1 There is no record of recent formal archaeological investigation within the church or its surroundings. The church is Grade II listed by merit of its architectural and historical significance (no. 1313078)

1.3 Project Background & Acknowledgements

1.3.1 The eastern boundary wall of the churchyard surrounding the church of St Andrew was noted to be in a dilapidated state and in urgent need of replacement. Faculty consent from Bath & Wells Diocese was obtained to allow the commencement of the necessary works in 2021 under the condition that archaeological monitoring was maintained throughout. The process of removal of the remains of the wall was undertaken in July 2021 and the work was monitored by James Brigers of Prospect Archaeology. Thanks are due to Gilbert McPherson, representing the church, for the provision of preliminary information and to the on site contractors for their cooperation and assistance throughout the fieldwork process.

2.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

2.1 Aims & Objectives

2.1.1 The principal purpose of this programme of archaeological monitoring was to satisfy a condition of faculty consent imposed by Bath & Wells DAC and to assess the nature, extent, date and state of preservation of any surviving archaeological remains within the scope of the area under the impact of the development and preserve such remains by accurate record as they were encountered during activities associated with the proposed development with a view to advancing the understanding of the history, archaeology and chronological development of the church of St Andrew and its environs.

2.2 Methodology (fig. 2; pl. 1; appendix iii)

2.2.1 Initially the remains of the boundary wall were removed by machine and the site prepared for the erection of the new structure under intermittent archaeological supervision. The exposed section was then cleaned manually as necessary and recorded, both photographically and through the drawing of the full 22.50m length of the exposed section at a scale of 1:50.

2.2.3 A list of all archaeological contexts was maintained throughout including a detailed description of the characteristics of each. Finds were retained, bagged and labelled using the appropriate context number and the unique site code, LSA 21, with the exception of C19th and later pottery, glass and building materials from top-soil layers which were discarded on site following recording of their presence and context. All work on site was carried out in accordance with guidelines for Watching Briefs issued by the Institute for Field

Archaeologists³, within the terms of a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by South West Heritage Trust in April 2021⁴ and best practice for archaeological work in Somerset⁵.

2.2.4 All original written, drawn and photographic material generated during the fieldwork will comprise the 'site archive' which will be deposited with North Somerset Museums Service under accession number WESTM: 2021.15 with the retained finds and accompanied by a copy of this report. Further copies of the report will be sent to the PCC (as Sponsor) and North Somerset Council Historic Environment Record; further copies will be available from the author upon request. A summary of the results will be published in the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society in 2022.

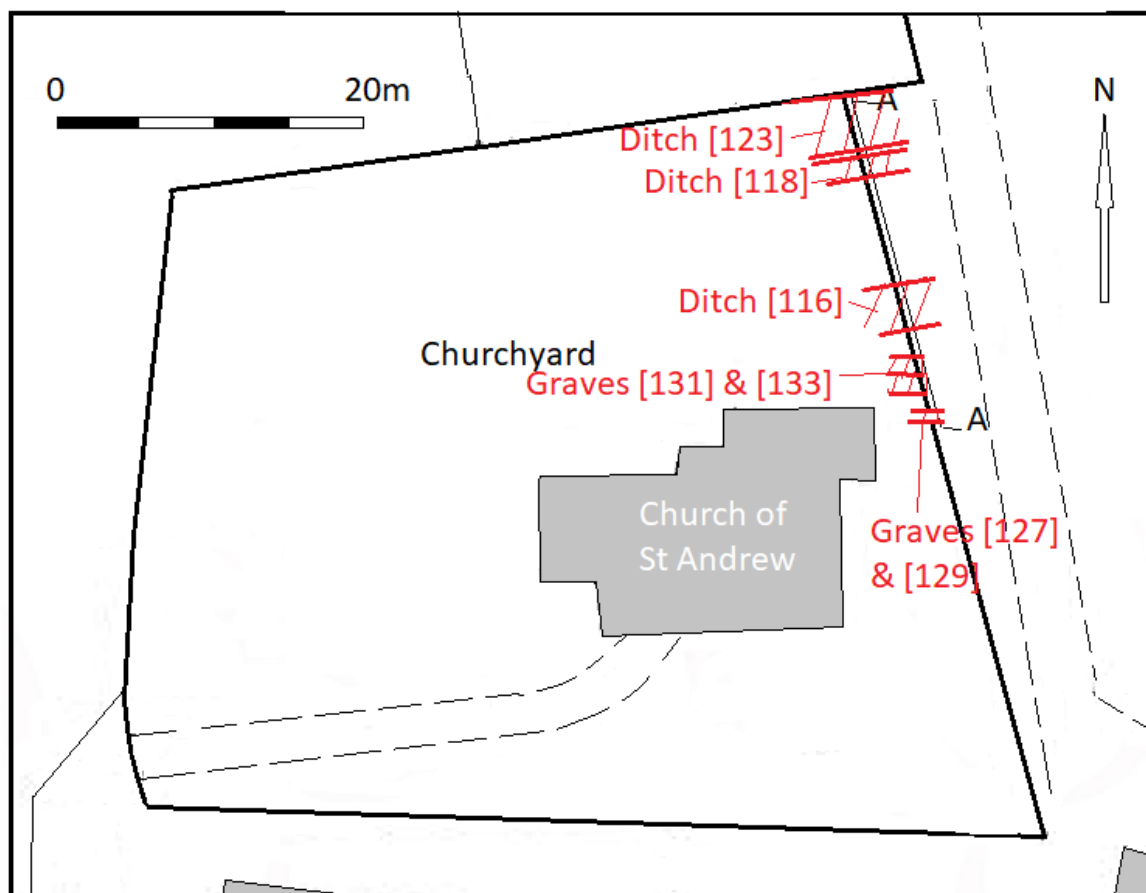


Fig. 2: Parish Church of St Andrew, Loxton. Plan of the Site Showing Excavated Section (A-A) & Distribution of Principal Archaeological Features

³ Institute of Field Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief', 1994; revised 2008; updated 2011

⁴ Brigers, J.L. 2021 'Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring During the Reconstruction of the Churchyard Boundary Wall at the Parish Church of St Andrew, Loxton, Somerset', unpub doc. In SWHT and NSC files

⁵ South West Heritage Trust 2017. 'Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook'.



Pl. 1: View of site from S during removal of former boundary wall

2.3 Results & Description (figs 2 & 3; pl. 2-6; appendix i)

2.3.1 A length of the former retaining wall measuring 22.75m was removed allowing access to and examination of a section through deposits to the west up to 1.75m in height. Depths of deposits provided below are given relative to the level of the surface of the ground within the churchyard rather than to that of the field to the east.



Pl. 2: General view of exposed section from NE (scales=1m)

2.3.2 The surface of sterile geological natural (125) of clean red-brown or pale grey Mercia Mudstone was exposed at a depth of 1.50m and found to slope gradually upwards towards the north. Throughout the exposed length natural was immediately overlain by a probable hill wash or head deposit of compact pale red-brown silty-clay (124). With the exception of occasional medium to large sub-angular limestone this material was devoid of inclusions. The substrate was cut at three locations by large features, the profiles of which suggested linear form but it was not possible to precisely determine their orientation due to the restricted area available for examination.



Pl. 3: E facing section through ditch [123] to N of site (view from E; scale=1m)

2.3.3 The largest of these was [123] at the northern extent of the area which was over 2m in width and aligned approximately east-west with a northern edge almost coincident with the existing north boundary wall of the churchyard (113). Feature [123] contained four fills, the lowest of which, [122], was most likely the result of prolonged weathering and silting during the period of use of the ditch and contained a high proportion of charcoal but very few other coarse components (pl. 3). This was overlain within the feature by a sequence of three possibly increasingly deliberate backfill deposits of which (121) contained a high density of limestone rubble, concentrated along the southern side some of which showing sides of having been burnt. Immediately south of [123] substrate (124) was cut by probable east-west aligned linear [118] containing a single fill of silty-clay (117) yielding abraded limestone and charcoal flecks (pl. 4). Feature [116] lay towards the south of the area and represented a large probable steep-sided linear on an approximate east-west orientation. This contained a lower fill of compact silty-clay (115) with inclusions of charcoal and small abraded limestone sealed by silty-loam (114) which contained similar, if more frequent, inclusions. Unfortunately none of the features in this group contained readily datable material.



Pl. 4: E facing section through probable ditch [118]; picture also shows adjacent horizons including demolition deposit (103), above (view from E; scale=1m)



Pl. 5: Part of southern area of investigation showing ?in situ skull in [133] (centre) & truncated leg bones of inhumation in [131] (left) (view from E; scale=1m)

2.3.4 The upper fills of these three, potentially early features were sealed by an extensive build-up of dark grey-brown clay-loam (112) most probably representing an accumulation of top soil over a prolonged period at the level of a former ground surface. Present within this material and contained grave cuts penetrating through to lower horizons, were four articulated inhumations, or parts thereof all concentrated to the south of the area, immediately to the east of the church itself. These were all supine and extended and orientated east-west with lower limbs laid to the east. Each had been truncated at different points by the later terrace formed during the construction of the boundary wall and, in the case of burial (133) only the skull remained undisturbed (pl. 5). The grave cuts did not appear to be discreet and formed two intercutting pairs. A fifth burial was noted to the south of the area of investigation where foot and lower leg bones were found to have weathered out from behind the surviving length of wall here.



Pl. 6: Detail of demolition deposit (103) (view from E; scale=1m)

2.3.5 Probable former ground surface (112) and the associated grave fills were subsequently overlain by an extensive deposit of mixed soil and building waste (103), consisting predominantly of lenses of lime wall plaster, Mortar Slate roof tile fragments and limestone rubble (pl. 4 & 6). Also within this material were fragments of glazed medieval ridge tile. Deposit (103) was cut in the centre of the area by a small waste pit [105] containing 19th century material and finally overlain by a build-up of modern topsoil and turf (102) to the level of the modern ground surface within the churchyard. Following the development of (102) a depression seems to have remained in the area adjacent to the northern boundary wall which was later in-filled by the deposition of limestone rubble and soil (100).

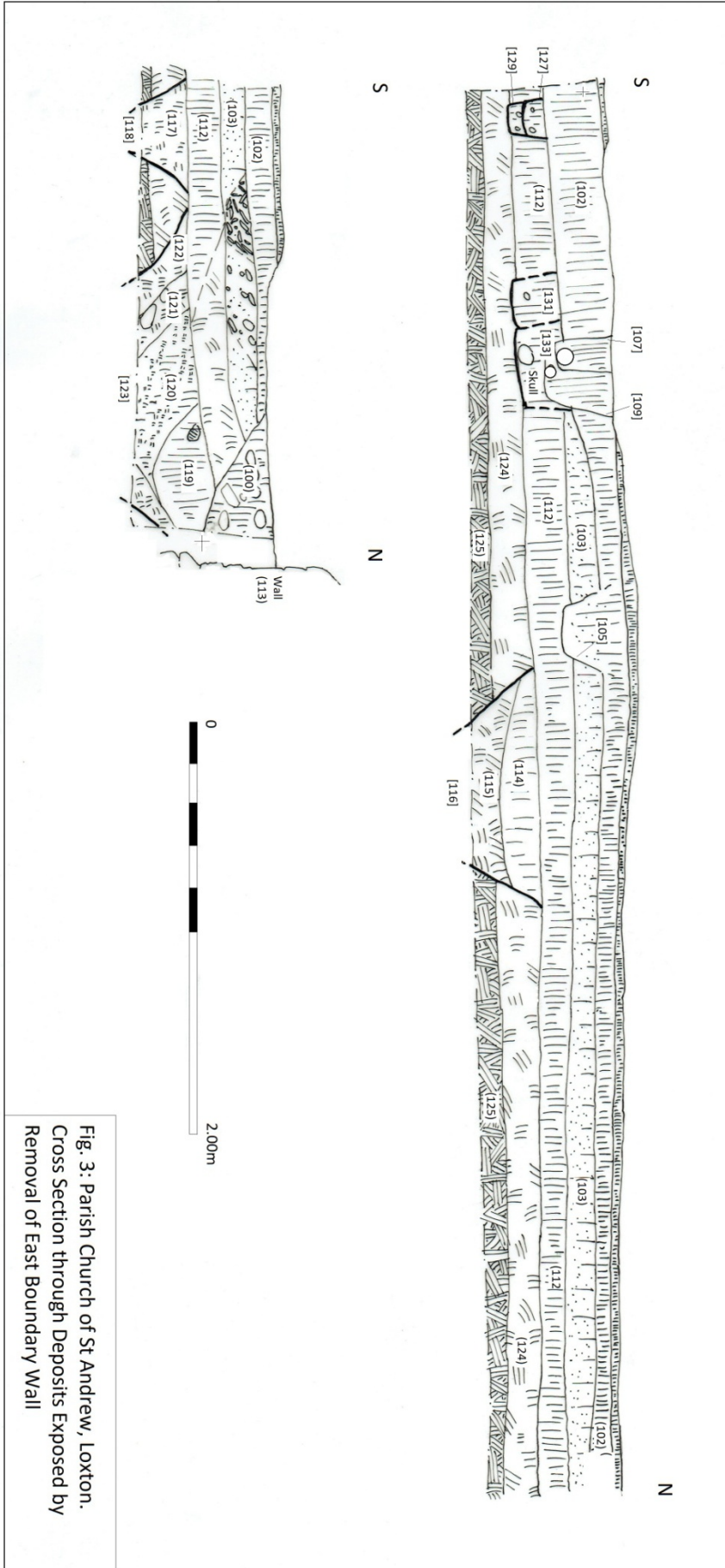


Fig. 3: Parish Church of St Andrew, Loxton. Cross Section through Deposits Exposed by Removal of East Boundary Wall

3.0 MATERIAL EVIDENCE

3.1 Overview (appendix ii)

3.1.1 With the exception of C19 and modern materials observed within latest contexts (112) & (104), only demolition dump context (103) yielded artefacts worthy of retention and further study. This context produced 10 artefacts weighing a total of 382g, all of which derived from structural components rather than habitation activity.

3.1.2 This assemblage included glazed medieval ridge tile possibly of the C14 or 15 along with a fragment of earlier material of the same function, alongside painted wall plaster and numerous examples of roof tile fragments of Morte Slate (not retained). All of the material from within this context may be of medieval date and probably at one time formed elements of the fabric of the church.

4.0 DISCUSSION

4.1 Preservation & Extent

4.1.1 Investigation here revealed well stratified deposits extending through at least 22.75m along the eastern boundary of the churchyard of St Andrew. The preservation was very good and the sequence appears to have suffered very little from later intrusive activities. Disturbance of early deposits by medieval and later grave digging was found to be minimal and this activity was limited to the areas immediately east of the church itself. In churchyard contexts such preservation is unusual and is considered that the site retains high potential for containing high quality evidence for early activity on the site and its later development.

4.2 Interpretation & Chronology

4.2.1 Three principal periods of activity were seen to be represented within the exposed sequence. The earliest of these includes the creation of the three ditches [116]; [118]; [123] through a weathered substrate representative of the contemporary land surface. Unfortunately these features cannot be dated and may represent components of a prehistoric landscape in existence prior to the establishment of a church on the site. However, their apparent orientation and the coincidence of [123] with the existing boundary allow the suggestion that the ditches represent successive positions of the northern limit of an enclosure surrounding the church or its predecessor.

4.2.2 The second recognisable period is represented by the accumulation of extensive build-up (112) and the interment of several individuals in the immediate vicinity of the church. The evidence here documents the earliest identifiable period of use of the site as a burial ground but dating is, once again, problematic but the condition of the bone, the shallow nature of the graves and the apparent absence of evidence for coffins are strongly

suggestive of a medieval date. The burials of this phase are all concentrated at the eastern end of the church, a popular position and one that would have well-used early on in the life of the burial ground; it is of interest that none were present to the north suggesting that there was little pressure to bury individuals at the periphery of this less favoured area.

4.2.3 It was apparent that all of the burials originally extended beyond the line marked by the former eastern boundary wall and had been cut by its construction. In the case of the inhumation in [133] only the skull survived suggesting that the majority of the remains had been later removed. This evidence points towards the extent of the medieval burial ground being than it is today and was only reduced with the presumably post medieval formation of the existing terrace and the construction of the boundary wall. At some point subsequent to the installation of the wall a large quantity of building debris was dumped against it forming context (103) and raising the level of the churchyard by a further 0.30m-0.40m. Although much of the material contained within this deposit appears to be of medieval origin this does not date the deposit itself. It seems likely that context (103) is waste generated during refurbishment of the church and simply dumped at a convenient location. It is a matter of record that extensive works were carried out in the church in 1913 that included the stripping of plaster from the nave and it seems likely that it is debris from this process that formed the deposit.

5.0 CONCLUSION

4.2.4 In conclusion, this investigation has demonstrated the presence of an archaeological sequence of unexpectedly high quality. Only a very small proportion of this was available for examination but this suggests that the churchyard surrounding the parish church of St Andrew contains remains that are of potentially high significance that could yield important new information relating to origins of the church and possibly earlier periods of activity. This potential should be taken into consideration in the event of works in the churchyard or its immediate vicinity.

Parish Church of St Andrew, Loxton: LSA 21-WESTM: 2021.15
Appendix i) List of Excavated Contexts

Context No.	Type	Interp. Type	Description	Same as/Part of	Strat. Above	Strat. Below
100	Fill	Levelling Dump	Friable dark grey-brown clay-loam. Frequent: small-medium angular and sub-angular limestone. Occ: small slate; human bone fragment	-	110; 113	101
101	Layer	Build-up	Existing topsoil of friable dark grey-brown humic, clay-loam. Occ: coal ash; small abraded stone	-	100; 106; 104	-
102	Layer	Build-up	Compact mid-dark red-brown clay-loam. Moderate: small abraded limestone. Occ: charcoal fleck. Finds: C19 ceramic; glass (not retained)	-	103	105; 109; 110
103	Layer	Dump/Demolition	Extensive deposit composed of tips/lenses of wall plaster, fragmented slate roof tile, small angular limestone rubble; matrix of compact grey-brown clay loam to S becoming almost absent to N. Occ: tile; human bone fragment. Finds: medieval tile; glass; plaster	-	111	102
104	Fill	Backfill	Loose dark grey-brown silty-loam. Frequent: small limestone. Occ: coal ash. Finds: late C19/early C20 ceramic (not retained)	-	105	101
105	Cut	Pit	Visible in profile only; sides steep and straight falling to moderate break at flat base	-	102	104
106	Fill	Backfill	Friable dark grey-brown silty-loam. Moderate: small slate. Occ: small limestone. Includes plastic drain pipe	-	107	101
107	Cut	Drain Construction	Visible in profile only; probably E-W aligned narrow linear; sides very steep to vertical falling to sharp break at flat base	-	108	106
108	Fill	Backfill	Friable-compact dark grey-brown silty-loam. Occ: small slate; small limestone; coal ash. Includes segmental ceramic drain pipe	-	109	107
109	Cut	Drain Construction	Visible in profile only; probably E-W aligned narrow linear; sides very steep to vertical falling to sharp break at flat base	-	102	108
110	Cut	Clearance	Visible in profile only; probable E-W aligned linear; S side steep and slightly concave, breaking to gentle; N side vertical where coincident with wall (113)	-	102	100
111	Layer	Dump/Levelling	Compact mid red-brown silty-clay. Occ: small abraded limestone	-	112	103
112	Layer	Build-up	Extensive deposit representing former ground surface, probable grave earth. Compact dark grey-brown clay-loam. Occ: small abraded limestone; charcoal fleck; human bone	-	114; 117; 119	129; 131
113	Structure	Wall	E-W aligned forming N boundary of churchyard; limestone rubble bonded by red-brown lime mortar; cement mortar to coping	-	?134	100

Parish Church of St Andrew, Loxton: LSA 21-WESTM: 2021.15
Appendix i) List of Excavated Contexts

Context No.	Type	Interp. Type	Description	Same as/Part of	Strat. Above	Strat. Below
114	Fill	Backfill/Ditch Fill	Compact dark grey-brown silty-loam. Occ: small abraded limestone; charcoal fleck	-	115	112
115	Fill	Backfill/Ditch Fill	Compact dark red-brown silty-clay. Occ: charcoal fleck	-	116 (phys)	114
116	Cut	Ditch	E-W aligned linear; visible sides steep and straight; base not excavated	-	124	115 (phys)
117	Fill	Ditch Fill	Compact dark grey-brown silty-clay. Occ: small abraded limestone; charcoal fleck	-	118	112
118	Cut	Ditch	E-W aligned linear; sides steep and slightly convex; base not excavated	-	124	117
119	Fill	Backfill	Compact dark red-brown silty-clay. Occ: animal bone; small abraded limestone	-	120	111
120	Fill	Backfill	Compact mid-dark grey-brown silty-loam. Frequent charcoal fleck. Occ: small abraded limestone	-	121	119
121	Fill	Backfill	Compact dark red-brown silty-loam. Frequent: small-medium rounded and sub-angular limestone. Occ: charcoal fleck; small burnt limestone	-	122	120
122	Fill	Ditch Fill	Compact dark red-brown silt. Moderate charcoal fleck	-	123	121
123	Cut	Ditch	E-W aligned broad linear; S side moderate to steep and slightly convex; N side steep-moderate and slightly concave; base not excavated	-	124	122
124	Layer	Build-up	Extensive deposit of very compact mid red-brown silty-clay. Moderate: small abraded limestone. Occ: medium-large limestone. Possible hill-wash/head deposit	-	125	116; 118; 123
125	Layer	Natural	Compact, clean mid-pale red-brown clay with extensive lenses of pale gray silty-clay; Mercia Mudstone geology	-	-	124
126	Fill	Backfill	Compact dark grey-brown clay-loam. Occ: small abraded limestone; charcoal fleck. Possible grave fill including probable E-W burial identified from in situ tibias	-	127	103
127	Cut	?Grave	Assumed grave cut; not clearly defined	-	128	126
128	Fill	Backfill	Compact dark grey-brown clay-loam. Occ: small abraded limestone; charcoal fleck. Possible grave fill including probable E-W burial identified from likely in situ ?tibias	-	129	127
129	Cut	?Grave	Assumed grave cut; not clearly defined	-	112	128
130	Fill	Backfill	Compact dark grey-brown clay-loam. Occ: small abraded limestone; charcoal fleck. Possible grave fill including probable E-W burial identified from in situ femur section	-	131	133

Parish Church of St Andrew, Loxton: LSA 21-WESTM: 2021.15
Appendix i) List of Excavated Contexts

Context No.	Type	Interp. Type	Description	Same as/Part of	Strat. Above	Strat. Below
131	Cut	?Grave	Assumed grave cut; not clearly defined	-	112	130
132	Fill	Backfill	Compact dark grey-brown clay-loam. Occ: small abraded limestone; charcoal fleck. Possible grave fill including probable E-W burial identified from in situ skull	-	133	112
133	Cut	?Grave	Assumed grave cut; not clearly defined	-	130	103
134	Cut	Wall Construction/Terrace	Assumed E-W vertical cut containing wall N boundary wall (113); possibly lower portion of feature [110]	-	???	113

Parish Church of St Andrew, Loxton LSA 21-WESTM: 2021.15
Appendix ii): Finds by Material

TILE							
Context	Illus.	Q	W (g)	SF	Description	Date	Condition
103	-	3	204	-	Pale red-brown internal; pale grey external; occasional sub-angular quartz (max. 3mm); scalloped to ridge forming pronounced crest; mid olive green glaze. Ridge tile	C13-15	V good
103	-	1	27	-	Dark grey core; mid-pale red-brown surfaces; frequent angular limestone (max. 4mm). Ridge tile	C13-15	V good

GLASS							
Context	Illus.	Q	W (g)	SF	Description	Date	Condition
103	-	2	7	-	Pale blue-green window glass; T=1.5-2.0mm	?PM	Slightly oxidised surfaces. Good, stable

MORTAR/PLASTER							
Context	Illus.	Q	W (g)	SF	Description	Date	Condition
103	-	4	144	-	Very pale grey-brown lime plaster; thick white lime wash applied to face; lath impressions visible	?Med	V good

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING DURING THE
RE-CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHURCHYARD BOUNDARY WALL AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST ANDREW, LOXTON, SOMERSET**

James L. Brigers, BA. April 2021

NGR: ST 3763 5583

LAT. 51.298201; LONG. -2.8959033

North Somerset HER:

Soms Museums acc. no.

1.0 Location (fig. 1)

1.1 The medieval parish church of St Andrew stands within its churchyard at the above location at the eastern edge of the North Somerset village of Loxton, situated above the flood plain to the west of the Lox Yeo River. The underlying geology in the area of the site consists of clay of the Mercia Mudstone Group¹.

2.0 Planning Background

2.1 Faculty consent has been granted by the Diocesan Advisory Committee of the Diocese of Bath & Wells to allow the re-construction of the eastern boundary wall of the churchyard which is in a dilapidated state and partially collapsed. The faculty thus agreed includes a requirement for archaeological monitoring during the intrusive aspects of the works.

3.0 Historical and Archaeological Context

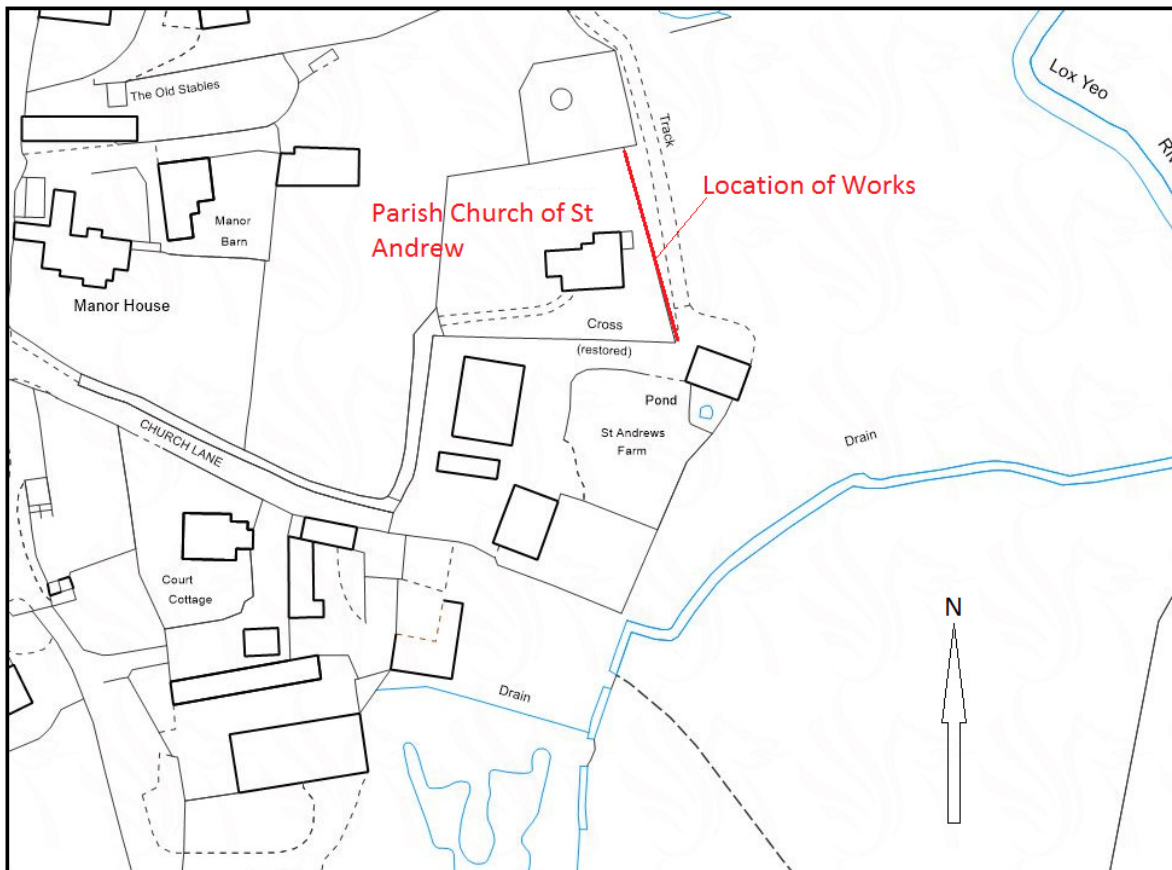
3.1 The settlement of Loxton most likely has Saxon origins and prior to the Norman Conquest was a moderately-sized rural estate in the hands of Wulfeva. Following the Conquest the lands passed into the hands of Count Eustace who held it directly of the King. In 1086 the settlement included a mill². The church of St Andrew is thought to have 11th century origins, although only a fragment of masonry within the south porch is ostensibly of this period. The remainder of the fabric of the existing building is predominantly of the 13th to 15th centuries with extensive restoration and extension in the early 20th.

¹ British Geological Survey, digital map data

² Thorn, C & F, eds. 1980 'Domesday Book: Somerset', para 17,4. Phillimore



Fig. 1: Parish Church of St Andrew. Location of the Site



3.2 There is no record of recent formal archaeological investigation within the church or its surroundings. The church is Grade II listed by merit of its architectural and historical significance (no. 1313078)

4.0 Archaeological Mitigation.

4.1 The proposed development is to take place in an area of high archaeological potential. In order to satisfy the archaeological condition it is proposed that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during all excavations associated with the development. This mitigation format has been agreed as suitable with North Somerset Council HET and South West Heritage Trust and is in accordance with the guidance presented in *NPPF*.

4.2 Due to the potential significance of archaeological material contained within the site, monitoring of excavations will initially be *comprehensive*³ with the archaeologist being present on site during all groundworks. Should it be established that the area of the site contains little of archaeological significance or if levels of disturbance preclude the survival of meaningful remains the monitoring will be reduced to *intermittent* with monitoring visits by the archaeologist designed to coincide with excavations on the site to allow a record to be maintained of exposures of archaeological material. The main contractor will be fully appraised of the work and methodology agreed within this written scheme of investigation and be advised to contact the archaeologist a minimum of two weeks prior to intrusive works commencing to agree a time for the work to take place.

4.3 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to the knowledge of the area of the site through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of activities associated with the proposed development, to allow preservation by record of any such remains that will be otherwise destroyed by the construction process and to enable the proper recovery of human remains as they become exposed during the excavation. Particular attention will be made to the character, condition, date and significance of deposits, features and structures.

5.0 Fieldwork Methodology

5.1 The archaeological contractor will provide NSC officers with at least two weeks notice of work commencing on the site unless otherwise agreed. Provision will be made to safely accommodate monitoring of the project by personnel from that body.

5.2 All works will be undertaken within the terms of guidance provided by the Institute for Archaeology for the implementation of archaeological watching brief⁴

5.3 Only suitably qualified, trained and experienced persons will monitor the groundworks associated with the development.

³ As defined in 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief', IFA 2008; para 3.2.10

⁴ Institute for Archaeologists, 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief', IFA 2008

5.4 Where areas of the site are to be stripped of modern surfaces or overburden the archaeologist will monitor the excavations and provide direction regarding the exposure of archaeological deposits.

5.5 The archaeologist will monitor all excavations and where machine excavation is necessary this will be undertaken using a toothless bucket where possible and preferably in a single direction to enable archaeological remains to be recorded prior to disturbance from being driven over. If possible archaeological remains are encountered machine excavation will cease to allow further investigation.

5.6 The archaeologist will inspect the surfaces revealed. Any archaeological structures or features revealed will be recorded in plan and section as appropriate. The main contractor will allow the archaeologist reasonable time and resources to undertake any inspection or recording required.

5.7 In the event of particularly significant discoveries officers from NSC will be informed and a site meeting be arranged between the consultant, NSC and the client/applicant to determine the appropriate mitigation.

5.8 Artefacts will be collected as work progresses. Where possible these will be assigned to particular contexts and bagged and labelled accordingly with the site's unique code. Unstratified post-medieval material will be noted and discarded on site unless it retains extra-contextual significance. Provision will be made for the conservation and safe storage of finds of importance requiring such treatment.

5.9 Should any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

5.10 Particular attention will be paid to the discreet recovery of disarticulated human bone from the top soil contexts likely to be disturbed by the trenching. This material will be bagged and stored in a suitable location away from public view pending assessment of the fieldwork results prior to being returned to the church authorities for appropriate re-burial. Treatment of all human remains will be carried out in accordance with current guidance for the treatment of human remains in England⁵.

5.11 All structures, deposits and finds are to be excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards.

5.12 Provision within the project budget will be made for the sampling for the purpose of environmental analysis of the fills of cut features impacted by the proposal. In cases where

⁵ Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England, 2017 'Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Archaeological Sites in England'

this is deemed necessary bulk samples of up to 60 litres of material will be retained for processing and analysis by suitably equipped and qualified specialists.

5.13 All recording points used should be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on the 1:1250 map of the area.

5.14 Plans indicating the location of all archaeological features are to be drawn at an appropriate scale, located on the site plan and levelled with respect to OD, or surrounding permanent ground levels or street level. An overall site plan is to be maintained at a scale of 1:200.

5.15 All plans are to accurately tied in to the site grid. All plans and sections are to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.

5.16 All archaeological contexts are to be recorded individually on context record sheets. A further, more general, record of the work comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology is to be maintained as appropriate.

5.17 All artefacts recovered during the investigation are the property of the landowner. They are to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines and on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme the landowner will arrange for them to be deposited at the Somerset Heritage Centre.

5.17 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*. On completion of the project the landowner will arrange for the archive to be deposited at the Somerset Heritage Centre.

5.19 An adequate photographic record of the excavation will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating the principal features and finds discovered, in detail and in context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All photographs of archaeological detail will feature an appropriately-sized scale. The photographic record should be made in B/W print supplemented by digital or colour transparency. However, if digital imagery is to be the sole photographic record then suitably archivable prints will be made of the digital images by a photographic laboratory.

6.0 Post Excavation Assessment, Analysis and Project Designs for further work

6.1 Where excavations reveal archaeological, artefactual or palaeoenvironmental deposits that have potential for yielding important information about the site or its environs, through specialist assessment and analysis, this assessment work will be undertaken and reported on in a separate formal Post-Excavation Assessment and Project Design. This document may also fulfil the role of an interim report if a substantial publication delay is expected.

6.2 On completion of the watching brief an assessment of the site records will be undertaken as a result of which a programme of post-excavation work will be defined and a full report on the findings will be produced within 3 months of completion of the fieldwork. If no archaeological remains are encountered, a brief summary report of the work undertaken and the depths of the made ground recorded will be prepared for the North Somerset HER. The summary will also include a scale plan of the location of areas observed during the investigation.

6.3 During the post excavation process specialists will be consulted for the production of reports in respect of the artefact assemblage. The expected classes of finds and relevant consultants are: prehistoric/Roman ceramics (Rachel Hall); medieval/post medieval metalwork and ceramics (TBA); faunal remains (Lorrain Higby). Should other classes of material occur advice will be sought from persons with relevant specialist knowledge.

6.4 The final report (if required) will contain a minimum of the following.

a) figures:

- i) a site location plan tied into the Ordnance Survey at 1:1250 (or similar);
 - ii) a trench/groundworks location plan at 1:100 or 1:200 showing the layout of archaeological features as related to the development site;
 - iii) plans of the main features revealed in each of the trenches at a larger scale; such plans are to also illustrate areas of disturbance; change in subsoil and location of sections;
 - iv) relevant section drawings and trench profiles as appropriate.
- b) an account of the background and circumstances to the work including a description of the development proposals and planning history, the nature of potential impacts arising from the proposals, any known existing disturbances on the site, background archaeological potential of the area of the site and constraints on the fieldwork.
- c) a description and interpretation of the archaeology of the site, together with an summary list of features containing information on stratigraphic relationships. This should include description of areas of disturbance, non-archaeological deposits and changes in geological subsoil where appropriate. The report will include a consideration of the effects of the development on the archaeological remains and highlight any areas of increased sensitivity within the development site which may have potential to be considered during future development.
- d) a catalogue and discussion of the finds by category. The level of detail will depend on the assessment of all stratified pottery and other datable material will be studied to some degree.

e) a brief summary report which is to be submitted for inclusion in the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.

6.4 The report will be sent directly to North Somerset HES for inclusion on the HER and to the developer.

6.5 The resulting archive generated by the project, to include all original drawings, record sheets, site notes and photographic material in hard and digital format and all retained artefacts will be deposited with the Somerset Heritage Centre at the completion of the post excavation process.

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