



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report

St Mary's Church
Village Road
Denham
Buckinghamshire



Quality Check

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Summary

In February 2024 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at St Mary's Church, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire to fulfil a condition of Faculty awarded by the Diocese of Oxford. A single soakaway equating to an area of 9.62 square metres was excavated revealing four grave cuts, two of which were dug to a depth where articulated human remains were encountered. The remains observed within these two graves comprised the skull and mandible of an adult female within Grave [04] and the legs and feet of an adult male within Grave [10]. The remains of a heavily degraded coffin were present to the west of the soakaway but the excavation did not reach a depth at which any interred remains could be seen. The proximity of the graves observed within the soakaway suggests that the burial density is both high and well ordered.

The brick and stone remains of a tomb were encountered 3m to the southwest of the soakaway. These were cleared of overburden and recorded but otherwise left undisturbed.

1 Introduction

1.1 This project was commissioned by the PCC of St Mary's Parish Church, and was carried at the request of the Diocese of Oxford. The relevant faculty reference is 2023-083864.

1.2 *The Site*

Location

St Mary's Church is situated in the village and civil parish of Denham village. It lies within the administrative district of Buckinghamshire Council: Chiltern & South Bucks Areas and the Diocese of Oxford at National Grid Reference TQ 0429 8699 (Fig. 1).

Description

St Mary's Church is bounded to the west/southwest by Village Road, to the northwest/north and south by private residences, to the northeast by a cemetery, to the east by Denham Golf Club, and to the southeast by open land (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The bedrock geology is chalk of the Seaford Chalk and Newhaven Chalk Formations, formed between 89.8 and 72.1 million years ago during the Cretaceous period; this is overlain by sand and gravel of the Taplow Gravel Member formed between 362 and 126 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>). The church is situated at an approximate elevation of 44m AOD.

Development

The development works were for improvements to the church drainage system (Fig. 3).

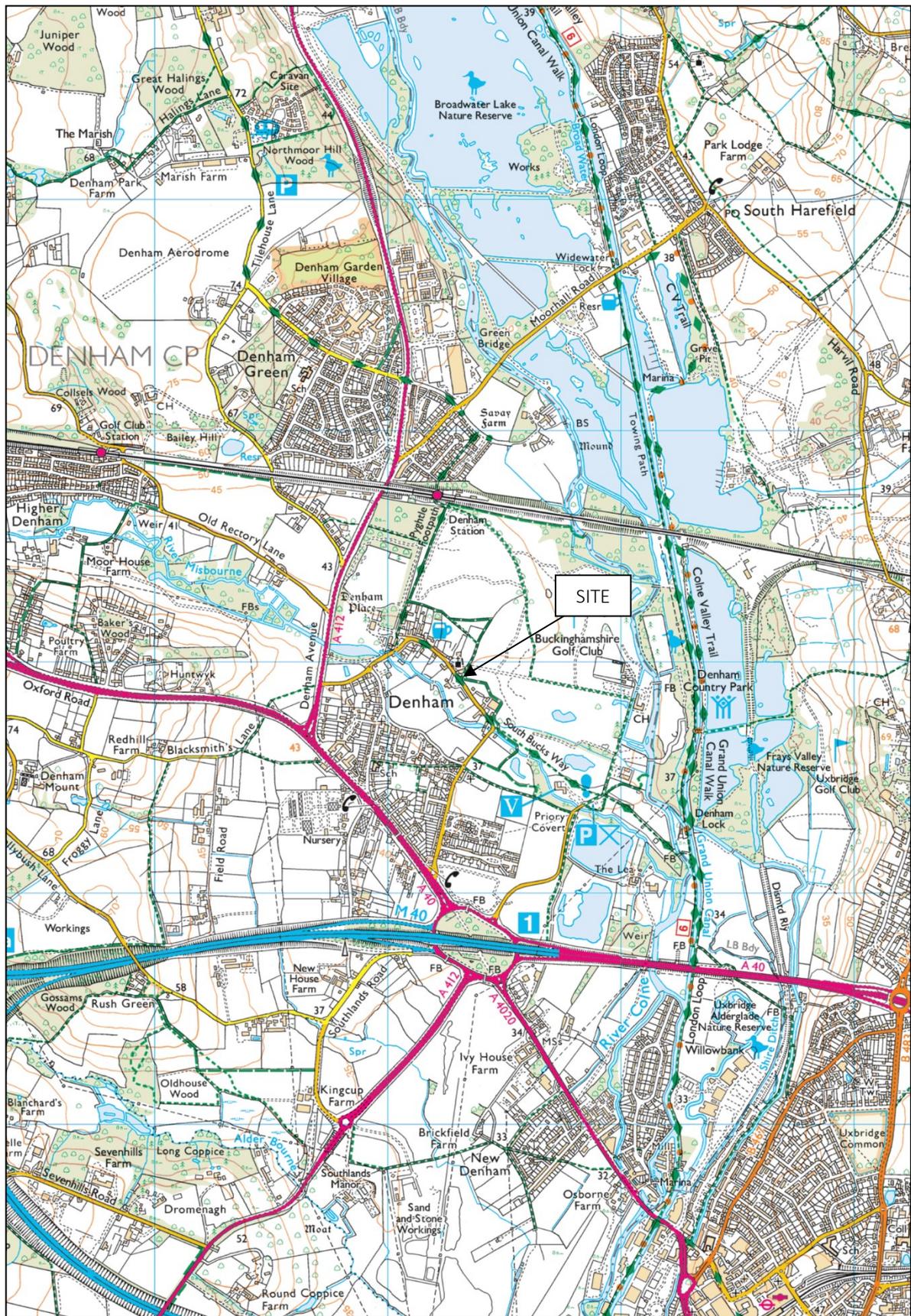


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

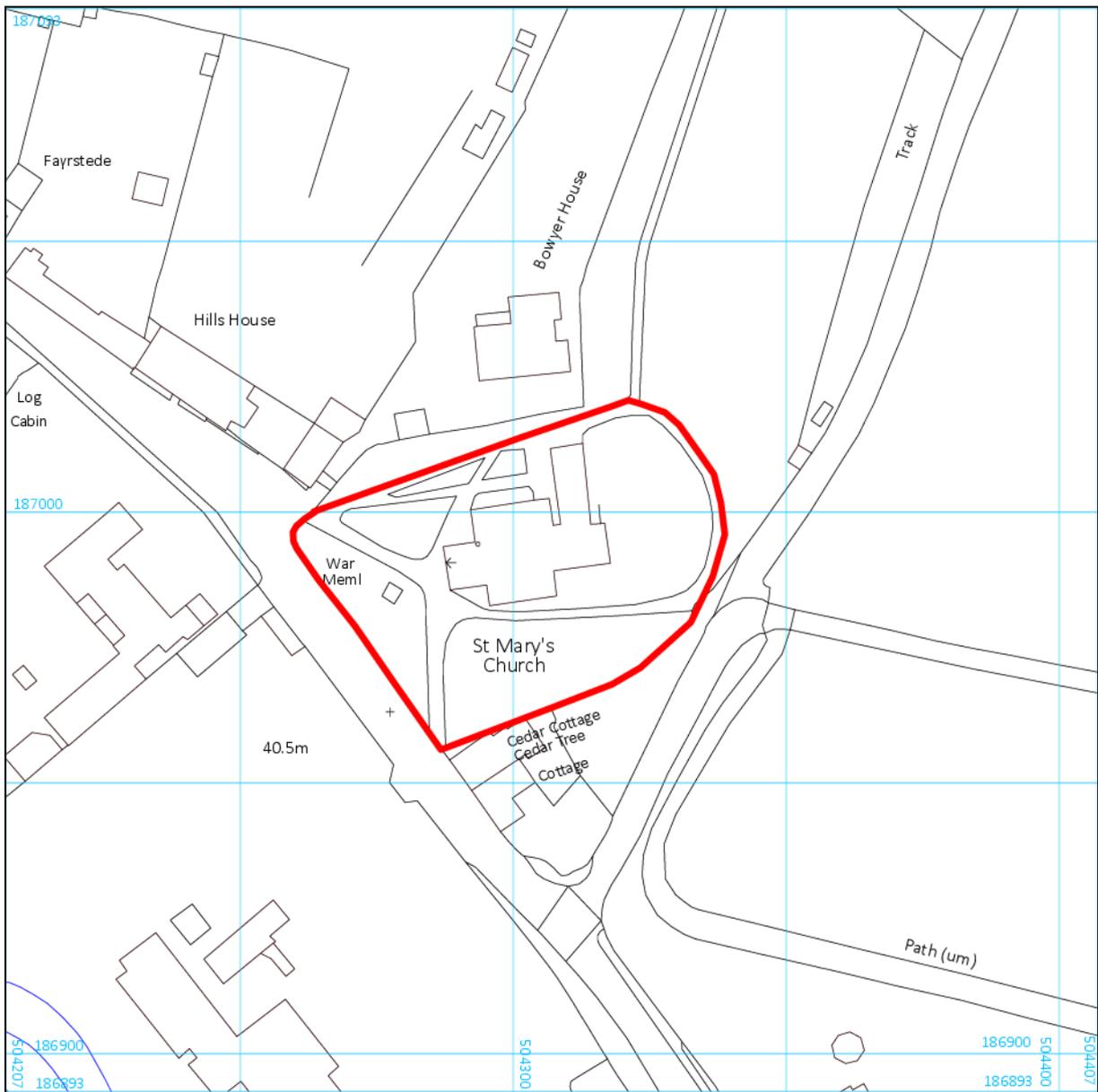


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

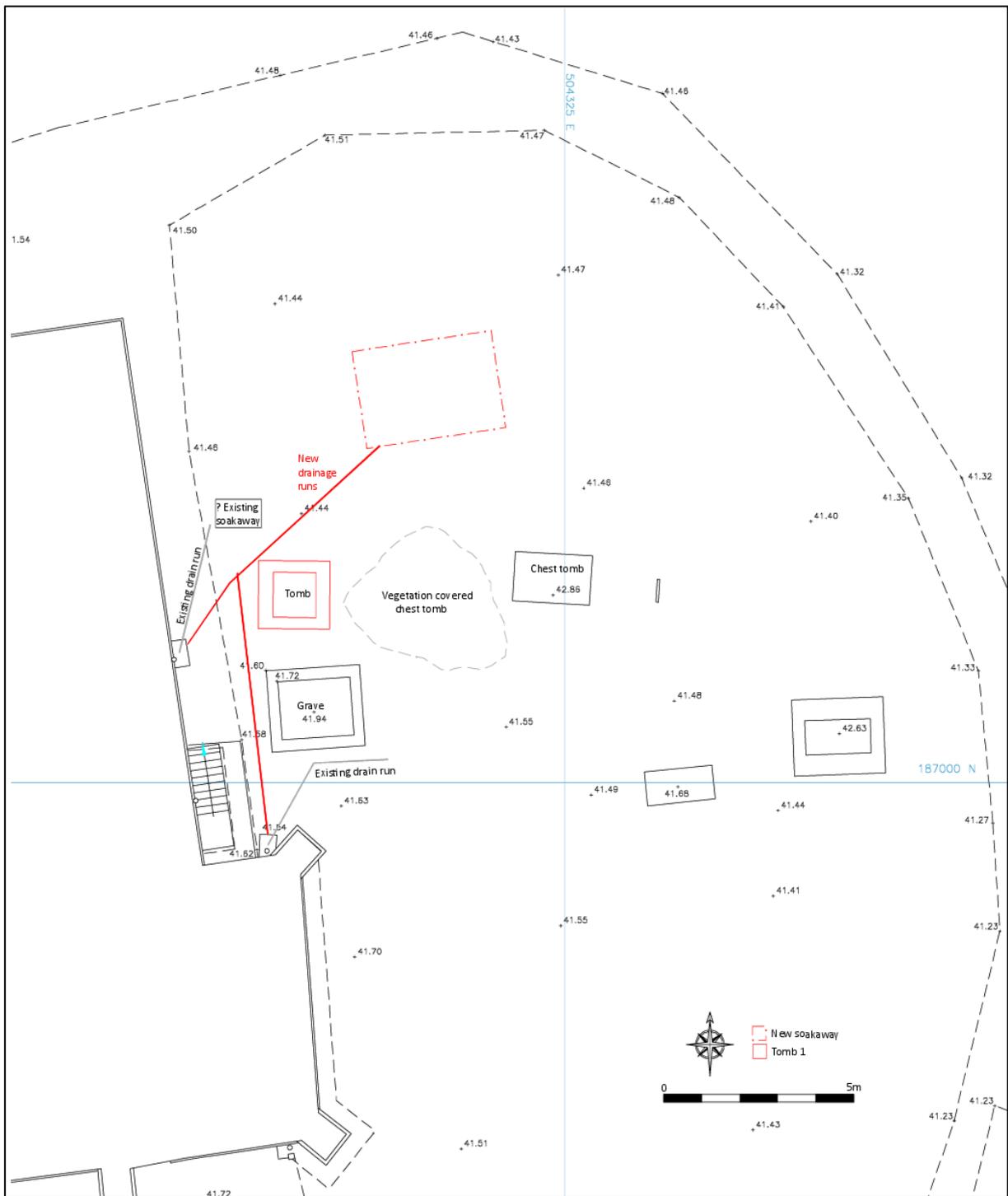


Figure 3: New drainage (scale 1:150)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Watson 2023) were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape

2.2 Methods

The methods used were as follows:

- The archaeological monitoring of the excavations for the soakaway
- The Faculty required KDK Archaeology to be notified if any human remains were encountered during the excavation of the service trenches. As no human remains were encountered, the drain runs leading to the soakaway were excavated without archaeological supervision.

2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (ClfA 2023a/b)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2022)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2008, HE 2015)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)
- Data Protection Act 2018



3 Archaeological & Historical Background

Denham is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Deneham* and is recorded as having a population of 18 households (15 villagers & 3 smallholders). It was held by the Abbey of Westminster and comprised 13 hides of ploughland, meadow for 12 woodland for 300 pigs, 2 mills and 3 fisheries (Powell-Smith 2023; SBDC 2008: 10). The land had been granted to the abbey in 1065 by Ulstan, a thegn, during the reign of Edward the Confessor (Page 1925; SBDC 2008: 10), evidencing, at least, the existence of a late Saxon settlement. Unfortunately, there are no further archaeological/documentary records for Denham dating between the end of Roman occupation and the Norman Conquest (SBDC 2008: 9). The toponym is derived from compounding the Old English elements *denu* + *hām* (valley + village, a village community, a manor, an estate, a homestead) to mean 'Valley homestead/village' (KEPN 2023).

Denham may have been one of sixteen possible medieval 'boroughs' in Buckinghamshire (SBDC 2008: 11). In the 13th century a Monday market and an annual three-day fair were granted by Henry III (*ibid.*). The manor of Denham was forfeited to the Crown on the Dissolution and in 1531 and was leased to Sir Edward Peckham, Master of the Mint who used the park as the site for his new house, Denham Place, a forerunner to the extant 17th century Grade I house of the same name (Page 1925; SBDC 2008: 12). The economy of Denham was based on the arable land, grazing pastures, meadows, woods, fisheries and mills included in the manor (Page 1925; SBDC 2008: 15).

The Church of St Mary is a Grade I listed building of flint with stone dressings. The west tower is the dominant feature and the view of this on the approach eastwards along the Village Road is significant in the local street-scene (SBDC 2008: Appendix M). The tower is Norman and with its bulk, lack of buttresses and round-arched windows in the belfry this interpretation seems preferable to the new Pevsner's 15th century dating (*ibid.*). The chancel is 13th century and there is documentary evidence of the 15th century rebuilding of the nave and aisles. The interior has interesting monuments and a 15th century wall painting (*ibid.*). The single-storey vestry was built in 1968 to the design of Sir James Martin (inventor of the ejector seat; the Martin-Baker factory is in Denham; *ibid.*). The knapped flint used on the vestry is reputedly from Norfolk (DCHP 2022). Some sections of the church walls and the flint were restored between 1986 and 1989 (*ibid.*).

The listed building description is as follows (NHLE Ref: 1309616):

Parish Church. Norman tower; C13 chancel; C15 nave and aisles. Flint with ashlar dressings. Monuments C16-C18. Remains of C15 wall painting.

The RCHME (1912) description is as follows:

The Parish Church of St. Mary is situated at the eastern end of the village, is built of flint with modern stone dressings; the roofs are covered with lead. The 12th century church on the site probably consisted of a nave of about the same size as the present nave and a small chancel. The Chancel was re-built and enlarged at the beginning of the 14th century. The Nave was re-built and the Aisles added c. 1460; the West Tower is of about the same date, but may have replaced an earlier tower. The North Vestry is modern; the church has been restored and all the tracery of the windows renewed.

The 16th-century effigies of Sir Edmund Peckham and his wife, in the chancel (see Plate, p. xxviii.), are of especial interest.

Architectural Description—The Chancel (33 ft. by 19½ ft.) leans towards the S. and has an E. window of three lights and tracery; the external stonework is modern, but the internal



jamb and rear arch with moulded label are of early 14th-century date; the jamb has attached shaft with moulded base, re-cut, and moulded capital. In the N. wall is a modern doorway and, at the W. end, a low side window of two lancet lights, and of early 14th-century date, partly restored. In the S. wall is a low side window similar to that in the N. wall, also restored, and further E. is a modern window. The chancel arch is modern. The Nave (37½ ft. by 20 ft.) has N. and S. arcades of c. 1460, and of three bays, with moulded two-centred arches; the columns are of four half-round shafts separated by hollow chamfers; the bases and capitals are moulded. On the N. face of the E. respond of the N. arcade are the remains of a doorway with rebated jamb and three-centred head, which formerly opened into the stairs to the rood-loft. The windows of the clearstorey are modern. The North Aisle (11½ ft. wide) has one window in each wall, all of three lights with tracery of 15th-century design; the inner jamb and rear arches are original. The South Aisle (10 ft. wide) has windows similar to those in the N. aisle, and the 15th-century S. doorway has moulded jamb and head, the inner member two-centred, the outer member and label square, with quatrefoils in the spandrels, and a small carved ornament in the middle. The West Tower (15½ ft. by 15 ft.) is of two stages, with a modern embattled parapet. The two-centred tower arch and the jamb are moulded; the bases are also moulded. The W. doorway resembles the S. doorway, but is plainer; the window above it is blocked by the face of the clock, but has original inner jamb and rear arch. The bell-chamber has four windows, each of two lights with 17th-century brickwork in the inner splay and modern external stonework; on each side of each window is a rough round-headed opening without stone dressings. The low-pitched roofs of the chancel and nave are of the 15th century, and have moulded ridges, purlins, wall-plates and large beams with arched brackets; the principals in the nave rest on stone corbels with carved heads, except two, which are plain; the 15th-century roofs of the aisles are panelled and have moulded beams and wall-plates.

Fittings—Bells: eight, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th by James Bartlett, 1683. Brasses and Indents. Brasses: In chancel—on E. jamb of S.E. window, in a frame, fixed on hinges, (1) of Amphilis, daughter of Sir Edward Pekham, 1445, with inscription and shield bearing arms—a chevron between three crosslets fitchy, quartering a fesse between three molets—all palimpsest, on figure said to be of Franciscan friar, with Latin inscription to John Pyke, and shield, on which are two instruments, crossed saltire-wise, possibly hook and rod, and initials JMPS, interpreted as John Pyke, Magister Scholarum, probably early 15th-century. In nave—before chancel step, set in modern slab, (2) of Walter Duredent, 1494, figures of knight in plate armour, Agnes and Margareta, his wives, three sons and four daughters of one wife, nine sons and ten daughters of the other, with inscription and four shields bearing arms; (3) of Robert Thornhill, of Tuxford, 'parson of Denham', 1612, figure in gown and scarf, or stole; (4) of three boys and one girl, probably early 16th-century; (5) to Thomas Bedyll, 'fermer of Denhm Courte,' 1527, M'garett and Johan, his wives, inscription only; (6) of Agnes Jordan, last Abbess of Syon, 1544, in her habit, inscription in black-letter, date filled in at a later period. Indents: see monument (2). Font: of Purbeck marble, octagonal, tapering bowl, chamfered at the bottom, on each side two slightly recessed panels with pointed heads, circular stem surrounded by eight small shafts, early 13th-century, base and two of the shafts modern. Monuments: In chancel—in N.E. corner, not original position, (1) of Sir Edmund Peckham, 1564, and his wife, 1570, altar-tomb with recumbent effigies, hands broken, the knight in plate armour, his wife in a robe with cape and ruff, modern inscription on his helm, inscription on cushion under her head; base with fluted Doric pillars, edge of slab at the top moulded and enriched on the four sides; in S.E. corner, (2) altar tomb of Purbeck marble, slab with indent of inscription and having moulded edge on N. and E. sides only, N. side of base with indent for large brass in the middle, and two sub-cusped quatre-foiled panels, containing indents of shields; on S. wall,



(3) of Philippe Edelen, 1656, 'a constant preacher of the truth in the most difficult times wherein he lived', slab, with incised figure and inscription; (4) to Sir Robert Peckham, Privy Councillor to Queen Mary, died in Rome, 1569, his heart only buried in this church, inscription and achievement of arms, heart cut in pediment of tablet. In nave —on E. wall, N. side, (5) to John Sowthen, 1631. In N. aisle—on N. wall, W. end, (6) to Mary Coggs, 1694, Martha Coggs, 1696, and others, 18th-century, inscription and arms, white marble, classic detail. In S. aisle—on S. wall, E. end, (7) to Sir William Bowyer, knight, 1616, his son, Sir Henry Bowyer, knight, 1613, his son, Sir William Bowyer, knight and baronet, 1679, and Margaret, his wife, 1678, inscription and arms, erected by their son, Sir William Bowyer, baronet, of Denham Court, 1682, black and white marble, classic detail. Painting: over S. doorway, part of a Doom, 15th-century, upper part defaced. Plate: includes cup of 1673, bearing the date 1675.

Condition—Good, restored; two iron tie-rods across the chancel; bases of arcades damaged.



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

An area measuring 3.65 x 2.60m (9.62 sq m) was excavated to the northeast of the church using a three tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.2m toothless ditching bucket (Figs 4-6; Plates 1-2). The area was stripped to a depth of 1.2m below the modern ground level. The stratigraphy comprised:

- Topsoil (001). A dark greyish brown silty sandy clay containing occasional rounded and angular stone and flint inclusions. This layer was 0.48m deep.
- Cemetery soil (002). Mid greyish brown sandy clay, 0.79m deep. This layer was identical to the fills of the graves encountered within the trench making it difficult to identify cuts. Occasional rounded and angular stones were present as well as occasional charcoal, wire, iron nails, coffin studs and heavily degraded wood from coffins and caskets. A small amount of disarticulated bone was recovered from the cemetery soil including three skulls and a child's humerus (Minimum number of individuals =4)
- Natural (003). Mid brownish orange fairly malleable silty sandy clay. Contained a moderate number of small stone and flints as well as occasional bands of sand and natural stone

4.2 Description

Four grave cuts were positively identified within the trench; however, the presence of disarticulated remains suggest that other burials had been disturbed by subsequent internments (Fig. 5). Three of the burials lay in a row in the centre of the soakaway where the natural was consistently reached. The highly fragmented remains of a wooden coffin and a number of iron nails, a coffin handle and copper alloy tacks were observed to the west of the soakaway where the cemetery soil was still present. Two articulated skeletons were exposed during this investigation.

Grave [04] (Fig. 5; Plate 3)

The cut of Grave [04], which was the southernmost of a row of three graves in the centre of the trench, was visible within the natural but not obvious within the cemetery soil above. The cut was 1.54m long and 0.40m wide. The skull of an adult female of indeterminate age lay at the western end of the grave cut and was turned slightly to the south. Several dental pathologies such as periodontal disease, antemortem toothloss and dental caries were observed on their mandible. As the skull was located slightly above the required impact level it was removed and buried deeper within the grave cut in order to keep the remains together.

Grave [10] (Fig. 5; Plate 4)

A partial grave cut was exposed in the southwest corner of the trench and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the south and west. The exposed cut contained the legs of an adult male of undetermined age (SK2) whose feet were angled to the south (right). His hands, which were visible in the baulk, were by his side. A single iron coffin nail was observed beside the left ankle. Measurements taken from the femur and tibia indicated that this individual would have been approximately 170cm tall (5'6"). The bones were re-buried immediately next to SK2s *in situ* remains.

Graves [06] and [08]

Two graves were located to the north of Grave [04]. These three features lined up perfectly indicating that the graves were at one point marked at ground level. Grave [06] and [08] measured 1.62 x 0.39m and 1.67 x 0.43m respectively and neither were dug to a depth where human remains were encountered. A few fragments of heavily degraded coffin were noted



within the fill of Grave [06].

Tomb 1 (Fig. 4; Plate 5)

During the initial marking out of the soakaway, the corner of a buried tomb was observed to the southwest of the soakaway. The turf was removed from the top of the monument to reveal a square structure measuring 1.88m by 1.80m. The outer edge of the tomb was constructed with stone and the inner square, which would have formed the tomb roof, was made of brick. The lime stone slabs showed evidence of an iron railing having once surrounded the tomb and it is likely that a ledger slab or a chest tomb would have covered the internal brick work.



Plate 1: Soakaway, facing east northeast



Plate 2: Site stratigraphy, facing south southeast



Plate 3: Skull and mandible of SK1, facing south



Plate 4: SK2, facing south



Plate 5: Tomb 1, facing south southwest

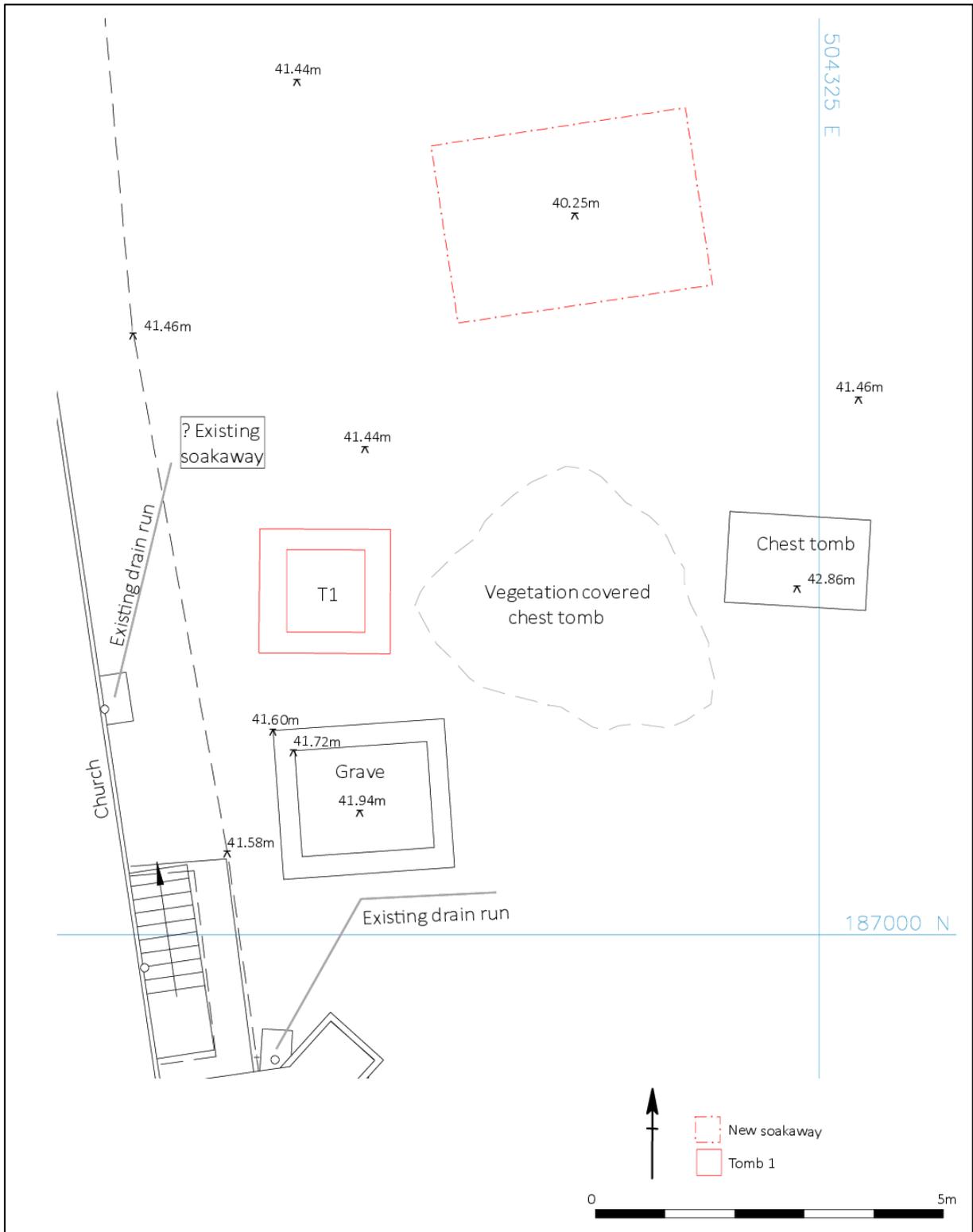


Figure 4: Location of soakaway and newly uncovered tomb (scale 1:75)

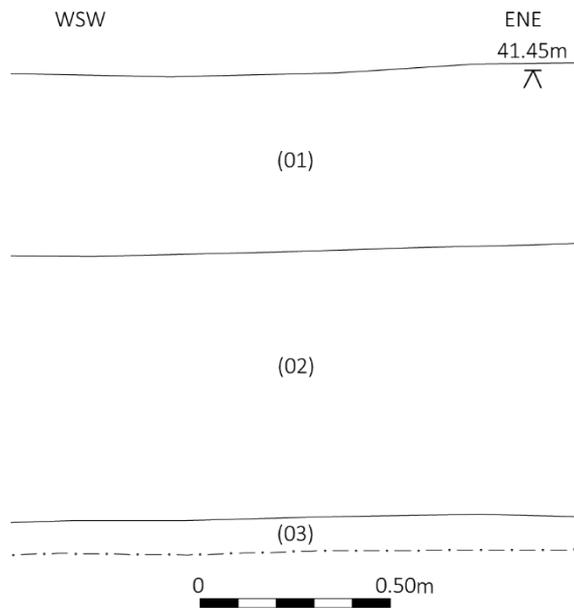


Figure 5: Representative site stratigraphy (scale 1:20)

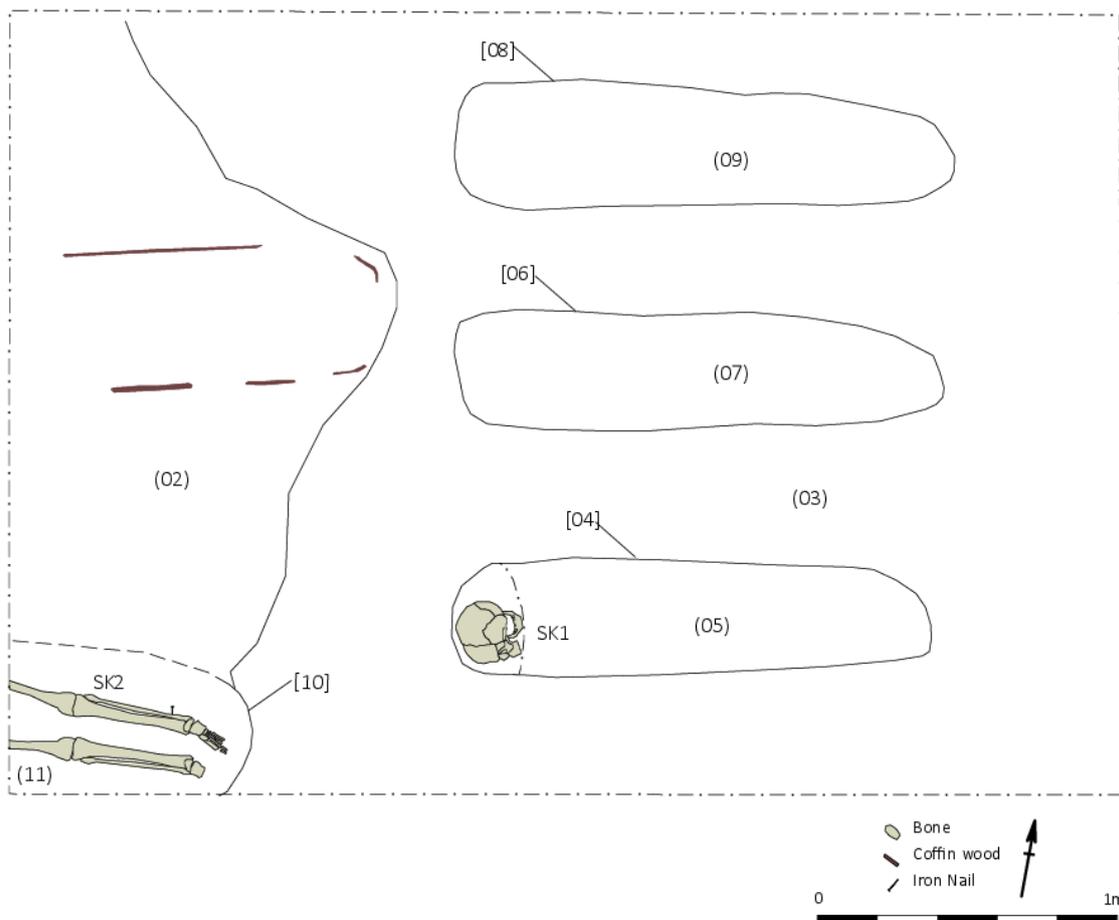


Figure 6: Features and burials observed within the soakaway (scale 1:25)



5 Conclusions

Due to the age and size of the church and its associated grounds, the burial population within the cemetery is likely to be high. Despite this, it would seem that the individuals within the soakaway have been subject to little disturbance and damage as the result of later burials. The disarticulated human remains were noted in greater concentration to the west of the trench where the natural was not reached indicating that a number of inhumations are located there, and have been disturbed.

The skeletal elements represented within the disarticulated assemblage indicate that at least four individuals had been displaced. To the east of the trench the disarticulated remains were minimal and three clear graves could be seen cutting into the natural. The condition of the disarticulated remains was moderate to poor with the smaller and more fragile bones tending to splinter and crumble easily.

The articulated remains of two individuals were exposed during this investigation. Both were orientated east-west with their heads to the west. SK1 comprised the skull and mandible of an adult female of indeterminate age with a number of dental pathologies. No other demographic information was available for this individual. The second individual, SK2, comprised the legs and feet of an adult male. The specific age group could not be determined and no pathological maladies were observed. However, it was possible to calculate that he would have been approximately 170cm or 5'6" tall.

Heavily degraded wood from coffins as well as copper alloy tacks, iron handles and coffin nails were also found; however, none of these objects could be positively associated with the exposed burials. It is likely that the wooden coffin outline observed within the soakaway represented an intact or partially undisturbed burial but the trench was not excavated to a depth where the remains were encountered.

No human remains were observed above the burial horizon in the soakaway and none were found during the excavation of the drain runs. It is highly likely that further burials exist within the footprint of the service trenches but below the depth reached for the purposes of this project

The brick and stone remains of a tomb were encountered 3m to the southwest of the soakaway. It is clear from the holes in the limestone border that an iron railing would have surrounded it and it is highly likely that the monument overlying the brickwork would have been of stone. A similar monument is located immediately to the south of it. Grave markers are plentiful within the churchyard, but it is clear that some monument clearance has taken place as several headstones have been relocated to line the western boundary of the churchyard. It is possible that this monument was removed as a means to clear the space or perhaps due to it having been damaged.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to the PCC of St Mary's Parish Church for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, Julian Munby, for monitoring the project. We would also like to thank Robert Ash, Dexter Brown and the staff, helpers and visitors of St Mary's Church, Denham for their assistance and hospitality during these works, and the staff of Conibear Contracting Ltd for their assistance on site.

The fieldwork was carried out by Laura Dodd MSc MCIfA with the assistance of Dexter Brown BDS MFGDP DPDS. The report was written by Laura Dodd MSc MCIfA, and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA.



7 Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise a digital version of the Monitoring and Recording Report which will contain the following:
- List of photographs
 - Site Records
 - OASIS summary report
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with OASIS (reference kdkarcha1-516359) and a physical copy of the report will be sent to the Buckinghamshire Records Office.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

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Appendix 1: Osteology Report

Laura Dodd MSc MCIfA

Osteological analysis is principally employed to determine the general identity of individuals and of a burial community by estimating the particular traits visible on human skeletal remains. This analysis was undertaken on the two individuals recovered from St Mary's Church, Denham to determine any demographical information from the limited number of skeletal elements available.

Skeletal elements were analysed on site with the intention that they were to be reburied immediately to ensure, as not all of the remains could be retrieved, that the individuals remained close to the rest of their body. The two individuals were analysed and recorded following the recommendations set out by Brickley & McKinley (2004) and all findings were recorded using KDK Skeletal Recording spreadsheets produced in Excel following the guidelines set out in Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994).

Due to the lack of required skeletal elements, age at the time of death could not be assessed for either individual. The estimated stature of SK2 was calculated using the methods outlined in Trotter (1970).

The visible and surviving landmarks on the skull of SK1 were indicative of an adult female. She was buried east-west with her head to the west and her head was turned slightly south, likely due to movement during transport and burial.

SK1 showed signs of periodontal disease which is a consequence of gingivitis, an inflammation of the gums that is often caused by an excess of calculus and poor dental hygiene. Resorption of the alveolar bone and loss of the periodontal ligament supporting the teeth can ultimately lead to ante-mortem tooth loss (AMTL) which is the loss of a tooth during lifetime (Robert and Manchester 2005: 73-74; White and Folkens 2005: 330). For non-adults it is a natural process for the deciduous teeth to fall out and be replaced by the permanent dentition, in adults on the other hand is a dental pathology that can be linked to the age, diet and oral hygiene of the individual (Roberts and Manchester 2005: 73-74). SK1 had suffered several instances of AMTL as the individual was missing the left lower 2nd premolar and the left 1st molar and the tooth's sockets had completely healed. SK1 was also missing both lower M3s; however, it is unclear whether they are unerupted, congenitally absent or have been lost antemortem. The maxilla of this individual had not survived so the upper dentition could not be assessed.

Dental caries were also noted within SK1's mandibular dentition. Dental caries occur in the form of small opaque spots on the teeth surface or as cavities. An infectious and transmissible disease that is caused by the fermentation of food by bacteria that is present on the teeth in plaque. Two areas of the tooth may be affected: the crown of the tooth, and the roots, both of which can allow the accumulation of plaque to develop (Roberts and Manchester 2005:65-71; Hillson 1986: 287; White and Folkens 2005: 329). The crowns of SK1's lower right 3rd molar and lower right 1st premolar had been completely destroyed leaving the roots exposed. No further pathologies were noted on the skull.

The legs and feet of SK2 were exposed within the southwest corner of the Trench. The individual was buried east-west with their head to the west and their legs were extended with the feet angled to the south (right). An iron nail was present near to the left ankle and it is likely that



they were coffined. Measurements taken from the femur suggests that this individual was likely male and would have stood approximately 170.21 ± 2.99 cm (5'6") tall. No pathological lesions were observed on the recovered bones of SK2.

Due to the small sample of individuals recovered it is impossible to infer a good representative demographic profile for the burial population.

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Appendix 2: Skeletal Catalogue

Dental abbreviations:

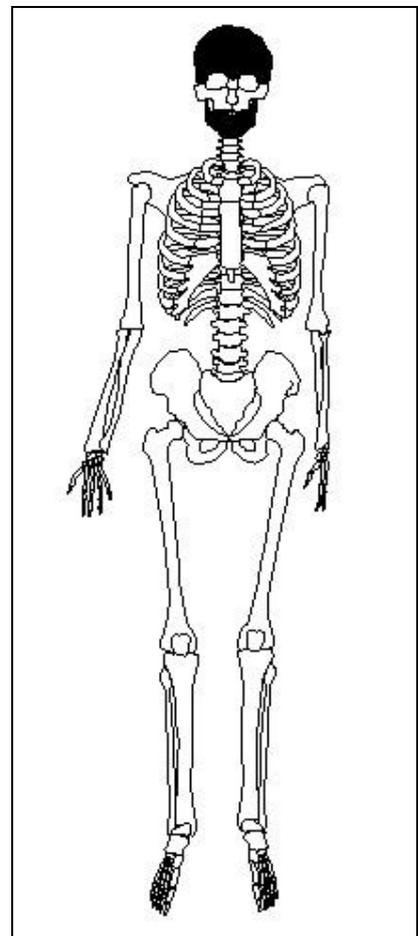
State of tooth (A)

- P Tooth present
- / Lost postmortem
- X Lost antemortem
- NP Not present
- R Root
- ? Unerupted and not visible in jaw

State of alveolar bone (B)

- √ Alveolar socket present
- Alveolar socket absent

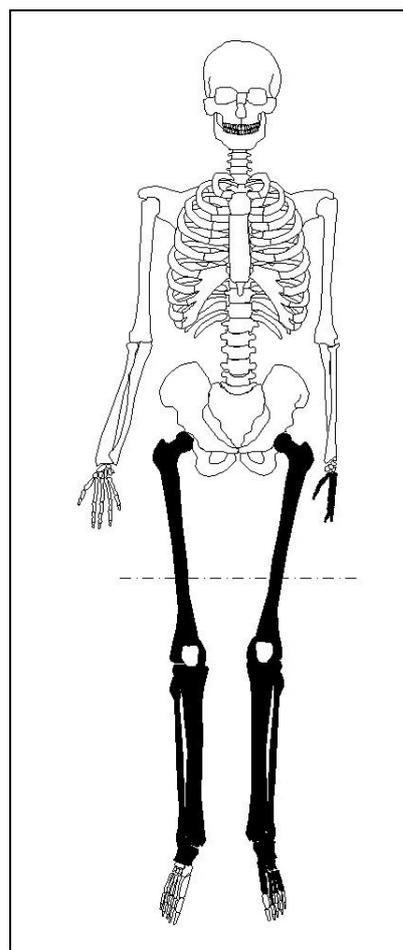
SK 1	Adult
Burial type	Primary inhumation
Grave type	Undetermined
Orientation	E-W
Head to the...	W
Head facing	S
Position of body	Supine
Position of arms/hands	Unknown
Position of legs/feet	Unknown
Age	Unknown adult
Sex	Female
Completeness	Not fully exposed
Stature	Unknown
Dental pathologies	Caries, AMTL, Periodontal disease
Pathologies	None noted
Notes	



SK 1 Dentition	Right															Left
	B	A	Maxillary	Mandibular	A	B	Maxillary	Mandibular	A	B	Maxillary	Mandibular	A	B	Maxillary	
B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Maxillary	<i>M³</i>	<i>M²</i>	<i>M¹</i>	<i>P²</i>	<i>P¹</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>I²</i>	<i>I¹</i>	<i>I¹</i>	<i>I²</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>P¹</i>	<i>P²</i>	<i>M¹</i>	<i>M²</i>	<i>M³</i>
Mandibular																
A	NP	R	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X	P	NP
B	?	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	-	-	√	?



SK 2	Adult
Burial type	Primary inhumation
Grave type	Probably encoffined
Orientation	E-W
Head to the...	W
Head facing	Unknown
Position of body	Supine
Position of arms/hands	Visible in baulk hands by sides
Position of legs/feet	Extended
Age	Unknown adult
Sex	Male
Completeness	Not fully exposed
Stature	170.21 ± 2.99 cm (5'6")
Dental pathologies	Unknown
Pathologies	None noted
Notes	Coffin nail found within the grave cut





Appendix 3: Photograph List

Shot	View	Subject
1	S	SK1 Skull exposed
2	S	SK2
3	SSE	Trench stratigraphy
4	ESE	Soakaway
5	ESE	Soakaway
6	SSW	Exposed tomb
7	SSW	Exposed tomb
8	-	Iron handles from cemetery soil



Appendix 4: Excavation Summary Tables

Context Information

Context	Type	Measurements (m)			Description			Interpretation
		W	L	D	Colour/Shape	Texture/Sides	Consistency/Base	
01	Layer	2.60	3.65	0.48	Dark greyish brown	Silty sandy clay	Fairly malleable	Topsoil covering the whole site. Contained occasional rounded and angular stone and flints
02	Layer	2.60	3.65	0.79	Mid greyish brown	Sandy clay	Fairly malleable	Cemetery soil. Contained occasional rounded and angular stones and flint. Rooting also present. Contained a small amount of disarticulated human bone
03	Layer	2.60	3.65	>0.10	Mid brownish orange	Silty sandy clay	Fairly malleable	Natural. Contained occasional bands of stone and sand
04	Cut	0.40	1.54	Unknown	Rectangular	Not excavated	Base not reached	Cut of grave containing SK1. Feature only partially excavated as skull of SK1 was slightly above the depth of excavation. Small hole dug around the head area and the skull was buried lower.
05	Fill	0.40	1.54	Unknown	Mid greyish brown	Sandy clay	Fairly malleable	Fill of Grave [04]. Skull of SK1 found within. Contained occasional rounded and angular stones throughout as well as occasional inclusions of flint
06	Cut	0.39	1.62	Unknown	Rectangular	Not excavated	Base not reached	Cut of grave. Some staining from a coffin noted around the edge of the grave. No skeleton observed
07	Fill	0.39	1.62	Unknown	Mid greyish brown	Sandy clay	Fairly malleable	Fill of Grave [06]. Identical to the cemetery soil and also neighbouring graves. Contained a moderate number of stone inclusions. No human remains encountered.
08	Cut	0.43	1.67	Unknown	Rectangular	Not excavated	Base not reached	Cut of grave. In line with graves to the south. It is very likely these three graves were once marked with gravestones
09	Fill	0.43	1.67	Unknown	Mid greyish brown	Sandy clay	Fairly malleable	Fill of Grave [08]. Identical to the cemetery soil and also neighbouring graves. Contained a moderate number of stone inclusions. No human remains encountered.
10	Cut	>0.43	>0.79	Unknown	Rectangular	Not excavated	Base not reached	Cut of grave containing SK2. Cut only visible in the natural. Continues beyond the limit of excavation to the south and west.



Context	Type	Measurements (m)			Description			Interpretation
		W	L	D	Colour/Shape	Texture/Sides	Consistency/Base	
11	Fill	>0.43	>0.79	Unknown	Mid greyish brown	Sandy clay	Fairly malleable	Fill of Grave [10]. Identical to the cemetery soil and also neighbouring graves. Contained a moderate number of stone inclusions as well as an iron coffin nail. The legs and feet of SK2 were encountered within this grave

Plan Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
1	1	1:20	Plan of soakaway



Appendix 5: Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	St Mary's Church, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire	Project Site Code	775/DSM
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-516359	Event/Accession no	-
OS reference	TQ 0429 8699	Study area size	9.62 sq m
Project Type	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording	Height (mAOD)	c.44
Short Description	<p>In February 2024 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at St Mary's Church, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire to fulfil a condition of Faculty awarded by the Diocese of Oxford. A single soakaway equating to an area of 9.62 square metres was excavated revealing four grave cuts, two of which were dug to a depth where articulated human remains were encountered. The remains observed within these two graves comprised the skull and mandible of an adult female within Grave [04] and the legs and feet of an adult male within Grave [10]. The remains of a heavily degraded coffin were present to the west of the soakaway but the excavation did not reach a depth at which any interred remains could be seen. The proximity of the graves observed within the soakaway suggests that the burial density is both high and well ordered.</p> <p>The brick and stone remains of a tomb were encountered 3m to the southwest of the soakaway. These were cleared of overburden and recorded but otherwise left undisturbed.</p>		
Previous work	None	Site status	Within the curtilage of a Grade I listed building (NHLE Ref: 1309616)
Planning proposal	Installation of a soakaway and improvements to drainage system	Current land use	Churchyard
Local Planning Authority	-	Faculty ref.	2023-083864
Monument type	Graves, Human remains	Monument period	Medieval - modern
Significant finds	Human remains, tomb	Future work	No
RESEARCH AIMS			
Research framework	Section /Question	Summary of outcome	
N/A	N/A	N/A	
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator		Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	Karin Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Laura Dodd
Sponsor/funding body	The PCC St Mary's Parish Church		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	01.02.2024	End date	02.02.2024
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Buckinghamshire Records Office	None	
Paper		Report	
Digital	OASIS	Digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			



Title	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report: St Mary's Church, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume	775/DSM/2.1		
Author(s)	Laura Dodd MSc MCifA		
Page no's	31	Date	07/02/2024



Appendix 6: OASIS summary

OASIS ID (UID): kdkarcha1-516359

Project Name: Watching Brief at St Mary's Church, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire

Site name: St Mary's Church, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire

Activity type: Watching Brief

Project Identifier(s): 775/DSM

Planning Id: -

Reason For Investigation: Ecclesiastical consent

Organisation Responsible for work: KDK Archaeology Ltd

Project Dates: 01-Feb-2024 - 02-Feb-2024

Location: St Mary's Church, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire

NGR: NGR : TQ 04280 86989 LL : 51.572135, -0.496702 12 Fig : 504280,186989

Administrative Areas: Country : England
County : Buckinghamshire
District : Buckinghamshire
Parish : Denham

Project Methodology: The methods used were as follows: •The archaeological monitoring of the excavations for the soakaway •The analysis of the results of the archaeological work with provisions for subsequent production of a report(s) and/or publication(s) of these results & an archive •Provisions necessary to protect the archaeological interests of the site

Project Results:

Keywords: Human Remains - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Grave - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Tomb - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

Funder: Nonprofit organization PCC St Marys Church

HER : Buckinghamshire HER - unRev - STANDARD

Person Responsible for work; Karin Kaye

HER Identifiers: -

Archives: Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies;