



ARCHAEOLOGY
WARWICKSHIRE

All Saints Church Grendon Warwickshire

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Archaeology Warwickshire
Report No 2477
July 2024



Warwickshire
County Council

All Saints Church, Grendon, Warwickshire
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Date: July 2024

Commissioned by: Joanna Lawton, Brownhill Hayward Brown
Architects on behalf of All Saints Church PCC

Site Code: GA19

Faculty reference: Birmingham: 2022-080065

Diocese archaeologist: Dr Mike Hodder

National Grid Reference: SK 28722 00902

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Approved by: Stuart Palmer MCI*f*A FSA

Date: July 2024

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SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the installation of a septic tank and drainage works at the medieval church of All Saints, Grendon, on behalf All Saints Church PCC.

Three test pits, a large septic tank installation and associated drainage trench were observed. Nine articulated skeletons were exposed in the drainage trench and various disarticulated human bones were recovered from the graveyard soil. All burials recorded were within 15m of the church.

The articulated burials appear to have been shroud burials, possibly of medieval date as they were associated with medieval pottery sherds.

All the human remains were reburied within the trench before it was backfilled.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Faculty has been granted by Birmingham Diocese for the installation of a new toilet and kitchenette at All Saints, Grendon, Warwickshire, CV9 3DP (Ref. 2022-080065). All Saints is a medieval church which has significant archaeological potential. A condition of the faculty therefore required that the groundworks be accompanied by a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to carry out archaeological monitoring and recording in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Diocese. The fieldwork was carried out in October 2023, April and May 2024 and this report presents the results of that work.
- 1.3 The project archive, as detailed in Appendix C, will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum with digital data deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).
- 1.4 The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording* (2023a) and *Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring recording* (2023b).

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2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 All Saints Church lies in the parish of Grendon at National Grid Reference SK 28722 00902 (Fig 1). The new toilet and kitchenette have been placed in the south-west part of the south aisle and the associated drainage run and septic tank largely below the path to the south-east of the church.
- 2.2 The British Geological Survey (2024) records the underlying bedrock geology of the site as Radcliffe Member Mudstone.
- 2.3 The River Anker lies c. 121m south-west from All Saints Church, running in a south-east to north-west direction and is a major tributary of the River Tame.



1 All Saints Church and path prior to excavation works

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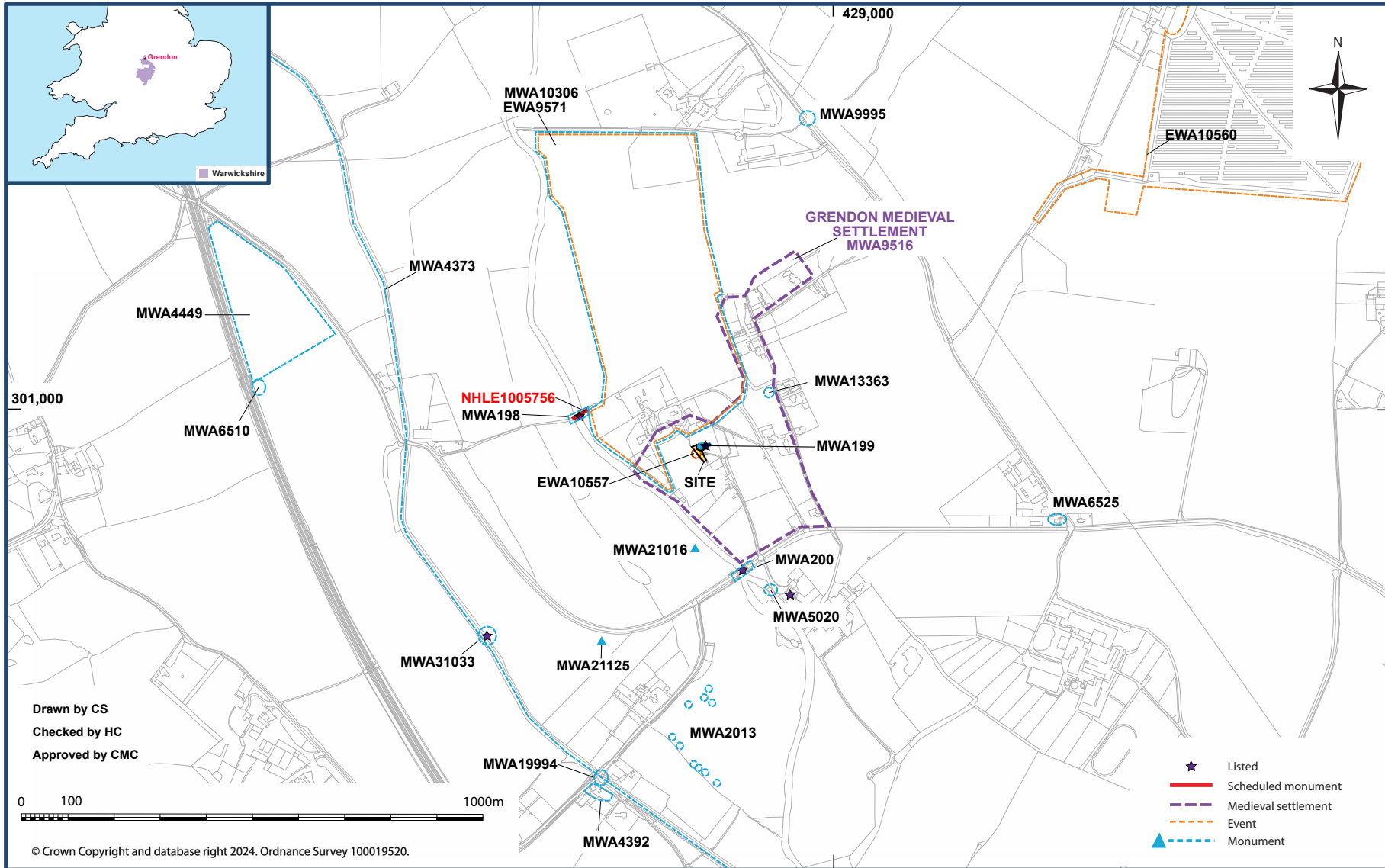


Fig 1: Location of site and Historic Environment information

3 BASELINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

- 3.1 The baseline archaeological data relating to the work presented below is derived from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Coutts 2023).

Prehistoric and Roman

- 3.2 The earliest evidence for human activity on the Site is a fragment of early Bronze Age pottery (c.2500-1800 BC) recovered during an evaluation in 2015. A Bronze Age spearhead was also found 500m south of the church. There are cropmarks on aerial photographs suggestive of a possible ditched enclosure to the north-west, although they may be geological in origin (MWA 4449). A coin, nail cleaner and finger ring of Roman date have been recorded under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (MWA 21125).

Medieval

- 3.3 All Saints was built in the 12th century (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 199; Listed Grade II DWA 308; List ID 1034716). The north aisle has a 13th-century doorway with nailhead decoration. The chancel also dates to the 13th century, while the south aisle and arcade are 14th-century work. The tower dates to 1845 and is the work of R. C. Hussey (Pevsner and Wedgwood 1966, 300).
- 3.4 An archaeological evaluation in April 2015 was designed to assess areas of ground that would be disturbed by a proposed new toilet block to the south of the tower and the replacement of part of the south aisle wooden floor with a stone floor (EWA 10557). Cuts for burials were recorded within the church at a depth of c. 0.50m below the level of the present stone floor. The earliest find from within the church was a fragment of Saxon-Norman pottery from below the south aisle floor. The cuts of four further graves were recorded in the trench to the south of the tower. The grave cuts were recorded at c. 0.70m below present ground level and their density suggested that there were likely to be around ten graves in the footprint of the proposed toilet block. Part of a stone wall was revealed

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that appeared to pre-date the 14th-century south aisle. Fragments of green-glazed floor tile derived from a medieval floor.

3.5 A second evaluation (EWA 10559) recorded further grave cuts disturbed by drains and services and the brick-base of a former tool shed. Two sherds of Chilvers Coton A pottery, dated 1250-1300 and a Coventry-type A ware dated 12th- to 14th-century were recovered along with a further fragment of glazed medieval floor tile and medieval painted window glass.

3.6 There are well-marked house platforms to the east and south of the graveyard extension, and some possibly in the graveyard itself, which are likely to be part of the deserted medieval settlement (MWA 9516) and medieval pottery has been found in the east border of the graveyard extension. Grendon Bridge is a medieval bridge some 300m north-west of the church (MWA 198). Grendon Mill is a watermill that was built in the medieval period and fell out of use in the 19th century; the foundations still remain (MWA 5020). Medieval artefacts have been recorded by metal detectorists to the south-west (MWA 21016).

Post-medieval

3.7 To the north of the church is Grendon Hall park, a post-medieval landscape park with formal avenues and gardens (MWA 10306), recommended for inclusion on the Local List by Lovie (EWA 9571; Fig 2). Grendon park Bridge lies to the north-east of the park (MWA 19995). A 19th-century Grendon Bridge, replaced an earlier form 300m south of the church (MWA 200). Grendon Ice House is a well preserved example of a brick-built ice house, located in the woods alongside Farm Lane (MWA 13363). A Blacksmith's workshop is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 (Fig 3) at Grendon Fields Cottage (MWA 6525). The site of a railway signal box is located to the west (MWA 6510).

3.8 The Coventry canal runs to the west of the church (MWA 4373). The canal opened in the late 18th century and there are other archaeological

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features associated with it in the area, such as Bradley Green Wharf (MWA 4392), and Bradley Green Bridge (MWA 19994).

3.9 Features showing up on aerial photographs at Bradley Green have been identified as possible WWII anti-aircraft batteries (MWA 2013).

3.10 A negative watching brief was undertaken to the north-east, when groundworks for a solar farm were being undertaken (EWA 10560). Nothing of archaeological interest was recorded.

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Fig 3: Detail from Tithe maps of 1850 (Grendon CR0328-18-2 and Polesworth-Dordon CR0328-36)

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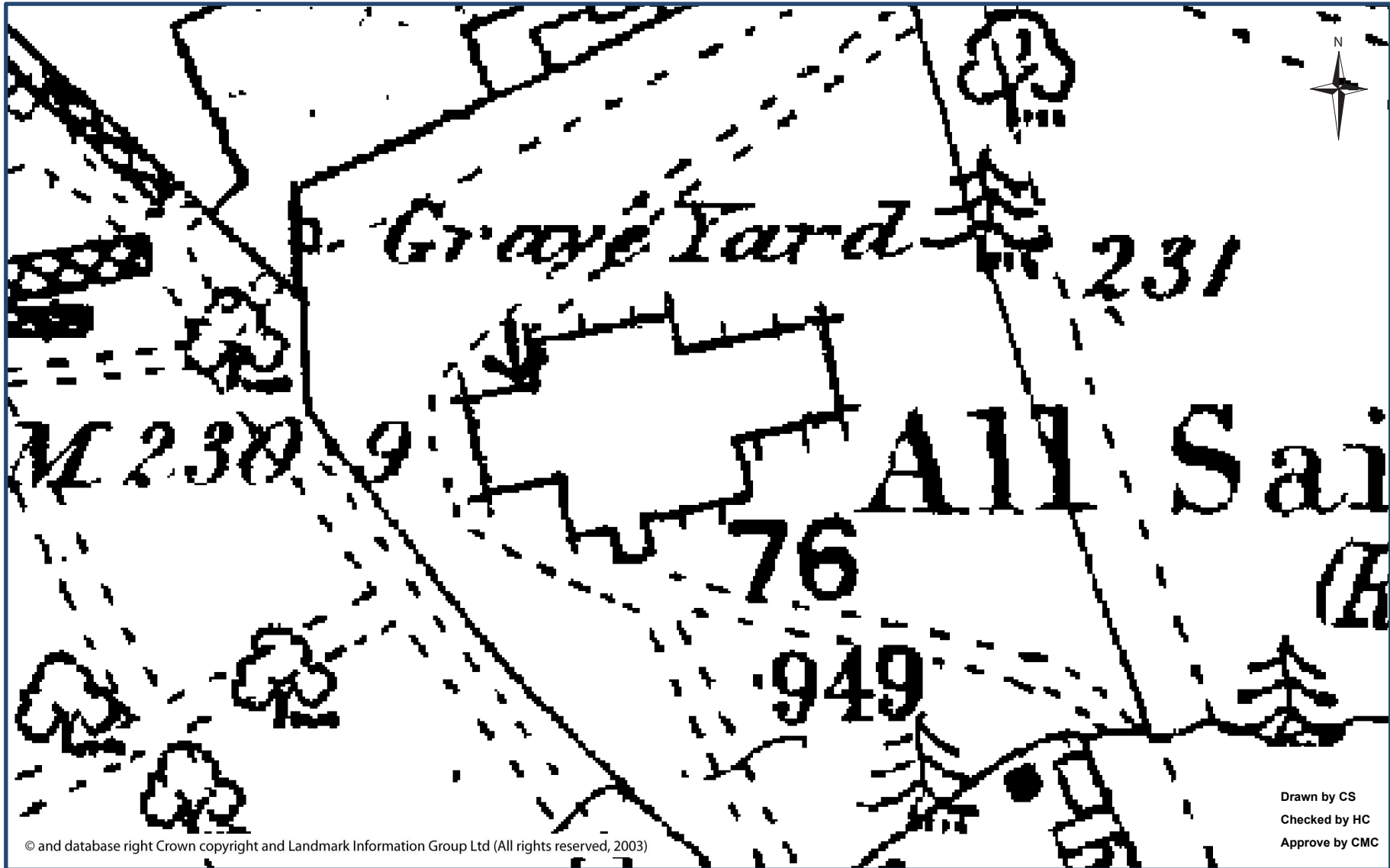


Fig 3: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889

4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any significant archaeological deposits revealed by the development, to collate the fieldwork records into an archaeological archive and present the results of the fieldwork for dissemination.
- 4.2 The work undertaken involved the examination of early map evidence as well as records of archaeological remains in the area and local historical journals and other publications.
- 4.3 An experienced archaeologist was present for each period of ground disturbance when notified by the client in accordance with the WSI. Where potential archaeological deposits were encountered, the supervising archaeologist assessed and recorded them before they were disturbed.
- 4.4 The test pits were hand excavated to test percolation in the area where the septic tank was to be located. The pits measured 0.30m²; pit 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.90m, pit 2 to 0.80m and pit 3 to 0.51m.
- 4.5 The large trench for the septic tank was 3.20m long by 2.25m wide and was machine excavated to a depth of 3.50m.
- 4.6 The drainage trench was 22.10m long, 0.45m wide and varied between 0.85m – 1.30m deep.
- 4.7 Work had already been carried out within the church prior to the septic tank being installed but this only involved removing the pews and an area of wooden floor in the nave and south aisle and concreting the void below in an area evaluated by test-pitting in 2015; no excavation took place.

5 RESULTS

Test pits

- 5.1 Three percolation test pits were hand excavated on the eastern side of the tarmac path, avoiding the path itself, in October 2023 (Fig 4). Each pit was 300mm square; pit 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.90m, pit 2 to 0.80m and pit 3 to 0.51m. Test pits 1 and 3 cut into a greyish brown sandy clay loam graveyard soil layer containing occasional fragments of brick and sandstone (2) overlaid by c. 0.20m of brown loam topsoil (1). In test pit 2 (Photo 2), was dug through 0.80m of brown sandy clay loam (3) to the base of the pit, suggesting that this may have been within a grave fill. A spurred clay pipe bowl recovered from the topsoil in test pit 3, probably dates from the early 18th century (Broseley type 4). No human bone was recovered from the test pits.



2 Test pit 2

Septic tank

- 5.2 Further excavation took place in April/May 2024 when the septic tank and associated drainage works required excavation (Fig 4). The septic tank trench was located 21.20m south of the porch below the line of the path. The trench measured 3.30m x 2.25m and was excavated to a depth of 3.50m, cutting into geological natural at a depth of 2.72m (Photo 3). The geological natural comprised layers of clay and sandy clay (9), above bedrock. The geological natural was overlain by 0.78m of graveyard soil (2), itself overlain the gravel base (11) for the tarmac path (10). No finds were recovered from the tank area and no fragments of human bone were noted.



3 Excavated trench for septic tank

Internal works

- 5.3 The internal works were carried out before the external groundworks (Photo 4) and a limestone stone floor (4), and a brick sleeper wall (5) and two pier bases were recorded (6 and 7), below the level of the former

wooden floor, along with lifting of stone floor slabs and concreting (8) the corner of the south aisle where the new toilet is located.



4 New concrete sub-floor within south aisle and nave

Drainage trench

- 5.4 The drainage pipe trench was machine excavated from the septic tank trench to the south-west corner of the church (Fig 4; Photo 5). It was excavated into the geological natural red clay (9) between 0.85m and 1.30m deep. The geological natural was overlaid by greyish brown sandy clay graveyard soil (2), 0.51m – 0.80m thick. At the south-east end of the trench was a layer of tarmac (12; Photo 6), 0.05m deep, that extended for c. 8m north-west from the septic tank. The area was then overlaid by a levelling layer of gravel (11), 0.10m in depth, and was in turn sealed by the current tarmac path surface (10), 0.04m in depth.

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5 Excavation of the drainage trench



6 North-east facing section of the drainage trench

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5.5 Nine articulated skeletons were exposed in the drainage trench, as well as various groups of disarticulated human bones (Fig 4; Photos 7 - 9), in a c. 10m long stretch of trench up to c. 14.50m south-east of the church; no burials were recorded closer to the wall of the church itself where the trenching was shallower. The trench cut across the line of the articulated skeletons so only part of each skeleton was visible, and all were lying supine and orientated west-east. All the skeletons, apart from SK35, consisted of the torso, arms, pelvis, top of the femurs and sometimes part of the skull. SK35 was just the skull within a clearly defined, round-ended grave cut across part of the trench (Photo 8). The position of the arms varied between the skeletons; SK14 the arms were straight down the side of the torso, whereas SK17 were bent 45° at the elbow with the ulna and radius across the pelvis and SK20, SK23 and SK39 were bent 90° at the elbow with the ulna and radius across the pelvis. The graves for the majority of the skeletons were cut into the natural geology (9; SK14, SK17, SK20, SK26, SK29 and SK35), whilst two were within the graveyard soil (2; SK26 and SK39). One sherd of pottery dated 1250-1300 was recovered from the grave fill around SK23, and another similar sherd from the graveyard soil. There was no evidence for coffin burials, suggesting they were most likely shroud burials.



7 SK14, looking north-east



8 SK35, looking north-west



9 Disarticulated skulls within the graveyard soil

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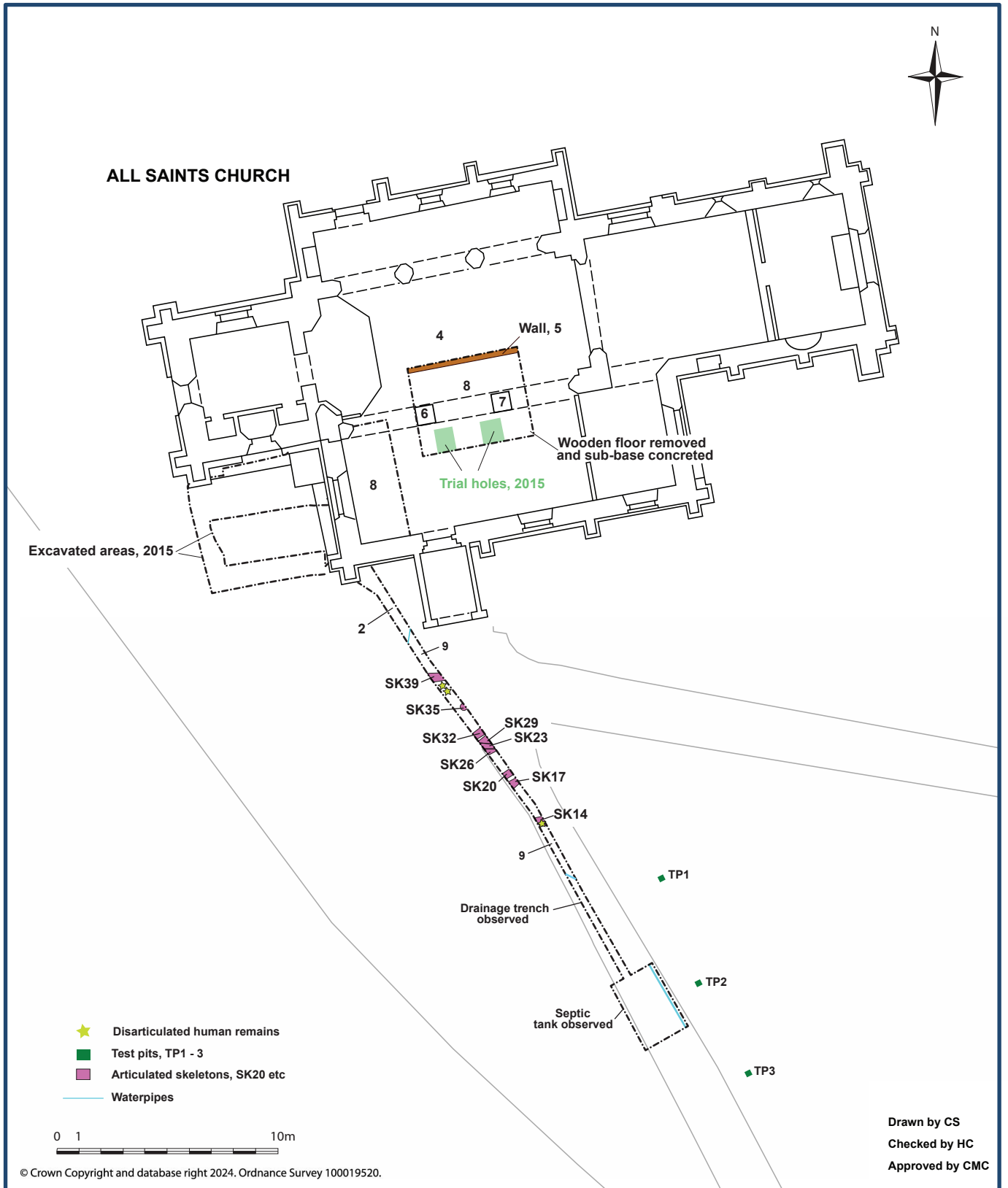


Fig 4: Location of works observed

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring enabled nine articulated burials and various disarticulated human remains to be recorded, all located close to the church (Fig 4). Two of the skeletons were left in situ because they would not be impacted by the drainage pipe, whilst the others were removed and reburied in the trench before the trench was backfilled.
- 6.2 Given the absence of evidence for coffins it seems likely that all the articulated burials were shroud burials. A fragment of 13th-century pottery alongside one of them suggests the possibility that they were relatively early, perhaps even medieval burials.
- 6.3 The absence of any skeletal remains in the area where the septic tank was placed could suggest that this part of the churchyard was a later addition and burial took place to the sides of the path. However, it remains just as likely that the tank was placed within a fortuitous gap between burial rows.
- 6.4 No other archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Brownhill, Hayward and Brown Architects for commissioning the work on behalf of the PCC.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Rob Jones, Hannah Child and Bekky Hillman.

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Pevsner, N, and Wedgwood, A, 1966 *The Buildings of England, Warwickshire*, Harmondsworth.

APPENDICES

A List of Contexts

Context	Description	Depth (m) or AOD	Comment
1	Brown loam with very occasional small pebbles and brick fragments	0.19-0.20	Topsoil
2	Greyish brown sandy clay loam with frequent small pebbles and occasional sandstone fragments	0.32-0.70	Subsoil
3	Brown sandy clay loam, with occasional brick and small pebble inclusions	0.80	Topsoil in Test Pit 2
4	Smooth flat limestone slabs	0.05	Stone floor inside church
5	Red bricks, 230mm long by 110mm wide, lime mortar bonding	N/A	Sleeper wall inside church
6	Rough limestone, 780mm ² , lime mortar bonding	N/A	Pier base inside church, same as 7
7	Rough limestone, 780mm ² , lime mortar bonding	N/A	Pier base inside church, same as 6
8	Modern concrete	~0.30	Modern concrete in church
9	Red clay to brownish red sandy clay, with small to large pebbles, firm to hard	N/A	Geological natural
10	Black tarmac	0.06	Modern tarmac
11	Gravel	0.10	Modern gravel for tarmac path
12	Black tarmac	0.05	Second layer of tarmac
13	Grave cut		Cut of grave for SK14
14	Skeleton, articulated, lower torso, arms and pelvis, 0.70m depth from surface		Skeleton

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15	Greyish brown sandy clay loam		Fill of grave 13, same as (2)
16	Grave cut, partially visible		Cut of grave
17	Skeleton, articulated, lower torso, arms and pelvis, badly degraded		Skeleton
18	Grave fill		Fill of grave 16
19	Grave cut, only SE edge visible		Cut of grave
20	Skeleton, articulated, upper torso, arms and part of skull, slightly degraded, 0.88m depth from surface		Skeleton
21	Grave fill, greyish brown sandy clay with moderate pebbles		Fill of grave 19
22	Grave cut, not visible		Cut of grave
23	Skeleton, articulated, lower torso, pelvis, left arm and left leg, 0.78m depth from surface		Skeleton, directly overlying SK26
24	Fill of grave, greyish brown sandy clay, with occasional pebbles		Fill of grave 22
25	Grave cut, only visible on SE side		Cut of grave
26	Skeleton, articulated, badly fragmented, only partial skull and left side of torso, 0.81m depth from surface		Skeleton, underlying SK23
27	Fill of grave, greyish brown sandy clay, with occasional pebbles and sandstone		Fill of grave 25
28	Grave cut, only SE edge visible		Cut of grave

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29	Skeleton, possibly articulated, left in-situ as not disturbed by drain		Skeleton
30	Fill of grave, greyish brown sandy clay		Fill of grave 28
31	Grave cut, not visible		Cut of grave
32	Skeleton, only skull visible, rest of skeleton left in-situ		Skeleton
33	Fill of grave, greyish brown sandy clay		Fill of grave 31
34	Grave cut, only SW end visible in trench		Cut of grave
35	Skeleton, possibly articulated, only skull present		Skeleton
36	Fill of grave, greyish brown sandy clay with small pebbles		Fill of grave 34
37	Disarticulated human bones		Human bones in pipe trench
38	Grave cut, only NW edge visible		Cut of grave
39	Skeleton, articulated, lower torso, pelvis, arms, femurs, 0.93m depth from surface		Skeleton
40	Fill of grave, greyish brown sandy clay with moderate small pebbles		Fill of grave 38
41	Disarticulated human bones		Human bones in pipe trench

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B List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Quantity/ Weight (g)</i>	<i>Date/Comments</i>
1	Clay pipe	1/7	Bowl fragment, Broseley type 4, early 18th century
2	Pottery	1/6	WW01 Chilvers Coton A white ware, c. 1250-1300
24	Pottery	1/8	WW01 Chilvers Coton A white ware, c. 1250-1300

Finds identified by Dr Cathy Coutts

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C Data Management Plan and Archive Selection

Project Information	
Site Code	GA19
Site Address	All Saints Church, Grendon, Warwickshire
Project Type	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Project Manager	Dr Cathy Coutts
Project Team	Rob Jones, Hannah Child and Bekky Hillman
Archive Information	
Physical archive location	Warwickshire Museum
Accession Number	TBC
Digital Archive location	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Previous work to be included	No
Future work to be included	Unknown
Data Management Plan	
Data Creation	
Where will data be created	Office: pre-fieldwork and post-excavation Site: fieldwork
What data will be created	Paper: site visit sheets, context sheets, sample sheets, site registers, drawings on permatrace of sections and elevations and if required plans. Digital: photographs (jpegs), surveys (dxf), context lists (excel), report and specialist reports (word), finds list (excel), specialist catalogues (excel), photo register/metadata (excel), scanned registers (PDF), scanned context sheets (PDF)
Ethics and Legal Compliance	
Data security	If the data contains commercially, or personally sensitive data it will not be made available to anyone beyond the project team.
	AW will retain the copyright of any data, including reports, photographs etc., generated by the project. External data used under licence, such as OS mapping,

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	will not form part of the long-term archive of the project.	
Data sharing		
How will data be made accessible and shared	If data needs to be shared with the client, specialists and/or the Planning Archaeologist copies of the data will be supplied and not the primary data.	
	The report generated from this project will be publicly available through submission to the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS).	
Data selection and preservation		
Preservation and deposition	The paper and digital archives will be collated in line with national, regional and repository specific guidelines, See below.	
Specific Repository Requirements		
Archaeological Data Service	Jpeg Photographs PDF report	
Warwickshire Museum	Does not accept finds post-medieval in date, unless in exceptional circumstances	
Warwickshire HER	PDF version of the report .shp file of trenches	
Archaeology Warwickshire Management Archive	Word versions of report, DXF or .shp files of surveys, illustration files (Adobe Illustrator), etc.	
Data generated Pre-fieldwork		
Document/format	Where stored	To form management archive or site archive
WSI/PDF & paper copy	WCC Network/Physical Site folder	Site archive
Illustrations/Adobe Illustrator & PDFS	WCC Network	Management Archive or embedded into documents

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GIS trench layouts/GIS data files	WCC Network	Not retained following completion of project
Signed Agreement/PDF	WCC Network: confidential	Management Archive: digital copy retained on WCC network
RAMS/PDF & paper copy	WCC Network/Physical Site folder	Management Archive
Data generated from Site		
Physical Record type/format	Security Copy	Number
Context Sheets/paper proforma	Yes	13
Site visit sheets/paper proforma	Yes	6
Skeleton recording sheets/paper proforma	Yes	8
Plan sketch	Yes	3
Digital Record type/format	Saved to WCC Network	Number
Photographs/jpg	Yes	73 total 20 to be archived
Data generated post-site		
Physical data type/format	Security Copy/number	To form management archive or site archive
Site notes/paper	No/2	Management archive
Digital Record type/format	Saved to WCC Network	To form management archive or site archive
Report/word & PDF	Yes	Site archive
Archaeological Finds Archive & Selection Strategy		

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Expected Finds		
Material Type	Site collection Policy	Guidance from
Pottery - Modern	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Pottery - Post-medieval	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Pottery - Medieval	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Pottery - Roman	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Pottery - Prehistoric	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Finds from site		
Material Type	Checked by	Action ie. Identified, added to database, discarded
Pottery - Medieval	CC	Identified, coded, added to finds spreadsheet
Clay pipe	CC	Identified, added to finds spreadsheet, discarded
Specialist Assessment		
Material Type	Specialist	Action ie, coded, weighed, reported,
N/A	N/A	N/A
Specialist Recommendations		
Material Type	Specialist	Recommendation ie, discard in line with Museum Collection Policy, add to handling collection, Further analysis
N/A	N/A	N/A
Specialist Analysis		

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Material Type	Specialist	Action ie. Offer to Museum with report and illustrations
N/A	N/A	N/A
For Retention or Discard		
Material Type	Target date of deposition/ Archived date	Repository accepting/recommending discard
Pottery – Medieval	By end of 2024	Warwickshire Museum
Clay pipe	N/A	Discarded

OASIS Summary for archaeol27-526941

OASIS ID (UID)	archaeol27-526941
Project Name	All Saints Church, Grendon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Sitename	All Saints Church, Grendon, Warwickshire
Sitecode	GA19
Project Identifier(s)	GA19 All Saints Church, Grendon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Ecclesiastical consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Archaeology Warwickshire
Project Dates	01-Oct-2023 - 31-May-2024
Location	All Saints Church, Grendon, Warwickshire NGR : SK 28722 00902 LL : 52.60514806104382, -1.577322450004878 12 Fig : 428722,300902
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Warwickshire Local Authority District : North Warwickshire Parish : Grendon
Project Methodology	Faculty has been granted by Birmingham Diocese for the installation of a new toilet and kitchenette at All Saints, Grendon, Warwickshire, CV9 3DP. Three test pits, a large septic tank installation and associated drainage trench were observed. The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording (2023a) and Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring recording (2023b).
Project Results	Nine articulated skeletons were exposed in the drainage trench and various disarticulated human bones were recovered from the graveyard soil. All burials recorded were within 15m of the church. The articulated burials appear to have been shroud burials, possibly of medieval date as they were associated with medieval pottery sherds. All the human remains were reburied within the trench before it was backfilled.
Keywords	
Funder	Religious body All Saints Church PCC
HER	Warwickshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Dr. Cathy Coutts
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Warwickshire Museum; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

