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Wiltshire County Archaeological Service  
Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre  
Cocklebury Road  
CHIPPENHAM  
Wiltshire  
SN15 3QN

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Heytesbury Parish Church: Surface water soak-away**

I supervised excavation of c. 2m x 4m chamber to a depth of c. 0.80m for a soak-away and associated pipe trenches adjacent to the northeast corner of the church during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2024. The excavation was shielded from public view by sheeted Heras fence panels, the spoil heap covered by plastic sheeting outside working hours and the work undertaken with due sensitivity.

Excavation revealed a c. 0.10m deep topsoil over a greenish-grey argillaceous soil resting on weathered bedrock chalk at c. 0.70m. The skeletal remains of c. 10 individuals together with disarticulated bone were recovered, some lying immediately beneath the topsoil, and stored on site prior to re-interment in the base of the soak-away. No other archaeological remains were revealed.

In view of the archaeologically disappointing results, I will not prepare a formal report or deposit my site notes at Devizes Museum.

Yours sincerely



Michael Heaton MCIfA IHBC

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