

# Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation



## St. Julians Church Wellow

Prepared by:

Shaun Wilson

Director of Archaeology, BACAS.

Report Status: Draft

Issue Date: Sept 2023

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 This Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Shaun Wilson (Director of Archaeology), Bath and Counties Archaeology Society, (BACAS) on behalf of the St Julian's Parochial Church Council.

1.2 The erection of a single storey extension to the church to provide WC and kitchen facilities is sought on the north wall of the tower of St Julian's, Wellow. The building has been designated a Grade I listed building.

1.3 The area of study is centred on National Grid Reference ST 7417 5840 and lies on the north side of the church tower. The village is situated 8 kilometres south of Bath and sits inside the southernmost boundary of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which itself has been recognised as bearing special architectural and historic interest.

1.4 The area of investigation is within the church grounds, the graveyard itself has been taken out of use and landscaped.

## **2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

2.1 The main aim is an appropriate archaeological programme of works as agreed with the Local Planning Authority, initially to verify the presence or lack of burials.

2.2 To achieve the principal aim, the general objectives may comprise of:

- Prepare an archaeological desk-based study, this would only be for the ground to be excavated, a general appreciation of the building will require a separate building survey.
- Undertake a phased excavation of the site of the extension.
  - Two slit trenches, on the north and west boundaries of the area, and if clear,
  - Full excavation of building extension area.
  - The excavations will not affect the building itself at any stage.
- Assess likelihood of buried remains, liaising with stakeholders at all times if grave cuts or human remains are discovered.
- Undertake an archaeological watching brief during the building phase of the extension and adjustments to the tower to insert the doorway.
- Ensure the recording of any archaeological assets discovered during the excavation.
- Record any below ground archaeological remains.
- Undertake a programme of post-investigation assessment.
- Produce a report disseminating the results.
- Ensure any incidental (bone fragments) human remains, due to previous landscaping are treated with due reverence and passed to the parish for reinterment.

2.3 This WSI conforms to best practice, national and local planning policy and best archaeological practice as stated in:

- National Planning Policy Framework, Published 27 March 2012, Last updated 5 September 2023.
- Understanding Historic Buildings, Published 24 May 2016.
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, Reissue date v1.2 1 April 2015.

- ClfA Code, regulations and standards & guidance.
- Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief, updated October 2020.

### 3 **Methodology**

3.1 As stated above, the archaeological programme should consist of:

- A ground penetrating survey, this has already taken place and no graves or features were reported, however, this is an inconclusive method.
- An archaeological desk-based study.
- A controlled excavation of the area of the building extension floor area
- Archaeological watching brief of ground works by the constructor.
- Excavation and recording of any archaeological deposits.
- Report production.

3.2 A desk-based assessment would be based on analysis of the following:

- Somerset HER.
- Documentary and cartographic searches.

3.3 A site visit has been undertaken, there is no above ground archaeology and impact of the excavation would be minimal.

3.4 The scope of the work including the watching brief and evaluation will be specifically on the ground immediately adjacent to the north wall of the tower.

3.5 All structures, deposits and finds would be recorded according to accepted professional standards.

3.6 All strata and features exposed or excavated would be entered on prepared pro-forma recording sheets. Recording sheets, sample registers, finds recording sheets and photo records would be used.

3.7 The site grid would be accurately measured to the tower and its buttresses using tapes and taking levels.

- 3.8 Plans indicating the location of all archaeological features including grave cuts encountered would be drawn at an appropriate scale.
- 3.9 Plans of archaeological features on the site would be drawn at 1:20, sections would be drawn at 1:10. Plans and sections would include context numbers and heights.
- 3.10 A photographic record of the project would be maintained.
- 3.11 Finds are not expected but would be recorded and planned, formal grave cuts would not be disturbed but left in situ covered and protected.
- 3.12 Should finds and features be made that might constitute 'Treasure' under the definition of the Treasure Act (1996), redefined 2020, these would, if possible, be archaeologically excavated and removed to a safe place. Such finds would also be reported immediately to the local coroner (within 14 days, in accordance with the Act).
- 3.13 A report would be produced in draft within a period of two months on completion of the fieldwork and extension building describing methods used and results.
- 3.14 The report will contain:
- Summary of work undertaken and results.
  - Aims and methods used in the programme of works.
  - A precise record of any finds and features found.
  - Appropriate illustrative material such as maps, drawings, photographs and trench plans and sections.
  - Summary of results.
- 3.15 Copies of the report will be lodged with:
- Local Planning Authority
  - Parochial Church Council
  - Somerset HER
  - ADS
  - BACAS Website.

#### 4.0 **Timetable and Personnel**

- 4.1 After approval of the WSI the archaeological programme should commence shortly thereafter.
- 4.2 An archaeological watching brief will take place during the laying of any foundations for the extension.
- 4.3 The excavation will take place under the supervision of Shaun Wilson, Director of Archaeology, BACAS.

#### 5.0 **Monitoring**

- 5.1 Monitoring is to ensure that the programme of archaeological works is undertaken within the limits of this WSI to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority. At least seven working days' notice would be given before commencement of the excavation.
- 5.2 The Planning Officer would be free to visit the site at any time. He would be able to monitor the implementation of the archaeological works on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 5.3 The Planning Officer would also be consulted before any change to the specification of the archaeological works. Any alterations would be agreed in writing with the relevant parties.

#### 6.0 **Insurance**

- 6.1 Bath and Counties Archaeological society can produce evidence of Employers liability of £10,000,000 and Public/Products Liability of £5,000,000.

#### 7.0 **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 7.1 Works will be in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.
- 7.2 All archaeological staff would undertake their operations in accordance with safe working practices.
- 7.3 A Risk Assessment would be undertaken and recorded prior to the commencement of work on site.
- 7.4 A continual dynamic risk assessment would be undertaken and if significant

hazards are identified a specific risk assessment would be carried out and recorded.



Figure 1. OS Maps of site location © Crown Copyright



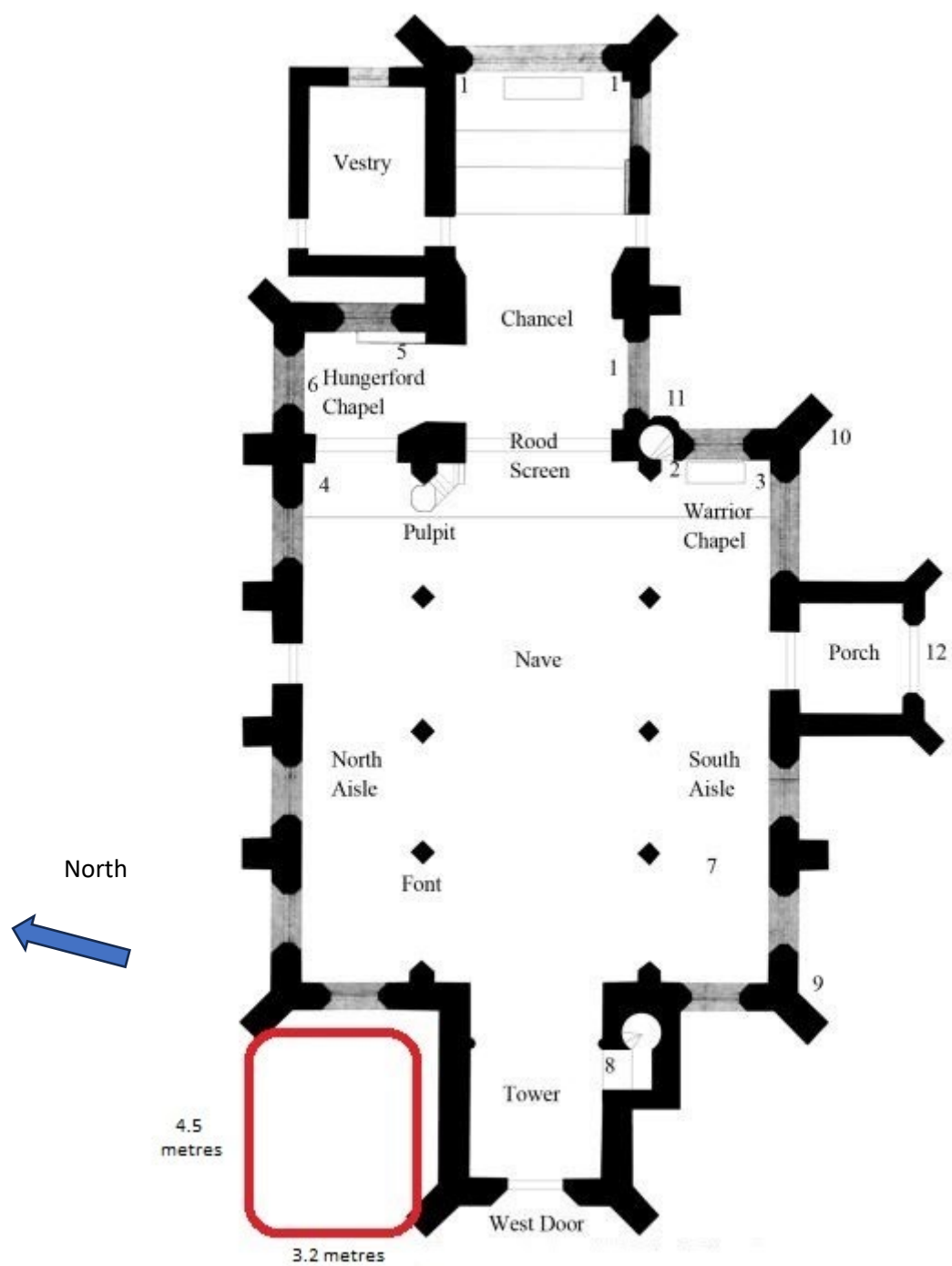


Figure 2. St Julian's Church showing location of full extent of excavation.

