

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
St Mary's Church,
Newington, Kent**

**NGR: 586140 165290
(TQ 8614 6529)**

Planning Ref: 0231

**Project No: 4793
Site Code: SMN12**

**ASE Report No: 2012247
OASIS id: archaeol6-140016**

**Catherine Douglas
With contributions by
Luke Barber and Sue Pringle
Illustrations by Antonio Reis**

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Abstract

Between 2nd and 20th November 2012 Archaeology South East was commissioned by Thomas Ford & Partners on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works at St Mary's Church, Newington, Kent (NGR: TQ 8614 6529).

Thirty-nine articulated burials were encountered during the excavation of three soakaway trenches. These were recorded and lifted for reburial within the churchyard. No burials were present within the three associated drainage channels. The depth of the cemetery deposits in addition to considerable intercutting and truncation of graves in all three soakaways demonstrates that the northern part of the churchyard was used for burial over a long period of time. No graves were datable. All disarticulated human bone fragments were recovered from the cemetery soil and re-interred in the cemetery.

Natural geology was encountered at 16.04m AOD in trenches 4 and 5 and 16.31m AOD in trench 6.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by Thomas Ford & Partners on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works at St Mary's Church, Newington, Kent (NGR: TQ 8614 6529, Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 272 Chatham) the site lies on sand and clay loam.
- 1.2.2 The church and graveyard occupy a relatively level site with a gradual drop away to the north and east.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The project involved fabric repairs, re-roofing, modification of the rainwater disposal system and new drainage at St Mary's Church, Newington, Kent. A Faculty (Ref. No.: 0231) was granted by the diocese of Canterbury permitting the works, subject to conditions. Condition 5 stated:

"A person approved in advance by the archaeological advisor to the DAC shall maintain an archaeological watching brief during the works of excavation".

- 1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the requirements of the watching brief was prepared by ASE (ASE 2012). This document was submitted to the aforementioned parties for approval in advance of commencement of ground works. All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (*ibid.*) unless otherwise specified below and with the relevant Standards and Guidance of Kent County Council (KCC 2007) and the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2000, 2001).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following archaeological background information is drawn from the WSI prepared in October 2012.

2.1 Prehistoric

- 2.1.1 Two Palaeolithic hand axes (TQ 86 NE 20), a Mesolithic tranchet axe and a collection of scraper tools (TQ 86 NE46) have all been recovered from within a 1km area of the site.

2.2 Roman (AD43-409)

- 2.2.1 The site lies approximately 600m to the north of the Roman road known as Watling Street, a road with metalled surfaces and roadside ditches (TQ 76 NW 145).
- 2.2.2 Finds of Roman date include two horseshoes, two iron keys and a sickle-shaped iron implement found to the north west of the site (TQ 86 NE 19).
- 2.2.3 A Roman cemetery is present at the Keycol Hill/Crockfield area, approximately 900m to the southeast of the site. Several instances of Roman urned burials have been noted (TQ 86 SE 1) dating from the 1st to 5th centuries AD.
- 2.2.4 A possible defensive station of Roman date is also thought to exist in the Keycol Hill area, although to date there has been little archaeological evidence to confirm this other than its obvious natural advantages overlooking Watling Street and 18th century descriptions of earthworks (TQ 86 SE 2).

2.3 Saxon and Medieval (AD410 – 1539)

- 2.3.1 There are no entries on the HER for either Saxon or medieval remains within the vicinity of the site other than the church itself.
- 2.3.2 The Church of St Mary is a Grade I Listed Building. The earliest surviving part of the church is the chancel, thought to date from c. 1200. Subsequent additions include the 14th century nave and 15th century tower, restored in 1862 and built of banded flint and squared ragstone. The south chapel was enlarged from its original form in the 13th century (TQ 86 NE 1157). The churchyard is also likely to have been in use since the medieval period.

2.4 Post-medieval (AD 1540 to present)

- 2.4.1 There are several listed buildings noted on the HER within 1km of the site. Those closest include Church Farmhouse; a Grade II Listed Building approximately 50m to the southwest of St Mary's Church. It is a 16th century timber framed building with a plain tile hipped roof (TQ 86 NE 1181). A little further to the west is Parsonage Farm, another Grade II Listed Building built in the 17th century and comprising two storeys of rendered brick with a plain tiled roof

2.5 Previous Archaeological Work on the Site

- 2.5.1 In June 2011 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2011) comprising the hand excavation of three test pits. Test Pit 1 was located to the northeast of the church and contained an undisturbed coffin 1.10m below ground level. Test Pit 2 was located to the north of the easternmost buttress of the church's north wall and contained a row of three coffins at 1.40m below ground level. Test Pit 3 was located to the west of the northwest corner of the church and contained an articulated juvenile skeleton 0.50m below ground level.

2.6 Aims and Objectives

- 2.6.1 The general aim of the archaeological watching brief was to monitor ground works in order to ensure that any human remains, features, artefacts, medieval masonry or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

2.7 Scope of the report

- 2.7.1 This report presents the findings of the watching brief which was undertaken between 2nd and 20th Nov 2012 by Catherine Douglas, Ian Hogg, Cormac Duffy, Pip Stevenson, John Hirst and John Cook. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Dan Swift (post-excavation).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The Groundwork

- 3.1.1 Intrusive groundwork to modify the drainage system involved the excavation of three soakaways to a depth of 1.25 metres, recorded as trenches 4, 5 and 6, each with a connecting drainage channel dug to a depth of 0.40 metres (Figure 2).

3.2 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.2.1 The soakaways were hand dug under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Where archaeological features or deposits, grave cuts or articulated human remains were revealed, work was stopped and excavation was continued by the archaeologist. All spoil was scanned for the presence of any artefacts or disarticulated human remains. Where disarticulated human remains were encountered these were collected and later reburied.
- 3.2.2 The trenches were de-turfed carefully, and the turf stored separately from underlying cemetery soil. All excavations were fenced off using netlon fencing and the location of the trenches was recorded using RTK GPS.
- 3.2.3 Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. A digital photographic record of the work was kept and is included in the site archive. Since the main deposits uncovered at the site comprised variations in cemetery soil, no environmental samples were collected.
- 3.2.4 Contexts revealed during the watching brief were numbered sequentially from [01]. Burials within the cemetery soil, where grave cuts were not clear, were assigned a skeleton number, and a level was taken on the skull, pelvis and feet.
- 3.2.5 Any *in-situ* articulated human remains encountered during the works were carefully cleaned with small hand tools, recorded, drawn as appropriate and photographed. The hand excavation and recording of buried individuals was undertaken with due respect and care. It was not possible for articulated skeletons to be left *in-situ*, as the level of the required ground reduction was lower than the level of the graves cutting into the natural geology. Where burials extended beyond the limit of the excavation area, the unexposed parts were left *in-situ*.
- 3.2.6 After appropriate recording, human remains were lifted and were later reburied within the trenches they had been lifted from, at a depth where they would not be disturbed by the ground work (below 1.40 metres). *In-situ* human remains (and associated coffin furniture) were bagged and clearly marked in order to prevent mixing of individuals. Disarticulated human bone was collected and bagged separately before being reburied. No detailed skeletal analysis was carried out as part of this project.

3.3 The Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at offices of ASE and will be offered to a suitable museum in due course.

3.3.2 The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	91
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	16
Bulk Samples	None
Photographs	90
Bulk finds	1 box

Table 1: Quantification of the project archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 All three trenches were excavated by ground workers with hand tools down through the topsoil to the cemetery soil, at a depth of 0.30m. The cemetery soil and burials were then excavated by an archaeologist. Once the burials had been cleared, ground workers completed excavation where necessary to a depth of 1.40m to meet the construction requirements. Excavation continued into the natural to a depth where skeletons could be reburied without risk of future disturbance.

4.1.2 Natural sand [29] was encountered beneath cemetery soil [05] at 15.92m AOD in trench 4 and at 15.90m AOD in trench 5. Natural gravelly sand [91] was encountered at 16.26m AOD in trench 6, underlying an interface layer [82], approximately 400mm thick, which appeared to be a mix of cemetery soil and natural sand. The cemetery soil [05] was a loose, friable greyish brown silty loam containing frequent sub-angular sandstone fragments and frequent disarticulated human bone fragments. It ranged between 0.73-1.31m thick and was overlain by a 0.30-0.31m thick layer of mid brown silty topsoil [01] containing frequent sandstone fragments.

4.1.3 A total of 91 contexts were recorded during the monitored excavations, the majority of which refer to individual burial sequences as described by trench below. Figure 3 is a schematic plan showing the degree and number of intercutting graves in each trench. Detailed plans are housed with the archive.

4.2 Trench 4 (Figures 3, 4a-d & 5a)

4.2.1 Trench 4 measured 2.50m in length by 1.70m in width with a maximum depth of 1.40m. A list of the recorded contexts from trench 4 has been tabulated below:

Context	Type	Description	Height m AOD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	17.53
05	Deposit	Cemetery soil. Seen in all three trenches.	17.23
29	Deposit	Natural sand	-
30	Skeleton	Skull within [05]	16.36
31	Skeleton	Partial skeleton of infant	16.34
32	Cut	Grave cut containing skeleton [31]	-
33	Fill	Fill of grave cut [32]	16.34
34	Skeleton	Adult skeleton	16.12
35	Skeleton	Partial skeleton – feet	16.26
36	Skeleton	Skeleton within [05]	16.26
37	Cut	Grave cut truncating skeleton [36]	-
38	Coffin	Coffin in grave cut [37]	-
39	Fill	Fill of [37] = same as [05]	-
40	Skeleton	Partial skeleton within [05]	16.24
41	Skeleton	Partial skeleton within [05]	16.18
42	Cut	Grave cut for skeleton [47]	-
43	Void	-	-

Context	Type	Description	Height m AOD
44	Cut	Grave cut for skeleton [53]	16.03
45	Fill	Fill of grave cut [42]	-
46	Coffin	Coffin in grave cut [42]	-
47	Skeleton	Skeleton within cut [42]	16.18
51	Fill	Fill of grave cut [44]	-
52	Coffin	Coffin in grave cut [44]	-
53	Skeleton	Skeleton in grave cut [44]	16.03
54	Cut	Cut of grave for skeleton [55]	-
55	Skeleton	Skeleton in grave cut [54]	16.14
56	Fill	Fill of grave cut [54]	-
58	Cut	Cut of grave for skeleton (60)	-
59	Coffin	Coffin within grave cut [58]	-
60	Skeleton	Skeleton in grave cut [58]	16.18
61	Fill	Fill of grave cut [58]	-
62	Cut	Cut of grave for skeleton [63]	-
63	Skeleton	Skeleton within grave cut [62]	16.14
64	Fill	Fill of grave cut [62]	-
65	Cut	Cut of grave for skeleton [66]	-
66	Skeleton	Skeleton within grave [65]	16.11
67	Fill	Fill of grave [65]	-
68	Skeleton	Partial skeleton within [05]	16.16
69	Cut	Cut of grave for skeleton [70]	-
70	Skeleton	Skeleton in grave cut [69]	16.09 – 16.99
71	Fill	Fill of grave cut [69]	-
74	Cut	Cut of grave for skeleton [75]	-
75	Skeleton	Skeleton in grave cut [74]	15.92
76	Fill	Fill of grave cut [74]	-
77	Cut	Cut of grave for skeleton [78]	-
78	Skeleton	Skeleton in grave cut [77]	16.05
79	Fill	Fill of grave cut [77]	-
80	Skeleton	Skull within [05]	16.07

Table 2: List of recorded contexts from Trench 4

4.2.2 A total of 45 contexts were recorded in Trench 4 and eighteen articulated burials were revealed. The underlying natural sand [29] was located at a depth of 1.22m below ground level. Above this was 0.92m of cemetery soil [05]. The trench was covered with approximately 0.30m of topsoil [01]. There was no skeleton visible in grave cut [21], although the grave was only partially exposed by the area of excavation.

4.2.3 The drainage channel between trench 4 and the church building measured 10m by 0.40m, with a maximum depth of 0.40m. This was hand-excavated by ground workers through the topsoil [01] and into the top of the underlying cemetery soil [05]. No burials were revealed at this depth.

4.3 Trench 5 (Figures 3 & 5b)

4.3.1 Trench 5 measured 2.45m by 1.25m with a maximum depth of 1.40m. A list of the recorded contexts from trench 5 has been tabulated below:

Context	Type	Description	Height m AOD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	17.19 (Trench 6) - 17.53 (Trench 4)
02	Deposit	Fill of [04]	-
03	Deposit	Fill of [04] Construction debris	-
04	Cut	Cut – Unknown function	-
05	Deposit	Cemetery soil. Seen in all three trenches.	-
06	Skeleton	Juvenile Skeleton	16.37
07	Coffin	Coffin for skeleton [06]	16.36
08	Skeleton	Articulated arm	16.38
09	Skeleton	Skull	16.40
10	Skeleton	Torso and partial legs	16.44
11	Skeleton	Articulated skeleton	16.40
12	Skeleton	Partial skeleton	15.99
13	Skeleton	Articulated skeleton	16.37
14	Fill	Fill of grave [15]	-
15	Cut	Grave cut for skeleton [06]	16.22
16	Fill	Fill of grave [17]	-
17	Cut	Cut of grave for skeleton [18]	-
18	Skeleton	Partial skeleton in grave [17]	15.99
19	Skeleton	Skull (rest beyond limit of excavation)	16.37
20	Fill	Fill of grave [20]	-
21	Cut	Grave cut	-
22	Skeleton	Skeleton	16.14
23	Skeleton	Partial skeleton	16.02
24	Fill	Fill of grave [25]	-
25	Cut	Grave cut for skeleton [22]	-
26	Fill	Fill of grave [21]	-
27	Cut	Grave cut for skeleton [23]	-
28	Skeleton	Skeleton in grave cut [17]	15.92
29	Deposit	Natural sand	-

Table 3: List of recorded contexts from Trench 5

4.3.2 A total of 29 contexts were recorded in Trench 5. The remains of twelve partial or complete articulated burials were revealed. The graves for two of these cut into the natural sand [29] which was located approximately 1.40m below ground surface. The overlying cemetery soil [05] measured approximately 1.10m thick and was covered with approximately 0.30m of topsoil. A single, small feature [04] could be seen in the trench edge, cutting through cemetery soil [05]. The fill contained a large percentage of ceramic building material and flint waste, possibly left over from construction/repair work at the church.

4.3.3 The drainage channel between trench 5 and the church building measured 5m by 0.40m, with a maximum depth of 0.40m. This was hand-excavated by ground workers through the topsoil [01] and into the top of the underlying cemetery soil [05]. No burials were revealed at this depth.

4.4 Trench 6 (Figures 3 & 5c-d)

4.4.1 Trench 6 measured 2.25m by 1.70m, with a maximum depth of 1.40m. A list of the recorded contexts from trench 6 has been tabulated below:

Context	Type	Description	Height m AOD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	17.19
05	Deposit	Cemetery soil. Seen in all three trenches.	17.23
48	Skeleton	Partial skeleton	16.88
49	Skeleton	Partial skeleton	16.79
50	Skeleton	Partial skeleton	16.95
57	Skeleton	Infant skeleton within [05]	16.80
72	Skeleton	Partial skeleton within [05]	16.63
73	Skeleton	Skeleton within [05]	16.54
81	Skeleton	Skeleton within [05]	16.28 – 16.42
82	Fill	Interface between cemetery soil [05] and natural [91]	15.92
83	Cut	Cut of grave for skeleton [81]	-
84	Fill	Fill of grave cut [83]	-
85	Cut	Cut of grave for skeleton [86]	-
86	Skeleton	Skeleton within grave cut [85]	17.47
87	Fill	Fill of grave cut [85]	-
88	Cut	Cut of grave for skeleton [89]	-
89	Skeleton	Partial skeleton in grave [88]	16.42
90	Fill	Fill of grave cut [88]	-
91	Deposit	Natural gravelly sand in Trench 6	15.92

Table 4: List of recorded contexts from Trench 6

4.4.2 A total of eighteen contexts were recorded in Trench 6 and these included nine partial or complete articulated burials. Six of the burials were located within the cemetery soil [05] and two were within graves that cut into the natural sands [91].

4.4.3 The natural [91] was located between 1.15m - 1.30m below ground surface. The cemetery soil [05] that overlay this was 0.73m thick and this was covered with 0.40m of interface [82] and 0.31m of topsoil [01]. Further excavation into the natural was required in order to re-bury the skeletons without risk of future disturbance.

4.4.4 The drainage channel between trench 6 and the church building measured 4.25m by 0.40m, with a maximum depth of 0.40m. This was hand-excavated by ground workers through the topsoil [01] and into the top of the underlying cemetery soil [05]. No burials were revealed at this depth.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 The watching brief produced a very limited finds assemblage and this is summarised below.

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 Just two sherds of pottery were recovered during the watching brief, both coming from context [05]. These consist of a sand and shell tempered cooking pot sherd (5g) of 12th- to early 13th- century date and a piece from a late transfer-printed pearlware bowl (1g) of c. 1820-60.

5.3 The ceramic building materials by Susan Pringle

5.3.1 Introduction

A total of 64 fragments of medieval and post-medieval ceramic building materials weighing 6.308 kg was examined from three contexts. Of these, context [05] was large (50 fragments); the other two contained 10 or fewer fragments. The identifiable material was all late medieval and early post-medieval roofing tile and floor tiles. The total weight and number of fragments in each category is set out in Table 1.

Period	No. of items	% of total count	Weight kg.	% of total wt
Late medieval/early post-medieval peg tile	58	91%	4.136	66%
Post-medieval ridge tile	3	5%	1.118	18%
Medieval/post-medieval floor tile	2	3%	0.902	14%
Unidentified brick or floor tile	1	2%	0.152	2%
Total	64	100%	6.308	100%

Table 5: Summary of building materials

5.3.2 Methodology

All the ceramic building material has been recorded on a standard recording form. Tile has been quantified by fabric, form, weight and fragment count, using the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) and Museum of London (MoL) type series for tile fabrics. The information on the recording sheets has been entered onto an Excel database. The floor tiles and samples of the tile fabrics have been retained; the remainder of the material has been discarded.

5.3.3 Dating

The broad date range of each context is summarised below in Table 2.

Context	Context date (approximate)	Material
2	1400-1800	Peg tiles, probably of mixed date
3	1400-1800	Peg tiles
5	1450-1800	Peg and ridge tiles, Flemish glazed and unidentified unglazed floor tiles

Table 6: Dating table with context date (approximate) and contents

5.3.4 Summary of the material

Roman brick

No Roman building materials were positively identified, although an abraded tile 34mm thick with a slightly convex surface may have been a Romano-British brick, residual in context [05]. The tile had an orange fabric, similar to MoL fabric 3004, with inclusions of common fine to medium quartz, sparse coarse to very coarse quartz and some fine calcareous and red iron-rich material.

Medieval and post-medieval roof tile

The majority of the medieval and early post-medieval material was roof tile. The most common tile fabric was CAT 32, a smooth, well-fired, light red or pink calcareous fabric found in large quantities in Kent in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Most of the tiles had square nail-holes; variations, however, were noted in both in the sizes of the nail-holes and the grade of the moulding sand, which suggests that the tiles were produced at different periods. A peg tile and ridge tile in an orange-brown fabric with abundant very fine to fine quartz, a fine calcareous speckle and paler silty lumps (fabric T1) was present in context [05].

Medieval and post-medieval (?) floor tile

Two fragmentary floor tiles were recorded in context [05]. One, 29 mm thick, had a yellow glaze over white slip with a nail-hole in the surviving corner; the original size was at least 162 mm square. The nail-hole and the calcareous fabric (near MoL fabric 2540) suggest a Flemish origin. The likely date range is c. AD 1450-1600. The other tile, 22 mm thick, appeared to be unglazed, with some vitrified material, possibly lime mortar, on the upper surface. It had two nail holes in the only surviving corner and was in a fine orange fabric with coarse inclusions of blocky siltstone and dark red iron-rich material. It was originally at least 107 mm square. That tile may also be Flemish; its date is uncertain but it is likely to be from the late medieval or early post-medieval periods.

Vitrified material

Vitrified and reduced roof tile in fabric CAT 32 and an unglazed floor tile were noted in context 0[5].

Conclusions

Most of the building materials from the site were roofing tiles, the majority in the widely used CAT fabric 32, produced in the Wye area of Kent. The yellow-glazed floor tile was of a type that is commonly associated with high-status medieval buildings and may have been used in the church floor in the later 14th or 15th century. All the identifiable material is likely to date from the later 15th century to c. AD 1800, although one fragmentary tile may have been residual Roman brick.

5.4 Other finds by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 Context [05] produced a single fragment of coal and a 3g fragment of aerated matt black clinker. This is almost certainly waste from the 18th-/19th- century burning of coal.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 All three trenches contained skeletons both within the cemetery soil and cutting into the natural geology. Due to the mixed nature of the cemetery soil, grave cuts were difficult to see clearly, although some were recognised by either the dark staining left behind after coffin decay or the slightly browner backfill.
- 6.2 The articulated burials at risk of disturbance by the groundwork were recorded and excavated. These remains were then carefully reburied at a lower level so as not to be impacted by further work. Frequent disarticulated skeletal remains were recovered during the excavations and these were also bagged for reburial. The extent of intercutting and truncation of burials suggests continuous use of the north part of the graveyard over a long period of time. The graves encountered during the excavations were Christian burials on an east-west alignment with the body in a supine position and the head at western end.
- 6.3 The artefacts encountered during the archaeological investigations were typical of those found in a repeatedly used burial ground, with scattered human bone and coffin fittings, as well as pottery and ceramic building materials, probably relating to periods of reconstruction or repair work to the church building. No grave goods or pillow stones were revealed during the groundwork.
- 6.4 It is difficult to accurately date the burials within the churchyard at St Mary's, due to the absence of headstones and burial records and because of the very mixed and unstratified nature of finds recovered from the cemetery soil.
- 6.5 No other archaeological remains predating the church were encountered during the monitored groundworks.

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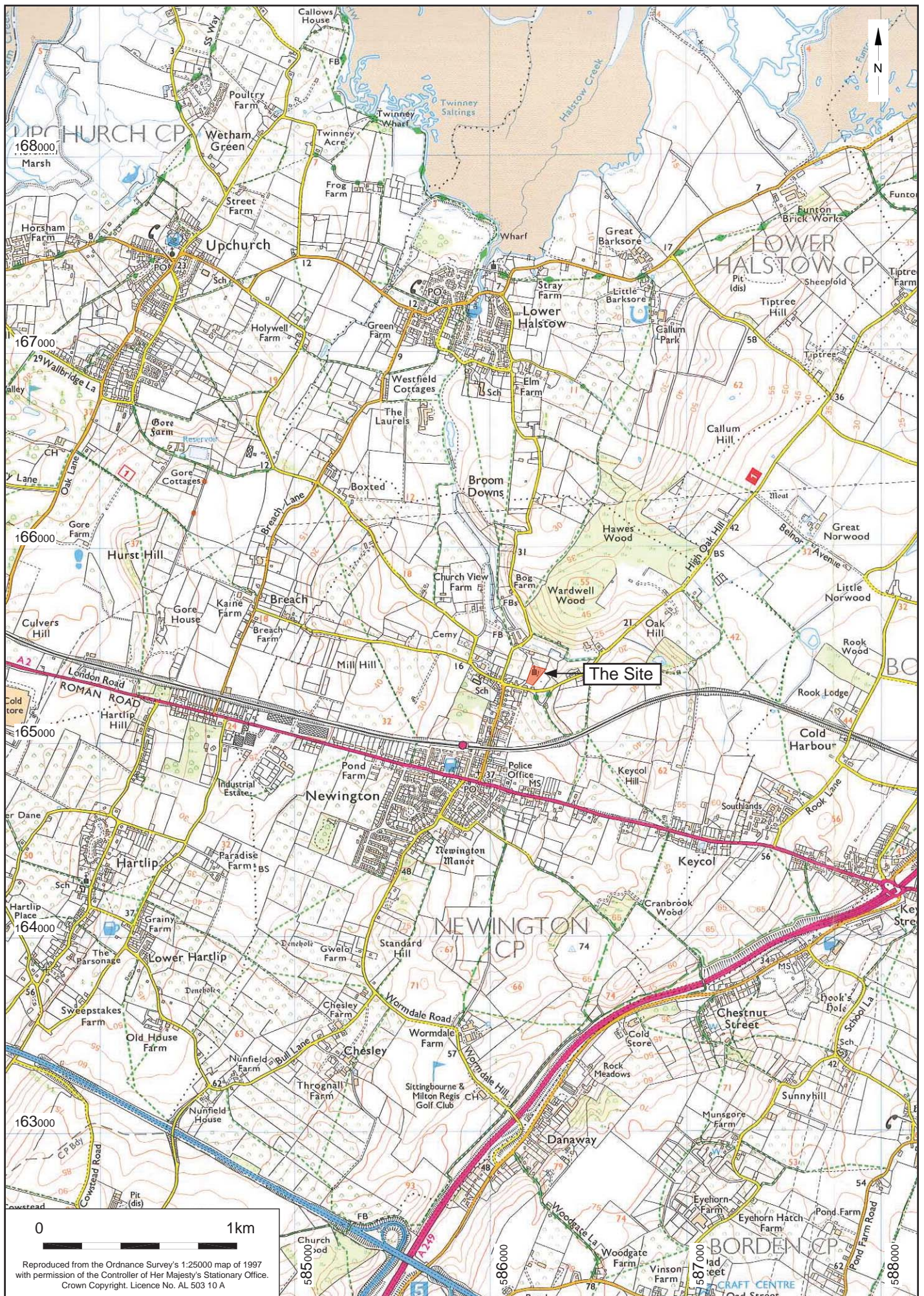
ASE would like to thank the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rogers County Archaeologist and Kent County Council for their guidance and monitoring. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations and Rob Cole, Antonio Reis and Justin Russell, who produced the figures for this report; Andy Leonard who project managed the excavations and Dan Swift who project managed the post-excavation process.

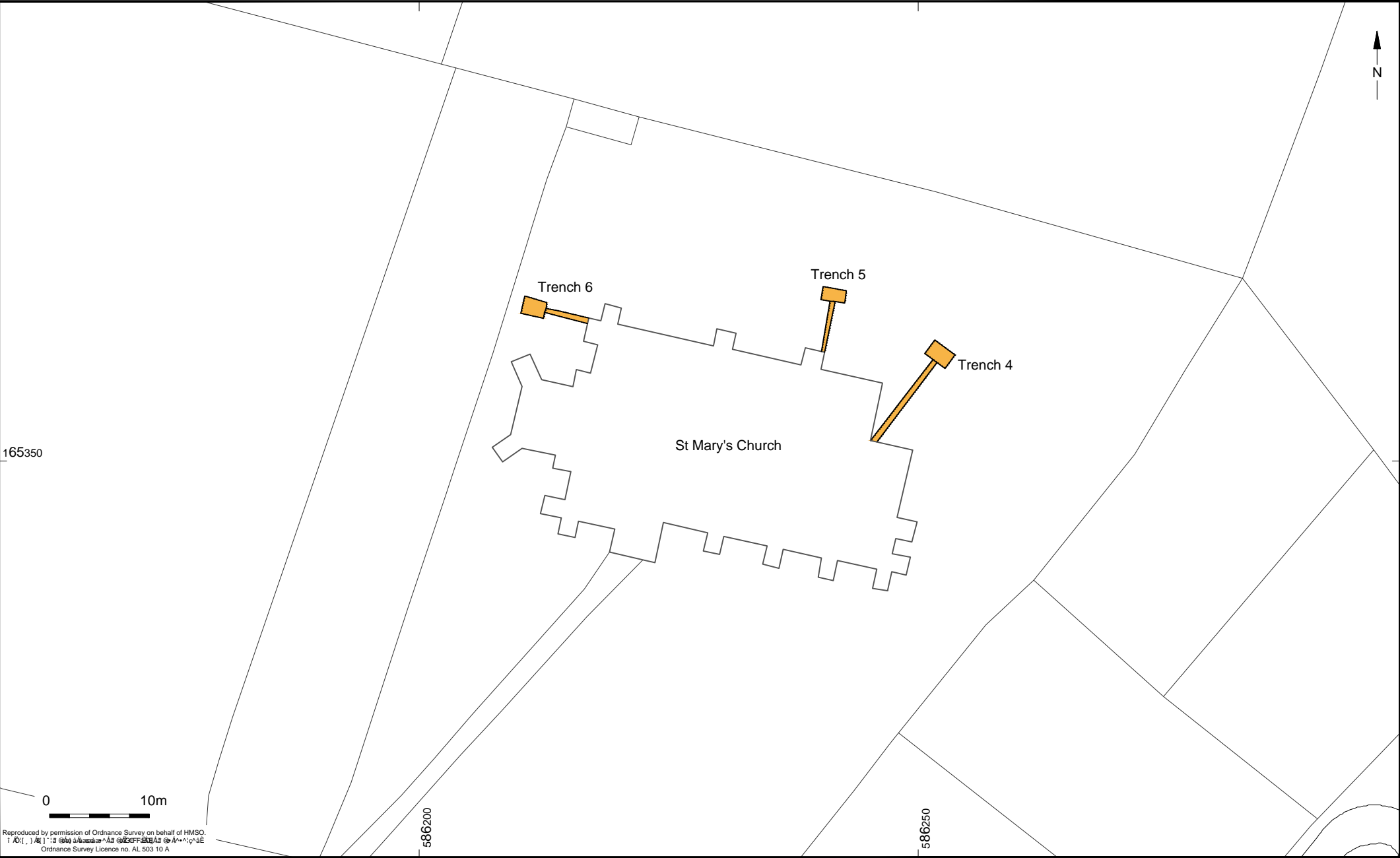
HER Summary Form

Site Code	SMN12					
Identification Name and Address	St Mary's Church, Newington, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Sittingbourne, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 8614 6529					
Geology	sand and clay loam					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5793					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other Churchyard		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 2-20/11/12	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Thomas Ford & Partners					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Catherine Douglas					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>Between 2nd and 20th November 2012 Archaeology South East was commissioned by Thomas Ford & Partners on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works at St Mary's Church, Newington, Kent (NGR: TQ 8614 6529).</i></p> <p><i>Thirty-nine articulated burials were encountered during the excavation of three soakaway trenches. These were recorded and lifted for reburial within the churchyard. No burials were present within the three associated drainage channels. The depth of the cemetery deposits in addition to considerable intercutting and truncation of graves in all three soakaways demonstrates that the northern part of the churchyard was used for burial over a long period of time. No graves were datable. All disarticulated human bone fragments were recovered from the cemetery soil and re-interred in the cemetery.</i></p> <p><i>Natural geology was encountered at 16.04m AOD in trenches 4 and 5 and 16.31m AOD in trench 6.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at St Mary's Church, Newington, Kent
Short description of the project	Between 2nd and 20th November 2012 Archaeology South East was commissioned by Thomas Ford & Partners on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works at St Mary's Church, Newington, Kent (NGR: TQ 8614 6529). Thirty-nine articulated burials were encountered during the excavation of three soakaway trenches. These were recorded and lifted for reburial within the churchyard. No burials were present within the three associated drainage channels. The depth of the cemetery deposits in addition to considerable intercutting and truncation of graves in all three soakaways demonstrates that the northern part of the churchyard was used for burial over a long period of time. No graves were datable. All disarticulated human bone fragments were recovered from the cemetery soil and re-interred in the cemetery. Natural geology was encountered at 16.04m AOD in trenches 4 and 5 and 16.31m AOD in trench 6.
Project dates	Start: 02-11-2012 End: 20-11-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	SMN11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Site location	KENT SWALE NEWINGTON St Mary's Church, Newington, Kent
Postcode	ME9 7JT
Study area	12 Square metres
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 8614 6529 LL - 51.3555833389 0.673674680546 (decimal) LL - 51 21 20 N 000 40 25 E (degrees) Point
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Thomas Ford and Partners
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor (other)	Catherine Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	Diocese
Name of sponsor/funding body	Diocese of Canterbury
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Industrial'





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Archaeology South-East		St Mary's Church, Sittingbourne	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5793	Dec 2012	Site plan, and trench location	
Report Ref: 2012247	Drawn by: AR		

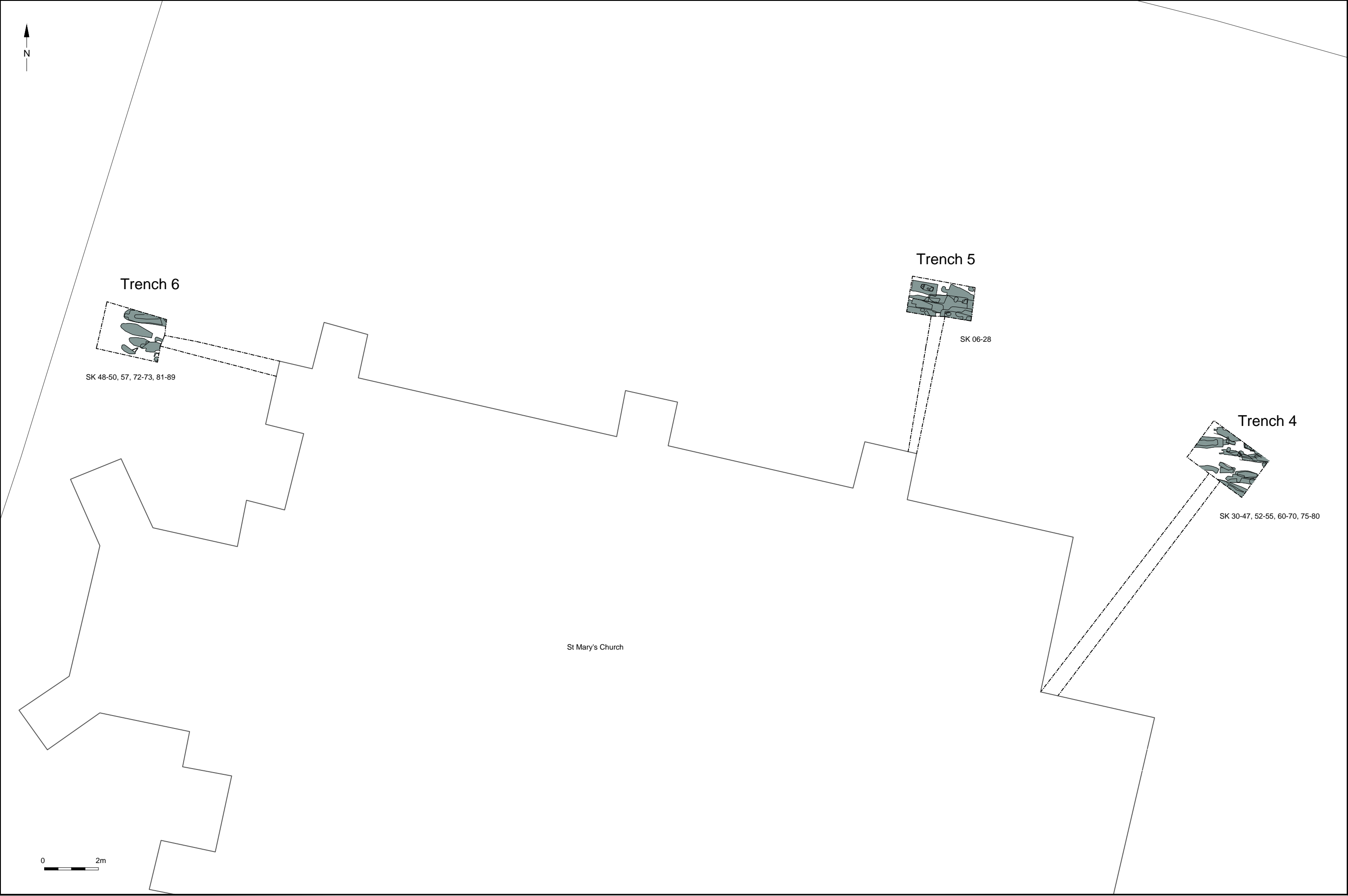




Fig. 4a: Trench 4, Skeleton 36



Fig. 4b: Trench 4, Skeleton 47



Fig. 4c: Trench 4, Skeleton 68 & 70



Fig. 4d: Trench 4, Skeleton 78

© Archaeology South-East		St Mary's Church, Newington	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5793	Jan 2013	Site photographs	
Report Ref: 2012247	Drawn by: JLR		



Fig. 5a: Trench 4, Skeletons [60] & [63]



Fig. 5b: Trench 5, excavation in progress



Fig. 5c: Trench 6, excavation in progress



Fig. 5d: Trench 6, post excavation

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