

St Mary's Church, Totton, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**ST MARY'S CHURCH,
TOTTON, HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Prepared for:
Mrs. Drew
14 Marybridge Close
Totton
Southampton
SO40 9AQ

by
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

Report reference: 71631.03
Path: x:\projects\71631\report\71631_st mary totton_report_v1.doc



February 2011

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE

QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	71631	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		NGR		436693, 112462	

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
1	I	NH	SF			X:\PROJECTS\71631\REPORT\71631_ST MARY TOTTON_REPORT_V1.DOC
	E	SF	RAC			X:\PROJECTS\71631\REPORT\71631_ST MARY TOTTON_REPORT_V2.DOC

* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

**ST MARY'S CHURCH,
TOTTON, HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Contents

Summary	iv
Acknowledgements	v
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project Background	1
1.2 The Site, location and geology	1
1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background	1
1.4 Aims and Objectives	2
2 METHODOLOGY	2
2.2 Best practice	3
2.3 Copyright	3
3 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS	3
3.1 Introduction	3
3.2 Results	3
4 FINDS	4
5 CONCLUSIONS	4
6 RECOMMENDATIONS	4
7 ARCHIVE	4
8 REFERENCES	5
9 OASIS RECORD	5
9.1 OASIS ID: wessexar1-94597	5

Figure 1: Location of Site and monitored works

Front cover: View of church from south-east

Back cover: Carved head by South Door

**ST MARY'S CHURCH,
TOTTON, HAMPSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by St Mary's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at St Mary's Church, Eling Hill, Totton, Hampshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 436693, 112462.

The watching brief was requested by the Archaeological Advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee following the submission of a proposal to improve the drainage at the northern end of the churchyard. Earlier remedial work in 2009 to repair a drainage pipe had been unsuccessful and five hand dug test pits were excavated to facilitate the installation of a new water pipe.

Although no archaeological features were recorded during the watching brief, the results have provided a comprehensive record of the deposits on the northern side of the church and indicated a relatively high level of disturbance adjacent to the path. Previous work on the site has provided evidence that the church dates from the Saxon period and indicated Romano-British activity in the vicinity, however the relatively minor excavations undertaken during the two phases of watching brief completed in 2009 and 2011, did not identify further remains relating to this activity.

**ST MARY'S CHURCH,
TOTTON, HAMPSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by St Mary's Church PCC and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mrs Drew, churchwarden at St Mary's Church, for all her help and assistance during the project. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Mark Sanders of MDS Water Services Ltd for his help and co-operation on during the works.

The initial watching brief was undertaken by Steve Thompson; the watching brief relating to this phase of work was undertaken by Naomi Hall. This report was compiled by Naomi Hall. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, TOTTON, HAMPSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mrs Drew on behalf of St Mary's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) (the 'Client'), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at St Mary's Church, Eling Hill, Totton, Hampshire (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 436693, 112462 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 An application was submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to improve the drainage in the north-western corner of the churchyard following earlier remedial works in 2009. The proposed works comprised the excavation of a new drainage trench to connect an existing drain to the main church. The DAC Archaeological Advisor recommended an archaeological watching brief was maintained during the excavations to record anything of archaeological interest and conform to current best practise.

1.1.3 A WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation, WA 2011), which set out the manner in which Wessex Archaeology would implement the archaeological watching brief was prepared and submitted to the Client and the DAC Archaeological Advisor for approval prior to the commencement of the work.

1.1.4 The watching brief was carried out on the 25th January 2011; an earlier stage of monitoring relating to drainage work was undertaken on the 27th April 2009. The results of both phases of monitoring are included in this report.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The parish church of St Mary is located on the eastern side of Eling Hill, Totton. It is bounded to the north and south by residential properties and to the west by the Eling Hill road. The large churchyard lies predominantly to the south and east. (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The church itself sits on high ground at approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) with views across Bartley Water to the medieval tide mill and the main settlement of Eling to the north-west and Eling Channel to the east.

1.2.3 The underlying bedrock is recorded as the Selsey Sand Formation with no superficial geology recorded (British Geological Survey). Observations from the watching brief suggest the superficial geology is a combination of sand and sandy clays.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 A brief search for archaeological and historical sites within a 500m radius of the Site via the Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates the presence of 18 sites, predominantly of a post-medieval and modern date. No Scheduled Monuments are recorded within the area.

- 1.3.2 The Church of St Mary may have been a minster during the Saxon period. It was altered and enlarged in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries and restored by Benjamin Ferrey in 1863. The building is Grade II* Listed. A group of five headstones 8m east of the church and an early 18th century headstone 5m to the south-west of the chancel are also Grade II Listed.
- 1.3.3 Eling itself is recorded in Domesday. Two mills, a fishery, salt house and the church are mentioned. The Tide Mill (also a Grade II* listed building) to the north-west of the Site is believed to be of medieval origins (HER reference 226827).
- 1.3.4 To the north-east of the Site, a late Neolithic or Bronze Age arrowhead was found on Goatee Beach. Although the tip had been damaged in antiquity, there was no obvious sign of modern damage. Also to the north, a Lower Palaeolithic handaxe and some other flint artefacts were found at Tamland's Gravel Pit (HER reference numbers 226797 and 1097004). No other prehistoric or Romano-British finds or features are recorded within the vicinity of the Site.
- 1.3.5 A watching brief was undertaken on land adjacent to the Village Bells pub to the south of the Site by Test Valley Archaeological Trust in 1999. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.
- 1.3.6 In 1994 archaeological work undertaken by Test Valley Archaeological Trust within the church (Nenk, Margeson and Hurley 1995, 211), located reused grave markers beneath the current south aisle. The style of these suggests they are of possible 10th or 11th century date. Quantities of Romano-British pottery were found beneath the floor of the nave and were associated with a dark soil containing animal and other organic refuse.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The aims and objectives of the watching brief were to record, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of any surviving archaeological remains observed during the groundworks.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2011). The WSI was submitted to and approved by the DAC Archaeological Advisor prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of groundworks undertaken beneath the present ground surfaces. The complete stratigraphic sequence and any archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. A full photographic record was compiled utilising digital images.
- 2.1.3 The first phase of works was recorded under site code **71630**. A unique site code for the second phase (**71631**) was allocated to the Site. The relevant code was used on all records and finds.

2.2 Best practice

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the *Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).

2.3 Copyright

- 2.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

3 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results of two phases of an archaeological watching brief are provided below. Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the Site archive.

3.2 Results

- 3.2.1 The initial phase of archaeological work comprised the observation of a single hand dug test pit measuring 1.0m x 0.7m. The test pit (TP1) was positioned adjacent to the north-west outer wall of the church in order to locate a leaking waterpipe (**Figure 1**). The north-facing section of the test pit showed a build up of churchyard soil, in excess of 0.8m and appeared to be banked up against the tower and its buttress. Within the deposit, fragments of disarticulated human bone, brick and peg tile were noted. Part of TP1 was disturbed by a modern drain.
- 3.2.2 The final phase of monitoring comprised the hand excavation of a further five test pits (TP2-TP6). The test pits were located on the north side of the church between the churchyard steps in the west and the existing toilet block to the east (**Figure 1**). A new water pipe was then threaded between the trial holes using a mechanical mole.
- 3.2.3 Each test pit measured 1.0m x 0.5m, with the exception of Test Pit 6 which measured 1.0m x 0.7m. Test Pit 6 was located immediately adjacent to the toilet block and was adjusted due to the presence of existing services and obstructions. The westernmost trial hole (TP 2) was excavated to a depth of 2.4m; the depth of the remaining test pits decreased as they proceeded further east and upslope towards the toilet block.
- 3.2.4 Test Pit 2 was located adjacent to the churchyard steps and an existing manhole cover and immediately behind a retaining brick wall. A grey-black loam churchyard soil was recorded to a depth of 0.46m and lay directly over a pale yellow-grey sandy silt loam, 0.50m thick, beneath which, a pale yellow sand was recorded. Fragments of brick and post-medieval pottery were observed in the spoil from the excavation.

- 3.2.5 Test Pit 3 was positioned adjacent to the churchyard wall and had been partially disturbed by an existing gas main. Nevertheless a similar stratigraphic sequence was observed and comprised the same churchyard soil (recorded to a depth of 0.34m) which directly overlay a pale mottled orange-green sandy clay. This deposit continued beyond the maximum depth of the trial hole (0.94m) and fragments of brick was noted, but not collected.
- 3.2.6 The remaining three test pits were cut through the tarmac path. Beneath the 0.15m of tarmac and chippings the same churchyard soil was observed. The deposit continued beyond the maximum depth of each test pit which ranged from 0.70m to 0.84m in depth. All three trial holes also contained modern services.

4 FINDS

- 4.1.1 No artefactual material was retrieved during the work.
- 4.1.2 Disarticulated skeletal remains were collected during the excavation but were reinterred in the appropriate test pit before it was backfilled.
- 4.1.3 Post-medieval and modern material was noted and identified on Site but not retained.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The results of the watching brief have provided a comprehensive record of the deposits on the northern side of the church and indicated a relatively high level of disturbance.
- 5.1.2 Previous work on the Site has provided evidence that the church dates from the Saxon period and indicated Romano-British activity in the vicinity, however the relatively minor excavations undertaken during the two phases of watching brief completed in 2009 and 2011, did not identify further remains relating to this activity.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1.1 No further work is recommended. The submission of this report to the Hampshire HER and the completion of an OASIS form are considered to be an adequate level of publication.

7 ARCHIVE

- 7.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (Walker 1990). It comprises a ring-bound file containing the written records and a copy of the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project codes **71630** and **71631**. In due course the complete archive of both this and the previous work will be deposited with the Hampshire County Council Museums Service.

- 7.1.2 Information on the Site will be placed on the online information resource OASIS.

8 REFERENCES

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation*

Nenk, B. S., Margeson, S. and Hurley, M., 1995, 'Medieval Britain and Ireland in 1994' in *Medieval Archaeology* 39, pp.180-293

Walker, K., 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for Long-term Storage*, UKIC Archaeology Section

Wessex Archaeology, 2011, | *St Mary's Church, Totton, Hampshire: Written Scheme for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, unpublished project design, reference 71631.01

Geological information available at:

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/digmap50wms.html>

Information on records held by the Historic Environment Record available at:

<http://www.pastscape.org/>

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>

9 OASIS RECORD

9.1 OASIS ID: wessexar1-94597

Project details

Project name St Mary's Church, Totton

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by St Mary's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at St Mary's Church, Eling Hill, Totton, Hampshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 436693, 112462. The watching brief was requested by the Archaeological Advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee following the submission of a proposal to improve the drainage at the northern end of the churchyard. Earlier remedial work in 2009 to repair a drainage pipe had been unsuccessful and five hand dug test pits were excavated to facilitate the installation of a new water pipe. Although no archaeological features were recorded during the watching brief, the results have provided a comprehensive record

of the deposits on the northern side of the church and indicated a relatively high level of disturbance adjacent to the path. Previous work on the site has provided evidence that the church dates from the Saxon period and indicated Romano-British activity in the vicinity, however the relatively minor excavations undertaken during the two phases of watching brief completed in 2009 and 2011, did not identify further remains relating to this activity.

Project dates Start: 18-01-2011 End: 28-02-2011

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any project codes associated reference 71630 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 4 - Churchyard

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE NEW FOREST TOTTON AND ELING St Mary's Church

Postcode SO40 9HF

Study area 6.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 367 123 50.9084493330 -1.477956518450 50 54 30 N 001 28 40 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 20.00m Max: 20.00m

Project creators

Name of Wessex Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Diocesan Archaeologist
originator

Project design Wessex Archaeology
originator

Project Sue Farr
director/manager

Project supervisor Naomi Hall

Type of Parochial Church Council
sponsor/funding
body

Name of St Mary's Church PCC
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Physical Archive Hampshire County Museums Service
recipient

Digital Archive Hampshire County Museums Service
recipient

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
available

Paper Archive Hampshire County Museums Service

recipient

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research','
General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title St Mary's Church

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hall, N

Other bibliographic details 71631

Date 2011

Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

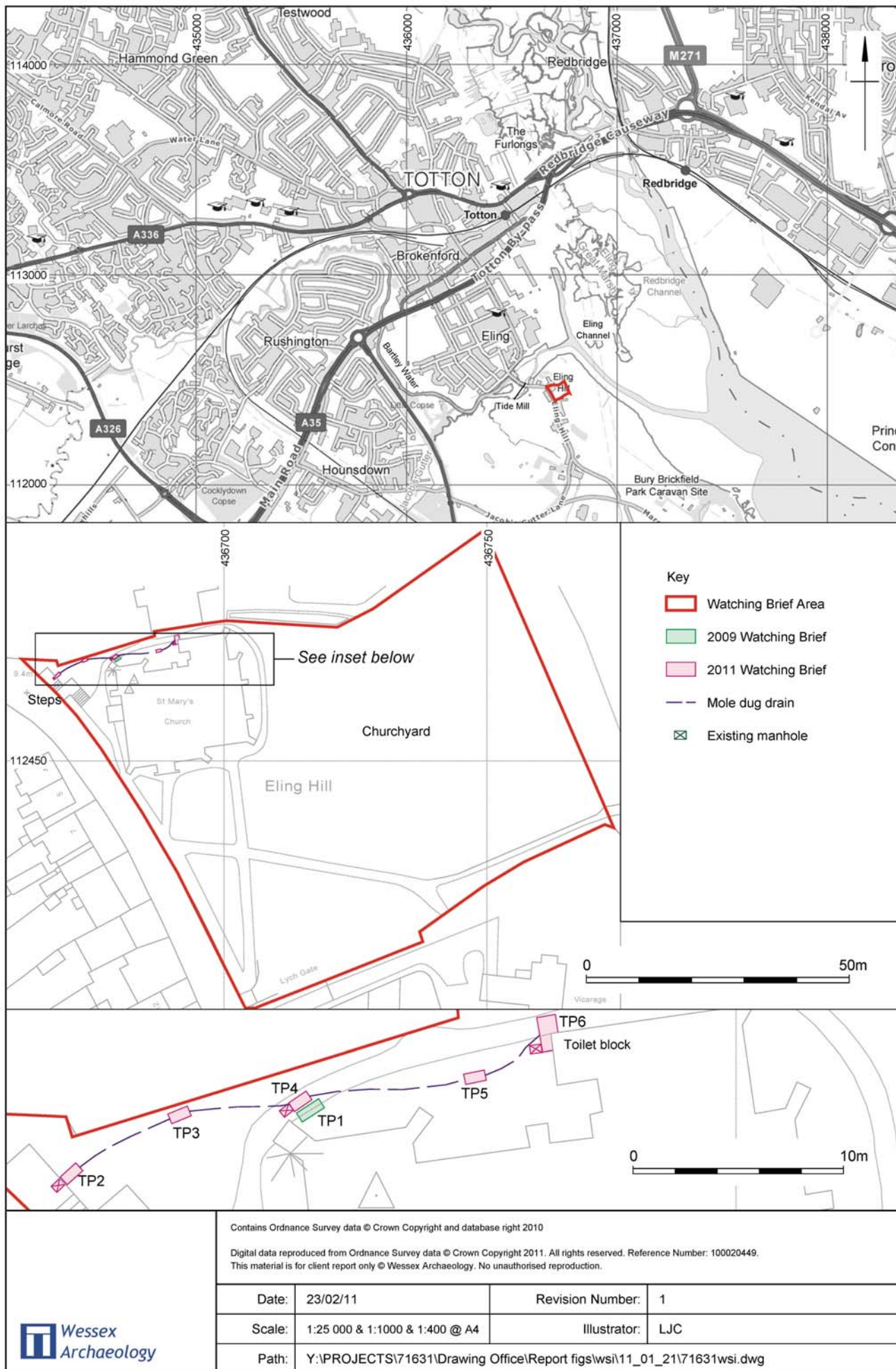
Place of issue or publication Salisbury

Description Grey literature client report

URL <http://www.oasis.ac.uk>

Entered by S Farr (s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 28 February 2011



Location of Site and monitored works

Figure 1



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk

Regional offices in **Edinburgh, Rochester and Sheffield**

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk



Registered Charity No. 287786. A company with limited liability registered in England No. 1712772.