

# **St Mary & All Saints Church, Droxford ('the Church') – Report of Archaeological Advisor on the Excavations carried out at the North Door week commencing 16 April 2012**

Author: Gordon Hope

[www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk](http://www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk)



3. Excavation works were completed on Thursday 19 April 2012. On the first day of the excavation the weather was fine all day. During the remaining three days the weather was cloudy with heavy showers and intermittent sunny spells.
4. A number of human remains (bones) were unearthed (see below for a more detailed account) and these were held safely until the excavations were completed, at which time they were, with the agreement of the Archdeacon of the Meon, laid to rest in consecrated ground at a service presided over by the Rector.
5. On day 3 (18 April 2012) what appeared to be part of a complete human skeleton (pelvis, femur and ribs) was uncovered, the projected location of the skull being close to the planned eastern edge of the soakaway pit. After discussion it was agreed to extend the trench more to the west than originally planned to ensure that the skeleton would not be disturbed further.

6. During the excavations no solid artefacts or grave goods were uncovered, other than the human remains mentioned in this report.
7. Records were made and photographs taken at regular intervals to note findings and progress of the excavation.

#### Detailed Account by Day

1. **Day 1 (16 April 2012)** - Digging started at around 8.30am. At around 9.30am a partial skull cranium (no lower jawbone etc) was unearthed in pieces, together with three other human bones (see photographs below). Location was around nine inches below the surface, adjacent to the two standing gravestones (see plan above).





2. **Day 2 (17 April 2012)** - Digging started at around 8.30am. At around 3.00pm several human bones (part of shoulder blade/scapula, forearm/radius/ulna and thigh/femur) were unearthed (see photograph below).

Location was around three feet below the surface, approximately two feet further along the trench towards the soakaway pit (see plan above).



3. **Day 3 (18 April 2012)** - Digging started at around 8.30am. At around 9.30am part of a skeleton (pelvis, femur and ribs) was uncovered (see photographs below) approximately four feet below the surface and approximately four feet further along the trench towards the soakaway pit (see attached plan). It is likely that, if excavated, this would have turned out to be a complete skeleton. Orientation was East/West (head facing West), in line with other burials marked by headstones nearby.

Digging was suspended whilst position was recorded and photographs were taken. Subsequently a decision was taken to extend the location of the soakaway pit further away from the Church than originally planned, to avoid disturbing the rest of the skeleton. A few more bones were discovered during the digging of the soakaway pit itself, including the top of a skull (see photographs below).

Digging stopped at around 5pm.



4. **Day 4 (19 April 2012)** - The remainder of the soakaway pit was dug, with no more human remains uncovered. Work was completed and the pit and trenches filled in.





St Mary & All Saints Church, Droxford



**Michael Chandler**

**Archaeological Report: Works carried out w/c 16 April 2012**