

**An archaeological evaluation at the
east end of All Saints Church,
Odiham, Hampshire**

NGR: SU 7405 5093

**by
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**Report to Mr Derek Spruce, the Odiham Parochial Church Council & the
Odiham Society**

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Contents

	page no.
Summary statement	3
1.0 Introduction	4
2.0 Historical background	4
3.0 Strategy	5
4.0 Results	5
5.0 Discussion	6
6.0 Conclusions	8
7.0 Finds	8
8.0 Copyright	8
9.0 Archive	8
10.0 Acknowledgements	9
11.0 References	9

Appendices

Appendix 1: list of contexts excavated	11
Appendix 2: catalogue of photographs taken	12
Appendix 3: glossary of archaeological terms	13

Figures

Figures 1-4	back of report
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Summary statement

Recent drainage works at All Saints Church, Odiham, Hampshire located what appeared to be the foundations of walls at the east end of the church beyond the chancel. This was not recorded at the time. The unusual location of these foundations has prompted Odiham Parochial Church Council, advised by the Winchester Diocesan Archaeological Adviser (hereafter DAA), to request an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken to relocate and record the structure. This evaluation was carried out to establish the nature, location, and extent of archaeological remains previously observed at the site, to determine if they represent part of a recognisable structure, and to attempt to characterise and date that structure. The work was carried out by C K Currie of CKC Archaeology.

The flint foundations of a building of moderately substantial proportions was located at the east end of Odiham church. It was not symmetrical aligned with the chancel, but overlapped part of it and the adjoining south chapel. A blocked Perpendicular door in the chancel wall seems to have been its entrance, and scarring on the external chancel wall indicates that it was a low single storey structure, probably with a flat or low-pitched roof. The building is not shown on 19th-century plans and illustrations, and clearly is not a late post-medieval structure. The evidence, therefore, suggests a late medieval or early post-medieval structure. A number of possibilities are suggested including a chantry, vestry or sacristy, but none fit the bill exactly, and none are known to be recorded in the existing records.

Odiham church has been identified as having had an unusual history. It was in a former royal manor, was a possible minster church that became the possession of the chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral, despite being within the more wealthy diocese of Winchester. It is suggested that it is possible that this unusual status may have been the reason for an unexpected structure to be built at the east end of the church.

An archaeological evaluation at the east end of All Saints Church, Odiham, Hampshire

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This report has been written based on the format suggested by the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Birmingham, 1994). The ordering of information follows the guidelines given in this document, although alterations may have been made to fit in with the particular requirements of the work. All work is carried out according to the *Code of Conduct* and By-laws of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, of which CKC Archaeology is an IFA-registered archaeological organisation (reference: RAO no. 1).

1.0 Introduction

Recent drainage works at All Saints Church, Odiham, Hampshire located what appeared to be the foundations of walls at the east end of the church beyond the chancel. This was not recorded at the time. The unusual location of these foundations has prompted Odiham Parochial Church Council, advised by the Winchester Diocesan Archaeological Adviser (hereafter DAA), to request an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken to relocate and record the structure. This evaluation was carried out to establish the nature, location, and extent of archaeological remains previously observed at the site, to determine if they represent part of a recognisable structure, and to attempt to characterise and date that structure. The work was carried out by C K Currie of CKC Archaeology.

2.0 Historical background

All Saints Church is the historic parish church of the large parish of Odiham, in NE Hampshire. The village contains a number of buildings of historic interest, and its former local importance is attested by it having been a royal manor with the remains of a royal castle 1.5km NW of the church. The latter is a large rectangular building, with extended aisles embracing a 17th-century west tower. These aisles extend either side of the chancel to create an east end with three gables.

There are two churches and three priests mentioned at Odiham in Domesday Book (Munby 1982, 1.1). There is some evidence to suggest that Odiham was a minster church in Saxon times (Blair 1988, 63), as it had a number of chapels dependent on it during the medieval period. These included another chapel in Odiham (possibly at the castle), with others at Greywell, Liss, Weston Patrick, and Rotherwick. There was also a chapel of ease at North Wanborough, but this had vanished by the end of the 16th century (Mogar *et al* 1911, 97; Leach 1898, 90). In 1115 Henry I granted Odiham church to the cathedral church of St Mary at Salisbury and Roger, Bishop of Salisbury. King Stephen confirmed this grant, but somehow during the anarchy of his reign it was lost. In 1157 Henry II restored it to Bishop Jocelin in exchange for Devizes Castle. It then became the custom for the chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral to be rector of Odiham and to enjoy the income of the great tithes. The rectors had to maintain the chancel of the church. The chancellors nominated deputies

(vicars) to serve the church in Odiham and to enjoy the lesser tithes. In 1856, on the death of Bishop Percy of Carlisle, who was also chancellor of Salisbury, the advowson passed to the bishop of Winchester, and the great tithe income went to the newly formed Ecclesiastical Commissioners..

The earliest structural remains at Odiham date from the 13th-century, although a piscina in the south aisle is thought to date to the late 12th century (Wentworth & Millard 1995). The nave, chancel and side aisles all seem to be of 13th-century date. In the 16th century, the outer walls of the aisles and side chapels were rebuilt. In the east wall of the chancel is a small door leading to a now vanished eastern structure. Both the *VCH* (op cit, 95) and Pevsner and Lloyd (1967, 363) have speculated that this might have been an eastern vestry. The church was heavily restored in 1850-1, replaced nearly all the older window tracery (Mogar *et al* 1911, 94).

3.0 Strategy

The strategy for this work is outlined in the project design (Currie 2001), to which the reader is referred. A copy was deposited with the Diocesan Archaeologist, Mr Ken Qualmann, Winchester City Archaeologist, Historic Resources Centre, 75 Hyde Street, Winchester, Hants, and the project archive held by Hampshire Museum Services, Chilcombe House, Winchester, Hants (Acc no A2001/22).

Three trenches were excavated across the suspected line of the conjectured walls of a structure attached to the east end of the church. These were restricted in size to being sufficient to locate the walls and determine their width, leaving as much of the rest of the structure *in situ*. Having located the walls, they were cleaned up, recorded and reburied.

4.0 Results

4.1 Trench 1

This trench was 1.5m N-S and 0.6m E-W. It was excavated approximately in line with a scar on the east end of the chancel wall that was thought might be related to the foundations observed during previous pipe-laying. Topsoil [context 01] was a dark brown clay loam about 0.1m deep and overlay a slightly more clayey subsoil [context 02]. The latter was much disturbed and contained fragments of chalk, flint and the occasional small piece of disturbed human bone, the result of continuous grave digging in the area over a number of centuries. A flint and mortar wall [context 04], 0.75m wide, was located taking an E-W alignment approximately 0.27m below the surface. Much of this wall was relatively undisturbed, allowing a full width to be recorded. The wall was neatly made of napped flint nodules set in a thick sandy mortar. The outer edges were reasonably well squared off. Towards the eastern edge of the trench the wall showed signs of being robbed to a slightly greater depth than on the west side of the trench. No construction cut [context 03] was observed, so it was assumed that the wall footing was built tight against the edge of the foundation trench. The full depth of the wall was not excavated. Having established the

location and width of the wall, excavation stopped at a depth of about 0.33m below the present ground surface.

4.2 Trench 2

This trench was 1.8m N-S and 0.6m E-W. Topsoil [context 05] and subsoil [context 06] were similar to those observed in trench 1. The remains of a flint and mortar wall [context 10] were located on an E-W alignment less than 0.1m below the present ground surface. This feature was disturbed on its north (internal) side by what appeared to be a round-headed grave cut [context 07]. The wall thickness appeared to be 0.84m. but this should be treated with caution owing to the later disturbance. Having established the location and width of the wall, excavation stopped about 0.2m below the present ground surface.

4.3 Trench 3

This trench was 1.4m E-W and 0.5m N-S. Topsoil [context 11] and subsoil [context 12] were similar to those in trenches 1 and 2. The remains of a flint and mortar wall [context 18] were located taking a N-S alignment approximately 0.1m below the present ground surface. This fragment of walling was similar in construction to that in trench 1, but more heavily disturbed. There appeared to be a cut [context 15] disturbing the western (internal) edge of the wall. This was interpreted as being most likely to be a grave cut. Where the thickness of the wall could be measured, it appeared to be 0.84m wide, but, as with trench 2, this should be treated with some caution owing to the later disturbance. Having established the location and width of the wall, excavation stopped about 0.2m below the present ground surface.

In the extreme NW corner of the trench, the cut of the recent service trench [context 13] was seen. This contained a fill of fine gravel [context 14].

5.0 Discussion

The trenches clearly located the three external walls of a structure formerly attached to the east end of Odiham church. This, like much of the medieval church, was made of mortared flint, a common building material in Hampshire churches. It would be expected that only the corner quoins and architectural features such as doors and windows would have used ashlar stone. The structure appeared to be 3.96m wide on its N-S alignment, and 3.84m on its E-W alignment. The south and east walls were disturbed by probable grave cuts, but both seemed to have a maximum width of 0.84m. The north wall was relatively undisturbed, and had a thickness of 0.75m. Bearing in mind that disturbance to the south and east walls could have distorted their thickness, the internal dimensions are so nearly equal that the structure was almost a square.

It was noted after the walls were excavated that they lined up almost exactly with scars on the wall of the church's east end. Here, the scars of a low structure were seen below the level of the east windows. These did not line up exactly with either chancel or south chapel, but appeared to overlap both in unequal proportions. A blocked Perpendicular door on the south side of the chancel would have entered into this structure.

The scar on the east wall of the church is presently marked out by a covering of concrete render. Beneath this were traces of brickwork. The scar indicated a low single storey structure, probably with a flat roof, or at best a roof with a very shallow pitch. Anything steeper would have blocked light entering the east windows of the church. The concrete render is almost certainly a modern addition to hide the scar, but it is uncertain if the brick seen under is part of this cosmetic effect or the walling of the original building. It would seem odd, when there is so much brickwork in the present church from the 17th century onwards, that the builders of the eastern structure should have made the foundations of flint and the walls of brick. The only exception is if the brick is very early thus making it a higher status building material. If this was the case it might have been more convenient and cheaper to use than flint for the foundations.

The blocked three-centred arched door in the chancel suggests that the eastern structure was originally of Perpendicular date. This would have dated it roughly between 1380 and 1540. However, Perpendicular features can be found in churches beyond this general date range. At North Stoneham, Hampshire, the church was rebuilt in an archaic Perpendicular style at the very end of the 16th century (Pevsner & Lloyd 1967, 357), and so it is possible the door could date from after the mid-16th century. Likewise, the door could be a replacement of an earlier opening, but this is less likely. Structures like that found on the east end of the chancel are rare. Its unsymmetrical position in relation to the chancel and its low form makes it unlikely to have been a Lady Chapel, the most obvious type of eastern structure in churches. It is therefore unlikely to pre-date the 14th century. The most probable purpose of such a building is a private chantry chapel, a sacristy or a vestry. In such a position none would be expected to be earlier than the late medieval period.

If the structure is a chantry there is no record of such at Odiham. This need not exclude an unrecorded chantry. Early vestries are rare in Hampshire churches, the majority being added in the late post-medieval period. Sacristies are similarly rare in non-monastic churches. The structure at Odiham is not recorded on any 19th-century plans or drawings (HRO 21M65/F7/177/1-2; OS maps, 1871 and 1897 eds; HRO TOP 243/2/1; Hubbuck 1997, 23), suggesting that it is not a demolished late post-medieval vestry (or other structure), although this does not prevent it from being an earlier one.

None of the obvious suggestions given above fits the normal expectations, and so there is probably a need to seek some exceptional circumstance for this oddly sited structure. The one unusual characteristic of Odiham is that it was a church appropriated by the chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral. This is not necessarily unusual in itself, but it is well outside the Salisbury Diocese, in the heart of the more powerful diocese of Winchester. The church is also one of the largest in the northern part of Hampshire, and thought to have been of minster status. It was also within a former royal manor, where there was, at one time, an important royal castle. There are, therefore, a number of exceptional characteristics to the status of Odiham church. It is possible that one or a number of these factors caused the need for an unusual building to be attached to the church. The foundations were of sufficient proportions to suggest that the structure was not a flimsy outbuilding, but a well-made structure.

Should any further work be contemplated, it is suggested that it should look at recovering further evidence for the structure, but taking care not to excavate deep enough to disturb any graves. It would be of interest to examine the corner of the building to see if it had ashlar quoins, and to see if there is any evidence for an external door that might suggest another access other than from the chancel.

6.0 Finds

No finds were recovered that helped to date the structure. The only finds made were residual fragments of bone, one post-medieval pipe stem, and two fragments of pottery of possible 19th-century date recovered from the topsoil. None were found in stratified contexts and so were not retained.

7.0 Conclusions

The flint foundations of a building of moderately substantial proportions was located at the east end of Odiham church. It was not symmetrical aligned with the chancel, but overlapped part of it and the adjoining south chapel. A blocked Perpendicular door in the chancel wall seems to have been its entrance, and scarring on the external chancel wall indicates that it was a low single storey structure, probably with a flat or low-pitched roof. The building is not shown on 19th-century plans and illustrations, and clearly is not a late post-medieval structure. The evidence, therefore, suggests a late medieval or early post-medieval structure. A number of possibilities are suggested including a chantry, vestry or sacristy, but none fit the bill exactly, and none are known to be recorded in the existing records.

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8.0 Copyright

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9.0 Archive

The archive for this work has been deposited with the Hampshire County Museum Services (Acc no A2001/22). Copies of the report were lodged with the clients, The Diocesan Archaeologist, Mr Ken Qualmann, Winchester City Museums Service, 75 Hyde St,

Winchester, Hants, the Hampshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) at The Castle, Winchester, Hants, and the National Monuments Record in Swindon, Wiltshire.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are given to all those involved with this project. Derek and Wendy Spruce, who partly funded the work and ably assisted with the excavation. The incumbent, the Vicar of Odiham, Canon Michael Bever, is thanked for allowing the work to take place, and for his encouragement and discussion. The Odiham Society for their contribution towards funding this project. Ken Qualmann acted as archaeological monitor for the diocese, and provided the brief.

11.0 References

11.1 Original sources in the Hampshire Record Office (HRO):

21M65/F7/177/1-2 Tithe survey for Odiham, 1843

OS 25" plan, 1871 ed, (sheet 19.12)

OS 6" plan, 1897 ed, (sheet XIX SE)

TOP 243/2/1 drawing of Odiham Church from the north, 1852

11.2 Original sources in print

J Munby, *Domesday Book. Hampshire*, Chichester, 1982

11.3 Secondary sources

J Blair, *Minsters and Parish Churches. The Local Church in Transition*, Oxford, 1988

C K Currie, *Project Design for an archaeological evaluation at All Saints Church, Odiham, Hampshire*, unpublished client report, 2001

English Heritage, *The management of archaeological projects*, London, 1992, revised edition

R Hubbuck, 'Medieval churches in Hampshire in old pictures, 1700-1900. A selective survey. Part III (Odiham to Petersfield)', *Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society newsletter*, new series no 27 (1997), 23-6

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A F Leach, *English Schools at the Reformation 1546/8*, 1898

O M Mogar, F Kennedy & K M Upcott, 'Odiham' in W Page (ed), *The Victoria history of the county of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, vol. 4, London, 1911, 87-98

N Pevsner & D Lloyd, *The buildings of England. Hampshire*, Harmondsworth, 1967

M Wentworth & R Millard, *Illustrated guide to the church of All Saints, Odiham, Hampshire*, Odiham, 1995 (4th ed, 1st ed, 1989)

Appendix 1: list of contexts excavated

Context	Description	Munsell Colour
01	clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
02	clay loam layer	10YR 3/4
03	construction cut for 04	
04	flint and mortar foundation	
05	clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
06	clay loam layer	10YR 3/4
07	round-headed cut	
08	clay loam fill of 07	10YR 3/3
09	construction cut for 10	
10	flint and mortar foundation	
11	clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
12	clay loam layer	10YR 3/4
13	linear cut for modern drain	
14	clay loam/gravel fill of 13	10YR 3/3
15	possible grave cut	
16	clay loam fill of 15	10YR 3/3
17	construction cut for 18	
18	flint and mortar foundation	

Appendix 2: catalogue of photographs taken

Photographs were taken in both colour slide and monochrome print. In the archive the colour slides are prefixed with the site code, followed by 'S' to indicate photograph type, eg (Site Code - OD)/S/* (* indicating the photograph number). Monochrome prints are number (Site Code- OD)/M/*, following the same procedure as for slides.

1. Trench 1 completed showing flint foundation from N
2. ditto
3. Trench 2 completed showing flint foundation from S
4. ditto
5. Trench 3 completed showing flint foundation from E
6. ditto
7. Odiham church from the SW
8. East end of Odiham church showing scarring on external wall of possible structure, from NE

Appendix 3: glossary of archaeological terms

Archaeology: the study of man's past by means of the material relics he has left behind him. By material relics, this means both materials buried within the soil (artefacts and remains of structures), and those surviving above the surface such as buildings, structures (e.g. stone circles) and earthworks (e.g. hillforts, old field boundaries etc.). Even the study of old tree or shrub alignments, where they have been artificially planted in the past, can give vital information on past activity.

Artefacts: any object made by man that finds itself discarded (usually as a broken object) or lost in the soil. The most common finds are usually pottery sherds, or waste flint flakes from prehistoric stone tool making. Metal finds are generally rare except in specialist areas such as the site of an old forge. The absence of finds from the activity of metal detectorists is not usually given much credibility by archaeologists as a means of defining if archaeology is present

Baulk: an area of unexcavated soil on an archaeological site. It usually refers to the sides of the archaeological trench.

Burnt flint: in prehistoric times, before metal containers were available, water was often boiled in pottery or wooden containers by dropping stones/flints heated in a fire into the container. The process of suddenly cooling hot stone, particularly flint, causes the stone to crack, and form distinctive crazed markings all over its surface. Finds of large quantities of such stone are usually taken as a preliminary indication of past human presence nearby.

Context: a number given to a unit of archaeological recording. This can include a layer, a cut, a fill of a cut, a surface or a structure.

Cut: usually used to mean an excavation made in the past. The 'hole' or cut existed in time as a void, before later being backfilled with soil. Archaeologists give a context number to the empty hole, as well as the backfilled feature (called the 'fill').

Desk-based assessment: an assessment of a known or potential archaeological resource within a specific land unit or area, consisting of a collation of existing written or graphic information, to identify the likely character, extent and relative quality of the actual or potential resource.

Earthwork: bank of earth, hollow, or other earthen feature created by human activity.

Environmental evidence: evidence of the potential effect of environmental considerations on man's past activity. This can range from the remains of wood giving an insight into the type of trees available for building materials etc, through to evidence of crops grown, and food eaten, locally.

Evaluation: a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork (mainly test-trenching) which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified land unit or area. If they are present, this will define their character, extent, and relative quality, and allow an assessment of their worth in local, regional and national terms.

Hedgebanks: banks of earth, usually with a ditch, that have been set up in the past on which is planted a stock-proof line of shrubs. There is written evidence that they were made from at least Roman times, but they are suspected as existing in prehistoric times.

Lynchet: bank of earth that accumulates on the downhill side of an ancient ploughed field as the disturbed soil moves down the slope under the action of gravity.

Munsell colour: an objective method of defining soil colour using a specially designed colour chart for soils. The reading defines hue (an objective description of colour; eg YR means yellow-red), value (darkness or lightness of the colour) and chroma (the greyness or purity of the colour). For example 10YR 3/2 is a dark grey-brown.

Natural [layer]: in archaeological reports, this is a layer that has been formed by natural process, usually underlying man-made disturbance.

Period: time periods within British chronology are usually defined as Prehistoric (comprising the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age), Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval. Although exact definitions are often challenged, the general date ranges are as given below.

Prehistoric c. 100,000 BC - AD 43. This is usually defined as the time before man began making written records of his activities.

Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age 100,000 - 8300 BC

Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age 8300 - 4000 BC

Neolithic or New Stone Age 4000 - 2500 BC

Bronze Age 2500 - 700 BC

Iron Age 700 BC - AD 43

Roman AD 43-410

Saxon AD 410-1066

Medieval AD 1066-1540

Post-medieval AD 1540-present

Pottery sherds: small pieces of broken baked clay vessels that find their way into ancient soils. These can be common in all periods from the Neolithic onwards. They often find their way into the soil by being dumped on the settlement rubbish tip, when broken, and subsequently taken out and scattered in fields with farmyard manure.

Project Design: a written statement on the project's objectives, methods, timetable and resources set out in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.

Settlement: usually defined as a site where human habitation in the form of permanent or temporary buildings or shelters in wood, stone, brick or any other building material has existed in the past.

Site: usually defined as an area where human activity has taken place in the past. It does not require the remains of buildings to be present. A scatter of prehistoric flint-working debris can be defined as a 'site', with or without evidence for permanent or temporary habitation.

Sondage: an arbitrary hole dug during archaeological excavation. Often dug after the main excavation is complete to quickly test for information that may be required to clarify points of the main excavation.

Stratigraphy: sequence of man-made soils overlying undisturbed soils; the lowest layers generally represent the oldest periods of man's past, with successive layers reaching forwards to the present. It is within these soils that archaeological information is obtained.

Worked flint or stone: usually taken to mean pieces of chipped stone or flint used to make prehistoric stone tools. A worked flint can comprise the tools themselves (arrowheads, blades etc.), or the waste material produced in their making (often called flint flakes, cores etc.).

Archive list for Odiham Church evaluation (Acc no A2001/22)

SU 7405 5093

The archive contains:

1. Context sheets, numbers 01-18
2. Photographic recording sheets, total 1
3. Drawing record sheets, total 1
4. One pack of Black/White photographs with negatives.
5. One plastic sleeve containing colour slide film.
6. Project brief, 2 sheets.
7. Project design, 10 sheets.
8. Original permatrace drawings, total one sheet.
9. Report with illustrations, 14 sheets, 4 figs.
10. Correspondence and miscellaneous papers concerning site, total 4 sheets:
 - i. Letter from Diocesan Archaeological Advisor
 - ii. Application to excavate
 - iii. Letter from project sponsor, Derek Spruce, plus hand drawn map showing place to park for unloading archaeological equipment.

Hampshire

Fig. 1: location

Odiham

N

B3016

M25

A287

SU 73 52

B3349

**+
Odiham
Church**

0

1 km

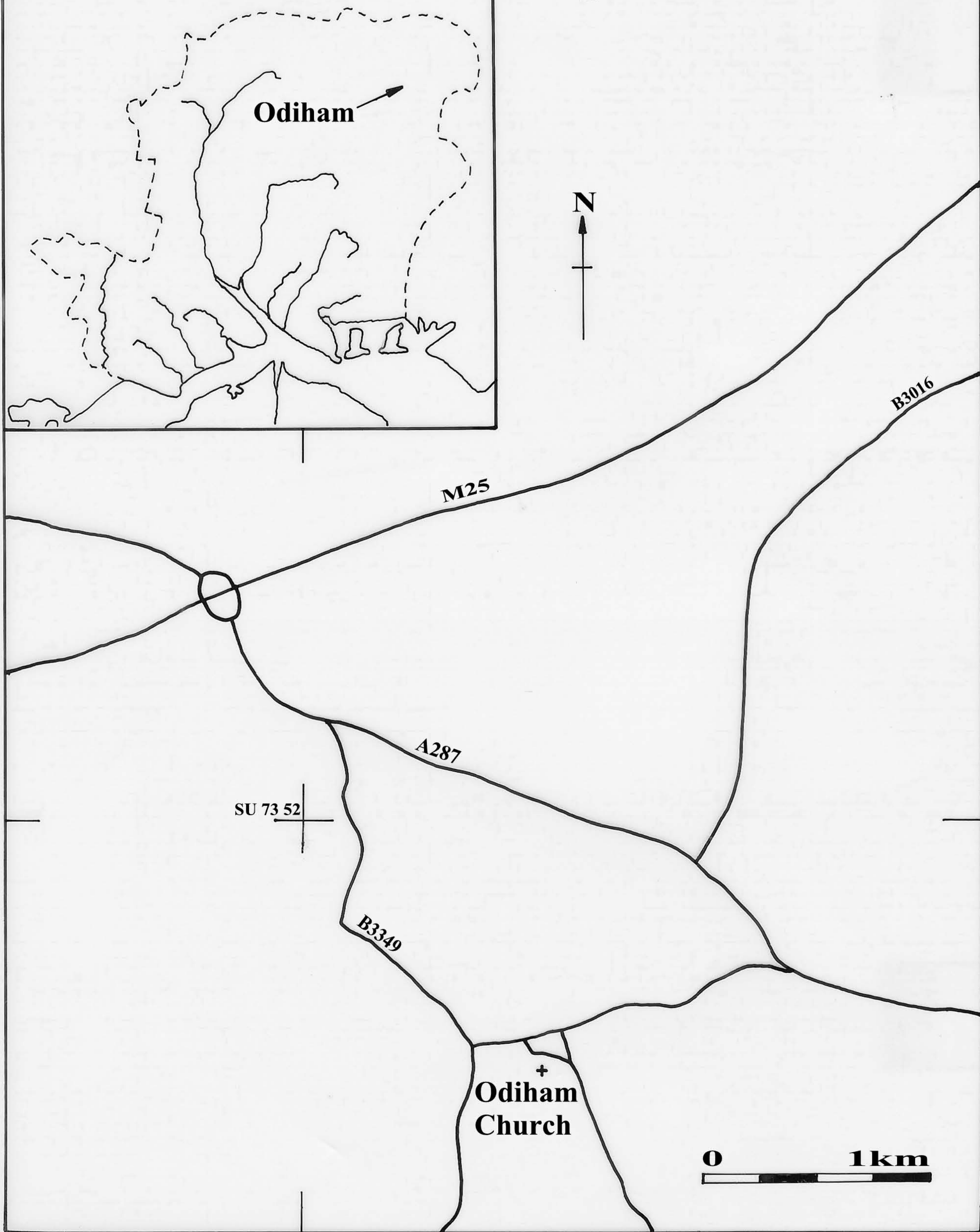


Fig. 2: Odiham showing position and outline of church in 1871. From OS 1st edition 25" plan (sheet 19.12).

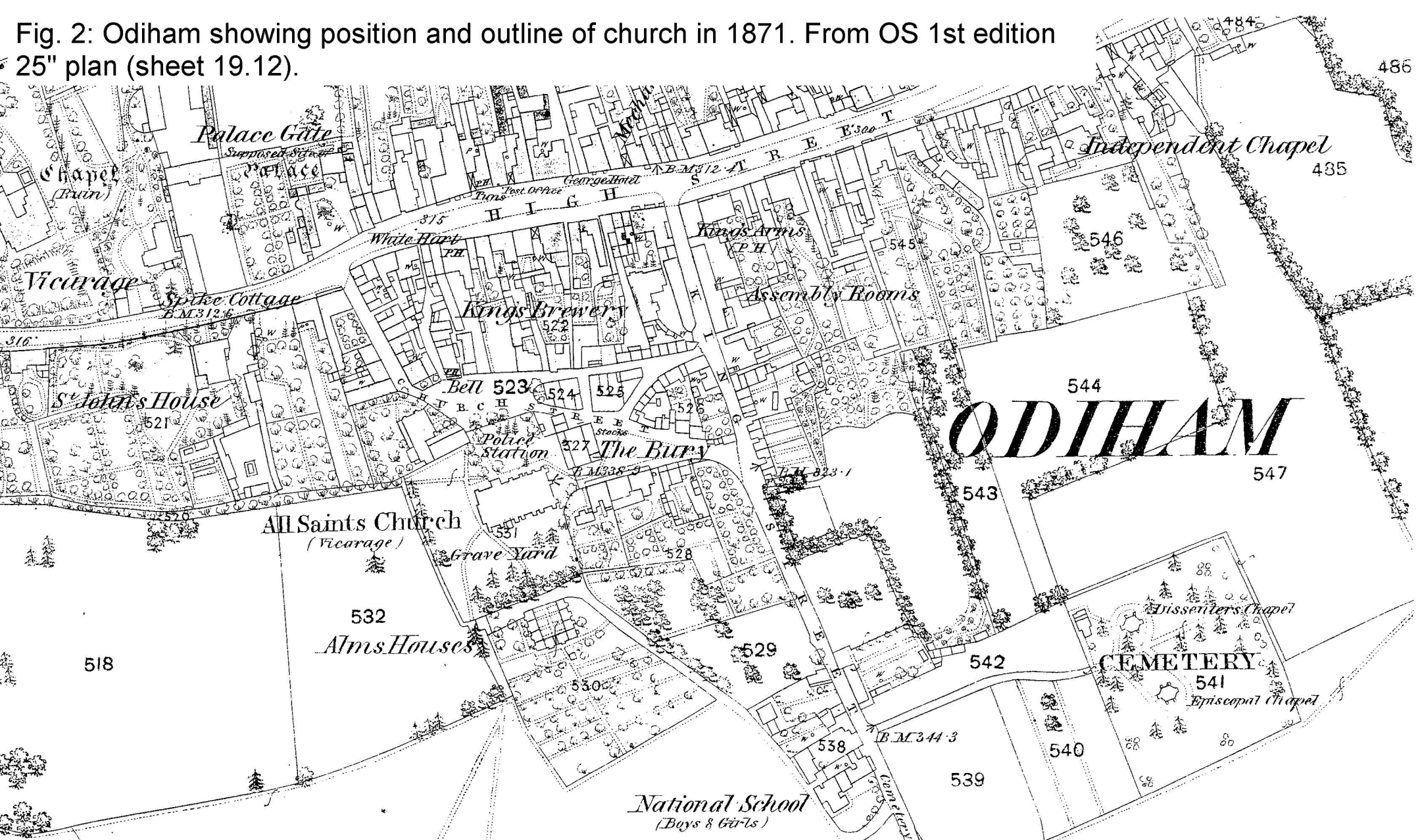
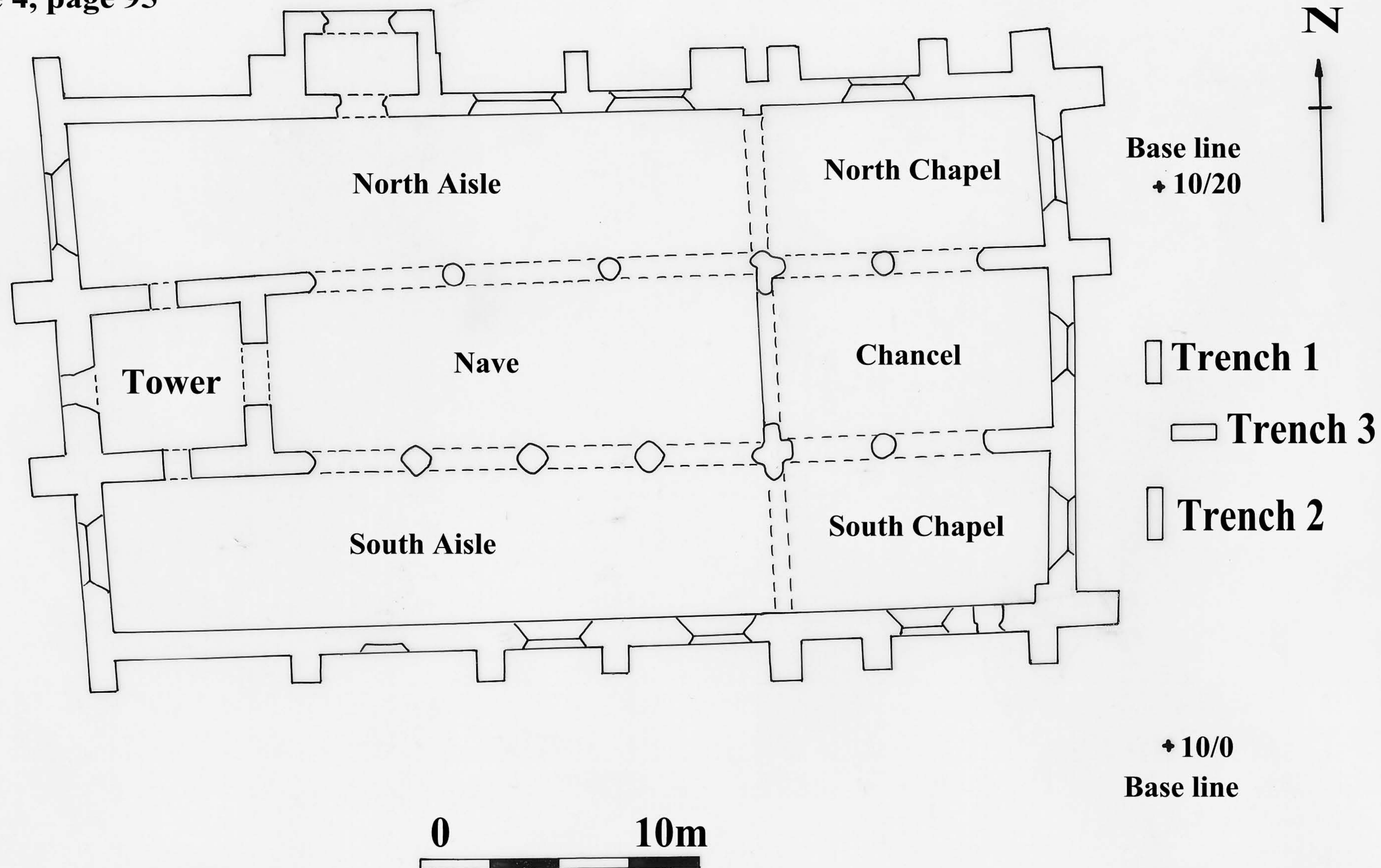
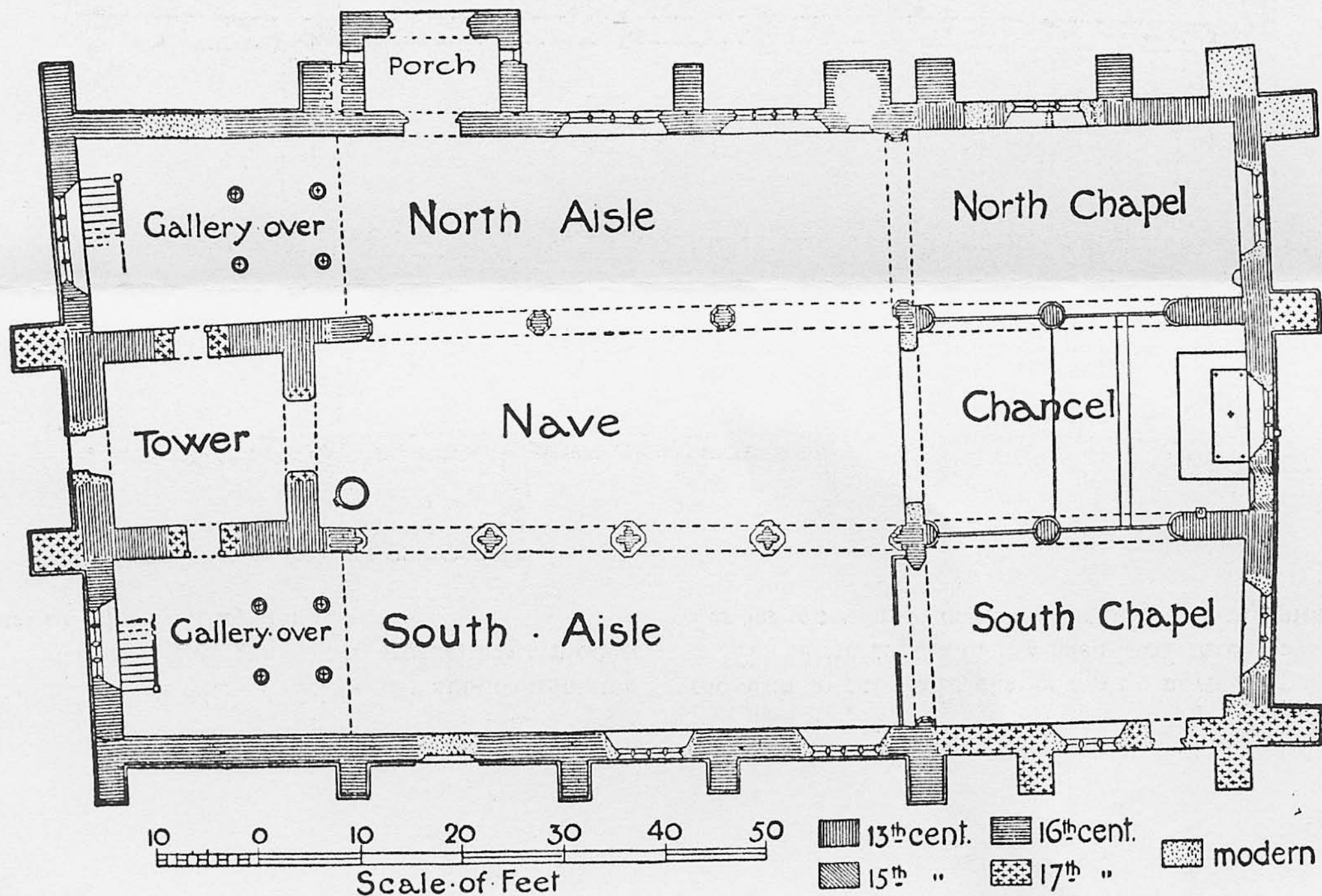


Fig. 3: plan of Odiham church showing location of trenches

Based on plan from Victoria County History,
volume 4, page 95

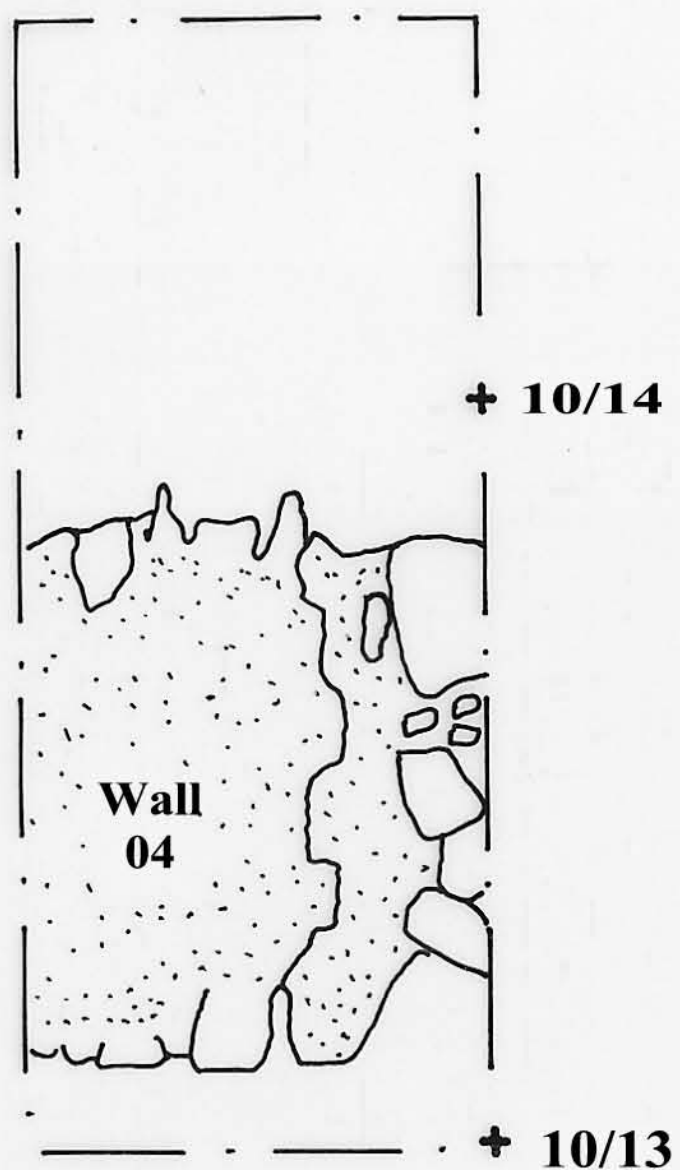




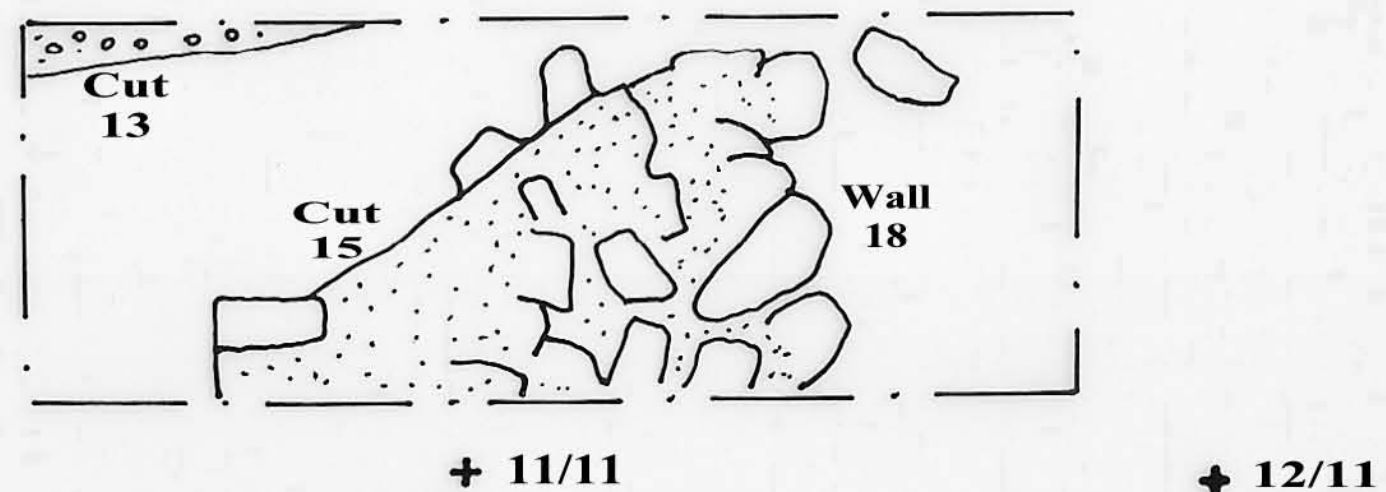
PLAN OF ODIHAM CHURCH

Fig. 4: trench plans & section

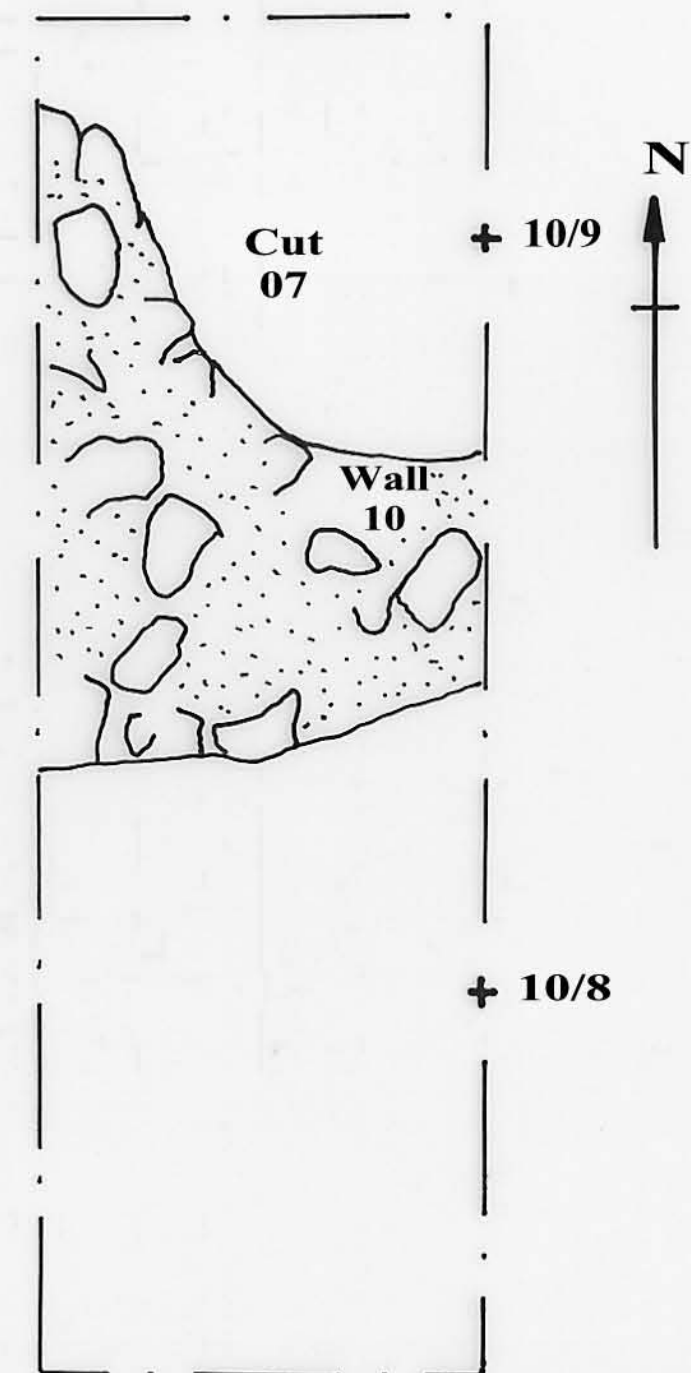
Plan: Trench 1



Plan: Trench 3



Plan: Trench 2



West facing section: Trench 1

