

**Church of St Michael the Archangel,
Woodham Walter, Essex**

Faculty Ref: 0896

Site code: WWSM 13

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

(© John Newman BA MIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA)

(September 2013)

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Site details for HER

Name: Church of St Michael the Archangel, Woodham Walter, Essex

Client: PCC St Michael's, Woodham Walter

Relevant faculty authority: Diocese of Chelmsford (DC- Maldon)

Faculty ref: 0896

Development: Erection of extension for WC facility over site of former south porch

Date of fieldwork: 4 September, 2013

Site HER code: WWSM 13

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-159809

Grid ref: TL 8089 0670

LBS ref: 1110960 (Grade II*)

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John Newman Archaeological Services

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Church of St Michael the Archangel, Church Hill, Woodham Walter (constructed in 1563 on a new site from former medieval parish church which was probably located close to the former site of Woodham Walter Hall to the south-east)	
Faculty ref: 0896 (LPA- Maldon DC)	
Parish: Woodham Walter	District: Maldon DC (Diocese of Chelmsford)
NGR: TL 8089 0670	Site Code: WWSM 13 (LBS 1110960- Grade II*) (OASIS- johnnewm1-159809)
Type of Work: Watching brief on mechanical excavation of raft foundation for small extension over site of south porch which was demolished in 1790s.	Site Director/Group: John Newman Archaeological Services
Date of Work: 4 September, 2013	Size of Area Investigated: 16m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: St Michaels, Woodham Walter PCC
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER No's:
Final Report: Mechanical excavation of a 3.50m x 4.50m raft foundation to a maximum depth of 1400mm over the former site of the south porch to the church (which was demolished in the 1790s) revealed demolition debris for the former brick built porch of 1563 and in the eastern section of the foundation the western end of three or four grave cuts, at a depth of 1000mm to 1300mm, including the top of one skull which was left in situ. Samples of the brick built and tile roofed porch of mid 16 th date plus 4 unstratified sherds of medieval to late medieval date were recovered from the upcast spoil (see report below) but no stray human bone was revealed.	
Periods Represented: Medieval & late medieval (US sherds of pottery) & evidence for early Post medieval now demolished south porch & Post medieval burials.	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: Summary: Woodham Walter, Church of St Michael the Archangel (WWSM 13, TL 8089 0670) Monitoring of ground works for a small extension over the site of the demolished south porch recovered samples of brick and tile from the 1563 construction of the church, with this porch having been demolished in the 1790s (pers, comm.. Geoff Hicks), plus 4 sherds of medieval and late medieval pottery indicative of earlier activity at the site. In all probability due to the location over the former south porch no burials were disturbed though on the eastern side of the raft foundation three or four grave cuts were seen in section (John Newman Archaeological Service for PC C for St Michael Woodham Walter).	
Previous Summaries/Reports: NA	
Author of Summary: John Newman	Date of Summary: 23 September, 2013

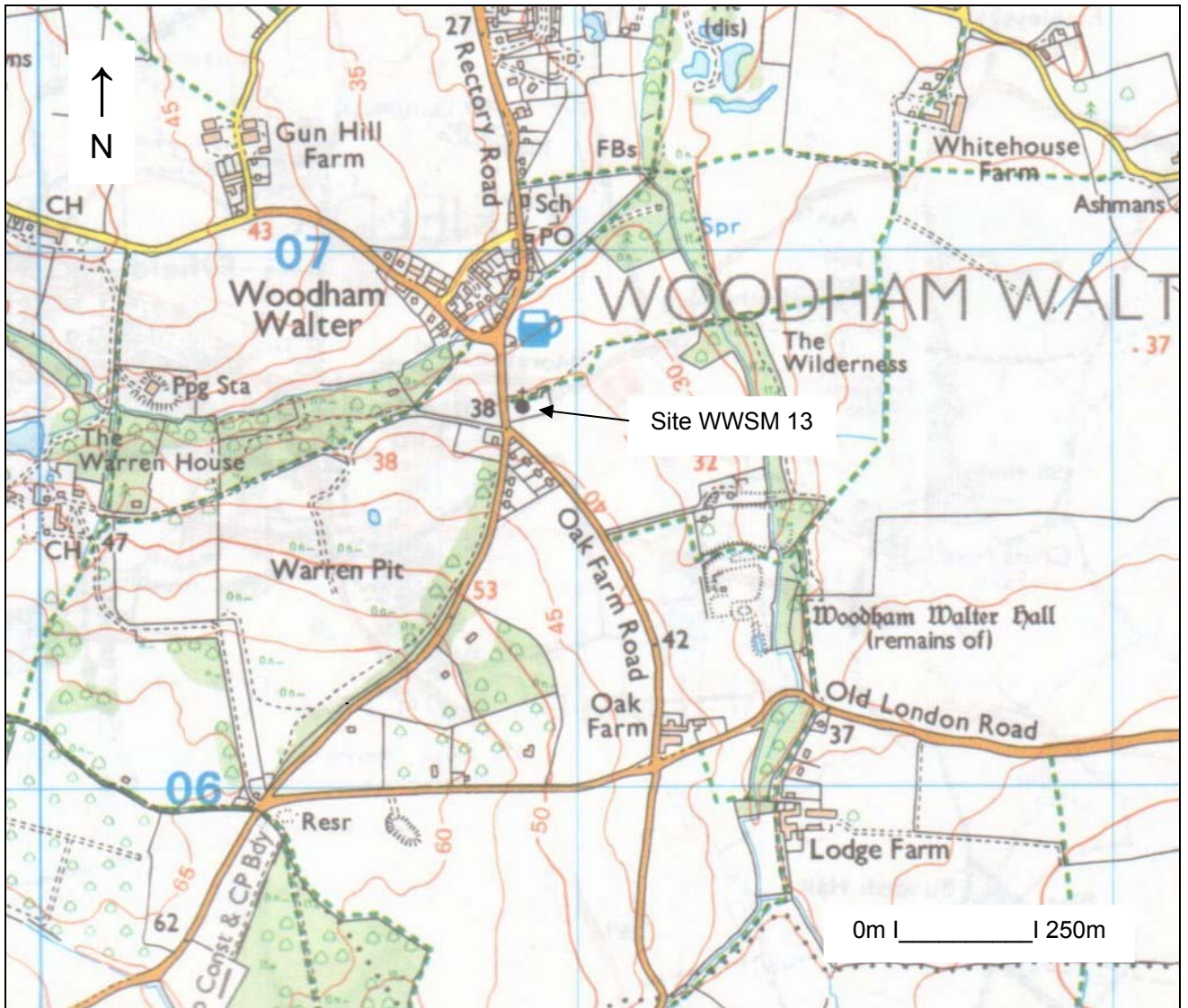


Fig. 1: Site location

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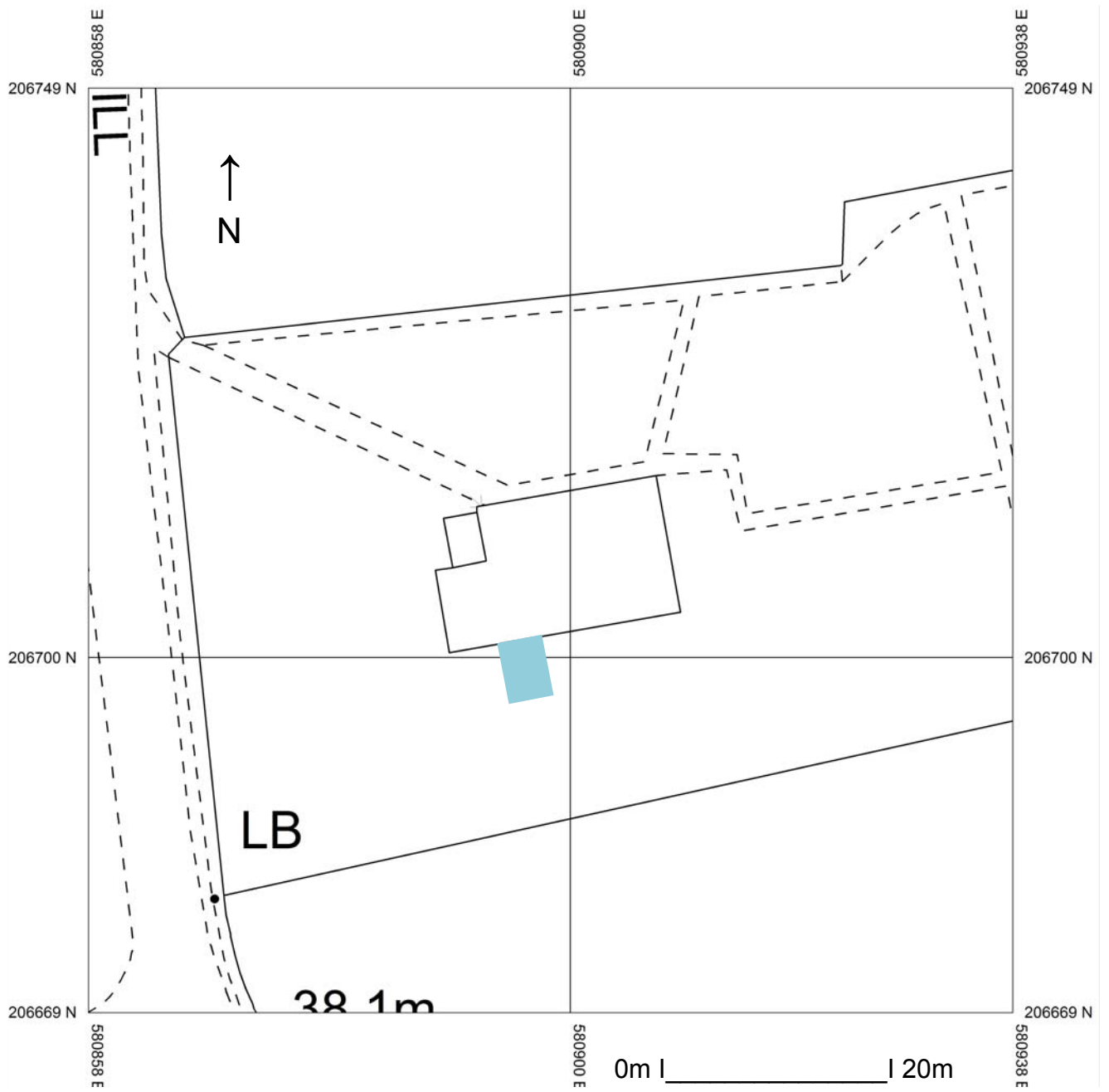


Fig. 2: Monitored foundation area
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Appendix I- Images



Area of former south porch from south (note roof line indication for demolished porch)



Detail of blocking at base of south door (re-opened later 20th C)



Eastern section of raft foundation with grave cuts in lower part (arrowed)



Eastern section with arrow to skull revealed



Graffiti on eastern door jamb



Graffiti on upper part of western door jamb



Graffiti on lower part of western door jamb

The Finds

St Michael's Church, Woodham Walter (WWSM13): ceramics

Sue Anderson, September 2013.

Pottery

Four pottery sherds (42g) were recovered as unstratified finds. The pottery quantification is shown in Table 1.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	MCWG	1	17	base fragment, sooted	12-14
	MCWG	1	8	body, pale grey	12-14
	MCW	1	6	jar rim, H3, slight abrasion, 280mm diam, 3%	L.13-M.14
	LMTE	1	11	bowl rim, flat-topped everted, spots brown glaze, 280mm diam, 4%	15th c.

Table 1. Pottery catalogue.

Key: MCW(G) – medieval coarseware (gritty); LMTE – late medieval and transitional Essex types.

Three sherds were medieval and comprised two fragments of body and base in reduced fabrics with common to abundant quartz sand, both rough to the touch, and a much finer slightly micaceous flat-topped everted rimsherd with dark surfaces and core and red margins. The latter is probably of late 13th-mid 14th-century date (Drury 1993). A redware bowl rim, also a flat-topped everted form, was probably late medieval (cf Cunningham 1985, fig 3.12).

Ceramic building material

Two pieces of post-medieval CBM were collected as unstratified finds, but are assumed to belong to the south porch, dated to 1563. The quantification is shown in Table 2.

Context	Form	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	LB	fsffe	1	2861	near-complete, 254 x 122 x 52mm, occ straw impressions on base and top, patch cream mortar, partial sunken margin	16th c
	RTP	fsc	1	627	upper half of tile, two circular peg holes, 164mm wide, 13mm thick, knife-trimmed edges.	pmed

Table 2. CBM catalogue

One near-complete late brick (LB) was recovered. It was in a red-firing fine sandy fabric with sparse flint and ferrous inclusions. It measured 254 x 122 x 52-55mm (10" x 4¾" x 2-2¼") and was handmade. Bricks of this thickness are present in East Anglia from the 14th century onwards, but bricks of this length are generally found in earlier buildings. The closest 16th-century parallels in Lloyd's table (Lloyd 1925) are from Little Hautbois Hall, Norfolk (1555, 10" x 4¾" x 2¼-2½"), Pebmarsh church, Essex (early 16th c., 9½" x 4¾" x 2-2¼") and Beckingham Hall, Tolleshunt, Essex (c.1546, 9½" x 4½" x 2¼-2½"). Bricks of over 9½" in length do appear to be unusual in this period.

One fragment of a post-medieval plain roof tile (RTP) was collected. It was in a fine sandy fabric with sparse chalk. The edges were knife-trimmed. At 164mm it was relatively narrow in width and is likely to be of early post-medieval date.

References:

Cunningham, C.M., 1985, 'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in Cunningham, C.M. and Drury, P.J., *Post-medieval Sites and their Pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford*. CBA Res. Rep. 54, Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep. 5, 1–16.

Drury, P.J., 1993, 'The later Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery', in Rodwell, W. and Rodwell, K., *Rivenhall: Investigations of a Villa, Church and Village, 1950-1977, Vol. 2*. Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep. 4.2, CBA Res. Rep. 80, 78–95.

Lloyd, N., 1925, *A History of English Brickwork*. 1983 edition, Antique Collectors Club, Woodbridge.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-159809

Project details

Project name	Church of St Michael the Archangel, Church Hill, Woodham Walter, Essex-Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Short description of the project	Woodham Walter, Church of St Michael the Archangel (WWSM 13, TL 8089 0670) Monitoring of ground works for a small extension over the site of the demolished south porch recovered samples of brick and tile from the 1563 construction of the church, with this porch having been demolished in the 1790s (pers. comm.. Geoff Hicks), plus 4 sherds of medieval and late medieval pottery indicative of earlier activity at the site. In all probability due to the location over the former south porch no burials were disturbed though on the eastern side of the raft foundation three or four grave cuts were seen in section.
Project dates	Start: 04-09-2013 End: 04-09-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WWSM 13 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	1110960 - LBS No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	PORCH Post Medieval
Monument type	BURIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country England

Site location	ESSEX MALDON WOODHAM WALTER CHURCH OF St MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
Study area	16.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 8089 0670 51 0 51 43 45 N 000 37 10 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 37.00m Max: 38.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Newman Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	John Newman
Project director/manager	John Newman
Project supervisor	John Newman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Parochial Church Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Essex CC HER
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Church of St Michael the Archangel, Church Hill, Woodham Walter, Essex- Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
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