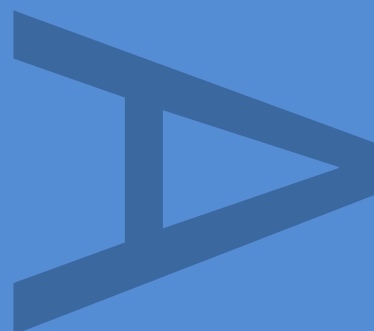


**ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH,
HIGH STREET, CHOBHAM,
SURREY**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

REPORT NO: R12687

OCTOBER 2016



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, HIGH STREET, CHOBHAM, SURREY
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Site Code: SLCS16

Central NGR: 497384 161810

Local Planning Authority: Surrey Heath Borough Council

Planning Reference: 15/0909

Commissioning Client: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chobham and Valley End

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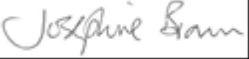

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October 2016**

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION
St. Lawrence Church, High Street, Chobham, Surrey
Watching Brief Report

Report Ref R12687

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K4604
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Text Prepared by:	T Hayes		27/10/2016
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

CONTENTS

1	Non-Technical Summary.....	4
2	Introduction.....	5
3	Aims	8
4	Results	9
5	Archive Preparation & Deposition	10
6	Acknowledgements	11
	Appendix 1 – Site Photographs	12
	Appendix 2: OASIS Form.....	15

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location/WB Location

1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chobham and Valley End to undertake an archaeological watching brief during of new drainage at St. Lawrence Church, High Street, Chobham, Surrey. This report concerns the results of the archaeological watching brief, which involved a series of monitoring visits made during July 2016.

No significant archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed in any of the monitored areas.

The church yard was at a visibly higher ground level than the public house car park to the north of the site. This can be indicative of extensive burials within a church yard, however in this instance no evidence of in situ burials was observed. It is possible that either the site has been cleared of burials or that there was extensive disturbance of this part of the church yard during the construction of the modern church hall, which is connected to the north east corner of St. Lawrence's Church.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chobham and Valley End to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the laying of new drainage at St Lawrence Church, High Street, Chobham, Surrey, hereafter 'the site' (**Figure 1 & 2**). The drainage works included the installation of four sewer connections to a mains drainage connection on the adjoining site.

2.1.2 The archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent for the works granted by Surrey Heath Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority (Planning Ref 15/0909). The condition (2) is based on advice to the LPA provided by Surrey County Council's (SCC) Historic Environment Team Archaeological Officer Ann Egginton; the Site lies within the Area of High Archaeological Potential related to Chobham Historic Core and lies within the churchyard of the 11th Century St Lawrence Church. Condition 2 states:

Prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, a programme of archaeological work shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The required archaeological work shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: In the interests of the historic environment and to comply with Policy DM17 of the Surrey Heath Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2012.

2.1.3 This report has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs (CIfA 2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015).

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

2.2.1 St Lawrence Church lies within the core of the historic village of Chobham, east of High Street. It is bordered to the north by the White Hart Public House and to the east by the village cricket field. The village is located in the north-west part of Surrey, some 12km north of Guildford and 9km south-west of Chertsey.

2.2.2 The Site is relatively flat, and characteristic of its valley floor location: the northern and southern parts of the village lie on alluvial deposits of two streams, both flowing west to east: the Mill Bourne to the north and The Bourne to the south of the village. Ground level within the Site occurs at approximately 29m above OD.

2.2.3 Underlying natural deposits comprised superficial flood plain deposits overlying Bagshot Beds.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The Site lies in an area of known archaeological sites, findspots and monuments ranging in date from the later prehistoric period to the post-medieval period. This archaeological evidence combined with historical and cartographic information was used to inform an Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) of Chobham (SCAU 2003) that describes its archaeological and historical background.

2.3.2 The EUS identifies the Site as within an Area of High Archaeological Potential and summarises Chobham's archaeological and historical background as follows:

'Prehistoric and Roman finds are recorded from the area of Chobham, but developments in these periods had no discernible effect on the origins or character of Chobham village.'

The manor of Chobham was in the possession of Chertsey Abbey from the 7th century, but to date, nothing of Saxon date has been recovered from the study area or its immediate surroundings. The parish church of St Lawrence was founded in the late 11th century and it is possible that there was some settlement around it in the Saxo-Norman period, but this has yet to be proven one way or the other. The settlement at Chobham was probably established by the 13th century, and Abbot Rutherwyck of Chertsey Abbey was making improvements to the manor in the early 14th century. The extent of the medieval village is probably very similar to that indicated by the earliest large scale maps (e.g. fig 2), concentrated around the parish church and the High Street. The small amount of archaeological work that has been undertaken within the study area has not produced any below ground evidence for activity earlier than the 18th/19th century.

Chobham village continued to develop during the post-medieval period as the number of historic buildings of 16th to 19th century date can testify, but does not appear to have undergone any great expansion, retaining its earlier row plan.

Chobham does not appear to have been greatly affected by Industrial and Transport Revolutions and continued as a relatively isolated agricultural community, with a weekly market, until the mid- 19th century. Following the arrival of the railway at Woking to the south-east in the 1850s, rather than become even more isolated, Chobham became a dormitory settlement with residential development taking place on its outskirts, as a result of which Chobham managed to retain its historic character. One unfortunate consequence of the residential growth in the area, and its location within the commuter belt, is that the narrow High Street of Chobham has become a busy cut through for local traffic.'

2.3.3 Of specific relevance to the Site, the EUS identifies St Lawrence church as key to understanding the early medieval development of the village; evidence for a Saxon church as a precursor to the known Norman church would be of particular significance as would evidence of the human population of those and later periods as may be represented in the skeletal evidence that lies within the churchyard.

3 AIMS

3.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to monitor groundwork for the proposed drainage works and investigate and record any archaeological resources that are identified, taking account of the date, nature, extent, bio-archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of any resources and the archaeological resource potential identified by the Chobham EUS.

3.1.2 This report will aim to satisfy the requirement of Condition 2 of planning consent for the drainage works.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following summary is based on the site archive, which comprised a site diary and digital photographs. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the unique site code SLCS16 and will in due course be deposited with the appropriate depositional museum.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 A detailed methodology was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2016) and is not repeated here.

4.2.2 Monitored works involved the excavation of 0.60m drainage trench immediately to the north of St. Lawrence's Church, heading directly north for 10m and then heading to the north-east corner of the church yard. The groundworks were monitored over a series of visits between 18th and 21st of July 2016

4.3 Observations

4.3.1 No significant archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed in any of the monitored areas.

4.3.2 The pipe trench followed the course planned in advance of the start of works. No *in situ* burials or burial vaults were observed. A small amount of fragmented, disarticulated human bone was recovered, but was reinterred within the church yard.

4.3.3 The soil profile was a brown sandy loam with occasional Ceramic Building Material (CBM) fragments towards the top of the deposit, while being clean towards the base of the trench. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of approximately 0.80m Below Ground Level (BGL).

4.4 Conclusion

4.4.1 The church yard was at a visibly higher ground level than the public house car park to the north of the site. This can be indicative of extensive burials within a church yard, however in this instance no evidence of *in situ* burials was observed. It is possible that either the site has been cleared of burials or that there was extensive disturbance of this part of the church yard during the construction of the modern church hall, which is connected to the north east corner of St. Lawrence's Church.

5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION & DEPOSITION

5.1 The Site Archive

5.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records, will be prepared in accordance with 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage' (UKIC 1990) and the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (ClfA 2009). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited with the appropriate depositional museum.

5.2 Copyright

5.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. Hampshire County Council, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003. Further distribution and uses of the report either in its entirety or part thereof in paper or electronic form is prohibited without the prior consent of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

5.2.2 The licence extends to the use of all documents arising from this project in all matters relating directly to the project, as well as for bona fide research purposes (which includes the Surrey Historic Environment Record).

5.2.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the content of this report. However, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies or omissions this report contains.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chobham and Valley End for commissioning the archaeological watching brief. The watching brief was carried out by Paul McCulloch. This report was prepared by Thomas Hayes with Illustrations prepared by Charlotte Faiers. The project was managed by Paul McCulloch.

Appendix 1 – Site Photographs

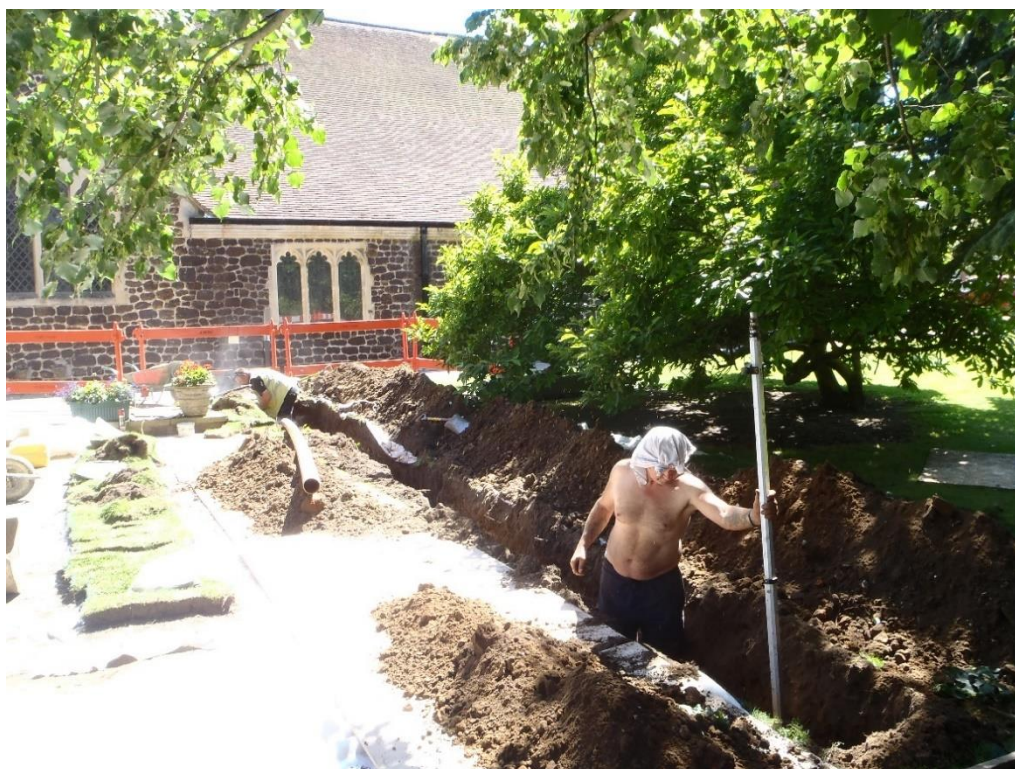


Plate 1 South-west view of southern end of monitored area (Figure 2)



Plate 2 West view of north-eastern end of monitored area (Figure 2)



Plate 3 West view of north-eastern end of monitored area, showing general excavation area (Figure 2)



Plate 4 View to the east of the northern area of site (Figure 2)

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-266914

Project details

Project name	St Lawrence Church, High Street, Chobham, Surrey
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chobham and Valley End to undertake an archaeological watching brief during of new drainage at St. Lawrence Church, High Street, Chobham, Surrey. This report concerns the results of the archaeological watching brief, which involved a series of monitoring visits made during July 2016. No significant archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed in any of the monitored areas. The church yard was at a visibly higher ground level than the public house car park to the north of the site. This can be indicative of extensive burials within a church yard, however in this instance no evidence of in situ burials was observed. It is possible that either the site has been cleared of burials or that there was extensive disturbance of this part of the church yard during the construction of the modern church hall, which is connected to the north east corner of St. Lawrence's Church.
Project dates	Start: 18-07-2016 End: 21-07-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SLCS16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SURREY SURREY HEATH CHOBHAM ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, HIGH STREET, CHOBHAM, SURREY
Postcode	GU24 8AF
Study area	0.3 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 97384 61810 51.34651204695 -0.601556746495 51 20 47 N 000 36 05 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 27m Max: 27.3m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA West
Project brief originator	Surrey County Council

Project design originator	Paul McCulloch
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Paul McCulloch
Type of sponsor/funding body	Church
Name of sponsor/funding body	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chobham and Valley End.

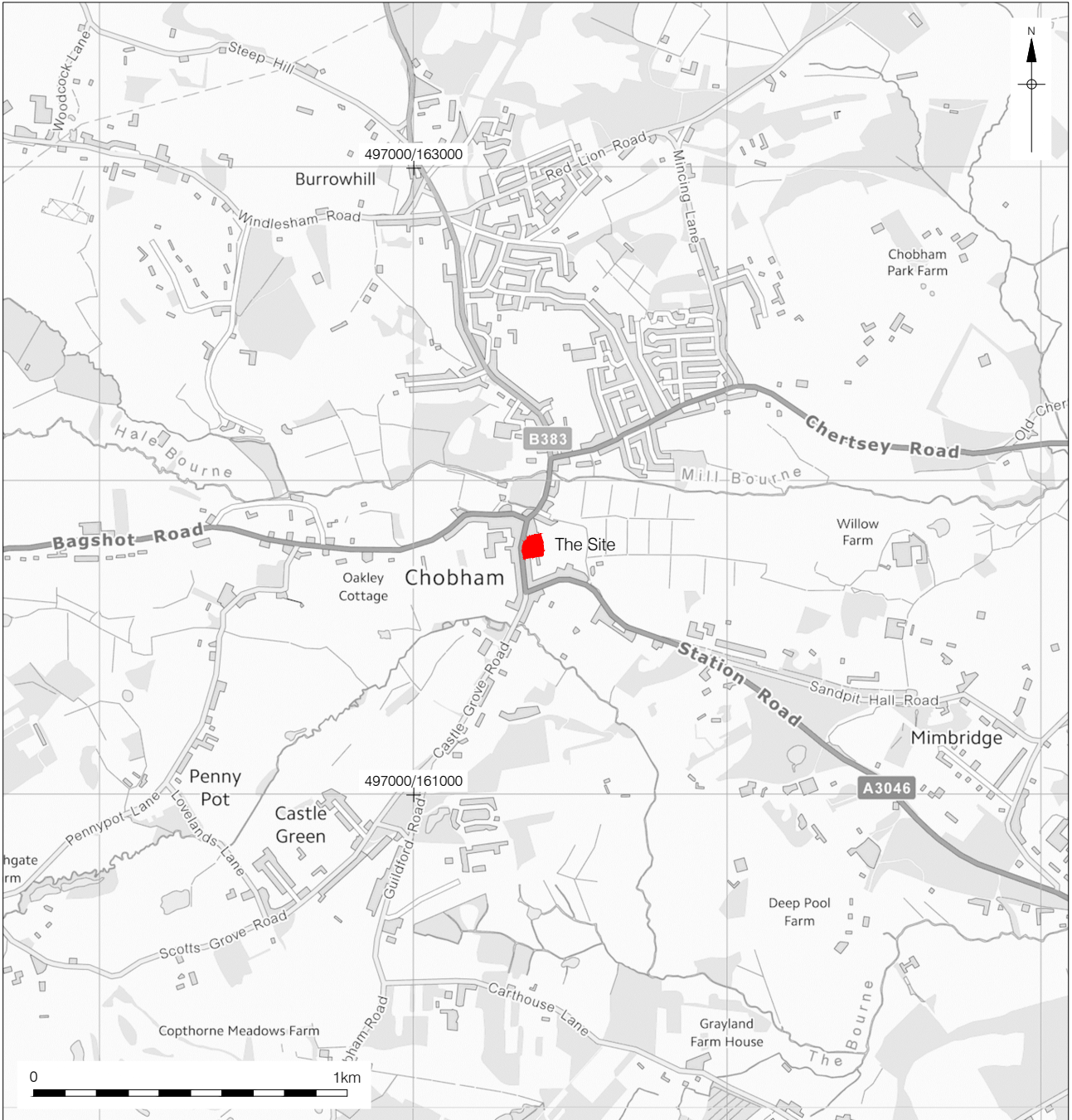
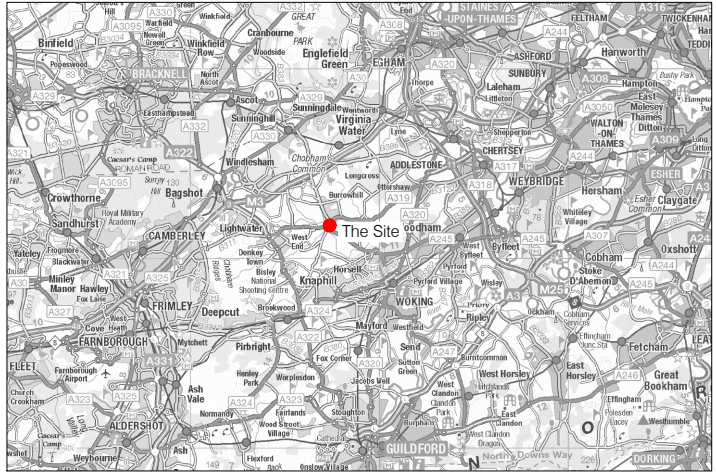
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	None
Digital Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Archive ID	SLCS16
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	n/a
Paper Archive ID	SLCS16
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Photograph", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

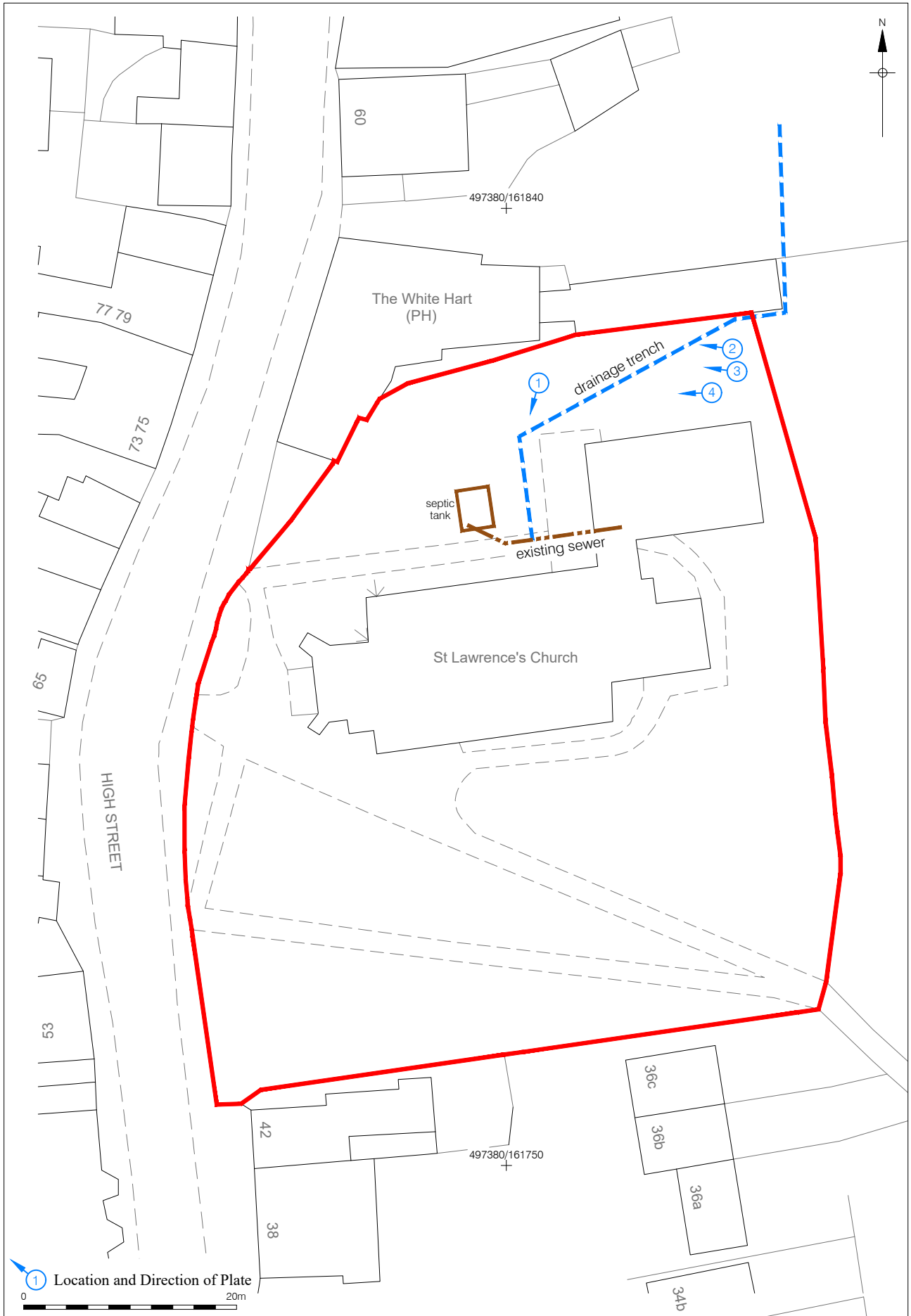
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, HIGH STREET, CHOBHAM, SURREY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
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Entered on	27 October 2016



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 28/10/16 CF

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000, 1:400,000 and 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location and Proposed Drainage Trench
 1:500 at A4

PCA

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