

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, THE STREET, CHELSWORTH, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



Report Number: 1273 October 2020



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, THE STREET, CHELSWORTH, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Prepared on behalf of:

Mr Andrew Brash

All Saints Church

The Street

Chelsworth

Suffolk

By:

Louisa Cunningham MA (Hons) MSc Martin Brook BA (Hons) MCIfA

Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Unit 2

The Old Wool Warehouse
St Andrews Street South
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 3PH

T: 01284 610057

info@brit-arch.com

www.britannia-archaeology.com

Registered in England and Wales: 7874460

Site Code	CHW 036	NGR	TL 9804 4792
Project No.	P1317	OASIS Britanni1-4049	
Approved By:	M	Date	September 2020



DISCLAIMER

The material contained within this report was prepared for an individual client and solely for the benefit of that client and the contents should not be relied upon by any third party. The results and interpretation of the report cannot be considered an absolute representation of the archaeological or any other remains. Britannia Archaeology Ltd will not be held liable for any error of fact resulting in loss or damage, direct, indirect or consequential, through misuse of, or actions based on the material contained within by any third party.



CONTENTS

Abstract		. 4			
1.0 INTRO	DDUCTION	. 5			
2.0 SITE I	DESCRIPTION	. 6			
2.1 Site	Geology	. 6			
3.0 PLANI	NING POLICIES	. 7			
4.0 ARCH	AEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	. 8			
4.1 Arch	naeological Potential	. 9			
5.0 PROJE	CT AIMS	10			
6.0 PROJE	CT OBJECTIVES	11			
7.0 FIELD	WORK METHODOLOGY	12			
8.0 DESC	RIPTION OF RESULTS	13			
9.0 DEPO	SIT MODEL	14			
10.0 DIS	CUSSION AND CONCLUSION	15			
11.0 ACK	NOWLEDGEMENTS	16			
BIBLIOGRA	PHY	17			
APPENDIX 1	- DEPOSIT TABLES	19			
APPENDIX -	2 OASIS FORM	20			
Figure 1	General Location Plan				
Figure 2	Plan Showing Drain Run				
Figure 3	Drain Run Photographs				
Figure 4	Drain Run Sections and Photographs				
Figure 5	Drain Run Sections and Photographs				
Figure 6	Figure 6 Drain Run Human Bone Photographs				



Abstract

On the 24th and 25th September 2020, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the insertion of drainage beneath the access pathway for All Saints Church, The Street, Chelsworth, Suffolk (Fig. 1).

The monitoring revealed a large quantity of human bone was present in gravesoil **1001** beneath the path in the area closest to the church.

The porch on the north side of the church from which the path extends was a Victorian addition to the building and the path was presumably installed at a similar date. The course of the previous path was changed to allow access to the new entrance. The disarticulated human bone might therefore represent earlier burials which were disturbed when the path was created in the 19th century and the subsequent adjacent services installed in the 20th century.

As discussed in section 4 of this report there has reportedly been a church on this site since at least the 12th century. The human bone could therefore be from earlier burials belonging to the previous medieval church. However, since the bone has been redeposited and is no longer in its primary context, dating was not possible and their age and origin cannot be confirmed.

The monitoring successfully identified that no intact graves were present beneath the path through the graveyard and that instead a large amount of disarticulated bone was present only in the area closest to the church. The disarticulated bone might represent burials associated with the previous medieval church which were disturbed when the path was created and the remains were subsequently redeposited.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 24th and 25th September 2020, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the insertion of drainage beneath the access pathway for All Saints Church, The Street, Chelsworth, Suffolk (Fig. 1).

The works were undertaken in response to the recommendations of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SSCAS) which required the proposed works to be monitored under archaeological supervision and control, including all intrusive works which took place on the site (Fig. 2).



2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is on the southern side of the village of Chelsworth, Suffolk, bordering The Street adjacent to the Grade II* listed building "The Grange". The works were located to the north of All Saints Church within the current graveyard, running within and parallel to the access path to the church.

2.1 Site Geology

The underlying bedrock geology was described as Newhaven Chalk Formation – Chalk. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 72 to 86 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was previously dominated by warm chalk seas (BGS, 2020).

The superficial geology was described as Alluvium – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. These superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by rivers (BGS, 2020).



3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation was carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2018). The relevant local planning policy is the *Barbegh Development Framework Core Strategy (2011-2031) Submission Draft*.



4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following archaeological background utilises the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER), and English Heritage PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk).

The church is believed to be of 14th century origins with 15th century additions, however a church dedicated to All Saints has been in Chelsworth at this site since at least the 12th century (DOEI, 2017). The earliest church in Chelsworth was built by the Benedictine Abbey at Bury St Edmunds and it is this building that is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and described as "a church with 30 acres of ploughland and one in meadow".

The main structure is built in flint with stone dressings and has subsequently been faced in cement. All Saints is an interesting example of the enlargement of the perpendicular style that is characteristic of a church of the 15th century. The west tower is castellated, with diagonal buttresses. The nave has 3 bays with piers of 4 attached shafts and moulded arches. Above the chancel arch there is a restored 14th century doom wall painting.

The chief monument in the church is the recessed 14th century canopy tomb to Sir John de Philibert, Lord of the Manor until 1351 (died 1359) (Historic England, 2020). The chancel was much altered in the Victorian restoration of 1886 where the present East window was inserted.

The adjacent dwelling known as The Grange, is a 15th century timber-framed and plastered building with a tiled roof. Originally a hall house there are cross wings at the north and south ends. There are 17th century alterations and additions throughout. An L shaped range of outbuildings extends from the north end of the west front making an open courtyard to the south. The upper storey of the cross wing is jettied on exposed joists. A block that was added to the west also has a jettied upper storey on curved brackets on the south end. Casement windows with leaded lights are on the east front and there is a 17th century gabled porch with small side lights with turned baluster mullions. The gable of the porch has a cartouche with the date 1689. The roof has some smoke blackened timbers and a large, cambered tie beam with a moulded crown post. A 17th century central chimney stack with grouped diagonal shafts is present in the main block.



4.1 Archaeological Potential

Given the above, the predominant potential for archaeology at this site is likely to relate to medieval remains associated with the church and nearby listed building. While it is likely that the route of the trench is through an area always used for navigating the graveyard the presence of an intact grave soil and/or inhumations cannot be discounted. Therefore, the potential for encountering remains of medieval date is **moderate**.

There is a **low** potential for archaeology relating to the remaining periods.



5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The requirements of SSCAS state that the assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks. Specific aims for the monitoring works were to:

- Monitor all upcast soil, after excavation, to ensure no damage occurs to any heritage assets.
- Provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any subsequent development.



6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Project objectives covered the following:

- To enable any remains of archaeological significance to be investigated and recorded.
- The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development (including services and landscaping) permitted by the current planning consent.



7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken of all excavations associated with the installation of a new water pipe through the graveyard. All works were conducted in accordance with *Requirements for Archaeological Excavation* (Suffolk County Council, March 2017).

The excavations and associated intrusive ground works were undertaken by a mechanical excavator/by hand and then further investigated by hand as necessary.



8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 2 - 6)

A long, narrow trench was excavated from the northern exterior of the church and along the route of the current path through the graveyard covering a total distance of c.65.00m. The excavations form a service trench for a service pipe to be connected to a new toilet within the church.

A large quantity of disarticulated human bone was encountered in gravesoil **1001** in the portion of the trench closest to the northern extent of the church, roughly within the first 23.00m of the trench and in the area beneath the current path.

A range of skeletal elements were noted from adults as well as some subadult bone (Martin Brook pers comm). The SCCAS planning archaeologist advised that quantification and assessment of the human bone was not required, and so all effected elements were removed from the trench and immediately handed back to the church for later reburial within the graveyard.

No intact graves were encountered, and no further archaeological features or finds were encountered during the monitoring of the groundworks.

Following the investigation, it was confirmed with Dr Abby Antrobus from SCCAS on 25th September 2020 that the service trench could be backfilled. The human remains that were removed from the service trench were re-buried under Church supervision on Monday 28th September 2020.



9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 4 & 5)

The deposit model varied slightly within the site.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence in sample sections 3 and 4 was Gravel Path **1002** which was present to a maximum depth of 0.13m in sample section 4. It comprised a loose light brownish orange, sandy gravel with frequent inclusions of moderately sized angular stones. The layer represented the current gravel path running through the graveyard on a NE-SW orientation from the northern side of the church.

Beneath layer 1002 in sample sections 3 and 4, and at the top of the stratigraphic sequence in sample section 1 and 2 was topsoil **1000** present to a maximum depth of 0.30m in sample section 1. The layer comprised a loose, light greyish brown, sandy silt with frequent inclusions of sub-angular and sub-rounded stones. It represented the current topsoil of the graveyard.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence in all sample sections was subsoil **1001**. The maximum depth of this layer continued beyond the depth reached during the groundworks. The deepest point at which the layer was encountered was 0.60m in sample section 1. It comprised a loose, mid orangish brown, clayey silt. This layer represented the graveyard subsoil and contained a large quantity of disarticulated human bone.



10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The monitoring revealed a large quantity of human bone was present in gravesoil **1001** beneath the path in the area closest to the church.

The porch on the north side of the church from which the path extends was a Victorian addition to the building and the path was presumably installed at a similar date. The course of the previous path was changes to allow access to the new entrance. The disarticulated human bone might therefore represent earlier burials which were disturbed when the path was created in the 19th century and the subsequent adjacent services installed in the 20th century. It is also a probability that the burials were in the location of the new Victorian porch. While part of this area would have been in use as a path the construction of the porch would have necessitated the moving and reburial of any remains in that area.

As discussed in section 4 of this report there has reportedly been a church on this site since at least the 12th century. The human bone could therefore be from earlier burials belonging to the previous medieval church. However, since the bone has been redeposited and is no longer in its primary context, dating was not possible, and their age and origin cannot be confirmed.

The monitoring successfully identified that no intact graves were present beneath the path through the graveyard and that instead a large amount of disarticulated bone was present only in the area closest to the church. The disarticulated bone might represent burials associated with the previous medieval church which were disturbed when the path was created and the remains were subsequently redeposited.



11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Mr Andrew Brash for commissioning and funding the work.

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Dr Abby Antrobus of SCCAS for her assistance throughout the project.

The site was monitored by Martin Brook and Alice Schute of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, D.H. 2007. Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation; Archaeological Archives Forum.

Brown, D.H. 2007. *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*; Archaeological Archives Forum.

Brown, N. And Glazebrook, J. 2000. *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*; East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 8.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. Code of Conduct.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2020. Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. December 2014. Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. 2017. *Church of All Saints, Chelsworth, Suffolk, Guide.*

English Heritage & the Church of England. 2005. *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England'*

Historic England, 2015. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

Gurney, D. 2003. *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*; East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.

SCCAS Conservation Team, 2019. Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition.

SCCAS Conservation Team, 2019. Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation



Websites:

The British Geological Survey (Natural Environment Research Council) – Geology of Britain Viewer - www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion2=1#maps

English Heritage PastScape <u>www.pastscape.org.uk</u>

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

English Heritage National List for England www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england

DEFRA Magic http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic

Historic England National List for England

https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list

DEFRA Magic http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic



APPENDIX 1 - DEPOSIT TABLES

Sample Section 1

Trench No	Orientation	Height A		Shot No	
n/a	N-S		34.00	DP 1	
Sample Section No	Location		Facing		
1	E	E side		W Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0.30m	Topsoil – Light, greyish brown, loose, sandy silt with frequent			
		inclusions of sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.			
1001	0.30 - 0.60m+	Subsoil - Mid, orangish brown, loose, clayey silt.			

Sample Section 2

Trench No	Orientation NE-SW	Height A		Shot No	
n/a			33.97	DP 3	
Sample Section No	Location		Facing		
2	SE	SE side		NW Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0.30m	Topsoil – Light, greyish brown, loose, sandy silt with frequent			
		inclusions of sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.			
1001	0.30 - 0.53m+	Subsoil – Mid, orangish brown, loose, clayey silt.			

Sample Section 3

Trench No	Orientation		Height Aod		Shot No
n/a	NE-SW			33.84	DP 6
Sample Section No	Location			Facing	
3	SE side			NW Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1002	0.00 - 0.05m	Gravel Path – Light, brownish orange, loose, sandy gravel with frequent inclusions of moderate angular stones.			
1000	0.05 - 0.27m	Topsoil – Light, greyish brown, loose, sandy silt with frequent inclusions of sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.			
1001	0.27 - 0.50m+	Subsoil - Mid, orangish brown, loose, clayey silt.			

Sample Section 4

Trench No	Orientation	Height Aod		od	Shot No	
n/a	NE-SW			34.75	DP 8	
Sample Section No	Location			Facing		
4	SE side			NW Facing		
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description				
1002	0.00 - 0.13m	Gravel Path – Light, brownish orange, loose, sandy gravel with frequent inclusions of moderate angular stones.				
1000	0.13 - 0.27m	Topsoil – Light, greyish brown, loose, sandy silt with frequent inclusions of sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.				
1001	0.27 - 0.53m+	Subsoil – Mid, orangish brown, loose, clayey silt.				



APPENDIX - 2 OASIS FORM

OASIS FORM - Print view

https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: britanni1-404951

Project details

Project name

All Saints Church, The Street, Chelsworth, Suffolk - Archaeological Monitoring

Short description of the project

On the 24th and 25th September 2020, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the insertion of drainage beneath the access pathway for All Saints Church, The Street, Chelsworth, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The monitoring revealed a large quantity of human bone was present in gravesoil 1001 beneath the path in the area closest to the church. The porch on the north side of the church from which the path extends was a Victorian addition to the building and the path was presumably installed at a similar date. The course of the previous path was changed to allow access to the new entrance. The disarticulated human bone might therefore represent earlier burials which were disturbed when the path was created in the 19th century and the subsequent adjacent services installed in the 20th century. As discussed in section 4 of this report there has reportedly been a church on this site since at least the 12th century. The human bone could therefore be from earlier burials belonging to the previous medieval church. However, since the bone has been redeposited and is no longer in its primary context, dating was not possible and their age and origin cannot be confirmed. The monitoring successfully identified that no intact graves were present beneath the path through the graveyard and that instead a large amount of disarticulated bone was present only in the area closest to the church. The disarticulated bone might represent burials associated with the previous medieval church which were disturbed when the path was created and the remains were subsequently redeposited.

Project dates Start: 24-09-2020 End: 25-09-2020

Previous/future Y

work

Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes P1317 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes

CHW 036 - HER event no.

Type of project Recording project

Current Land use Other 4 - Churchyard

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds HUMAN BONE Uncertain

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England

1 of 3



OASIS FORM - Print view

https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

Site location SUFFOLK BABERGH CHELSWORTH All Saints Church, The Street, Chelsworth,

Suffolk

Postcode IP7 7HU

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 9804 4792 52.093627836158 0.891375096268 52 05 37 N 000 53 28 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 33.24m Max: 33.84m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator

Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator

Martin Brook

Project

Martin Brook

director/manager

Project supervisor Martin Brook

Type of sponsor/funding

Parochial Church Council

body

Name of

All Saints Church, Chelsworth

sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Digital Archive

recipient

Suffolk HER

Digital Archive ID CHW 036

Digital Contents

Digital Media

"Stratigraphic", "Survey" "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

available

Paper Archive

Suffolk HER

recipient

Paper Archive ID CHW 036

Paper Contents

"Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Paper Media

"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey

","Unpublished Text" available

Project

bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title All Saints Church, The Street, Chelsworth, Suffolk - Archaeological Monitoring

Author(s)/Editor(s) Cunningham, L

Other bibliographic

details

R1273

2020 Date

Issuer or publisher Britannia Archaeology Ltd

2 of 3 06/10/2020, 10:28



OASIS FORM - Print view

https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

Place of issue or

Bury St Edmunds

publication Description

A4 printed and bound report with pull out A3 figures

URL

www.britannia-archaeology.com

Entered by

Louisa Cunningham (louisa@brit-arch.com)

Entered on

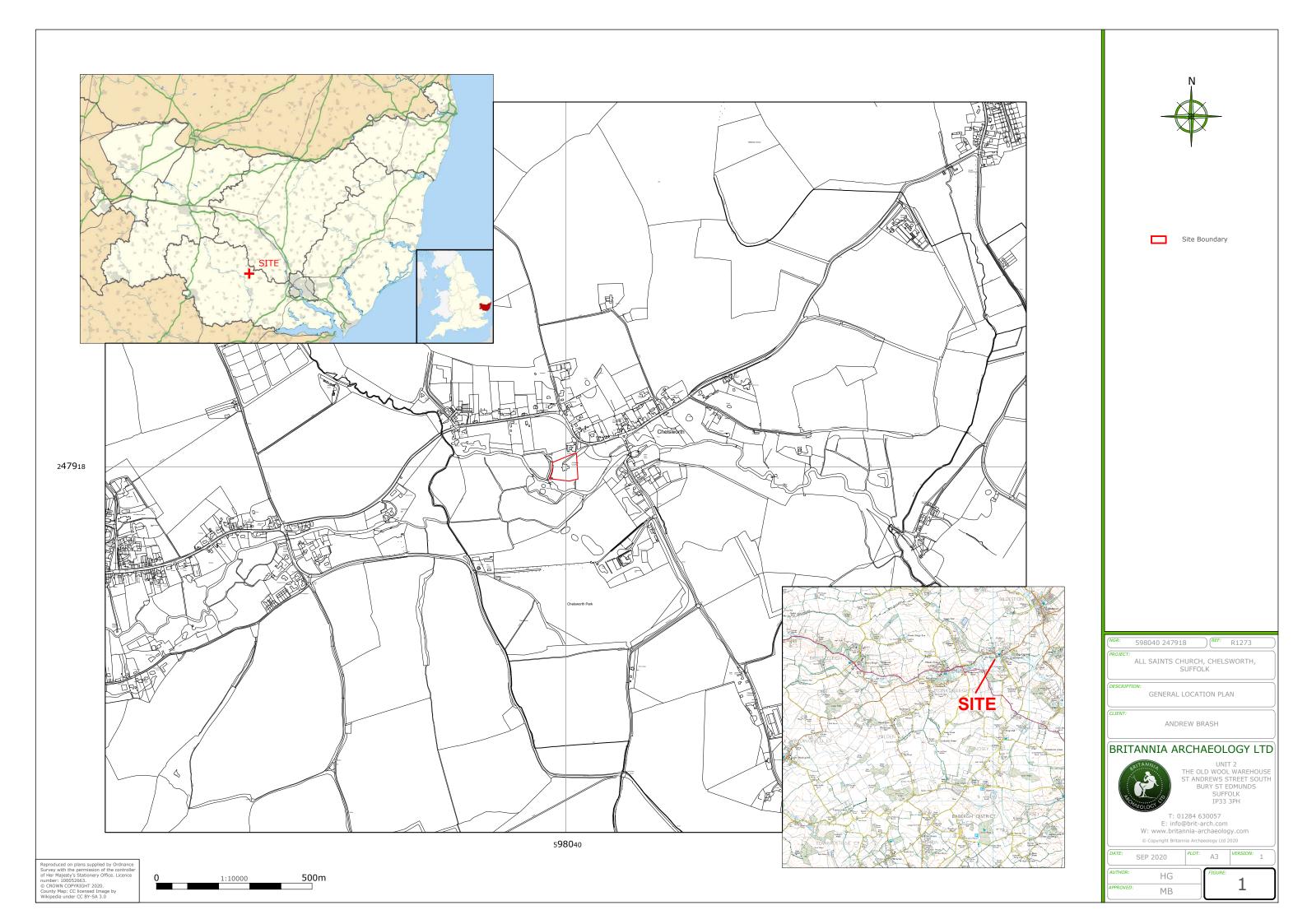
6 October 2020

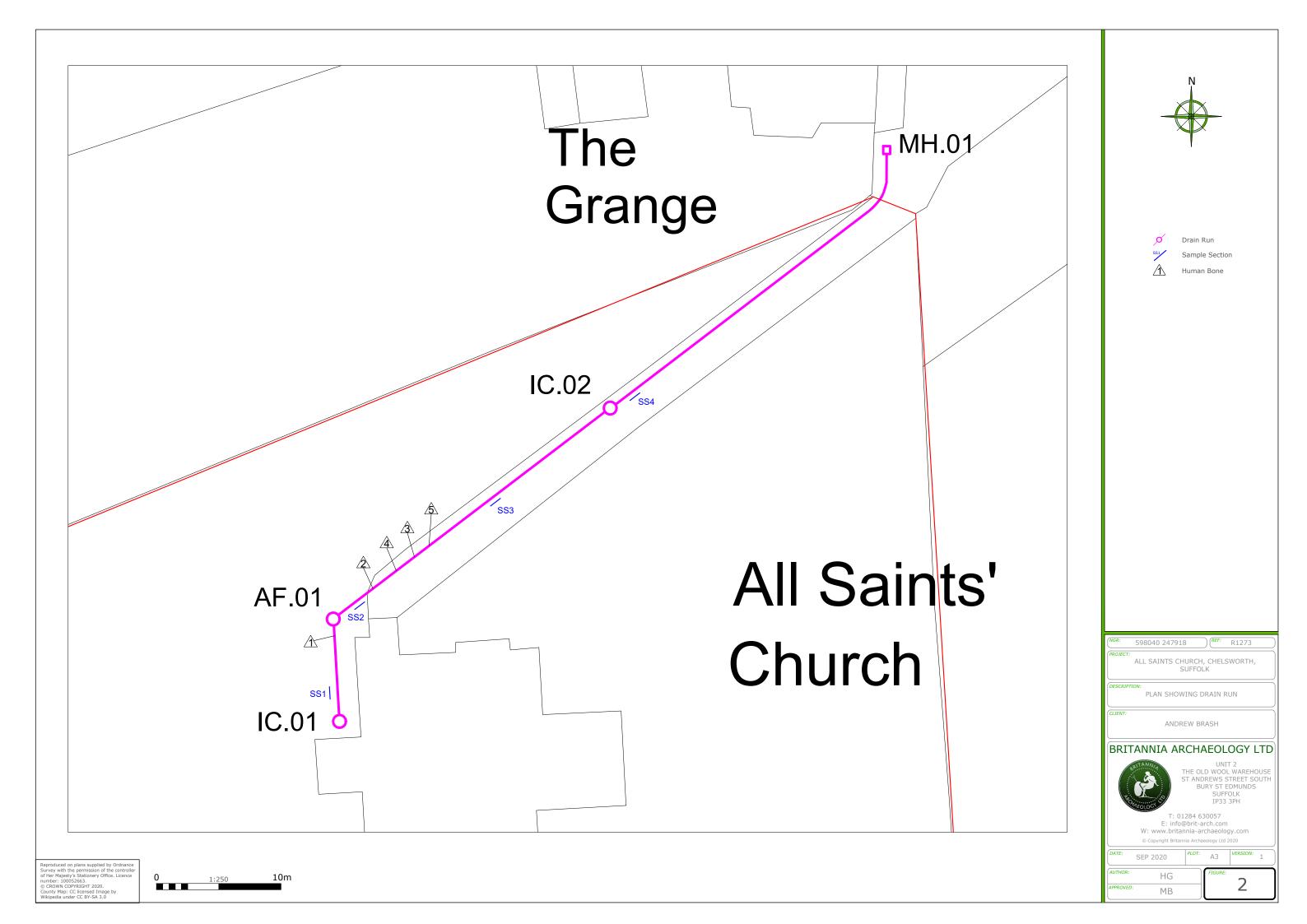
OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice © ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012 Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page

Cookies Privacy Policy

3 of 3





DP2 - DRAIN RUN - VIEW N

DP7 - DRAIN RUN - VIEW SW







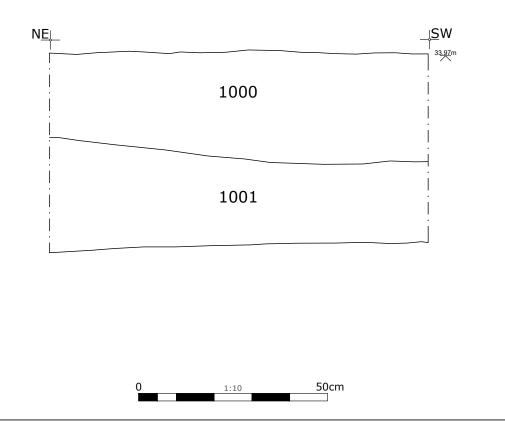
1000 1001

SAMPLE SECTION 1

DP1 - SAMPLE SECTION 1 - VIEW E



SAMPLE SECTION 2

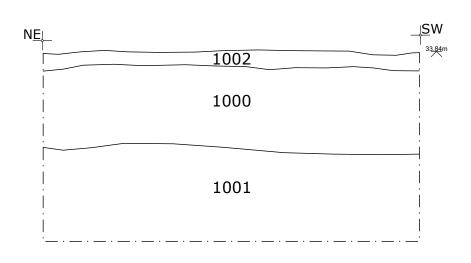


DP3 - SAMPLE SECTION 2 - VIEW E





SAMPLE SECTION 3

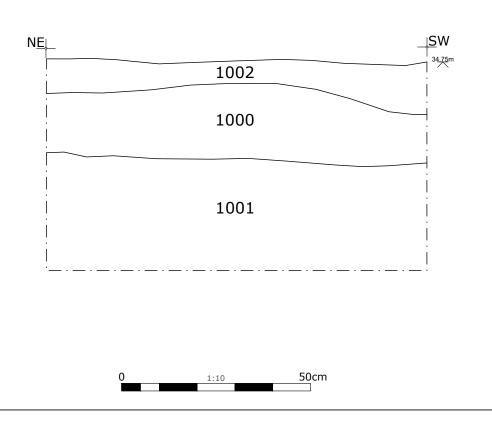




DP6 - SAMPLE SECTION 3 - VIEW E



SAMPLE SECTION 4



DP8 - SAMPLE SECTION 4 - VIEW E





DP4 - HUMAN BONE 5 - VIEW NE

DP5 - HUMAN BONE 5 - VIEW E





