

Report on Archaeological Monitoring
St Andrew's Church, Little Glemham, Suffolk

SHES ref. GLL 030

Prepared on behalf of
Nicholas Warns Architect Ltd for Little Glemham PCC

Sarah Bates (Report No. 11)

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Project name	St Andrew's Church, Little Glemham
Parish	Little Glemham
District	Suffolk Coastal
Grid reference	TM 3465 5871
SHES Ref.	GLL 030
Date of fieldwork	9th October 2014

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the installation of a new drainage system at Little Glemham Church. A deposit of mortar and flint exposed next to the west wall of the present mausoleum probably related to an earlier phase of building there. Some brick structures at the east side of the mausoleum were of post-medieval or modern date.

One sherd of medieval pottery and two small pieces of ceramic building material, probably of the same date, were the only finds and nothing else of archaeological interest was revealed. No *in situ* burials were encountered and nor were disarticulated human remains found.

1.0 Introduction

St Andrew's Church is situated to the north-east of Glemham village which is located, on the A12, approximately mid-way between Saxmundham and Wickham Market in east Suffolk. The church (TM 3465 5871) is positioned on the southern side of the parkland surrounding Glemham Hall (Fig. 1).

Building and rainwater drainage improvements were being undertaken at the church by Nicholas Warns Architect Ltd on behalf of Little Glemham PCC. The work involved installing new gullies and drains on the north side of the nave and chancel and around the mausoleum on the north side of the chancel. Archaeological work involved monitoring of the groundworks associated with the new gullies which were to be installed against the church walls. (Fig. 2, Plate 1). This work was carried out in accordance with a Project Design prepared by Sarah Bates following consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee's archaeological advisor, Bob Carr.

Little Glemham PCC funded the repairs, improvements and archaeological work with the aid of an English Heritage Repair Grant for Places of Worship in England.

The archaeological archive will, on completion of the project, be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service following the relevant policy on archiving standards. An Oasis form is included below as Appendix 1.

2.0 Geology and topography

The solid geology in the area of the site is chalk overlaid by deep deposits of estuarine or marine shelly sand Crags. Above this soils are derived from glacial boulder clay and areas of outwash gravel (Wymer 1999, 16-19, Martin 1999, 20)

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Suffolk Sites and Monuments and Listed Buildings Records tell that a church was recorded at Little Glemham in the Domesday survey and describes a 12th-century north door, some 13th-century windows and font and many 15th-century and later alterations. The chancel was rebuilt in the 18th century and a compartment or transept on the north side of the chancel is described as in classical style with Greek Doric columns, built to receive a monument to Dudley North who died in 1829. On the west wall of the north compartment are three 16th century brasses to the Glemham family who owned the estate until 1708 when it was sold to the North family. The present hall dates to c.1561 although there is a reference in the National Archives to William de Glemham in 1228-29 (see Richmond 2013). In 1923 the Glemham estate was sold by the North family to the Cobbold family who own it today.

Research into the architectural and historical development of the church has been undertaken by Hugh Richmond in advance of the present repair work (Richmond 2013). Aspects of this report pertinent to the archaeological monitoring work are summarised here.

The blocked 12th-century doorway in the north wall of the nave is described as well integrated within the wall suggesting that the existing width of the nave was already established then. A change in the fabric in the upper part of the wall suggests, however, that the nave was originally of lower height, the walls being raised to accommodate new windows and a door in c.1430. Details within the tower suggest that it dates to c.1450.

Drawings of the church dating to c.1800 show the nave, west tower, south porch and chancel; the latter with a compartment to its north which is shown with thinner walls than the rest of the building suggesting that they are of brick and of post-medieval date. It is shown containing a raised vault and box pews. The earliest reference to a burial vault at the church is on a monument in the chancel which has an inscription dedicated to Catherine North who died in 1715 and lies '....in an adjoining vault'. Also shown in one of the c.1800 drawings are three monuments to the North family (dated 1775, 1785 and 1789). Today these monuments are on the east wall of the north compartment but in the drawing they are shown on its north wall. Richmond suggests that the drawings of the church may represent a survey made in advance of a new design for the Greek style mausoleum which was built under the patronage of Dudley North in c.1810.

Presumably these North family monuments were moved during the early 19th-century re-modelling of the north compartment.

The 16th-century memorials to the Glemham family seen today on the west wall of the mausoleum might suggest that the post-medieval building replaced a medieval chapel or chantry.

Other sites and finds recorded on the Suffolk SMR within a 750m radius of the church attest to occupation and other activity in the vicinity from the medieval period onwards. These include two medieval moated sites; one circular, just west of the church and a rectangular site which appears on a 1720 estate map to the north of Glemham Hall, finds of medieval pottery and metalwork found during metal detecting about 500m to the south-east of the church, Glemham Hall and its deer park (both 16th century) and the 18th-century estate and formal gardens. Immediately to the south-west of the church are two early 18th-century timber framed cottages.

4.0 Methodology

Archaeological monitoring aimed to observe and record the presence or absence, location, nature and date of any surviving archaeological deposits within the areas affected by the drainage works.

The trenches for the new gullies were dug by mini-digger and by hand by the site contractors. (Fig. 2). The gully trenches were 1.20m - 1.50m in length and 0.80m – 1.00m wide. They were approximately 0.25m in depth and each had a smaller central area (for placing the actual gully) approximately 0.90m deep

The location of the gully trenches was recorded; each gully trench being assigned a context number for ease of recording. Otherwise, archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* context sheets in the standard way. Digital and black and white film photographs recorded the archaeological deposits and the work at the site generally.

Finds of archaeological significance were retrieved. No deposits required sampling for environmental assessment.

The weather was dry and quite bright; conditions for recording were good.

5.0 Results (Figs 2-4, Plates 1-5)

Gully [1]

Drainage gully [1] was located at the west end of the north wall of the nave. It was dug to a depth of 1.0m in its central area. At its north end, against the church, soil was removed by hand to reveal the face and bottom of the plinth but nothing below that was exposed. In the deeper area of trench, at a depth of about 0.70m, was brown slightly sandy clay [12] which was thought to be the undisturbed natural subsoil. Above that was lighter more orangey brown sandy clay [11] which included frequent flecks of mortar and the upper part of which had been disturbed by previous drainage features. Above this was brown slightly sandy clay loam topsoil [10]. A disused plastic drain pipe

ran across the north-west corner of the excavated area at a depth of about 0.20m from the surface.

Nothing of archaeological interest was seen and no finds were recovered.

Gully [2]

This gully was positioned towards the east end of the north nave wall. As in gully [1] a deposit of brown slightly sandy clay [12] was seen in the deepest part of the trench overlaid by more mixed lighter brown sandy clay [11] which included slightly more flint in its south end closest to the church. About halfway along the trench a drain pipe (running east to west) was exposed in the east facing section and north of that the soil was slightly darker brown and included fewer flints. The ground level, in relation to the wall plinth, was lower in gully [2] than to the west in gully [1] and a hard deposit of small flints in whitish cream mortar was exposed sloping outwards at approximately forty-five degrees from the base of the plinth. This was the upper part of the wall footing.

Nothing else of archaeological interest was seen and no finds were recovered.

Gully [3]

Gully [3] was located towards the north end of the mausoleum on its west side. In the deeper part of the trench brown clayey sand with virtually no inclusions was very similar to (if slightly more sandy than) the soil [12] seen in the lowest parts of gullies [1] and [2]. It was probably undisturbed natural subsoil. It was overlaid by orangey brown clayey sand with occasional flints and quite common mortar flecks [9] above which was a deposit of yellowish cream sandy mortar and flints (mainly small). This extended out from the wall of the mausoleum for about a metre [7] (Fig.3a, Plate 2). It was very compacted and was initially thought possibly to be part of a wall or footing but, after recording, it was partly removed by machine and seen to be only 0.15m thick and sit directly upon the underlying soil [9] (Fig.3b, Plate 3). At the east side of the trench a sloping footing of hard flint and mortar (very similar to that seen in gully [2]) ran along the base of the mausoleum wall. It was harder and the mortar was more whitish in colour than deposit [7] and it appeared to post-date that deposit.

The compacted mortar and flint layer [7] may have been waste material from the demolition of an earlier building which was spread here prior to the building of the 19th-century mausoleum, possibly as some kind of levelling/foundation deposit. Above it was mortar-rich slightly orangey brown sandy clay [8] which was overlaid by topsoil. A sherd of 12th- to 14th-century pottery and two small fragments of roof tile of probable medieval date were found in the deposit [8].

Gully [4]

Gully [4] was positioned at the north-east corner of the mausoleum. In its lower part the east side of a red brick feature was seen at a depth of 0.60m below the surface [15] (Fig. 2, Plate 4). Its (east) face, about 0.50m to the east of the mausoleum wall and parallel with it, was rendered. Two courses of bricks were also visible, higher up, at the base of the mausoleum wall. It was unclear what the bricks represented. Perhaps they were part of a previous drainage feature or they may have related to burial vaults. Immediately to the south of gully trench [4], (and at a higher level than the bricks [15]),

the north end of a vaulted brick feature [16] had been damaged by some iron pipes which ran north to south and were cut off and partly removed by the contractors (Fig. 2, Plate 4). These were thought to be disused water pipes which had been laid running through the upper void of a vaulted burial chamber. Flash photographs of the inside of the chamber showed rendered internal wall faces and arched roof, and brick rubble in the bottom with the recently cut iron pipes and some loose soil collapsed onto it.

Nothing else of archaeological interest was seen and no finds were recovered.

Gully [5]

Gully [5] was positioned at the north-east corner of the chancel (Fig. 2, Plate 5). The area had been heavily disturbed by previous construction and demolition work. Part of a red brick construction of likely 19th or 20th-century date was seen running east to west through the area of the gully trench [6]. It may have been part of a former drain or soakaway; the small area between it and the chancel wall was infilled with brick rubble and other disturbance had occurred nearby. It is also possible that the brickwork may have related to some kind of outbuilding. It was noticed that the brickwork in the north wall of the chancel and flintwork in the east wall of the mausoleum has been replaced or repaired in the lower part of the walls in the corner between them and it appeared that some kind of structure may have formerly existed there.

Drain trenches

New drains were to be installed running from the new gullies to an existing soakaway to the north of the nave (Fig. 2). These were to be dug to a depth less than 0.50m and their archaeological monitoring was not considered necessary.

6.0 The finds

By Sue Anderson

Pottery

A single sherd (6g) of medieval coarserware was recovered from context [8] The sherd is in a sandy fabric containing abundant well-sorted quartz grains and no other obvious inclusions. It is reduced to dark grey/black except on the internal margin, which is partially oxidised. Medieval coarsewares of this type are typically found in Bury St Edmunds and to the south of the county, but the production sites are currently unknown. It is broadly of 12th–14th-century date.

Ceramic building material

Context [8] contained two fragments of plain roof tile (38g). The fragments are in medium sandy oxidised fabrics with sparse white clay pellets and streaks of white clay, and occasional larger rounded quartz inclusions. Both fragments are relatively thick (14-15mm). The pieces are not closely dateable as tiles like these were produced in

the area from the 13th century onwards, but on balance they seem more likely to be high or late medieval than post-medieval.

7.0 Conclusions

No archaeological features, deposits or finds of pre-Church date were discovered during archaeological monitoring of the recent drainage improvements.

A thick layer of compacted mortar and flint which was recorded in Gully 3 next to the west wall of the mausoleum may have been deliberately spread here to form a level area or broad shallow footing for the construction or reconstruction of the north transept. The date of this deposit is uncertain; although it appears to run underneath the sloping narrower footing at the foot of the mausoleum wall. However, the material itself seems likely to have come from an earlier building in the area. A sherd of pottery of 12th-14th century date and some fragments of tile of likely medieval date were found in mortar rich soil above the compacted layer but, alone, they do not provide sufficient evidence to date the deposition of either layer.

The historical and circumstantial evidence suggests that at least three phases of building may have occurred in the area of the existing mausoleum and even if the mortar layer pre-dates the 19th-century remodelling of the structure, it is uncertain as to whether it derives from an 'original' medieval compartment or from one built during the ?17th or 18th century.

To the east of the mausoleum post-medieval brick features were partly revealed in each of the two gully trenches. Part of a vaulted probable tomb was exposed in Gully 4 and a brick structure in Gully 5 was probably part of a drain although it may have related to a former out-building evidence of which was suggested by repairs to the walls of the chancel and mausoleum.

Acknowledgements

The archaeological work was commissioned and funded by Little Glemham PCC. The advice of Nicholas Warns and Gethin Harvey (Nicholas Warns Architect Ltd) during the project is gratefully acknowledged. The finds were examined and dated by Sue Anderson.

R and J Hogg Ltd Builders undertook the machining and other site works. Archaeological monitoring was by Sarah Bates and figures included in this report were prepared by Heather Wallis.

References:

Martin, E., 1999	<i>Soil Regions in Dymond, D. and Martin, E., An Historical Atlas of Suffolk, Revised and Enlarged Edition, Suffolk County Council Environment and Transport, Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, (Third edition),20-21</i>
Richmond, H., 2013	<i>English Heritage, Repair Grants for Places of Worship in England, Church of St. Andrew, Little Glemham, Suffolk, Conservation Report. File Ref. No. GRC 12/001/404852</i>
Wymer, J., 1999	<i>Solid Geology in Dymond, D. and Martin, E., An Historical Atlas of Suffolk, Revised and Enlarged Edition, Suffolk County Council Environment and Transport, Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, (Third edition),16-17</i>
Wymer, J., 1999	<i>Surface Geology in, Dymond, D. and Martin, E., An Historical Atlas of Suffolk, Revised and Enlarged Edition, Suffolk County Council Environment and Transport, Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, (Third edition), 18-18</i>
Richmond, H., 2013	<i>English Heritage, Repair Grants for Places of Worship in England, Church of St. Andrew, Little Glemham, Suffolk, Conservation Report. File Ref. No. GRC 12/001/404852</i>

Appendix 1:**OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM:
England****OASIS ID: sarahbat1-191987****Project details**

Project name	St Andrew's Church Little Glemham
Short description of the project	Monitoring drainage works, a thick deposit of mortar, recorded in drain gully at west side of mausoleum may have related to the reconstruction of that part of the building in the post-medieval period
Project dates	Start: 09-10-2014 End: 09-10-2014
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	GLL 030 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	DEMOLITION DEBRIS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL LITTLE GLEMHAM ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 3465 5871 52.1760811749 1.4323695508 52 10 33 N 001 25 56 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Sarah Bates
Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeologist
Project design originator	Sarah Bates
Project director/manager	Sarah Bates
Project supervisor	Sarah Bates
Name of sponsor/funding body	Little Glemham PCC

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Report on Archaeological Monitoring, St Andrew's Church, Little Glemham, Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Bates, S.
Other bibliographic details	Report number 11
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Sarah Bates
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Entered on	10 November 2014

OASIS:

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

Appendix 2: List of contexts

Context	Type	Category	Description	Period
1	T	Trench	New gully trench NW nave	-
2	T	Trench	New gully trench NE nave	-
3	T	Trench	New gully trench W mausoleum	-
4	T	Trench	New gully trench NE mausoleum	-
5	T	Trench	New gully trench NE chancel	-
6	M	Wall	Brick wall in gully 5	Modern
7	D	Layer	Mortar and flint in gully 3	Post-medieval
8	D	Layer	Soil layer in gully 3	Post-medieval
9	D	Layer	Soil layer in gully 3	Post-medieval
10	D	Layer	Topsoil	Modern
11	D	Layer	Churchyard soil	Mixed
12	D	-	Natural undisturbed subsoil	-
13	M	Footing	Mausoleum wall footing	Post-medieval
14	-	-	Not used	
15	M	Footing	?wall footing or tomb related	Post-medieval
16	M	Tomb	Vaulted tomb	Post-medieval

Appendix 3: Finds by context

Context	Material	Type	No	Wt (g)	Date8
8	Ceramic	Pottery	1	6	12th-14thC
8	Ceramic	Roof tile	2	38	?Medieval

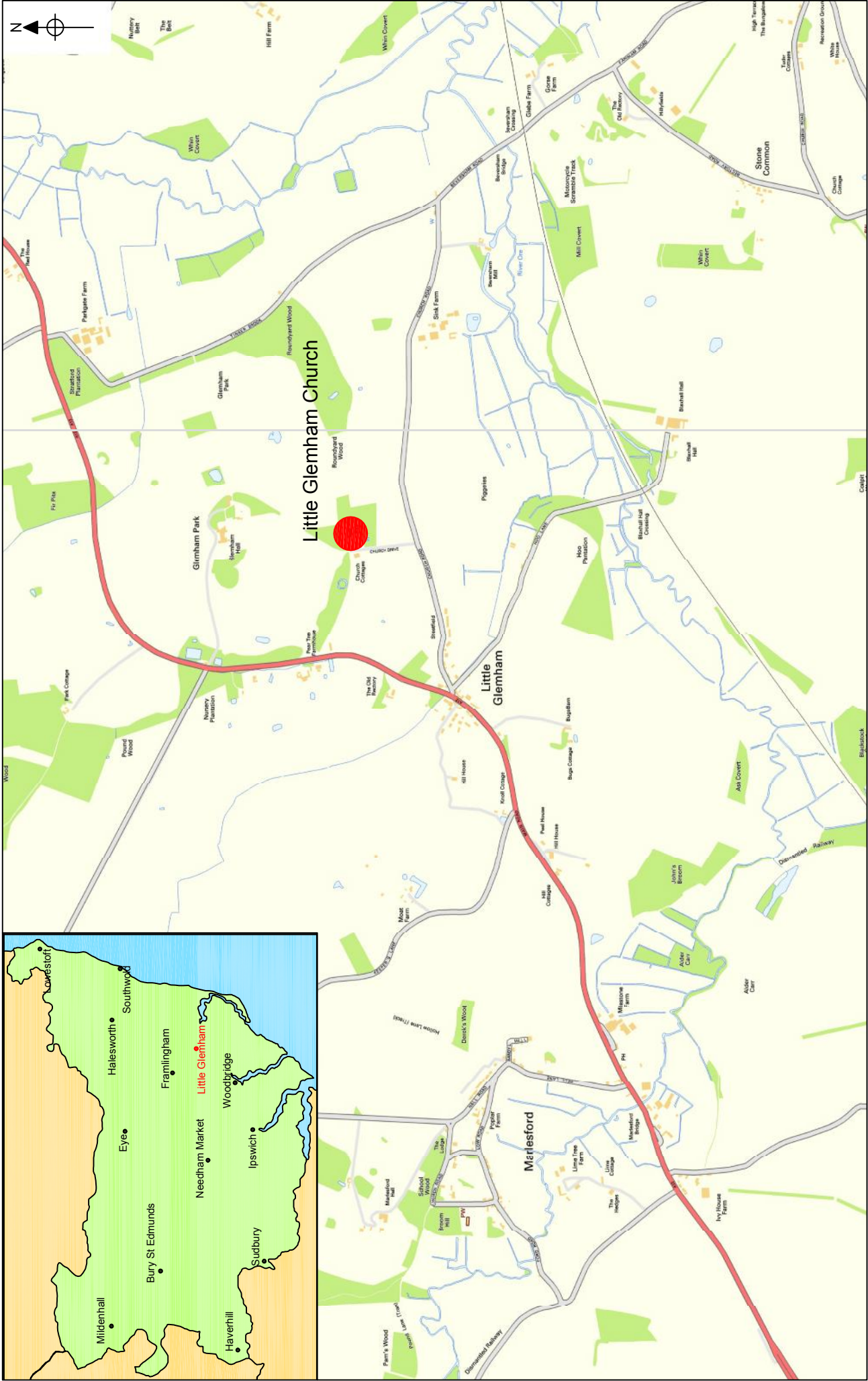


Figure 1. Site location.

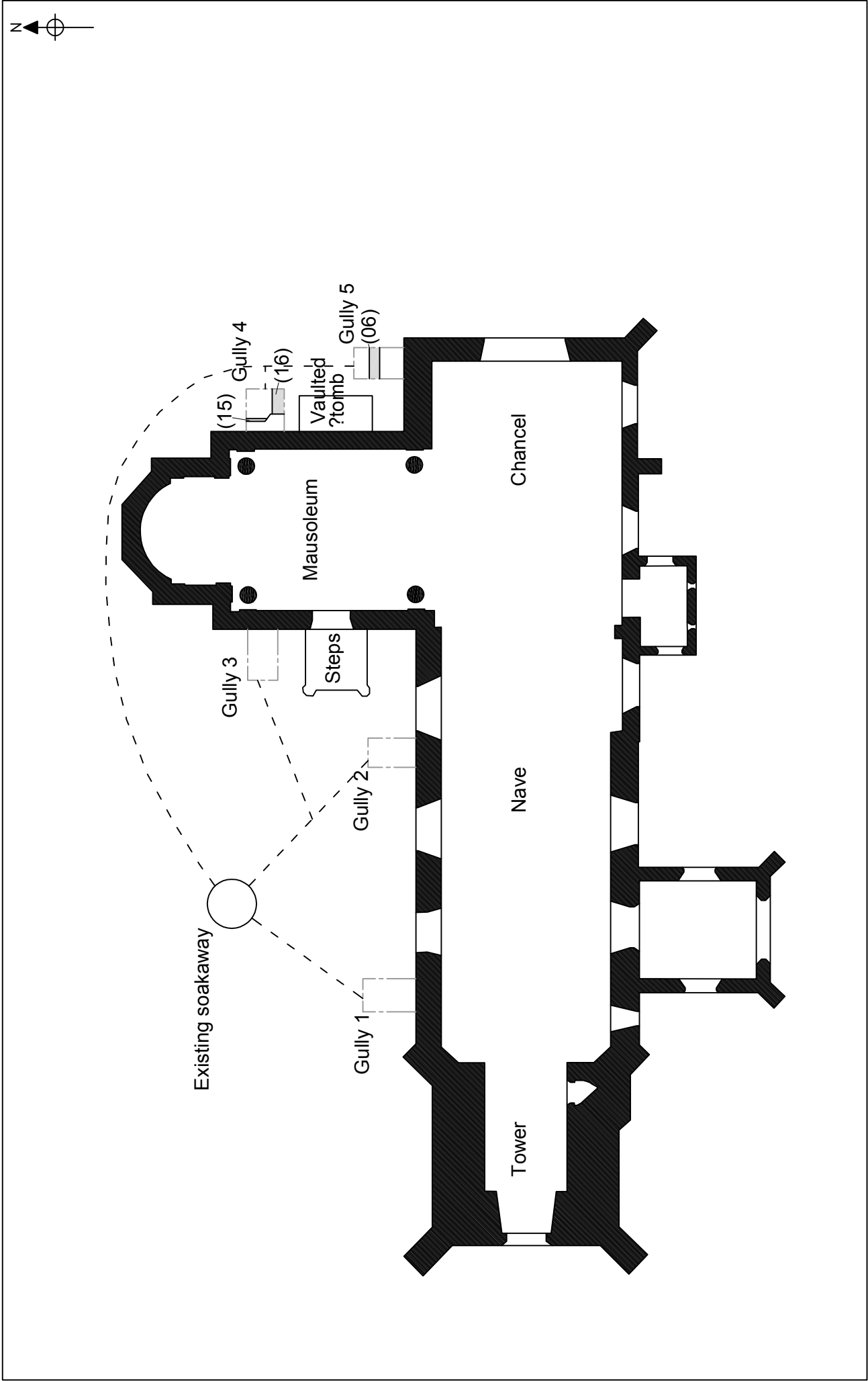


Figure 2. Plan showing gully and drain locations. Scale 1:150.

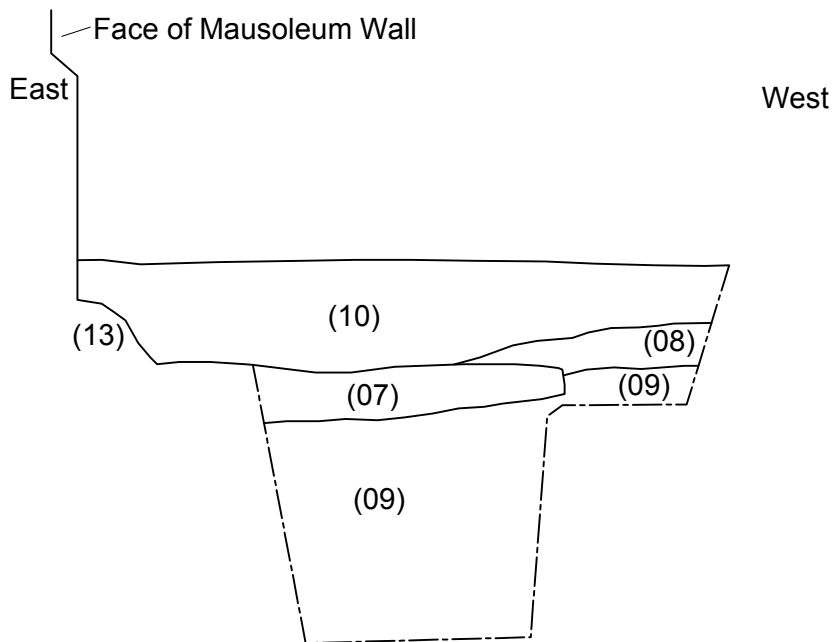
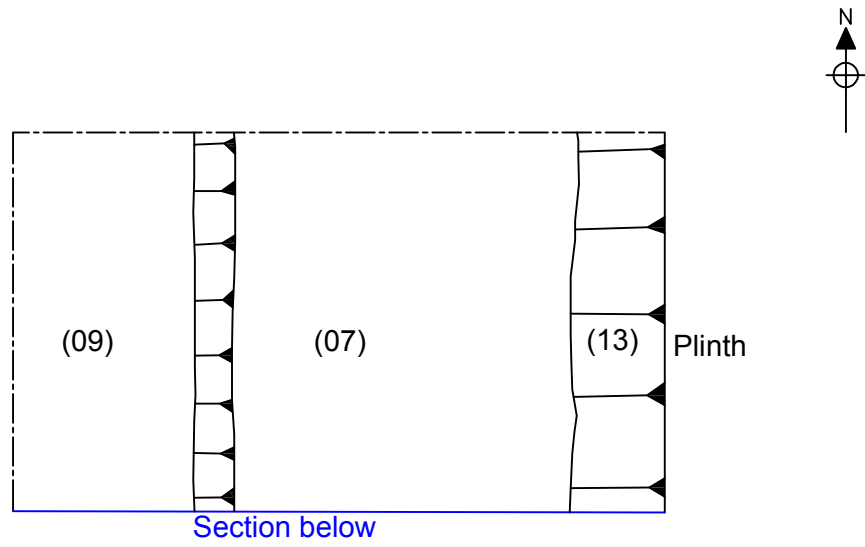


Figure 3a. Plan of Gully 3. Scale 1:20.

Figure 3b. North facing section of Gully 3. Scale 1:20.

Plates



Plate 1: Area of work to the north of the church, looking east



Plate 2: Gully trench 3 with mortar and flint deposit 7, looking east, 0.5m scale



Plate 3: Gully trench 3 with deposit 7 partly removed, footing 13 to left, looking S, 0.5m scale

Plates



Plate 4: Gully trench 4 with brick feature 15 (0.5m scale) and showing damage to vaulted structure 16, looking SSW



Plate 5: Gully trench 5 with brick wall 6 (0.50m scale), looking S and new brickwork in chancel wall visible