

**ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,
ABBOTTS ANN,
HAMPSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 330 435

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

June 2015
Report No. 1064



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

On the 13th February 2015 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring during repairs to St Mary the Virgin Church, Abbots Ann, Hampshire (NGR: SU 330 435). The work was requested by Duncan Wilson of Pick Everard on behalf of the PCC for St Mary the Virgin Church.

The groundworks comprised the excavation of a service trench, a test pit on the east side of the vestry and a small pit for pipework in the southwest corner of the vestry.

During the course of the watching brief a small quantity of disarticulated bone was identified. Due to the small fragments recovered, it was not possible to identify if the bone was human, but all fragments were reinterred in the service cut in the location the bone was recovered from.

With the exception of the probable disarticulated human bone, no archaeological finds or deposits pre-dating the late Post-medieval/Modern period were present within the watched areas.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic building material.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Roman

The period traditionally dated between AD 43 and *circa* AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 13th February 2015 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring during repairs to St Mary the Virgin Church, Abbots Ann, Hampshire (NGR: SU 330 435). The work was requested by Duncan Wilson of Pick Everard on behalf of the PCC for St Mary the Virgin Church.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2008) and the standard conditions from Hampshire County Council.
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The project involved archaeological monitoring during repairs to St Mary the Virgin Church, Abbots Ann, Hampshire (NGR: SU 330 435). The work was requested by Duncan Wilson of Pick Everard on behalf of the PCC for St Mary the Virgin Church.
- 2.2 The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential and the church is located within the historic core of the Abbots Ann Conservation Area. The village itself is known to have late Saxon/early Medieval origins, as it was granted to the New Minister of Winchester by King Edward the Elder and was later recorded in the Domesday Book.
- 2.3 Approximately 2km to the southwest of the church, the remains of a Roman Villa was recovered at the end of Dunkirt Lane. The villa contained mosaics which are now in the British Museum. The Iron Age hillfort Bury Hill, is located over 1km to the east of the site.
- 2.4 The archaeological potential of the site was therefore perceived as high for deposits and features of Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval date. This did not prejudice the watching brief against the recovery of finds or features relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains.

- 3.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the objectives as stated below.
- i) to define and identify the nature of the archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
 - iii) where possible, to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The groundworks comprised the excavation of a service trench, a test pit on the east side of the vestry and a small pit for pipework in the southwest corner of the vestry.
- 4.2 All excavation was undertaken by hand, under constant archaeological observation. Where potential archaeological features or deposits were present, they were manually investigated and, if necessary, recorded in accordance with archaeological best practice. Spoil tips were scanned for unstratified finds. All recovered archaeological artefacts were allocated a context reference number and retained. Modern artefacts were noted and discarded. Any bone was noted and then reinterred in the location it was recovered from.

5 RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Service Trench (labelled A on Figure 2)
- 5.1.1 The trench was aligned east-west and was excavated along the southern wall of the church. The trench was approximately 8m long, 0.55m wide and 0.5m deep. The lowest deposit was a yellow beige sandy silt (102), with occasional fragments of late Post-medieval/Modern CBM. This was present for a depth of between 0.38-0.40m. This was in turn sealed by a mid-brown grey clay silt topsoil (101), around 0.10-0.12m thick, which contained occasional flecks of charcoal and late Post-medieval/Modern CBM. No archaeological deposits were present within the service trench, however, a small quantity of disarticulated bone was recovered from the eastern end of the trench. This was noted, then returned to the trench cut. No grave cut was visible and no associated material was present.

5.2 Test-pit to the east of the vestry (labelled B on Figure 2)

5.2.1 The test-pit was 0.68m long, 0.5m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.51m. In this location topsoil (101) was deeper than in the service trench and was the only deposit present within the excavated test-pit. The remains of a broken salt-glazed pipe was present within the southern corner of the pit. No other archaeological finds or deposits were present within this test-pit.

5.3 Pit in southwest corner of Vestry (labelled C on Figure 2)

5.3.1 The floorboards within the vestry were removed and a 0.5m square pit was excavated, to a depth of 0.22m. The only deposit present within this excavated area was a yellow beige sandy silt (102), with occasional fragments of late Post-medieval/Modern CBM. No archaeological finds or deposits were present within the excavated area.

5.4 During the course of the watching brief a small quantity of disarticulated bone was identified. Due to the small fragments recovered, it was not possible to identify if the bone was human, but all fragments were reinterred in the service cut, in the location the bone was recovered from. With the exception of the probable disarticulated human bone, no archaeological finds or deposits pre-dating the late Post-medieval/Modern period were present within the watched areas.

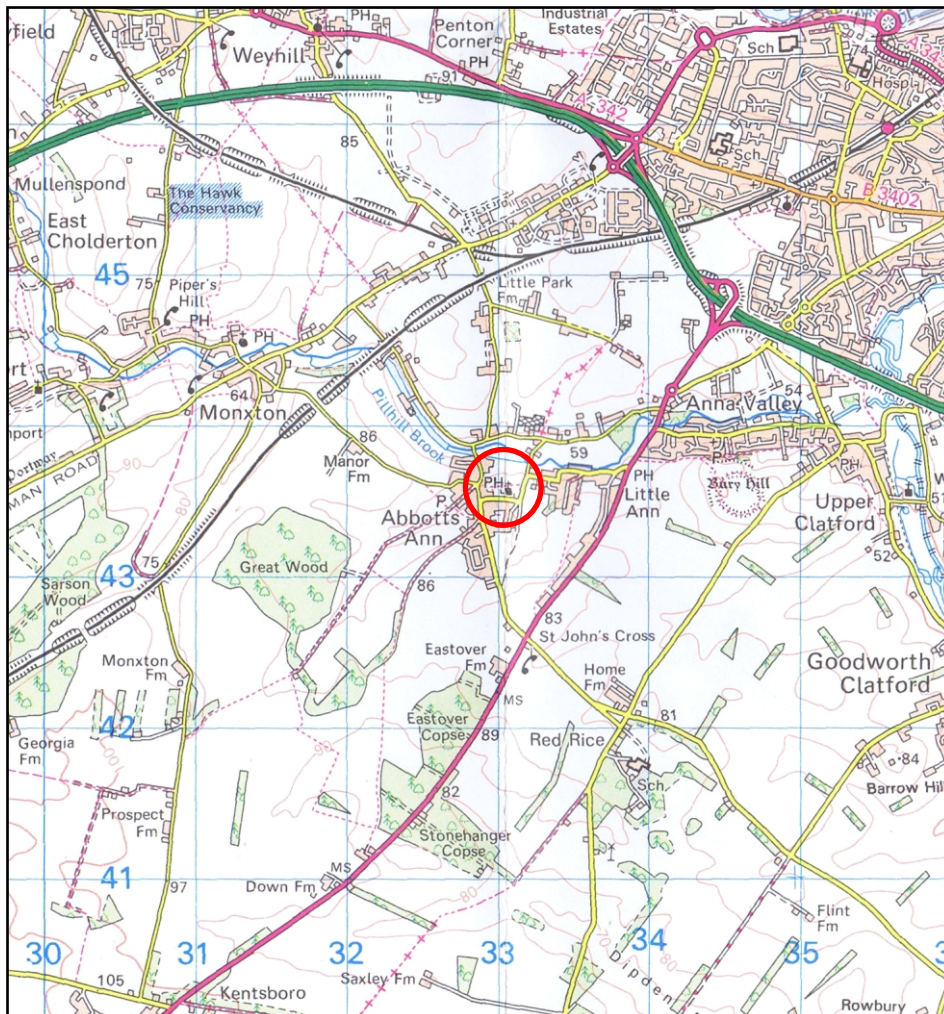
5.5 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months to the local museum if required. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

6 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

7 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Duncan Wilson of Pick Everard and the on-site groundworkers for their help and co-operation during the project.



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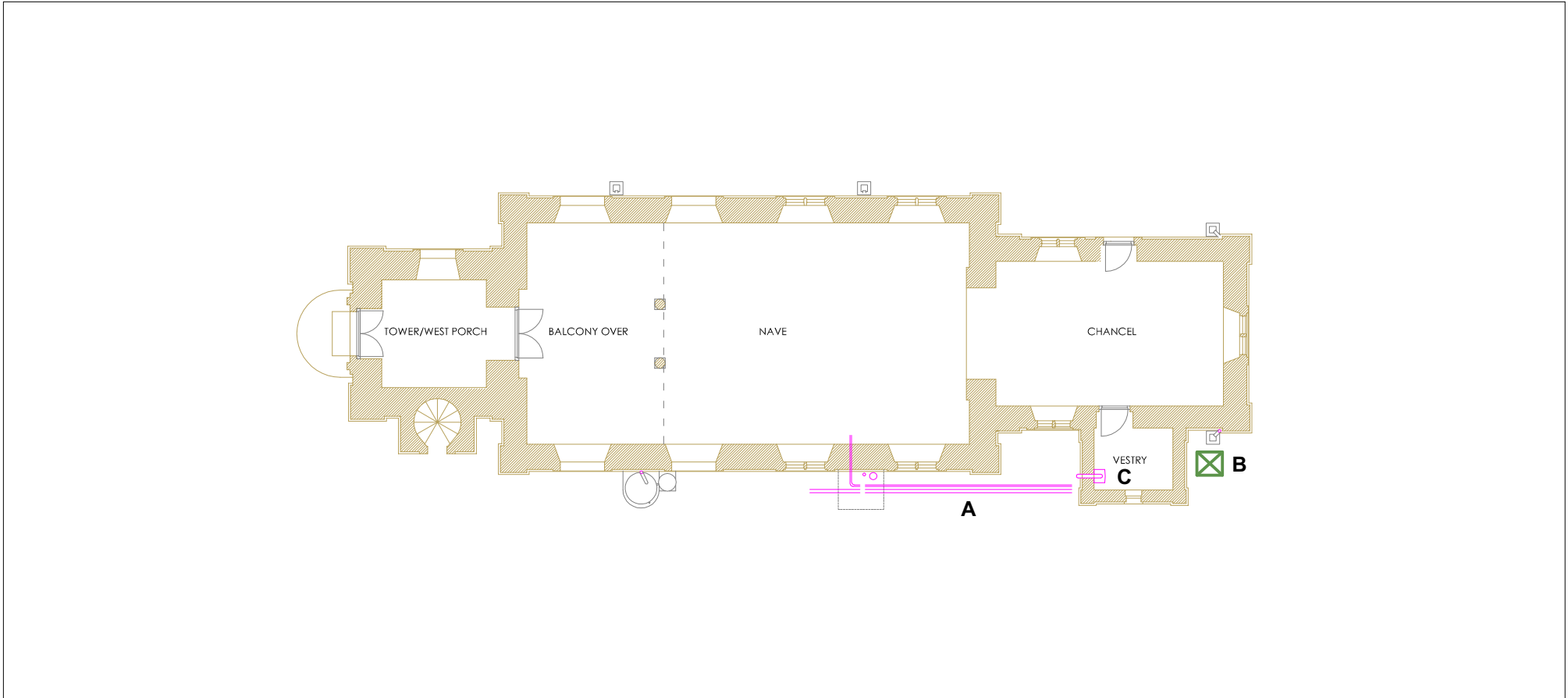
Site Code: CMA15
Accession Code:

N

0m 2km

1:50,000

FIGURE 1: Site Location



Site Code: CMA15
Accession Code:

N

0m 10m
1:200

FIGURE 2: Site Plan