

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
GREAT CHESTERFORD
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SEPTEMBER 2011

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
GREAT CHESTERFORD
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report. Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager at the

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, GREAT CHESTERFORD, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Client: Great Chesterford Parochial Church Council

Diocesan app. no.: 26:06

NGR: TL 5058 4276

ECC FAU project number: 2444

Site code: GC52

Oasis entry number: 108019

Date of fieldwork: 19/7/11 to 16/8/11

SUMMARY

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit monitored the excavation of two narrow service trenches across the churchyard of All Saint's Church, Great Chesterford, Essex. Internal groundworks in the floor of the Lady Chapel were also monitored. The church and churchyard are of medieval foundation and are situated within the Second Walled Enclosure of the Roman town.

Two wall foundations revealed in the water supply trench to the west and south west of the church, were presumably part of the 13th century tower and the south aisle, which collapsed or were demolished in the 15th century. A north-south aligned undated wall foundation discovered to the south of the Lady Chapel may be a continuation of a Roman wall which was found further south during previous investigation. Two graves, that contained no dating evidence but are thought to be medieval or post medieval, were disturbed by the service trenches at the south west corner of the tower and to the south of the church respectively.

Part of the floor was removed and two trenches dug in the Lady Chapel, as part of the works to relocate the screen and bring the water pipe run into the church. Although no in situ medieval deposits were observed, disarticulated human bones, concentrated close to the chapel's south wall, were found.

All the artefacts collected from these groundworks were unstratified and comprised fragments of Roman, medieval and later pottery, brick and tile. Items of coffin furniture, consisting of iron nails and two fragments of iron plate, were also retrieved. The majority of the Roman pottery dates to the 3rd and 4th centuries, which is consistent with previous excavations within the churchyard and reflects the main period of Roman town development.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording during internal and external works at All Saints' Church, Great Chesterford, Essex. The internal works involved removal and replacement of the floor of the Lady Chapel and relocation of the screen, while the external works involved the excavation of water supply and drainage trenches located on the south and west sides of the church. The archaeological work was carried out by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Great Chesterford Parochial Church Council. It took place in accordance an archaeological brief (ECC HEM 2011) and a written scheme of investigation (ECC FAU 2011) and was monitored by the ECC Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM).

Copies of this report will be supplied to the client, to ECC HEM, and to the Essex Historic Environment Record. A summary of the project and a copy of the report will be uploaded to the OASIS online archaeological record and be accessible via the Archaeological Data Service website (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>). The site archive will be held at Saffron Walden Museum.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

The village of Great Chesterford sits near the boundary between Essex and Cambridgeshire and overlooks the River Cam. It is surrounded by farmland and low-lying hills. The nearest main roads are the M11 and the B1383 to the west, and the B184 to the east.

The parish church of All Saints is sited in the south-west part of the village. Its surrounding churchyard contains grave stones and is covered by grass. Access to the churchyard is via two gates on Church Street. Gravel footpaths link the gates and Church Street to the entranceway at the northwest corner of the church.

2.2 Geology

The geology of Great Chesterford comprises river terrace deposits of sandy gravel and bands of clay above Chalk and Chalky Boulder Clay.

2.3 Archaeology

The following archaeological background makes use of the historic town assessment for Great Chesterford (Medlycott 1998) and the RCHME description of the church (1916). The area to the north of the churchyard is a scheduled ancient monument (No. 24871), part of the Roman town of Great Chesterford. A detailed account of the archaeology of the Roman town can be found in Medlycott 2011 and only information pertinent to the church and churchyard is included below.

All Saints Church is postulated to lie within the northern half of a walled enclosure or annexe to the Roman town. Sections of wall foundations, which may have been part of this enclosure, have been found at Mill Cottage and beneath the northern wall of the churchyard (EHER 13922; Collins 1996; Gadd 1999). The remains of Roman masonry structures, ditches and pits within the enclosure interior have previously been found in the churchyard and in the grounds of the Country Club to the south (EHER 14814; Miller 1988; Ennis 2001). Artefacts of Late Iron Age and Roman date also occur as residual material in the grave soil throughout the churchyard.

The parish church of All Saints is a Grade II* listed building constructed of flint with stone dressings (EHER 13891, 13890 and 25353; RCHME 1916, 113-5). The chancel is early 13th century and is the oldest standing part of the church. The second half of the 13th century witnessed the construction of the nave and the aisles and probably a west tower. The nave was originally two bays longer than it is today. The west tower and the two western-most bays of the nave collapsed or were demolished in the late 14th/early 15th century. Following this event, the church was remodelled with the addition of north and south chapels, the widening of the two aisles, the building of the existing west end of the nave and the construction of a replacement tower on the site of the present-day tower. The early 16th century saw the demolition of the south chapel and part of the south aisle, and the construction of the existing south chapel in their place. In the 18th century, the replacement tower collapsed. The present-day tower occupies the same site as the late 14th/15th-century tower, and was built in 1790. Restoration work in 1842 and 1891 involved the removal of the porch and the room over the vestry, the discovery and the rebuilding of the north-west door, and the construction of the present-day lean-to lobby.

A fragment of the foundation of the demolished pre-1400 wall of the north aisle was revealed during archaeological monitoring of a sewer trench and excavation of a toilet block in 2006 (Germany 2006). A number of inhumations were also recorded within the sewer trench. Most recently, archaeological test-pitting undertaken to the south of the church revealed the presence

of burials and grave soil in excess of 1.6m thick (Germany 2011). Masonry, glass and medieval floor tile fragments within the grave soil presumably derive from the church and its various episodes of rebuilding and renovation.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aim of the investigation was to determine the presence or absence, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains that may be present within the development area.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 The specific objectives of the investigation were:

- To identify and record evidence for Roman occupation within the town annexe and to understand its date and function
- To identify and record structural remains relating to the development of the medieval and later church
- To identify and record the positions and dates of interments within the churchyard

3.2.2 The results of this project were considered in relation to pertinent research questions identified in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2: Research Agenda and Strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

4. METHOD

The ECC FAU monitored the excavation of the drainage and water supply trenches and internal works in the Lady Chapel carried out by Lodge & Sons Ltd. The external groundworks were undertaken by machine, while interior trenches were dug by hand. The sides of the various trenches were examined for archaeological deposits, finds and features, and the spoil heaps were also scanned for unstratified artefacts.

The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* and the Association of Local Government Officers' *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (IfA 2008; Gurney

2003). The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists. The ECC FAU uses its own recording system to record all archaeological deposits and features. Further details of the excavation method can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ECC FAU 2011).

The presence of human remains was noted, but these were not analysed or retained. All human bones disturbed by the groundworks were reburied on-site, close to where they were found.

5. FIELDWORK RESULTS

Further context information can be found in appendix 1.

5.1 Drainage trench (trench 1)

The drainage trench began at the south-west corner of the chapel and ran close to the foot of the wall on the south and west side of the church to join the existing sewage pipe located to the west of the toilet facilities (Fig.1). It was 0.25m wide and its depth ranged from 0.2m at its southern end to 0.6m at the northern. The trench revealed the presence of a grave located close to the south-west corner of the church tower and a quantity of unstratified finds that comprised seven pieces of Roman pottery, a fragment of medieval glazed floor tile and a single sherd of medieval pottery were collected from along its length. Despite its location over projected 13th century wall foundations, the excavation of the drainage trench did not expose any such masonry structures. It is possible that these have been truncated by later cuts, such as graves, or else were demolished and cleared to a depth greater than the excavated depth of the drainage trench.

5.2 Water supply trench (trench 2)

The water supply pipe trench followed much the same route as the drainage trench, though extended further east to the chapel doorway (Fig.1). It was 0.25m wide and c.0.75m deep along the whole length. The underlying natural deposit was not exposed in either of the trenches and all the archaeological features present were overlaid by mid greyish-brown gravely sand subsoil, 0.05m layer of yellow gravel and 0.1m of topsoil/turf. The excavation of this trench revealed three substantial wall foundations and an inhumation, and yielded several unstratified artefacts.

All of the wall remains looked similar and were constructed of medium to large flint stones and gravel bonded in a yellowish white mortar. They were buried 0.15 to 0.25m below ground surface but the trench was not deep enough to uncover their bases. Wall 3 was 1.6m wide and ran east-west, seemingly aligned on the south wall of the church. West of the tower, the trench ran along what is postulated to be a north-south aligned foundation, Wall 4, exposing it for a distance of 5.4m (Plates 1 and 2). Consequently, its true dimensions were not established. 0.75m-wide, flint-and-mortar wall 5 was exposed to the south of the Lady Chapel, near its doorway. Although similarly constructed to the wall foundations further west, it is unlikely to be associated with the structure of the church; a Roman date is more likely given that a similarly aligned wall fragment has previously been found further south in the graveyard (Ennis 2001).

Further west of Wall 5, the left arm and leg bones of an east-west aligned inhumation were revealed (Plate 3). These human remains were encountered 0.7m below the ground surface. No grave cut was observed and no artefacts were discovered in its vicinity.

The water supply trench entered the church under the Lady Chapel doorway, uncovering the southern side of its foundation which was a solid structure made of flint stones mixed with chalk (Fig. 2, Section 2; plate 4).

A few pieces of Roman pottery, together with fragments of Roman and medieval bricks and tiles, were collected from along the length of the trench.

5.3 Trenches in the Lady Chapel (trenches 3 & 4)

Two small trenches, making an L-shape, were excavated inside the Lady Chapel (Fig.1). A 4m-long north-south aligned trench for the screen foundation (trench 3) was positioned 2.25m west of the chapel entrance. It was 0.6m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.5m.

Between the chapel doorway and the south end of trench 3, a 3.35-long by 0.4m wide trench was excavated to bring the water supply pipe into the church. This was only dug to a depth of 0.1m.

These works showed that the floor of the Lady Chapel was made of 0.06m thick slab stones, which were lying on 0.03m thick layer of concrete, which in turn overlaid 0.28m of hardcore. The subsoil was directly underneath but the further deposit sequence was not exposed (Fig. 2. Section 1; Plates 5 and 6). Whilst trench 4 was not deep enough to reach archaeological

deposits, trench 3 contained several disarticulated human bones concentrated in its south end. A few items of post-medieval coffin furniture, fragments of medieval glazed floor tile and medieval/post-medieval tile were recovered from trench 3.

6. FINDS by Alan J Jacobs

A total of 48 fragments of brick, tile, pottery, mortar, iron and oyster shell, weighing 5844g, were recovered from four contexts. All of the material has been sorted into context and recorded by count and weight. The finds are described and tabulated below (appendix 2).

6.1 Roman pottery

All fabrics are defined by the Essex County Council Type Series (Going 1987) with additions from the Stansted excavations (Wallace et al 2004, 285-312), unless otherwise stated.

A total of 12 sherds weighing 138g were recovered from two contexts. This material derives from disturbed grave fill and, as such, all finds must be considered as unstratified. Although of too small a size for statistical analysis, this group of pottery is large enough to add to the characterisation of the site.

The majority of the assemblage comprises the major coarseware groups (BSW, GRF). These fabrics are present only in the fairly general form of small G24 jar that dates from the 2nd to the 4th century (BSW, context 2). A single flanged bowl form B6.2/1 (GRF, context 1) is dated from the late 3rd to 4th century. Finally, a single indefinable sherd of Miscellaneous White Slipped Red Ware (MWSRW, context 1) was also recovered.

The majority of fine wares are Oxford Red Colour Coat (OXRC, context 2), present in the form of a flanged bowl C8.4/1 dating from 360 to 400+ AD, and a imitation Dragendorff 37 form C10 dating from the mid 3rd to 4th century. The surface survival is good for this fabric with fragments of decorative body sherds still being definable. Nene Valley Colour Coat Ware (NVC, fabric 2) is present (context 2), in the form of a decorated body sherd from an imitation Dragendorff 37 bowl. This decoration consists of two incised lines separating decorative panels, which contains a pattern of diamonds separated by double spirals (Perrin 1999, form no 304). The only other form present is a rim sherd of a B5 bowl with rounded rim (Perrin 1999, form no 252). Both forms date

to the late 2nd to 3rd century. Unsourced Colour Coat Ware (UCC) is present, again as an imitation Dragendorff 37 bowl form C10, which also has a broad 2nd to 3rd century date.

The overall pottery assemblage is typical of North Essex, lacking the great fabric diversity of sites to the south-east. The lack of definable first century forms or fabrics, or indeed any that could be tied exclusively to the 2nd century, emphasizes the 3rd to 4th century dating of this group. This compares well with earlier excavations within the churchyard and at the nearby site of the Bishop's House (Jacobs 2011 & Garwood 2004).

6.2 Post-medieval pottery by Helen Walker

A single sherd of fine buff-coloured earthenware with a streaky brown glaze (wt 7g) was recovered from context 2. It appears to be from the lid of a small teapot (the lid measuring 50mm in diameter), which could indicate a date in the second half of the 18th century when tea was still expensive, although a later, 19th to 20th century date, is equally probable.

6.3 Other finds

The Roman brick and tile consists of seven fragments weighing 1372g and was recovered from just a single context (1). This material comprises mainly abraded wall brick but a single fragment of Tegula is also present. The fragments of Roman wall brick are not complete enough to be more readily definable by form type.

A single fragment of medieval brick was recovered (context 1). Weighing 1904g, the fabric is coarsely formed, vesicular and has rounded arises, dating from the 13th to 14th century. This is unusual in Roman tile which is formed in a mould in a more liquid state; and as such must be identified as a medieval brick. Nine fragments of a medieval glazed floor tile weighing 1854g were recovered (contexts 1, 2 and 6). These are fragmentary and abraded examples with only traces of glaze surviving and are most likely to date from the 13th to 16th century. Three medieval/post medieval roof tile fragments (context 6) were also recovered. These are again very fragmentary and covered in mortar. A mortar sample was collected from the structure of the 13th century church foundations (context 4); this consists of a lime mortar with chalk inclusions.

Other finds included seven fragments of coffin fitting were recovered (context 6), comprising a large iron nail, smaller nails and fragments of iron plate. These were of relatively modern date

and have been discarded. Finally, just a single fragment of oyster shell was recovered (context 1).

6.4 Conclusion

Comparatively large amounts of coarseware jars, mainly dishes/bowls and colour coat wares are present in this assemblage, indicating that the site is distinctly urban in character. The assemblage can be considered to be fairly standard for this area of the town, with the unabraded fragments giving a clear indication of the survival of archaeological artefacts, if not features, where there is little later activity. The post-Roman materials are, perhaps unsurprisingly, indicative of building maintenance, waste disposal and burial activity through the medieval and post medieval period within the churchyard.

No further work is required on any of the finds; all post-Roman material should be discarded.

7. DISCUSSION & ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

Medieval and later remains

Historical evidence and previous excavation (Germany 2006) indicates that the structures discovered in the water supply trench are parts of the medieval west end of the church that collapsed or was demolished in the late 14th/early 15th century. Wall 3 presumably formed the south wall foundation of the continuation of the south aisle and wall 4 must have been remains of the east wall of the earlier tower/the west wall of the earlier nave. These wall foundations have been demonstrated to be substantial and to survive at a shallow depth below existing ground surface level. The recorded remains closely coincide with the layout of the removed medieval tower and west end of the nave as depicted by the RCHME (1916) and it seems likely that they have been exposed previously.

The absence of further parts of wall foundation remains in the drainage trench may be explained by its shallow depth and/or removal by post-medieval and modern truncations such as grave cuts. Alternatively, they may have been cleared to a greater depth where closest to the extant church.

Only two graves were observed to be truncated by the service trenches. Grave cuts were not discernible within the homogenous churchyard soils and no artefacts were found in direct association with the human remains; though their medieval or post-medieval date is likely. As these burials were encountered at only c.0.6-0.7m below the ground surface, it is entirely possible that further inhumations are present at a greater depth.

Monitoring of the interior groundworks within the Lady Chapel has established that the present floor is of modern date. The presence of residual artefacts, including disarticulated human bones, indicates that the ground has been disturbed, perhaps repeatedly and particularly when the Victorian restoration works took place.

Roman remains

Wall 5 is located south of the Lady Chapel, which makes it unlikely to be part of the medieval church. It has the same north-south alignment as a structure, thought to be a Roman wall foundation, discovered 11m to the south-east during previous archaeological evaluation (Ennis 2001) and is probably itself of Roman date. The assemblage of residual and unstratified Roman artefacts collected from the groundworks is typical of material found during the course of previous investigations in the churchyard. It is likely that medieval and later burial activity has truncated earlier remains, though lower parts of features could still be present at a greater depth than that reached by the service trench works. As such, the results of this monitoring exercise do not significantly extend knowledge of function and activity within the Second Walled Enclosure of the Roman settlement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ECC FAU would like to thank the Great Chesterford Parochial Church council for commissioning the work and Lodge & Sons for help and cooperation during the archaeological monitoring which was undertaken by Mark Germany and Lukasz Miciak of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit. Finds were analysed by Alan Jacobs and Helen Walker. The report was prepared by Lukasz Miciak with illustrations by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Mark Atkinson and monitored by Richard Havis of the Historic Environment Management Team.

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RCHM(E)	1916	Royal Commission on historical Monuments (England): an inventory of the historical monuments in Essex, Vol.1, 113-5

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

Ctxt No.	Trench	Type	Description	Date
1	1	Finds	Unstratified finds from the drainage trench	-
2	2	Finds	Unstratified finds from the water supply trench	-
3	2	Wall foundation	1.6m wide, aligned east-west, made of large and medium flint stones, gravel and mortar	Medieval
4	2	Wall foundation	5.4m long, aligned north-south?, made of large and medium flint stones, gravel and mortar	Medieval
5	2	Wall foundation	0.75m wide, aligned north-south, made of large and medium flint stones, gravel and mortar	Roman?
6	3	Finds	Unstratified finds from the trench in the Lady Chapel	-

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
1	n/a	1	4	Roman pottery, body sherd of Black Surfaced Ware (BSW, fabric 34/45), fine black surface burnish, probably the shoulder of a small jar.	Roman
		1	14	Roman pottery, flanged rim of a Fine Grey Ware (GRF, fabric 39), flanged bowl (form B6.2/1), 260mm diameter, 5% EVE, unabraded.	Late 3rd to 4th century
		1	14	Roman pottery, body sherd of Fine Grey Ware (GRF, fabric 39), not more closely dateable.	Roman
		1	2	Roman pottery, body sherd of Miscellaneous white slipped red ware (MWSRW, fabric 15), abraded.	Roman
		1	166	Roman brick/tile fragment, oxidised vesicular fabric, 35 to 36mm thick.	Roman
		6	1216	Roman Tile, fragment of the phalange and corner of a Tegula, 18mm thick, five larger fragments of Roman brick 38mm in thickness, not complete enough to be more readily definable.	Roman
		1	1904	Medieval Brick, fragment, sandy oxidised fabric, lime mortar on surfaces, 43mm thick 200mm across only one edge survives.	13th-14th century
		5	890	Medieval tile, glazed floor tile or paver fragments between 22mm and 24mm thick traces of glaze much abraded.	13th to 16th century
2	n/a	1	20	Roman pottery, body sherd of Fine Grey Ware (GRF, fabric 39), not more closely dateable.	Roman
		1	14	Roman pottery, rim sherd of Nene Valley Ware (NVC, fabric 2), bowl form with rounded rim B5 (Perrin 1999, no 252), 240mm diameter, 9%, unabraded.	Late 2nd to 3rd century
		1	30	Roman pottery, rim sherd of Black Surfaced Ware (BSW, fabric 34/45), jar form G24, abraded.	2nd to 4th century
		1	10	Roman pottery, decorated body sherd of Nene Valley Ware (NVC, fabric 2), two incised lines separating panels containing diamond patterns separated by double spirals (Similar to Perrin 1999, no 304), imitation Dragendorff 37.	Late 2nd to 3rd century
		1	10	Roman pottery, decorated rim sherd of Unsourced Colour Coat Ware (UCC), in the form of an imitation Dragendorff 37 bowl (C10), 180mm diameter, 4% EVE.	2nd to 3rd century
		2	8	Roman Pottery, decorated body sherd and abraded rim of Oxford Red Colour Coat (OXRCC, fabric 3), in the form of an imitation Dragendorff 37 bowl, to abraded for closer identification.	240 to 400 AD
		1	12	Roman Pottery, rim sherd of Oxford Red Colour Coat (OXRCC, fabric 3), in the form of a flanged bowl (C8.4/1), 240mm diameter, 4% EVE.	360 to 400AD
		1	24	Mollusc Shell, oyster shell abraded.	
		1	408	Medieval glazed floor tile, fragment, much abraded oxidised fragment traces of glaze, 29mm thick.	14th to 16th century
		1	7	Buff earthenware teapot lid with streaky-brown glaze (discarded)	Mid 18th to 20th C

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
4	n/a	6	28	Mortar sample, removed from structure of 13th century church, coarse lime mortar, common large chalk inclusions up to 10mm in size, flattened surfaces.	13th century
6	n/a	7	182	Iron, coffin furniture consisting of iron nails and two fragments of iron plate.	Post medieval to modern
		3	164	Medieval/Post medieval, tile fragments, abraded, one example has a nail hole, 13mm thick red sandy fabric with surface traces of mortar	13th to 18th century
		3	556	Medieval tile, glazed floor tile fragments between 22mm and 24mm thick, traces of glaze much abraded.	13th to 16th century
		2	168	Post medieval mortar with brick fragment, white highly fired brick.	17th to 19th century
<i>Total</i>		48	5844		

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

Contained within one A4 wallet file:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological brief
- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client report (1 bound, 1 unbound copy)
- 2.2 Finds reports and quantification tables
- 2.3 CD-Rom (containing reports, photos, etc)

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Trench recording sheets (x4)
- 3.2 Context register (x1 sheet)
- 3.3 Context Record sheets (x2)
- 3.4 Site plans and drawings (x2 drawing film sheets)
- 3.6 Photographic register & thumbnail print sheet
- 3.7 Photographic record (colour prints from digital images)

Held separate from folder:

Less than 1 box of finds

APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Site name/Address: All Saint's Church, Great Chesterford	
Parish: Great Chesterford	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 50589 42748	Site Code: GC52
Type of Work: Archaeological monitoring and recording	Site Director/Group: Lukasz Miciak, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Dates of Work: 19/07/11 - 16/08/11	Size of Area Investigated: c.20.57 sq. m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden	Client: Great Chesterford Parochial Church Council
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos: 13890-1, 13922, 25353
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History	Oasis No: 108019
Periods represented: Roman, Medieval, Post-medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>The contractors' excavation of two narrow and relatively shallow (max.0.75m deep) service trenches around the south and west sides of the church, and internal works to the floor of the Lady Chapel, were subject to archaeological monitoring. The medieval church and churchyard are situated within the Second Walled Enclosure of the Roman town.</p> <p><u>Roman:</u> North-south aligned remains of a wall foundation discovered to the south of the Lady Chapel may be of Roman date. A similar structure was found during previous works further to the south (Ennis 2001). All Roman artefacts retrieved were unstratified and comprised several fragments of pottery, brick and tile. The pottery dates to the 3rd and 4th centuries, which compares well with the previous excavation within the churchyard and to the main period of Roman town development.</p> <p><u>Medieval & later:</u> Two wall foundations, constructed of flint and gravel in mortar, were revealed to the west and south-west of the church. These are likely fragments of the 13th century tower and south aisle of the nave, which were demolished and cleared by the early 15th century. Two graves were observed to be truncated by the service trenches. No cuts were visible and no artefacts in association, but a medieval or post-medieval date is assumed. Fragments of medieval floor tile and brick and post-medieval pottery, brick, tile and iron coffin fittings were collected from elsewhere along the service trenches. Groundworks for the relocation of a screen within the Lady Chapel revealed the floor surface to be modern. The presence of disarticulated human bones and other artefacts found below the floor make-up suggest ground disturbance during Victorian refurbishments of the church.</p>	

Previous Summaries/Reports:

Ennis, T. 2001. *All Saints Church, Great Chesterford, Essex. Archaeological Evaluation*. FAU rep 945

Germany, M. 2006. *All Saints' Church, Great Chesterford, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation*. FAU rep 1672

Germany, M. 2011. *All Saints' Church, Great Chesterford, Essex, Archaeological Evaluation by Test Pitting*. FAU rep 2400

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Date of Summary: September 2011

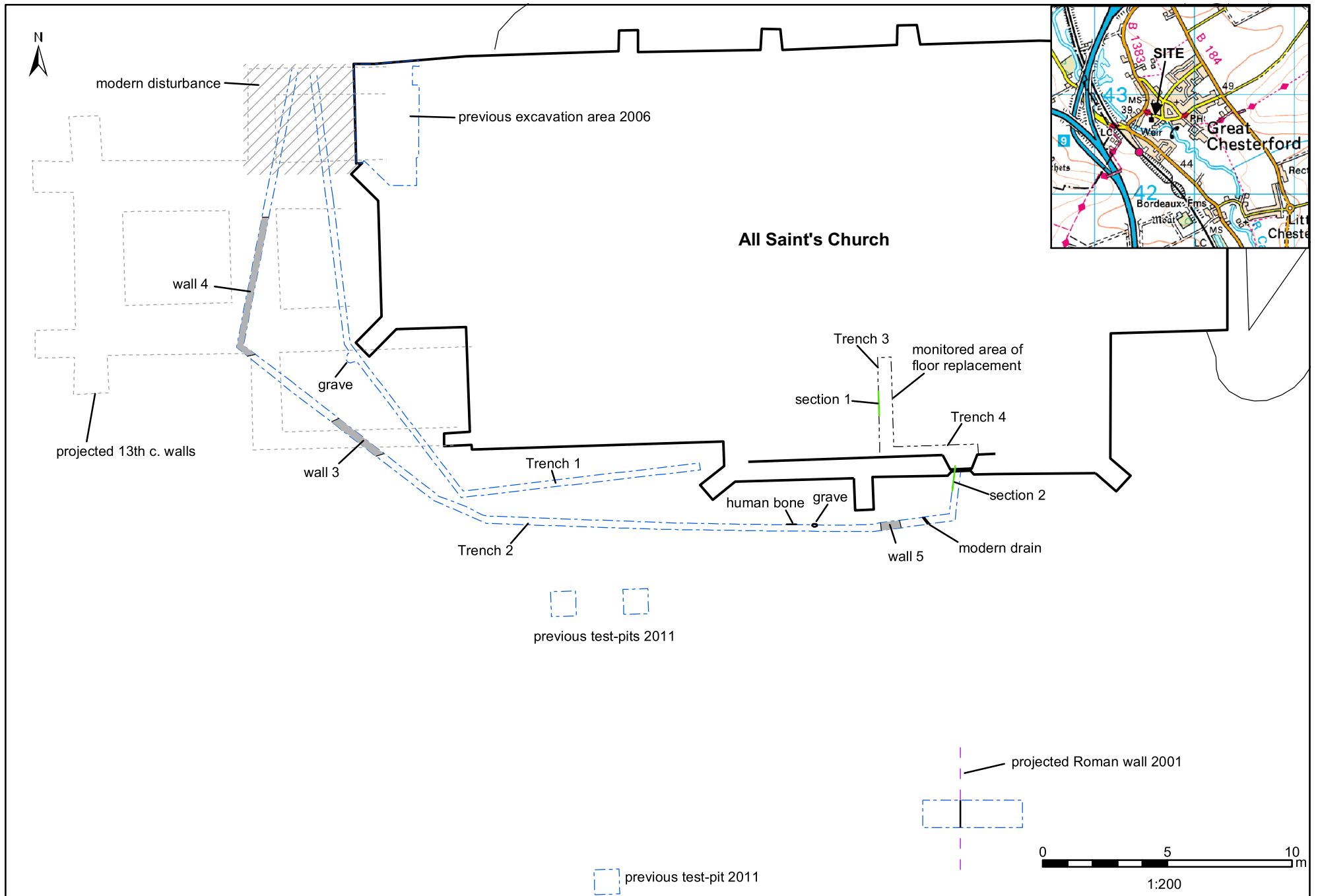


Fig.1. Site location

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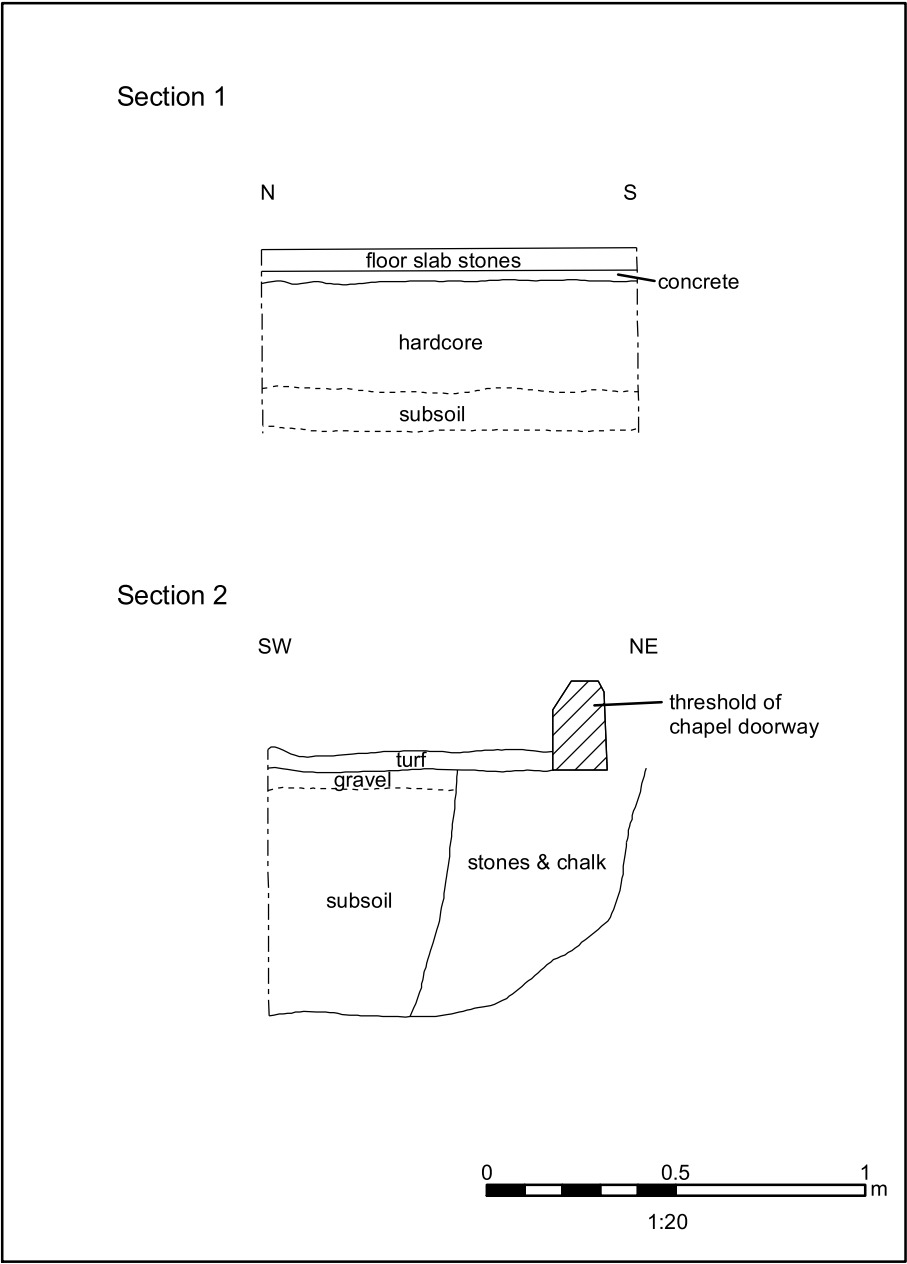


Fig.2. Sections 1 & 2



Plate 1. Wall 4,
Trench 2



Plate 2. Section through wall 4, trench 2



Plate 3. Grave in trench 2



Plate 4. Trench 2 at doorway to Lady Chapel



Plate 5.
Trench 3



Plate 6. Section through Lady Chapel floor, Trench 3