

**FLOOR REPLACEMENT WORKS
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, CANEWDON
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

October 2012

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**FLOOR REPLACEMENT WORKS
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, CANEWDON, ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Client: St Nicholas' PCC

NGR: TQ 89688 94541

Site Code: CWNC 12

Oasis No: 135989

Dates of Fieldwork: 18 - 28 September 2012

SUMMARY

An archaeological investigation was undertaken within the interior of St Nicholas' Church, Canewdon, as part of floor replacement works within the nave aisle and north aisle. Following the contractor's removal of the brick paver and pammet floor, underlying bedding and make-up deposits were archaeologically excavated down to the required construction level c.350mm below the extant floor surface, or else onto the top of any significant remains encountered if occurring higher.

It was established that the floor level had been raised by depositing a 0.3m thickness of clay presumably across the whole interior of the church. The recovery of a 1940 halfpenny from this layer indicated that this was done relatively recently, by all accounts probably shortly after WW2. A number of holes and slots cut into the deposit variously attest to earlier explorations of floor subsidence and perhaps to internal structures such as pews within the church, since removed.

The clay make-up had been deposited directly on the preceding tile floor or, where this had been removed, onto its lime mortar bed. Evidence of earlier floor layers below was apparent in the edge of one of the floor subsidence exploration holes. Masonry foundations that are speculated to relate to either platform structures within the church, or earlier church walls, were found at two locations and recorded but not investigated further. These are to be protected and the new floor constructed over them. A range of artefacts, some of which relate to the fabric and earlier furnishing of the church, were collected during this investigation.

Despite Victorian and modern refurbishment to its interior, it is demonstrated that significant below-ground archaeological remains survive that relate to the earlier development and use of St Nicholas' Church.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological investigation carried out at St Nicholas' Church, Canewdon, during floor replacement work at the west end of the nave and north aisle. The archaeological excavation was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of St Nicholas' Parochial Church Council (PCC).

The PCC submitted an application to the Diocesan Committee in 2010 to repair the flooring at the western end of the Church, adjacent to the porch and tower, and part of the north aisle. The ECC Historic Environment team (ECC HE) advised the Committee that a full archaeological condition was required as it was likely that the construction work would disturb significant archaeological remains. The advice given by ECC HEM is in line with guidance contained in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* and states that:

No development/ conversion, or preliminary groundworks, of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved by the local planning authority.

The subsequent archaeological investigation was carried out in accordance with a Brief of Works issued by the ECC HE team (undated) and with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by ECC FAU (2012).

Copies of this report will be supplied to the St Nicholas' PCC, the ECC HE team and the Essex Historic Environment Record. A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) and will be made accessible via the ADS website (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit>). The site archive, including collected artefacts and copies of the report, will be deposited at the Chelmsford and Essex Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and Geology

The village of Canewdon is located in the north of Rochford District, in the southeast of Essex, approximately 7km northeast of Rochford and 13 miles north of Southend. The settlement and its church occupy a prominent ridge overlooking the Crouch Estuary to the north. The Church of St Nicholas is situated at the western end of the High Street, adjacent

to Canewdon Hall/Farm, at NGR TQ 8968894541 (Fig. 1). The Church lies within the Canewdon Conservation Area and is a listed building.

2.2 Archaeology and History

The following archaeological and historical background makes use of the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at County Hall, the RCHME and the church guide (revised 2011).

Various discoveries of late Iron Age and Roman artefacts have been made within the parish. The settlement is likely to have earlier Saxon origins. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book, with the principal manor being owned by Swein of Essex. By this time, the focus of the late Saxon settlement was likely around the church and adjacent Canewdon Hall, with the later medieval occupation extending eastwards along the ridge.

The Parish Church of St Nicholas is a Grade 2* listed building (LB 123105) predominantly constructed of ragstone and rubble, incorporating some flint and septaria, with window and doorframes/ surrounds in dressed limestone (HER13600). The earliest phase of the building includes the nave, chancel and north aisle, which date to the 14th century. Early in the 15th century the west tower and south porch were added, the south wall of the nave rebuilt and a vestry, most likely situated along the northern wall of the chancel, was added. Later in the 15th century the bays of the northern arcade were rebuilt and the northern aisle was also largely reconstructed. During the latter part of the 18th century the North Vestry was demolished, while the chancel was largely rebuilt in the modern period (HER13601). General 'restoration' works are understood to have been undertaken to the church in the Victorian period.

According to the church guide, the earliest record of the church in Royal court proceedings dates from 1086. It is assumed that the present church has replaced an earlier church at the same location.

There is no formal record of previous archaeological investigation having been undertaken inside the church. However, the church guide alludes to 1923 excavations by the then vicar which exposed apparent medieval tile flooring in the north aisle. It also mentions a geophysical survey carried out in the churchyard in 2003, which located the remains of the chapel or vestry on the north side of the chancel demolished in the late 18th century. Along with some graves, 2006 excavations in the southwest corner of the churchyard exposed the remains of 'churchyard House', an 18th century building demolished sometime after 1922

(HER46072). Roman tile is incorporated into the church fabric and more such material reputedly dug up in the south side of the churchyard c.1848, leading to conjecture that this location was once occupied by a Roman building (HER13599).

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

The general aim of the investigation was to:

- determine the presence or absence, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains exposed or disturbed by excavation works for the new floors, and to ensure their preservation by record prior to destruction.

The specific aim of the investigation was to:

- identify and record structural remains relating to the development of the medieval and later church

3.2 Objectives

Where possible, the archaeological work endeavoured to address pertinent research objectives laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and with the revised research framework (Medlycott 2011).

4.0 METHOD

The floor replacement scheme required the removal of the existing floor and reduction of underlying deposits to a depth of 350mm below the current floor level across significant areas of the west ends of the nave and north aisle. The extant floor surface, comprising brick pavers and pammets, was lifted by the contractor undertaking the floor replacement works and retained for re-use. The underlying bedding sand layer and any other loose make-up deposits for this floor were then archaeologically removed onto a more solid - potentially archaeological - clay deposit below. The surface of this deposit was cleaned and all potential archaeological features cut into it were planned and hand-excavated. With the agreement of the architect and the ECC HE officer three test-pits were excavated through the deposit in order to investigate its thickness and nature, and to ascertain the type of underlying deposits. The clay was subsequently removed across the whole extent of the floor replacement works, generally onto the top of the underlying deposits; this being close to the required construction works level. No further intrusive excavation was undertaken, with all archaeologically-

significant exposed remains recorded and left in situ for the new floor to be constructed on top.

Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording (written, drawn and photographic) methodologies were employed throughout.

ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and all work was carried out in accordance with IfA by-laws and guidelines (IfA 2010; 2008) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

5.1 General

As previously stated, including the existing floor surface, an approximate 0.35m depth of deposits was removed from an area of c.24sq m within the church interior (Fig.1). The recorded sequence is described from top to bottom, with additional context information presented in Appendix 1.

5.2 Modern floor and bedding

The existing floor of brick pavers and pammets was worn and, in places, cracked and fragmented (Plate 1). The unevenness of its surface was pronounced in places - particularly in the nave aisle opposite the doorway where a significant dip was evident. The 50mm-thick pavers and pammets had been laid on a generally thin layer of fine and compact bedding sand (Plate 2). In places this bedding layer was of negligible thickness. Elsewhere it was underlain and supplemented by a coarser builders sand to infill hollows in the surface of the underlying deposit. The pronounced depression in front of the doorway was also filled with a layer of dirty sand over compact coarse gravel and sand. Context 001 was accorded to the cleaning of the interface of the bedding layer and deposit below. A substantial tomb slab at the church doorway with the south porch was not removed, but was established to be underlain by both modern bedding sand and clay make-up (see below), and so to have been re-laid and perhaps relocated.

Clay make-up layer

The modern floor bedding material overlay a deposit of mid brown compact silty clay 002, which extended across the whole of the floor repair area of the nave and north aisle (Fig. 2; Plate 3). The unevenness of parts of its surface in the nave aisle followed those evident in the overlying floor. Fragments of tile, brick, shell, bone and iron nails were apparent in its cleaned surface.

A number of features were noted to cut into or through clay deposit 002 (Fig. 2). Two plastic electric wire conduits ran across the nave aisle and cross-aisle to the north aisle in shallow 'trenches'. These were clearly modern, but it was not possible to determine if they had been laid before the modern floor or inserted through it and made good. Other pit- and slot-like features were also recorded, along with a number of small holes/voids.

Two sub-circular holes were identified in the nave aisle. Due to apparent slumping of the clay layer into them, both had the appearance of undercutting this deposit. However, during subsequent removal of 002, their true shapes/extents were exposed. Cut 003 was a 0.3m-diameter hole with vertical sides, located in the nave aisle toward the tower (plate 5). Loosely in-filled with a variety of modern large brick and masonry rubble fragments in a grey-brown clayey silt, it was excavated to a depth of 0.5m but no bottom found. Cut 005 was an oval hole, c.0.43 by 0.26m in extent, which was located at the centre of the depression in the nave aisle opposite the doorway (Plate 6). Its silt fill contained mortar fragments and flecks, along with small tile, brick and ragstone fragments and two sheds of medieval pottery. Clearly, the overlying gravel, dirty sand and thick bedding sand capped it as well as filled the wider hollow. It cut through clay deposit 002, into a red/orange-brown silt, but its base was not determined. Both of these holes are likely to be particularly modern. A suggestion of the fill of cut 003 was evident in the sand bedding layer above, though this may have simply been a product of disturbance during floor-lifting. However, it was not possible to determine with any certainty if these holes had been cut through the floor, which was then replaced, or predated it. A vague 'exploratory' function might be speculated - particularly for 005, which could have been dug to investigate the reason for the floor slumping at this location.

Smaller, trench- or slot-like holes also cut deposit 002. The most substantial, cut 007 in the north aisle, was the end of an E-W linear trench c.0.23m wide and 0.22m deep. Filled with a grey-brown clay silt, it was cut through 002 and bottomed onto an earlier mortar layer below. Also in the north aisle, to the east, was the end of much shallower N-S linear slot 009, c.0.15m wide and only 0.05m deep. It was filled with the powdery organic remains of a decayed timber. Similarly, square-ended shallow E-W slot 011, in front of the doorway, also

contained traces of decayed wood. It is possible that these features denote foundation remains of removed internal structures such as partitions or pews. Other small oval to rectangular holes or voids of varying depth were found elsewhere in the area of floor replacement (Fig.2). Though they lack any patterning, these could be further indicators of former internal structures.

Returning to clay deposit 002 itself, the three test-pits cut through it established that it was a single layer 0.20-0.30m thick (recorded separately here as contexts 013, 016 and 018). This was subsequently completely removed across the whole of the floor replacement area, except where a thin protective skim was left covering fragile archaeological deposits beneath. As well as occasional flint pebbles, it contained fragments of tile, brick, stone, oyster shell, mortar and animal bone, along with iron nails, ?window glass and a few pieces of clay pipe. This was clearly a re-deposited layer of material, mixed with predominantly modern rubbish, which was used to raise and level the church interior floor level. Most pertinent, however, was the retrieval of a 1940 halfpenny from this deposit.

Pre- clay make-up deposits

Underlying the make-up deposit 002 was generally a grey-white layer of crumbly lime mortar (Plates 7 and 8), though potentially earlier remains were exposed toward the tower and in the north aisle (Fig.3). In places, the impressions and red staining from floor tiles could be discerned on the surface of the mortar deposit and this was clearly the bedding layer for the previous church floor. In test-pit 1, closest to the west tower, in situ tiles were encountered (Plate 9). Though cracked and worn, thin tiles of seemingly differing sizes survived on the mortar bed. Nearby, tile rubble at the base of 002 probably denoted disturbed material from the same floor - presumably left behind at the time of the removal for reuse of its better parts? Being of substantial depth, adjacent hole 003 cut through clay layer 002 and through a number of underlying deposits. At least five thin layers of alternating mortar and silty material were exposed in the sides of the hole (Plate 10). It is evident that a sequence of stratified deposits of archaeological significance, evidently relating to earlier floors, underlies at least parts of the nave interior.

Along the south edge of the nave aisle, running as far east as parallel to the doorway, a line of green limestone masonry 021 protruded from beneath a reddish-brown silt layer 020 (Plate 11). These deposits underlay clay 002, which was noted to be slightly looser, siltier and to contain more artefactual debris here. Running parallel to the east-west alignment of the church, the blocks were bonded with a pebbly cream yellow mortar to form the base of a wall recorded over a distance of 5.0m. Although not further exposed and investigated, this

structure gave the impression of being a low retaining wall to a slightly raised area between it and the south wall of the nave - now occupied by a concrete pew base. A northward protruding chalk cill may indicate the position of a single step up to this raised area, some 1.15m wide and 0.15m deep (Plate 12). Deposit 020, over and perhaps retained by wall 021, contained small pebbles, tile flecks and apparent chalk blocks. The inclusion of fine vessel glass fragments and copper alloy pins might be significant. While 020 would appear to be of post-medieval date, wall 020 could perhaps be medieval. Certainly, wall and postulated plinth seem to have been features of the church interior into the 20th century, as preceding floor 014 and its mortar bedding appear to have been laid up to it.

In the north Aisle, first identified within test-pit 3, the whole of the eastern arm of the floor replacement area here was occupied by what appeared to be a ragstone rubble and mortar wall foundation 019 (Plate 13). No dressed masonry facing was discerned, but then only part of one edge was exposed. This masonry foundation is not dissimilar to the fabric of the church walls and may relate to a demolished part of its structure, perhaps of medieval date. Roughly truncated to approximate floor level, mortar bedding layer for the preceding floor ran up to but not over it. Foundation 019 was covered by a dark brown fine silt layer 022, itself overlain by clay 002.

Lastly, following the removal of clay make-up 002 from the cross-aisle, between the nave and north aisles, the underlying mortar bedding layer gave way to create a localised, but significant, void (Fig. 3). This void extended off to east and west below the earlier floor remains and seemed to be the product of settling of silt soil below it, perhaps denoting that an in-filled cavity is located here.

6.0 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

A total of 436 fragments of brick, tile stone, bone, shell, pottery and other miscellaneous items, weighing 41.773kg, were recovered from ten excavated contexts. The majority derives from clay make-up layer 002/013/016/018. All of the material has been processed, sorted by material/type into context and recorded by count and weight. The finds are described below, with further detail and quantification in Appendix 2.

6.2 Ceramic building fabric

82 **brick** fragments, weighing 21,468g were collected from five contexts, the majority from layer 002/013/016/018 (78 pieces / 21284g). No complete bricks were present. The

assemblage comprised examples of varying size and fabric. None were frogged. Measurable pieces were 100-110mm wide by 40-60mm thick. Fabrics ranged from early-looking pink-brown rough and highly-vesicled examples to orange and deep red dense and fine grained. The remainder of the retrieved brick came from the fills of modern cuts 003 and 005. Small fragments of unfroged brick were collected from fill 006. Large quantities of half- to near-complete bricks with shallow U-profile frogs were present in 004, but discarded without further quantification on site due to their clearly modern date.

107 fragments of **roof tile**, weighing 13,131g were collected from four contexts. It is perhaps notable that all of this material derived from clay layer 002/013/016/018. Only two pieces were found with opposing edges, giving complete tile widths of 92mm and 160mm. The longest fragment was 200mm. Tile thickness averaged 14mm, with a significant number containing peg holes. A few small pieces appear to be glazed on one side and edge.

As well as adhering to brick and tile, three pieces of **mortar**, weighing 576g, were collected. One particularly large fragment (486g) from layer 002 is of sandy buff/yellow fabric contains fragments of brick and ragstone and probably derives from the church wall fabric. Another from 013 is a piece of off-white lime mortar, while the third is a 10mm-thick 'slab' of greyish-white lime render from 018.

6.3 Floor tile

A total of 46 fragments of terracotta floor tile, weighing 5006g, were recovered from six contexts. Both plain unglazed and monochrome glazed examples were present.

All of the **glazed pieces** were collected from layer 002/013 (12 fragments, 1500g) or else from cleaning layer 001. All but one fragment were of simple yellow and dark green glaze on a fine orange/red clay tile (Plate 14). Only a single piece retained its full width, demonstrating a tile size of 120mm square and 25mm thickness. A single fragment of brown-glazed tile was 20mm thick and of a coarser red-brown clay fabric.

The remaining plain **unglazed floor tiles** (34 fragments, 3506g) vary widely in dimension and fabric. Within the pieces from layer 002, at least three fabrics are represented. The most common is a fine orange/red clay fabric for a tile 116mm square and 20mm thick. Tiles of redder, softer and coarser fabrics with thicknesses of 15mm, 25mm, 30mm and 35mm also occur. The majority of plain tiles were retrieved from *in situ* floor 014 in test-pit 1. These were worn and highly fragmented pieces mostly of 20-25mm thickness, though some only

12mm thick. No complete tile dimensions could be ascertained. Brown glaze dribbles were noted on some fragments, and a thumbprint on one.

6.4 Stone

Retrieved stone (29 fragments, 14528g) was mostly ragstone with occasional septaria, green limestone, chalk and flint pieces. All was undressed rubble of varying sizes, the largest being a 200mm x 120mm piece from layer 002. As with the ceramic building materials, the vast bulk of this was collected from layer 002/013 (27 pieces, 3780g). It is likely that this stone derives from the fabric of the church.

6.5 Animal bone and shell

24 fragments of animal bones, weighing 520g, were collected from seven contexts. No identifiably human bone was present. The majority came from modern layer 002 / 018 (17 pieces, 446g). A further five pieces derive from cleaning layer 001 and modern hole fills 004 and 006, therefore only the single pieces collected from the surface of deposit 020 appears to be of any significant antiquity - even then still probably being post-medieval. The material includes small fragments of longbones, ribs, teeth and possible skull. A large jawbone piece was retrieved from the surface of 002. Cow, sheep/goat and possibly bird are represented.

A total of 85 fragments of shell, weighing 1525g, were collected. The majority comprises oyster, though small numbers of whelk are also present. Shell was a relatively frequent occurrence throughout layer 002/013/016/018, with many of the examples of oyster valves complete or near-complete. Virtually all of the collected material came from this modern clay deposit. The remainder also derived from modern deposits 001 and 004.

6.6 Pottery (identifications by Helen Walker)

A total of 17 sherds of pottery, weighing 221g, was retrieved. Almost all of this material is of medieval date, though all also clearly occurs residually in modern deposits. Table 1 below presents the fabric and form identifications and date ranges for these sherds.

The pottery from clay make-up layer 002/018 comprises a range of medieval wares, largely spanning the 12th to 13th centuries. However, there are also a few sherds likely to be Tudor in date. Deposit 006, the fill of 'exploratory hole' 005, yielded medieval coarseware and shell-and sand tempered-ware sherds that are likely to date to the 13th century.

The shell-and-sand-tempered ware cooking pot rims from 002 are noted to be similar to material found at North Shoebury (Walker 1995).

Ctxt	Count	Description	Date
002	5	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware, inc. H1 and H2-type cooking-pot rims	13th C
	1	Shell-tempered-ware	?13th C
	1	Medieval coarseware	?13th C
	1	Early medieval ware, vessel base	12th-13th C
	1	London-type ware, pale green glaze	Late 12th-mid 13th C
	1	Mill Green-type ware, sagging jug base	Mid 13th-15th C
	2	Tudor red earthenware, inc. flanged rim, glazed on inside	Later 15th-16th C
	1	Post-medieval red earthenware, internal glaze	Late 16th-19th C
006	1	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware	?13th C
	1	Medieval coarseware, sagging base	?13th C
018	1	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware, intersecting combed decoration on ?internal surface	12th-13th C
	1	Sandy orange ware, undecorated & unglazed, wheel-thrown	Mid 13th-15th C

Table 1. Pottery identifications

6.7 Miscellaneous

A range of other miscellaneous artefacts was collected, comprising glass, ironwork, lead, clay pipe, copper alloy objects and a single coin. Again, the majority of this material came from layer 002/018 and cleaning layer 001. However, a number of items were also retrieved from deposit 020, which has greater archaeological significance.

Both vessel and window glass, amounting to 14 fragments, weighing 47g, was retrieved from four contexts. The small pieces of vessel glass are thin (1-2mm thickness) and relatively fine, though plain and undiagnostic of form. Only one clear fragment, from layer 002, has a plain rounded rim. The small quantity of window glass is all coloured, generally either pale green or brown/black, and in poor condition. Only a single piece, from layer 002, is complete - a semi-circular brown/black piece of 37mm radius. This is evidently a piece of stained glass from a church window. Related to the window glass is a piece of lead window came, again from 002.

Ironwork, in the form of hand-made square-section nails, was recovered from layers 001, 002 and modern cut fill 004, but also from deposit 020. The more complete of these varied between 38-50mm with one large example 100mm long. The surface cleaning of deposit 020 also yielded three copper alloy pins, all with round heads and 25mm (1 inch) long. One pin is possibly silvered.

Ten fragments of clay pipe stem, weighing 42g, were collected from 002 and 020. None of these had diagnostic features, though their relatively wide diameter hints at a later post-medieval date, perhaps mid 18th century onwards.

Lastly, the single coin, a halfpenny of King George VI, dated 1940, was retrieved from layer 002. It is in very good, unworn, condition.

6.8 Conclusions on assemblage

This is a varied assemblage, its components ranging in date from the 12th or 13th century to the 20th century. The pottery is the earliest identifiable component, though much of the stone, brick and tile rubble is likely to derive from the church fabric - presumably displaced at a later date, perhaps during Victorian 'restoration' and/or later repair of the church. The floor tiles are probably late medieval or early post medieval in date.

The bulk of the material comes from layer 002 which, due to the presence of the 1940 halfpenny, is clearly a modern deposit. Its curious range of material would seem to be a highly residual one deriving from a number of sources. A domestic rubbish component is suggested by the animal bone, shell, vessel glass and clay pipe, while the building materials (brick, roof tile, floor tile, mortar, window glass, lead came) might derive from the church fabric itself. All of this is either post-medieval in date, or else the product of post-medieval demolition/renovation activity. The absence of material such as pottery of a date later than the 16th century is an oddity given the presence of other domestic artefacts. The medieval pottery, though contemporary with the main periods of church development, is unlikely to derive from its use. Instead, it might be suggested that clay deposit 002 is brought in from elsewhere with some earlier artefacts already within it, and then mixed with rubble and other material to hand in and around the church as it was laid down.

While it is evident that the previous floor of the church, at least in part, was of plain unglazed tiles, it may perhaps be inferred that the green and yellow glazed examples derive from a checkerboard patterned floor elsewhere in its interior.

Lastly, layer 020 would appear to be the only significant (i.e. pre-modern) archaeological deposit from which artefacts have been retrieved. These items of glass, iron, copper alloy and clay pipe might be interpreted as deriving from the use of the church, albeit perhaps only 18th or 19th century in date.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

It is demonstrated that the raising and levelling of the church interior was undertaken early in the second half of the 20th century, which is corroborated by the church guide (unknown, 2011). While this is clearly a modern deposit, it contains an intriguing mix of artefacts, spanning the 14th to 20th centuries and comprising an apparent mix of domestic debris and church fabric. It is possible that the earliest datable material, particularly the medieval pottery sherds, is highly residual and relates to the source of the clay rather than to the church itself. It is tempting to speculate the source as being within the adjacent manor complex. The lack of later ceramics in this make-up deposit is equally notable.

It is established that at least parts of the church interior were floored with plain terracotta tiles prior to mid-20th century replacement, though the recovery of glazed tiles might suggest that other parts were more ornately floored - either at an earlier or contemporary date. The retaining wall remains found toward the south side of the rear of the nave provides evidence of a differing internal layout, probably with a low platform extending under what is now occupied by a concrete pew base. The associated silt deposits, containing casually-lost items such as dress pins and other use debris, show that significant pre-modern remains survive. This is further emphasised by the identification of earlier floor layers in the side of cut 003, which demonstrates that relatively complex stratified below-ground deposits exist, and by the various areas of localised ground subsidence and collapse that hint at the presence of in-filled voids such as graves.

The apparent wall foundation located in the area of the floor replacement works in the North Aisle is of similar character and fabric to the standing medieval walls of the church. As such, it may reasonably be postulated that it relates to a demolished part of the existing church or else of an earlier structure altogether. The potential for the presence and survival of remains relating to the origins and subsequent development of the church has therefore been clearly demonstrated.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Type	Filled by	Description	Period
001	Cleaning layer	-	Removal of sand floor bedding & cleaning of 002 surface	-
002	Layer	-	Mid yellow-brown clay make-up deposit, 0.20-0.3m thick	Modern
003	Hole	004	Circular cut, 0.30m diameter x 0.5m+ deep.	Modern
004	Fill of 003	-	Grey-brown clayey silt and abundant brick, tile & stone rubble	Modern
005	Hole	006	Oval cut, 0.43m x 0.26m x 0.25m+ deep.	Modern
006	Fill of 005	-	Grey-brown clayey silt, occas small brick & tile frags	Modern
007	Slot/trench?	008	Square end of E-W ?linear cut, 0.3m+ x 0.23m x 0.22m deep	Modern
008	Fill of 007	-	Grey-brown clay silt, rare brick & tile frags	Modern
009	Slot	009	Sub-square end of shallow N-S linear cut, 0.4m+ x 0.15m x 0.05m deep	Modern
010	Fill of 009	-	Red-brown decayed powdery wood remains. No inclusions	Modern
011	Slot	012	Sub-square end of shallow E-W cut, 0.15m+ x 0.13m x 0.08m deep	Modern
012	Fill of 011	-	Red-brown decayed powdery wood remains, with some grey silt	Modern
013	Layer	-	Same as 002, where investigated in TP1. 0.20m deep. Inc displaced tile from floor 014 below	Modern
014	Layer	-	Tile floor surface in TP1. No complete tiles, all worn & broken. Tile thickness = 12-25mm	Post-Med
015	Layer	-	Grey-white crumbly lime mortar bedding for floor 014, in TP1. Thickness unknown	Post-Med
016	Layer	-	Same as 002, where investigated in TP2. 0.28m deep.	Modern
017	Layer	-	Grey-white lime mortar with orange sand skim on top, in TP2. Thickness unknown	Post-Med
018	Layer	-	Same as 002, where investigated in TP3. 0.22m deep.	Modern
019	Wall foundation?	-	Green rag/limestone frags in yellow/buff sandy mortar, some chalk. Extents unknown	Medieval?
020	Layer	-	Reddish brown fine ?silt (inc decayed wood?), S. of / retained by wall 021	Post-med
021	Wall	-	Line of green limestone blocks bonded with yellow/buff sandy mortar. Also projecting chalk ?step base. 5.0m x 0.15m. Depth/height unknown	Medieval?
022	Layer	-	Clean, fine, dark brown silt over 019. 0.02-0.04m thick. No finds	Post-med
023	Layer	-	Grey-white crumbly lime mortar bedding layer. In west part of trench in North aisle. Thickness unknown	Post-Med

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

Index of all finds (All weights in grammes)

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
001	-	2	18	?Floor tile: v. small dark green glazed frags	Med/Post-med
		1	620	Stone: ragstone, undressed	-
		2	60	Animal bone: One bird legbone, one tooth	-
		3	38	Shell: oyster	-
		3	70	Fe object: nails, square-section, varying width, incomplete	Post-med-
		2	1	Glass: one small vessel, 1 small window frag	Post-med?
002	-	63	20,150	Brick: frags of varying size & fabric. None complete. 100-110mm wide x 40-60mm deep. Unfrogged	Post-med
		84	11,610	Roof tile: fragments only, ave. 14mm thick. Only two frags with opposing edges = 92mm and 160mm wide. Longest frag = 200mm. Peg holes evident. Some curving. Two small frags are glazed on one side and edge, one inc peg hole	Post-med
		12	2,168	Floor tile: None complete, 20 and 24mm thick. Yellow, green, brown glazed & plain frags. 118-120mm wide x 20-25mm thick.	Med/Post-med
		25	13,572	Stone: Ragstone rubble frags, none dressed. 50-120mm size, also three septaria & one flint. Largest piece 200 x 120mm.	-
		1	486	Mortar: irregular lump, 120 x 80mm. Yellow/buff sandy fabric, inc. brick frags	-
		57	1,224	Shell: Oyster, plus two whelks	-
		14	430	Animal bone: Long bone, ribs and cranium, cow jaw frag. Fair to good condition. One tooth.	Modern?
		9	40	Clay pipe: stem frags only, inc one foot. Varying diameter.	Post-med
		2	36	Fe objects: large & smaller nails. One 100mm long	Post-med
		1		Cu alloy: coin, George VI 1940 halfpenny	Modern
		1	16	Pb object: window came frag, curving	Post-med?
		4	30	Glass: two vessel frags, clear, thin, 1-2mm. One plain rim. Form unknown.	Post-med
		13	245	Window: one complete semi-circular glass piece, ?black/brown, 37mm radius. One window frag, pale green. Pottery: Mill Green-type, London-type, shell-tempered, shell-and-sand-tempered, early medieval & medieval courseware wares. Also Tudor red earthenware	Medieval & Post-med
		1	46	Other ceramic: delft-pattern type glazed wall tile frag	Post-med
004	003	-	-	Brick, tile & stone rubble. Abundant large frags. Not quantified, discarded on site. Some bricks inc. shallow U-profile frogs	Modern
		1	10	Shell: oyster	-
		4	14	Fe object: nails, square-section, 38-48mm long	Post-med
		2	6	Animal bone: One rib, one ?toe/finger frag	-
006	005	4	184	Brick/tile: small frags, unfrogged	Post-Med
		1	128	Stone: ragstone, undressed	-
		2	6	Animal bone: small unidentified frags	-
		2	22	Pottery: shell-and-sand-tempered & medieval courseware sherds	Medieval
008	009	1	114	Floor tile: plain corner frag, 24mm thick	Med/post-med
		2	6	Shell: oyster & whelk frags	-

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
013	-	7	304	Brick: very fragmentary, few good surfaces. Unfrogged	Post-med
		7	610	Roof tile: very fragmentary, 14mm thick	Post-med
		1	56	Floor tile: yellow/green glaze, 18mm thick	Med/Post-med
		2	208	Stone: ragstone & septaria frags, undressed	-
		1	54	Mortar: irregular lump, off-white lime mortar	-
		8	78	Shell: oyster	-
014	-	30	2650	Floor tile: fragmentary, 20-25mm thick, some only 12mm thick. Brown glaze dribbles on some. Thumbprint on one frag.	Med/Post-med
016	-	5	428	Brick: fragments, few surfaces. Unfrogged	Post-med
		5	306	Roof tile: one with peg hole, one with yellow mortar	Post-med
		5	48	Shell: oyster	-
018	-	3	402	Brick: frags, unfrogged	Post-med
		11	605	Roof tile: frags	Post-med
		9	124	Shell: oyster	-
		3	16	Animal bone: sheep/goat longbone frags	-
		1	36	Mortar: lime render frag? Greyish-white, 10mm thick	Post-med
		5	18	Glass: window frags, ?black/brown, one thick	Post-med?
		2	14	Pottery: shell-and-sand-tempered and sandy orange ware sherds	Medieval
020	-	5	2	Glass: window frags, dark brown, v. small	Post-med
		1	6	Fe object: nail, square-section, 50mm long	Post-med
		1	2	Animal bone: goat/sheep tooth	-
		1	2	Clay pipe: stem frag	Post-med
		3	1	Cu alloy objects: pins, round-headed, one silvered? Complete, 25mm long	Post-med
		<i>Totals:</i>		436	41,773

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 ECC HE team Brief of Works
- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report (1 bound, 1 unbound)
- 2.2 Finds Reports
- 2.3 CD-Rom (inc. digital report, photos, scheme drawings, etc)

3. Site Archive

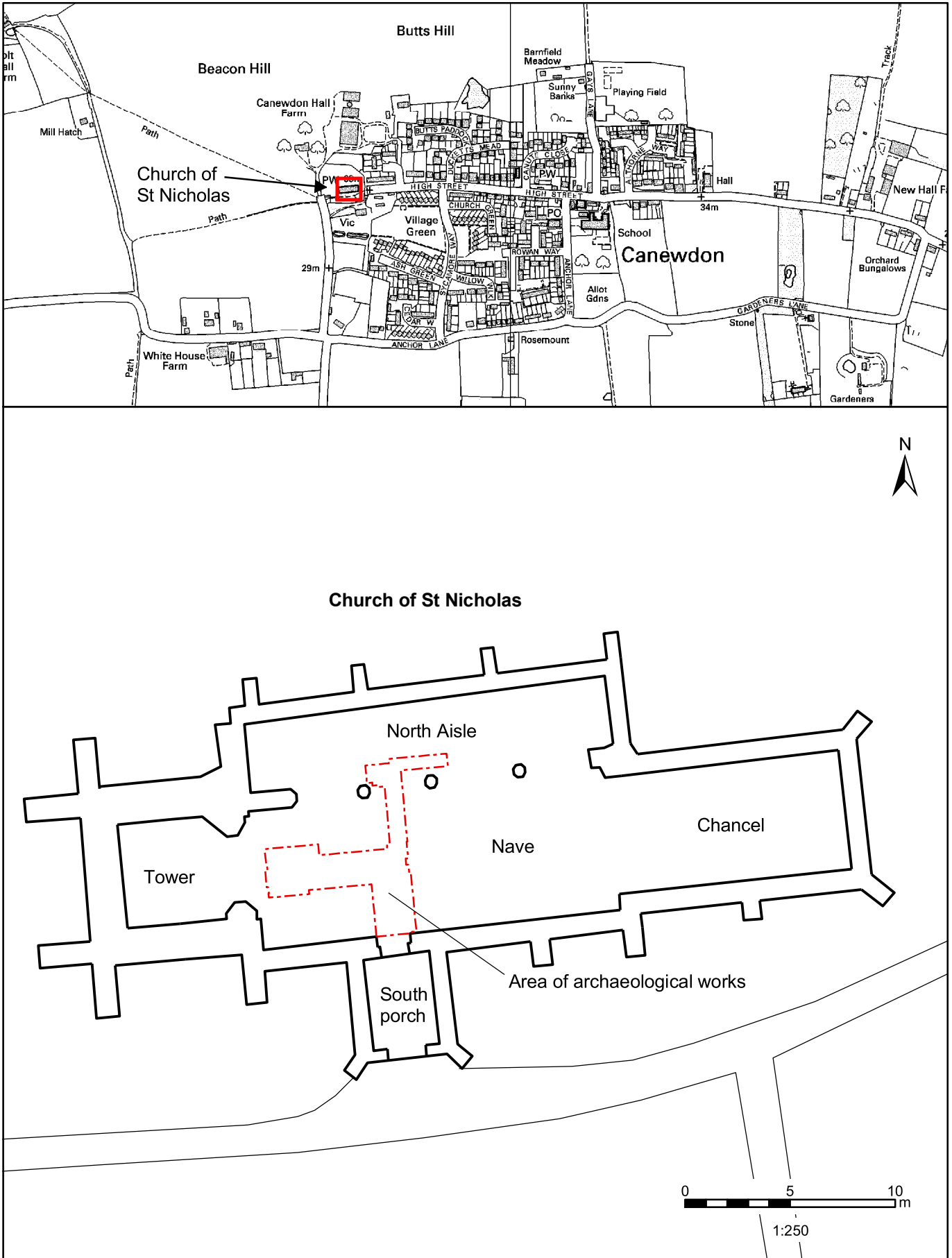
- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (001 to 023)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Photographic Register
- 3.5 Site Photographic Record (colour prints from digital copy)
- 3.6 Miscellaneous notes/plans, scheme drawings, etc.

Not in File

2 large plan/section sheets, large, pencil on drawing film

APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: St Nicholas' Church, Canewdon	
Parish: Canewdon	District: Rochford
NGR: TQ 89688 94541	Site Code: CWNC12
Type of Work: Archaeological excavation	Site Director/Group: M. Atkinson, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Dates of Work: 18-28 Sept 2012	Size of Area Investigated: c.24sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Southend	Funding source: Client
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos: 13599-13601
Final Report: EAH summary	Oasis No: 135989
Periods Represented: medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>An archaeological investigation was undertaken within the church interior, as part of floor replacement works within the nave aisle and north aisle. Following the contractor's removal of the brick paver and pammet floor, underlying bedding and make-up deposits were archaeologically excavated down to the required construction level c.350mm below the extant floor surface, or else onto the top of any significant remains encountered if occurring higher.</p> <p>It was established that the floor level had been raised by depositing a 0.3m thickness of clay presumably across the whole interior of the church. The recovery of a 1940 halfpenny from this layer indicated that this was done relatively recently, by all accounts probably shortly after WW2. The deposit contained medieval pottery and post-medieval brick/tile/stone rubble, plain and glazed floor tile fragments, oyster shell, animal bone, vessel and stained window glass, iron nails, etc. A number of holes and slots cut into the deposit variously attest to earlier explorations of floor subsidence and perhaps to internal structures such as pews within the church, since removed.</p> <p>The clay make-up had been deposited directly on the preceding plain tile floor or, where this had been removed, onto its lime mortar bed. Evidence of earlier floor layers below was apparent in the edge of one of the floor subsidence exploration holes. Masonry foundations that are speculated to relate to either platform structures within the church, or earlier (possibly medieval) church walls, were found at two locations and recorded but not investigated further. These are to be protected and the new floor constructed over them.</p> <p>Despite Victorian and modern refurbishment to its interior, it is demonstrated that significant below-ground archaeological remains survive that relate to the earlier development and use of St Nicholas' Church.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: none	
Author of Summary: M. Atkinson	Date of Summary: 23 October 2012



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Fig.1. Location of archaeological works

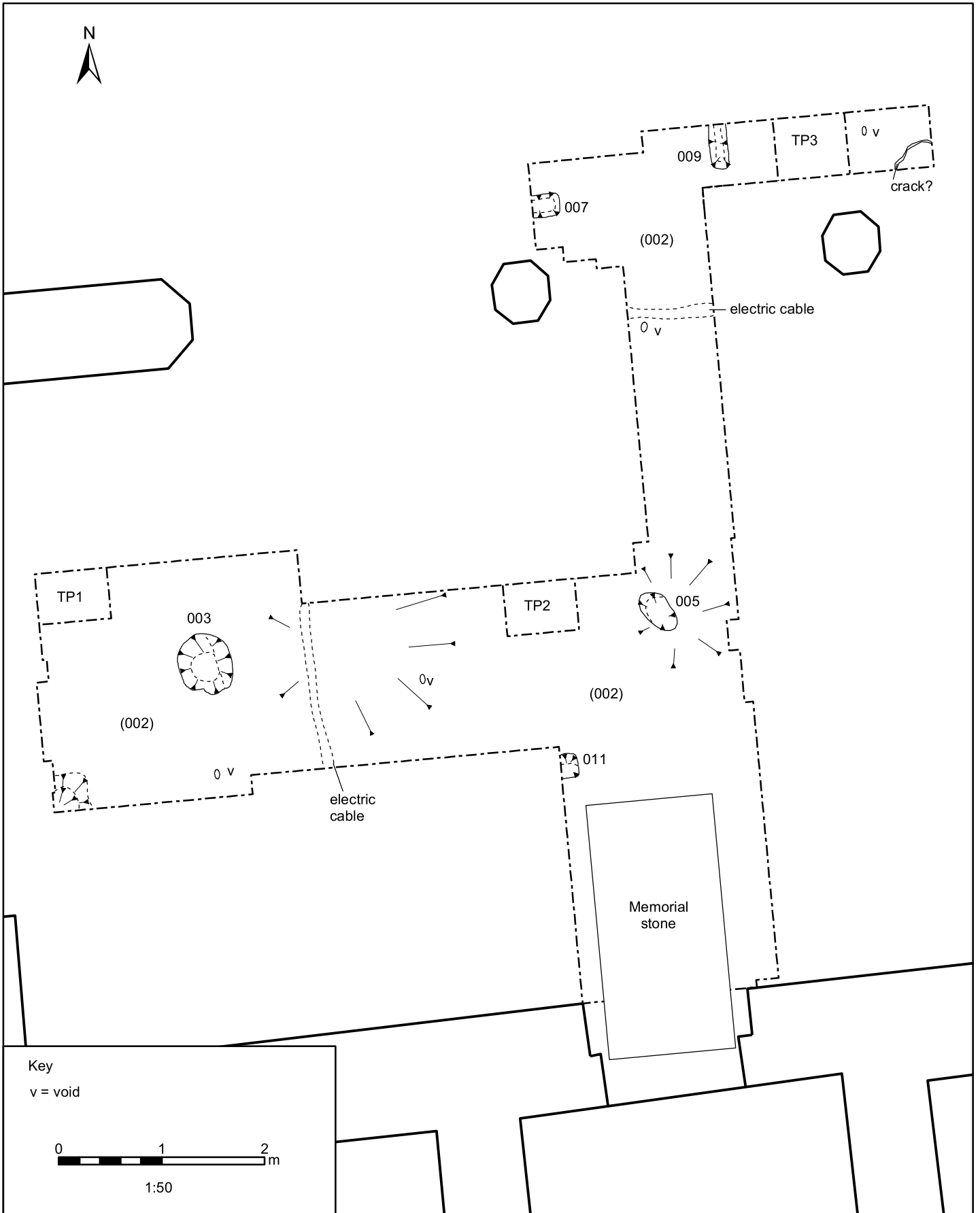


Fig.2.

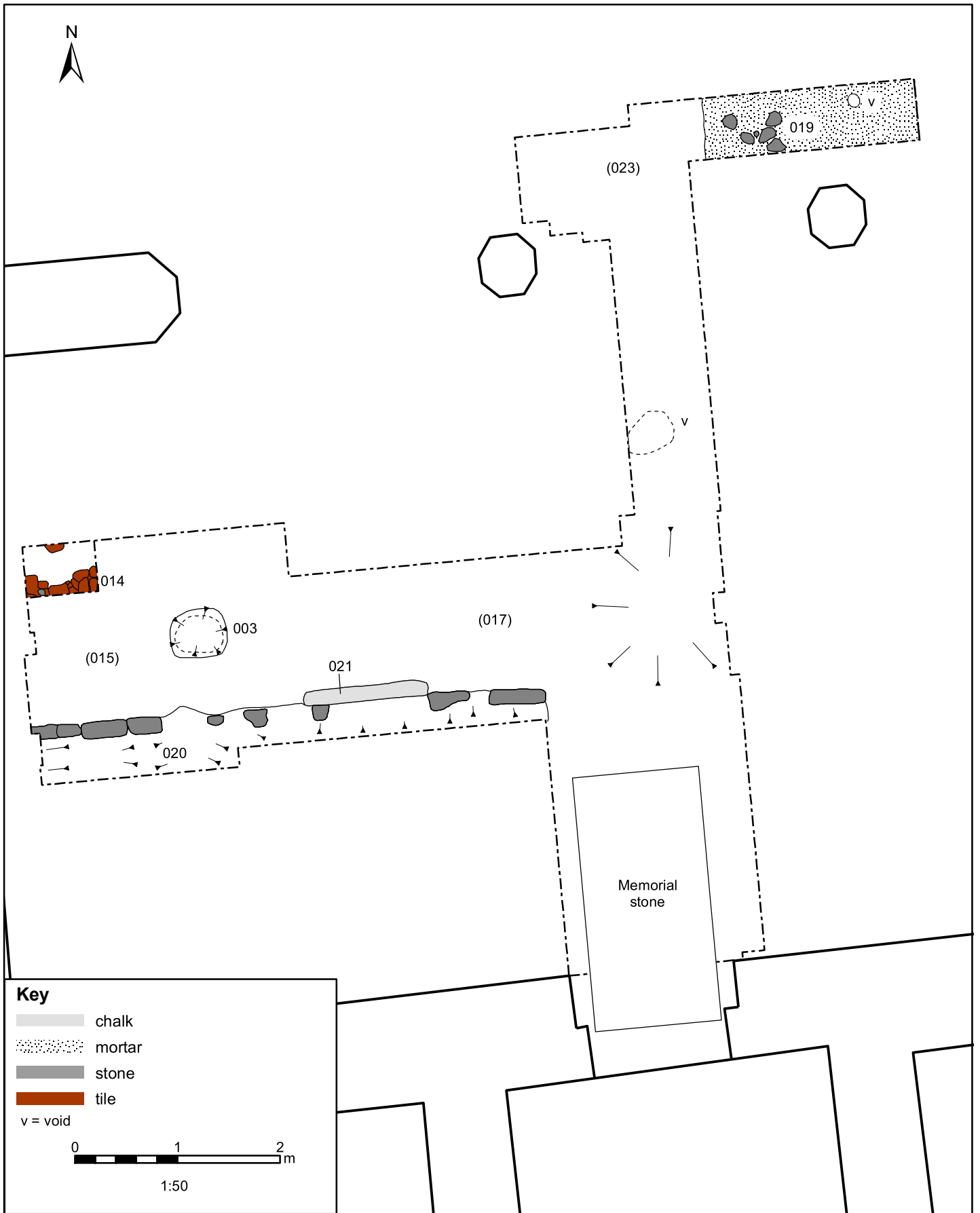


Fig.3.



Plate 1: Nave Aisle floor prior to lifting, looking east



Plate 2: Nave Aisle floor bedding material, looking west (1m scale)

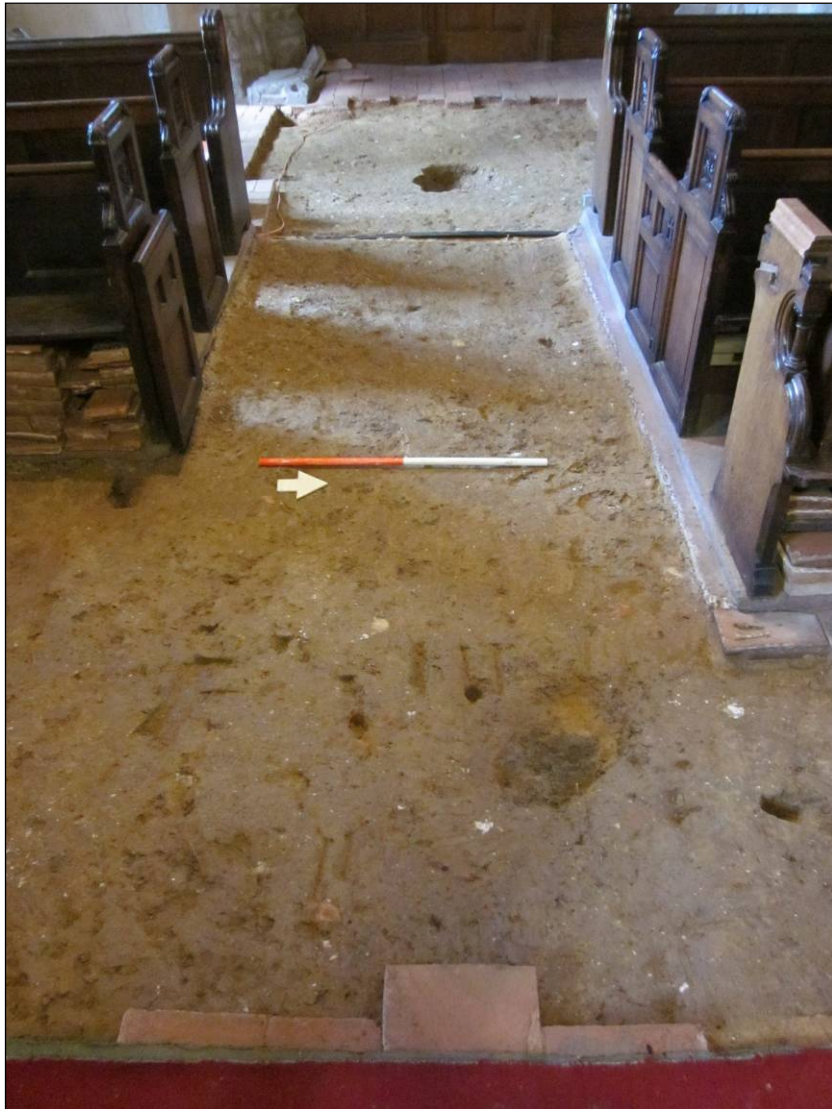


Plate 3. Clay make-up layer 002 in Nave Aisle, looking east



Plate 4. Clay make-up layer 002 in North Aisle



Plate 5. Hole 003 through layer 002, looking east / vertical (0.5m scale)



Plate 6. Hole 005 through layer 002, looking west / oblique (0.5m scale)



Plate 7. Mortar bedding for earlier floor in Nave Aisle, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 8. Mortar bedding layer for earlier floor at doorway, looking south (1m scale)



Plate 9. Tile floor 014 in Test-pit 1, looking west



Plate 10. Earlier floor layers exposed in side of hole 003, looking north
(0.5m scale)



Plate 11. Wall 020, looking east (0.5m scale)



Plate 12. Wall 020 and chalk step 021, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 13. ?Wall Foundation 019. looking east (0.5m scale)



Plate 14. Glazed floor tiles recovered from layer 002 (10cm scale)