

**THE GUILDHALL
CHURCH HILL, FINCHINGFIELD
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING



Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit

FEBRUARY 2013



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ESSEX**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING AT
THE GUILDHALL, CHURCH HILL
FINCHINGFIELD, ESSEX

Client: Finchingfield Guildhall Trust

NGR: TL 68576 32817

Site code: FFFG 12

FAU Project No: 2366

OASIS No: 142600

Dates of Fieldwork: 24/10/12 to 07/11/12 and 08/01/13

SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring was carried on contractors' groundworks undertaken as part of the refurbishment of the late 15th century Guildhall building and its immediate environs. The groundworks took place to the rear (south) of the Guildhall, in close proximity to the graveyard of St John the Baptist's Church which shares a boundary with the Guildhall property. The purpose of the monitoring work was to identify the presence of any human remains outside the current boundary of the graveyard, and to investigate and record any such remains exposed.

During the course of the monitoring brief, the remains of sixteen inhumations were uncovered, consisting of both full and partial skeletons. Disarticulated and re-deposited human remains were also recorded. The upper portions of grave cuts had been removed by landscaping and were extremely difficult to discern; their backfills being clean and very similar to the surrounding natural deposit. Only three sherds of pottery, all medieval, were retrieved; only one of which was in close association with an inhumation.

The graveyard clearly once extended further to the northwest, presumably up to the Church Hill thoroughfare. It is conjectured that the graves predate the Guildhall and that further graves were probably removed by terracing ahead of its construction. Additionally, one grave was disturbed by a post-medieval pit and others truncated by the insertion of the 1950s retaining wall.

All human remains exposed and removed ahead of construction works were retained on site for reburial within the graveyard.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU), during groundworks carried out to the rear of Finchingfield Guildhall. The groundworks were part of an ongoing programme of refurbishment works to the Guildhall that include renovation and change of use of the historic building and an extension/walkway at its rear. The work was commissioned by the Finchingfield Guildhall Trust. It was conducted on the advice of, and monitored by, Teresa O'Connor of the Essex Historic Environment team (ECC HE) on behalf of the local planning authority.

Due to the archaeological potential of the development site, a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works was placed upon the development consent by the district council, based upon evidence given by the ECC HE team, in line with guidance contained within Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.

Copies of the report will be supplied to the client and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) at County Hall, Chelmsford. The archive will be deposited at Braintree Museum. An OASIS online record has been created and a digital version of this report will be made accessible via the Archaeological Data Service website: <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site location and description

Finchingfield Guildhall is located in the centre of the village, on the south-eastern side of Church Hill (TL 6876 3281). It stands in the north-west corner of the graveyard of St John the Baptist's Church, to which it is historically tied, and links to the church by a cobbled passage from Church Hill (fig. 1). To the west are steps leading up from the road and a private residence that stands on the site of the former Green Man public house.

The site is terraced into the hillslope within the churchyard which is contained by a revetment wall to the rear and side, producing a drop of approximately 1m to the paved pathway at the foot of the Guildhall.

The Guildhall is a Grade I listed timber-framed and jettied structure with a tiled roof and plastered walls (LBS 115167). The oldest part dates to the second half of the 15th century and was extended in the 17th century when it was used as a school. The revetment wall was inserted in the 1950s. Until recently (c.2006) the building functioned as a parish meeting room, small museum, library and four almshouse flats for people of the village.

2.2 Planning background

An application to renovate and refurbish the Guildhall, and to enlarge the existing museum, library and meeting hall areas within it, was submitted to Braintree District Council (BDC) in 2010 (10/01735/LBC). In response to this application, the ECC Heritage Environment team (ECC HE) recommended that, given the historic importance of the site and proximity to the graveyard, any below-ground works should be archaeologically monitored.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

The following information derives from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and Domesday Book (Rumble 1983). A building survey and historical analysis of the Guildhall has previously also been undertaken (Watkin and Watkin 2008) and the most pertinent information is presented below.

Prehistoric activity is suggested in and around Finchingfield with the discovery of several flint tools in various locations during the 19th and 20th centuries (EHER 1417, 1389, 1388, 1418, etc.). Possible Bronze or Iron Age cropmarks have been photographed from the air on the periphery of the parish. Several Roman roads have been projected and inferred through and near to Finchingfield and the site of a Roman building is recorded on modern Ordnance Survey maps to the south-east of the village.

No Saxon remains have been recorded, but Finchingfield is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as being held by Queen Matilda after 1066 until it was passed to Otto (Rumble 1983). The village was valued at £18 at the time of the survey, the land included woodland with pigs, meadows and a mill.

The earliest surviving part of St John the Baptist's Church, the west tower, was constructed c.1170 (EHER 1421) though very little other earlier medieval evidence has been recorded in the village. The recent survey and historic analysis of the Guildhall established that the Grade I

Listed building was originally constructed during the latter half of the 15th century (Watkin and Watkin 2008). A further 15th century building is located to the south-east of the Guildhall (EHER 29327) and Hall House, listed as a late medieval timber-framed building, stands on the northern side of Church Hill, across from the Guildhall (EHER 29249). The only other medieval listed building close to the site is a late medieval structure known as Stowes and Mildmay located to the south-west, at the crossroads (EHER 29252).

The majority of the listed buildings in the village date to the post-medieval period, and the earlier extant structures appear to have been altered during the 17th and 18th centuries. The evidence presented within the Guildhall building survey shows that an extension was added to the medieval structure during the 17th century, thereby conforming to the general pattern of development at this time (Watkin and Watkin 2008). This indicates that Finchingfield experienced increasing investment during the pre-industrial period.

During the 1950s the Guildhall was refurbished, creating four almshouses, a small museum library and parish room. As part of the external works, an extension, new paths and modern services (drains, etc) were added around the structure and a revetment wall inserted against the churchyard.

A number of structural engineering test-pits were archaeologically excavated around the foot of the building in 2011 (Letch 2011). Those along the external north-east and south-east walls revealed only modern underpinning and ground disturbance by drainage runs, all probably dating to the 1950s. However, test-pits dug within the passage leading from the road to the churchyard encountered the remains of an earlier, possibly medieval, cobbled surface along with sherds of medieval pottery, below the existing one.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the monitoring work was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, finds and features within the development area and to investigate and record their character, location, extent, date, condition and significance.

The specific objectives of the archaeological work were to:

- Identify and record any inhumation graves associated with the westward continuation of the historic graveyard.
- Establish the relationship of any such remains with the construction, use and later refurbishments of the Guildhall

In the event that significant archaeological discoveries were made, the investigation would seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research and Agenda Strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), and its revision (Medleycott 2011). As concerns urban Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval research, the regional framework document aims to lay out a framework to aid “a greater understanding of the social and economic pressures which ensured the success of the urban idea” during the post-Roman period.

4.0 Methodology

The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists’ *Standard and Guide for Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008), and Association of Local Government Officers’ *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists.

Due to space constraints, the contractor’s groundworks were undertaken intermittently. Archaeological attendance was maintained on all occasions except during the final ground reduction at the northwest end of the building, where the completed works were observed. Foundation trenches for the building extension were also rapidly inspected once cut.

Overburden deposits were removed using a mini-digger fitted with a toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation was undertaken until archaeological deposits were encountered or, where absent, down to the required construction level. All non-modern remains so exposed were manually cleaned, investigated and recorded. Where encountered, human remains were cleaned and recorded in situ and then lifted and bagged for reburial. A number of the skeletons could not be fully excavated, as they extended beyond the limit of the contractor’s ground reduction works. All other artefacts recovered were retained for

study. No deposits suitable for environmental analysis were identified, so bulk soil sampling was not undertaken.

The ECC FAU uses its own recording system to record all uncovered archaeological deposits and features (ECC FAU 2006). The minimum sample sizes are 50% for self-contained features (e.g. pits and post-holes), and 10% for linear features (e.g. ditches and gullies). Plans are drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Digital colour photographs are taken of significant features and of work in progress. Each context is individually numbered and is recorded on individual pro-forma recording sheets. Modern (i.e. 19th/20th century) deposits and features are not investigated, unless it is specifically stipulated in the archaeological brief and the written scheme of investigation.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

The monitored ground reduction was undertaken across an area of c.21sq m located to the southeast and northeast of the Guildhall (Fig.1). It comprised a narrow L-shaped strip of land between the 1950s retaining wall/coal bunkers and the current edge of the church graveyard, as marked by a flagstone pathway. Until recently, much of this ground sloped variably down toward the retaining wall and had been cultivated as something of a flowerbed or shrubbery (Plate 1).

Overburden of approximately 1.0-1.5m in depth was removed within this area in order to facilitate the new extension/walkway to the rear of the Guildhall. During the course of this groundwork, articulated human remains constituting the remains of a number of inhumation burials were exposed. The following text describes the recorded remains. Additional context detail is presented in Appendix 1. Overview and detail plans of the burials may be found at the back of the report, along with photographic plates for each presented in context order.

5.1 General

The removed overburden (001) comprised a mid to dark brown, moderately loose sandy clay garden soil and turf over a dark yellowish, moderately compact brown clay (Plates 2 and 3). Chalk flecking and red brick and tile fragments were observable throughout both deposits, and the garden soil additionally contained other items of 19/20th century debris, including glass and

iron nails. Having occupied a recent flower bed, these deposits contained much root disturbance.

The underlying natural deposit was a dark yellowish to buff light brown moderately compact clay. This had clearly been truncated by both the insertion of the 1950s retaining wall/coal bunkers and the re-profiling of the slope down to it from the graveyard. Context 022 has been accorded to a mixture of the natural deposit and undistinguished fills of graves cut into it - primarily for the identification of finds uncertainly retrieved from one or other.

5.2 Burials

A total of sixteen discernible inhumation burials were uncovered within the area of ground reduction as denoted by articulated skeletal remains, both partial and complete (Fig.2; Plates 2 and 3). Additionally, a quantity of miscellaneous disarticulated human bones was also recorded.

Context

All the inhumations were found within the natural deposit 022 though, due to the similarity of fills to the undisturbed natural, no grave cuts containing them could be reliably defined except in one instance - skeleton 007 in cut 018 (Plate 9). Presumably due to previous truncation of the original land surface, some burials were encountered immediately at the base of the overburden deposits (e.g. skeleton 016, Plate 15). Others were relatively deeply buried within the natural deposit.

Survival and condition

The majority of the exposed skeletons were truncated or otherwise disturbed and therefore incomplete. As mentioned previously, those along the southeast edge of the site generally extended beyond it and so were only partially uncovered and recorded. Due to the insertion of the retaining wall and the re-profiling of the slope behind it, truncation of burial remains was both horizontal and vertical. The most extreme example was skeleton 002, of which only the lower right arm and hand survived (Plate 4). Others survived only as legs (e.g. skeletons 003, 010, 011; Plates 5 and 12). While skeleton 006 had lost its head and upper torso and arms (Plate 8), 009 and 015 constituted the only near-enough complete skeletons to be exposed (Plates 11 and 14). Skeletons 004, 005, 007 and 013 (Fig. 2), although promising to be undisturbed, all extended beyond the southeast limit of excavation, so meaningful statements about their

completeness cannot be made. Some semi- or disarticulated human remains (especially 008) appear to have been re-deposited in later graves. Such occurrence is described later in the text

Bone preservation of the remains was in general good to fair. Long bones survived well. Significant damage was however evident on skulls due to compression, and softer and spongier skeletal elements such as pelvis, vertebrae and ribs were often crumbly and highly fragmentary. Relatively little damage was inflicted on the remains by the machine removal of the overburden, though some loss of small peripheral elements such as phalanges occurred during machining and manual cleaning - particularly as bone colour was similar to that of the natural deposit and to small stones within it.

Form

All of the excavated skeletons were aligned approximately SW-NE with heads at the SW end as might be expected for interments following the Christian burial rite. All but skeleton 015, which is slightly distanced from the other inhumations, share an identical alignment. As previously stated, grave cuts were very difficult to discern. That identified for skeleton 007, 018, appeared too small to accommodate a coffin and, as no nails or other fixings or furniture were found in association here or with any of the other inhumations, it appears that none were interred in coffins.

As far as can be discerned from the skeletal remains, all interments were laid in a supine position, generally with arms and legs extended with hands by the sides of the body, and feet side by side. Skeletons 006, 007 and 015 were exceptions to this, displaying flexed arms and either one or both hands resting on the pelvis or femur. These in particular, along with the narrowness of the grave cut for 007 may argue that the bodies were interred in shrouds.

Although the majority of the recorded skeletal remains represent *in situ* interments, some material was clearly the product of re-deposition of historically disturbed inhumations. A semi-articulated leg, together with a cranium and further leg bone and pelvis fragments, all recorded as 008 (Plate 10), was a clear re-burial of such remains within a later grave - being placed directly over the legs of skeleton 009. Similarly, a skull (not numbered separately) was also found in close proximity to truncated skeleton 016 (Plate 15).

Based upon the lengths of long bones present, the majority of the remains appeared to represent adult individuals. Two exceptions were apparent; the semi-articulated leg amongst re-deposited remains 008 and the arm of skeleton 017 were noticeably smaller and are assumed to have belonged to juveniles. A single instance of pathology was identified; skeleton 007 had noticeably crooked teeth, with one tooth growing from the lower jaw from below the gum line.

No grave goods were present with any of the individuals, as is to be expected of Christian graves. Indeed, artefacts of any kind were sparse. One sherd of medieval pottery was found in close association with skeleton 009, and two further sherds recovered generally and presumed to derive from undefined grave fills as ground reduction and cleaning of machined surfaces was carried out. Two animal teeth and a sherd of post-medieval pottery with skeleton 013, and a clay pipe stem with 015 might have been *in situ*, but as likely were intrusive.

Stratification, spatial layout and chronology

The majority of the skeletal remains appear to have been found *in situ* - that is in the place of their original interment. Despite not being able to discern separate grave cuts or fills, the relative depths, overlying positions and in some instances directly 'intersecting' relationships evidence some degree of complexity, sequence and protracted timescale of interments. In particular, the cluster of skeletons 002, 005, 006 and 009 suggest three or four distinct episodes of interment at this location (Figs. 2 and 3). Stratigraphically, 002 was the latest, overlying skeleton 005, over 006, which in turn was over 009. Further northwest, the various partially-surviving skeletons 010, 011, 012 and 013 also display intercutting and therefore relative chronological sequence, though their precise stratigraphic relationships with one another are unclear (Fig.2 and Plate 12).

As previously mentioned, all the recorded skeletons were aligned SW-NE and it is apparent that there is order to their spatial layout (Fig. 2). Although the narrowness of the site provides only a restricted view of this, it would appear that graves in this vicinity of the graveyard were set out in rows. Five major NW-SE rows might be construed from the recorded remains, with some later insertions that do not conform so closely. It is possible that the precise locations of earlier graves become lost over time, so accounting for some intercutting and non-conformity of layout. It is perhaps also possible that at least some of the overlying skeletons of cluster 002, 005, 006 and 009 denote successive insertions into the same family plot.

Although dating evidence in close and reliable association with the various skeletons is sparse, the very lack of cultural material finding its way into the graves suggests that they are all relatively early in date. Similarly, the minimally reworked nature of the grave backfills indicates that this occurred before gravesoil within the churchyard was well formed and before occupation in the vicinity had reached a level that introduced debris such as charcoal into it. Taken at face value the three sherds of medieval pottery may well provide a reliable date for the interments in this former corner of the graveyard.

5.3 Other remains

Other than the burials, recorded remains predating the later 20th century modifications to the rear of the Guildhall, seem to be restricted solely to small rectangular pit 020. Cut through skeleton 003 and into the underlying natural deposit, this vertical-sided feature was filled with the same dark garden soil as overlaid it. Containing root material, a few sherds of post-medieval salt-glazed earthenware pottery and iron nails (not retrieved for study), it is likely to have been a 19th/20th century planting hole. No further archaeological remains were identified within the foundation trenches for the new extension / walkway to the Guildhall (Plate 16).

6.0 FINDS

As noted, artefacts recovered from the excavation were very few in number - perhaps significantly so. The collected finds comprise five sherds of pottery, animal teeth and a fragment of clay pipe stem. These are described below by material type and further quantification detail is presented in Appendix 4. A small quantity of relatively modern material from the fill of pit 020 was not collected and retained for study.

6.1 Pottery

Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered during excavation. Two were found in deposit 022 and can only be presumed to derive from undistinguishable grave fills. The third was in close association with skeleton 009.

Additionally, two sherds of post-medieval glazed earthenware were collected from the vicinity of skeleton 013, likely to be of 17-19th century date.

6.2 Animal Tooth

A single cow tooth was recovered from the vicinity of skeleton 013.

6.3 Clay Pipe

One plain fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered from the vicinity of skeleton 15. The fragment measures 50mm in length, and cannot be more closely dated than being post-medieval.

6.4 Comments on the Assemblage

The majority of the finds assemblage recovered is unlikely to relate to the burial of the individuals uncovered, rather being the product of later disturbance associated with refurbishment works which took place during the 17th century and the 1950s, and which would appear to have disturbed a number of the burials. The medieval pottery sherds may however represent reliable dating evidence for the inhumations in this part of the graveyard.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The presence of graves to the rear of the Guildhall is unsurprising, given that this vicinity was formerly part of the medieval churchyard and that burials may conceivably have continued to have been inserted close to the building after its insertion. As far as can be judged from the surviving remains, the graves were laid out in relatively orderly rows the orientation of which was influenced as much by the local topography as the desire that they face east. Although lacking clear relative and absolute chronological indicators due to the poor legibility of grave cuts/fills and paucity of stratified artefacts, it is postulated that at least some of these graves probably predate the building of the Guildhall in the late 15th century. As all were seemingly fairly shallowly dug, it is plausible that the active graveyard originally extended up to the Church Hill thoroughfare and that the creation of a level site for the Guildhall by terracing into the hill slope removed them entirely to the northwest of those recorded. As such, the medieval pottery retrieved from the top of the exposed natural deposit, and/or from undistinguished fills of graves cut into it, may well provide a reliable indicator of their date.

It is apparent that some disturbance of graves took place historically, with some inhumations clearly cut through others and some remains reinterred within fresh graves when disturbed.

Indeed, the articulated leg re-deposited with skeleton 009 illustrates that such encroachment took place relatively soon after interment in some cases. There is some indication that the depth of later burials possibly decreased in an attempt to avoid intruding on earlier ones; many of the deeper burials appear to be the earliest. Clearly, this strategy was not wholly successful. It is suspected that some of the recorded burials were also encountered during the 1950s re-profiling of the surface slope down toward the rear of the Guildhall. As some of the skeletons were found immediately below the garden soil, perhaps even within its base, it seems likely that the works were deliberately stopped when bones were reached, though inevitably the insertion of the retaining wall truncated and removed some remains.

Non-burial related remains are solely confined to post-medieval and modern features - all probably associated with the garden and/or landscape modifications to the rear of the Guildhall. No deposits, features or artefacts were found that predate the medieval graveyard use of this location. Given the paucity of previously discovered pre-medieval remains within Finchingfield, this is not particularly surprising.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Appendix 1: Context Data

Context	Type	Description	Period
001	Overburden layers	Mid to dark brown, moderately loose sandy clay mixed with a dark yellowish, moderately compact brown clay. Chalk and red brick flecking throughout. Cultivation and root disturbance throughout.	post-med
002	Skeleton	Lower right arm and hand of supine inhumation. Adult. Remainder truncated. Over skeleton 005.	Medieval?
003	Skeleton	Lower legs and feet and left hand of supine inhumation. Adult. Remainder removed by cut 020.	Medieval?
004	Skeleton	Left side of supine inhumation, including some ribs of left side, top of femur and top of pelvis. Adult. Remainder beyond edge of excavation.	Medieval?
005	Skeleton	Upper part of supine inhumation, including skull, vertebrae, right scapula & humerus, upper ribs & sternum. Adult. Remainder beyond edge of excav. Under skeleton 002 and over 006.	Medieval?
006	Skeleton	Lower half of supine inhumation. Left ribs & arm, scapulae & skull removed by modern truncation. Adult. Feet and lower legs extend under 005.	Medieval?
007	Skeleton	Probable complete supine inhumation in cut 018. Majority of upper body and left leg exposed. Adult. Remainder beyond edge of excavation.	Medieval?
008	Re-deposited bones	Semi-articulated leg and foot bones. Juvenile. Also disarticulated cranium, pelvis and vertebrae and other leg fragments. Over/with skeleton 009.	Medieval?
009	Skeleton	Complete supine inhumation. Adult. Below/with re-deposited remains 008.	Medieval?
010	Skeleton	Legs and feet of supine inhumation. Adult. Remainder removed by modern truncation. Relationship to 011 uncertain.	Medieval?
011	Skeleton	Legs and feet of supine inhumation. Adult. Remainder removed by modern truncation. Over 012?	Medieval?
012	Skeleton	Lower legs and feet of supine inhumation. Possibly right hand bones too. Adult. Disturbed by 011 and 013?	Medieval?
013	Skeleton	Left side of supine inhumation, including skull. Adult. Upper arm missing. Remainder beyond edge of excavation. Root disturbance. Over 012?	Medieval?
014	Skeleton	Probable largely complete supine inhumation. Adult. Much of left arm removed by modern truncation. Remainder beyond edge of excavation.	Medieval?
015	Skeleton	Near-complete supine inhumation. Adult.	Medieval?
016	Skeleton	Upper legs and part of lower right leg of supine inhumation. Remainder of legs and feet removed (machine trunc?). Adult. Remainder beyond edge of excavation. Over 009 and 017. Re-deposited skull where feet should be.	Medieval?
017	Skeleton	Part of left arm of supine inhumation. Remainder beyond edge of excavation. Juvenile. Under 016.	Medieval?
018	Grave cut	Shallow cut. Base of truncated grave cut containing 007. 1.6m+ x 0.4m+ x 0.15m deep. SE side beyond edge of excavation.	Medieval?
019	Fill of 018	Mid yellowy brown silty clay. Rare stones. Contains 007.	Medieval?
020	Pit	Rectilinear cut. 0.25m x 0.15m+ x 0.12m deep. Vertical sides, flat bottom. NE side not established.	Post-med / modern
021	Fill of 020	Dark brown, fairly loose clayey silt with occasional pebbles. Contains charcoal, pottery and tile frags, Fe nails. Root disturbance.	Post-med / modern
022	Natural / grave fills	Dark yellowish/buff light brown fairly compact clay. Uncertain - due to lack of distinction between fills of graves and natural deposit into which they cut.	?

Appendix 2: Finds Data

Context	Count	Weight	Description	Date
Unstrat / 022	2	16g	Pottery: body sherds, sandy coarsewares, one with thumbled decoration	Medieval
09	1	6g	Pottery: body sherd, sandy coarseware	Medieval
13	2	68g	Pottery: body /rim sherd. Glazed, orange earthenware, with yellow line decoration close to rim. Also body/base sherd in glazed red earthenware	Post-medieval
	1	26g	Animal tooth: fragmentary, most likely cow	Post-medieval
15	1	2g	Clay pipe: small stem fragment, unmarked/decorated	Post-medieval

Appendix 3: Contents of Archive

Site name: Archaeological Watching Brief at the Guildhall, Finchingfield, Essex

Project no: 2366

Site code: FFFG 11

Index to the Archive:

Document wallet containing:

1. Research archive

1.1 Client/archive report (1 bound, 1 unbound)

1.2 CD containing digital photographs & copy of report, pdf-formatted

2. Site Archive

2.1 Context register

2.2 Context sheets (x22)

2.3 Plans (5 large drawing film sheets)

2.4 Photographic record:

2.4.1 Photographic register

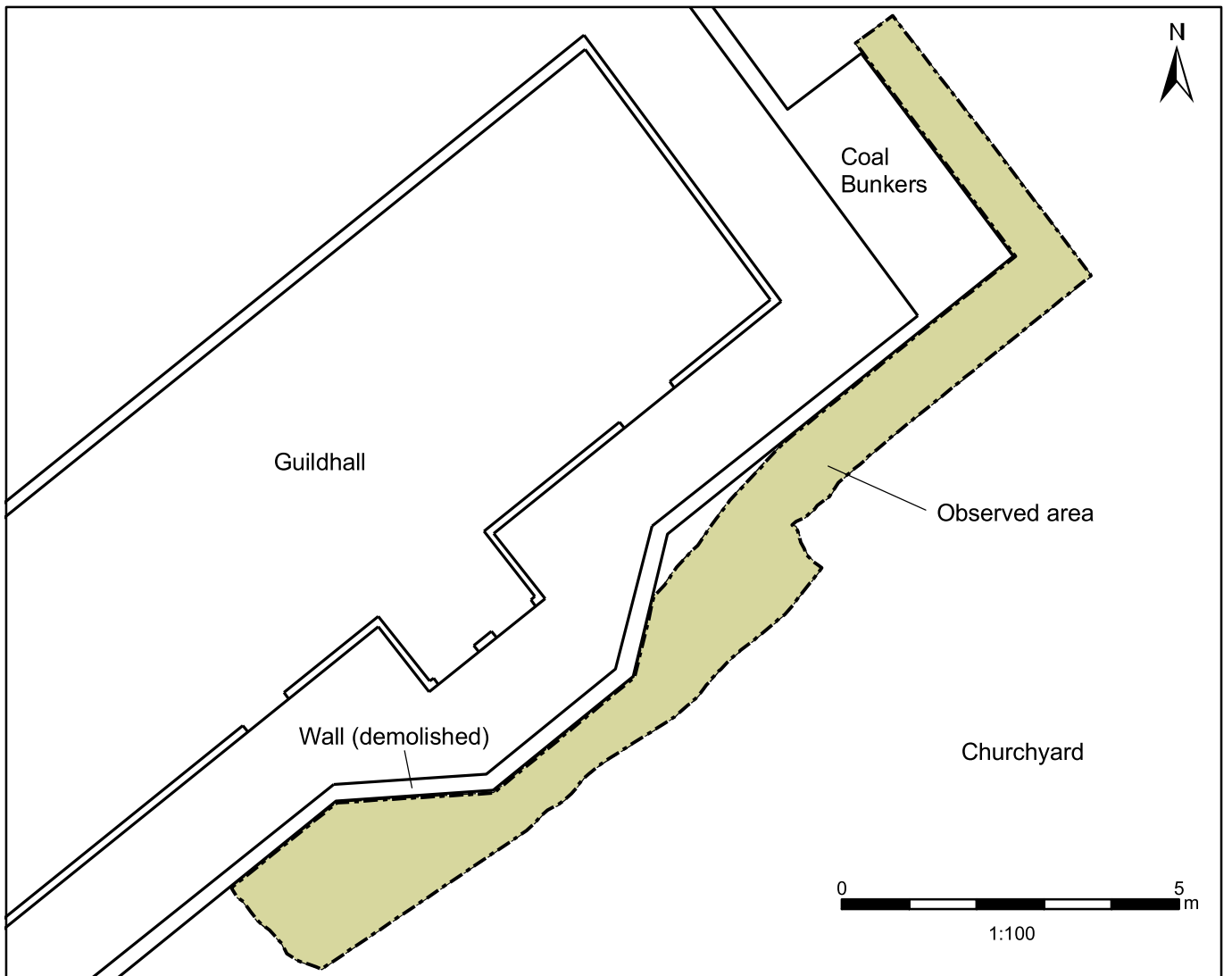
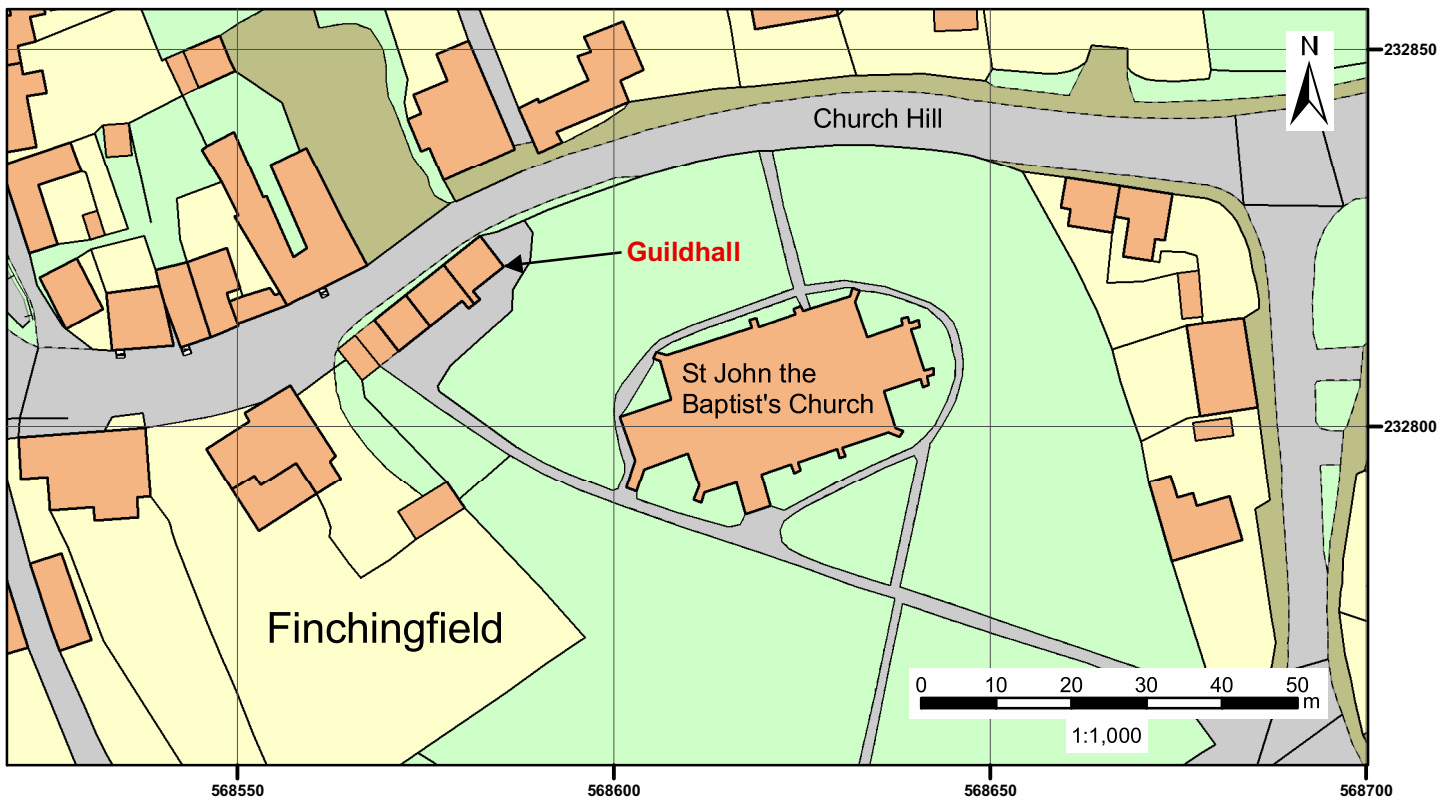
2.4.2 Digital images

2.4.3 Photo prints (from digital)

2.5 Misc. scheme drawings

Appendix 4: EHER Summary Sheet

Site Name/Address: The Guildhall, Church Hill, Finchingfield, Essex	
Parish: Finchingfield	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 68576 32817	Site code: FFFG 12
Type of Work: Archaeological Watching Brief	Site Director/Team: Mark Atkinson and Fiona Moore, ECC FAU
Dates of Fieldwork: 25th October to 7th November 2012 and 8th January 2013	Size of Area Investigated: c.21sq m
Curating Museum: Braintree	Funding Source: Client
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related LBS No. 115167
Oasis No: 142600	
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History roundup	
Periods Represented: Medieval, post-medieval	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p><i>Archaeological monitoring was carried on contractors' groundworks undertaken as part of the refurbishment of the late 15th century Guildhall building and its immediate environs. The groundworks took place to the rear (south) of the Guildhall, and still technically within the graveyard of St John the Baptist's Church.</i></p> <p><i>During the course of the monitoring brief, the remains of sixteen inhumations were uncovered, consisting of both full and partial skeletons. Disarticulated and re-deposited human remains were also recorded. The upper portions of graves had been removed by landscaping and their cuts were extremely difficult to discern; their backfills being clean and very similar to the surrounding natural deposit. Three sherds of pottery, all medieval, were retrieved; only one of which was in close association with an inhumation. A small quantity of post-medieval artefacts also present are likely to be intrusive.</i></p> <p><i>The graveyard clearly once extended further to the northwest, presumably up to the Church Hill thoroughfare. It is conjectured that the graves predate the Guildhall and that further graves were probably removed by terracing ahead of its construction. Additionally, one grave was disturbed by a post-medieval pit and others truncated by the insertion of the 1950s retaining wall. No other significant remains were found.</i></p> <p><i>All human remains exposed and removed ahead of construction works were retained on site for reburial within the graveyard.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Letch, A. 2011 <i>Archaeological Test Pit Survey at the Guildhall, Finchingfield, Essex</i> , FAU rep. 2366a	
Author of Summary: Fiona Moore	Date of Summary: 14th January 2013



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Fig.1. Site location plan

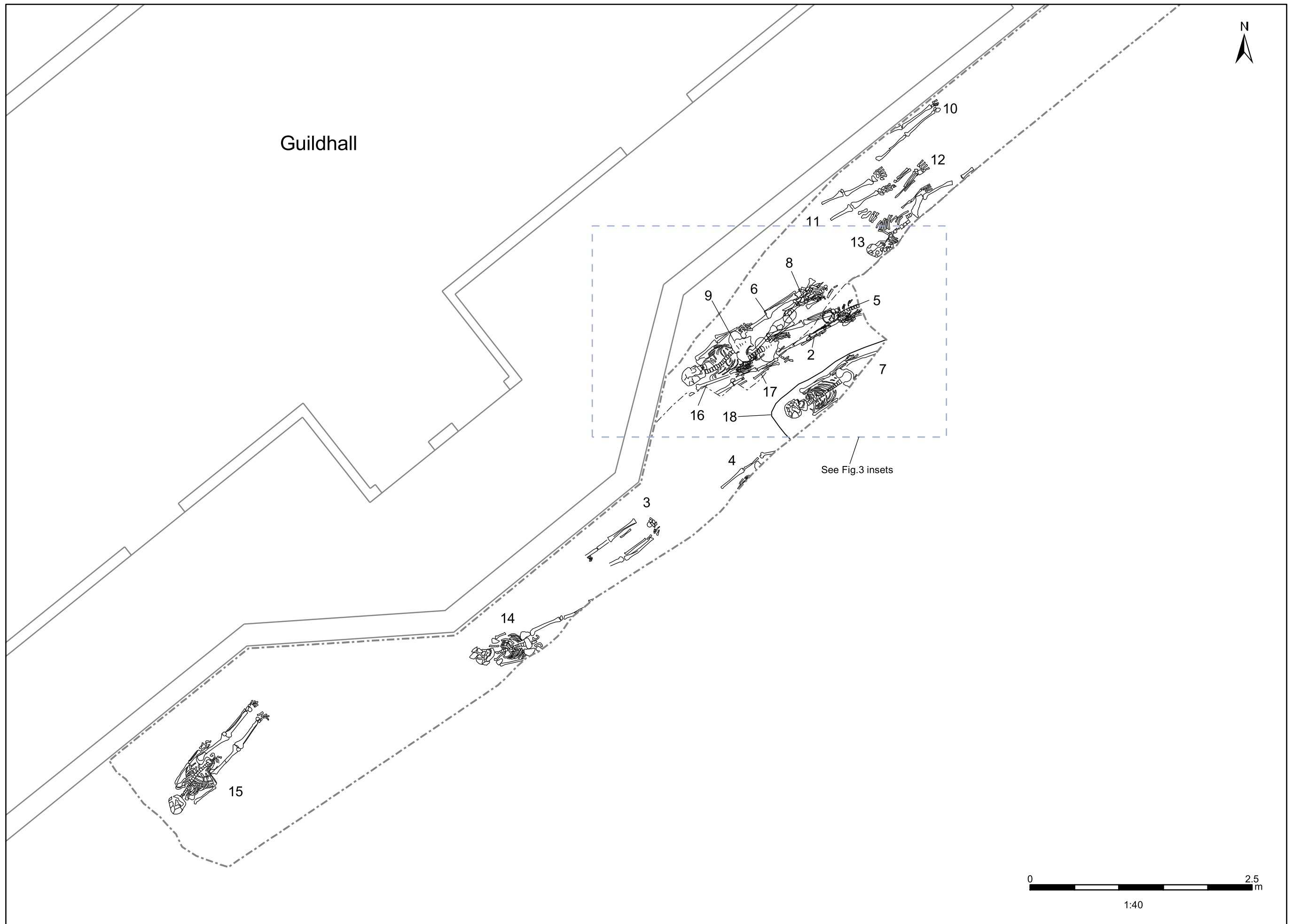
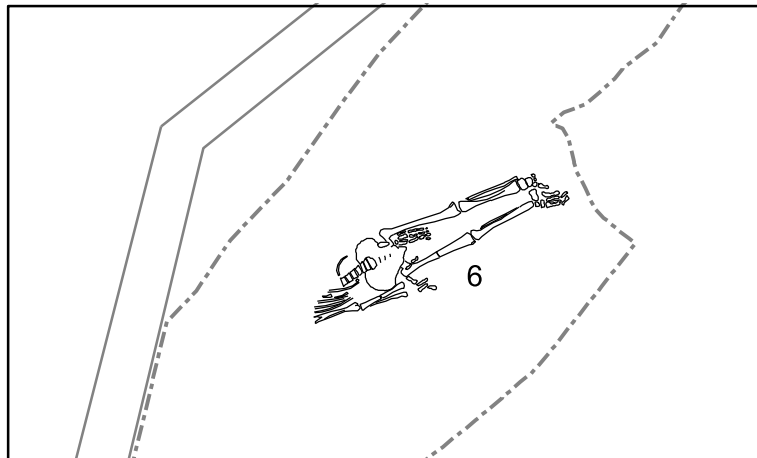
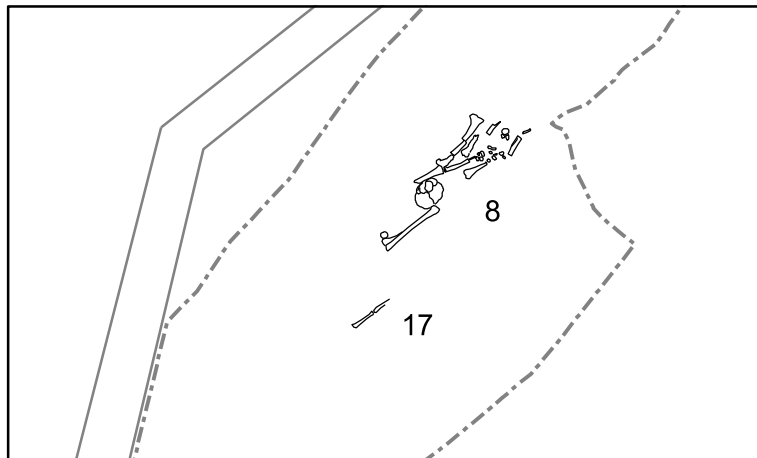
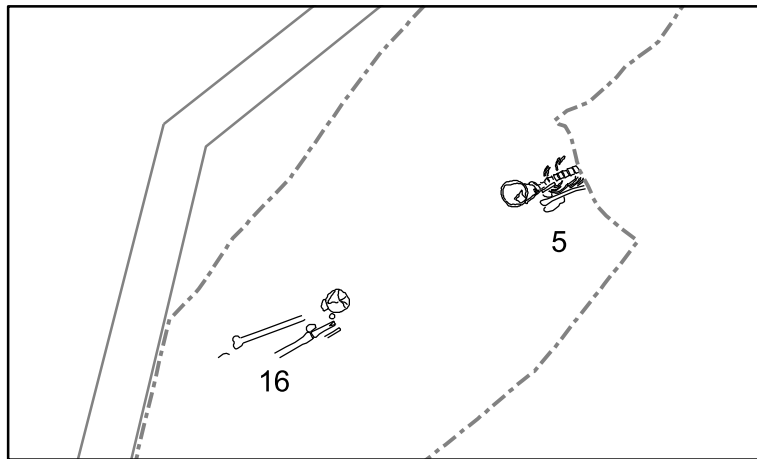
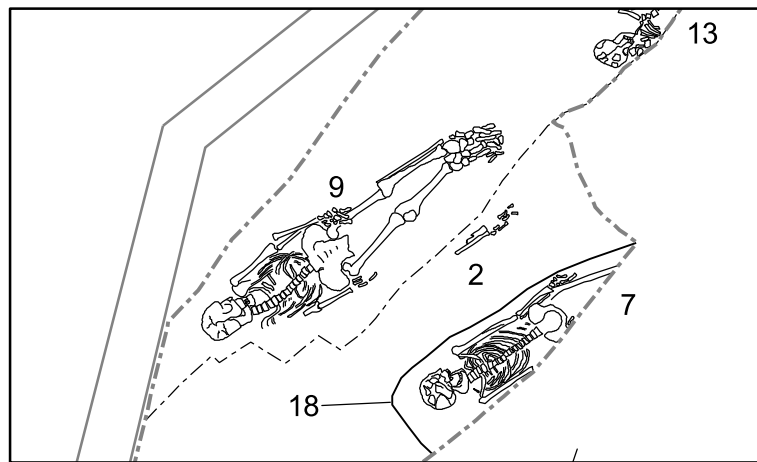


Fig.2. Location of skeletons



1:40

Fig.3. Location of over-lying skeletons from Fig.2



Plate 1. General site view, prior to development



Plate 2. General site view, looking northeast



Plate 3. General site view, looking SSW



Plate 4. Skeleton 002, looking southeast (0.5m scale)



Plate 5. Skeleton 003, looking southeast (0.5m scale)



Plate 6. Skeleton 004, looking southeast (0.5m scale)



Plate 7. Skeleton 005, looking southwest (0.5m scale)



Plate 8. Skeleton 006, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 9. Skeleton 007, looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 10. Re-deposited remains 008, looking southeast (0.5m scale)



Plate 11. Skeleton 009, looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 12. Skeletons 010, 011, 012 and 013, looking NNW (1m scale)



Plate 13. Skeleton 014, looking southwest (0.5m scale)



Plate 14. Skeleton 015, looking southwest, (0.5m scale)



Plate 15. Skeleton 016 & 017 (left of 009), looking SW (1m scale)



Plate 16. Foundations for new extension/walkway