

# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

**ST ANDREWS CHURCH**

**HELIONS BUMPSTEAD**

**ESSEX**



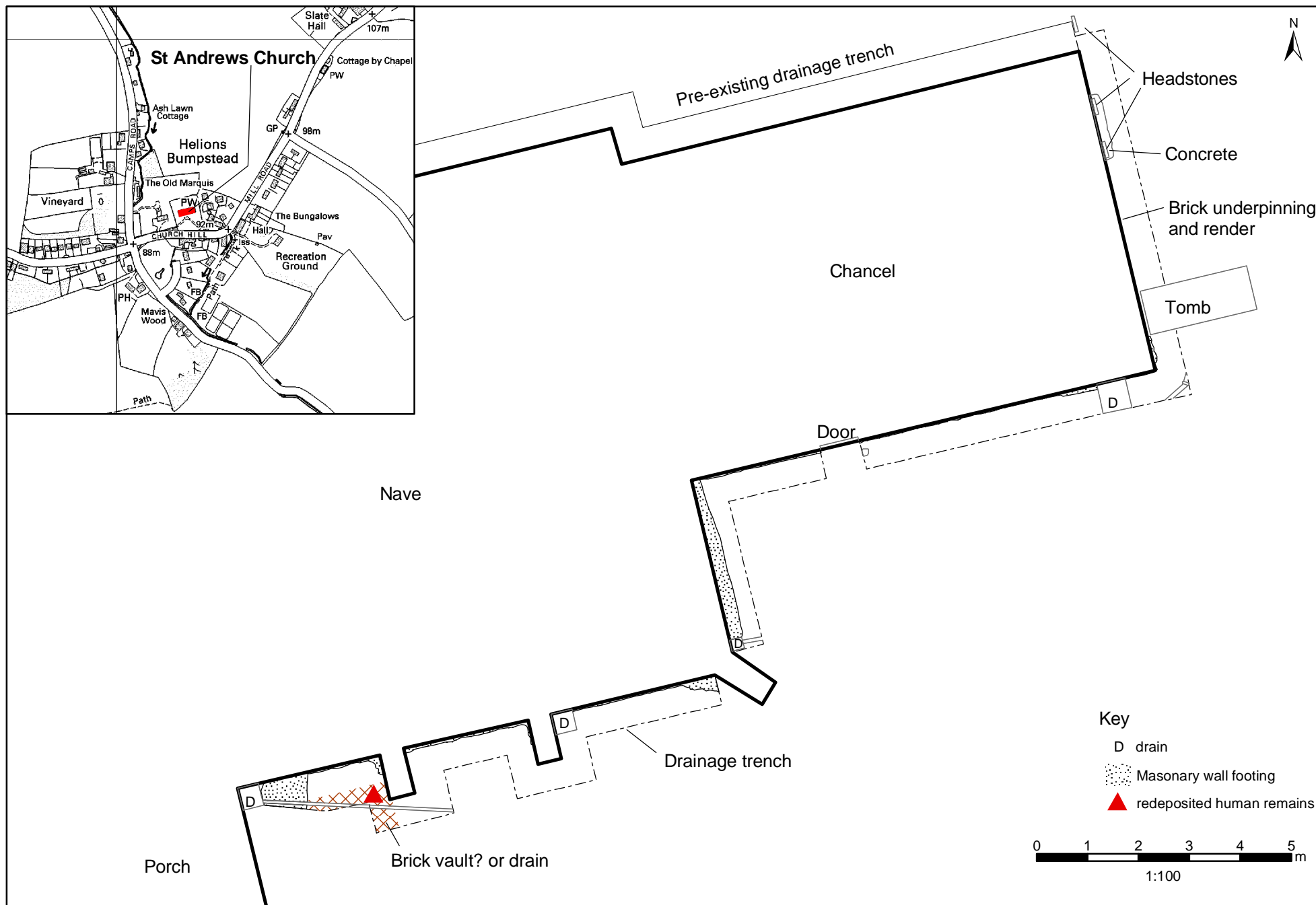
**Essex County Council**  
Field Archaeology Unit

August 2007

# ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

## SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name/Address:</b> St Andrew's Church	
<b>Parish:</b> Helions Bumpstead	<b>District:</b> Braintree
<b>NGR:</b> TL 6513 4167	<b>Site Code:</b> HBAC 07
<b>Type of Work:</b> Monitoring & Recording	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> M. Atkinson / ECC FAU
<b>Date of Work:</b> 17 – 27 July 2007	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 18sq m
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Braintree	<b>Funding source:</b> St Andrew's PCC
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> no	<b>Related HER No.s:</b> 29470
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH round-up	<b>OASIS Record No:</b> essexcou1-29323
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Medieval, Post-medieval, Modern	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>Monitoring of contractors' groundworks associated with drainage works around the outside of the church was undertaken. A 0.6m wide by 0.4m deep trench (to be gravel-filled) was hand-excavated along the foot of the south and east walls of the church.</p> <p>These works exposed three or four rough foundation courses of mortared stone and flint rubble below both the standing walls of the medieval church and that of the 19th century brick rebuild of the south aisle. Immediately to the east of the modern south porch, a projecting mortared rubble foundation was identified. This may be remains of an earlier (previously unknown?) porch that was replaced in the 19th century and again in the 1950s. The top of a brick vault, either of a drain or perhaps a post-medieval burial lay to the east of this foundation. Both structures were left in situ. A modern drain that ran over these contained some re-deposited human remains.</p> <p>The stone rubble foundation of the SE corner and east side of the south aisle was noted to be particularly substantial and projected c.0.3m beyond the wall. That at the SE corner of the chancel was also substantial, though less projecting. The east chancel wall appeared to have been underpinned with brick, probably in the 19th century, extending up above ground level where it had been rendered.</p> <p>Six small, simple, headstones (0.6m high by 0.3m wide) positioned against the foot of the east wall were removed during these works. Bearing only initials and dates (late 17th-early 18th cent), it is likely that these were derived from child graves – but had clearly been moved here from elsewhere. No graves were found in association with these markers. Indeed, two were found to be set in concrete that abutted the brick underpinning and render.</p> <p>A range of artefacts of post-medieval date were recovered from the trench excavation. These included pottery sherds (18th cent +), and iron nails and a coffin handle, together with occasional re-deposited human bone fragments. Burial remains were left on site, other artefacts have been subsequently discarded.</p> <p>The natural geological deposit was only observed in the bottom of the 0.4m-deep trench in a few locations – at the east side of the south aisle and at the SE corner of the chancel.</p> <p>A similar drainage trench had previously been excavated along the north side of the church. Current works therefore only required its cleaning-out. Bonded stone rubble foundations were also exposed here. An intended new soakaway just off the NE corner of the church was not constructed. Instead, the existing soakaway off the NW corner was refurbished. This work was not observed.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> Mark Atkinson	<b>Date of Summary:</b> August 2007



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Fig.1. Location plan