

**CHURCH OF ST JAMES
CHIGNAL ST JAMES
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**



Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit

MAY 2008

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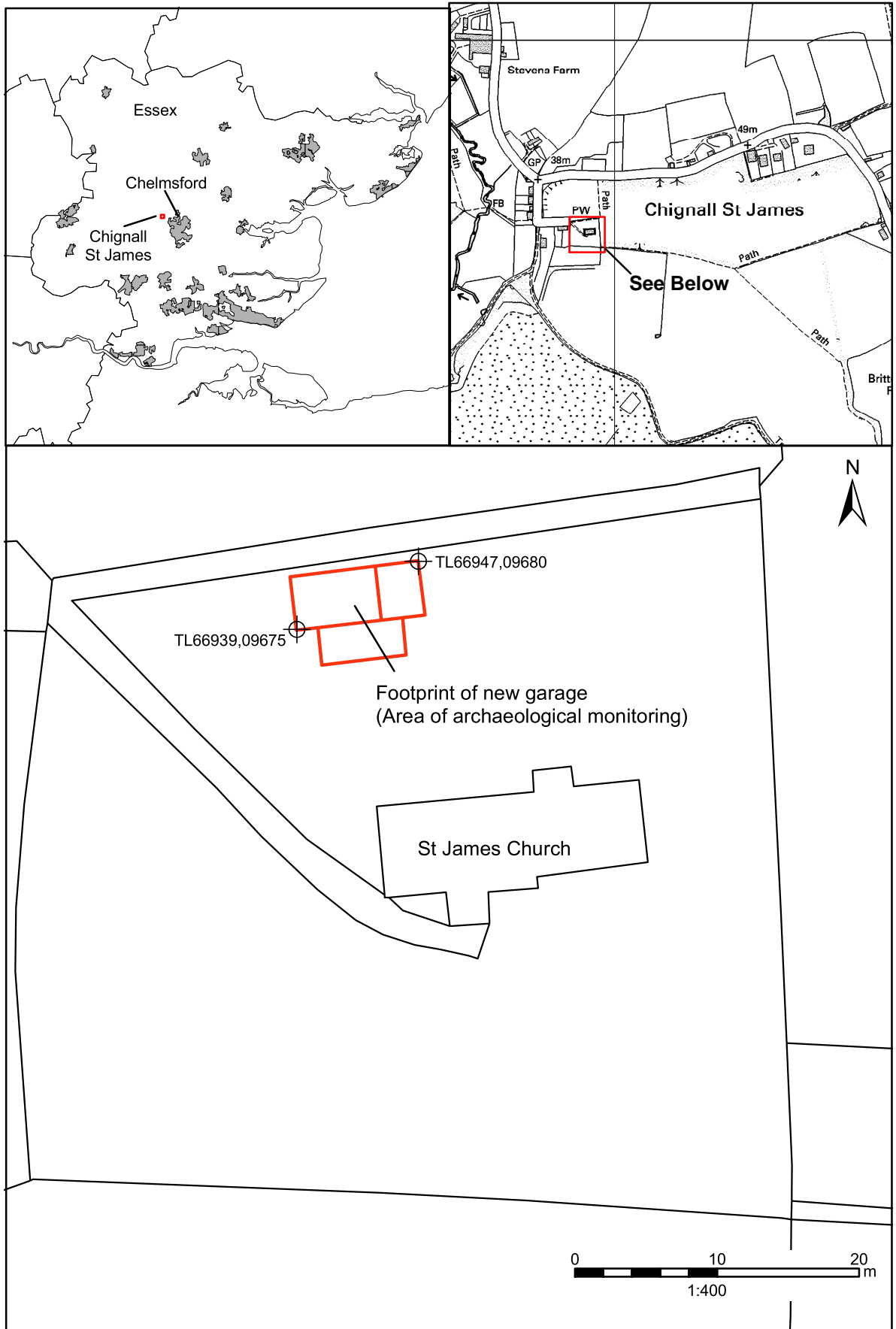
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EHER SUMMARY

SITE NAME/ADDRESS: Church of St James, Chignal St James, Essex	
CONTRACTING UNIT PROJECT NUMBER 1847	
PARISH: Chignal	DISTRICT: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 669 096	SITE CODE: CLSJ08
TYPE OF WORK: Monitoring and Recording	SITE DIRECTOR/GROUP: M.Pocock
DATE OF WORK: May 2008	SIZE OF AREA INVESTIGATED: 45sqm
FINDS/CURATING MUSEUM: Chelmsford	FUNDING SOURCE: Developer
FURTHER WORK ANTICIPATED. No	RELATED HER NOS. None
FINAL REPORT: Yes	OASIS ACCESSION NUMBER essexcou1-42424
PERIODS REPRESENTED: None	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on land adjacent to the Church of St James, Chignal St James, in advance of planned construction for a new garage, store and open car port. The church is situated some four miles from Chelmsford, off the A1060 Roxwell Road and was converted to residential use in 1987. It is originally thought to have been 13th or 14th century in date and may have formed a focus for a dispersed settlement pattern of medieval or earlier date. The development lies within the existing graveyard but the graveyard survey held at the former church shows that no known burials were present in this part of the site.</p> <p>The groundworks involved the excavation of trenches that were 0.45m wide and up to 0.6m deep (fig.1) and the reduction of the ground levels within the footprint of the building by up to 0.3m (plate. 1) for a concrete raft. Prior to the start of the investigation an old oil tank and concrete foundation slab located against the sites northern boundary and centrally within the footprint of the new build had been removed.</p> <p>No archaeological remains were encountered within the groundworks. Excavation of the new builds footprint reached a re-worked subsoil/ natural and modern debris horizon that likely derived from a combination of more recent activity and previous levelling across site. Finds included post-medieval or later brick and tile, none of which was retained. Overlying this was a clean 0.16m-thick garden topsoil.</p> <p>The investigation has demonstrated that the construction level was insufficient to disturb archaeological levels and concludes that any future development on the site will likely have to exceed 0.60m before any potential archaeological remains are encountered.</p>	
PREVIOUS SUMMARIES/REPORTS: None	
AUTHOR OF SUMMARY: Matthew Pocock (ECCFAU)	DATE OF SUMMARY: May 2008



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Fig.1. Site location and area of archaeological monitoring



Plate 1. Footprint of the new garage