

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST-PIT SURVEY AT  
THE GUILDHALL, CHURCH HILL  
FINCHINGFIELD  
ESSEX**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**March 2011**



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Prepared by: Andy Letch Position: Project Officer	Signature: Date: 21st March 2011
Approved by: Mark Atkinson Position: Project Manager	Signature: Date: 21st March 2011

Document Ref.	2366rep
Report Issue Date	21st March 2011
Circulation	Finchingfield Guildhall Trust
	Kay Pilsbury Thomas Architects
	Essex Historic Environment Record

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Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager at the

***Field Archaeology Unit***  
Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3YQ  
Tel: 01376 331431  
Fax: 01376 331428  
Email: [fieldarch@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:fieldarch@essexcc.gov.uk)

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Essex CM1 1LF

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST-PIT SURVEY AT  
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FINCHINGFIELD  
ESSEX**

**Client:** Finchingfield Guildhall Trust

**NGR:** TL 68576 32817

**Site code:** FFFG 11

**FAU Project No:** 2366

**OASIS No:** 95541

**Dates of Fieldwork:** 31st January - 3rd February 2011

**SUMMARY**

*An archaeological test-pit survey was carried out on behalf of the Finchingfield Guildhall Trust to examine the foundations of the 15th-century guildhall and to evaluate the archaeological potential of the immediate vicinity of the standing building. Thirteen test-pits were excavated by hand to the base of the foundations. The survey established that the external north-east and south-east walls had been underpinned in the modern period and disturbed by drainage runs, probably dating to the 1950s. Thus recorded deposits consisted of modern backfill and natural clay subsoil, with no archaeological remains found to be present. However, test-pits dug in the passage leading from the road to the churchyard revealed the remains of an earlier, possibly medieval, cobbled surface along with sherds of medieval pottery, below the existing one.*

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological test-pit evaluation was undertaken by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) in prior to refurbishment works at Finchingfield Guildhall. The work was commissioned by Finchingfield Guildhall Trust and funded by the Essex Heritage Trust. It was conducted on the advice of, and monitored by, Teresa O'Connor of the Essex Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM).

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 stored with Braintree Museum. An OASIS online record has been created at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/index.cfm>.

## **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 the property that stands on the site of the former Green Man public house.

The site is terraced into 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 building.

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. 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 refurbish the Guildhall and enlarge the existing museum, library and meeting hall areas was submitted to Braintree District Council (BDC) in 2010 (10/01735/LBC). In response to this application, the Heritage Environment Management team of Essex County Council (ECC HEM) recommended that, given the historic importance of the site and proximity to the graveyard, any below-ground works should be monitored by archaeologists. These included preliminary tests pits to examine the depth and condition of the foundations, commissioned by the architects. Given the sensitivity of the site, proximity to the churchyard and the unknown nature of below-ground deposits, the architects decided that the test-pits would be dug by archaeologists.

### **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 against the churchyard.

The lack of railway and major road developments in this area has helped to preserve Finchingfield as a small village, with little of the intensive modern development seen in other Essex towns and villages.

### **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The test-pit survey was carried out in order to establish the presence and nature of the foundations of the Guildhall building and to evaluate the archaeological potential of its site - particularly for the presence of remains relating to its medieval use.

### **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

Thirteen 0.60m x 0.60m test-pits were hand-excavated on two sides of the Guildhall along an existing pathway at the back of the building, which was constructed from concrete paving slabs and cobbled edging when the Guildhall was refurbished in the 1950s. Nine were located along the north-eastern and south-eastern walls and four others within the passage (fig. 2, plates 1-3). Some of their locations were shifted slightly in order to avoid modern drains running parallel to the walls and concrete manholes. Six other proposed test-pits, located within the existing graveyard and along the path at the south-west end of the structure, were not excavated as part of this work.

In order to excavate the majority of test-pits along the pathway, the paving slabs were lifted and the cobbled edging, bonded together with cement, broken out using cold chisels and club hammers. Hand excavation was then undertaken through underlying deposits down to the base of the underpinned footings and natural chalky boulder clay wherever possible. Selected test-pits were dug below the concrete footings to gauge their thickness, which was a fairly uniform 0.20m.

Descriptions of all deposits were recorded on pro-forma FAU trench sheets. Scale plans and sections were drawn of each and levels recorded using a bench mark located on a corner of the church tower. Finds were collected from several contexts, though mostly consisting of 20th century finds from disturbed deposits.



A series of photographs were taken in digital format. A representative selection of these is reproduced at the back of the report as plates 1-18. The remainder can be found in the archive.

## **5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS**

The nine test-pits along the two rear outer walls of the building (test-pits 1-8 and 13) exposed the full extent of its red brick plinth, stepped out from the wall in English bond and believed to have been inserted in the 18th century (Watkin & Watkin 2008). In all of these cases, apart from test-pit 13, the plinth was three courses deep and stood upon a c.0.20m thick layer of modern concrete underpinning. Natural clay subsoil was encountered in the base of most test-pits, apart from the very few where excavation could not continue because of modern drain runs. Given the limited size of the test-pits, the edges of the underpinning trenches were not always defined and only modern backfills were encountered. Some of this material may also derive from when the graveyard was cut back and revetted to make space for the modern pathway, which is a good 1m below the level of the graveyard. It is not only likely that earlier deposits were removed at this time.

Test-pits 9-12 were dug through the modern cobbled surface inside the passage (plate 12), which is believed to be dated to the 1950s refurbishment works. This area had not been disturbed by underpinning works and it was here that archaeological remains were identified.

Locations of all excavated test-pits are shown in figure 2. Section drawings of a representative sample of test-pits are included as figure 3. No plan drawings are included in this report since the colour plates are more instructive. Finds details are included in appendices at the back of the report.

### **5.1 Test-pit 1 (plate 4)**

Test-pit 1 was located along the north-east wall, close to the roadside gateway. Having lifted the concrete slab and bedding, and chiselled away the modern concrete surface, the top of the concrete underpinning and natural creamy yellow chalky boulder clay subsoil (context 2) was encountered only 0.19m below present ground level, at which excavation ceased. No finds were collected.

## **5.2 Test-pit 2** (plate 5)

Test-pit 2 was excavated further along the north-east wall. Here too natural clay was encountered just below the pathway, which was then excavated to the base of the concrete underpinning that finishes 0.44m below present ground level at the same depth as in test-pit 1. Section 1 (fig. 3) shows the cut for the underpinning trench and this is the only pit in which it was recorded. The backfill of the trench, context 3, contained mixed finds of medieval or post-medieval roof tile, a hand-cut iron nail of similar date and modern window glass.

## **5.3 Test-pit 3** (plate 6)

Test-pit 3 was excavated beside the east corner of the south-east wall. The area close to the wall was badly disturbed by a 5" modern ceramic drain pipe. Around the pipe was a layer of silty clay material (context 1) containing fragments of modern (19th or 20th century) brick and tile. On the south side of the pipe cut, natural clay was recorded 0.15m below the path.

## **5.4 Test-pit 4** (plate 7)

Test-pit 4 was excavated on the north-east side of a modern extension that contains entrances to the two first floor flats. The area closest to the wall was occupied by the concrete underpinning and the rest by a modern drain manhole (plate 7), badly disturbing the area. No further excavation took place.

## **5.5 Test-pit 5** (plate 8)

Test-pit 5 was located on the opposite side of the modern extension and achieved similar results to test-pit 4 since there was a manhole on this side too, though the cover could not be lifted. Concrete and natural chalky clay was recorded 0.19m below the path.

## **5.6 Test-pit 6** (plate 9, section 2)

Test-pit 6 was located midway along the south-east wall. Having removed the slab, and bedding layer, a 0.30m deep layer of redeposited natural clay (context 4) was excavated against the brick footings and concrete underpinning onto a hard gravel/concrete layer (context 5), presumed to have been laid over the modern pipe, at 0.43m below ground level.

## **5.7 Test-pit 7** (plate 10)

Context 3, the mixed redeposited topsoil also excavated in test-pit 3, was removed onto a thick deposit of redeposited natural clay (context 4) that overlay the concrete underpinning. Excavation continued to the base of the concrete, which was recorded at 73.08m OD. Undisturbed natural clay was not encountered.

### **5.8 Test-pit 8** (plate 11)

In test-pit 8, context 3 overlay context 12, a hard gravelly clay 'hoggin' backfill overlying the concrete underpinning. Excavation continued to the base of the concrete, at 0.50m below ground level. The top of undisturbed natural clay was not established.

### **5.9 Test-pit 9** (section 3, fig. 3, plate 13)

Test-pit 9 was located along the north-east wall of the passage. Below the existing cobbled surface was a light brown sandy clay layer (context 19) that contained small brick and tile fragments and a sherd of sandy orange ware pottery, dated to the 15th or 16th century. Underneath this was the natural chalky clay, context 2, recorded at only 0.17m below ground level and beyond the depth of the rendered brick plinth of the passage wall. No evidence for earlier surviving surfaces was recorded.

### **5.9 Test-pit 10** (plate 14)

Test-pit 10 was located on the opposite passage wall to test-pit 9. The modern cobbled surface was laid up against the brick plinth underneath the wall plate, but also continued under the modern brick step into the stair/kitchen area. The cobbles had been bedded into a sandy layer (context 17) and then pointed-up with cement. Below context 17 was a mixed silty clay layer (context 18) that contained a variety of finds with a wide date range, including fragments of Tudor brick and post-medieval tile, a modern nail and pottery. A fragment of rib from a pig or sheep was also found, likely to be residual. Below this layer were the disturbed remains of an earlier surface, made up of medium to large round and irregular stones and flints (context 13) pressed into the natural clay (plate 14), 0.28m below the current surface.

### **5.9 Test-pit 11** (plates 15 & 16)

The extant cobbled surface did not extend all the way to the passage wall in test-pit 11, but instead finished in line with the steps and from there on was patched-in with concrete. Where this was removed, an earlier surface was discovered immediately below (plate 15), not recorded in any of the other trenches. This surface, context 10, though on a similar level, was clearly different to the current one, having more consistent sized and shaped components (mainly medium stones and flints) and was not bonded in cement. This was identified as an earlier surface and finds from the layer beneath, fragments of tile and clay pipe in context 15, suggest it was laid down in the 17th-18th century.

Only part of surface 10 survives as it is truncated to the south-west by context 21, a modern cut that removed most of this along with an earlier surface, context 14, prior to the extant one being laid. This cut contained context 16, a hard chalky sand deposit equivalent to context 7

in test-pit 12 that was used to level-up the existing cobbled surface, reusing stones from the earlier ones. The cut bottomed onto context 14, a partial layer of small and medium flints likely to be the remains of an earlier and largely removed passage surface, rather than a surface in its own right. The flints were laid onto the natural clay at a depth of c.0.20m from existing ground level. Overlying these were charcoal deposits (plate 16), possibly deriving from one of the occasions when the old Green Man pub next door caught fire; reputedly the wind would whip the flames round into the passage, according to local knowledge. Burning on the sill plate and brick plinth of the north-east passage wall would appear to be associated with this.

### **5.9 Test-pit 12** (plate 17)

Test-pit 12 was located on the opposite passage wall to test-pit 11. Here the existing cobbled surface was laid on three layers of modern made ground to build up the level above the natural slope of the hill. Layer 6 was a general sandy bedding layer the same as context 17 and 11 into which the cobbles had been laid and cemented together. Beneath it, layer 7 was similar but more chalky and contained finds of likely 19th century date. It appeared to be the same layer as context 16 in test-pit 11. Context 8, underlying it but laid down for the same purpose, produced three pottery sherds of sandy orange ware, datable to the 14th to 15th century, amongst more recent finds. Several oyster shells and animal bone fragments were found at the base of the deposit, close to the top of the earlier cobbled surface of the passage, context 9. The stones from context 9 (plate 17) were embedded into the natural clay and consisted of small, medium and large flints and stones at a depth of approximately 0.30m from ground level. This was a properly worn surface, unlike contexts 13 and 14 that represented its remains, and had a definite slope towards the south-west, following the slope of the hill.

### **5.10 Test-pit 13** (plate 18, section 5)

Test-pit 13 was located at the western end of the south-east wall, on the other side of the passage entrance to test-pit 8. A modern pipe was exposed along the south-east side, leading towards a manhole just off the south-west corner of the building. Here 0.55m of mixed rubbly topsoil (context 20) was excavated down onto the concrete underpinning and natural clay (context 2). The concrete was deeper here because the brick footings were lower down (seven rather than three courses) due to the fall of Church Hill.

## **6.0 FINDS** by Alan J Jacobs

A total of 73 fragments of pottery, brick, tile, glass, bone, iron and mollusc shell were recovered from site, these weighed a total of 3901 grams. All of the material has been sorted into context and recorded by count and weight. The finds are described below and quantifications tabulated in Appendix 1.

### **Medieval and later pottery** by Helen Walker

A total of five sherds weighing 17g were recovered from three contexts. Layer 8 (test-pit 2) produced three unglazed body sherds in a sandy orange fabric, albeit with reduced surfaces. This blurring of the distinction between sandy orange ware and medieval coarse ware took place in the later medieval period and these sherds probably date to the 14th to 15th centuries. Layer 19 (test-pit 9) produced another sandy orange ware sherd, this time totally oxidised and showing a thin external glaze over bands of horizontal grooves and is perhaps from the neck of a vessel. It is probably also late medieval in date, belonging to the 15th to 16th centuries. These fabrics are similar to others excavated in the north-west corner of Essex, at Thaxted and Saffron Walden and are all residual in later deposits in this case. Layer 18 (test-pit 10) produced a single sherd of modern white earthenware showing sponged decoration, a rather cheap and cheerful product dating from the 1830s to 20th century.

### **Post-medieval Brick and tile**

A total of nine fragments of brick were recovered (Contexts 1, 7, 10 and 18). These consisted predominantly of fragments of modern highly fired fabrics. Most of these had cement on their surfaces, and as such must date from the mid 19th to 20th century. A single fragment of Tudor Brick was residual in a modern context (18); this brick had lime mortar on its surfaces and dates from between the 15th to early 17th century. Fragments of tile were recovered from six contexts (1, 3, 7, 8, 15 and 18). These were predominantly small fragments with only one form being definable (3), and this material along with the brick was all recovered from modern contexts. A single fragment of a slate roof tile was recovered (Context 7). This type of roof tile did not come into general use until the Victorian period. One context contained lime mortar fragments (7). This was used in buildings up to the introduction of cement and much harder, more regular bricks, in the mid 19th century.

### **Other Finds**

Glass was only present in the form of modern window pane fragments (Context 3) and the neck of a small perfume or cosmetic bottle of late 18th to 19th century date (Context 11). A

number of iron objects were also recovered, primarily nails or fixtures of modern 19th to 20th century date (Contexts 3, 7, 8, 11 and 18); most were hand cut square nails dating to the post medieval/modern period. Fragments of tobacco pipe stem were recovered from two contexts (7 and 15), which were only generally dateable to the post medieval period.

Animal bone was recovered from two contexts (8 and 18). This material was very fragmentary and consisted of cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones as well as a foot bone of a small mammal. All was residual in modern contexts. A small amount of mollusc shell, primarily small fragments of oyster, was recovered, again residual in a modern context (Context 8).

In conclusion this assemblage derives entirely from modern contexts (19th to 20th century), and as such merely gives some indication of activity over the lifetime of this building. Only context 19 (test-pit 9) lacked modern materials, merely containing a pottery single sherd of a 15th to 16th century date.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

Much of the information gained from the test-pit survey at the Guildhall relates to the refurbishment of the building in the 1950s as village facilities and almshouses, which involved both above and below-ground alterations. One of the main impacts externally was the creation of the pathway, extension and drainage around the building that resulted in the cutting back of part of the graveyard, potentially removing archaeological remains in the process. There is now a drop of around 1m from the graveyard to the pathway. Given its proximity, it is perhaps surprising that no residual human bone was found in the survey.

It is clear that the laying of the path, drainage runs and underpinning were all carried out in the same phase of works. None of the deposits dug from any of these test-pits was anything other than redeposited clay and topsoil removed from around the building when the underpinning trenches were dug and most if not all contained fragments of building materials associated with not only this phase but earlier phases of work (re-roofing, building the brick plinth, etc) that were present in the soil. The fact that undisturbed natural subsoil survives just beneath the pathway, where not further truncated by drainage runs, supports the view that archaeological deposits around the building are unlikely to exist, but may survive beyond the pathway.

Beyond the modern and post-medieval periods, it is likely that the entire site was terraced to create a level building site for the Guildhall. Therefore the medieval pottery could derive from features or deposits disturbed by the construction of the Guildhall, but equally could relate to earlier use.

In the passage, the existing cobbled surface is the product of levelling and resurfacing carried out in the 1950s as part of the general refurbishment of the Guildhall. An undated photograph from c.1900 shows the former surface that lies on a steeper gradient and is stepped down to the road, which at that time was further away from the building than it is now. It is possible that surface 10, which possibly dates to the 17th or 18th century, is the remains of this. The rest was removed, along with a good part of an earlier, possibly medieval surface, before the new one was laid. The current surface, built up to the new steps, had a lesser gradient, with a drop of c.0.50m from churchyard end to roadside. Those deposits laid beneath the existing cobbles all contain modern material but it is interesting to note the presence of medieval pottery, animal bone and oyster shell in context 8 immediately above the remains of the possible medieval surface.

The test-pit survey discovered a possible medieval cobbled surface that is probably contemporary with the Guildhall. This suggests there a good possibility of further archaeological remains surviving in areas that remain relatively undisturbed such as the passage and areas encroaching upon the churchyard.

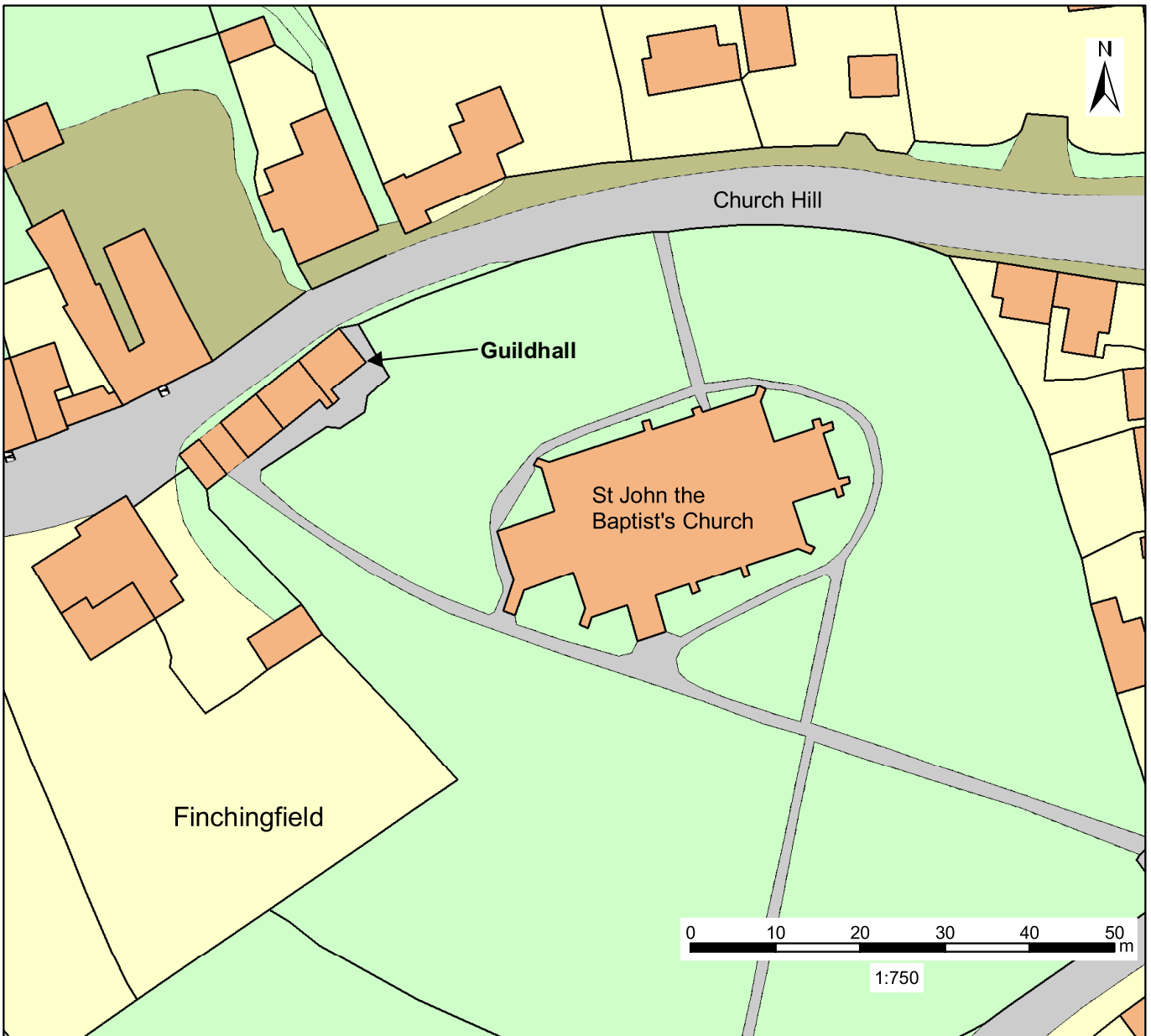
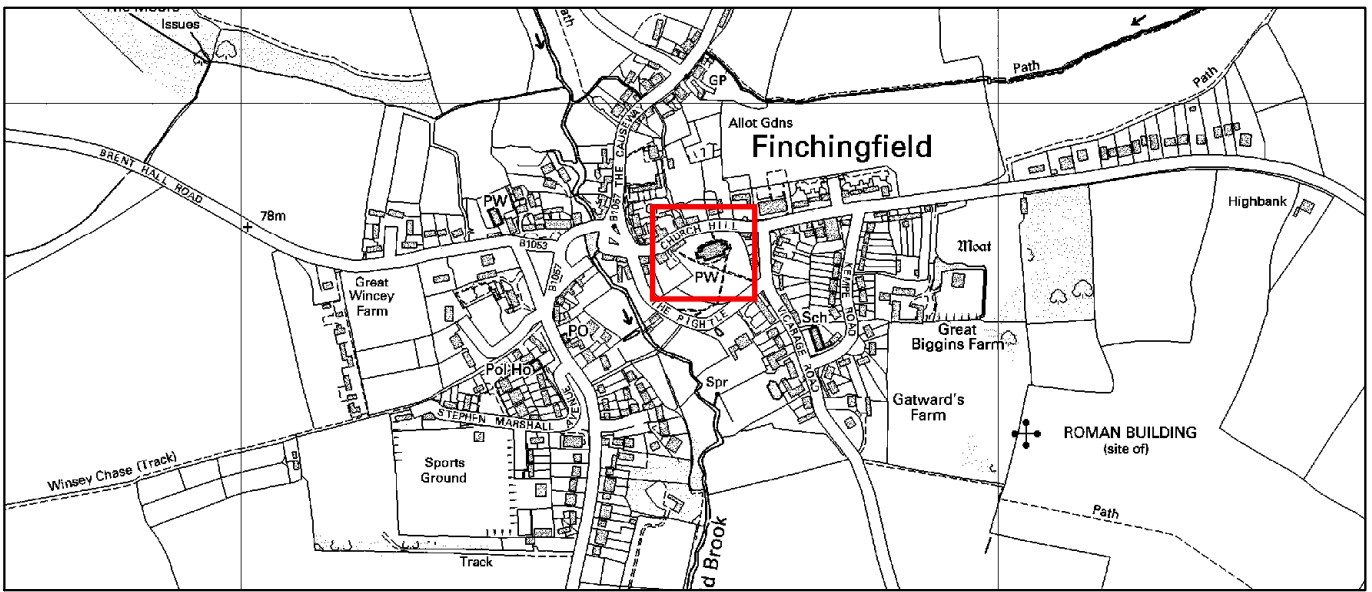
## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This work was facilitated by grant funding from the Essex Heritage Trust. Thanks are due to Jackie Bargman of the Finchingfield Guildhall Trust for her assistance in facilitating the work and for supplying old photographs of the Guildhall and the Timber Frame Survey and Analysis by Brenda and Elphin Watkin. Thanks also to the staff and pupils of the primary school for their interest. The fieldwork was commissioned by Sibyl Thomas of Kay Pilsbury Thomas Architects, and undertaken by the author with the assistance of John Hewitt and Henry Springer of ECC FAU. Illustrations were prepared by the author and produced by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed and monitored by Mark Atkinson.

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Fig.1. Site location plan

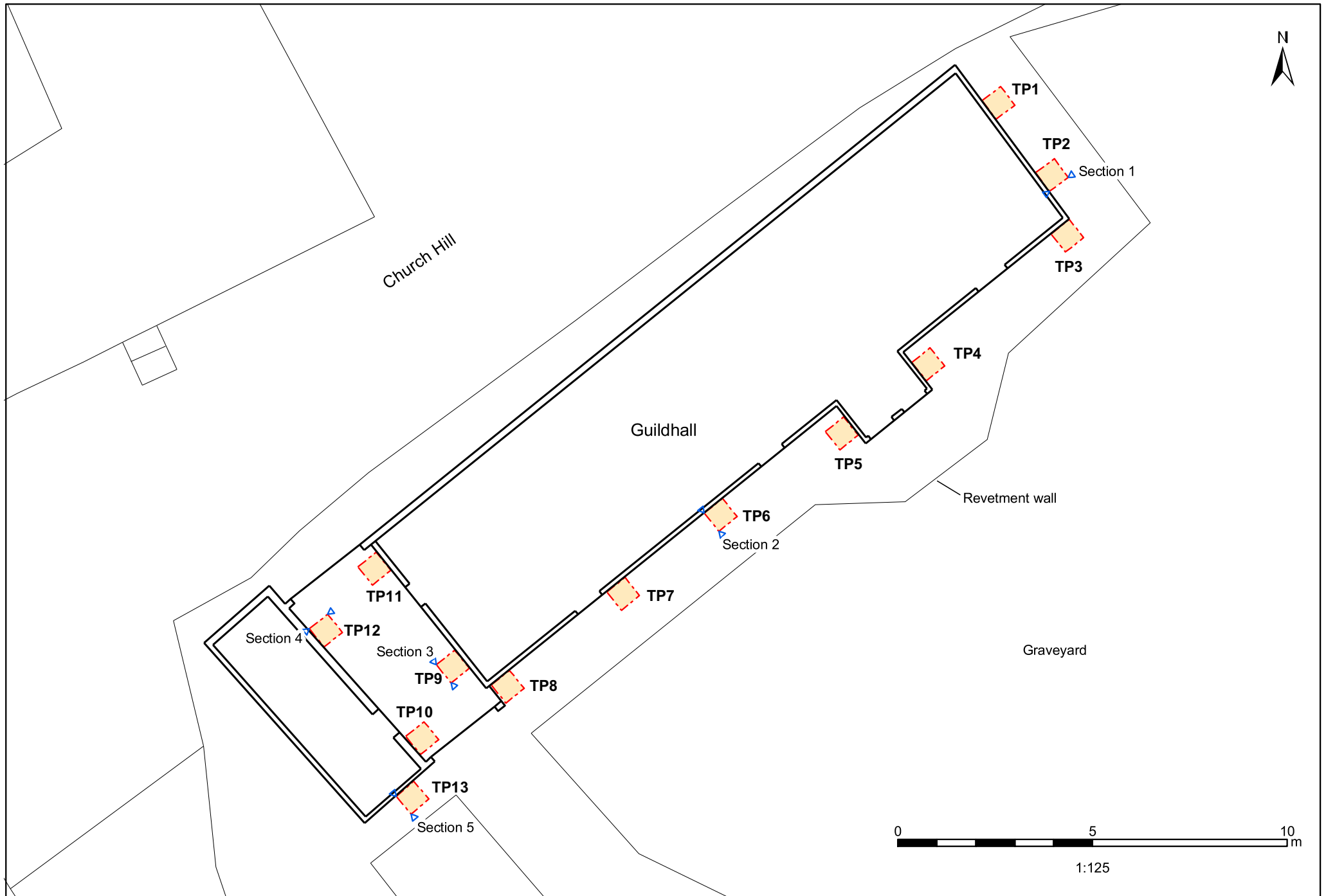


Fig.2. Location of test-pits

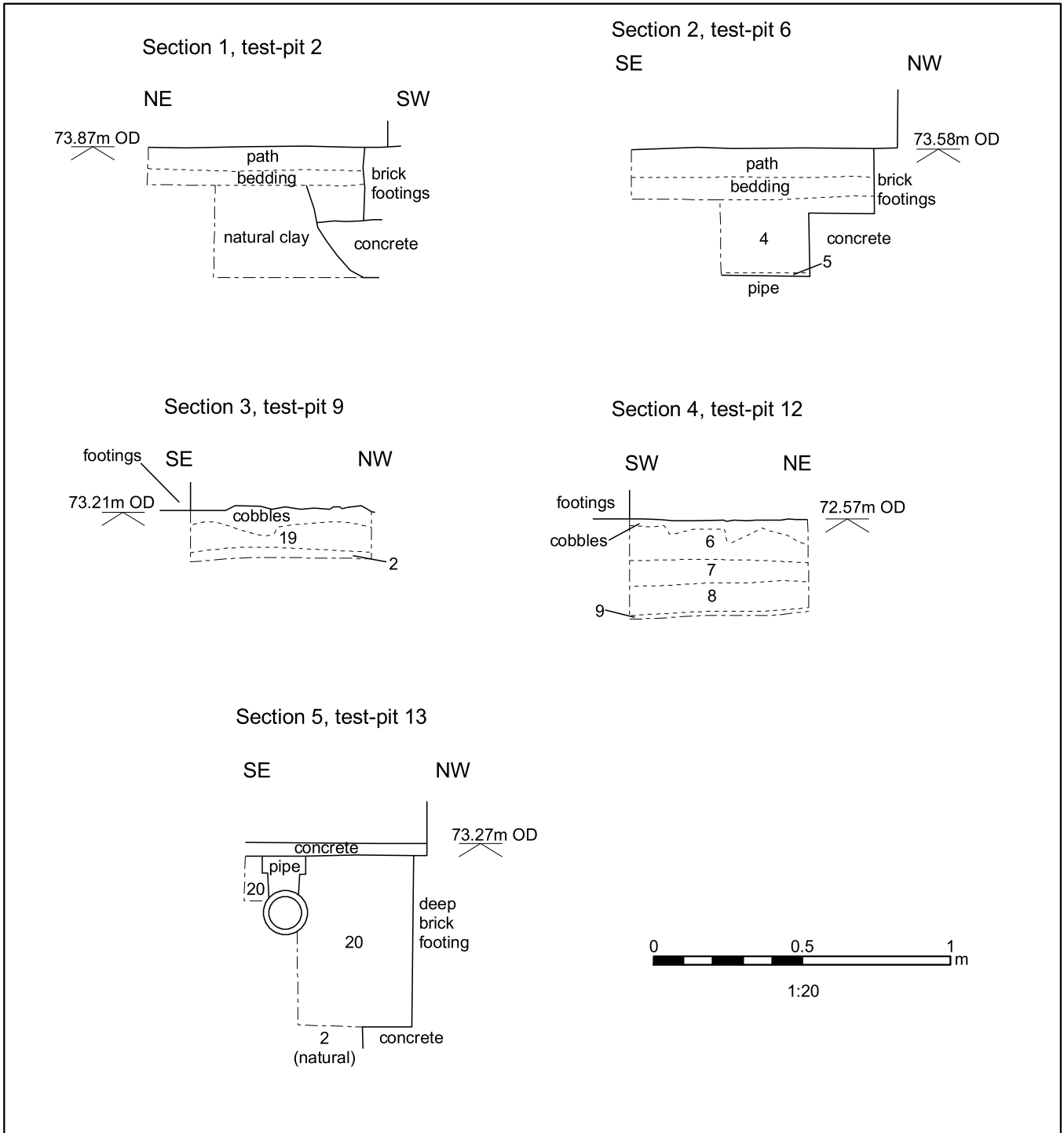


Fig.3. Sections 1 - 5



Plate 1 Guildhall during excavation works, viewed to west



Plate 2 Guildhall during excavation works, viewed to north



Plate 3 Recording and excavation works in passage



Plate 4 Test-pit 1



Plate 5 Test-pit 2



Plate 6 Test-pit 3



Plate 7 Test-pit 4



Plate 8 Test-pit 5



Plate 9 Test-pit 6



Plate 10 Test-pit 7



Plate 11 Test-pit 8



Plate 12 Passage viewed to north-west

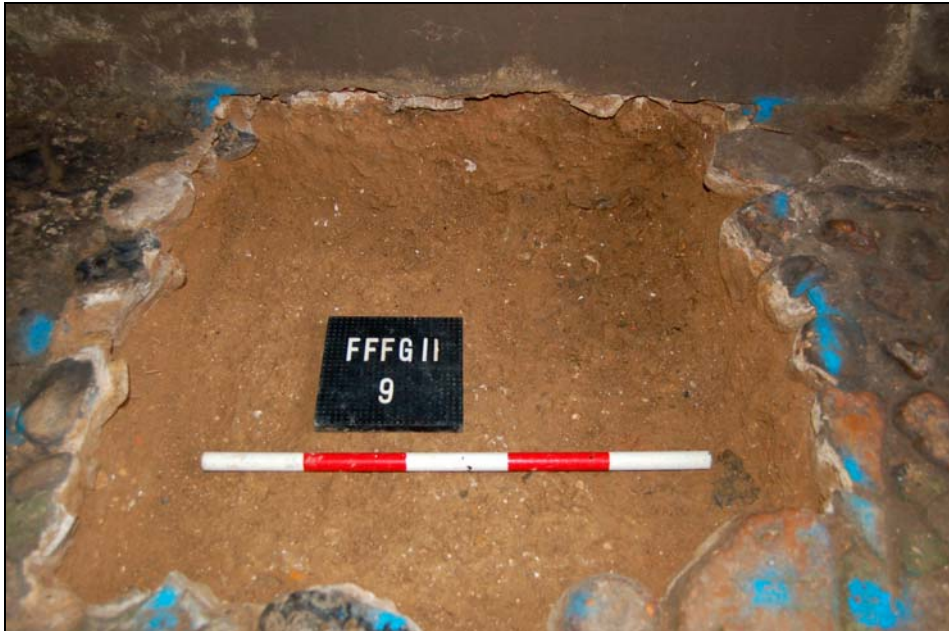


Plate 13 Test-pit 9



Plate 14 Test-pit 10: Remains of cobbled surface 13



Plate 15 Test-pit 11: Cobbled surface 10





Plate 16 Test-pit 11: Remains of cobbled surface 14

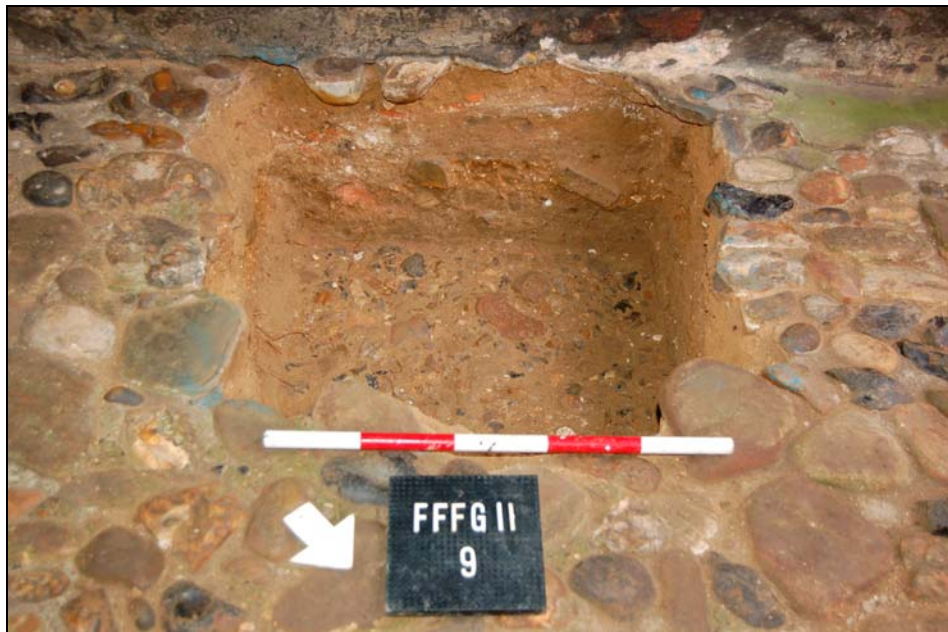


Plate 17 Test-pit 12: Cobbled surface 9



Plate 18 Test-pit 13

## Appendix 1: Context data

Context	Type	Description	Test-pit	Date
1	Layer	Made ground around drainage pipe	3	Modern
2	Layer	Natural chalky clay	-	-
3	Layer	Re-deposited rubbly topsoil	2 & 7	Modern
4	Layer	Re-deposited clay over underpinning trench	6	Modern
5	Layer	Gravel/cement over pipe	6	Modern
6	Layer	Sandy bedding/levelling layer for cobbled surface (=11 & 17)	12	Modern
7	Layer	Chalky sand levelling layer for cobbled surface (=16).	12	Modern
8	Layer	Build-up/levelling layer under 7	12	Modern
9	Surface	Good quality cobbled surface below 8	12	Med/post-med
10	Surface	Flint surface under concrete edging 11, cut by 21	11	?18th-19th c
11	Layer	Bedding layer and concrete edging (=6 & 17)	11	Modern
12	Layer	Clay/gravel 'hoggin' backfill over underpinning trench	7 & 8	Modern
13	Surface	Over-cut flint surface	10	Med/post-med
14	Surface	Over-cut flint surface (& charcoal layer over)	11	Med/post-med
15	Layer	Chalky clay bedding layer below flint surface 10	11	17th-18th c
16	Fill	Chalky clay fill of cut 21, below cobbles (=7)	11	Modern-
17	Layer	Bedding/levelling layer for relaid cobbles (=6 & 11)	10	Modern
18	Layer	Build-up/levelling layer for relaid cobbles	10	Modern
19	Layer	Bedding/levelling layer for relaid cobbles, similar to 18	9	Modern
20	Layer	Rubbly re-deposited topsoil over underpinning trench	13	Modern
21	Cut	Cut for removing earlier cobbled surface	11	Modern

## Appendix 2: Finds data

Context	Test-pit	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
1	Test-pit 3	2	675	Fragments of Brick, highly fired pale fabric, no measurable dimensions surviving, modern (Disposed)	Mid 19th to 20th C
		2	462	Fragments of oxidised highly fired modern brick coarsely made with cement on surfaces. No measurable dimensions. (Disposed)	
		5	730	Fragments of post medieval or modern roof tile, 10mm to 15mm in thickness. (Disposed)	16th to 19th C
3	Test-pit 2	2	208	Top edge of roof tile, medieval to post medieval two nail holes, 14mm thick 170 mm wide (Disposed)	13th to 18th C
		1	14	Iron nail medieval to modern hand cut (Disposed)	11th to 20th C
		4	40	Modern window glass (Disposed)	19th to 20th C
7	Test-pit 12	1	6	Slate tile fragment	1830 to 20th C
		3	22	Fragments of oxidised highly fired modern brick coarsely made with cement on surfaces. No measurable dimensions. (Disposed)	Mid 19th to 20th C
		2	44	Lime mortar (Disposed)	16th to mid 19th C
		1	2	Animal bone, small fragment of long bone, large mammal (Disposed)	
		4	8	Fragments of tobacco pipe stems (Disposed)	17th to 19th C
		1	20	Curved fragment of iron fitting modern (Disposed)	19th to 20th C
		1	3	Iron nail modern (Disposed)	19th to 20th C
8	Test-pit 12	3	13	Sandy orange ware sherds, though with reduced surfaces, unglazed, two with similar fabrics to pottery found at Saffron Walden	14th to 15th C
		1	8	Iron nail modern wire cut wide headed roofing nail (Disposed)	19th to 20th C
		1	4	Iron nail medieval to modern hand cut (Disposed)	11th to 20th C
		5	40	Fragments of medieval or post medieval roof tile, (Disposed)	13th to 18th C
		14	46	Mollusc shells, mainly oyster fragmentary one upper valve (Disposed)	-
		9	38	Animal Bone mainly small fragments of long bones, part of sheep/goat jaw and foot bone of small mammal (Disposed)	-
10	Test-pit 11	1	484	Brick fragment hard fired modern fabric, 120mm deep no other surfaces are definable, traces of glaze on surface as well as cement (Disposed)	Mid 19th to 20th C
11	Test-pit 11	1	2	Iron nail post medieval square cut wide headed roofing nail (Disposed)	16th to 19th C
		1	6	Neck of small perfume? Jar, bubbled early glass of post medieval date (Disposed)	Late 18th to C
15	Test-pit 11	1	16	Fragment of medieval to post medieval tile, 14mm thick (Disposed)	13th to 18th C

Context	Test-pit	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
		1	2	Fragment of tobacco pipe stem (Disposed)	17th to 19th century
18	Test-pit 10	1	2	Modern white earthenware, body sherd showing lilac sponged decoration (Disposed)	1830s to 20th C
		1	2	Rib bone of pig or sheep (Discarded)	
		1	12	Iron object probably wire cut nail, modern (Discard)	19th to 20th C
		1	100	Fragment of medieval to post medieval tile, 14mm thick (Disposed)	13th to 18th C
		1	890	Brick fragment, soft fired orange red coarse fabric rounded arises and lime mortar on surfaces. 50mm thick and 110mm wide, Tudor (Disposed)	15th to 17th C
19	Test-pit 9	1	2	Sandy orange ware, fully oxidised, thin external glaze, horizontal grooves indicate it is probably from the neck of a vessel	15th to 16th C
Total		73	3901		

## **Appendix 3: Contents of Archive**

**Site name: Test-pit survey at The Guildhall, Finchingfield, Essex**

**Project no: 2366**

**Site code: FFFG 11**

### **Index to the Archive:**

Document wallet containing:

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Client/archive report
- 1.2 Unbound version of report
- 1.3 CD containing digital photographs & copy of report, pdf-formatted

#### **2. Site Archive**

- 2.1 Trench record sheets & context sheets
- 2.2 Trench plans (1 sheet)
- 2.3 Sections (1 sheet)
- 2.4 Levels register
- 2.5 Photographic record (digital images & photographic register)
- 2.6 Site notes and annotated survey drawings

#### Appendix 4: EHER Summary Sheet

<b>Site Name/Address:</b> The Guildhall, Church Hill, Finchingfield, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Finchingfield	<b>District:</b> Braintree
<b>NGR:</b> TL 68576 32817	<b>Site code:</b> FFFG 11
<b>Type of Work:</b> Test-pit survey	<b>Site Director/Team:</b> Andrew Letch ECC FAU
<b>Dates of Fieldwork:</b> 31st January - 3rd February 2011	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> Thirteen 0.6m sq test-pits
<b>Curating Museum:</b> Braintree	<b>Funding Source:</b> Finchingfield Guildhall Trust
<b>Further Work Anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>Related LBS No.</b> 115167
<b>Final Report:</b> Summary in EAH	
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>An archaeological test-pit survey was carried out on behalf of the Finchingfield Guildhall Trust to examine the foundations of the 15th-century guildhall and to evaluate the archaeological potential of the immediate vicinity of the standing building prior to refurbishment works.</p> <p>Thirteen test-pits were excavated by hand to the base of the foundations. The survey established that the external north-east and south-east walls had been underpinned in the modern period and disturbed by drainage runs, probably dating to the 1950s. They recorded deposits consisted of modern backfill and natural clay subsoil, with no archaeological remains found to be present.</p> <p>Test-pits dug through the cobbled passage leading from the road to the churchyard revealed the remains of an earlier, probably medieval, cobbled surface and sherds of medieval pottery.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> <i>Watkin &amp; Watkin: Survey of Timber Frame &amp; Analysis of the Trinity Guildhall, Finchingfield, Essex</i> (unpub.)	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> Andrew Letch	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 4th March 2011