

# HERITAGE NETWORK



## **CHURCH OF ST.MARY & ST.HUGH** **Old Harlow, Essex**

HASM09  
HN817

## ***ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT***



**CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST HUGH**  
**Churchgate Street, Harlow, Essex**

Project no.: HN817  
LPA Ref: HW/PL/09/00021  
Site Code: HASM09

*Archaeological Monitoring Report*

*Prepared on behalf of Old Harlow Parochial Church Council*

by

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Report no. 654

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*The cover photograph shows the church looking southwest*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones, Geoff Saunders, James Snee and Mark Winter. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Greg Jones and Helen Ashworth, and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Purcell Miller Tritton, Architects; Lodge and Sons, contractors; and Adam Garwood, HEMT, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Church of St. Mary and St. Hugh, Churchgate Street, Harlow, Essex.		
<b>County:</b>	Essex	<b>District:</b>	Harlow
<b>Village/town:</b>	Churchgate Street	<b>Parish:</b>	Harlow
<b>Planning reference:</b>	HW/PL/09/00021	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 4827 1147
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Old Harlow Parochial Church Council, Old Harlow, Essex.		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	New Floor and Boiler	<b>Former land use:</b>	Church
<b>Site status:</b>	Listed Building	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	Post determination	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Direction of LPA (PPG16)
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	c.250m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	c.250m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site Code:</b>	HASM09	<b>Heritage Network ref:</b>	HN817
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc.:</b>	Monitoring	<b>Archive recipient:</b>	Harlow Museum
<b>Start of work</b>	18/08/2009	<b>Finish of work</b>	02/12/2010
<b>Related HER Nos:</b>	3624	<b>Periods represented:</b>	Medieval/Post-Medieval
<b>Oasis UID</b>	heritage1-62077	<b>Significant finds:</b>	Burial Vault, Foundations
<b>Monument types:</b>	Vault, structure, drain		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	brick		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	None		

### Synopsis:

In response to the requirements of a diocesan faculty, the Heritage Network has been commissioned by Purcell Miller Tritton Architects, acting on behalf of Old Harlow Parochial Church Council, to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring during the groundworks for a new floor and boiler house at St. Mary's and St. Hugh's Church, Old Harlow, Essex.

The monitoring programme inside the church revealed five brick built barrel vaults of varying sizes. Also revealed were partial stone foundations at the west end of the nave, a brick floor surface and brick steps. Monitoring of the external service trenches and the ground reduction for the new boiler house, to the west of the north transept, revealed evidence for 19<sup>th</sup> structures and drains. Disarticulated human bone fragments, including a skull, were also encountered.



# 1. Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared at the request of *Purcell Miller Tritton Architects*, acting on behalf of *Old Harlow Parochial Church Council*, as part of a programme of archaeological observation and recording of development work at the Church of St. Mary and St. Hugh, Churchgate Street, Harlow, Essex.

**1.2** The investigation was a requirement of the planning consent for the development granted by Harlow District Council (HDC) (ref. HW/PL/09/00021), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No. 16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The extent of the work was defined in a *Brief for Archaeological Investigation at the Church of St. Mary and St. Hugh, Churchgate Street, Harlow* (Garwood, 2009) produced by the Historic Environment Management Team (HEMT) of Essex Council, acting as archaeological advisors to the HDC.

**1.3** The parish church of St Mary and St Hugh is situated on the west side of Churchgate Street, centred on NGR TL 4827 1147. The development proposed the construction of a new boiler house with a concrete slab foundation, a service trench on the north side of the church, some internal re-ordering, and the removal and replacement of the floor in the tower, nave and transepts.

**1.4** Because of the known archaeology in the vicinity of the present site and the historic nature of the building, the HEMT advised that archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the development should be undertaken, and the recording and appropriate investigation of any observed archaeological remains.

**1.5** The present report describes the findings of the monitoring programme and is intended, together with the deposition of the site archive with Harlow Museum, to complete the requirements of Condition 4 of the planning consent.

## 2. Fieldwork

### *SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY*

**2.1** The study area is located on the western side of Churchgate Street in the core of Old Harlow. It lies on level ground at approximately 55m AOD. The land slopes gently to the west, down to the valley of the River Stort.

**2.2** The local soils are unsurveyed, however the 1:250,00 scale soil map for Eastern England shows that it lies within a band of soils belonging to the Melford Association (571o) (SSEW 1983). These are described as *Deep well drained fine loamy over clayey, coarse loamy over clayey and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clayey subsoils*.

**2.3** The underlying geology of the area consists of Thanet Sand Formation and Lambeth Group clay silt and sand, overlain by chalky till of the Lowestoft Formation ([www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer)).

### *METHODOLOGY*

**2.4** The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. A number of site visits were made to supervise the excavation of foundation and service trenches and to monitor.

**2.5** The excavation of the service trenches and the ground reduction for the new boiler house were undertaken using a mini-digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket or a toothed bucket, as required.

**2.6** All works inside the church were undertaken by hand.

**2.7** Human remains were dealt with in accordance with the *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (EH/CofE 2005).

**2.8** All human remains were rapidly assessed on site for age at death, sex and any sign of obvious pathology. Age at death was ascertained by recording the degree of bone fusion, with specific reference to the cranial sutures and epiphyses of the long bones, and examining the levels of dental development and wear. Remains were then categorised as Adult (fully fused, with complete adult dentition in wear), sub-adult (largely fused skeleton of near adult proportion, some deciduous dentition) or juvenile (little or no fusion, predominantly deciduous dentition). Sex was inferred from observation of a series of gender specific traits observed on the pelvis and cranium.

**2.9** All work was carried out in accordance with the approved *Project Design*, current health and safety legislation, and both IfA and ALGAO standards.

### *MONITORING AND RECORDING*

#### *External Works*

##### *New boiler house*

**2.10** The new boiler house is located on the southern side of the north transept (Figure 2). It measures 2m in width and 2.5m in length.

**2.11** The area of the boiler house was reduced by 0.45m below the existing surface. The stratigraphy revealed in the sections comprised a 0.15m thick very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay turf layer, which overlay a 0.30m+ thick layer of brown (10YR 4/3) clay subsoil, containing frequent chalk flecks.

**2.12** A rectangular brick structure, [01], was revealed in the south-eastern corner of the reduced area, approximately 1.10m to the south of the transept (Plate 1). This was aligned north to south and measured 1.10m by 0.70m. At least three courses of brickwork survived below the impact level. The feature, which contained a brown (10YR 4/3) clay, may represent either a former manhole or the base of a monument. A sample brick was collected and has been dated to the period 1860 – 1870 (T.Doig, pers. com.).

### *Service trenches*

**2.13** Four service trenches were dug as part of the present project (numbered 1 – 4 for ease of reference) (Figure 2).

#### *Trench 1*

**2.14** Trench 1 ran from the south-western corner of the new boiler house, around the north transept, to an existing gas meter at the north-western corner of the new meeting room (Figure 2). It measured approximately 17.3m in length, 0.40m in width and extended to a maximum depth of 0.60m. The stratigraphy revealed in the sections comprised a turf layer of thick very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay, 0.15m in depth, above a brown (10YR 4/3) clay subsoil, containing frequent chalk flecks, approximately 0.25m in depth. The yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) chalky clay natural was reached at depths of between 0.40 and 0.45m below the existing ground surface.

**2.15** A number of brick footings were recorded in this trench. Wall [02], which ran on a north-south alignment, was located close to the north-western corner of the north transept (Figure 2). It was two courses wide by at least five deep and bonded with lime mortar (Plate 3). Not enough of the wall was exposed to be able to determine any bond pattern. The individual bricks measured 0.23m x 0.11m x 0.07m (9" x 4¼" x 2¾") and have been dated to the period 1860 to 1870 (T.Doig, pers. com.).

**2.16** Walls [03] and [04] ran on a north-east to south-west alignment and were located at the western end of the trench, to the west of the site of the new boiler house (Figure 2). They were parallel, each wall being one course wide and at least four deep, with a gap between them of 0.11m (Plate 4). The gap was filled with a very soft brown (10YR 4/3) clay fill. The bricks measured 0.23m x 0.11m x 0.07m (9" x 4¼" x 2¾") and have been identified as late 19<sup>th</sup> century footing bricks (T.Doig, pers.com.). These walls are likely to have formed part of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century drain.

**2.17** Wall [05], which ran on an east to west alignment, was located between walls [02] and [03]/[04] (Figure 2). It was very similar to wall [02], being two courses wide and at least five deep and bonded with lime mortar (Plate 5). The wall was cut by modern services. The bricks were also very similar and dated to the same period, suggesting that walls [02] and [05] may form part of the same structure.

**2.18** A number of existing service pipes were exposed in the trench, including a gas pipe at the eastern end and two sets of three parallel pipes in the area of the north-western corner of the north transept (Figure 2).

**2.19** A small amount of disarticulated human bone was encountered in the trench, but no cut graves. The bone, which was handed to the vicar for reburial, is likely to have been previously disturbed by the Victorian and modern structures and services in this area. No other features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.

#### *Trench 2*

**2.20** Trench 2 ran south-west from the south-eastern corner of the new boiler house for approximately 2m before turning to run west for approximately 5m, then turning to run north for approximately 4.30m (Figure 2). It measured 0.40m in width and the stratigraphy revealed in the trench sections was similar to that exposed in Trench 1.

**2.21** Two wall footings were exposed in this trench. Wall [06] ran on a north – south alignment and was located close the point where the trench turned east (Figure 2). It was three courses wide and at least four courses deep (Plate 6). The bricks measured 0.23m x 0.11m x 0.07m (9” x 4¼” x 2¾”) and date to the period 1860 – 1870 (T.Doig, pers. com.).

**2.22** Wall [07], which ran on a north-east to south-west alignment, was located approximately 0.60m to the south of [06] (Figure 2). The wall was constructed of 2 parallel lines of red and purple bricks, set on their sides with a channel, 0.25m in width, between them (Plate 7). It was at least 4 courses deep. The bricks have been dated to the period 1880 – 1890 (T.Doig, pers. com.). This is likely to represent part of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century drain, possibly a continuation of walls [03]/[04].

**2.23** A small amount of disarticulated human bone was encountered in the trench, but no cut graves. The bone, which was handed to the vicar for reburial, is likely to have been disturbed by the Victorian and modern structures and services in this area. No other features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.

#### *Trench 3*

**2.24** Trench 3 ran east – west from the north porch of the church to join Trench 1 just to the south of wall [05] (Figure 2). It measured 7.69m in length, 0.40m in width and 0.40m in depth. The stratigraphy revealed in the sections was the same as that seen in Trenches 1 and 2. A number of modern service pipes were exposed, but no other structures, features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were encountered.

#### *Trench 4*

**2.25** Trench 4 ran east - west from the eastern end of Trench 1 to tie into an existing water pipe (Figure 2). It measured 8.43m in length, 0.40m in width and 0.40m in depth. The stratigraphy exposed in the sections was the same as that encountered in all previous trenches.

**2.26** No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were encountered in the trench.

*Trial pit*

**2.27** A small trial pit was excavated towards the eastern end of the new meeting room in order to try and locate an existing water main. The trench was 1.10m in length, 0.40m in width and 0.70m in depth. The stratigraphy was the same as that previously recorded in the service trenches.

**2.28** A human skull was encountered at the western end of the trench, adjacent to the church wall at a depth of 0.75m below the present ground surface (Plate 8). No grave cut was visible and no articulated bone was present, suggesting that the skull had previously been disturbed by post-medieval or modern groundworks.

**2.29** A modern service pipe was exposed to the north of the skull, running east – west. No other features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were encountered in the trench.

*Internal Works*

**2.30** The internal works consisted of the removal of the floor in the tower, nave and both transepts. A total of ten archaeological features were uncovered during the archaeological monitoring of this work, of which the majority were located at either the western end of the nave or below the tower at the crossing (Figure 2).

**2.31** The floor of the nave, the crossing and the transepts was lifted as part of the present project. The existing flooring consisted of wooden floorboards, below which were red and black tiles bedded in cement.

*Summary of internal contexts:*

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
[101]	Structure	Brick burial vault	4.5	1.5	>0.3
[102]	Structure	Brick burial vault	2.35	1.9	>0.3
[103]	Structure	Empty brick burial vault	1.5	0.9	0.4
[104]	Ledger Stone	Medieval burial slab east of [102] with carved human figures	1.5	0.8	0.7
[105]	Structure	Empty brick burial vault truncated by 19 <sup>th</sup> century under floor heating	2	0.8	0.4
(106)	Layer	Make up layer of 19 <sup>th</sup> century floor	0.8	1.5	c.0.15
(107)	Surface	Brick floor surface	1.9	1.1	-
[108]	Structure	Stone foundations	1.6	0.6	0.2
[109]	Structure	Foundations of internal brick steps connected with blocked west door	1.5	1.2	0.2
[110]	Structure	Brick burial vault containing 3 coffins	3	1.2	>0.3

*West end of the nave*

**2.32** A north – south orientated brick built barrel vaulted structure, [101], was encountered at 1.20m from the western wall of the nave. This measured 4.5m in length, 1.5m in width and was over 0.30m in depth (Figure 3, Plate 9). The structure had lead pipes leading into it from



the north wall of the nave. Pipes were also located coming out of the southern side of the structure which connected with the 19<sup>th</sup> century under floor heating system.

**2.33** Located immediately to the west of [101], and directly below the west window of the nave, was structure [109] (Figure 3, Plate 10). This measured 1.50m in length, 1.20m in width and 0.20m in height and was formed of red bricks, laid in stretcher bond with dry lime mortar below a layer of flint rubble and mortar. No sample brick could be retrieved to date the feature, but it is likely to date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century restorations within the church. A blocked doorway, representing the entrance from the nave into the demolished west tower, was located in the west wall immediately to the west of the platform. This suggests that [109] represents the remains of internal steps leading into the nave from this entrance (Plate 13).

**2.34** Part of a red brick floor, [107], was exposed in the south-western corner of the nave (Figure 3). This measured 1.90m in length and 1.10m in width (Plate 11). The upper face of the surviving bricks were covered in lime mortar, suggesting that the feature had subsequently been truncated. This also made it impossible to record the dimensions of the surviving bricks. No sample brick could be retrieved to date the feature, but it is likely to date to the either the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**2.35** An east - west aligned stone foundation, consisting of limestone and rubble, [108], was also located in the western end of the nave, near to the present day south-western entrance (Figure 3). It was roughly faced on the southern side and measured 1.60m in length with a maximum width of 0.80m (at the eastern end, which may represent the full width of the feature) and a height of c.0.20m high (Plate 12). The largest individual stone, which was located at the western end, measured approximately 0.30m x 0.30m x 0.20m.

#### *Crossing area*

**2.36** A number of features were also exposed in the crossing area, below the central tower.

**2.37** An east - west aligned limestone grave marker, [104], was revealed adjacent to the north-western pillar. This measured 1.50m in length, 0.80m in width and 0.10m in depth and was located above the eastern side of brick vault, structure [102] (Figure 4). It was in poor condition and cracked in various places, but was clearly decorated with two incised human figures on the upper surface, though no lettering was visible (Plate 14). The marker was not attached to the vault so was moved west, into the nave to form part of the new floor to be laid.

**2.38** A brick built barrel vault, structure [102], was revealed in the north-west corner of the crossing (Figure 4, Plate 15). It measured 2.35m in length by 1.9m wide and was >0.3m deep. No sample brick could be retrieved to date the feature, but it is likely to be 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.

**2.39** Vault [110] was located to the west of the north-eastern pillar at the southern end of the north transept (Figure 4). It measured 3m in length by 1.2m in width, by >0.3m in depth and was, unusually, orientated north-south (Plate 16). Although no sample brick could be retrieved the individual bricks measured approximately 9¼" x 3½" (234mm x 0.91mm).

**2.40** This structure was truncated by 19<sup>th</sup> century under floor heating, though it remained basically intact. The truncation created a small gap in the brick work, which revealed [110] to be a burial vault containing three lead lined coffins, laid side by side and orientated north -



south (Plate 17). A blocked entrance is visible in the northern wall. The brickwork on either side of the entrance appears to be laid in a form of English bond, with lime mortar. The limestone grave marker [104] covered part of the southern end of [110], but is unlikely to be related to the burials in the vault.

**2.41** A fourth brick vault, [105], was exposed to the south of [110] (Figure 4). This structure, which was aligned east – west, was located at the western end of the chancel and measured 2m long by 0.8m wide, by >0.4m deep (Plate 18). It was empty of burials and was heavily truncated by the 19<sup>th</sup> century under floor heating.

**2.42** Floor removal in the south transept revealed another brick barrel vault, [103], which was aligned NNE - SSW and measured 1.5m in length, 0.90m in width and 0.40m in depth (Figure 4; Plate 19). It was subsequently reduced by the ground workers to the level of the new floor, revealing that the structure was full of rubble (Figure 5). Fragments of wood still adhered to the western end of the vault, suggesting that it had been least partially wood-lined (Plate 21). Four sample bricks, measuring 8½” x 4” x 2¼” (220mm x 103mm x 63mm) were retrieved from the structure, these have been dated to between 1850 and 1870 (T.Doig, pers. com.).

**2.43** Located immediately to the north of vault [103] was a spread of flint rubble, [106], which initially appeared to be part of a foundation (Figure 4). However further investigation demonstrated that this feature consisted of the remains of a makeup layer for the 19<sup>th</sup> century floor (Plate 22).

## FINDS ASSESSMENT

### Finds Concordance

Context	Brick		Comments
	No	gms	
01	1	3000	1860/70
02	1	2770	1860/70
03	1	3500	c.1890-footing brick
04	1	2745	c.1890-footing brick
05	1	2375	1860/70
06	1	2955	1860/70
07	1	2310	1880/90
103	4	9355	1860/70

### Brick

(Identified by Tom Doig)

**2.44** Eleven sample bricks were collected during the present project, of which seven were retrieved from the walls exposed during the monitoring of the service trenches and four came from vault [103] in the south transept of the church. The bricks were of similar dimensions, measuring approximately 0.23m x 0.11m x 0.07m (9” x 4¼” x 2¾”). They varied in colour from light red to purplish red but appear to have come from the same source, apart from one brick from vault [103] which was in a dark red fabric and imported on to the site from elsewhere.

**2.45** The bricks have been dated to the Victorian period, with all falling into the range 1850 – 1890. The latest bricks are from the probable drains, walls [03]/[04] and [07], which are late

19<sup>th</sup> century in date. Those from walls [01], [02], [05] and [06] date to the 1860s and appear to represent structures adjacent to the north-west side of the church. The bricks from vault [103] have been dated to between 1850 and 1870.

### *Human bone*

**2.46** A single human skull was encountered at the southern edge of the trial pit on the north-eastern corner of the new meeting room. It was in a poor condition, but appeared to be fully fused, indicating an adult. The condition of the skull made it impossible to identify the gender of the individual. The skull was handed to the vicar for reburial on site.

**2.47** A number of disarticulated pieces of human bone were encountered in the top and sub-soils during the excavation of the service trenches. These had all been disturbed by earlier construction and drainage works. No significant archaeological data was likely to be obtained from examination of the fragments and they were handed to the vicar for reburial on site.

**2.48** No other artefacts were encountered during the course of the present project.

## 3. Discussion

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

**3.1** The Essex HER records Harlow as a polyfocal medieval and post-medieval town and Churchgate is one of these focal points, dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Remains from the prehistoric period onwards are recorded from within a 500m radius of the site.

- Prehistoric remains consist of a tanged chisel/leather working knife, recorded from the Harlow area (HER 9129); a possible Neolithic cursus, identified to the south of Gilden Way (HER 7268); and a Late Bronze Age axe and sword, found in Gilden Way by metal detectors (HER 17803).
- Roman remains consist of a concentration of tile identified at Gilden Way through a fieldwalking survey (HER 16078); and Roman coins and pottery found at Harlow mound (HER 11).
- Medieval and post-medieval remains include Newhall moat, recorded as a medieval manor with a moat (HER 3612); and Harlowbury, a deserted medieval settlement (HER 18); an evaluation at the former St Nicholas School, Churchgate Street, revealed post-medieval pits and ditches (HER 16760); a watching brief at Sheering Road revealed post-medieval artefacts (HER 16195); and an evaluation to the rear of Mulberry Green House revealed a post-medieval garden and pit (HER 46336).
- Remains of unknown date from the area include Harlow Mound, which is a possible tumulus (HER 21); and a ring ditch with a central pit, recorded at Gilden Way (HER 19375).

**3.2** A total of 32 Grade II and 3 Grade II\* listed buildings has been recorded in the vicinity. This includes the present site which is Grade II listed and which is at least 12<sup>th</sup> century in origin. According to the listing description, the church was completely restored in 1878/1880, but some Roman brick is still evident in the wall fabric.

**3.3** The present church building is largely of 19<sup>th</sup> century date, though has retained its medieval cruciform plan (Powell 1983). The nave and central tower are originally of 12<sup>th</sup> century date, with transepts added in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Further additions, including the chancel, were made in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. A fire in 1708 severely damaged the church, destroying the roof and steeple. During the rebuilding the spire was replaced by a pyramidal roof and a new brick tower, with battlements and open cupola, was added to the west end (ibid).

**3.4** Major restoration works were carried out on the church between 1871 and 1875 by the architect Henry Woodyer (Powell 1983). During these works the west tower and gallery were removed and a new organ chamber and south porch were added (ibid; Medlycott 1999, 19). The present central tower and spire also date to this period. A choir vestry was built adjoining the organ chamber in 1894.

**3.5** On the basis of the nature and origins of the Church of St Mary and St Hugh, and of the known archaeology in the vicinity of the site, it was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of the church, and the Churchgate area. During the course of the work it was considered that there

was potential for encountering structural remains of the church prior to its 19<sup>th</sup> century restoration, stratified features and deposits associated with the medieval and post-medieval development of the site, and buried human remains.

### ***RECORDED DATA***

**3.6** The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for the new boiler house and the service trenches to the north of the church revealed a number of 19<sup>th</sup> century brick wall footings. Of these, walls [03]/[04] and [07] appear to represent a late 19<sup>th</sup> century drain, running north-east to south-west from the north-western corner of the north transept.

**3.7** The bases of two structures were also revealed, including a small rectangular structure, [01], on the west side of the north transept and an apparently larger structure, walls [02] and [05] close to the north-western corner of the transept. No buildings are shown in these locations on late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps so it is possible that these represent the remains of post-medieval funerary monuments ([www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)).

**3.8** A single disarticulated skull of an adult was exposed at the north-eastern end of the church, this is likely to have been disturbed by earlier works on the north side of the church. No evidence for grave cuts, or other archaeological features, deposits or artefacts, was encountered during the external groundworks.

**3.9** The archaeological monitoring of the internal development groundworks revealed evidence of the 19<sup>th</sup> century work in the church, including five brick burial vaults ([101], [102], [103], [105] and [110]), of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Three of these had been disturbed and emptied, [102], [103] and [105]; the fourth, [110], contained three lead coffins. All of these were located in the area of the crossing.

**3.10** Evidence for the 19<sup>th</sup> century floor was also exposed. An area of brick flooring, [107], was revealed in the south-western corner of the nave and a bedding layer of flint and mortar, [106], was encountered in the crossing.

**3.11** It appears that there was an earlier entrance to the church at the west end of the nave, possibly associated with the early 18<sup>th</sup> century west tower. A blocked doorway was visible after stripping the plaster from the west wall. The remains of brick steps, [109], were encountered below the blocked door.

**3.12** Little evidence for the medieval church was found during the present project. A limestone ledger stone, [104], had apparently been reused as a marker over vault [102]. This was moved to the west and forms part of the new floor in the nave. Part of a possible medieval foundation, [108], was encountered at the west end of the nave.

### ***CONCLUSIONS***

#### ***Medieval period***

**3.13** The groundworks of the present development exposed the partial remains of earlier stone foundations at the west end of the nave, context [108]. These may represent either the foundations to an earlier south wall to the nave, suggesting that the medieval nave was narrower than the present nave. Alternatively the foundation may represent the base of an internal arcade.

**3.14** A poorly preserved medieval burial slab was also uncovered during the groundworks. This showed signs of several cracks and severe wearing, making it impossible to identify the two individuals marked on the slab.

***Post-medieval/Modern periods***

**3.15** All other archaeological remains uncovered during the groundworks post-dated the medieval period. These included five brick built burial vaults. The external works revealed the footings to a complete brick structure, part of a second structure, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century drain and a disarticulated human skull.

**3.16** Vaulted brick structure [103] dated to the 1860s. It is highly likely that the other two brick vaults also date to the redevelopment of St. Mary's and St. Hugh's in the 1870s.

**3.17** The brick structures revealed during the external works date to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the bricks from drain [03]/[04] and [07] dating to the 1890s.

**3.18** The date of the human skull was not ascertained during the investigation.

***Confidence Rating***

**3.19** Ground conditions on site were clear and dry. On this basis the confidence rating for the work undertaken must be considered to be *High*.

## 4. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
18/08/09	GIS	3	Site inspection
19/08/09	MW	10	Site inspection
16/04/10	MW	6	Site inspection
21/08/09	MW	8	Site inspection
24/08/09	MW	7	Site inspection
26/08/09	MW	3	Site inspection
28/08/09	MW	2	Site inspection
28/09/09	MW	9	Site inspection
25/10/10	JGS	3	Site inspection
27/10/10	GJ	4	Site inspection
10/11/10	GJ	5	Site inspection
23/11/10	GJ	7	Site inspection
02/12/10	GJ	6	Site inspection

## 5. Sources Consulted

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## 6. Illustrations

Figure 1 .....	Site Location
Figure 2 .....	Site Layout
Figure 3 .....	Plan of area of new boiler house
Figure 4 .....	Plan of service trench
Figure 3 .....	Detail plan of west end of nave
Figure 4 .....	Detail plan of crossing area
Figure 5 .....	East facing elevation through [103]
Plate 1 .....	Area of new boiler house, showing [01]
Plate 2 .....	Trench 1 sample section, looking N
Plate 3 .....	Trench 1, wall [02]
Plate 4 .....	Trench 1, walls [03] & [04]
Plate 5 .....	Trench 1, wall [05]
Plate 6 .....	Trench 2, wall [06]
Plate 7 .....	Trench 2, wall [07]
Plate 8 .....	Trial pit, skull [08]
Plate 9 .....	Boiler vault [101]
Plate 10 .....	Structure [109]
Plate 11 .....	Brick floor [107]
Plate 12 .....	Foundation [108]
Plate 13 .....	Blocked doorway in west wall of nave
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Plate 17 .....	Inside vault [110]
Plate 18 .....	Burial vault [105]
Plate 19 .....	Burial vault [103], before reduction
Plate 20 .....	Burial vault [103], after reduction
Plate 21 .....	Vault [103], detail of wooden lining at west end
Plate 22 .....	Floor layer [106]

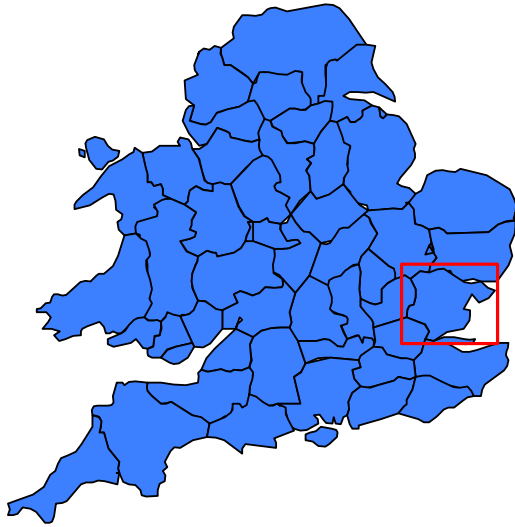
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THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

St. Mary and St. Hugh, Old Harlow

HN817



GREAT CHESTERFORD

Saffron Walden

Colchester

Bishops Stortford

ESSEX

Old Harlow

Chelmsford

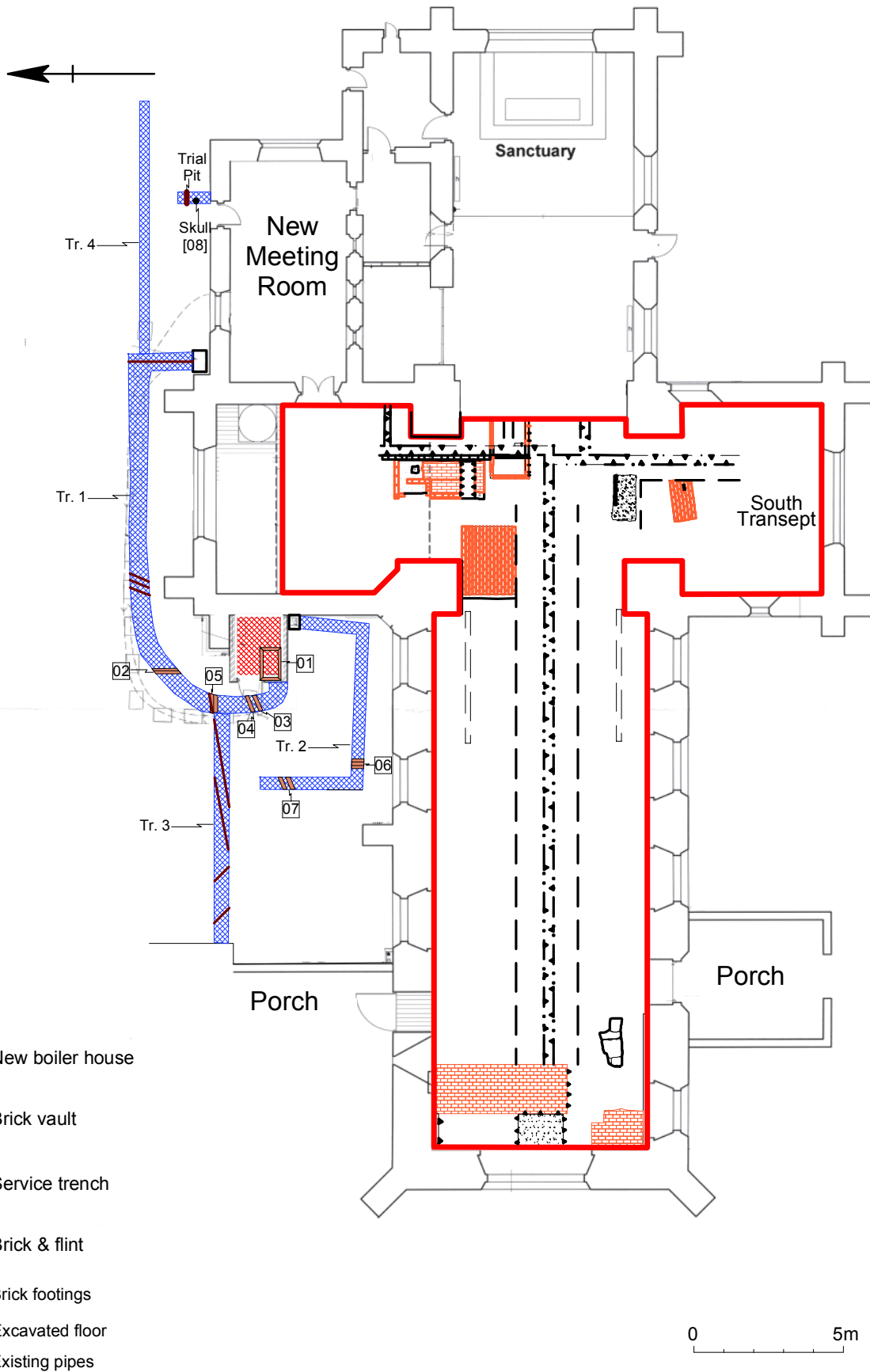


Site Location

Scale 1:1000

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Figure 1

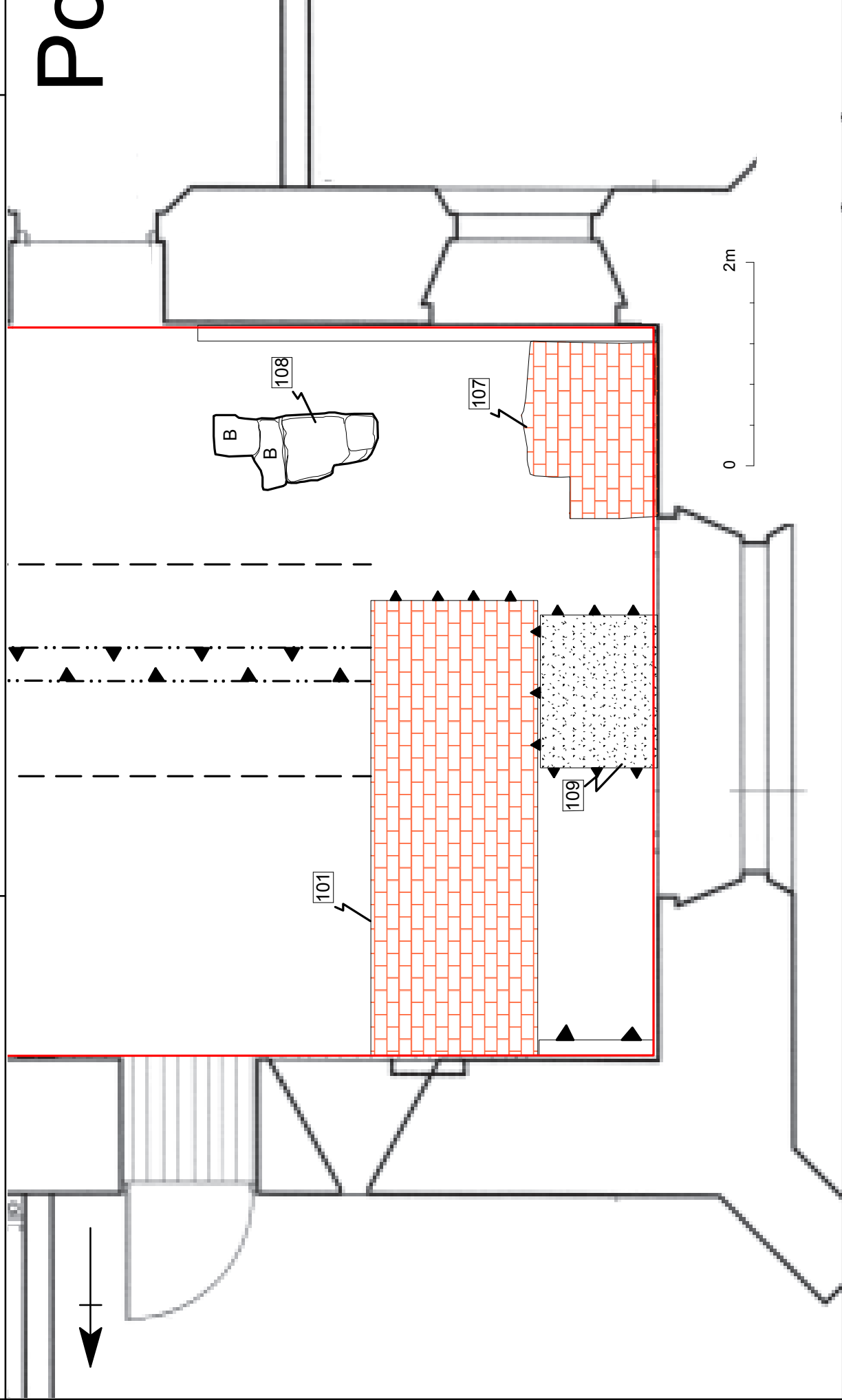


Site layout

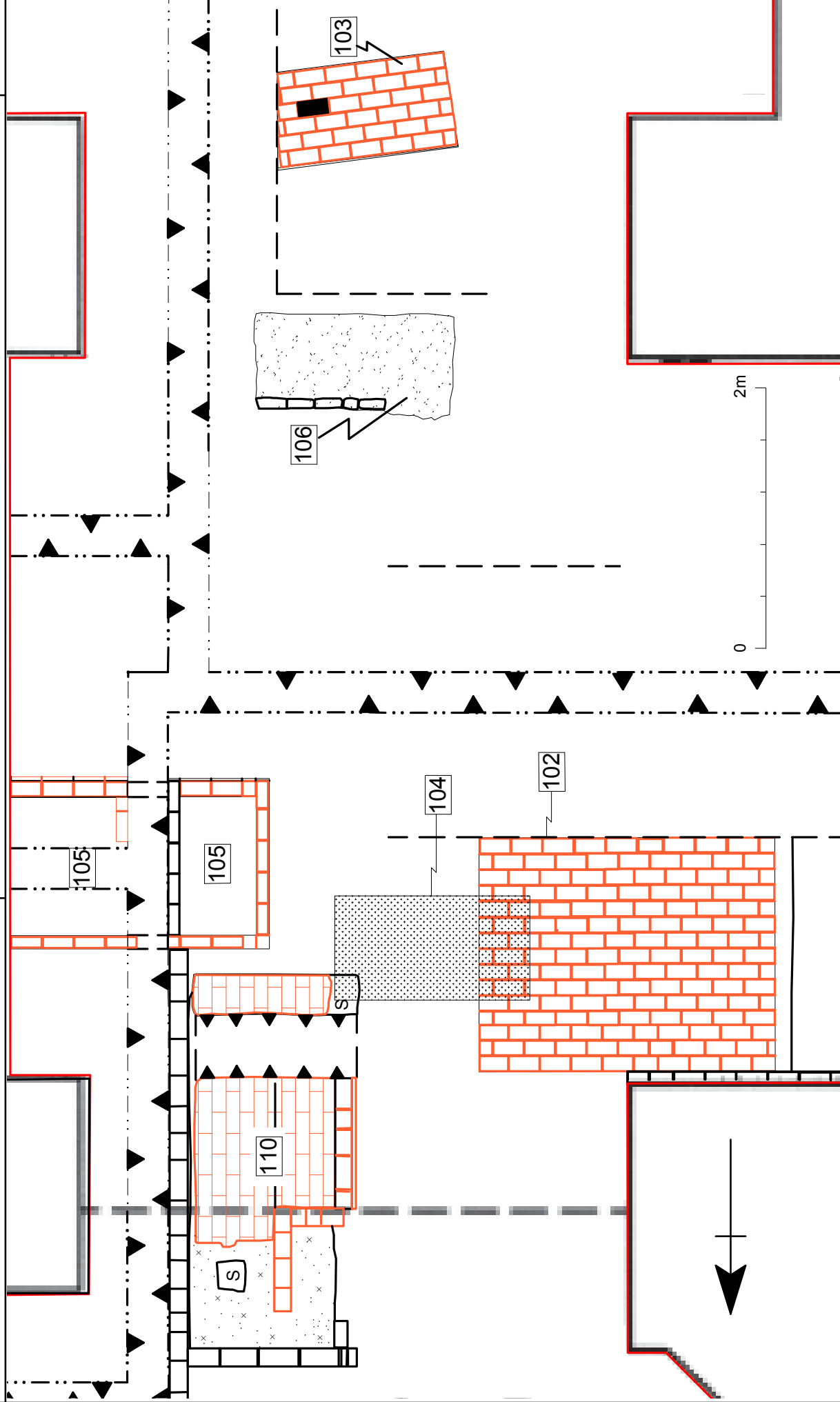
By courtesy Purcell Miller Tritton Architects

Scale 1:200

Figure 2



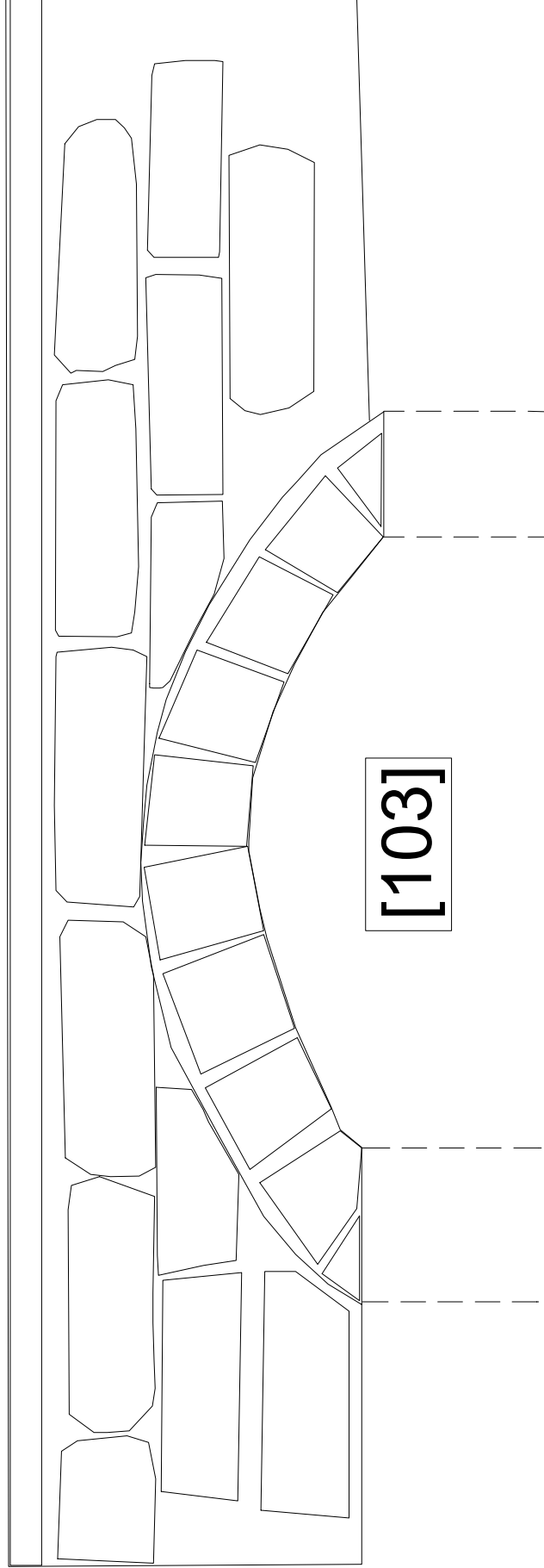
Detail plan of features at west end of nave



Detail plan of features in the crossing area

N

S



East facing elevation through [103]







Plate 1: Area of new boiler house, showing [01], looking north-east



Plate 2: Trench 1, sample section, looking north





Plate 3: Trench 1, Wall [02], looking north-west



Plate 4: Trench 1, walls [03] and [04], looking west





Plate 5: Trench 1, wall [05], looking west



Plate 6: Trench 2, wall [06], looking south





Plate 7: Trench 2, wall [07], looking west



Plate 8: Trial pit, skull [08] at the southern end





Plate 9: Burial vault [101]



Plate 10: Structure [109], looking west



Plate 11: Brick floor [107], looking east



Plate 12: Foundation [108], looking east





Plate 13: Blocked doorway to demolished west tower above [109]



Plate 14: Grave slab [104], looking west



Plate 15: Burial vault [102], looking north



Plate 16: Burial vault [110], looking east





Plate 17: Inside burial vault [110]



Plate 18: Burial vault [105], looking north





Plate 19: Burial vault [103], looking east



Plate 20: Brick vault [103], after reduction, looking east





Plate 21: Vault [103], detail of wooden lining at the west end



Plate 22: Floor layer [106], looking south



## Appendix

### OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-62077</i>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	Harlow, St Marys and St Hughs Church, Churchgate St
Short description of the project	In response to the requirements of a diocesan faculty, the Heritage Network has been commissioned by Purcell Miller Tritton Architects, acting on behalf of Old Harlow Parochial Church Council, to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring during the groundworks for a new floor and boiler house at St. Mary's and St. Hugh's Church, Old Harlow, Essex. The monitoring programme inside the church revealed five brick built barrel vaults of varying sizes. Also revealed were partial stone foundations at the west end of the nave, a brick floor surface and brick steps. Monitoring of the external service trenches and the ground reduction for the new boiler house, to the west of the north transept, revealed evidence for 19th structures and drains. Disarticulated human bone fragments, including a skull, were also encountered.
Project dates	Start: 18-08-2009 End: 02-12-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Associated project reference codes	HASM09 - Sitecode
Associated project reference codes	HN817 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Monument type	VAULT Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	DRAIN Post Medieval
Monument type	FOUNDATION Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX HARLOW HARLOW Church of St Mary and St Hugh
Postcode	CM17 0JT
Study area	250.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4827 1147 51.7817456161 0.149668378871 51 46 54 N 000 08 58 E Point
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
PD originator	David Hillelson
Project director/manager	David Hillelson

Project supervisor	Mark Winter
Project supervisor	Greg Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Parochial Church Council
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Harlow Museum
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Harlow Museum
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Photograph','Plan','Report'
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Church of St Mary and St Hugh, Churchgate Street, Harlow, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, G.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ashworth, H.
Other bibliographic details	Report no.654
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Herts.
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 16 pages, 5 figures, 22 plates