
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**ST MARY'S HOUSE, CLACTON ROAD,
LITTLE OAKLEY, ESSEX**

HISTORIC BUILDING MONITORING AND RECORDING

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NGR: TM 2120 2846	Report No: 4035	
District: Tendring	Site Code: LOSM11	
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4245	
Signed:	Date: March 2012	

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>St Mary's House, Clacton Road, Little Oakley, Essex</i>		
<p><i>In January 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd conducted historic building recording with monitoring and recording at St Mary's House in Little Oakley, Essex. The work was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to approval for improvements to the building. The investigation added a little refinement to the List description and earlier observations by providing a context for masonry types, such as seen in the difference between the method of construction of the nave and chancel. The nave is dated fairly securely to the 12th century, while other decorative elements point to an enlargement in the 14th century and the tower dates to the 15th century.</i></p> <p><i>The church was sold in the 1970s, which was highly damaging to the integrity of the building with fittings stripped out and probably sold or redistributed. Subsequent conversion was piecemeal and uncontrolled using unsympathetic materials and only now is some of this damage being reversed with the introduction of lime mortars.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring and recording in specific locations suggests removal of the vestry and blocking of the doorway was carried out in the 18th century, but the works were sympathetic; the internal face was plastered and the string course replicated across the aperture. The upper wall of the chancel, where any painted scheme would conventionally be found, is unlikely to preserve painted schemes in the areas affected by the suggested proposals. Some potential remains at high level, above the chancel arch. It would be advisable, if proposals to alter this area are pursued, to commission a wall-paintings' specialist who will have the suitable expertise and equipment to analyse the fabric to determine the presence or absence of pigments.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>31st January 2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>4245</i>	Site code	<i>LOSM11</i>
Type of project	<i>Historic building recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Grade II*</i>		
Current land use	<i>Residential</i>		
Planned development	<i>Repair and alteration</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>12th century church nave with 14th century chancel with later alterations</i>		
Significant finds(+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Tendring</i>	<i>Little Oakley</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex HER (EHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.100m2</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 2120 2846</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.23m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team</i>		
Project supervisor (PO)	<i>Tansy Collins</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Grahame Jenkins</i>		
Full title	<i>St Mary's House, Clacton Road, Little Oakley, Essex. Historic Building Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Collins, T. Prosser, L. & Thompson, P.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4035</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2012</i>		

ST MARY'S HOUSE, CLACTON ROAD, LITTLE OAKLEY, ESSEX

HISTORIC BUILDING MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In January 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd conducted historic building recording with monitoring and recording at St Mary's House in Little Oakley, Essex. The work was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to approval for improvements to the building.

The investigation added a little refinement to the List description and earlier observations by providing a context for masonry types, such as seen in the difference between the method of construction of the nave and chancel. The nave is dated fairly securely to the 12th century, while other decorative elements point to an enlargement in the 14th century and the tower dates to the 15th century.

The church was sold in the 1970s, which was highly damaging to the integrity of the building with fittings stripped out and probably sold or redistributed. Subsequent conversion was piecemeal and uncontrolled using unsympathetic materials and only now is some of this damage being reversed with the introduction of lime mortars.

The monitoring and recording in specific locations suggests removal of the vestry and blocking of the doorway was carried out in the 18th century, but the works were sympathetic; the internal face was plastered and the string course replicated across the aperture. The upper wall of the chancel, where any painted scheme would conventionally be found, is unlikely to preserve painted schemes in the areas affected by the suggested proposals. Some potential remains at high level, above the chancel arch. It would be advisable, if proposals to alter this area are pursued, to commission a wall-paintings' specialist who will have the suitable expertise and equipment to analyse the fabric to determine the presence or absence of pigments.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted historic building recording with monitoring and recording at St Mary's House, Clacton Road, Little Oakley, Essex (NGR TL 509 359; Figs.1 - 2). The programme of work was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to a planning approval for improvements to the building (Tendring Planning Ref. 10/01224/FUL & 10/01225/LB), and was commissioned by Mr Grahame Jenkins.

1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Team (ECC HEM) dated January 2011, and a specification compiled by AS dated 31st January 2011, and approved by ECC HEM. A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during external drainage works was carried out by AS in 2011 which recorded the foundation cuts for the lost vestry on the north side of the building (Adams 2011).

1.3 The programme of building recording aimed to record the existing building prior to internal alteration and to carry out subsequent monitoring and recording of the piercing of the vestry doorway and inspection of the east wall of the nave at upper level after careful removal of a fitted wardrobe and modern dry-lining.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 - 2)

2.1 St Mary's House is the former parish church of Little Oakley, located 3km south-west of Harwich, mid-way between Little Oakley and Great Oakley and is 100m north of the B1414 which links those two villages. The building is Grade II* listed, but was sold by the Church of England and converted to a private residence in the early 1980s. It now lies within a new curtilage, which includes land to the north, though some elements of the former church-yard survive, and are enclosed separately. The building is given access via a rough track from the main road.

3 METHODOLOGY

Archaeological databases

3.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) was consulted in order to identify any local archaeological finds or remains in the area that might be affected by, or relate to, the development. Sites within 750m are listed in Appendix 1 and relevant sites are described in the text (Section 4.2).

Cartographic documents

3.2 The principal source for maps was the Essex Record Office (ERO) in Chelmsford. All cartographic sources consulted are listed in Appendix 2 and, where relevant, reproduced as Figs. 4-8.

Secondary sources

3.3 The principal source for secondary material was the ERO, as well as the library resources at AS. Sources have been referenced appropriately in the bibliography.

Building recording

3.4 The site was visited on 31st January 2012 in order to compile descriptions of the building and undertake the drawing and photographic work. The written description and analysis was carried out by Tansy Collins and Lee Prosser, while the drawing work was completed by Kathren Henry. Existing plans and elevations provided by the client were checked and altered for accuracy and these are included as Figs. 9-12.

3.5 Tansy Collins and Kathren Henry carried out the photographic survey using medium format (4.5cm x 6cm) black and white film and included all external views and general internal shots. This utilised a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera and Ilford HP5 IOS 400 120mm film. Colour photographs were taken using a Canon 1000D (10 megapixels) digital camera, duplicating the black and white photography. Where necessary, architectural detail was captured using 35mm black and white film and supplementary colour photography used 35mm Ektachrome colour transparency. External lighting and weather conditions were good at the time of the survey. A scale was used wherever possible, and a flash was employed for internal shots. A pictorial index of the digital photography and selected colour plates are included below together with location plots (Figs. 9-10).

4 THE EVIDENCE

Topography, geology and soils

4.1 The site lies close to the top of a ridge at approximately 23m AOD with a valley to the west and the coastline varying between 1 and 2.5km to the east. The local soils are loams, often over clay, which overly beds of shelly sand, sand and gravel and lenticular clay (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

Archaeological and historical background

4.2 Known prehistoric activity in the area is limited to scattered finds of undated flints in an area to the south-west of the house (EHER 3327). Roman remains are better represented, with 2nd century Samian ware, tegula and hypocaust tile fragments recovered in the immediate vicinity, suggesting that a Roman building stood close-by (EHER 3329, 3324 & 3326). Some Roman tile was noted in the walls of the church prior to rendering (EHER 3304).

4.3 The church has been the subject of numerous studies, which

generally agree on the phasing of the building. These attribute an early 12th century origin for the nave, with a mid-14th century rebuilding of the chancel, and a west tower added in the 15th century. A north vestry was added and later demolished. The Listing and notes compiled by the Royal Commission give the south porch a 19th or 20th century date, although other studies have questioned this interpretation (Council for British Archaeology report No. 19).

4.4 The churchyard is noted as containing interesting trees and shrubs and was used for occasional burials up to 1973 when the church became redundant (EHER 34371).

4.5 Limited excavation was carried out within the building in 1977, in advance of its conversion. In the areas investigated, an earth platform containing charcoal and human bone was discovered. Beneath this, a single post-hole was recorded, leading to the conclusion that the existing church replaced an earlier building. In addition, a priest's burial, complete with pewter chalice lay partly underneath the south wall of the nave (EHER 3321). This was dated to the late 12th to early 13th century.

4.6 Cartographic research provides little information regarding the development of the church building itself although the 1777 Andre & Chapman map illustrates the topography of the area at the time (Fig. 4). The c.1840 tithe map shows the church set within an oval graveyard enclosure with a later post-medieval field boundary respecting the church precinct boundary (Fig. 5). The 1st and 2nd edition OS maps of 1881 and 1897 (Figs. 6 & 7) show little subsequent change, apart from the buttressing, south porch and north vestry are now visible, with a trackway leading to the vestry. The 1923 OS map shows that the churchyard has been extended to the west and there are remains of the old boundary as a bank or earthwork with a small ancillary building at its north end (Fig. 8). When the church was converted for domestic use, these boundaries were probably extended to the north to create the lawned area existing today.

5 THE BUILDING

5.1 As a church, the building comprised a simple chancel, nave and west tower arrangement, with porches protecting the south doors into the nave and chancel (Plate 1). The tower is now little more than a stump rising to nave level, having been taken down and partially rebuilt in the 19th century, but never completed. Externally, the building is now mostly rendered in cement, but the stone dressings and one or two features have been left deliberately exposed. Each element has its own peg-tiled roof; that to the nave pierced by modern 'velux' roof lights.

5.2 On the south elevation, the nave retains a lancet window, suggesting its 12th century date (Plate 2). This is now sandwiched between two, two-light windows with reticulated tracery, the east of probable original 14th century date though much of the stonework of the western window has been replaced. To the west, the south door is enclosed by a rendered porch, but lit by trefoil-

headed windows. The tower has angled corner buttresses of brick with stone dressings set above a moulded stone plinth with empty recesses for flint flushwork. A small attached stair turret lies on the south side but appears mostly rebuilt in late 19th century brick.

5.3 The chancel is distinguished by an ornate priest's door and porch incorporated into a contemporary buttress. Good ashlar masonry remains exposed, with an arched doorway with roll-mouldings and little zoomorphic headstops to a simple moulded inner doorway. The door itself is possibly Georgian or Victorian. A string-course of stone extends along the eaves of the door and continues along the chancel below the existing window level and around the buttress at the east corner. As with the nave, the interior is lit by two, two-light 14th century windows on this side, but here with slightly more flamboyant embellishments. They have diamond-paned metal casements but retain a few fragments of coloured, leaded glass in the upper tracery.

5.4 The east end of the chancel is supported by angled buttresses with lower mouldings identical to the priest's door. It has a fine three-light window.

5.5 The north elevation is plainer. The chancel retains a central doorway for a lost vestry, probably inserted but then in turn blocked up when the vestry was demolished (Plate 3). This was subject to detailed analysis during works to reopen the area. The doorway has jambs of Oolitic limestone with one or two blocks of a more porous matrix, while the reveals are of later red brick apart from the soffit of the arch which is largely of Kentish rag with buff-coloured mortar and apparently much earlier than the brickwork to the jambs (Plate 4). The infill of the doorway comprises approximately 24 courses of a fairly homogenous red brick with few inclusions though some bricks have a darker, more maroon hue. They measure 9" x 2½" x 4⅝" (229mm x 64mm x 117mm) with mortar joints of approximately ½" (13mm) and are laid in English bond. The mortar is a fine lime mixed with large quantities of grit and flint fragments. The threshold has been raised slightly in brick, all latterly covered in cement over tile.

5.6 A lancet window survives to the east, while to the west an early 14th century two-light window has a decorative hood. To the west, the nave wall is pierced by a single, 14th century window and a north door, which is modern and fictive but in a general medieval style. Three heavy buttresses provide structural support. The western example is probably medieval with a repaired, 18th century brick shoulder, abutting the remains of the projecting rood stair turret. The central buttress is of 19th century brick with later stone coping, while that to the tower is entirely rendered with a modern stone coping.

5.7 The north wall of the tower is largely plain-rendered with only the flushwork plinth exposed at lower level.

5.8 The west side of the tower preserves several features of interest. A central doorway has a three-centred arch with deep hollow mouldings embellished with fleurons, and large carved lions as headstops. Heraldic shields in the spandrels were once present but have now weathered away,

together with some adjoining decoration. An upper panel of seven trefoil heads also has alternating shields, but these are much repaired with Portland cement and other modern materials. Above is a three-light window with a four-centred arch of late 15th century or early 16th century. The timber door is a late medieval survival, the rear preserving good latticed bracing with strong strap hinges, one of which is incised with stars. The entrance apron and inner lobby are laid with 19th century decorative encaustic tiles. These are perhaps the '19th century glazed tiles' lining the sanctuary in 1977 (Rodwell 1977) here reused and never meant to sit outdoors, as exposure to the elements has already begun to degrade them.

Interior

5.8 Conversion to domestic use entailed the stripping out of all original portable fixtures and fittings, with the exception of a few items listed below, and the insertion of modern floors on reinforced steel girders and much concrete, leaving the lower part of the chancel as low space (GF01), with low head-height due to the retention of the sanctuary step, but extending into the nave. The upper rooms are more conventional, though contrived in the available space, while the upper part of the chancel has been preserved as a single room, with glazed doors and partitioning infilling the chancel arch. The western part of the nave now comprises a series of service and reception rooms housed on different levels. The tower is almost entirely given over to a staircase, while the top-most stage forms a separate bedroom, given access only from the stone and brick turret attached to the south.

5.10 Room GF01 spans both the chancel and part of the nave. Much of the area is floored with polished marble tiles but retains some structural coherence with the a step up from nave to chancel level adjoining the surviving base of a demolished pulpit next to the south chancel arch pier. A second step to the east leads to the former sanctuary. Here, a number of 17th century ledger stones survive, but probably repositioned, as they span the former location of the altar. Also *ex situ* in this area are two 19th century wall-stones with inscribed religious texts, though it is not known whether they originated in the church.

5.11 The ledger stones commemorate, from north to south:

Robert Blacksell, died 2nd Dec 1680 aged 52 years

John Blacksell, gent, died 6th Dec 1682 aged 54 years

Robert Beale, yeoman, died 25th Sept 1699 aged 72 years

Robert Blacksell, died 28th July 1674 aged about 18 years, and his widow Rachel Scarpe (wife of John Scarpe of Manningtree) died 4th July 1693 aged about 54.

[Edw]ard Blacksell, died 13th July 1672 aged 20 years

5.12 The current works have necessitated the removal of 1980s cementitious render to the external walls, revealing roughly coursed flint blocks, these being particularly large on the north side of the nave. Within the chancel, the construction varies slightly with the use of finer flint with

occasional blocks of stone, although the larger blocks extend into a section immediately adjoining the nave on the north side suggesting the residue of an earlier building here.

5.13 In the western area, formerly part of the nave, the apron and sill of the south window remains visible, now partly blocked up but formerly much deeper. On the opposite side, the base of the rood stair survives.

5.14 Within the former chancel, the window sill level all round is marked by a contemporary ovolo-moulded string course, built into the masonry. This survives particularly well on the north side, though has been hacked off below the north chancel window (Plate 5). Immediately adjoining, the base of a second, now-blocked window with stone jambs and a single mullion survives. This is noted in the List description as having two square-headed lights with external splays. The inner face of the former vestry door continues the English bond brickwork seen to the exterior, but here laid in a more regular fashion and formerly plastered. The outer jambs have been made good with brick, suggesting the original stone jambs were been removed when the door was blocked. The brick extends above the modern floor joisting. In addition the blocking is spanned by a stretch of moulded string course continuing the medieval form but clearly a more recent addition and perhaps contemporary with the blocking.

5.15 The string course is present on the south wall, but has been hacked back completely, suggesting that the windows on this side were dropped slightly before being partially blocked in the 18th century. In the former sanctuary, the base of the original sedilia survives, with a blocked area adjoining for the piscina (Plate 6). A minor feature of note is an inscribed 'daisy wheel' on the east jamb of the priest's doorway.

5.16 The upper parts of the nave at new ground floor level preserve little of interest, as sub-division was attended by lining out in modern materials. The door to the south porch is of 15th century date, while within the porch, the roof remains exposed. This is constructed of oak, with a single tie-beam and collar clasping a purlin in each pitch. Simple common-rafters ride over to the apex. The surviving collar is notch-lapped into the rafters and it appears that every rafter-couple originally held a collar, as redundant mortices survive in each case. Within the tower at the west end, a modern staircase rises to upper level. This is enclosed with a probable 15th century door.

First floor

5.17 The new floor was inserted into the chancel at window sill level, thus preserving a sense of its original proportions. The east window is framed by elaborate canopies over niches which once held religious images. These preserve delicately carved rib-vaults within the canopy, but also crocketed pinnacles, some with zoomorphic decoration. The canopy over the piscina is similarly richly embellished, with oak-leaf foliage and acorns, and zoomorphic decoration (Plate 7).

5.18 Tiny amounts of coloured glass survive in the upper recesses of the windows. The reveal and short section of the wall adjoining the chancel arch is exposed in the south-west corner, revealing flintwork, partly repointed in cement, but also some more modern, sympathetic repair. The chancel arch remains expressed but has been infilled, leaving three arch-headed glazed apertures to the room beyond.

5.19 The roof structure comprises closely-spaced rafter couples with collars and double-pegged soulace-pieces (Plate 8). Ashlar pieces, some having been replaced, spring from a roll-moulded timber string or corbel course, similar in form to its stone counterpart at the base of the windows. The roof was probably once underdrawn or boarded, as distinctive nail-holes survive in the timber. This was a common 17th or 18th century modification, itself often reversed by the Victorians.

5.20 The nave has fared less well by conversion, being divided into reception rooms and kitchens and retaining little of interest, except for the rood stair in Room FF01.

5.21 The tower functions as a stair-landing, well-lit by the west window and retaining its moulded arch to the nave.

Second floor

5.22 The second floor rises through the nave into its roof, and is laid out with a central corridor, with flanking bedrooms and bathroom, terminating in a large bedroom against the chancel arch, though this has been obscured with plasterboard. The roof is of similar form to the chancel, and it may be assumed that similar ashlar pieces spring from a lower corbel, though these are not visible beneath modern lining (Plate 9). The nave roof was similarly once underdrawn. Several medieval rafters have been cut to accommodate 'velux' roof lights.

5.23 Detailed investigation and some exploration of the chancel wall within Room SF01 was carried out to determine the age and nature of the wall surface between the arch head and the apex (Plate 10). A fitted wardrobe and modern plasterboarding were removed to show that the arch survives in good condition. The masonry, by contrast rises to an offset just below soulace level, where the upper walling was found to be poorly built in small stone rubble with a few flints, bound with a buff-coloured mortar. A thin render finish survived, over which modern gypsum plaster has been applied. Several areas show structural cracks, particularly in the area to the north. Discrete scrapes were carried out in a random sample across the wall but no fine or finishing plaster surfaces were encountered.

5.24 The upper section of the wall, above the offset, differed in having modern gypsum plaster applied over a buff-coloured lime render. This had been applied over an earlier, perhaps finer layer, which preserved limewash (Plate 11). No further intervention was made at this point.

5.25 The conclusion was that the lower portion of the wall across the width of the area is unlikely to preserve earlier painted schemes due to the absence of any fine lime finishing coats in the sequence. However at upper level, the survival of the lime-wash finish confirms the potential for earlier wall finishes, though their nature cannot be determine without more specialist advice.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The investigation added a little refinement to the List description and earlier observation, by providing a context for masonry types, such as seen in the difference between the method of construction of the nave and chancel. The 12th century nave, which is fairly securely dated by the lancets, was constructed of large, unworked flint boulders, while the chancel used material of much smaller size, though incorporating some elements of a contemporary building in its fabric.

6.2 Some questions remain about the nature of the south porch, which Rodwell dated to the earlier period, but the RCHM(E) investigation suggested was 19th or 20th century. The door from the church is clearly of medieval date, but the cinquefoil headed window apertures appear reused as cosmetic features, while the internal brickwork is 18th or early 19th century. The roof could, however be 17th to 19th century.

6.3 Overall, the decoration points clearly to an enlargement in the 14th century, when larger windows, rich embellishments and the existing roofs were installed. At the time of listing in the 1980s, the canopies flanking the altar retained blue and gold paintwork, though no visible evidence of this now survives. Other elements which are also listed include 13th century floor tiles on the north side of the nave, incised with geometric or rose designs. These may still be present but were not visible at the time of the survey.

6.4 The tower is a 15th century addition with the distinctive flint flushwork at the base, though these have lost their flint infill and the tower itself is thought never to have been completed.

6.5 The evidence suggests that the vestry was removed and the doorway blocked in the 18th century, but the works were sympathetic; the internal face was plastered and the string course was replicated across the aperture.

6.7 Redundancy in the 1970s resulted in the sale of the St Mary's by the Church of England, with highly damaging results for the historic integrity of the building. The fittings were stripped and probably sold or redistributed, but their original context is now lost. Subsequent conversion was, apparently undertaken in a piecemeal, and largely uncontrolled fashion over a number of years, involving highly unsympathetic materials such as steel and cement, reducing the church to a shell, and reconfiguring it to accord with domestic convenience and comfort. Only now is some of this damage being reversed with the reintroduction of lime mortars.

6.8 The monitoring and inspection revealed little of additional interest in the vestry area, while the upper wall of the chancel, where any painted scheme would conventionally be found, is unlikely to preserve painted schemes in the areas affected by the proposals. Some potential remains at high level, above the chancel arch. It would be advisable, if proposals to alter this area are pursued, to commission a wall-paintings' specialist who will have the suitable expertise and equipment to analyse the fabric to determine the presence or absence of pigments.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

An archive of all materials produced by the report has been created and listed (see Appendix 4). Copies of the final report will be lodged with the ERO and ECC HEM. The archive will be lodged with Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the client Mr Grahame Jenkins for funding the project and for his kind assistance.

Archaeological Solutions Limited would also like to thank Ms Laura Belton of the Essex HER Office and staff at the Essex Record Office

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WEB SITES

Heritage Gateway
Unlocking Essex's Past

APPENDIX 1: ESSEX HER INFORMATION

EHER Number	National Grid Reference	Details
<i>Prehistoric 700,000 BC to AD 43</i>		
3327	211 283	8 prehistoric flints found scattered south of St Mary's church
3539	207 281	Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age stone axe head found near Great Oakley Hall
3540	207 281	Fragments of an Iron Age pot found near Great Oakley Hall
3260*	20 28	Neolithic battle axe
3271*	21 29	Several late Bronze Age axeheads found in a bank in Glebeland between two fields
<i>Romano-British AD 43- 410</i>		
3329	211 283	Roman pot including 2 nd century samian ware found south of St Mary's Church
3324	211 283	Roman tegula and hypocaust tile found south of St Mary's Church
3304	212 284	St Mary's House (former church), fragments of Roman tile visible in the walls now obscured by render
3326	212 284	Roman tile from a drainage trench south of St Mary's Church
3537*	2168 2884	Cremation urn containing burnt bone in 'Glover's Field'
<i>Anglo-Saxon AD 410-1066</i>		
3321	212 284	Earth platform under the 12 th century nave containing human bone. Beneath was a single post-hole and a burial underlay the south wall of the nave
<i>Medieval 1066-1539</i>		
3332	212 284	St Mary's House (formerly St Mary's Church, Little Oakley). 12 th -15 th century with 19 th -20 th century restoration work
3328	211 283	Later medieval pot found south of St Mary's Church
3330	213 285	Moated site at Little Oakley Hall
3538*	2060 2812	Site of medieval moat
34371	212 284	St Mary's Church declared redundant in 1973
<i>Post-medieval 1539-1900</i>		
3323	215 283	Post-medieval brick and tile found south of Little Oakley
34353	207 281	18 th century timber-framed barn 90m ESE of Great Oakley Hall Farmhouse
34352	207 281	18 th century timber-framed barn 40m ESE of Great Oakley Hall Farmhouse

3322	211 283	Post-medieval glass south of St Mary's Church
3520	207 289	Brick kiln at Saltwater Bridge
3646	207 289	Brick kiln cottages a post-medieval roofed house
<i>Modern 1900+</i>		
17369	215 289	WWII heavy anti-aircraft gun emplacement
3265	212 284	St Mary's House (formerly St Mary's Church, Little Oakley). The church was partly restored 'in modern times' when the south porch was added and the tower partly rebuilt
17369*	2158 2885	Crop marks of multiple ditches probably associated with anti-glider defences
<i>Undated</i>		
3331	216 287	Ring ditch and enclosure east of Little Oakley
3325	211 283	Sandstone whetstone found south of St Mary's Church
47058*	2116 2928	Crop marks of linear ditches

APPENDIX 2: CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Map Description	Date	Scale
Site Location: OS Explorer	Modern	1:25,000
Detailed Site Location	Modern	1:500
HER Information	Modern	1:10,000
Andre & Chapman	1777	Not to scale
Tithe map	c.1840	Not to scale
OS 1st edition	1881	1:2,500
OS 2 nd edition	1897	1:2,500
OS 3 rd edition	1923	1:2,500

APPENDIX 3 BUILDING LISTING

List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: ST MARY'S HOUSE

List Entry Number: 1112098

Location: ST MARY'S HOUSE, CLACTON ROAD

County: Essex

District: Tendring

District Type: District Authority

Parish: Little Oakley

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II*

Date first listed: 30-Jan-1987

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 120286

List Entry Description

Details

LITTLE OAKLEY CLACTON ROAD

TM 22 NW (west side)

4/52 St. Mary's House, formerly
listed as Church of St.

Mary

GV II*

Wrongly shown on O.S. map as St. Mary's Church. Former parish church, now a house. Mainly C12-C15, restored in C19 and 1902, declared redundant in 1973. Septaria and flint rubble, repaired with red brick in various bonds, all plastered, with dressings of limestone, roofed with handmade red clay tiles. Nave early C12, Chancel mid-C14, W tower late C15, S porch C19/20. The Chancel has an original E window of 3 trefoiled ogee lights with net tracery in a 2-centred head with moulded labels, restored externally; above it is a small square-headed opening, now blocked. On the apex of the gable is a C14 cross, repaired. In the N wall are 2 C14 windows; the eastern is of one cinquefoiled light with moulded label; the western is of 2 cinquefoiled ogee lights with flowing tracery in a 2-centred head with moulded label. Between them is a blocked window of 2 square-headed lights with external splays, formerly to a N vestry, now plastered over externally. E of this is a blocked doorway with a segmental-pointed head. In the S wall are 2 original windows, partly restored, each of 2 cinquefoiled lights with tracery in a 2-centred head with moulded label. The sill of the eastern window is carried down to form a seat. Between them is a doorway, restored except the C14 splays and rear-arch; covering this doorway and under a buttress is a small porch having a C14 outer archway with wave-moulded jambs and 2-centred head, with moulded label and grotesque head-stops. The mid-C14 chancel-arch is 2-centred and of 2 chamfered orders; the responds have attached octagonal

shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The 7-canted roof is C14, with moulded wallplates. The Nave has in the N wall a mid-C14 window of 2 cinquefoiled lights in a 2-centred head with moulded label. Further E is the C15 rood-loft stair; the lower doorway has hollow-chamfered jambs and 2-centred head. Near the W end is the C14 N doorway, with double hollow-moulded jambs, 2-centred arch and label, now blocked. In the S wall are 2 windows; the eastern is C14, of 2 trefoiled ogee lights with tracery in a 2-centred head with moulded label; the western window is C19. Between them is an early C12 window of one round-headed light, blocked. W of the windows is the mid-C14 S doorway, with wave-moulded jambs, 2-centred arch and label with defaced headstops. The door is original, of V-edged boards with strap-hinges, each enlarged to a rectangle near the jamb, restored inside. The roof of the Nave is similar to that of the Chancel, the wallplates and tiebeams restored. There are 4 in-pitch skylights in the N pitch, and 3 in the S pitch. The W tower is of one stage, partly late C15, partly C19; it has a moulded plinth with cusped panels formerly of flint-inlay work, now cement-rendered. The tower-arch has been rebuilt, incorporating original material. The W window is of 3 cinquefoiled lights with vertical tracery in a segmental-pointed head with moulded label. The W doorway has moulded jambs and 2-centred arch in a square head with a moulded label and stops carved with crowned lions; the jambs and arch-mould are carved with square flowers, and the spandrels with shields of arms; above the label is a range of trefoiled panels with blank shields in alternate panels, partly rendered. The double doors are of ridged boards with moulded frame and fillets, late C15. There is one C20 casement in the W gable of the plain pitched roof. The door to the stair-turret is late C15, of one timber carved in the solid to form a hollow-moulded frame with 4-centred head, and 3 hollow-moulded fillets and ridged panels between. The S porch is C19/20, with a re-set C14 cinquefoiled window-head in each side wall. Fittings. In the Chancel is a piscina with shafted and buttressed jambs, cinquefoiled head, with tall crocketed gabled head enclosing blind tracery, flanking pinnacles and sexfoiled drain, C14. Also in the Chancel are 2 niches, flanking the E window, with shafted and buttressed jambs, canopy with ribbed soffit painted in blue and gold, cinquefoiled, gabled and crocketed heads, and crocketed and finialed spire, C14, partly restored. A wooden floor inserted since 1973 leaves these features exposed above and below it. There are floor-slabs in the Chancel (1) to Robert Blacksell, 1671 (or 1674), (2) to - Blacksell, 1672, (3) to Robert Blacksell, 1680, (4) to Robert Blacksell, 1682, (5) to Robert Beale. At the N side of the Nave are C13 floor-tiles, incised with geometrical or rose designs. (M.J. Corbishley et al, *Excavations at St. Mary's Church, Little Oakley, Essex*, 1977, Essex County Council Occasional Paper no. 4, 1984, 15-27). The conversion to domestic use is described by Christopher Matthew in 'Parish News', *Punch*, 22 August 1984, 35-6.

Listing NGR: TM2120928462

APPENDIX 4

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	St Mary's House, Clacton Road, Little Oakley
County: Essex	District: Tendring
Village/Town: Little Oakley	Parish: Little Oakley
Planning application reference:	-
Client name/address/tel:	Mr Grahame Jenkins
Nature of application:	Renovation
Present land use:	Domestic
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated: c.100m ²
NGR (8 figures):	TL 2120 2846
Site Code:	LOSM11
Site director/Organisation:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Historic building recording
Date of work:	February 2012
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Colchester & Ipswich Museum
Related SMR Nos: -	Periods represented: 12 th century to present
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In January 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd conducted historic building recording with monitoring and recording at St Mary's House in Little Oakley, Essex. The work was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to approval for improvements to the building.</i></p> <p><i>The investigation added a little refinement to the List description and earlier observations by providing a context for masonry types, such as seen in the difference between the method of construction of the nave and chancel. The nave is dated fairly securely to the 12th century, while other decorative elements point to an enlargement in the 14th century and the tower dates to the 15th century.</i></p> <p><i>The church was sold in the 1970s, which was highly damaging to the integrity of the building with fittings stripped out and probably sold or redistributed. Subsequent conversion was piecemeal and uncontrolled using unsympathetic materials and only now is some of this damage being reversed with the introduction of lime mortars.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring and recording in specific locations suggests removal of the vestry and blocking of the doorway was carried out in the 18th century, but the works were sympathetic; the internal face was plastered and the string course replicated across the aperture. The upper wall of the chancel, where any painted scheme would conventionally be found, is unlikely to preserve painted schemes in the areas affected by the suggested proposals. Some potential remains at high level, above the chancel arch. It would be advisable, if proposals to alter this area are pursued, to commission a wall-paintings' specialist who will have the suitable expertise and equipment to analyse the fabric to determine the presence or absence of pigments.</i></p>
Author of summary: L. Prosser / T. Collins	Date of Summary: March 2012

APPENDIX 5

BUILDING RECORDING ARCHIVE FORM

Site Details							
Site Name: St Mary's House, Clacton Road, Little Oakley					NGR: TL 2120 2846		
County: Hertfordshire				Museum Collecting Area: Colchester & Ipswich Museum			
Site Code: LOSM11				Project Number: 4245			
Date of Work: February 2012				Related Work:			
Brief/s				Specification/s			
Date		Present		Date		Present	
January 2011		Yes		31 st January 2011		Yes	
Site Records (Description)							
8 sheets A4 notes							
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)							
1 A3 sheet drawing film							
Architect's Drawings:							
3 sheets A3 drawings (annotated)							
Digital Drawings							
Printouts of Drawings			Printouts of Data			Digital Data	
In report						Digital photographs and drawings on CD	
Reports							
Report No		Report Type				Present	
4035		Historic building recording				Yes	
Site Photographs							
Black & White Contact Prints					Colour Slides		
Film No	Film Type	Negs	Negs Present	Contacts Present	Film No	Negs	Present
1	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes	1	15-22	Yes
2	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
3	120mm	1-7	Yes	Yes			
Photographic Location Plans Present? (Give Details)							
In report and separate printout in archive folder							
Digital Photographs (Give Details):							
Digital photography duplicates black and white photography. Index and selected plates printed in report. Separate printout of index included in archive folder and digitally on CD.							

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1 South elevation, taken from the south-west (DP 06)



Plate 2 South elevation of the nave and chancel, taken from the south-west (DP 08)



Plate 3 Blocked doorway on the north side of the chancel, taken from north (DP 12)



Plate 4 Arch soffit on the blocked doorway on the north side of the chancel, taken from north (DP 13)



Plate 5 North wall of Room GF01 (chancel), taken from south-west (DP 15)



Plate 6 South wall of Room GF01 (chancel), taken from the north (DP 25)



Plate 7 Hoods of image niche and piscina in the south-east corner of Room FF01, taken from the north-west (DP 46)



Plate 8 Room FF01, taken from the north-east (DP 42)



Plate 9 Roof structure in Room SF01, taken from the east (DP 36)



Plate 10 East wall of Room SF01 during investigation, taken from the west (DP 75)



Plate 11 Detail of east wall of Room SF01 at upper level during investigation, taken from the west (DP 66)

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1

North elevation, taken from the north



DP 2

West elevation of the tower, taken from the north-west



DP 3

View of the north and west elevations, taken from the north-west



DP 4

Detailed of plinth on west side of the tower, taken from the west



DP 5

West doorway to the tower, taken from the west



DP 6

South elevation, taken from the south-west



DP 7
Detail of the south-west buttress of the tower, taken from the south-east



DP 8
South elevation of the nave and chancel, taken from the south-west



DP 9
Detail of the priest's door on the south side of the chancel, taken from the south-west



DP 10
North elevation, taken from north-east



DP 11
North elevation of the chancel, taken from north

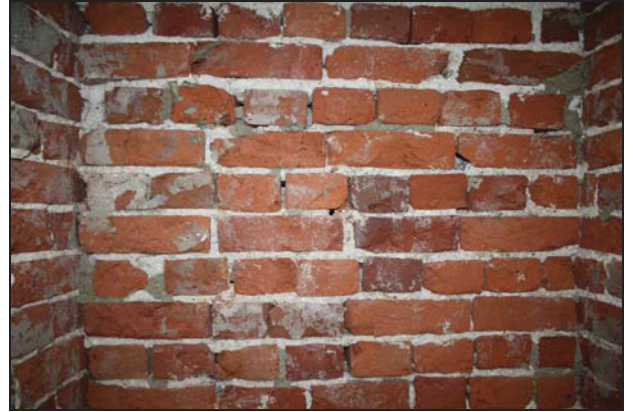


DP 12
Blocked doorway on the north side of the chancel, taken from north



DP 13

Arch soffit on the blocked doorway on the north side of the chancel, taken from north



DP 14

Blocking of the doorway on the north side of the chancel, taken from north



DP 15

North wall of Room GF01 (chancel), taken from south-west



DP 16

North wall of Room GF01 (chancel), taken from south-east



DP 17

Lower section of window on the north wall of Room GF01, taken from the south-east



DP 18

Detail of moulded string course on the north wall of Room GF01, taken from the south



DP 19

Blocked doorway on the north side of Room GF01, taken from the south-west



DP 20

Moulded string course on the north wall of Room GF01, taken from the south



DP 21

Lower section of blocked window on the north wall of Room GF01, taken from the south-east



DP 22

North wall of Room GF01, taken from the south



DP 23

Moulded string course on the north wall of Room GF01, taken from the south



DP 24

South wall of Room GF01 (chancel), taken from the north-west



DP 25

South wall of Room GF01 (chancel), taken from the north



DP 26

North wall of Room GF01 (nave), taken from the south



DP 27

South wall of Room GF01 (nave), taken from the north



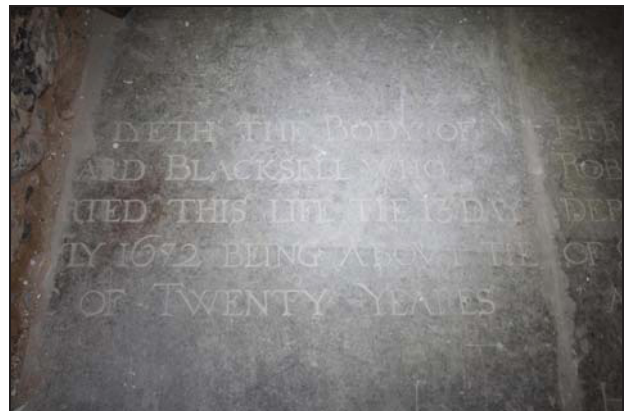
DP 28

Font in Room GF01 (nave), taken from the north-west



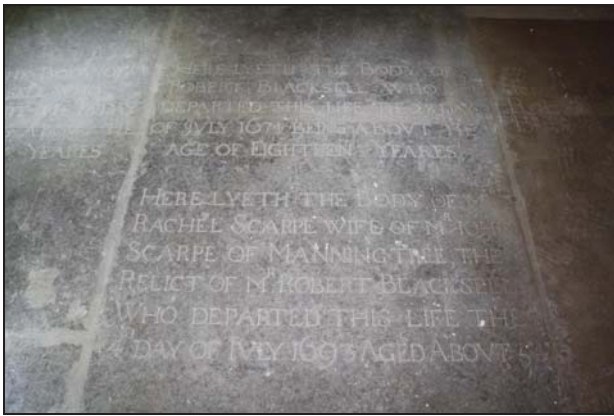
DP 29

Ledger stone set into the raised floor area of Room GF01, taken from the east



DP 30

Ledger stone set into the raised floor area of Room GF01, taken from the east



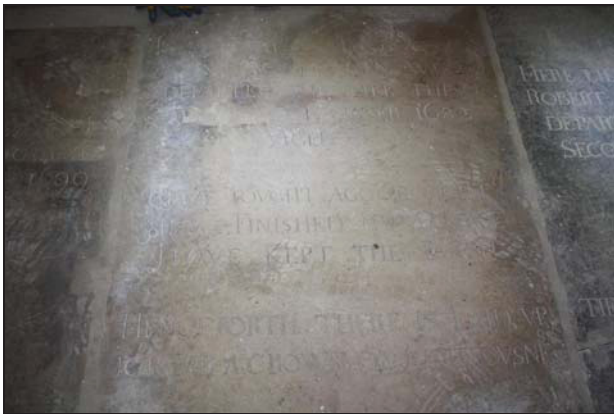
DP 31

Ledger stone set into the raised floor area of Room GF01, taken from the east



DP 32

Ledger stone set into the raised floor area of Room GF01, taken from the east



DP 33

Ledger stone set into the raised floor area of Room GF01, taken from the east



DP 34

Ledger stone set into the raised floor area of Room GF01, taken from the east



DP 35

Room SF01, taken from the north-west



DP 36

Roof structure in Room SF01, taken from the east



DP 37

Room SF07, taken from the south-west



DP 38

Detail of the nave arch from Room FF07, taken from the west



DP 39

West window in Room FF07, taken from the east



DP 40

Room FF02, taken from the north



DP 41

Room FF01, taken from the east



DP 42

Room FF01, taken from the east



DP 43
Room FF01, taken from the west



DP 44
Image niche on the east side of Room FF01, taken from the west



DP 45
Hood of image niche on the east side of Room FF01, taken from the west



DP 46
Hoods of image niche and piscina in the south-east corner of Room FF01, taken from the north-west



DP 47
Image niche on the east side of Room FF01, taken from the west



DP 48
Hood of the piscina on the south side of Room FF01, taken from the north



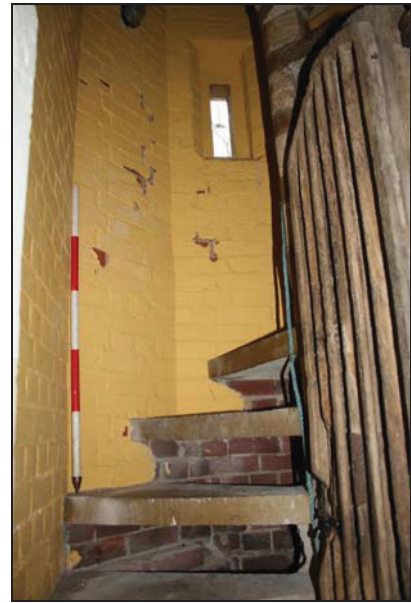
DP 49
Zoomorphic decoration on the hood of the piscina in Room FF01, taken from the north-west



DP 50
Detail of window on the south side of Room FF01 showing early glass, taken from the north



DP 51
Doorway to stair turret in GF04, taken from the north-east



DP 52
View of staircase on the south side of Room GF04, taken from the north



DP 53
Room GF03, taken from the south



DP 54
South porch Room GF05, taken from the north



DP 55

North door in Room GF05, taken from the south



DP 56

Detail of the east window in Room FF01 showing carved head, taken from the west



DP 57

Detail of the east window in Room FF01 showing carved head, taken from the west



DP 58

Room TF01 in attic level of the tower, taken from the north-east



DP 59

Staircase from Room TF01 in attic level of the tower, taken from the north



DP 60

Blocked doorway on the north side of Room GF01 during planned works, taken from the south-west



DP 61
Blocked doorway on the north side of Room GF01
during planned works, taken from the south-west



DP 62
Blocked doorway on the north side of Room GF01
during planned works, taken from the north



DP 63
Blocked doorway on the north side of Room GF01
during planned works, taken from the north



DP 64
Moulded head on the priest's door, taken from the
south



DP 65
Moulded head on the priest's door, taken from the
south



DP 66
Detail of east wall of Room SF01 during
investigation, taken from the west



DP 67

Detail of east wall of Room SF01 during investigation, taken from the west



DP 68

Detail of east wall of Room SF01 during investigation, taken from the west



DP 69

Detail of east wall of Room SF01 during investigation, taken from the west



DP 70

Detail of east wall of Room SF01 during investigation, taken from the south-west



DP 71

Detail of east wall of Room SF01 during investigation, taken from the west



DP 72

Detail of east wall of Room SF01 during investigation, taken from the west



DP 73

Detail of east wall of Room SF01 during investigation, taken from the west



DP 74

Detail of east wall of Room SF01 during investigation, taken from the south-west



DP 75

East wall of Room SF01 during investigation, taken from the west



DP 76

East wall of Room SF01 at high level during investigation, taken from the west



DP 77

East wall of Room SF01 during investigation, taken from the west



DP 78

Roof structure of the south porch, taken from the north



DP 79

Decorated strap hinge on the door to the tower, taken from the east



DP 80

Bell pull on the door to the tower, taken from the west



DP 81

Daisy wheel on the door jamb of the priest's door in Room GF01, taken from the north



DP 82

Base of the rood stair in Room GF01, taken from the south



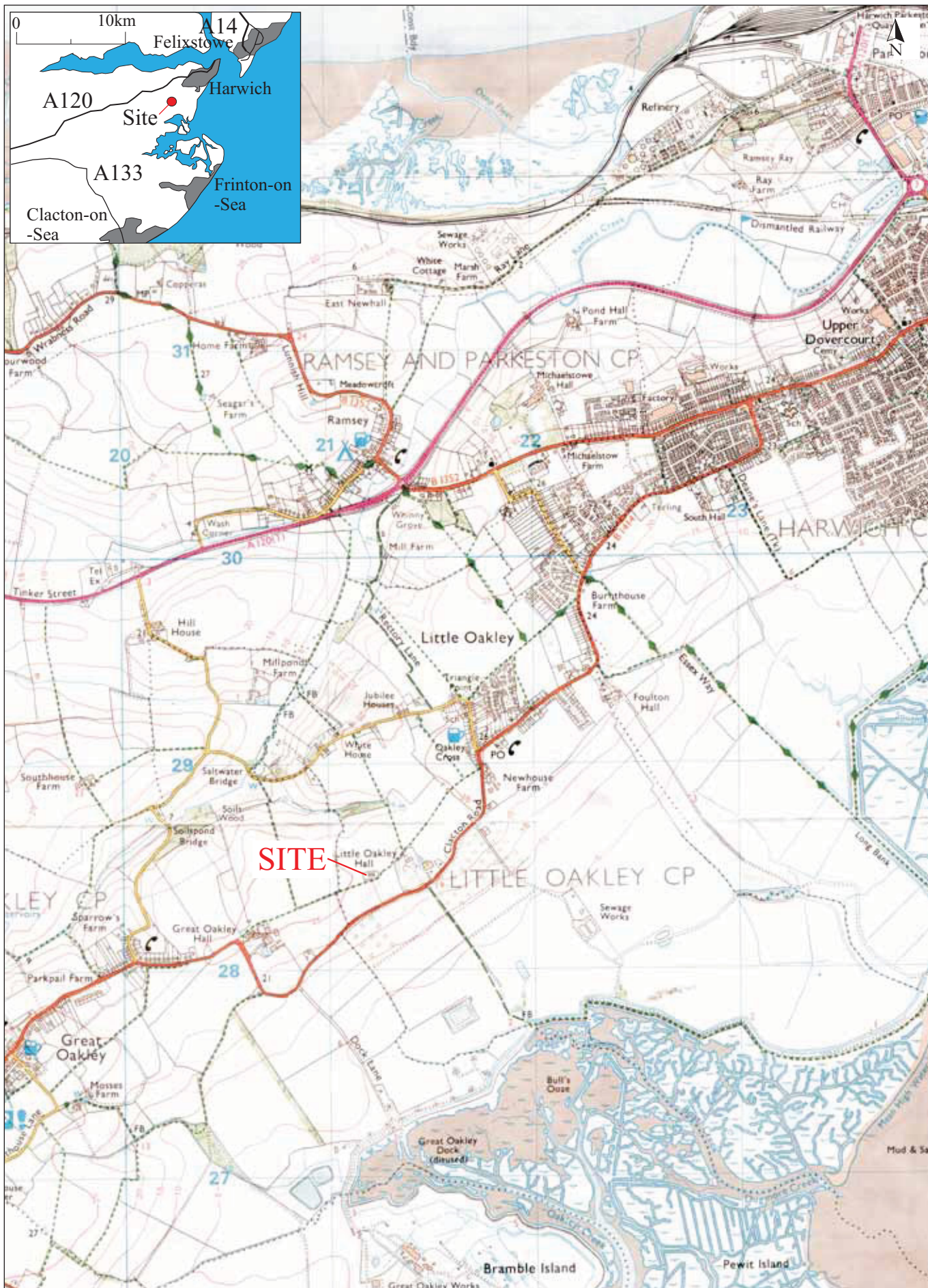
DP 83

Graffiti in Room GF01, taken from the north-east



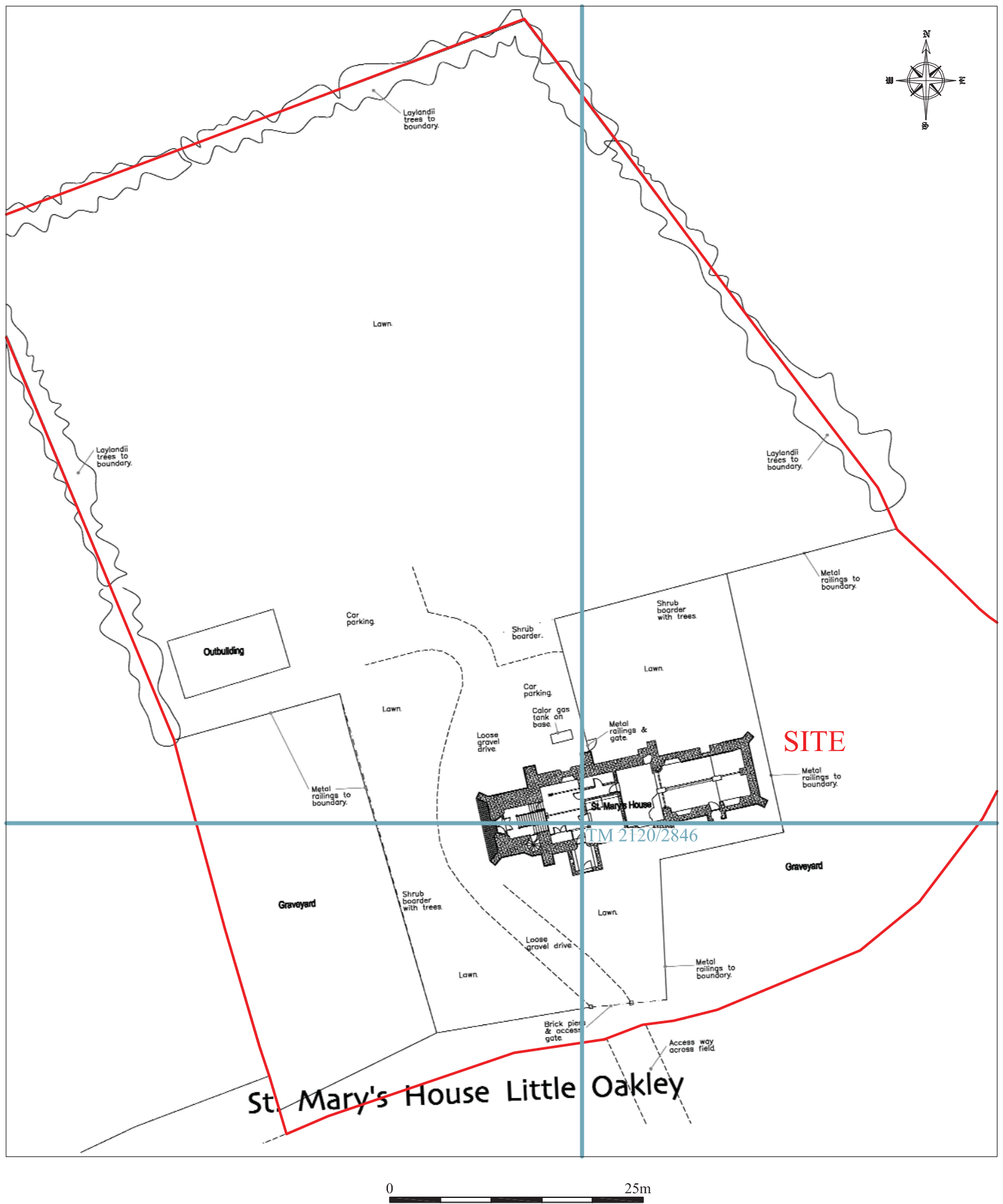
DP 84

Detail of the north wall of Room GF01, taken from the south

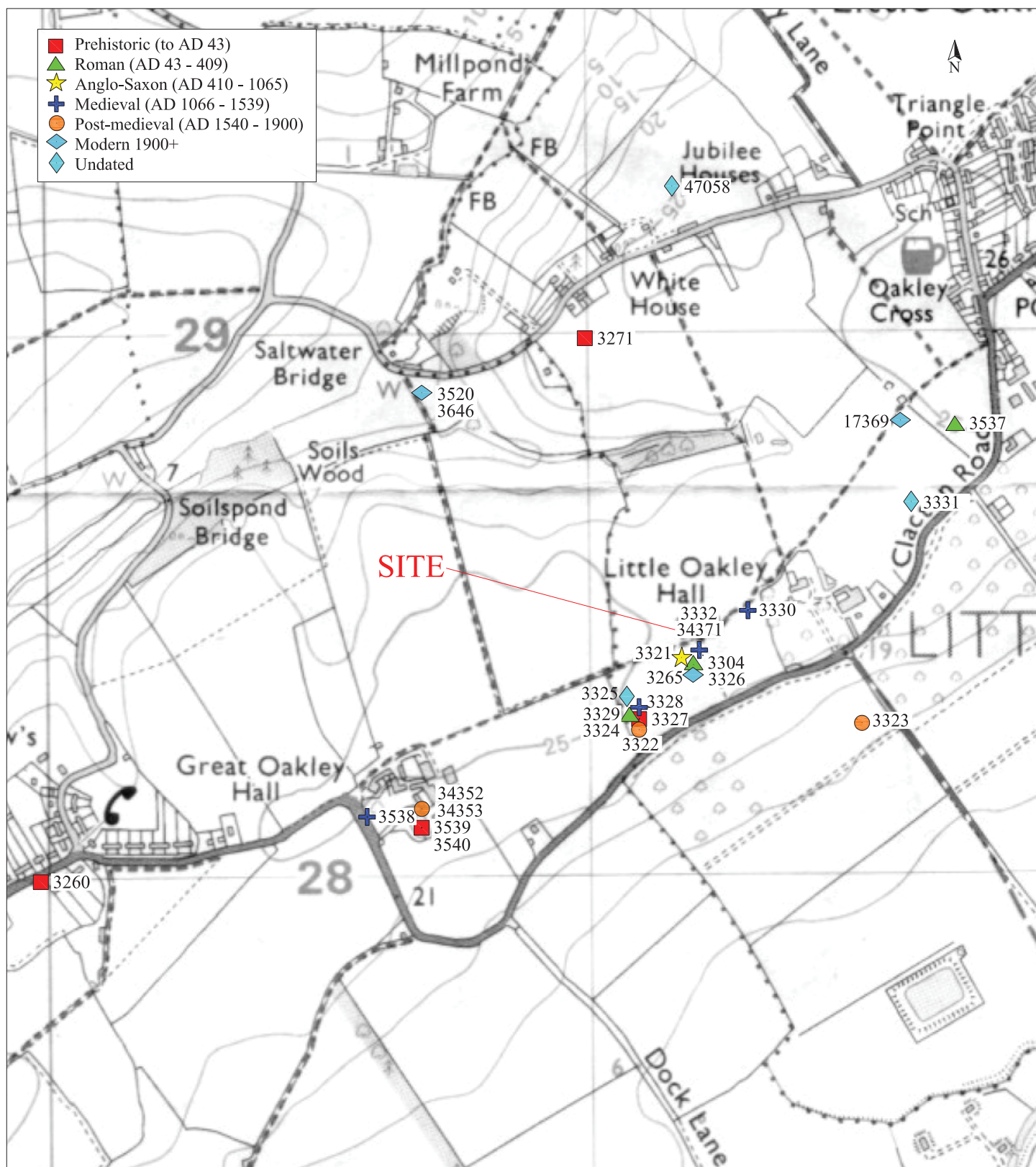


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4



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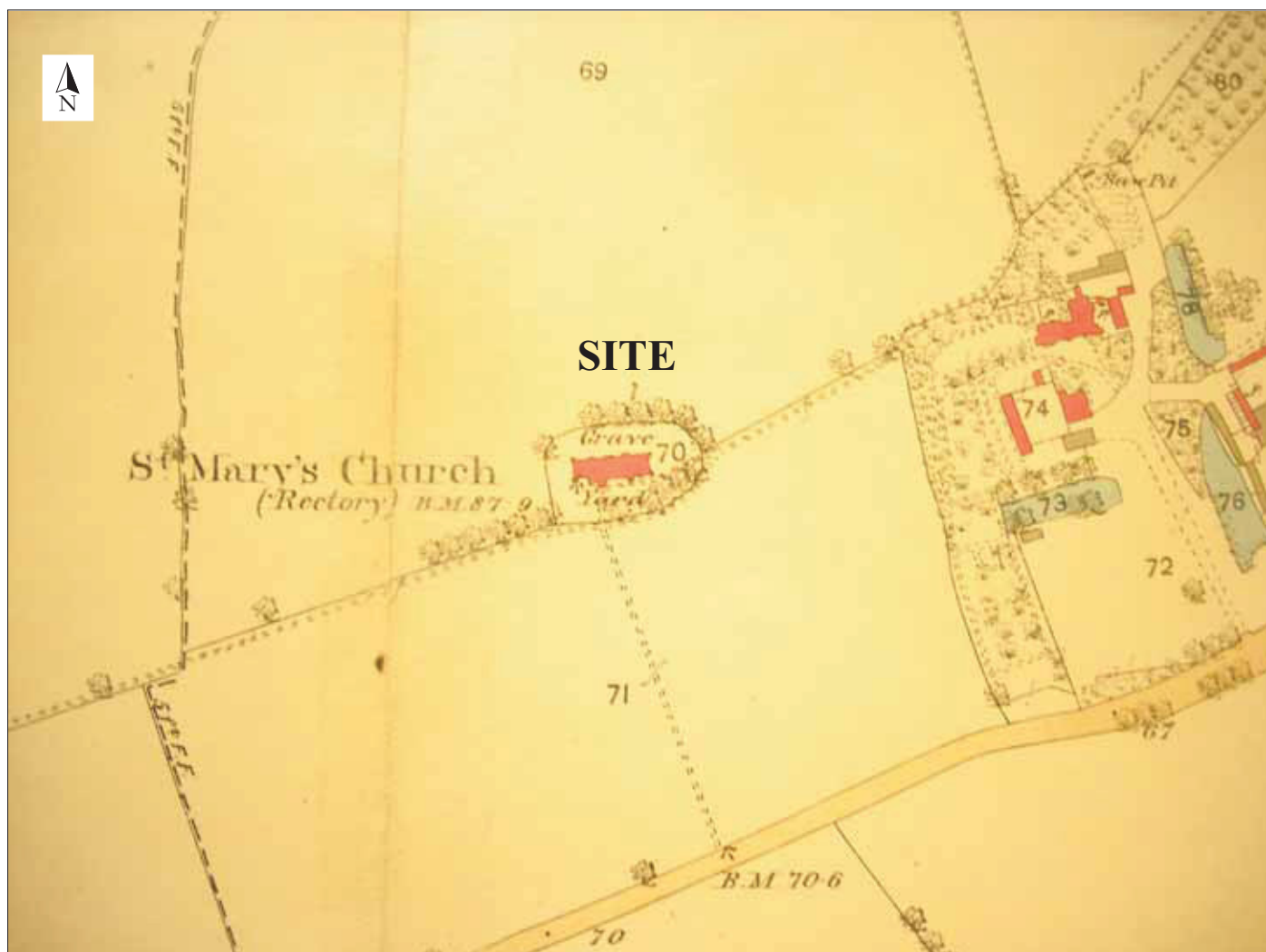
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 HER data
 Scale 1:10,500 at A4



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Fig. 4 Chapman & Andre, 1777
Not to scale



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 5 Tithe map, c.1840
Not to scale



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Fig. 6 OS map, 1881
Not to scale



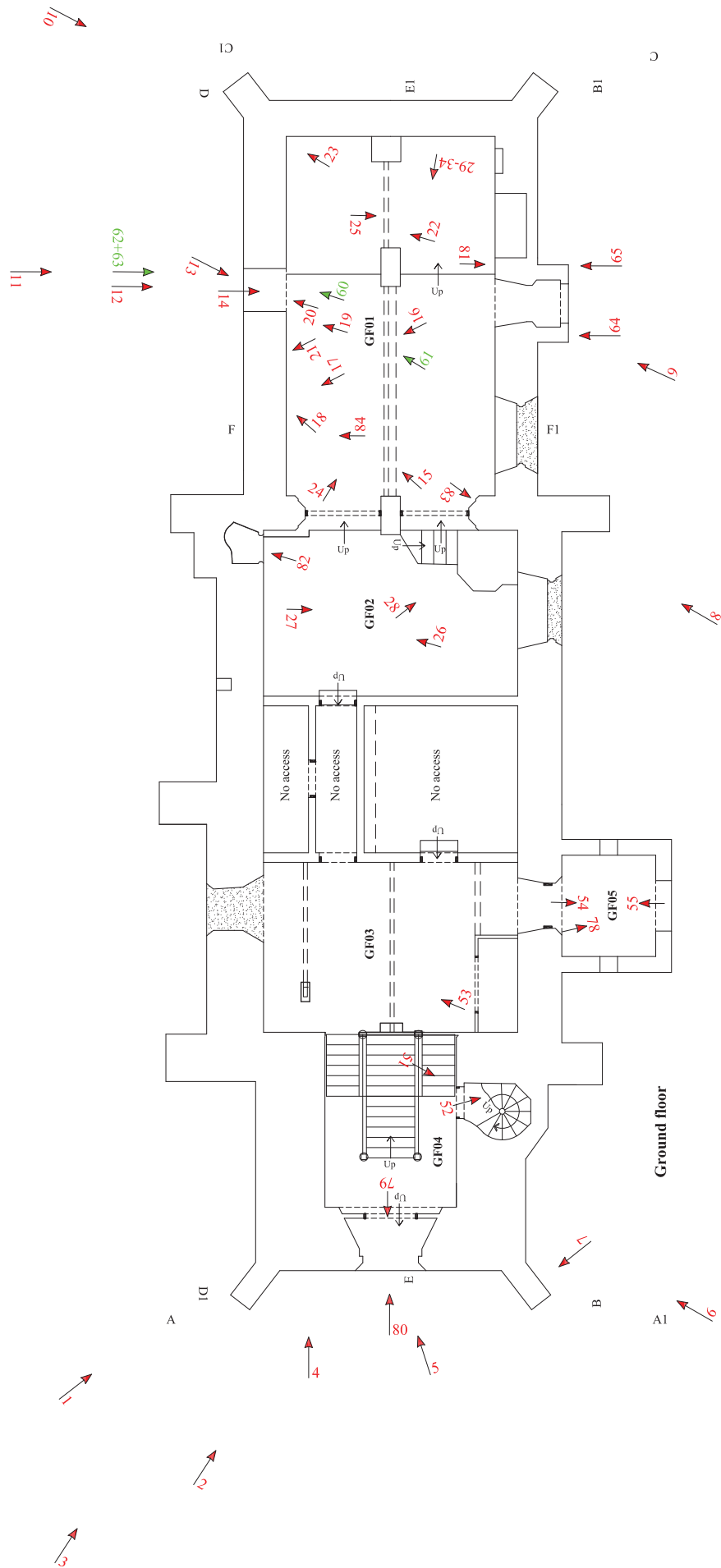
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Fig. 7 OS map, 1897
Not to scale



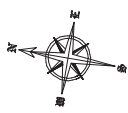
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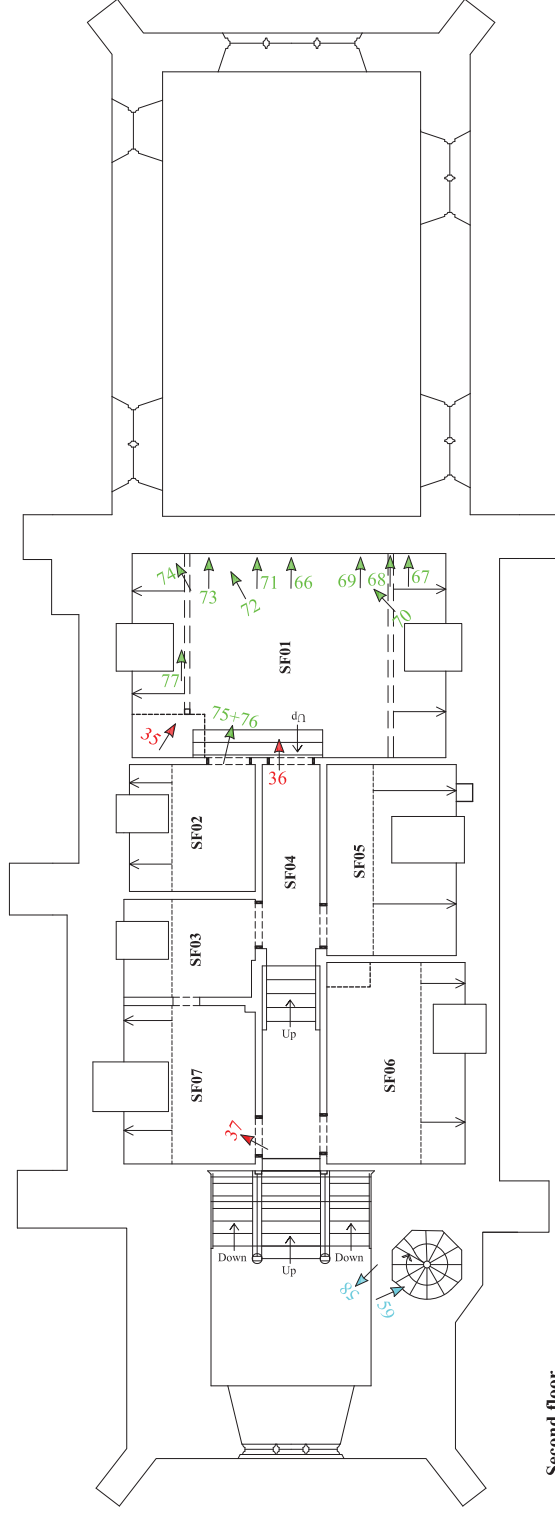
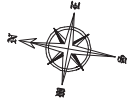
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 8 OS map, 1923
Not to scale



1 Photographic location

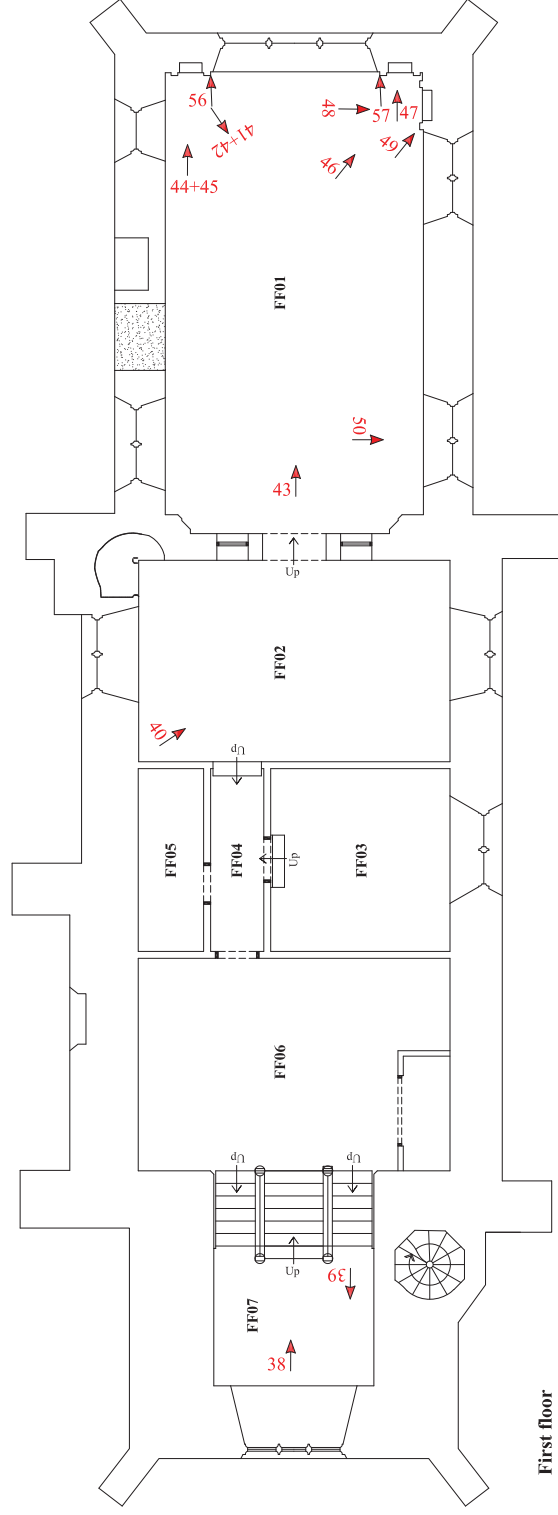
1 Photograph taken during planned works





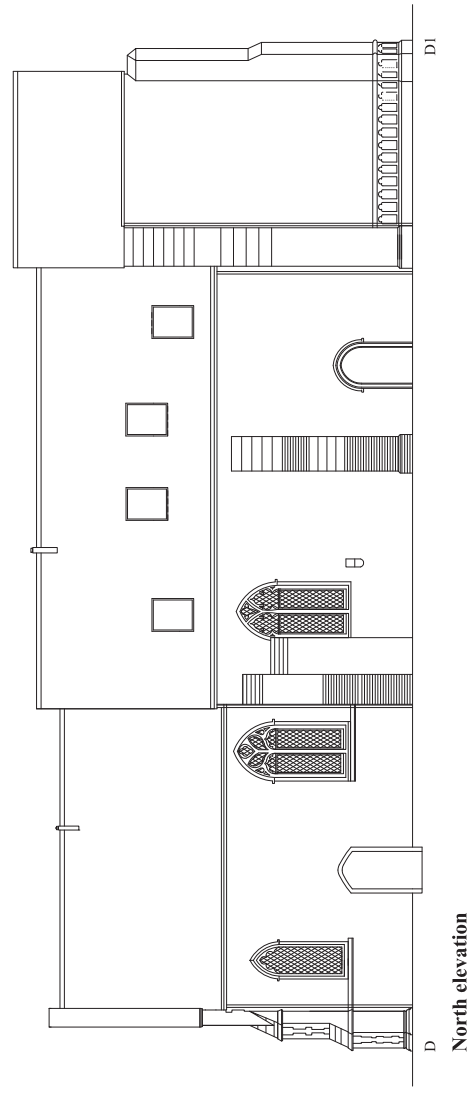
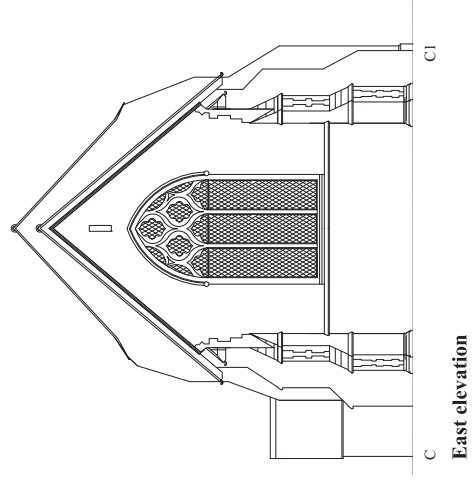
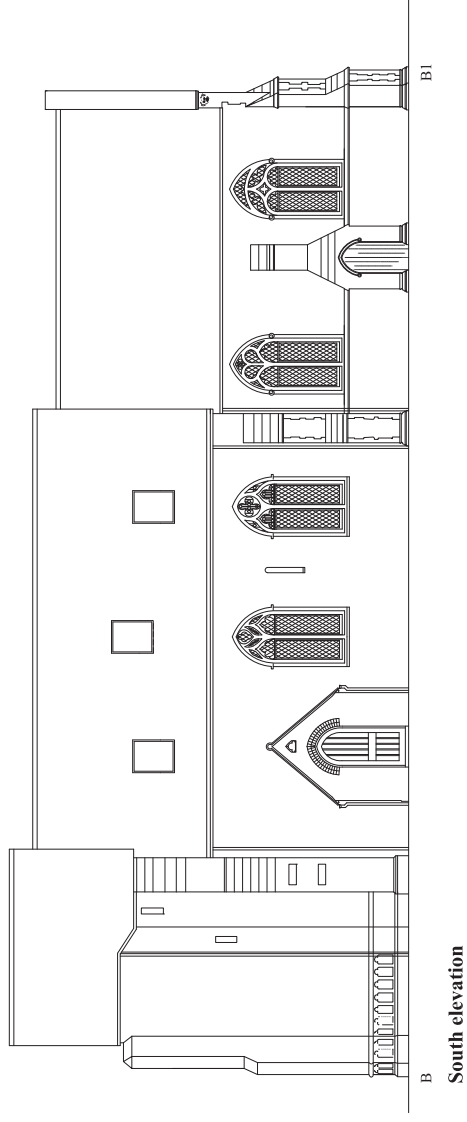
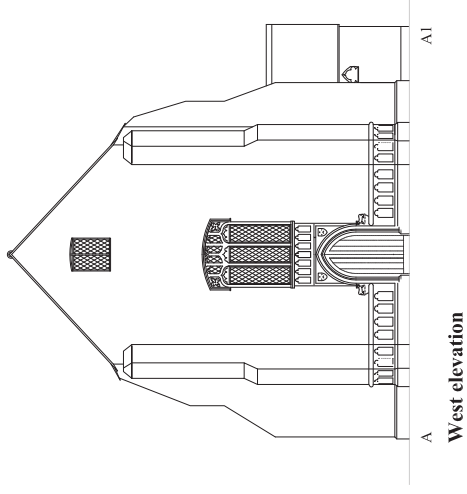
Second floor

- Photograph taken during planned works
- Photographic location at attic floor level
- Photographic location



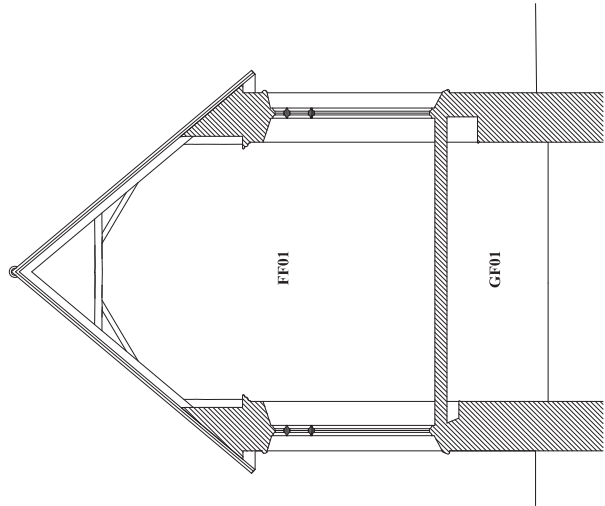
First floor







Long section



Cross-section

