

**CHURCH OF ST BOTOLPH,
IKEN, SUFFOLK**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

CHURCH OF ST BOTOLPH,
IKEN, SUFFOLK

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

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NGR: TM 0265 6235		Report No: 3592
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Approved: C Halpin MIFA		Project No: 3499
Signed:		Date: July 2010

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Church of St Botolph, Iken, Suffolk: A Historic Building Recording</i>		
<p><i>Botolph, or Botulf (d.680) was an East Anglian saint who founded his own monastery at 'Icanho' in around 654 after studying on the Continent, most probably at Chelles in Frankia. It is widely accepted that Iken is the site of 'Icanho', though Boston 'Botolph's Stone' in Lincolnshire remains a possible contender. Excavations in the 1970s revealed an earlier timber structure on the site, although not exactly following the line of the existing church, while a large fragment of a Saxon cross, now displayed within the church provides further evidence of the importance of the site in the Anglo-Saxon period. The 'ho' element of the early place-name, indicating a spur of land, is also fairly compelling.</i></p> <p><i>The overall impression gained by analysis is that the nave walls are substantially as constructed with the usual enlargements for more fashionable windows and repairs occurring over time. A firm date is more difficult to ascribe, however, though the evidence broadly supports the 12th century. Other features are noteworthy and of interest, including the possible location of putlog holes, some discrete repair and probable partial reconstruction at the west end, associated with the raising of the tower in the 15th or early 16th century.</i></p> <p><i>Much of the render now surviving is probably of 18th or 19th century date, but it overlies areas of repair or possible sections of medieval pointing and render. Some is associated with the introduction of new windows and doors (Phase 2) in small, discrete patches, while Phase 3 could represent remnants of surviving medieval render, but equally could be later repair. Insufficient areas are exposed to be certain.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>9th-11th and 14th June 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>3499</i>	Site code	
Type of project	<i>HBR</i>		
Site status	<i>Grade II listed building</i>		
Current land use			
Planned development	<i>Conservation work including repairs and re-rendering to the nave walls</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Suffolk</i>	<i>Suffolk Coastal</i>	<i>Iken</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Suffolk HER (Bury St Edmunds)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>-</i>		
NGR	<i>TM 4120 5664</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>10m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Suffolk County Council Archaeology</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>T Collins, L Prosser</i>		
Funded by	<i>St Botolph, Iken PCC</i>		
Full title	<i>Church of St Botolph, Iken, Suffolk. A Historic Building Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Collins, T., Henry, K., Prosser, L. & Thompson, P.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3592</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2010</i>		

CHURCH OF ST BOTOLPH, IKEN, SUFFOLK, HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

Botolph, or Botulf (d.680) was an East Anglian saint who founded his own monastery at 'Icanho' in around 654 after studying on the Continent, most probably at Chelles in Frankia. It is widely accepted that Iken is the site of 'Icanho', though Boston 'Botolph's Stone' in Lincolnshire remains a possible contender. Excavations in the 1970s revealed an earlier timber structure on the site, although not exactly following the line of the existing church, while a large fragment of a Saxon cross, now displayed within the church provides further evidence of the importance of the site in the Anglo-Saxon period. The 'ho' element of the early place-name, indicating a spur of land is also fairly compelling.

The overall impression gained by analysis is that the nave walls are substantially as constructed with the usual enlargements for more fashionable windows and repairs occurring over time. A firm date is more difficult to ascribe, however, though the evidence broadly supports the 12th century. Other features are noteworthy and of interest, including the possible location of putlog holes, some discrete repair and probable partial reconstruction at the west end, associated with the raising of the tower in the 15th or early 16th century.

Much of the render now surviving is probably of 18th or 19th century date, but it overlies areas of repair or possible sections of medieval pointing and render. Some is associated with the introduction of new windows and doors (Phase 2) in small, discrete patches, while Phase 3 could represent remnants of surviving medieval render, but equally could be later repair. Insufficient areas are exposed to be certain.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted a programme of historic building recording at the church of St Botolph, Iken, Suffolk (NGR TM 4120 5664 Fig. 1). The investigation was commissioned by The Whitworth Co-Partnership LLP on behalf of the PCC, in advance of undertaking conservation works including re-rendering and repairs to the north and south nave walls. The project includes the initial recording of the nave walls in their existing form and subsequent monitoring during re-rendering and repair. This latter information will be incorporated into the report when this phase of work takes place.

1.2 The investigation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Archaeological Advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (Mr Bob Carr, and email advice (dated 26/05/2010) and a specification prepared by AS (dated 27/05/2010), and approved by the Archaeological Advisor to the DAC.

The historic building recording adhered to the document *Understanding Historic Buildings; a guide to good recording practice*, English Heritage 2006. It also conformed to the IfA *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2008)*, and the relevant technical standards in the document *Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage (2000)*.

1.3 The principal aims of the project were to provide a systematic drawn and photographic record of the north and south nave walls, with more detailed recording, including stone-by-stone drawing, carried out in those areas where fabric is to be taken down and rebuilt. These areas essentially include on the north nave wall the upper half of the west bay and the upper area of the central bay, along with discrete areas where consolidation of the surviving render may result in fabric loss. The recording of the south nave wall, by contrast, was limited to outline drawings to supplement the photographic recording including elements of historic interest, along with more detailed recording of the upper left quadrant of the west bay. A written description and analysis of the fabric and its context within the building was also required.

1.4 Monitoring works during repair and re-rendering will be carried out at a later date and additional information gathered will be added to the written, drawn and photographic record.

Planning policy context

1.5 The archaeological works were carried out as part of a Faculty consent for the works with a condition for archaeological mitigation.

1.6 The building recording was carried out to Level 3 as defined in the English Heritage document *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*, 2006 and the Royal Commission's *Recording Historic Buildings: A descriptive specification 3rd edition*, RCHME 1996. It was also carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (revised 2008). The relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Paper 14/ALGAO (Gurney 2003) and the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (revised 2008) were also followed.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Fig. 1 and 2)

2.1 Iken is a small village located in the east of Suffolk and on the north side of a predominantly rural and fairly isolated landscape, bounded by the estuary of river Alde to the north, the river Ore to the south and by a large expanse of forest which separates this area from the rest of the county. The watercourses combine to the east where they are divided from the sea by a narrow strip of marshland.

2.2 St Botolph's church overlooks the river Alde and was formerly located on an island separated by marshland. It is enclosed by a 19th century brick boundary wall to the north, with hedging and trees surrounding a large church yard to the south.

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based research)

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the project.

3.1 Archaeological databases

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot finds within Suffolk comes from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER). In order to provide a representative sample, the HER database was searched for all known entries within an approximate 500m radius of the site. These are listed (Appendices 1 and 2) and plotted below (Figure 3). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

The principal source for these types of evidence was the Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich.

3.3 Secondary sources

The principal sources of secondary material were the Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich as well as AS's own reference library. All sources, including websites, are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Geological/geotechnical information

A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps based on the work of the British Geological Survey.

3.5 METHODOLOGY (Archaeological recording of historic structure)

3.5.1 The site was visited on the 9th-11th and 14th June 2010 in order to compile descriptions of the building and undertake the drawing and photographic work. Tansy Collins and Lee Prosser compiled the written descriptions, and Kathren Henry and Tansy Collins completed the drawing work and photographic survey.

3.5.2 Outline drawings of both the north and south nave walls were produced, with full-face measured elevations of the relevant sections of both nave walls have been produced where appropriate (Fig 10).

3.5.3 The photographic recording was conducted 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. 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.

3.5.4 Both the north and south nave walls had a 1m² string grid imposed upon each face and additional detailed photographic recording included a series of photographs taken square on to the wall fabric and includes lengths no greater than 5m in each frame with a minimum overlap of 2m between each frame. A pictorial index of the digital photography with selected colour plates are included below together with location plots (Fig. 11). A scaffold tower was used to access the wall faces for recording.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 The soils of the parish are mixed, and described as either deep well drained sandy, often ferruginous soils with wind and water erosion, or deep calcareous and non calcareous clay soils with localised peat deposits, and prone to flooding in flat lands (Goult 1990). The church is situated at 10m AOD on an area of raised ground.

4.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 3)

Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)

4.2.1 No prehistoric remains have been found within 500m of the church bar possible salt working commencing in the Early Iron Age (IKN 050).

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

4.2.2 A 'Red hill' comprising reddish-brown soil 100m by 60m located 300m east of the church is the product of briquetage and burnt clay created during salt making (IKN 050). This may date back as far as the Early Iron Age.

Saxon (AD 410-1066)

4.2.3 It is likely that three churches have stood on the site, the first two being

Saxon. The first was one of the earliest churches in Suffolk founded, according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, in 654 by St Botolph. It was a timber building possibly dedicated to St Martin as St Botolph later founded another church near the Thames dedicated to that saint. Botolph made several missionary journeys and his fame and influence spread throughout the British Isles and across the North Sea. Consequently after his death in 680 he was buried on the site and later achieved canonisation and sainthood. The Middle Saxon church was destroyed in the late 9th century by the Vikings. In the reign of King Edgar (959-975) there was a revival of church building and a second church was probably built on the site at this time, although Saint Botolph's bones were removed by bishop Ethelwold of Winchester between 963 and 975 for reburial at *Grundisburgh*.

4.2.4 In 1977 excavation at Iken church found part of a Saxon cross shaft in the base of the medieval tower believed to be 9th century. It is suggested as either a marker commemorating the destroyed Middle Saxon church, or else a surviving relic of the postulated Late Saxon church. The excavation, in the nave and between its north wall and the churchyard wall, identified beam slots from a timber building on a slightly differing alignment to the existing church, and also grave cuts which predate 1070 (IKN 007 – MSN 1729). The timber building relates either to the first church or the postulated second church, whilst Middle Saxon pottery recovered shows evidence of occupation in that period. Further burials are known beyond the north end of the churchyard wall which could be Saxon, but may also represent medieval interments on unconsecrated ground.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

4.2.5 The church is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey for the parish of Iken, but is believed to come under one of the two churches for the parish of Sudbourne. According to Alastair Davis (although his source is not quoted) 'the advowson of the church of St Botolph in Iken was given by William Bovile to the priory of Eye in 1087, and this fact, notwithstanding that no mention of Iken or its church occurs in Domesday, is evidence of a church here at that date'. The fees were not assigned to Norman lords until after 1075, and it also seems less likely that they would have named the Norman church after St Botolph, a Saxon saint, unless the dedication already existed in the name of a contemporary church.

4.2.6 The existing (third) Church of St Botolph is Grade II listed and comprises three main parts, the nave, chancel and tower (IKN 007 – MSF1730). The original nave is constructed in flint and septaria with later alterations and the chancel and chancel arch are recorded as originally Norman, but rebuilt in the later medieval period before again becoming ruinous after the Reformation. Between 1176 and 1297 the church was owned by the d'Esturmy family who were responsible for much of its building.

4.2.7 The embattled west tower dates to the mid 15th century and the south porch was also added in this century with the nave re-roofed and the present font installed. At this time an image of the Virgin Mary stood within

the chancel, probably in the niche at the south side of the chancel arch. On the north wall of the chancel was a painting of Mary Magdalene wiping the feet of the lord with her hair. Money was bestowed to repair the candle-beam and paint images of St Mary and St John at the Rood. Embellishments such as the Rood and wall paintings were destroyed or covered over in the 16th century.

Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)

4.2.8 A timber jetty, set on older iron bound wheels, is located 100m south-west of St Botolphs Church at The Anchorage (IKN 022). Undated oyster pits have been identified in the salt marsh to the north and south of the site (IKN 070 and IKN 093), while an undated line of posts are located some 250m to the south (IKN 021).

4.2.9 The church chancel was rebuilt in 1862, but shorter than the original, and faced in Kentish Ragstone. A fire in 1968 destroyed the nave roof and this portion of the building remained open to the elements for 20 years until a new thatched roof was added.

4.3 The site

4.3.1 The 1804 Inclosure map did not include the church and the c.1840 Tithe map is a Photostat copy that does not show the field boundaries or any other details except for the church plan (Fig. 4). The Apportionment records that all the plots around the church (313-316) were owned by the Reverend Christopher J. Baldrey and occupied by Robert Culham. The church and churchyard (plot 314) is classed as pasture and the field to the north (plot 315) is named Chancel Piece. The 1882 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 5) shows the church and graveyard in plot 434 and the 1926-8 Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 6 and 7) and the 6 inch 1957 OS map (Fig 8) show no changes since the 1882 map.

5 THE CHURCH

5.1 The church (Plate 1) as it now stands is the result of several periods of rebuilding, restoration and repair. The nave is the most ancient element and is rendered over a masonry core with a steeply pitched thatched roof. This was replaced in the late 1980s after a fire, following which the building lay roofless for a period. More recent interventions are also present in the form of crudely applied cement rendered buttresses, one of which is known to obscure a Romanesque window. The south porch and west tower date from the late 15th or early 16th century, constructed of knapped and coursed flintwork with limestone dressings, and having a plinth, parapet and buttresses decorated with flushwork. Bricks present in the porch are typically Tudor in form, measuring 9" x 3½" x 2¼" (229mm x 89mm x 57mm), though the gable above the door was rebuilt in the 19th century. The chancel was rebuilt in

c.1862 in the Decorated style with coursed squared ragstone blocks and a peg-tile roof.

5.2 Decay and exposure to the elements following the unroofing of the nave has affected the north and south external walls, exposing the underlying masonry in places and requiring repair (Plate 2 and 3). The original construction appears to comprise large dressed and coursed blocks of Septaria, interspersed with courses of rounded flint cobbles. It is unclear how prevalent this was as there is little discernible regularity. The Septaria blocks have suffered from frost damage, and are extensively cracked and fractured, making them difficult to trace in some areas.

5.3 The north and south external nave walls were examined closely. Both sides are punctuated by three heavy rendered buttresses which follow no structural logic, but are useful for descriptive purposes and are noted as bays in the description below. This begins on the north side with the west bay adjoining the tower, noted on Fig. 9.

Render Analysis

5.4 Several identifiable types of lime mortars and render provide important contextual information for the study, and small samples were taken from secure contexts, allowing the recognition of five main variable types, with a number of intermediate discrete areas of repair.

Phase 1

5.5 The primary mortar type appears well-distributed throughout the wall fabric, both at the base and higher level, and penetrating deeply into the masonry where it is clearly part of the original construction. It comprises a very granular yellow buff-coloured matrix with traces of burnt shell and small flint gravel, but no visible chalk fragments.

Phase 2

5.6 This was found most securely associated with the north door, similar to Phase 1 but containing a much higher proportion of chalk and is perhaps a little darker in hue. This appears to be associated with the insertion of that doorway, see below.

Phase 3

5.7 Phase 3 is a render which appears to comprise a series of repairs visible in discrete patches on both the north and south nave walls. This is a off-white in colour, with few inclusions. It could be late-medieval or post-medieval.

Phase 4

5.8 This render comprises the most complete survival on both the north and south nave walls and comprises a base coat over which a thin float or finishing coat (Phase 5) has been applied. This has a moderate proportion of chalk and flint fragments, associated with the use of roof tiles as a damp-proof course, and with the former brick plinth, now removed. It may be 19th century, and is clearly later than Phase 3.

Phase 5

5.9 This fabric appears to be a finishing coat for the previous render layer; it is of a similar consistency, i.e. with fragments of chalk and flint, but thin, and provided a homogenous appearance.

Phase 6

5.10 This is principally seen in Bay 1 of the north nave wall and probably comprises a Victorian or later repair in Portland or Roman cement containing flint pebbles.

Phase 7

5.11 This phase encompasses a number of different cement-based repairs, all of which are modern and are therefore not distinguished. A band of cement over expanded steel mesh extends at high level associated with the new roof, and similar additions are associated with the buttresses. Around the windows patches of cement repair or re-rendering are also visible.

North nave wall

Bay 1

5.12 Bay 1 is a short panel at the west end which terminates with limestone quoins which are part of the 15th or 16th century tower construction. At its base where a later attached plinth has been removed the lower walling is constructed of squared and dressed Septaria blocks, laid in even courses with some flint. Most of the visible mortar comprises a buff-coloured pure lime medium with a few inclusions, probably of Phase 4. Above this, much of the stonework is obscured by later layers of lime render, but throughout, large Septaria blocks emerge in rough courses. Marine pebbles and flint cobbles also appear in places in the intermediate courses. Close to the quoins several blocks of coralline crag have been incorporated into the wall. This may be related to the tower phase. Other materials include a single block of limestone, with some smaller fragments elsewhere. The upper courses, where visible behind the later render associated with the addition of the roof, comprise Septaria blocks, now fairly loose and poorly mortared. Also at this level a number of bricks are visible of 16th century date with one of 19th / 20th century date (Plate 4).

5.13 At least three layers of render can be discerned with occasional areas of repair. Little of the primary mortar is visible and the earliest layer appears to comprise the pure white lime render (Phase 3) adjoining one of the lower quoins. Phase 4 render covers much of the panel from approximately 1.2m in height and includes fragments of roof tile pressed into the surface. This is overlain in places with the fine Phase 5 finishing coat. An area of repair in the upper corner appears to comprise Portland cement containing flint pebbles, most probably a Victorian or later repair. At upper level is a distinct break which may reflect the earlier presence of a timber fascia board, which has been inadequately replaced with cement over expanded steel mesh, and falls short of the original covering.

5.14 A piece of limestone may mark a possible putlog hole at approximately mid-height to the east adjacent to the buttress. This sits in-line with two possible putlog holes in Bay 3 although the evidence is not particularly convincing.

Bay 2

5.15 This area frames the north door, preserving its two-centred chamfered arch of fine-grained, well-dressed Caen stone. The arch springer includes a reused limestone block with an earlier roll-moulding. The threshold has been built up slightly with yellow brick extending beneath the existing render blocking. This is hard and cementitious, and was scored before the final coat of softer lime render was applied, possibly in the 18th century. Immediately above a fairly disturbed area of un-coursed limestone packing may demonstrate the location of an earlier window or a taller original door in this position.

5.16 The wall structure is similar to the adjoining area, with the removal of the later brick plinth exposing courses of squared *Septaria* and flint. This is most coherent to the east of the doorway (Plate 5). Above this, some coursing is discernible, but without systematic regularity. However, this lack of coherence could be attributed to the various stages of repair along with the limited visibility caused by the surviving render layers. The render is well preserved to a level of approximately 1.6 m, consisting of the Phase 5 finishing coat over Phase 4 render. The base layer survives well, with a series of complete roof tiles, which were pressed into the wet render, and then obscured behind the final coat. This stands proud of the door dressings and at lower level appears associated with the application of the plinth. The tiling course appears to continue for two or three courses above the height of the plinth, and this has perhaps facilitated the high survival in this area. Above, much more fragmentary tiles have been pressed into the render as a key but little of the finishing coat survives. In the upper area, render survives in recesses in the wall fabric.

5.17 At upper level (Plate 6) the exposed masonry is coursed with *Septaria* and flints, with Phase 1 primary mortar. In addition 17th or 18th century brick has been used in places as a repair.

5.18 Some disturbance is visible around the door where a variation in mortar type is visible which appears to be associated with the insertion of the doorway. This is present particularly on the west jamb and comprises Phase 2 type described above. This is of a similar form to the original Phase 1 mortar, with a similar volume of inclusions although here a much darker buff-colouring. It is clearly overlain by the later Phase 4 render undercoat.

Bay 3

5.19 This bay frames two windows; a small, single-light Romanesque lancet and a large 15th century window with two lights and trefoil head to a four-centred arch with a drip-mould. The window is constructed of Caen stone, all elements with hollow chamfering, although the central mullion has been replaced in a shelly limestone. Immediately below the sill is a course of three or four yellow Flemish bricks which measure 4¼" x 2" (108mm x 51mm). The jambs, particularly to the west, are packed with fairly small fragments and some 15th or 16th century brick, suggesting insertion into the surrounding masonry.

5.20 Adjacent to the east, the Romanesque window (Plate 7) has a semi-circular head and wide dressed jambs. The aperture is blocked with 16th century brick which is pointed with a mortar of fairly pure lime (not phased). A series of sockets in the stonework preserve remnants of iron fixtures, probably for protective bars, while tooling marks are also features of interest.

5.21 The lower courses of the wall fabric behind the former plinth presents the dressed Septaria and intermediate flint cobbled flint courses as elsewhere, while the mortar here contains a high proportion of shell. The line of the former plinth is well-delineated by the surviving Phase 5 mortar, and as in the neighbouring area apparently covers pressed tiles, although this cannot be ascertained with certainty as the mortar survives in good condition, particularly to the east. However, large blocks of Septaria are occasionally exposed together with a few pieces of limestone and some possibly 16th century over-fired brick. The pier between the two windows has been packed with 19th century brick. Fletton brick has also been used extensively at the junction with the west buttress.

5.22 Two putlog holes can be traced, though one is fairly indeterminate. The western example is framed by Septaria blocks and a limestone head, infilled by brick and limey mortar similar to the infill of the lancet (Plate 8). The eastern example is mostly obscured but shows physical similarities in being topped with a limestone block.

Bay 4

5.23 This is a final short section of the nave terminating at a ragstone buttress contemporary with the chancel. Only c.1m of the wall fabric survives at lower level (Plate 9) as the upper area has been entirely replaced with 20th century pink Fletton bricks laid in stretcher bond immediately behind the former rood stair, which survives within the church. The lower courses are of

dressed Septaria with flint cobble courses. At the junction with the buttress, a fragment of the earlier brick plinth survives, of similar form to the adjoining boundary wall and porch gable, so possibly 19th century.

South nave wall

Bay 1

5.24 The western bay, between the porch and the end of the nave, is much less consistent than its northern counterpart and appears to have been substantially repaired or rebuilt. Fewer blocks of Septaria are visible and instead a higher proportion of bricks and flint cobbles is present. At lower level the applied plinth has been removed revealing close-packed flint and brick fragments. The lower half of the panel is principally covered in the Phase 4 render, with the characteristic roof tiles pressed into the wet render, all latterly covered by the final coat (Phase 5). At upper level (Plate 10) there is a fairly even distribution of shelly limestone blocks and flint but the area mostly comprises brick and tile. This is notable at high level where a section of 16th / 17th brickwork is visible, the form suggesting this section of repair is a little later than the brickwork to the porch buttresses. The upper left corner is made up of modern packing and coursed cobbles below the section of render associated with the roof. The evidence suggests this whole panel was rebuilt, perhaps with the addition of the tower, and has undergone various later repairs.

Bay 3

5.25 Bay 2 is the porch. Bay 3 (Plate 11) frames a window which lies hard against the flanking wall of the porch. It is of lancet form with jambs of fine limestone, although it has apparently been re-made at the head. As elsewhere the plinth has been removed to reveal two course of Septaria, while above at window sill height further courses are discernable. Some evidence survives of the flint cobble courses seen on the north side between courses of Septaria although here it does not appear so coherently expressed. Most of the visible pointing is primary (Phase 1), over which the Phase 4 render has been applied, complete with fragments of tiles to even-up and key the surface for the finishing coat which survives in places. Elsewhere discrete patches of the purer white Phase 3 render is visible.

5.26 Generally this bay appears to survive with less coherence, although analysis is hindered by the substantial break-up of the Septaria blocks along with the later render layers. Here and there later renders are visible, predominantly modern and belonging to the Phase 7 render grouping.

Bay 4

5.27 This bay (Plate 12) is the final bay of the nave wall and terminates with a concrete buttress at the east end. A window off-centre in this bay has been entirely remade in modern shelly limestone.

5.28 A substantial area of render survives, although the removal of the plinth reveals two courses of Septaria as elsewhere. Some coralline crag is present; two blocks at low level in a gap in the render and a number of smaller or shattered pieces at high level above the window head.

5.29 Some primary mortar is visible, along with patches of the Phase 3 render. However, the predominant render layer is the Phase 4 fabric containing pressed tiles and some of the finishing coat (Phase 5) surviving in places. Elsewhere modern render is associated with the addition of the buttress and the roof repair, with an additional modern patch which has been keyed in preparation for a finishing coat and is associated with the replaced window. Traces of a fine lime-wash finish can be seen adjoining the east buttress although this cannot be ascribed to a particular phase.

Interior

5.30 The internal elevations of the nave walls were briefly inspected to provide corroborative information for the external construction. In general, both north and south sides, which are partly exposed, are generally consistent with the external form, having regular courses of Septaria, though the flintwork is not as consistent. Both walls are punctuated at high level by four regularly-spaced shaped corbels. These perhaps carried the earlier roof.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The overall impression gained by analysis is that the nave walls are substantially as constructed with the usual enlargements for more fashionable windows and repairs occurring over time. A firm date is more difficult to ascribe, however, though the evidence broadly supports the 12th century. The surviving round-headed window could be 11th century, but in small rural churches such forms were conservative and lasted well into the 12th. The general construction is typically of squared Septaria blocks with intermediate courses of flint cobbles. Though in the middle sections, this coherence disappears behind render and repair, in the upper parts of the wall panels it reappears. Notable similarities in form occur at nearby Orford Castle, both with regard to this method of construction, the colour and consistency of the mortar and the presence of coralline crag. At Iken however this stone, like the limestone tends to be erratic.

6.2 Other features are noteworthy and of interest, including the possible location of putlog holes, some discrete repair and probable partial reconstruction at the west end, associated with the raising of the tower in the 15th or early 16th century.

6.3 Much of the render now surviving is probably of 18th or 19th century date, but it overlies areas of repair or possible sections of medieval pointing and render. Some is associated with the introduction of new windows and doors (Phase 2) in small, discrete patches, while Phase 3 could represent

remnants of surviving medieval render, but equally could be later repair. Insufficient areas are exposed to be certain.

6.4 The fairly late date of the predominant render is given a secure context by its relationship with a brick plinth, planted on to the medieval masonry, which was latterly stripped off. Fortuitously, a few fragments survive bonded into the 19th century ragstone buttress of the chancel, and are clearly of 18th or 19th century date in fabric and size. Both mortar impression marks for these bricks against the lower walling, and the matrix used to press whole roof tiles onto the walls above it are of this form; the tiles were clearly used to bring the wall surface to a slight overhang to aid run-off of moisture and prevent damp. The application of the Phase 4 render was comprehensive but generally left the odd brick or stone exposed. This was then flushed over with a thin, finishing coat (Phase 5) which gave the nave walls a homogenous appearance. As would be expected, much of this last coat has been lost and what remains is very unstable. This is normal, however as under a traditional cycle of repair, the top coat could be replaced repeatedly, thus preserving the more substantial lower layers intact.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 In recent times, St. Botolph's Church has experienced several ill-advised repairs with unsympathetic materials such as cement, and the unexplained stripping of the brick plinth, following the disastrous fire which removed the deep protective overhang of the thatch and exposed the ancient render to frost and rain. This has accelerated decay to the point where the existing render is now failing and the underlying masonry is also suffering. Much of the surviving render is perhaps only Victorian in date, but it belongs to a timeless and proven tradition which has protected the fabric for the past 900 years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS would like to thank Mr Tony Redman of The Whitworth Co-Partnership LLP for commissioning the project and for his assistance, and the St Botolph PCC for funding the works.

AS would also like to acknowledge the kind assistance of the main contractor, Mr John Hogg of R & J Hogg Ltd.

Thanks also go to Dr. Colin Pendleton of Suffolk HER and the staff at Ipswich Record Office.

AS would also like to acknowledge Mr Bob Carr, Archaeological Advisor to the DAC, for all his advice and input throughout.

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WEB SITE

Heritage Gateway.org.uk

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a c. 500m radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER).

SHER Number IKN	National Grid Reference TM	Details
<i>Roman AD 43-410</i>		
IKN 050	41530 56639	Salt works: early Iron Age to Roman 'red hill' c.300m east of St Botolph's church
<i>Saxon 410-1066</i>		
IKN 007 – MSF1729	4120 5664	Monastery of St Botolph: In 1977 an excavation between the north wall and the churchyard wall found an Anglo-Saxon cross built into a corner at the base of the tower. Evidence for an earlier pre-Norman church was found in beam slots and grave cuts and sherds of Middle Saxon pottery were recovered. Iken church provides the strongest evidence for the site of St Botolph's monastery mentioned under 653 in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as <i>Icanho</i> .
<i>Medieval 1066-1539</i>		
IKN 007 – MSF1730	4120 5664	Church of Botolph: Grade II listed. Most of the church is early 14 th to early 16 th with the chancel built in the 19 th century. A Saxon cross shaft was found under the nave floor.
<i>Post-medieval 1540-1900</i>		
IKN 022	41145 56563	Timber jetty set on older iron bound wheels at the Anchorage
IKN 047	44189 56050	Probable sea bank on the southern bank of the Alde
IKN 048	41189 56153	Probable sea bank near Iken Hall
SSNP 050	40543 56616	Flood defences and drainage built before 1837 and abandoned 1943
<i>Undated</i>		
IKN 021	41183 56417	Line of posts at the Anchorage
IKN 070	41396 56796	Oyster pits in salt marsh
IKN 071	42998 56189	Borrow pits dug to provide material for the sea bank
IKN 093	41182 56247	Oyster pits in salt marsh
SNP 047	40996 57079	Remains of possible causeway – spread of cobble stones
SNP 052	40731 56902	Probable oyster pits in the salt marsh opposite Iken church

APPENDIX 2 LISTED BUILDINGS

The following listed buildings are those that lie within c. 500m of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER).

Heritage Gateway Number	National Grid Reference (TM)	Name, Grade and Date
285156	4120 5664	Church of St Botolph: Grade II 12 th century but mainly rebuilt in the 14 th -16 th and 19 th centuries

APPENDIX 3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Figure	Date	Map	Scale	Source
1	Modern	Site location	1:25000	OS Explorer
2	Modern	Detailed site location	1:2000	Archaeological Solutions
3	Modern	HER information		Archaeological Solutions
4	c.1840	Tithe map:		Ipswich Record Office (P461/141)
5	1882	OS 1st edition	25 inch	Ipswich Record Office 60/14
6	c.1904	OS 2 nd edition	25 inch	Ipswich Record Office 60/14
7	1926-28	OS	25 inch	Ipswich Record Office 60/14
8	1957	OS	6 inch	Ipswich Record Office TM 45 NW

**APPENDIX 4
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET**

Site name and address:	<i>Church of St Botolph, Iken, Suffolk</i>
County: Suffolk	District: Suffolk Coastal
Village/Town: Iken	Parish: Iken
Planning application ref:	Faculty Consent
Client name/address/tel:	The Whitworth Co-Partnership LLP
Nature of application:	Repair and rebuilding to nave walls
Present land use:	Church
Size of application area: -	Size of area investigated -
NGR (8 figures):	TM 4120 5664
Site Code:	
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Limited
Type of work:	Archaeological building recording and monitoring and recording
Date of work:	June - July 2010
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Suffolk
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: 11 th /12 th – 19 th century with later repair
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	n/a
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>Botolph, or Botulf (d.680) was an East Anglian saint who founded his own monastery at 'Icanho' in around 654 after studying on the Continent, most probably at Chelles in Frankia. It is widely accepted that Iken is the site of 'Icanho', though Boston 'Botolph's Stone' in Lincolnshire remains a possible contender. Excavations in the 1970s revealed an earlier timber structure on the site, although not exactly following the line of the existing church, while a large fragment of a Saxon cross, now displayed within the church provides further proof for the importance of the site in the Anglo-Saxon period. The 'ho' element of the early place-name, indicating a spur of land is also fairly compelling.</i></p> <p><i>The overall impression gained by analysis is that the nave walls are substantially as constructed with the usual enlargements for more fashionable windows and repairs occurring over time. A firm date is more difficult to ascribe, however, though the evidence broadly supports the 12th century. Other features are noteworthy and of interest, including the possible location of putlog holes, some discrete repair and probable partial reconstruction at the west end, associated with the raising of the tower in the 15th or early 16th century.</i></p> <p><i>Much of the render now surviving is probably of 18th or 19th century date, but it overlies areas of repair or possible sections of medieval pointing and render. Some is associated with the introduction of new windows and doors (Phase 2) in small, discrete patches, while Phase 3 could represent remnants of surviving medieval render, but equally could be later repair. Insufficient areas are exposed to be certain.</i></p>
Author of summary: Tansy Collins	Date of Summary: July 2010

APPENDIX 5 HBR ARCHIVE FORM

Site Details							
Site Name: Church of St Botolph, Iken, Suffolk					NGR: TM 4120 5664		
County: Suffolk				Museum Collecting Area: Suffolk			
Site Code:				Project Number: 3499			
Date of Work: June-July 2010				Related Work: Monitoring and recording during repair			
Brief/s				Specification/s			
Date		Present		Date		Present	
n.d.		Yes		27 th May 2010		Yes	
Site Records (Description)							
11 sheets A4 notes							
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)							
2 sheets A1 draughting film							
Architect's Drawings:							
Digital Drawings							
Printouts of Drawings			Printouts of Data			Digital Data	
In report						Digital photographs and drawings on CD	
Reports							
Report No		Report Type				Present	
3592		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	1-6	Yes
2	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
3	120mm	1-15	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.							

PLATES



1 General view of the church, taken from the south-east (48)



2 Detail of south nave wall, Bay 1, taken from the south (37)



3 General view of the north elevation of the nave, taken from the north-east (39)



4 Detail of north nave wall, Bay 1, taken from the north (12)



5 Detail of north nave wall, Bay 2, taken from the north (36)



6 Detail of north nave wall, Bay 2, taken from the north (09)



7 Detail of original lancet window in Bay 3, north nave wall, taken from the north (43)



8 Putlog hole (P2) in Bay 3 north nave wall, taken from the north (41)



9 North nave wall, lower Bay 4, taken from north (01)



10 Detail of south nave wall, Bay 1, taken from the south (14)



11 South nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the south (15)



12 South nave wall, Bay 4, taken from the south (22)

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

North nave wall, lower Bay 4, taken from north



2

North nave wall, lower half Bay 3, taken from the north



3

North nave wall, upper half Bay 3, taken from the north



4

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the north



5

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the north



6

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the north



7

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the north



8

North nave wall, lower half Bay 2, taken from the north



9

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 2, taken from the north



10

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 2, taken from the north



11

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 1, taken from the north



12

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 1, taken from the north



13

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 1, taken from the south



14

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 1, taken from the south



15

South nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the south



16

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the south



17

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the east



18

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the south



19

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the south



20

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 4, taken from the south



21

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the south



22

South nave wall, Bay 4, taken from the south



23

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the north



24

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the north



25

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the north



26

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 2, taken from the north



27

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 2, taken from the north



28

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 2, taken from the north



29

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 1, taken from the north



30

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 1, taken from the south



31

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the south



32

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 3, taken from the south



33

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 4, taken from the south



34

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 4, taken from the north



35

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 2, taken from the north



36

Detail of north nave wall, Bay 2, taken from the north



37

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 1, taken from the south



38

View of the west end of the nave showing the tower on the left and porch on the right, taken from the south-west



39

General view of the north elevation of the nave, taken from the north-east



40

Possible putlog hole (P3) in Bay 1, north nave wall, taken from north



41

Putlog hole (P2) in Bay 3 north nave wall, taken from the north



42

Possible putlog hole (P1) in Bay 3, north nave wall, taken from the north



43
Detail of original lancet window in Bay 3, north nave wall, taken from the north



44
Internal façade of the north nave wall, taken from the south-west



45
Internal façade of the south nave wall, taken from the north-west



46
General view of the nave looking towards the chancel, taken from the west



47
General view of the nave looking towards the tower, taken from the east



48
General view of the church, taken from the south-east



49

View of the south porch, taken from the south



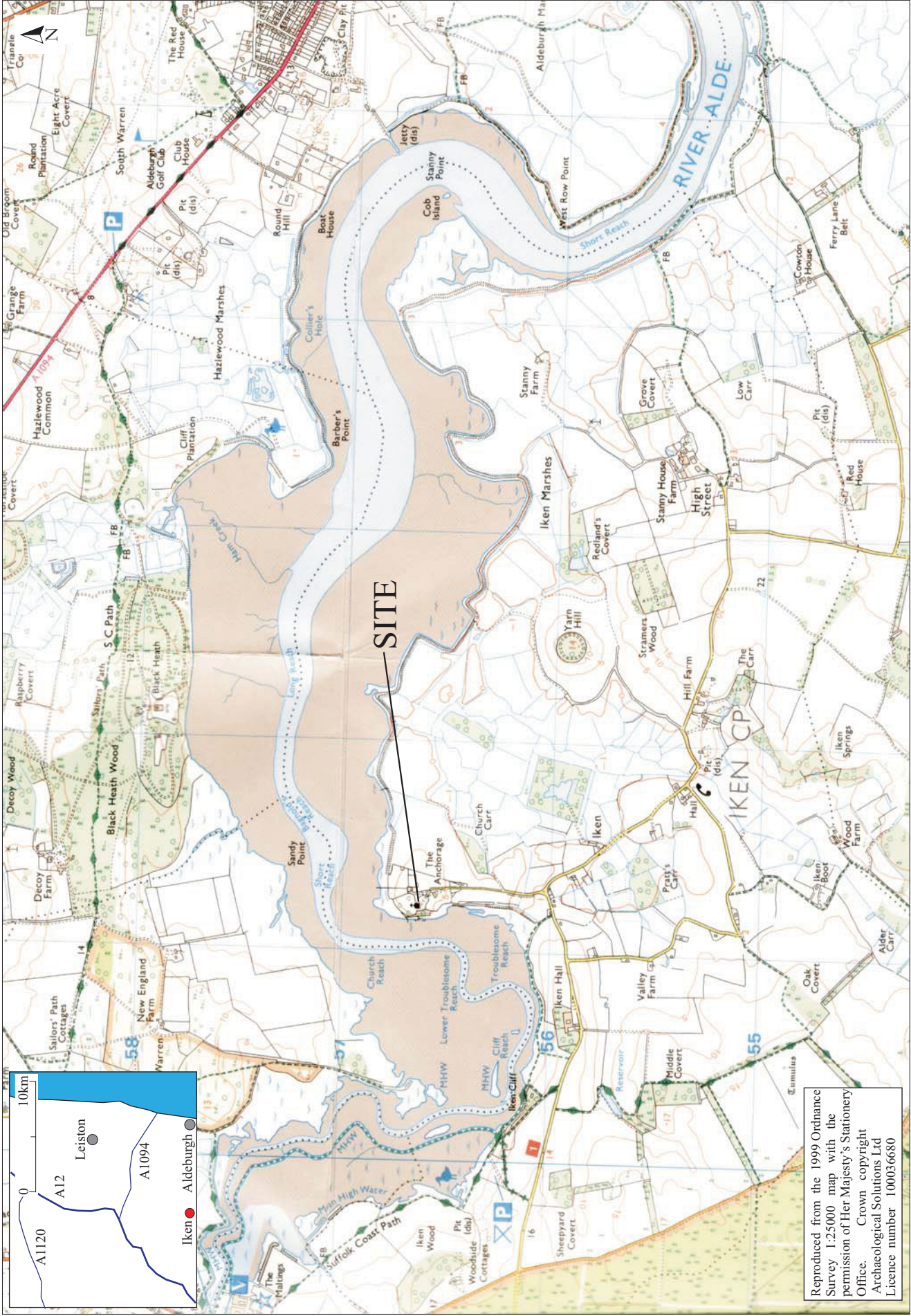
50

Detail of south nave wall, Bay 4, taken from the south



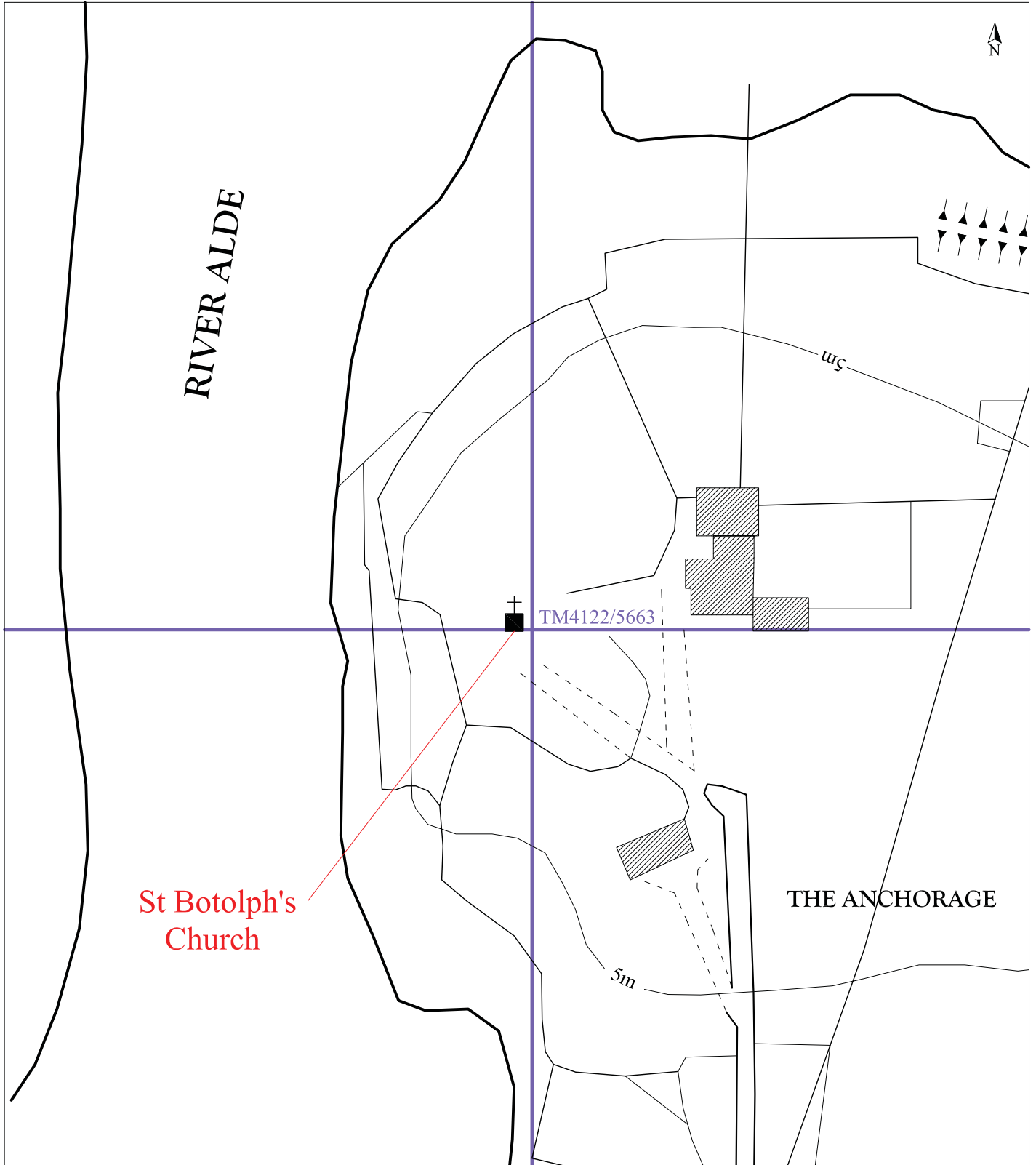
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Detail of south nave wall, Bay 4, taken from the south



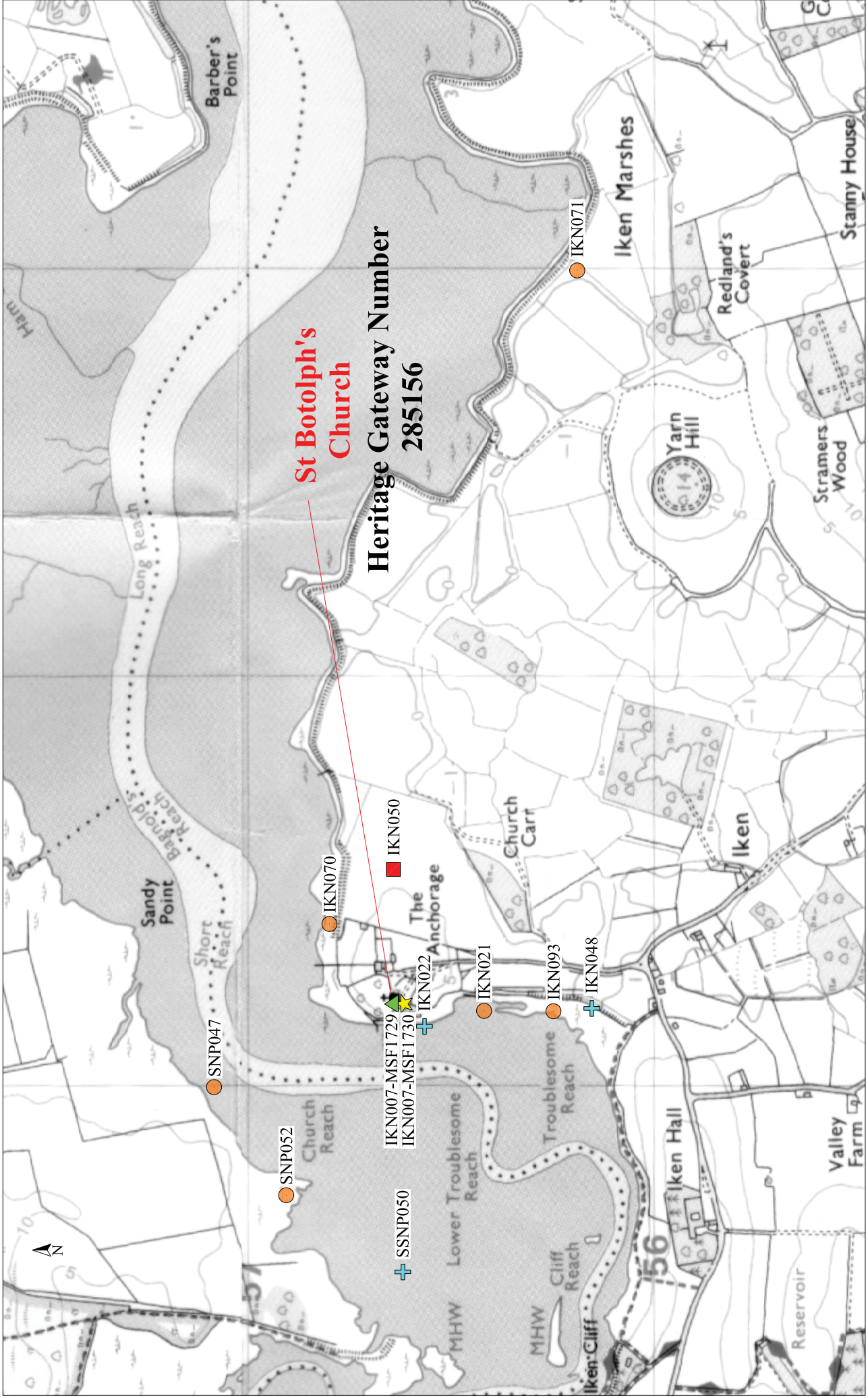
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



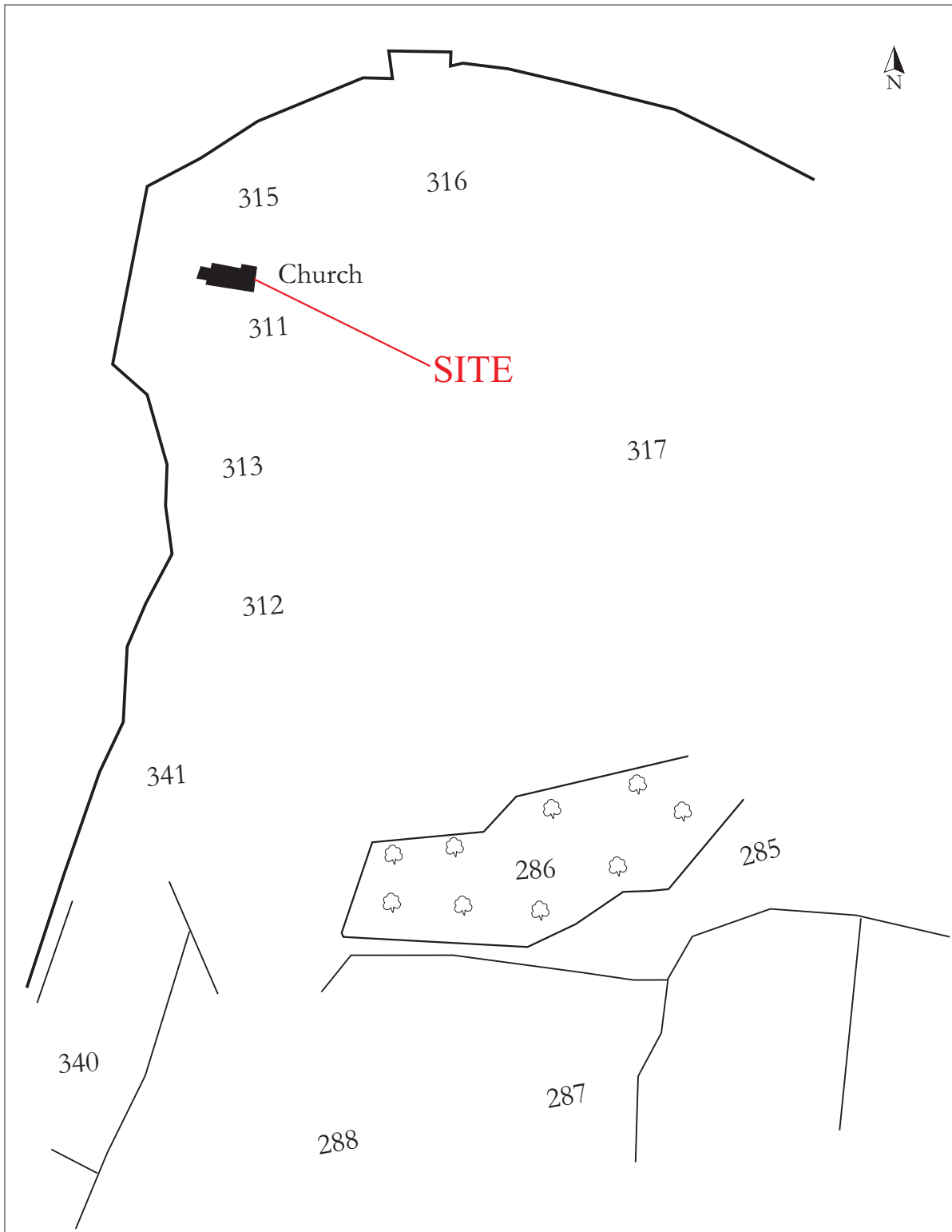
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:2000 at A4

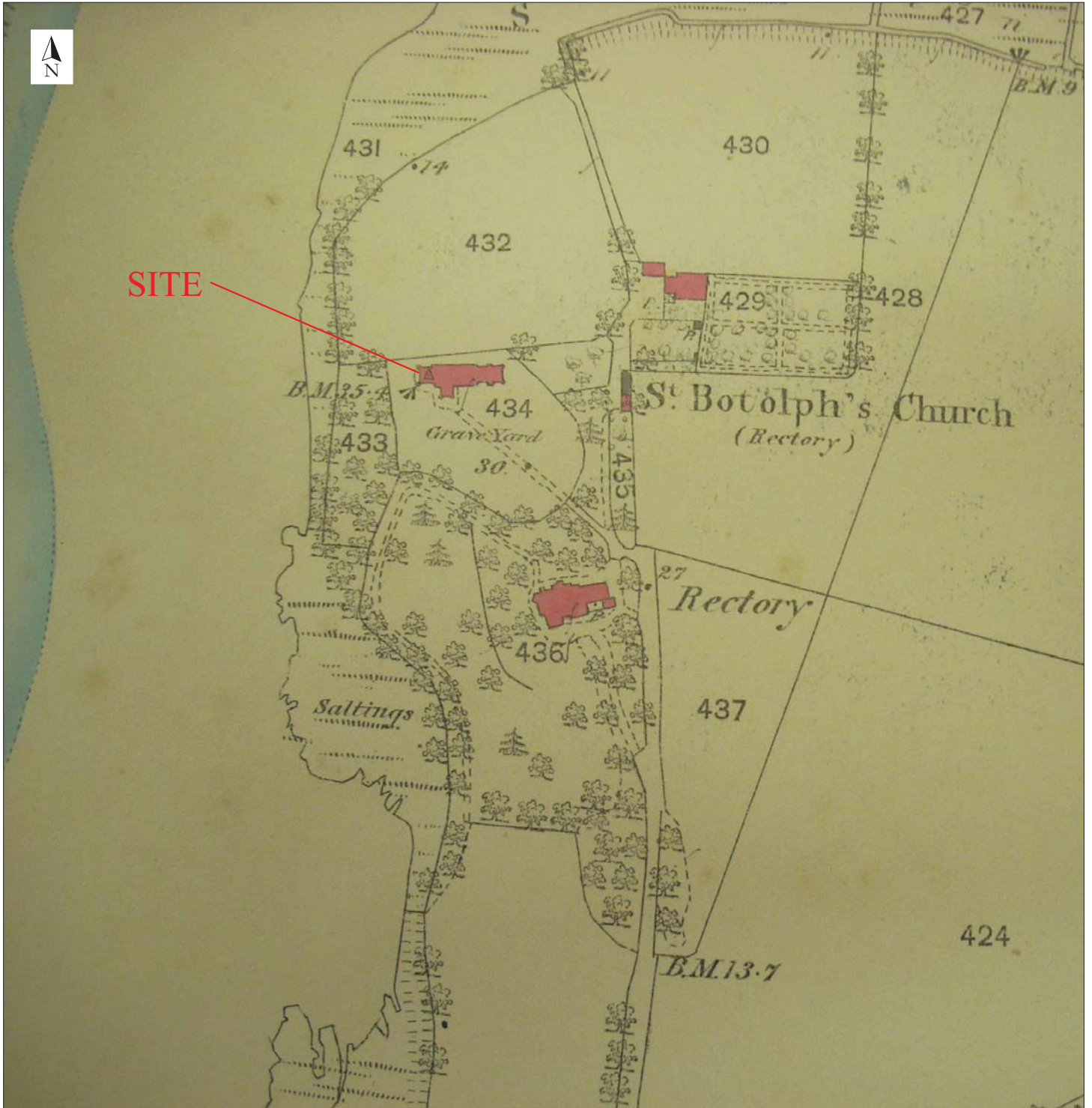


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Fig. 3 HER data
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4

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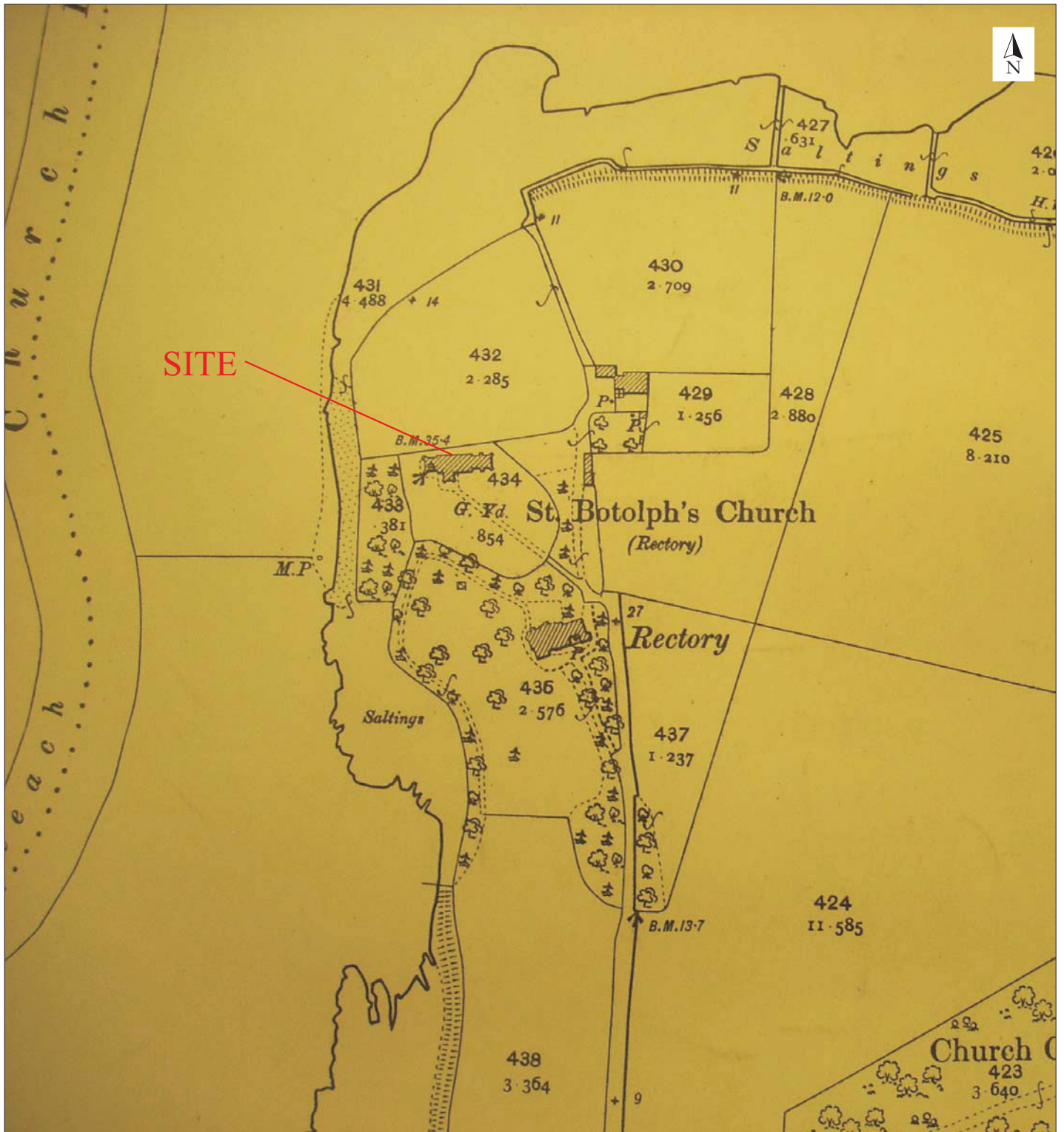


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Fig. 4 Tithe map, 1840
Not to scale



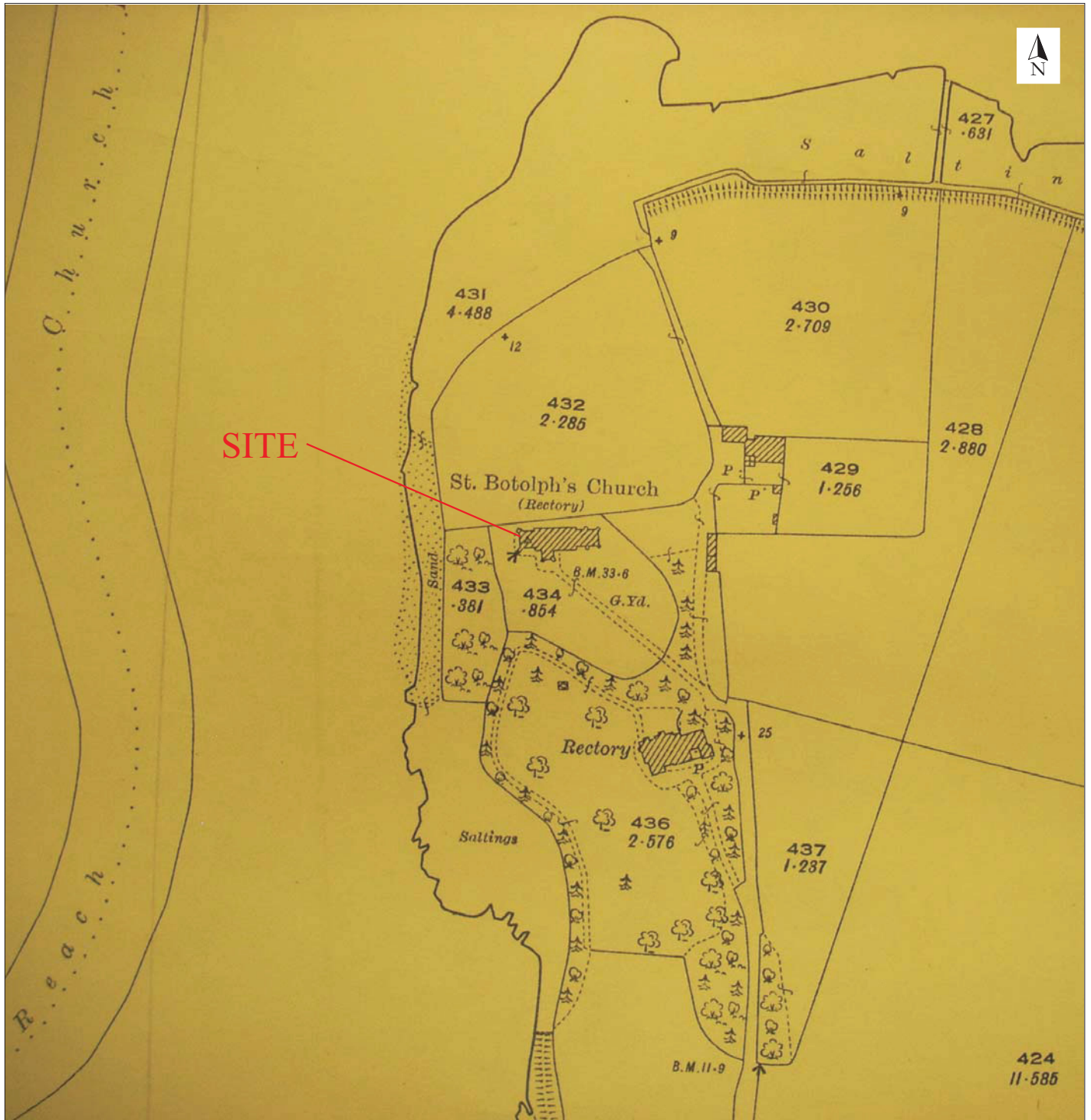
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Fig. 5 OS map, 1882
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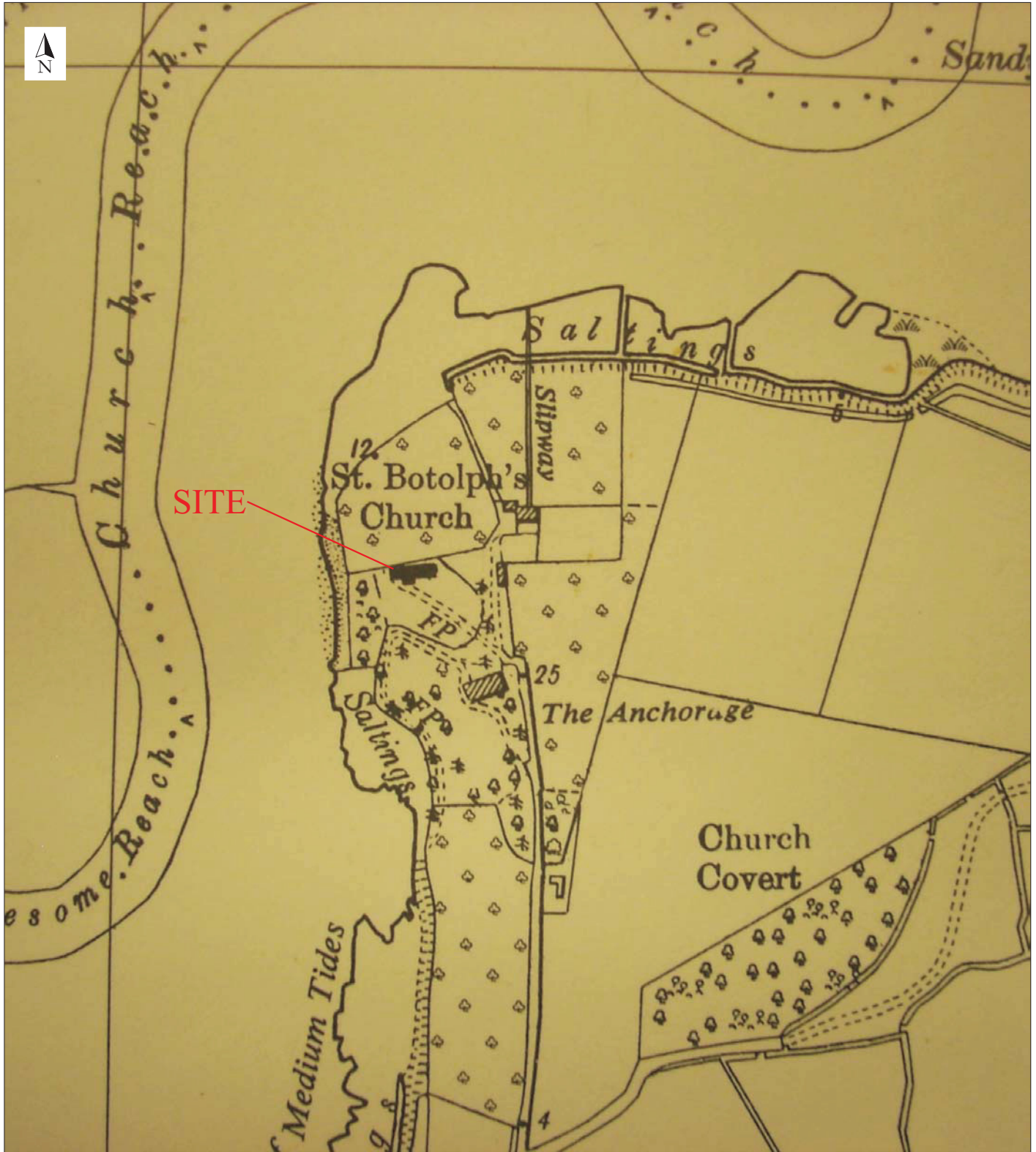
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Fig. 6 OS map, 1904
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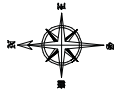
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Fig. 7 OS map, 1926
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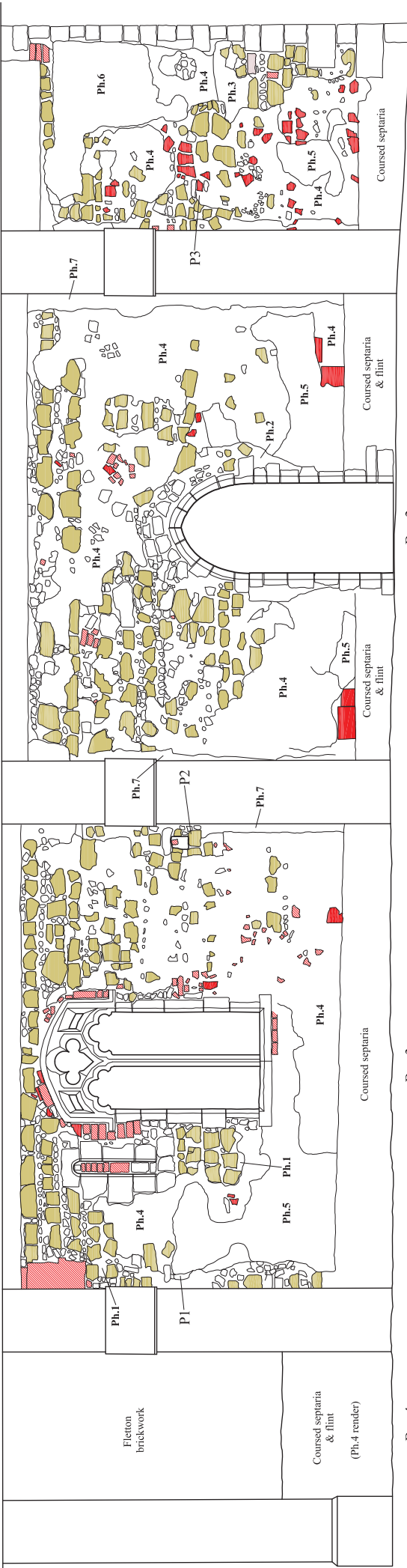


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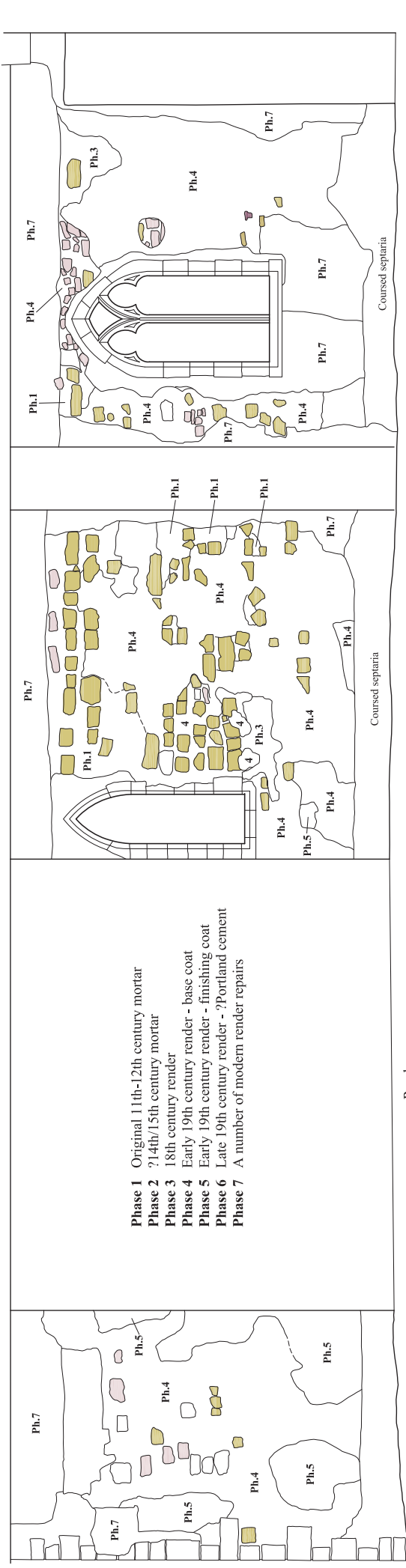
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Fig. 8 OS map, 1957
Reproduced from the 25" to 1 mile map

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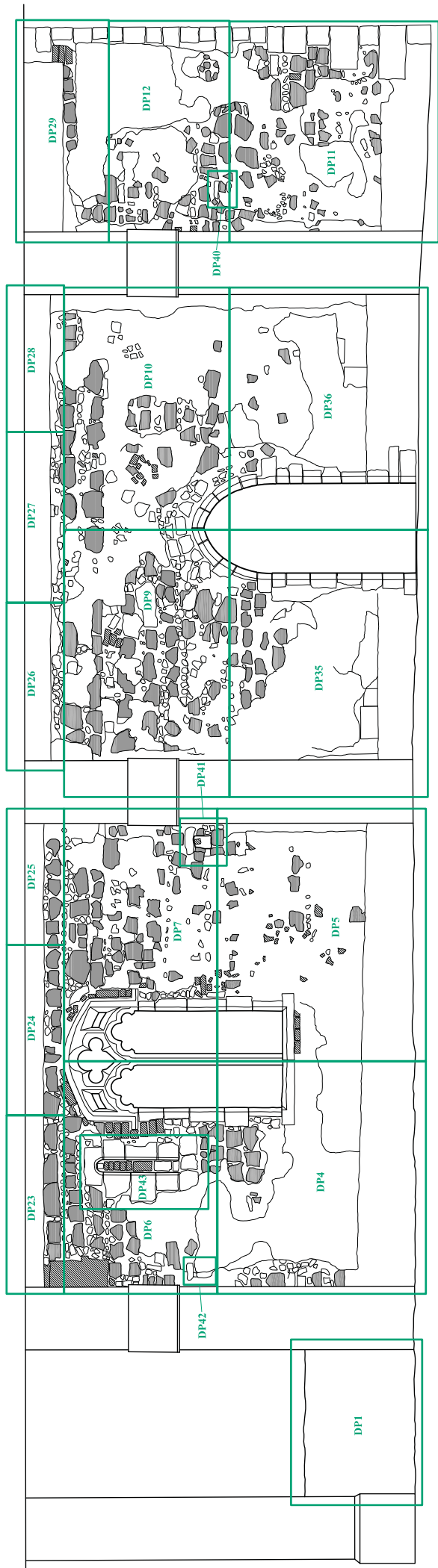
NORTH NAVE WALL



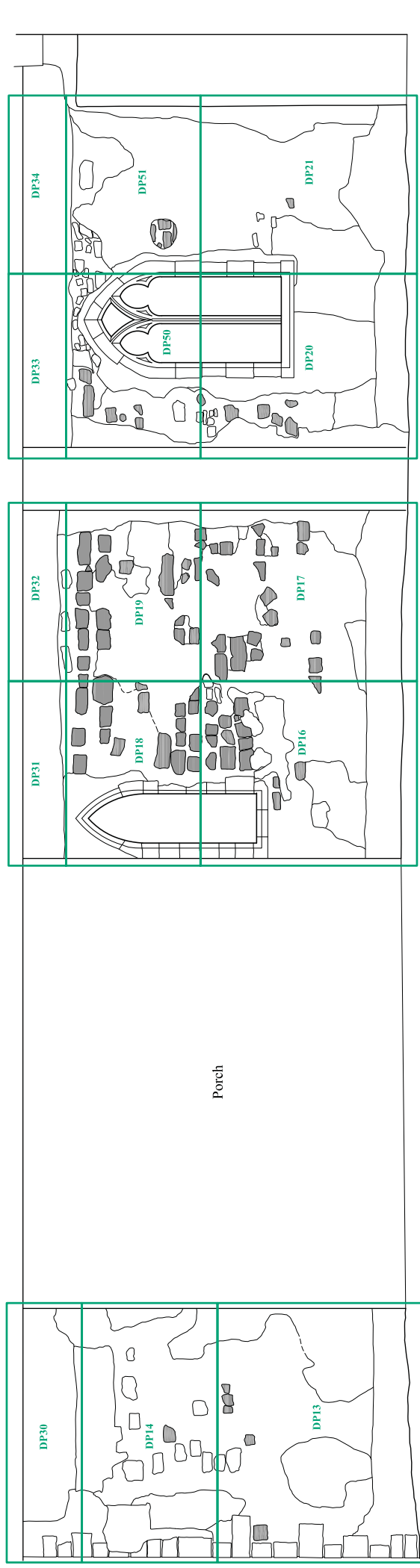
- Phase 1 Original 11th-12th century mortar
- Phase 2 ?14th/15th century mortar
- Phase 3 18th century render
- Phase 4 Early 19th century render - base coat
- Phase 5 Early 19th century render - finishing coat
- Phase 6 Late 19th century render - ?Portland cement
- Phase 7 A number of modern render repairs

- Tile
- Septaria
- Brick
- Coralline crag
- P1 Putlog hole or possible putlog hole

SOUTH NAVE WALL



North nave wall



South nave wall



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Fig. 11 Photographic location plan
 Scale 1:40 at A3