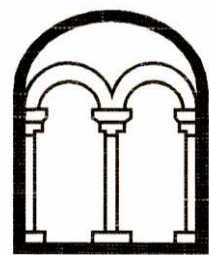


**CHURCH OF ST MARY
STOCKING PELHAM
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING,
RECORDING AND REPORTING**

Albion
archaeology



**CHURCH OF ST MARY
STOCKING PELHAM
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING,
RECORDING AND REPORTING**

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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Mark Phillips	Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

Produced for:
Stocking Pelham Parochial Church Council



1. INTRODUCTION

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Stocking Pelham Parochial Church Council to undertake archaeological works during drainage and associated works.

The Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (DAA) for the Diocese of St Albans recommended a proviso requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works be attached to the faculty covering the works. All work was carried out in accordance with a Brief issued by the DAA (2012).

Archaeological monitoring and reporting was undertaken by Mark Phillips (Project Officer) with report figures prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

2. BACKGROUND

The Church of St Mary is located at the centre of the village of Stocking Pelham, centred on grid reference TL 4477/2929 (Figure 1).

The building is Grade II listed; the list description is given below.

Parish church. Small simple building of mid-C14 origin, built in flint. Considerable C19 restoration, the nave was widened towards the south in C14-C15, though no trace of any arcade remains. Large late C14 west window is the chief feature. Small wooden west bell turret. Most of the windows are C14 or restored in C14 style. South porch rebuilt in C19, was the east end of the chancel and part of the south wall. Few fittings remain - C14 piscina in nave, some fragments of C14 glass in the south window of the chancel.

3. DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

The works comprised external drainage works and internal alterations. The drainage works involved the construction of a French drain along the west end of the church to alleviate a damp problem in this wall. In addition a small soakaway was excavated close to the north-east end of the chancel to take away water from a down pipe. The works inside the building involved the removal of pews and raised wooden flooring at the west end of the nave to create a public area.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

Archaeological monitoring of all groundworks was undertaken on 7th May 2013. The methods employed during the project complied with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1999), English Heritage's *MoRPHE (Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment)* (2006), ALGAO East's *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (2003) and Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* (2001).

The groundworks were carried out by the building contractor with a machine operating under constant archaeological observation. Where required the



trenches were cleaned by hand following machine excavation. The location of trenches and sections through deposits were drawn and annotated on pro forma recording sheets. A digital photographic record was made showing the location of the works and the nature of the exposed deposits.

The surface beneath the raised wooden floor at the west end of the nave was examined by the architect prior to the start of works. This indicated the presence of a brick floor suitable for use in the new public area. As a result no groundworks were needed inside the church.

5. RESULTS

The results of the monitoring and the deposits observed are summarised below. The locations of the trenches are shown in Figure 1.

5.1 *West End of Nave (French drain)*

This trench extended from the end of the buttress on the south-west corner of the nave, along the west wall and around the north-west buttress to finish at the north wall of the nave a short distance beyond the buttress (Image 2). The main part of the trench was 0.7m deep and 0.5m wide (Image 4). The trench became shallower at its northern end where it encountered a plastic drain pipe. It was not excavated flush with the face of the wall; instead a baulk approximately 0.3m thick was left next to the foundations with its upper part being reduced and sloped towards the trench. Following the machine excavation, the base and the east side of the trench were cleaned by hand.

The deposits consisted of a soil layer above geological deposits. The soil layer was up to 0.5m deep and comprised mid grey brown clay silt with occasional small stones and a small number of fragments of modern tile. The lower part of the trench extended into undisturbed Boulder Clay (mid yellow brown clay with chalk fragments).

No cut features were observed in the base or sides of the trench. The eastern section next to the north-west buttress contained a concentration of flint nodules and mortar indicating the probable location of a foundation for the buttress (Image 5). No artefacts other than recent tile (not collected) were found. No human bone or burials were observed in this trench.

5.2 *North-East Corner of Chancel (Soakaway)*

A soakaway pit was excavated close to the north-east corner of the building to take water from a downpipe on the north side of the chancel (Images 3 and 6). It consisted of a shallow trench for a pipe and a deeper soakaway pit. The pit was cut into the edge of a bank where the ground has been terraced away along the north side of the church (Image 7). The trench was up to 1.3m deep and 0.5m wide.

Here, the upper soil layer was up to 0.4m deep and consisted of mid grey brown clay silt with occasional stones and small fragments of brick and tile. The natural geological deposit below consisted of Boulder Clay (mid yellow brown clay with chalk fragments and occasional flint nodules). The density of chalk fragments increased towards the base of the pit.



No archaeological features, artefacts or human bone were observed in this trench.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The results of the observations were largely negative. No artefacts, cut features, burials or disarticulated bone were identified in the trenches. A small section of disturbed flint foundation was visible in the trench at the west end of the nave adjacent to the north-west buttress.

The observations were necessarily limited by the extent of the groundworks. The relatively small size of the soakaway pit provided very limited potential for observation.

The negative result from the larger trench at the west end of the church is more significant. The absence of evidence for graves or disarticulated bone suggests that there were no burials directly adjacent to the building. The masonry at the west end of the nave was not exposed by the drainage trench and no detailed or extensive observations of the underlying foundations could be made.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

DAA 2012. *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring, Recording and Reporting at the Church of St Mary, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire*. 28th October 2012.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Stocking Pelham Parochial Church Council. Albion Archaeology would like to thank David Bailey (Stocking Pelham PCC), Martin Humberstone (Levitt Partnership) and David Baker (Diocesan Archaeological Advisor) for their assistance during the project.

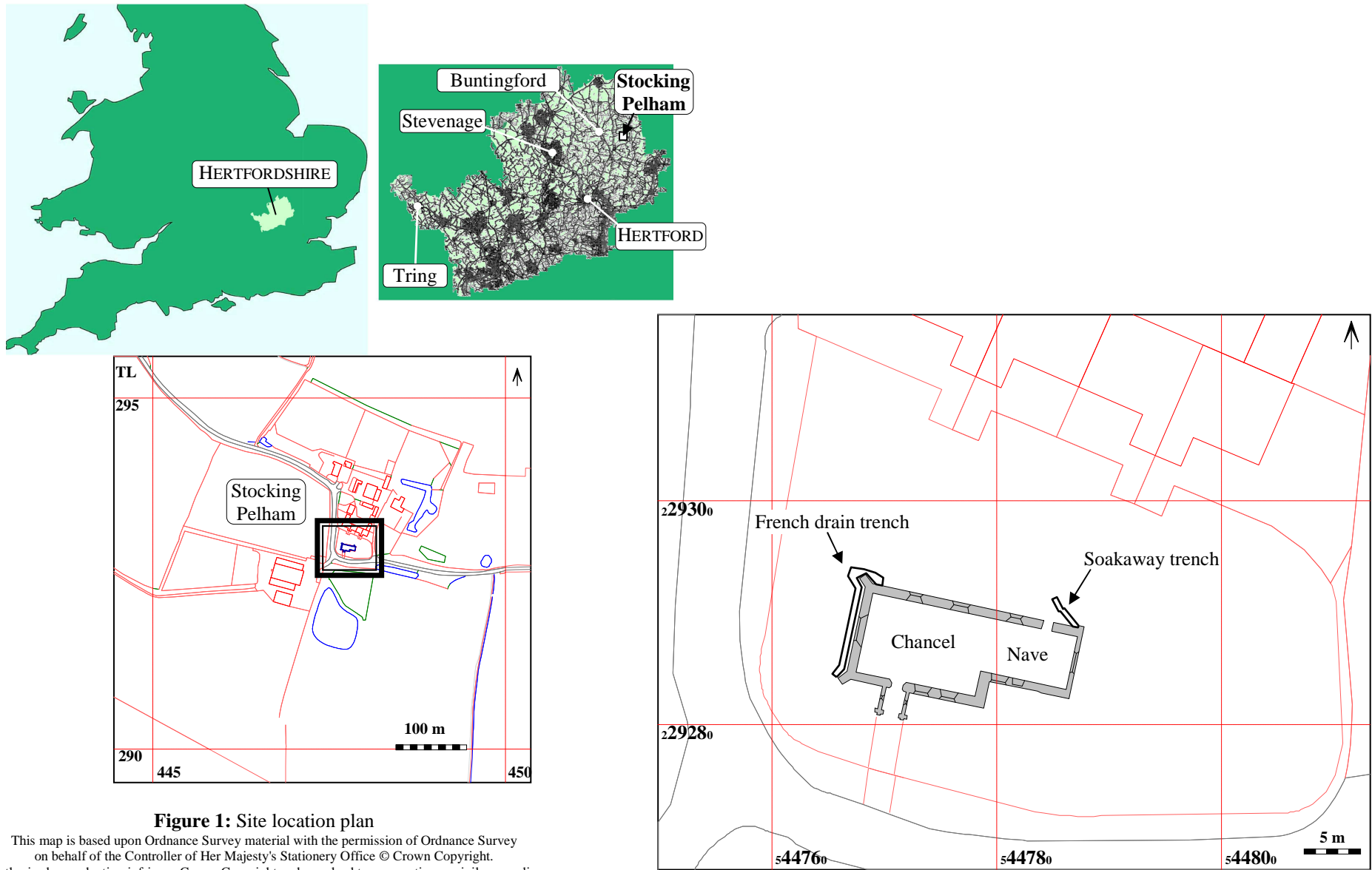




Image 1: View of south side of church



Image 2: View of north side and west end of church, showing location of trench at west end



Image 3: View of north side and east end of church, showing location of trench at north-west corner of chancel



Image 4: Trench along west end of church, looking south



Image 5: Trench at west end of church showing area next to the north-west buttress, showing flint and mortar of foundation visible in section (scale 1m)



Image 6: Trench for soakaway near north-east corner of chancel, looking west (scale 1m)



Image 7: Trench for soakaway near north-east corner of chancel, showing SW-facing section (scale 1m)

9. OASIS ID: albionar1-149504

Project details

Project name	Church of St Mary, Stocking Pelham
Short description of the project	Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Stocking Pelham Parochial Church Council to undertake archaeological works during drainage and associated works. The results of the observations are largely negative. No artefacts, cut features, burials or disarticulated bone were identified in the trenches. A small section of disturbed flint foundation was visible in the trench at the west end of the nave adjacent to the north-west buttress. No other parts of the foundations were exposed within the trenches. The absence of evidence for graves or disarticulated bone suggests that there were no burials directly adjacent to the west end of the chancel.
Project dates	Start: 07-05-2013 End: 07-05-2013
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	SP1954 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	CHURCH Post-medieval
Significant Finds	None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Diocesan Archaeologist

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE STOCKING PELHAM Church of St Mary, Stocking Pelham
Study area	1550.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 4477 2929

Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology

Project brief originator Diocesan Archaeologist

Project design originator No Project Design

Project director/manager Robert Wardill

Project supervisor Mark Phillips

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient Hertford Museum

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context Sheet", 'Correspondence', "Microfilm",'
'Miscellaneous Material', "Photograph" ,"Report"

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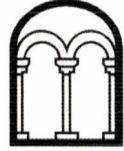
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