

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING & WATCHING BRIEF: ALL SAINTS CHURCH CHALGRAVE BEDFORDSHIRE

on behalf of Chalgrave Parish Council



Karin Semmelmann MA AIFA

May 2007

ASC: 838/CAS/1

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Site Data

ASC project cod	le:	CAS		ASC Proj	ect No:	838	
County:			Bedfordshire				
Village/Town:			Chalgrav	Chalgrave			
Civil Parish:			Chalgrav	Chalgrave			
NGR (to 8 figs)	•		TL 0586	TL 0586 2742.			
Present use:			Place of	Place of Worship			
Planning propo	sal:		Roof rep	Roof repairs & improved drainage system			
Planning applie	cation	ref/date:	N/A				
Local Planning	Auth	ority:	N/A				
Date of fieldwo	rk:		18 th Aug 2006 – 24 th April 2007				
Client:			Chalgrave Parish Council				
			c/o Peter Dalling				
			The Studio				
				75 Moffats Lane			
			Brookmans Park,				
			Hatfield, Herts.				
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Internal Quality Check

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Revisions:		Date:	
Edited/Checked By:		Date:	

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CONTENTS

Su	ımmary	5				
1.	Introduction	5				
2.	Aims & Methods	8				
3.	Historical Background	9				
4.	Aisle Roofs	11				
5.	Groundworks	22				
6.	Conclusions	27				
7.	Acknowledgements	28				
8.	Archive	28				
9.	References	29				
Αŗ	ppendices:					
	st of Photographs					
AS	SC OASIS Form	31				
Fi	gures:					
1.	General location	4				
2.	Site location	7				
3.	Aisle roof repairs	21				
4.	Groundworks	26				
Pla	ates:					
Co	over: South elevation of the church					
	North aisle after restoration, looking east					
	North aisle after restoration, looking west					
	North aisle, Principal Rafter 1					
	North aisle, purlin/principal rafter junction					
	North aisle, splayed & bridled scarf joint in north wallplate					
	North aisle, additional timber box					
	North aisle, new Principal Rafter 3					
	North aisle after restoration: Bays 1-2					
	North aisle after restoration: Bays 3-4					
). North aisle after restoration: Bays 4-5					
	. North aisle after restoration: Bays 4-6					
	2. North aisle after restoration: Bays 5-7					
	3. South aisle after restoration: looking east					
	South aisle after restoration: looking west					
	5. South aisle after restoration: Bays 1-2					
	5. South aisle after restoration: Bay 2					
	7. South aisle after restoration: Bay 3					
	3. South aisle after restoration: Bays 3-4					
	9. South aisle after restoration: Bay 4					
). South aisle after restoration: Bay 5					
	. South aisle after restoration: Bay 6					
	2. South aisle, purlin differences seen at Principal Rafter 5					
	B. Backfilled French drains around north & west of church					
	Backfilled French drains west of the south porch					
	Backfilled French drains west of the south poten					

25. South aisle French drain	23
26. Chancel French drain.	23
27. South wall of chancel	
28. South aisle wall	24
29. Southeast buttress	

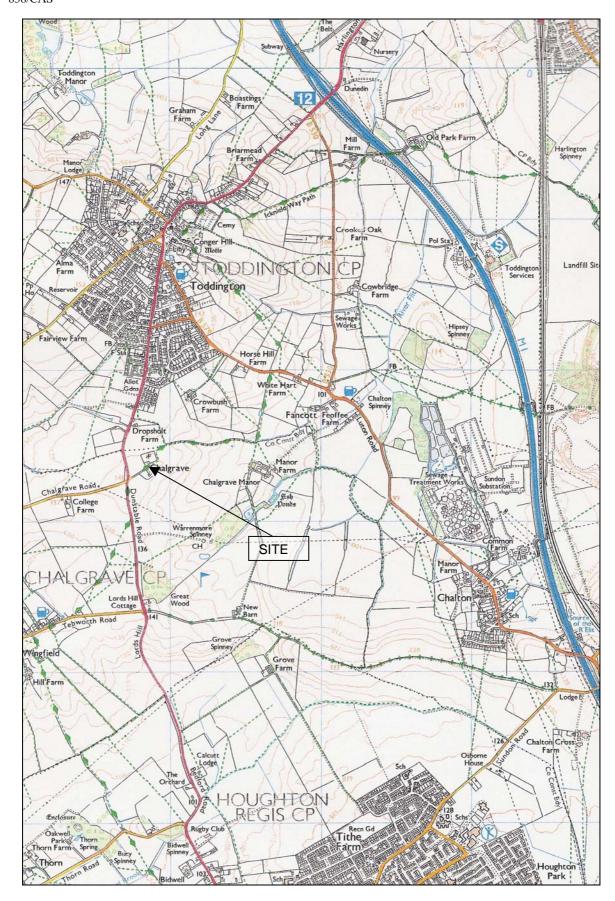


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

Between August 2006 and April 2007 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out historic building recording and a watching brief of All Saints Church, Chalgrave, Bedfordshire in response to proposals for the restoration of the north and south aisle roofs and improvements to the existing drainage system.

All Saints is a Grade 1 listed building, which was dedicated in 1219 and comprises a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower and south porch. The chancel dates from c.1300 and the wall paintings are thought to be some 10 years later. The upper part of the west tower collapsed in 1889 causing severe damage to the nave and north aisle roofs.

After many years of neglect, the church underwent a series of restoration and repair programmes from the 1930s. As a result a detailed chronology of the timbers is rendered uncertain, but in appearance if not in actuality, most of the timbers is of late medieval date.

The groundwork revealed little other than the shallowness of the foundations and a modern drainage gully.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between August 2006 and April 2007 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out historic building recording and a watching brief of All Saints Church, Chalgrave, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0586 2742: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Peter Dalling on behalf of Chalgrave Parish Council, and was carried out according to a brief prepared by the Diocesan Archaeological Adviser (Baker 2005).

1.2 Planning Background

This building recording and watching brief project has been required in response to proposals for the restoration of the north and south aisle roofs and improvements to the existing drainage system.

1.3 Location

All Saints Church is an isolated church that is located to the east of Dunstable Road, approximately 1.5km south of the centre of Toddington.

1.4 Description

All Saints Church is a Grade I listed building and entered in the Historic Environment Record of Bedfordshire as number 946. It was dedicated in 1219 and comprises a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower and south porch. The chancel dates from c.1300 and the wall paintings are thought to be some 10 years later. The upper part of the west tower collapsed in 1889 and was not rebuilt to its former height.

1.5 Geology & Topography

The soils of the area are of the Ashley Association and are defined as *Fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging, associated with similar but wetter soils. Some calcareous and non-calcareous slowly permeable clayey soils.* The underlying geology is chalky till (Soil Survey 1983). The site lies at *c*.145m AOD.

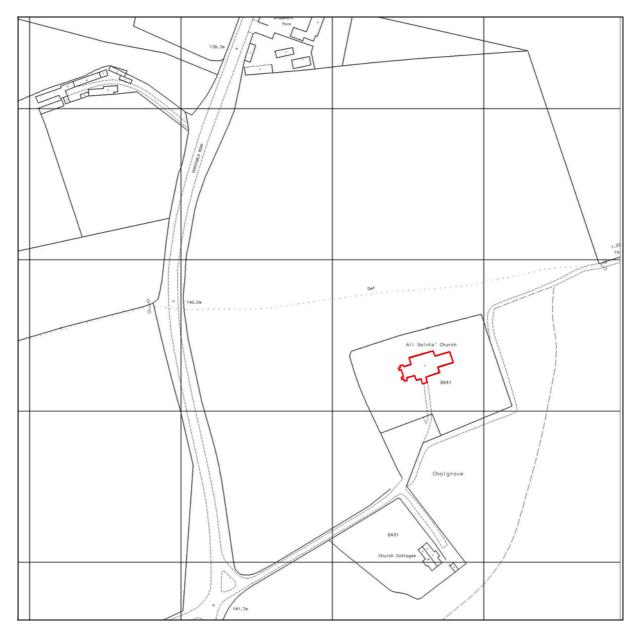


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:2,500)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Section 2.1), the aims of the building recording and watching brief were:

- To observe and record any archaeological evidence encountered in the course of repairs and drainage works
- To prepare a report which will help increase understanding of the building and churchyard for those who use it for worship, for all others with an interest in its architectural, historical and archaeological significance, and those responsible for its maintenance and repair
- To facilitate future study and interpretation of the church

2.2 Standards

The work conforms to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England's *Recording Historic Buildings: a Descriptive Specification*, 3rd Edition (RCHME 1996), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 4), which required:

- An appropriate photographic and/or drawn record of the elements of the aisle roofs that were repaired or replaced and of what would be concealed again after the works were completed
- That the perimeter drainage trenches were cleaned and recorded
- That the excavation of the linear drainage trenches from the French drain to the soakaways was monitored
- That any structural evidence, significant deposits and articulated human remains be recorded

2.4 Constraints

On several occasions ASC was not informed of the groundworks that were taking place and as a result no archaeological monitoring was undertaken. This included most of the French drains, all of the soakaways and some of the feeder trenches. The trenches that were inspected are indicated in Figure 4.

3 Historical Background

3.1 General

All that remains of the original settlement of Chalgrave are two cottages and the church, which lie approximately 2km southeast of Toddington. Chalgrave Manor Farm is located 700m to the east of the church.

A Romano-British settlement (HER 1438) of the 3rd-4th century is known to have been located approximately 2km southeast of the church, but there is little further archaeological evidence from this period other than Watling Street, which is located 2km to the west of the church.

Three areas of Anglo-Saxon burials have been identified less than 4km to the north and northwest of the church, including a 5th-6th century cemetery near French's Highway at TL 0050 2806 (HER 2857), a slightly later cemetery (HER 101) at Sheepwalk Hill, (TL 013 2934) and further burials near Warmark Farm (SP 998 284).

The earliest documentary evidence for Chalgrave is the confirmation that 5 hides of land that had been bought for £10 from the Danes was granted to Thegn Ealdred by Athelstan. It is also recorded that Chalgrave was given to Abingdon Abbey by Aelfgifu in the time of Ethelred II (VCH 1912).

In 1086 Chalgrave was held by Albert of Lorraine of the king in chief, but by 1168 the overlordship had passed to the barony of Bedford and was subsequently inherited by the Mowbrays, who held it until 1615 (*ibid*.). Chalgrave Manor was the chief seat of the Loring family, who had founded a church here by the end of the 12th century, which was granted to Dunstable Priory by Richard de Loring (d.1185). The first recorded incumbent, Richard, is known to have held the position in 1219, shortly before the (?re-) dedication of the church in September 1220.

3.2 *Site specific*

The earliest parts of the present church are the north aisle and the south doorway, which date from c. 1220 and 1250 respectively (Pevsner 1997, 66). The north arcade has double hollow chamfered arches and octagonal piers with stiff leaf capitals. The south aisle, which has piers of quatrefoil plan with small rolls in the angles, and chancel were constructed c. 1330 and the west tower was added some 50 years later. The south porch is 15th century (VCH 1912). The interior of the church is renowned for its wall paintings, which date from the 13th to the 15th century with some 18th century texts (Rouse 1985, 333). The earliest paintings are the twelve apostles, which are shown at the west end of each aisle. There are also 18 shields of arms depicted on the nave arcades and in the aisles. These appear to be of the Loring family, whose shield is shown at least twice, and their connections (*ibid*). The most famous of the Loring family is Sir Nigel who was one of the founder members of the Knights of the Garter having been knighted for bravery at Sluys in 1340. His monument is thought to be that in the north aisle (*ibid*). The nave roof is 15th century but has been much restored.

The tower walls are checkered clunch and flint with angle buttresses. It is severely truncated as much of it collapsed into the nave during a thunderstorm on 17th July 1888, destroying the west end of the nave and the north aisle. This was perhaps of little surprise as Archdeacon Bathurst records the church as being in disrepair in 1873 and he described the tower as dangerous in 1886 (ABV 3). This appears to have been a long term problem and it was proposed on two occasions (1846 and 1876-9) to move or rebuild the church elsewhere. Indeed, the church was in such a poor state that services could sometimes only be held in it in the summer months and the repairwork to the church took so long after the tower collapsed that Rev Alex Wood had to be inducted at Tebworth Church (Bedfordshire Standard). This is not to say that the church was never repaired. Records show that repairwork was undertaken in 1842, 1850-1 and again in 1861 when alterations were made to the north side of the church and the windows in the nave roof were removed and the roof restored to its original form. The chancel was repaired in 1868, but clearly to no great extent.

According to Archdeacon Bathurst's notebook, the nave and aisle roofs were finally repaired in 1901 and the north wall of the church was underpinned at the same time. The tower was covered and bells hung in 1905 and two years later the porch was repaired. In 1913, however, the tower was again described as being ruinous and the church only used in the summer.

The renaissance of All Saints Church began in the 1930s when Alfred Loydall-Bee was made incumbernt and instigated a major restoration programme, including a full repair programme for the tower and the roof, which allowed the church to fully reopen (Church Guide Book, 2002). Further restoration work has continued internittently since 1976 when St Mary's Church in Tebworth was closed as it had become too expensive for the parish to run two churches. Since 1987 the wall paintings, which had been discovered quite by accident in the 1930s, have undergone three phases of preservation work. It was also in 1987 that death watch beetle, dry rot and wet rot were found in the roof timbers, resulting in immediate remedial work.

3.3 Listed Building Description

Rubble and ashlar walls, tower of chequered flint and Totternhoe stone. Some fine Early English work in 5 bay north arcade with octagonal piers and stiff-leaf capitals. South doorway of slightly later date. Chancel and south aisle are early C14 and so is a piscina with a carved ogee arch. The tower was commenced late C14. This now looks strange since the top part collapsed in 1889 and has never been rebuilt. There are elaborate C14 wall paintings - aisle walls have representations of figures in canopied niches; nave walls have armorial scrolls. South aisle tomb of Sir Nigel Loring (hero of Conan Doyle's 'The White Company'). Similar north aisle monument.

4 Aisle Roofs

4.1 *North Aisle* (Fig. 3, Plates 1-12)

4.1.1 Prior to repairs

The north aisle roof is of 7 bays, numbered from east to west. The principal rafters have also been numbered 1-7, with number 1 dividing Bays 1 and 2. The purlins within the first three bays are 22cm high x 17cm wide with 7cm wide hollow chamfers ending in pyramid chamfer stops. The southern end of Principal Rafter 1 has a straight chamfer with a runout stop on the western side and a rounded eastern arris, and the northern part has a highly decorated chamfer with pyramid stops.

The common rafters in Bays 1-4 are $c.10 \text{cm}^2$ at 35cm centres, and are representative of the medieval build. Those in Bays 5-7, which are part of the 20^{th} century rebuild, are $c.12 \times 8 \text{cm}$ at 40cm centres.

There are three rafters over the eastern wall and two over the western wall.

There are two scarf joints visible on the inner wallplate: a splayed, bridled and pegged scarf joint in Bay 3 and an edge-halved scarf joint where a new section of wallplate has been inserted at the western end of Bay 4. The wallplate itself is also chamfered.

A timber structure had been added at some indefinable date to the south wallplate adjacent to Principal Rafter 3, presumably as part of a support system.

4.1.2 Repairs described

The repairs to the north aisles timbers were concentrated in Bays 2-4. Principal Rafter 3 and Common Rafters 12, 16, 17 and 18 were replaced in their entirety. The southern end of Common Rafters 5, 7 and 11, and the northern end of Common Rafter 22 were also replaced. Additional stub rafters were added to the northern end of Common Rafters 6, 15 and 19. Common Rafter 21 was repaired, as was Principal Rafter 2, where a section of the west facing section was replaced at the southern end. A section of the outer wallplate between Bays 1 and 2 was also replaced.

4.2 *South Aisle* (Fig. 3, Plates 13-22)

4.2.1 Prior to repairs

This roof has 6 Bays, which have been numbered from east to west.

The western end has moulded purlins without chamfer stops and measure approximately 18 x 22cm. The associated rafters have Lamb's Tongue chamfer stops and measure 9 x 14cm. There is an earlier common rafter in Bay 6 and 3 of the original rafters remain in Bay 5.

Whereas Bays 5 & 6 have 4 common rafters at 50cm centres each, there are only 3 in each of the other bays. These measure 8 x 17cm in Bays 1 & 2 and 10 x 18cm in Bays 3 & 4 and are centred at 60cm. The rafters in Bays 1 & 2 have rudimentary Lambs

Tongue Chamfer stops and those in Bays 3 & 4 have straight chamfers with runout stops.

The purlin in Bays 1-3 is 18 x 14cm and has an 8cm chamfer with no stops.

The pads supporting the rafters become higher towards the east and the easternmost rafter has an additional timber.

4.2.2 Repairs described

The most extensive repairs occurred in Bay 1, where Common Rafters 2 and 3 were completely replaced and a stub rafter was added to the south end of Common Rafter 1. In addition the wallplate was replaced between Principal Rafter 1 and Common Rafter 2 and the outer rafter was repaired.

Other sections of the wallplate were replaced beneath Common Rafter 6 in Bay 2 and 19 in Bay 6. Common Rafters 5 and 12 were completely replaced as was the northern end of Common Rafter 8 in Bay 3. Timbers were added to the northern end of Principal Rafters 5 and 6 and the purlin area of Principal Rafter 4 was repaired.



Plate 1: North aisle after restoration, looking east



Plate 2: North aisle after restoration, looking west



Plate 3: North aisle, Principal Rafter 1



Plate 4: North aisle, purlin/principal rafter junction at western end



Plate 5: North aisle, splayed & bridled scarf joint in north wallplate



Plate 6: North aisle, additional timber box



Plate 7: North aisle, new Principal Rafter 3



Plate 8: North aisle after restoration: Bays 1-2



Plate 9: North aisle after restoration: Bays 3-4



Plate 10: North aisle after restoration: Bays 4-5



Plate 11: North aisle after restoration: Bays 4-6



Plate 12: North aisle after restoration: Bays 5-7

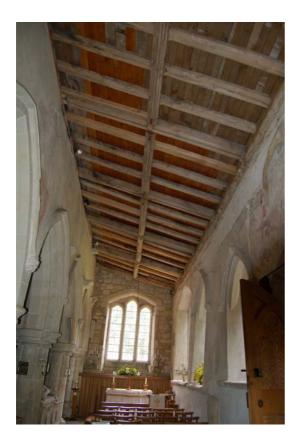


Plate 13: South aisle after restoration: looking east



Plate 14: South aisle after restoration: looking west



Plate 15: South aisle after restoration: Bays 1-2



Plate 16: South aisle after restoration: Bay 2



Plate 17: South aisle after restoration: Bay 3



Plate 18: South aisle after restoration: Bays 3-4



Plate 19: South aisle after restoration: Bay 4



Plate 20: South aisle after restoration: Bay 5



Plate 21: South aisle after restoration: Bay 6



Plate 22: South aisle, purlin differences seen at Principal Rafter 5

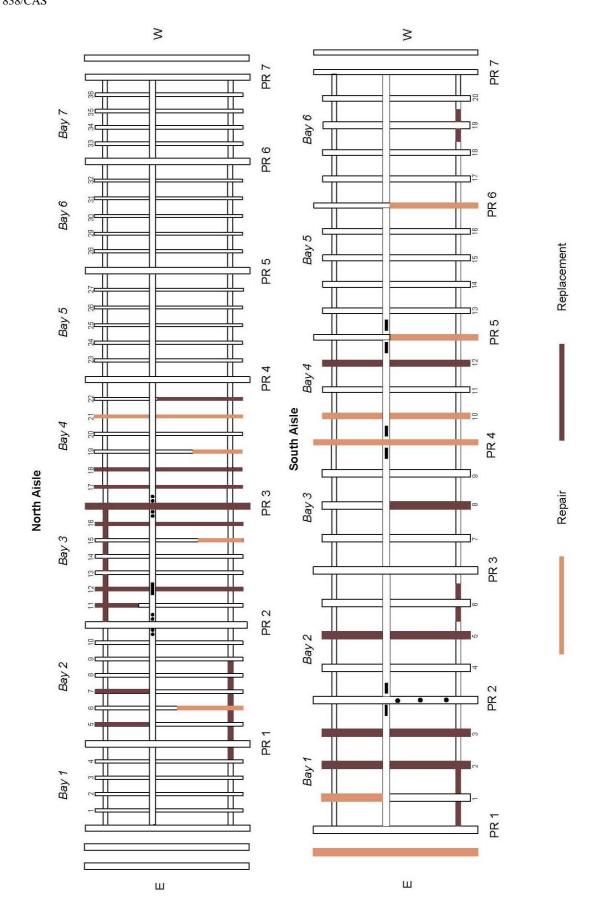


Figure 3: Aisle roof repairs (not to scale)

5. Groundworks

5.1 *French Drains* (Fig. 4, Plates 23-29)

The soakaways were completely excavated prior to ASC being commissioned for the archaeological works. Most of the French drains were also excavated without ASC being informed and were therefore not recorded. A small section had been left open at the southeast corner of the building, revealing the foundations of the chancel, which comprised rubble, tile fragments and stones in a loose matrix, approximately 0.25m deep. According to the machine driver, there were flint footings, approximately 0.60m deep to the north of the church and brick footings to the west of the south porch.

The trench along the south wall to the east of the porch the south wall was 0.90m wide and approximately 0.70m deep and contained dark brown sandy soil over clay natural. The base of the southeast buttress was seen to be rendered and a brick gully was revealed running southeast from the building. The gully, which was of modern bricks with cement mortar and a clay drainage pipe, was 42.5m wide and 0.52m below the present ground surface. The footings that were revealed at the junction between the chancel and the south aisle were similar to those observed at the eastern end of the south wall.

5.2 Drainage Trenches

The trench leading from the southeast buttress to the soakaway was 0.40m wide x 0.60m deep. Pea shingle had been deposited within the trench before arrival and no archaeological features and finds were observed.



Plate 23: Backfilled French drains around north & west of church



Plate 24: Backfilled French drains west of the south porch



Plate 25: South aisle French drain



Plate 26: Chancel French drain



Plate 27: South wall of chancel



Plate 28: South aisle wall



Plate 29: Southeast buttress

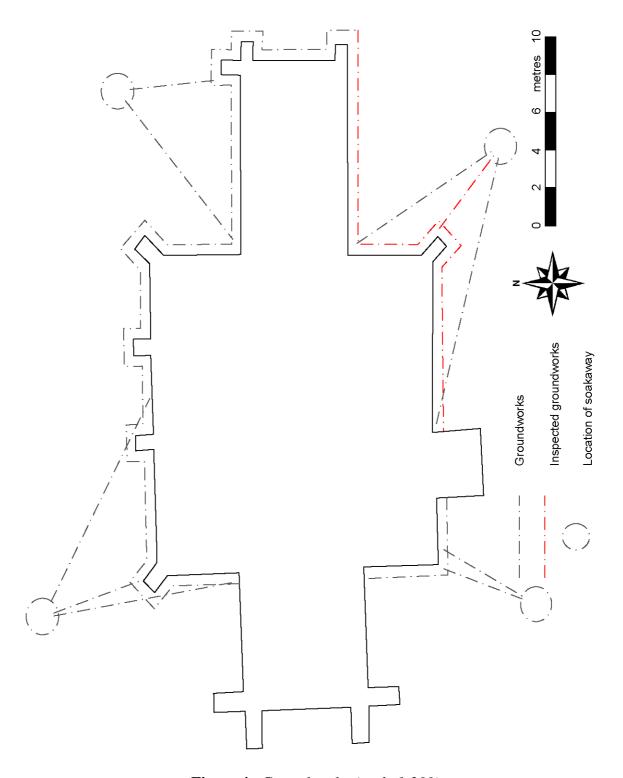


Figure 4: Groundworks (scale 1:200)

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 The documentary evidence for the constructional history of All Saints Church is somewhat sparse, but it is clear that its fortunes have increased immensely since the 19th century. Fairly recent repairs to some of the timbers were observed during the initial inspection but the extent of the 1987 restoration work remains unclear.
- 6.2 The north aisle appears to fall into two main constructional phases with evidence of a late medieval roof remaining in Bays 1-3 and the major repairs following the tower's collapse apparent in Bays 5-7. The purlin in Bay 4 appears to be a 20th century replacement, although the common rafters are of an earlier date.
- 6.3 The south aisle roof also appears to be of at least two main phases, with Bays 1 and 2 possibly of an earlier medieval date than the rest. The piecemeal restoration work over time, much of which at least in the last 100 years or so tended to reproduce medieval architectural form, has rendered closer interpretation uncertain.
- 6.4 The groundworks that were inspected revealed little more than the shallowness of the foundations and a modern gully at the base of the southeast buttress.

7 Acknowledgements

ASC would like to thank Peter Dalling and Barry Roberts, architects, for commissioning this project; the staff of Universal Stone for their assistance on site and Stephen Coleman, Historic Environment Information Officer, Bedfordshire County Council for his help in the background research.

The surveys and fieldwork were undertaken by Karin Semmelmann MA AIFA. The report was written by Karin Semmelmann and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

8 Archive

- 8.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Brief
 - 2. Project Design
 - 3. Report
 - 4. Historical & Survey notes
 - 5. Architect's survey drawings
 - 6. List of photographs
 - 7. B/W prints
 - 8. B/W negatives
 - 9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 8.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum.

9 References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards & Guidance* documents (*Desk-Based Assessments*, *Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings*).
- RCHME 1996 Recording Historic Buildings: a Descriptive Specification (3rd Edition).

Books and Historical Sources:

Archdeacon Bathurst's Notebook Bedfordshire Archives ABV 3

- Coleman, S. R. 1986 Chalgrave *Bedfordshire Parish Surveys: Historic Landscape and Archaeology Series* (Bedford)
- Pevsner, N. 1968 The Buildings of England: Bedfordshire, Huntingdon & Peterborough Penguin (London)
- Rouse, C. 1985 All Saints Church, Chalgrave- a medieval painted interior *Bedfordshire Magazine Vol. 19, No. 152*,
- Tristram, E.W. 1955 English Wall Painting of the 14th century Routledge & Paul (London)
- Victoria County History 1912 *A History of the County of Bedford Vol. 3*, 345-49 URL: http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=42446&strquery=chalgrave. Date accessed: 28 March 2007.

Appendix 1: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: All Saints Church, Chalgrave SITE NO/CODE: 838/CAS							
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject				
1	0	X	North aisle: looking east				
2	0	Х	North aisle: Principal Rafter 1; southern end				
3	0	Х	North aisle: Principal Rafter 1; northern	n end			
4	0	Х	North aisle: Pyramid chamfer stop				
5	0	Х	North aisle: purlin/principal rafter junction	on			
6	0	Х	North aisle: splayed & bridled scarf join	nt			
7	0	Х	North aisle: Bay 1				
8	0	Х	North aisle: north wall corbel				
9	0	Х	North aisle: wall painting				
10	0	Х	South aisle: looking east				
11	0	Х	South aisle: purlin/principal rafter juncti	on			
12	0	Х	South aisle: moulding on Principal Raft	er 1			
13	0	Х	South aisle: socket of purlin to principa	l rafter			
14	0	Х	South aisle: Bay 4				
15	0	Х	South aisle: purlin types at Principal Ra	after 5			
16	0	Х	North Aisle: roof boards with additional	timber to principal rafter			
17	0	X	North Aisle: new scarf joint				
18	X	Х	East elevation of south aisle				
19	X	X	Drainage works to northwest of the church				
20	X	X	South aisle elevation				
21	Х	Х	South aisle drainage trench				
22	X	X	Southeast corner of chancel				
23	Х	X	Southwest corner of church				
24	Х	Х	Drainage works to west end of south elevation				
25	0	Х	Works to north aisle roof				
26	0	Х	North aisle: timber support				
27	0	Х	North aisle: timber support				
28	0	Х	North aisle: new Principal Rafter 3				
29	0	Х	North aisle: timber support				
30	0	Х	Restored North aisle: Bays 6-7				
31	0	Х	Restored North aisle: Bay 5				
32	0	Х	Restored North aisle: Bays 4-5				
33	0	Х	Restored North aisle: Bays 4-5				
34	0	X	Restored North aisle: Bays 3-4				
35	0	X	Restored North aisle: Bays 1-2				
36	0	X	Restored North aisle: looking east				
37	0	Х	Restored North aisle: looking east				
38	0	Х	Restored South aisle: Bay 1				
39	0	X	Restored South aisle: Bay 2				
40	0	X	Restored South aisle: Bay 3				
41	0	X	Restored South aisle: Bays 3-4				
42	0	Х	Restored South aisle: Bay 4				
43	0	X	Restored South aisle: Bay 5				
44	0	Х	Restored South aisle: Bays 5-6				
45	0	Х	Restored South aisle: looking east				
46	0	Х	Restored South aisle: looking west				

Appendix 2: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS							
Project Name: All Saints Church, Chalgrave, Bedfordshire							
Short Description:	Between August 2006 and April 2007 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out historic building recording and a watching brief of All Saints Church, Chalgrave, Bedfordshire in response to proposals for the restoration of the north and south aisle roofs and improvements to the existing drainage system.						
	All Saints is a Grade 1 listed building, which was dedicated in 1219 and comprises a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower and south porch. The chancel dates from c.1300 and the wall paintings are thought to be some 10 years later. The upper part of the west tower collapsed in 1889 causing severe damage to the nave and north aisle roofs.						
	After many years of neglect, the church underwent a series of restoration and repair programmes from the 1930s. As a result a detailed chronology of the timbers is rendered uncertain, but the appearance if not the actuality of most the timbers is of late medieval date.						
	The groundwo		e other than the	shallowness of	the foundations	and a modern	
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	Bldg Rec	Post-Exc	
(maicate all that apply)	WB	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Ехс	Other	
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	Grade I		Previous work (eg. SMR refs	Previous work:		HER 946	
Current land use:	Parish church			No			
Monument type:	Building		Monument period:		Medieval		
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)							
		PROJECT	LOCATION				
County:	Bedfordshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		TL 0586 2742		
District:	South Bedfordshire		Parish:		All Saints		
Site address: (with postcode if known)	All Saints Church, Chalgrave, Bedfordshire						
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	5647m ²		Height OD: (metres)		145m AOD		
PROJECT CREATORS							
Organisation: Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd							
Project brief originator:	David Baker		Project design originator:		N/A		
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat		Director/Supervisor:		Karin Semmelmann		
Sponsor / funding body:	dy: All Saints Parochial Church Council						
PROJECT DATE							
Start date:	art date: 18.08.2006 End date: 24.04.2007						
PROJECT ARCHIVES							
	Location (Acc	cession no.)	Content (eg.	pottery, animal	bone, files/sheet	s)	

Physical:	N/A	N/A				
Paper:	Bedford Museum	Field notes, drawings				
Digital:	Bedford Museum	Photos				
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	Historic Building Recording & Watching Brief: All Saints Church, Chalgrave, Bedfordshire					
Serial title & volume:						
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