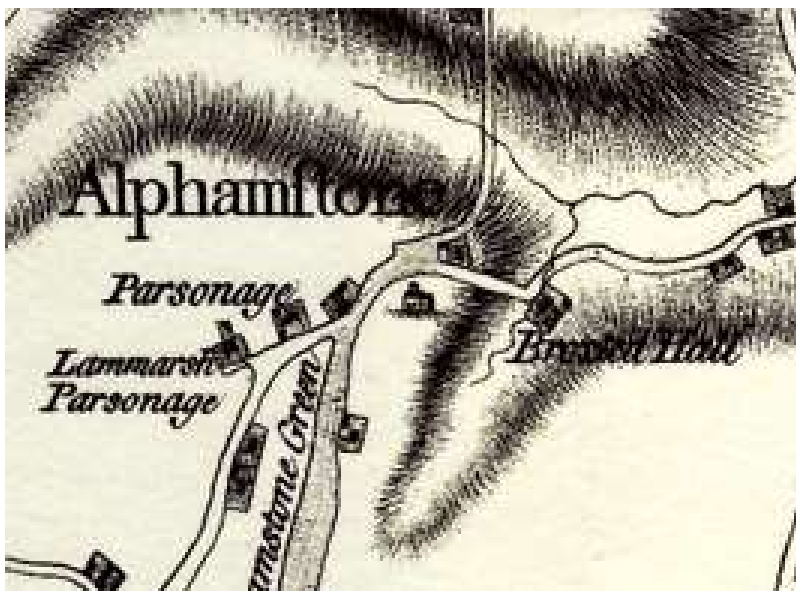


Archaeological evaluation at St Barnabas' Church, Lamarsh Road, Alphamstone, Essex, CO8 5HS

June 2020



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton, Adam Wightman and Laura Pooley
figures by Chris Lister, Mark Baister and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Mark Baister

**commissioned by David Whymark
on behalf of St Barnabas' Church PCC**

NGR: TL 87878 35461 (centre)
Planning ref.: pre-planning
CAT project code: 20/03h
ECC code: APSB20
OASIS ref.: colchest3-390227



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CAT Report 1564
June 2020

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches was carried out at St Barnabas' Church, Lamarsh Road, Alhamstone, Essex in advance of the construction of a new shed housing a toilet and a flower arranging and mower storage area with associated services. The church is thought to pre-date the Norman invasion, and to have been built at the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon minster church. There are several sarsen stones within the churchyard, which lies immediately to the north of the known site of a Roman villa complex. Excavations revealed a possible grave cut, a post-medieval or modern burial vault or funerary monument foundation and a modern pit.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at St Barnabas' Church, Lamarsh Road, Alhamstone, Essex, which was carried out on 18th June 2020. The work was commissioned by David Whymark on behalf of St Barnabas' Church PCC in advance of the construction of a new shed housing a toilet and a flower arranging and mower storage area with associated services. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS) Historic Environment Advisor Teresa O'Connor and Diocesan Archaeological Advisor Debbie Priddy it was advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial trenching*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2020).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24)*. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation (ClfA 2014a)*, *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b)*.

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The Church of St Barnabas lies on elevated land in the midst of arable fields. It formerly had another dedication, but it is not known. The nave walls are 0.8m thick and are thought to pre-date the Norman conquest. Rodwell and Rodwell consider St Barnabas' as the likely site of an Anglo-Saxon minster church (Rodwell & Rodwell 1977, 94). Minsters were monastic churches founded by the early Christian missionaries which existed between the 7th and 11th centuries. They were occupied by a peripatetic clergy, primarily Celtic monks, who travelled into the wider area to minister to its inhabitants. During ground reduction carried out at the north side of the nave and chancel carried out in the 1980s, it was found that a portion of the face of the north wall is formed of skulls and long bones. It was thought that this represented charnel from graves disturbed during the construction of the church, lending further credence to speculation that an earlier church had previously stood at the site. The south aisle and chancel were constructed in the 14th century. In the 16th century the chancel was partially

rebuilt, and the south porch was added in either the 16th or 17th century. The church was restored in the 19th century (Bennett & Gilman 1989, 150; EHER nos. 9321-9324 & 28558).

A scheduled Roman villa complex lies in a field immediately to the south of the churchyard (Scheduled Ancient Monument no 24872). The south edge of the churchyard overlies and follows the course of a rubble and mortar wall which forms part of this complex. A spread of tegulae, imbrex, box flue tile fragments and sherds of predominantly 3rd- and 4th-century pottery lies across this part of the field and in the early 20th century, the owner of the field reported walls and burnt rubbish extending southwards from the churchyard. More Roman pottery, mostly of 1st-century date, as well as a bronze needle, a coin of Valerian and another coin, possibly of Magnetius, have also been found within the churchyard itself. A cropmark recorded at NGR: TL 8787 3540 marks the location of one of the main buildings within the complex. Geophysical investigation of the area by resistivity and magnetometry conducted in 2004 identified potential wall lines to the west of the site. Several strong anomalies were recorded within the churchyard but none resembled the lay-out of a structure. (EHER nos. 9317-8).

A number of sarsen stones lie within the churchyard, and it has been speculated that these represent the remains of a prehistoric stone circle (EHER 9320). Several of these stones have actually been incorporated into the church itself, suggesting that the construction of the church on this site represented an attempt to Christianise a pagan site (EHER 9323). Stone circles are often surrounded by Bronze Age burials, and an Early Bronze cremation cemetery has also been discovered here, with several urns discovered within the churchyard and in a field to the west (EHER 9319).

In 2007, CAT carried out an excavation at the church. Three test-holes were dug by hand at the northern side of the nave. A number of features – some pre-dating the construction of the nave – were encountered. Of principal interest was an east-west aligned inhumation burial, the orientation of which suggests that the deceased was a Christian. The burial partially underlies and thus pre-dates the nave of the church. It is possible that this burial is late Roman in date, but it is more likely to originate from the Anglo-Saxon or Norman periods. Another deposit of Roman date revealed in another of the test-holes may have been part of a large pit or ditch, perhaps a rubbish-pit associated with the nearby villa. Residual Roman pottery and tile was recovered during excavations.

The foundation of the nave was found to be constructed out of unmortared stone and earth and to extend to between 0.4-0.5m below current ground level [bcgl]. It was also found that it had not been dug through undisturbed natural clay but rather lay on top of cut features or a layer. All these deposits pre-date the construction of the nave, which possibly has its origins prior to the Norman conquest, and so the layers of made ground within the churchyard must be of some antiquity (CAT Report 417, EHER nos. 9321-3, 28558).

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the potential of the proposed new development to damage significant archaeological remains within the churchyard.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Feature, layer and finds numbers used during the current excavation follow on from numbers assigned during the test-pit excavation undertaken at this site by CAT in 2007 (CAT Report 417).

One archaeological trial-trench was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench was 30m long by 1.8m wide.

The trench was cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.19-0.24m thick, loose/soft moist dark brown/black sandy-silt) into a layer of burial soil (L4, firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with CBM pieces, iron nails and disarticulated human bone) until a possible grave cut was encountered.

Post-medieval or modern burial vault or funerary monument foundation F9 was uncovered. It was constructed out of unfrosted red bricks bonded in lime mortar. The base of the feature lay at an approximate depth of 0.55m bcgl.



Photograph 1 F9 – looking east northeast

Possible medieval or post-medieval grave cut F8 was uncovered at the southwest end of the trench at an approximate depth of 0.8m bcgl. It appeared to be aligned E-W. It was not excavated.



Photograph 2 F8 – looking east northeast

Modern pit F10 was observed in section cutting L4 and sealed by L1. It was 0.45m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.34m but the base of the pit was not revealed.

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

A small assemblage of Roman and post-Roman ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) was recovered from burial soil L4 (Table 1). Roman CBM included roof tile (tegulae, imbrex) – including one sherd with a possible nail hole – and tesserae cubes. Post-Roman CBM consisted of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile. There was also a sherd of coarse, principally-locally produced Roman grey ware pottery (fabric GX) from a small beaker or jar (Cam 108?) dating from c AD 44 to the end of the 2nd century AD. Finally, there was also a piece of roofing slate and two pieces of mortar.

Ceramic material	no.	weight/g	MSW/g	Rim EVE
Pottery	1	7	7	0.18
CBM	19	2,244	119	-
SBM	1	7	7	-
All	21	2,258	108	0.18

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

6.2 Flints

by Adam Wightman

Three flints were recovered from burial soil L4 (13). The first was a large, secondary hard-hammer flake with retouch on the ventral face at the distal end and the proximal end (retouched notch) which is of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. A thick secondary hard-hammer flake, which was a waste flake from knapping process, and a possible core with some potential hard-hammer flake removals were also found. These might either be prehistoric or alternatively may be waste pieces from the construction of the church.

6.3 Other finds

by Laura Pooley

An iron nail came from L4 (finds no.13). The nail was complete with a rectangular-sectioned shank and flat head of figure-eight shape, 44.5mm long, 3.2g, of probable medieval date.

7 Conclusion

Excavations at this site revealed a possible medieval or post-medieval grave cut at a depth of 0.8m bcgl. As excavations ceased once a possible grave cut had been reached, it may be that further inhumation burials lie at deeper depths within the area of the evaluation trench. A burial vault or funerary monument foundation was also uncovered. It was probably of late 18th- or early 19th-century date. The area of the proposed development apparently overlies graves.

As excavations did not penetrate beyond medieval or post-medieval layers no Roman remains associated with the villa complex situated to the south were encountered and nor was there any evidence of the Anglo-Saxon minster church which is thought to have stood at this site. A small assemblage of Roman CBM was recovered, however.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks David Whymark and St Barnabas' Church PCC for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister. Figures are by C Lister, M Baister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor and by Diocesan Archaeological Advisor Debbie Priddy.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--|
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| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
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10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410

section (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI Written Scheme of Investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1564)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1564)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photos and log

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Braintree Museum under project ref. APSB20.

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Distribution list:

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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 13.08.2020

Appendix 1 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	TR	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Dec.	STAMP	GRAF Pre-F	GRAF Post-F	Wind Int	Wind EX	Soot Int	Soot EX	Burn Int	Burn Ext	Overfired	Residue	Abraded	Modif	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Vessel Height	Comments	Date
L4	?	13		1	7	7		1	0	0																			GX	Cam 108	0.18	90		? small beaker/jar	AD 44-130/140/200?	

Appendix 2 CBM list

Site	Name	Site Code	Country	Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Trench	NR	GR	W SW	Discard	Typology	sub-type	Flange				Cut aways			Marks 1				Marks 2		Flue tile				Peg-tile				BR Dim.				Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Woodf.	Comments	Date
														NR FL	MR FL	FL R	FL W	FL TH	LCA	LCA L	LCA	LCA L	Stamp	Sign.	Tally	Graf PF	Animal	Snake	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Circ. VL	Rect. VL	Bl. VL	PH R	PH Sq	2 Pits	Ballot							
Alphamstone	St Barnabas Church	APKF 14	Essex	L4		13		3	45	75	X	Tesserae		0																										Roman					
Alphamstone	St Barnabas Church	APKF 14	Essex	L4		13					X	Tesserae		0																										Roman					
Alphamstone	St Barnabas Church	APKF 14	Essex	L4		13		3	524	175	X	RI		0																									Roman						
Alphamstone	St Barnabas Church	APKF 14	Essex	L4		13		2	178	89	X	RT		0																									Roman						
Alphamstone	St Barnabas Church	APKF 14	Essex	L4		13		3	811	270		RT		0	48	23	21																						nail hole?	Roman					
Alphamstone	St Barnabas Church	APKF 14	Essex	L4		13		1	38	39	X	RT		0																									Roman						
Alphamstone	St Barnabas Church	APKF 14	Essex	L4		13		1	112	112	X	RBT		0																									Roman						
Alphamstone	St Barnabas Church	APKF 14	Essex	L4		13		3	324	108	X	PT		0																									Medieval-Post Medieval						
Alphamstone	St Barnabas Church	APKF 14	Essex	L4		13		1	123	123	X	PT		0																								Medieval-Post Medieval							
Alphamstone	St Barnabas Church	APKF 14	Essex	L4		13		2	88	44	X	Mortar		0																								?							
Alphamstone	St Barnabas Church	APKF 14	Essex	L4		13		1	7	7	X	Slate		0																								19th-20th century							

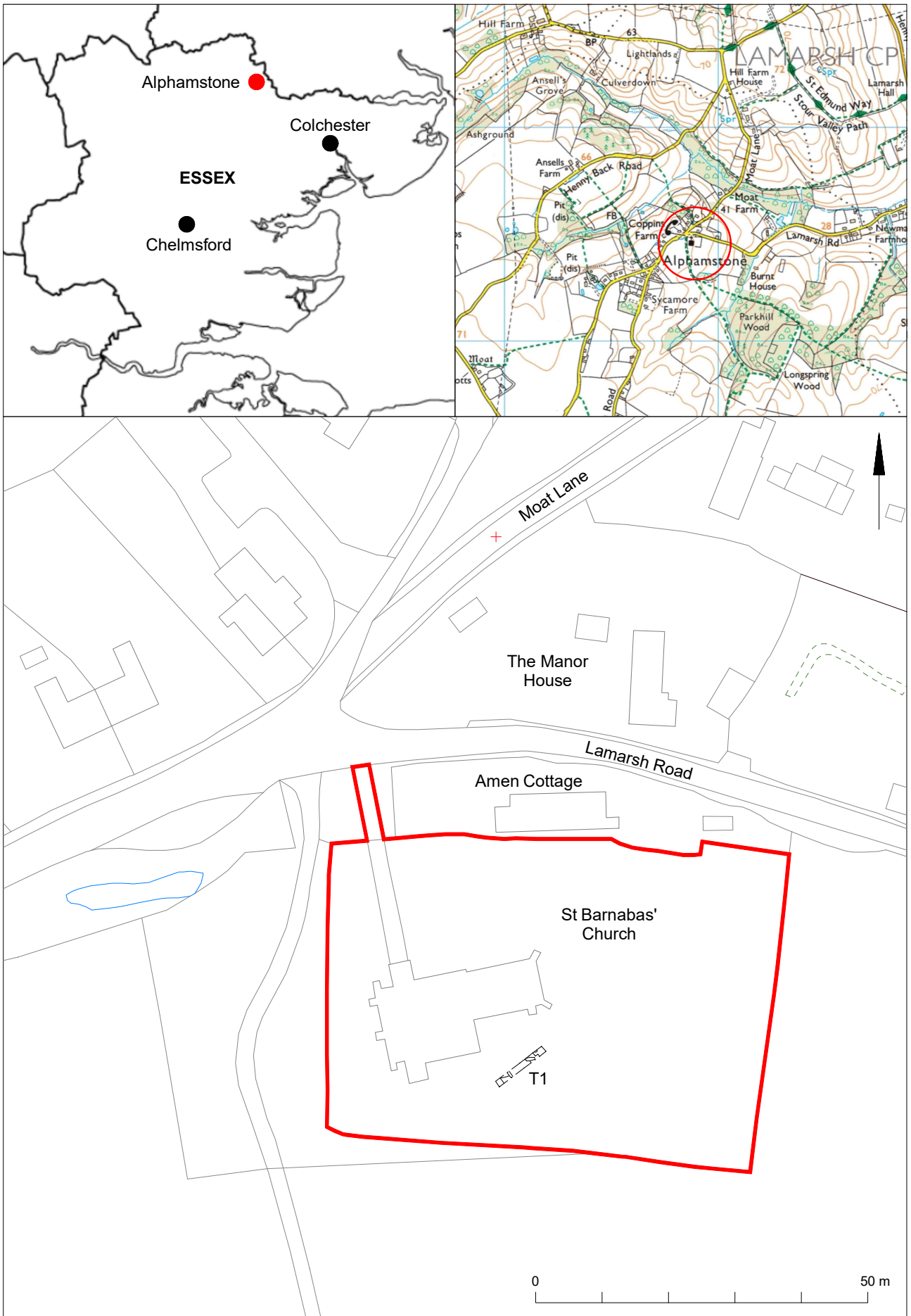


Fig 1 Site location.

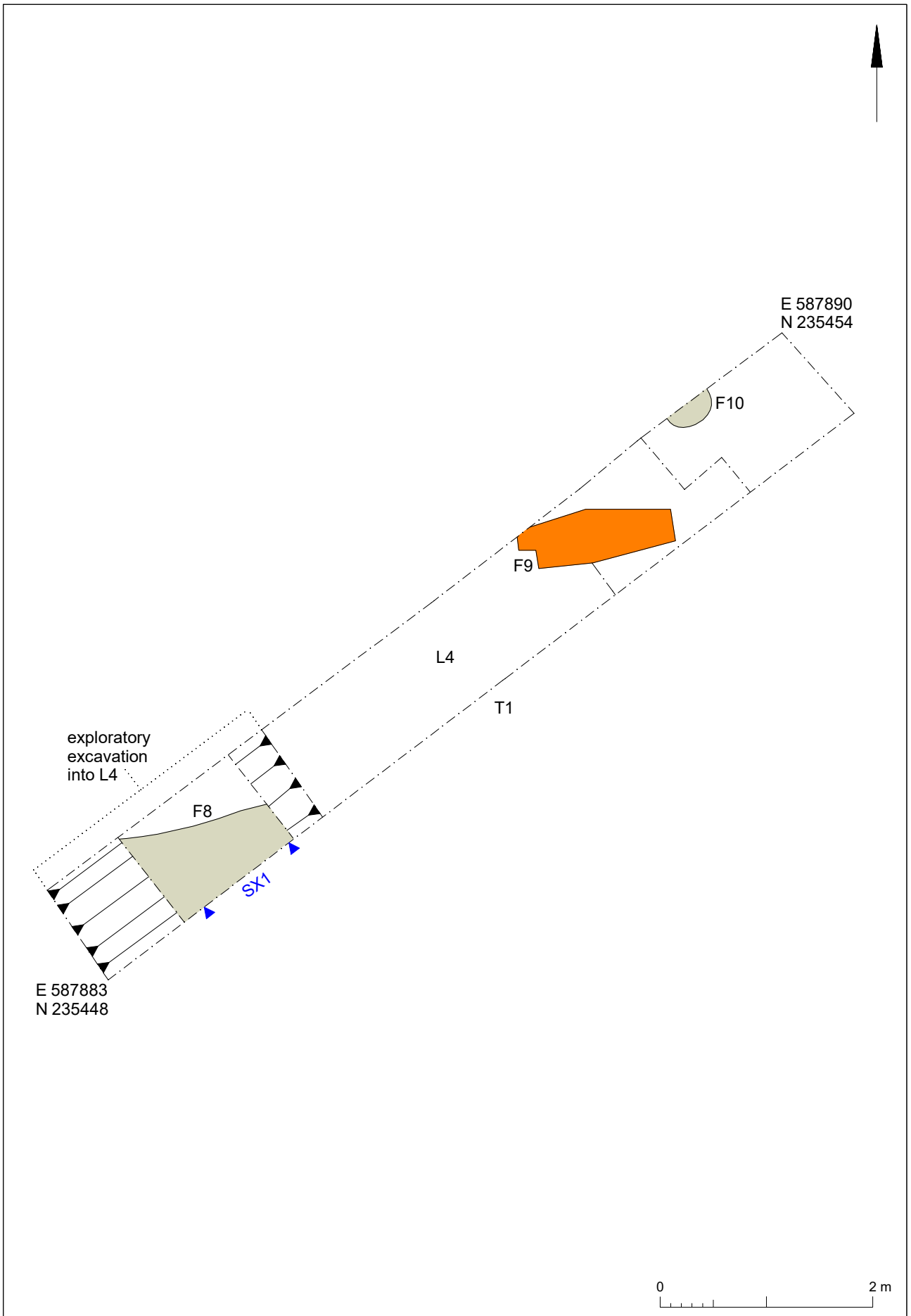


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

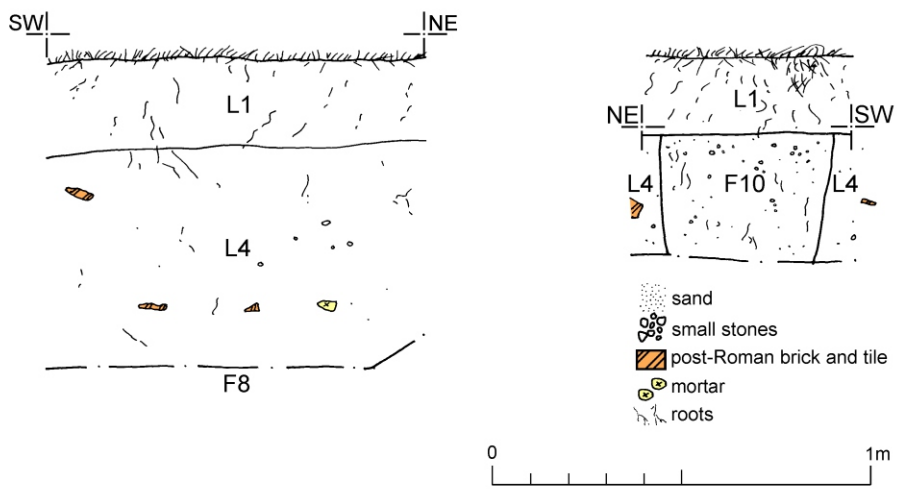


Fig 3 Sections.

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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-390227

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at St Barnabas' Church, Lamarsh Road, Alphamstone, Essex, CO8 5HS.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches was carried out at St Barnabas' Church, Lamarsh Road, Alphamstone, Essex in advance of the construction of a new shed housing a toilet and a flower arranging and mower storage area with associated services. The church is thought to pre-date the Norman invasion, and to have been built at the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon minster church. There are several sarsen stones lie within the churchyard, which lies immediately to the north of the known site of a Roman villa complex. Excavations revealed a possible grave cut, a post-medieval or modern burial vault or funerary monument foundation and a modern pit.
Project dates	Start: 18-06-2020 End: 18-06-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	APSB20 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-390227 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	2020/03h - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	9321-9324 and 28558 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	BURIAL VAULT Post Medieval
Monument type	FUNERARY MONUMENT Post Medieval
Monument type	GRAVE CUT Medieval
Monument type	GRAVE CUT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	SLATE Uncertain
Significant Finds	MORTAR Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE ALPHAMSTONE St Barnabas' Church, Lamarsh Road, Alphamstone
Postcode	CO8 5HS
Study area	0.31 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 87878 35461 51.985289182508 0.736352398515 51 59 07 N 000 44 10 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Parochial Church Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	St Barnabas' Church PCC

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	APSB20
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	APSB20
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at St Barnabas' Church, Lamarsh Road, Alphamstone, Essex, CO8 5HS.

NGR: TL 87878 35461 (centre)

District: Braintree

Parish: Alphamstone

Planning reference: pre-planning

Commissioned by: David Whymark

On behalf of: St Barnabas' Church PCC

Diocese: Chelmsford

Curating museum: Braintree

Museum Accession code: tbc

ECC project code: tbc

CAT project code: 2020/03h

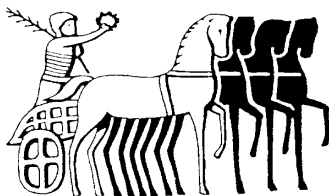
Oasis project ID: colchest3-390227

Site manager: Chris Lister

ECC monitor: Teresa O'Connor

Diocesan Archaeological Advisor: Debbie Priddy

This WSI written: 26/03/2020



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located at the north-eastern edge of the main village of Alphamstone at St Barnabas' Church, Lamarsh Road, Alphamstone, Essex (see Fig 1). Site is centred at National grid reference (NGR) TL 87878 35461.

Proposed work

The planning application proposes the erection of a shed to the south of the southern porch, to include an accessible wc, flower arranging and mower storage area. The shed will be connected to the south porch by a new brushed concrete path and new underground insulated barrier pipe water and electrical supply cable from the church, new soakaway, and any other associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts from the ECC brief, CAT Report 417 and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The Church of St Barnabas lies on a platform above the surrounding fields, and has yielded Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery and remains associated with a Roman villa. Bronze Age cremations urns have been found in the churchyard and in the field to the west (EHER 9319).

The original dedication of the Grade I Listed Saint Barnabas Church is not known. The nave walls are nearly 1m thick and are thought almost certainly to date to the Pre-Conquest period. Rodwell and Rodwell cite St Barnabas' Church as a prime site for an Anglo-Saxon minster church (Rodwell & Rodwell 1977, 94). Minsters were monastic churches founded by the early Christian missionaries from the 7th century and were operating into the 11th century. The word is simply the Anglo-Saxon translation of the Latin *monasterium*. These were staffed by a team of peripatetic clergy, primarily Celtic monks, who used the minsters as bases from which to travel into their area to preach the gospel and administer the sacraments. One minster church would serve a wide area and the changeover to the present-day parochial system happened gradually over time. The south aisle and chancel are 14th century (EHER 9323). At the centre of the north wall, a pocket of the face of the wall is made up with skulls and long bones at ground-level (EHER nos 9321-9324 and 28558). The south porch dates to the 16th- or 17th-century and the church was restored at the end of the 19th-century (EHER 9324).

Roman pottery, mostly of 1st century date, including a fragment of dish in a Gallo-Belgic form, has been found in the churchyard; also a bronze needle, a coin of Valerian and another, probably of Magentius (EHER 9317). The south edge of the churchyard is on the line of a rubble and mortar wall believed to be Roman in date. This undoubtedly forms part of the scheduled Roman villa complex immediately to the south of the churchyard (Scheduled Ancient Monument no 24872). The villa was identified through a surface scatter of building material and pottery within the plough-soil, marking the site of buried wall foundations, pits and ditches (EHER 9317-8). A cropmark recorded at NGR: TL 8787 3540 marks the location of one of the main buildings.

Many sarsen stones have been gathered to the area and are distributed in and about the churchyard which has led to speculation that they once formed part of a prehistoric stone circle (EHER 9320). Stone circles are a phenomenon of the Neolithic and Bronze Age and are often surrounded by Bronze Age burials. Many Bronze Age burial urns have been discovered in and around the Churchyard and in a field to the west and are thought to form part of an Early Bronze Age cremation cemetery. Two large sarsens have actually been incorporated into the church foundations. This suggests that the building of the church on this site was a deliberate attempt to Christianise a pagan site.

In 2007 three test-holes were hand dug by CAT at the northern side of the nave (CAT Report 417, EHER 28558). These encountered features and layers, some pre-dating the construction of the nave. Of principal interest was an east-west aligned inhumation burial. The orientation of the human remains in the grave cut by Test-hole 1 suggests that the deceased was a

Christian. The burial pre-dates the building of the nave which is Norman or earlier. The site of the Roman villa nearby, the Roman finds from the churchyard and the exposed Roman layer in Test-hole 2 make it possible that the burial is late Roman, however this would be considered unusual and the burial is more likely to be of Anglo Saxon or Norman date. A Roman layer or feature fill in one of the test-holes may have been part of a large pit or ditch, perhaps a rubbish-pit associated with the nearby villa. Residual Roman pottery and tile was also found in later layers. The nave foundation was seen to extend to between 400 and 500mm below ground-level and to be of un-mortared stone and earth construction.

Of significance to the depth of made ground within the churchyard is the fact that the church foundations had not been dug through undisturbed natural clay. In each of the three test-holes, the foundation was sitting on top of cut features or a layer. All these features/layers obviously pre-date the construction of the nave which is Norman or earlier and so the layers of made ground known to exist within the churchyard may be of some antiquity.

Planning background

Prior to a faculty application and planning application being submitted to Braintree District Council Historic England recommended an archaeological evaluation be carried out due to the proximity to a Scheduled Monument and the potential for significant archaeological remains to be preserved within the churchyard.

A meeting has been held with representatives from the Diocesan, Historic England, the architect and the Historic Environment Advisor for Braintree District Council to agree upon a suitable mitigation strategy prior to the planning application.

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work will consist of archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by ECCPS (*Brief for Archaeological evaluation at St Barnabas Church, Alphamstone, Braintree – ECC 2017*).

Specifically, the archaeological work will comprise of the excavation of a machine dig trench in the location of the trench arch drain to the depth of the drain specifications. The footprint of the trench arch will be approx. 9.0m x1.0m and 0.5m deep, the exact position is to be agreed with the parish and architect. The trench will be dug in spits in order to collect and assess the nature of the 'made ground', this should continue until the required depth for the trench arch drain is reached unless any archaeological layers or features are encountered. Excavation will cease until the layer or features have been investigated. Any features revealed will need to be planned and excavated.

The initial work will comprise the trial trenching which will be followed by a summary report. This will inform on the depth and nature of the made ground and the impact of the remaining scheme on any surviving archaeological remains and may lead to further archaeological work. Further area excavation may be required should significant archaeological deposits/features be identified that cannot be preserved *in situ*. This will be decided by the ECCHEA & DAA on completion of the trial-trenching and report.

Specific attention should be made to the potential for:

- Evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman or later occupation
- Evidence of earlier phases of the church, including the possible Anglo-Saxon Minster
- Evidence of grave cuts

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)

- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2019)
- the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Advisor (ECCPS 2017)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to ECCHEA and DAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from ECCHEA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT officer and one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Nigel Rayner

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until the depth of foundations/service trenches are reached or natural, depending on which is reached first.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks, and only then after discussion with the ECCHEA and DAA, will it be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, a sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in

every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the ECCHEA and DAA.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science

(East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

The ECCHEA and DAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the investigation.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the investigation, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Diocese for a Faculty to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist (see finds section).

Following HE guidance (HE 2017 and HE 2018) if remains need to be lifted, they may be removed from the site for analysis (including potential scientific analysis such as absolute dating) and reporting, before they will be returned to the site and re-interment. If the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain in situ (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the Brief will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, the ECCHEA and DAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

If in situ burials are encountered that extend beyond the limits of the trench, it may be necessary to extend the area of the trench to ensure the full excavation of articulated human remains (whilst keeping disturbance to a minimum); a decision will be made in a case by case basis.

Any human remains disturbed by the project will be presented to the parish authorities for re-interment within the churchyard.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Robin Mathieson/Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby /
Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to ECCHEA and DAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

Post-excavation assessment

An updated post-excavation assessment will be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the ECCHEA and DAA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the ECCHEA to proceed straight to grey literature / publication.

Results

Notification will be given to ECCHEA and DAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the ECCHEA and DAA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects (paul.gilman@me.com).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. An allowance

will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

Archive deposition

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within 1 month of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to ECCHEA and DAA.

Monitoring

ECCHEA and DAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given ECCHEA and DAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with ECCHEA and DAA prior to them being carried out.

ECCHEA and DAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of ECCHEA and DAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

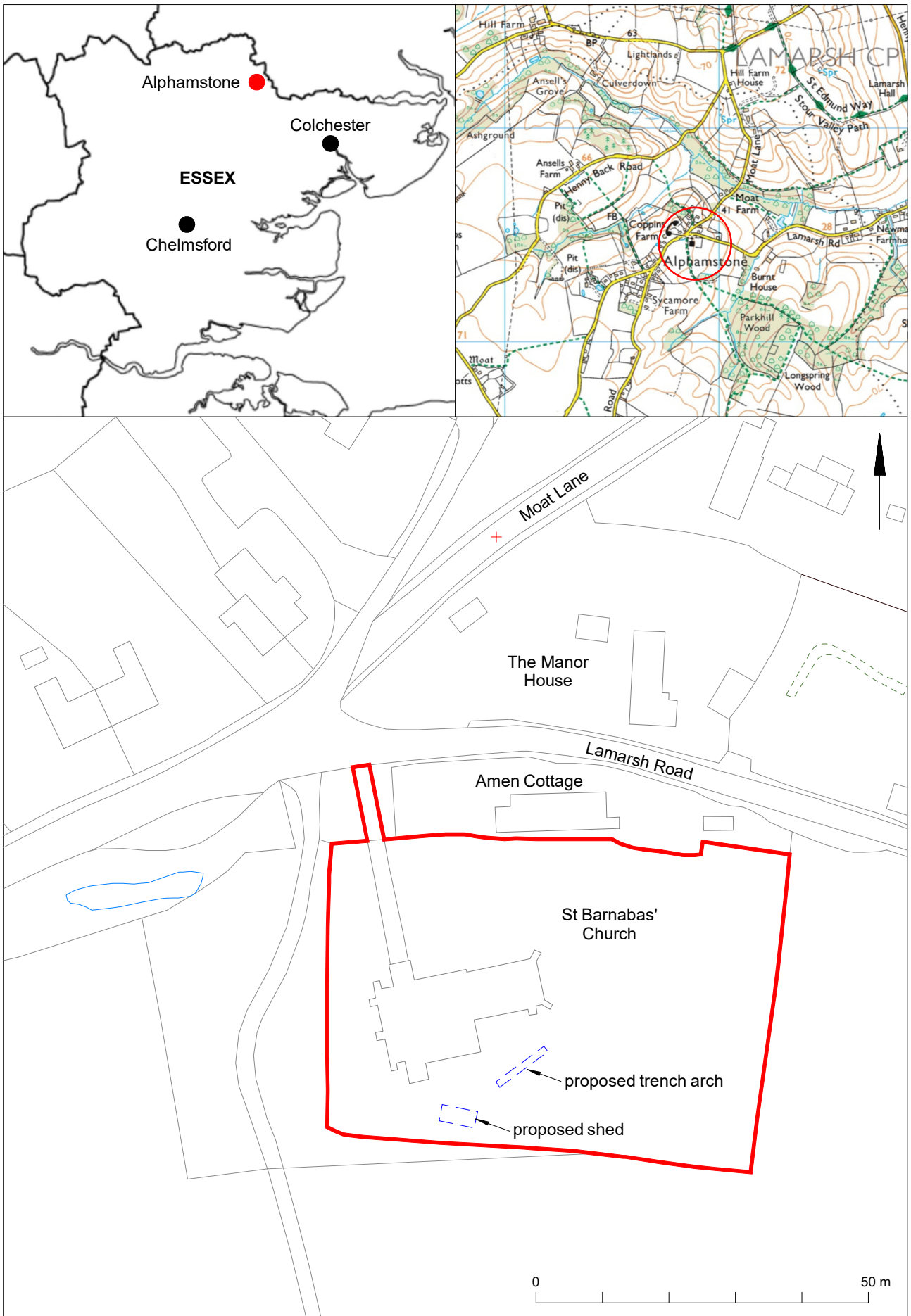
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Fig 1 Site location.