



**Chris Butler MfA
Archaeological Services Ltd**



**An Archaeological Evaluation
and Watching Brief at
St. Mary Magdalene Church,
Whatlington, East Sussex.**

Project No. CBAS 0332

by

Keith Butler PIfA

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Summary

Two evaluation trenches were initially excavated in the interior of the church, one in the Nave and the other in the Chancel, in advance of works to install a new heating system. It was then decided to strip and plan the entire Nave to reduce the internal ground level to the depth of potential impact. In the Chancel multiple grave cuts were discovered below a very disturbed made ground. In the Nave, adjacent to the north wall, two very truncated pits were discovered with pottery dating them to be roughly contemporary with the construction of the church in the 13th century. Multiple grave cuts were also discovered in the Nave, although these were disturbed by a Victorian heating system running through the centre of the Nave. Other artefacts recovered included a number of glazed floor tiles possibly associated with a 16th to 17th century floor. A watching brief on service trenches in the churchyard revealed a single brick built tomb, but no other features.

Chris Butler MifA Archaeological Services Ltd

**Rosedale
Berwick
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TB**

Tel & fax: 01323 811785

e mail: chris@cbsltd.co.uk

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by the PCC of St Mary Magdalene Church, Whatlington, to carry out an archaeological evaluation at St Mary's Church, Whatlington, East Sussex, TQ 7605 1822 (Fig. 1), in order to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains that may be affected by the works inside the church, and a watching brief during the excavation of a trench for the gas and water supply through the churchyard.
- 1.2 St Mary Magdalene Church is a Grade II* Listed Building (TQ 71 NE 22/6), originally listed on 3rd August 1961, and is described as 13th century, greatly restored in 1862¹. The church is situated on the north-east end of a ridge at c.30m OD, with the ground falling away to the River Line on the north and north-east sides.
- 1.3 The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 320/321), comprises Ashdown Beds, with Head Deposits and Alluvium immediately to the north.
- 1.4 This work follows the advice given by the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC), namely that:
- “No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of an Archaeological Watching Brief in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved by Diocesan Archaeological Advisor and all works shall be carried out in accordance with the WSI.”*
- 1.5 The appropriate programme of archaeological work comprised an archaeological evaluation excavation inside the church Nave and Chancel and a watching brief during the excavation of a trench for the gas and water supply through the churchyard, as specified in a brief prepared by Vivienne Coad, Archaeological Advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- 1.6 The approved WSI² covered an evaluation excavation which was required to establish the depth and extent of archaeological remains within the Nave and Chancel in the church, to advise on the impact of the proposed underfloor heating and drainage, and then any subsequent excavation required thereafter. The watching brief is required to monitor the excavation of a trench for the gas and water supply through the churchyard to enable the excavation and recording of any archaeological remains that would be damaged or destroyed by the work.

¹ English Heritage; Images of England

² Butler, C. 2012 Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief at St Mary Magdalene Church, Whatlington, East Sussex CBAS.

- 1.7 The archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out by the author and David Atkins between the 25th September and 5th October 2012. The watching brief on the service trench was maintained by David Atkins on the 19th February 2013. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler MCIFA.



Plate 1: The interior of the church prior to any excavation work

2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 There have been few discoveries of pre-medieval sites and artefacts in the immediate area of the site. Mesolithic flintwork, including a microlith, was found just to the north of the site at TQ762186 (MES2609), and an undated iron ore roasting pit/hearth was found immediately to the south of the site at TQ761180 (MES2616/MES2620).
- 2.2 *Watlingetone* (farm of Hwaetel's people) is mentioned in the Domesday Book (half hide meadow 10 acres and woodland 6 pigs) as having formerly belonged to Earl Harold³. In 1086 it had been granted to Reinbert (founder of the house of Etchingam) by the Count of Eu. It subsequently passed with the manor of Etchingam, until the beginning of the 13th century when it was passed to Battle Abbey⁴. The Abbot of Battle stated in 1330 that he held in Whatlington 24 messuages, 300 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow and 100 acres of pasture⁵.
- 2.3 Other medieval sites in the vicinity of the church include Hancox Farm (MES19385), to the north of the church, which can be traced to John Hancock 1402, and Eastlands Farm (MES19384), south of the church, traced to the 12th century.
- 2.4 There is no mention of a church at Whatlington in the Domesday Book, but in a grant of land in Whatlington to William de Haremere at the end of the 12th century, the chapel was retained by Simon de Etchingam⁶. Before the restoration of 1862, Hussey saw round-headed windows in the nave and chancel, which would suggest that the church was 12th century or earlier in origin⁷. On the assumption that Hussey was correct, the relative length of the chancel alone suggests it was extended in the 13th century⁸.
- 2.5 Its roofline continues that of the aisleless nave and there is no chancel arch. Though the walls have lost the render that they once had, the sequence of building remains uncertain, but the clasping buttresses at both ends are typically 13th century. The pointed east window has three trefoiled lights with pierced spandrels and a string-course inside as a sill. Only partly renewed, it is as shown on the Burrell Collection drawing of 1779 and is later 13th century, like the trefoiled lancet in the north wall of the nave and the west doorway, with a hollow-chamfered outer order.

³ Bannister, N. 2008. *Historic Landscape Characterisation of Sussex*.

⁴ Salzman, L. F. 1973 *Victoria County History: Sussex* Vol. 9

⁵ *Ibid*

⁶ *Ibid*

⁷ Hussey, A. 1852 *Notes on the Churches in the Counties of Kent, Sussex and Surrey mentioned in Domesday Book*

⁸ <http://www.sussexparishchurches.org/content/view/296/34/>

- 2.6** Sir Stephen Glynne, probably in 1826⁹, saw two trefoiled west lancets, which have gone. They were of equal size and appear large for pre-Reformation work. The plain lancets in the nave and the sides of the chancel (partly hidden to the north) and the chamfered north doorway (only the lower parts are original) might be thought earlier 13th century, like the blocked south doorway of the nave and a small lowside in the chancel. Despite the differences, however, all are probably late 13th century.
- 2.7** Glynne saw a wooden north porch with ‘feathering’ (i.e. cusped bargeboards), which sounds 14th century, though Saunders in 1860 shows a plain one. The nave roof was boarded in the C19, but its wall-plates with carved foliage are late 15th or 16th century and probably contemporary with the uncusped square-headed south nave windows. The Burrell drawing shows a big, boarded wooden west bell-turret with a pyramid cap, probably of one build with the roof. The present cusped beam between nave and chancel may not be old, but marks the position of the rood-beam¹⁰.
- 2.8** The church was drastically restored in 1862 by S W Tracey¹¹. Apart from repairing the external stonework, he designed a chancel roof of cedar wood. Most conspicuously, he replaced the bell-turret by a coarse north-west tower with a substantial tiled broach spire. East of it an apsidal vestry hides most of the north wall of the nave and the west gable was rebuilt with a large cusped circular opening. The new work is in unattractive brown stone, with blue and red brick dressings on the tower. The north side, the principal one, now recalls more than anything a mission church in a city and seems oddly out of place in such a rural setting. The west gallery, which may be based on an earlier one, was probably determined by the need to provide enough seating as cheaply as possible. In 1908 the lowside in the chancel was opened up¹² and in 1955-56 repairs by H H C Sweatman were carried out¹³.
- 2.9** The Rectory is a Grade II Listed Building (415606) and dates from the 17th century, although a rectory was valued at £7 6s. 6d. in 1535¹⁴. After the dissolution of the Abbey, the advowson and rectory passed to Sir Anthony Browne. In 1696 there was a dispute between the rector of Whatlington, John Doddridge, and his parishioners with regard to tithes; the rector demanding that the tithes were paid in kind rather than by a composition payment of 2s. in the pound which had previously been the custom¹⁵.
- 2.10** In 1870-72 Whatlington is described as: a parish in Battle district, Sussex; 2 miles N by E of Battle r. station. It has a post-office under Battle. Acres, 1,255. Real property, £1,438. Pop., 343. Houses, 69. The property is divided among a few. The living is a rectory in the diocese of Chichester. Value, £160. Patron, the Countess of Plymouth. The church is not good¹⁶.

⁹ *SNQ* 17 (Nov 1968) p41

¹⁰ <http://www.sussexparishchurches.org/content/view/296/34/>

¹¹ Nairn, I. & Pevsner, N. 1973 *The Buildings of England: Sussex*, Penguin Books

¹² *Langdon* p25

¹³ <http://www.sussexparishchurches.org/content/view/296/34/>

¹⁴ Salzman, L. F. 1973 *Victoria County History: Sussex* Vol. 9

¹⁵ *Ibid*

¹⁶ John Marius Wilson 1870-72 *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales*

2.11 The 1st Edition OS map of 1873 shows the church and churchyard, with the rectory situated to the north-east of the church (Fig. 2). There is little change in the situation through the 2nd Edition (1898), 3rd Edition (1909) and 4th Edition (1930) OS Maps.

2.12 The following documents were deposited by the incumbent and PCC, 16 May 1968 (D907) and 9 September 1994 (ACC 6487)¹⁷:

PAR507/1/1	Early	registers;	1558-1812
PAR507/1/2	Baptism	registers;	1813-1994
PAR507/1/3	Marriage	registers;	1813-1994
PAR507/1/4	Banns	registers;	1824-1919
PAR507/1/5	Burial	registers;	1813-1992
VESTRY	(For vestry minutes, 1880-1894, see P507/1/1)		

2.13 There was extensive fire damage to the church in July 2010. The fire started in the organ-loft in the west gallery and thus the worst damage was to the nave¹⁸. The current works in and around the church covered by this WSI are connected to the renovation of the church as a result of this fire.

¹⁷ ESRO PAR507

¹⁸ *The Bexhill Observer* 30 July 2010

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1** The original brief was for two evaluation trenches to be excavated in the interior of the church (**Plate 1**). Trench **A** was to be excavated in the centre of the Chancel on an east to west alignment, this was to measure 5m in length and 600mm wide. This trench was to have a depth of 900mm. Trench **B** was to be excavated across the Nave and to measure 6m in length (north to south) with a width of 1m and a depth 465mm (Fig. 4).
- 3.2** However, when the fieldwork began the length of Trench **A** had to be reduced to 3.4m due to the altar's brick and concrete dias not having been removed. The length of Trench **B** also had to be reduced to 5.4m which was the width of the Nave. After a site meeting at the church on the 27th September between Vivienne Coad (Chichester Diocese Archaeologist) and the architect it was arranged for the builders to remove the altar dias so that Trench **A** could be fully excavated to 5.3m. It was also decided that the ground surface of the Nave was to be reduced by 315mm or to the natural clay if higher, and features discovered during this process were to be excavated to the same depth (315mm). During the excavation of Trench **A**, the southern side of the baulk at the eastern end of the trench collapsed due to the unstable nature of the soil.
- 3.3** The only exception to this process was a Medieval feature discovered adjacent to the north wall of the Nave which was fully excavated to aid its interpretation and the recovery of artefacts to establish its dating.
- 3.4** Two other trenches were excavated. Trench **3** was 70mm wide and located 300mm to the east of Trench **2** to provide a better understanding of the Medieval features. Trench **4** was located to the west of Trench **2** to assist in the interpretation of the Victorian disturbance to the north of the Victorian pipe run. All excavations were carried out using hand tools.
- 3.5** All trenches were scanned with a CAT scan for the presence of services and also scanned with a Garrett ACE250 metal detector for the recovery of metal artefacts. The metal detector was also used to scan the trenches at various times throughout the excavations and also the spoil that was removed.
- 3.6** A OS bench mark (35.003m OD) was located on the buttress on the eastern wall of the porch of the church and was transferred to establish a temporary bench mark located on the north side of the west door on the remains of the Victorian tiled floor (35.828m OD).

- 3.7** The watching brief on the service trench was carried out on the 19th February 2013. The trench for the water and gas supply was excavated in shallow spits by a 1 tonne machine using a flat-bladed 250mm wide bucket and was excavated under archaeological supervision (**Plate 2**). The east-west return had a maximum depth of 750mm on the western side of the church, and 1.2m depth on the eastern side, both well into the underlying natural Wealden Clay. The north-south section of the trench from the road to the east-west return was not monitored, but the spoil was thoroughly inspected for finds.
- 3.8** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart
- 3.9** A full photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd, and will be deposited in Bexhill Museum. A site reference of WHA 12 has been allocated.



Plate 2: Service trench being excavated during the watching brief

4.0 Results

The Chancel

- 4.1 Trench A was located in the centre of the Chancel on an east to west alignment (Fig. 5 & Plate 3). Context 1 was mid orange-brown silty clay loam deposit of very disturbed ground and having a very loose consistence. Context 1 continued to the full 900mm depth of the trench, and had inclusions of sandstone pieces up to 60mm (1%), ceramic building material (<1%) and pieces of mortar (<1%). Recovered from the fill were artefacts of bone (Human), ceramic building material, metal, pieces of stained glass and window lead and clay tobacco pipe. This context formed the major deposit within Trench A and also filled all of the grave cuts found within this trench, there being no discernible difference in this deposit.



Plate 3: Trench A in centre of the Chancel

- 4.2 Context 17 was above Context 1 at the western end of Trench A, and was a shallow deposit (up to 150mm in depth) of greyish-brown sandy silty clay with a loose consistence, which only became apparent as the soil dried out. The deposit had inclusions of mortar pieces up to 90mm (5%), with no artefacts being recovered from it. This deposit was most likely associated with the removal of the tiled chancel floor.
- 4.3 Context 2 was apparent at the western end and the north side of the eastern end of the trench where it was below Context 1. This deposit was the assumed natural silty clay. The deposit was a dark orange-brown in colour and had a firm consistence, and was not fully excavated as the limit of excavation was reached. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit, but a number of cuts of graves were noted.

- 4.4** Context **3** was a cut into the natural (Context **2**) adjacent to the northern baulk of Trench **A**. The edge of the cut was noted by the 120mm wide lip of sandstone on an east west alignment, which was apparent in the base of the trench on the northern side of the trench (**Plate 4**). The western end of the cut was slightly rounded in plan, and the cut was filled by Context **1**. The side of the cut appeared to be vertical but was only excavated to a depth of 50mm, and no burial was encountered. The feature was on an east to west alignment and was interpreted as a grave cut. It was truncated by a later grave cut (Context **4**) at its eastern end.



Plate 4: Sandstone Lip of Primary Grave (Context **3**)

- 4.5** Context **4** was a probable grave cut first noted as an area of assumed natural in the north-eastern corner of Trench **A** before the trench was extended (Not shown in plan, but the cut is shown on the section at Fig. 5). It became apparent that this was a linear cut on an east to west alignment, with a length of 1.65m finishing at the stepped out foundations of the eastern wall of the chancel (Context **18**). The cut had a depth of up to 700mm to where the limit of excavation was reached, and no burial was encountered. The grave cut had a very sharp break of slope at the top with vertical sides. This cut was filled by Context **1** and had truncated the eastern end of Context **3** which suggested that this grave cut was later than Context **3**.
- 4.6** Context **19** was a located in the eastern edge of the deposit of the assumed natural (Context **2**) at the western end of Trench **A**. This was a semi-circular cut with width of 300mm and a length of 300mm before it became truncated by Cut **3** (**Plate 5**). The feature was 250mm deep, and had a gradual break of slope at the top which led into steeply sloping sides. The base was flat, and the cut was filled with Context **1**. The feature was on an east to west alignment, and was most likely another grave cut but because it was heavily truncated, it is difficult to be certain.



Plate 5: Semi Circular Cut (Context 19)

4.7 Context 20 was a linear cut on an east to west alignment and only apparent in the southern edge at the western end of the trench (Fig. 5). It was not excavated due to its position closely adjacent to the southern baulk of Trench A. The cut was exposed for a length of 1.3m, with an irregular break of slope at the top leading to almost vertical sides. The cut was filled with Context 1 and was interpreted as a grave cut.

4.8 Context 18 was the foundation of the eastern wall of the chancel (**Plate 6**), located at the eastern end of Trench A. The foundations stepped out 200mm from the main body of the eastern wall of the Chancel, and were 760mm deep. The blocks were roughly worked with a size up to 600mm. They were coursed and bonded with a mid grey sandy mortar. The foundations were directly above the assumed natural silty clay (Context 2) with no cut for a foundation trench being in evidence, but this is not surprising due to the disturbance of the multiple graves in this area.



Plate 6: Foundations of Eastern Wall of Chancel (Context 18)

The Nave

- 4.9** Trench **B** was positioned 6m in from the western wall of the nave (Fig. 4), and was excavated to a depth of 465mm (**Plate 7**). After the site meeting on the 27th October it was decided that the ground level of the nave was to be excavated to a depth of 315mm or the natural clay if reached first. The results of both elements of the work are described here.



Plate 7: Trench B

- 4.10** The later structures in the Nave were also briefly recorded (Fig. 4). The two plinths (Context **32**) located on the south and north side of the west door. These were constructed recently and constructed of a red brick built base with an overlying concrete surface. The bricks were laid in stretcher bond and bonded with a mid grey mortar. The northern plinth measured 2.14m north to south by 2.9m east to west, and butted up to the Victorian plinth for the font (Context **33**). The southern plinth measured 2.1m north to south by 2.8m east to west.
- 4.11** Context **33** was the Victorian plinth for the font measuring 2.56m north to south by 1.7m east to west. The plinth continued into the recess for the blocked south door of the church. The font was located in the north-west corner of the plinth. The plinth was on red bricks laid in header bond and bonded with a greyish brown mortar. The floor of the plinth was cover with Victorian tiles measuring 160mm square. The tiles were laid in a diamond pattern and were red, white and black laid in a diamond pattern.
- 4.12** Context **34** was the narrow brick built plinth which stepped out from the north and south walls of the Nave by 120mm. The bricks were laid in stretcher bond and bonded with a mid grey mortar. The plinth along the south wall ran from the Font plinth for a length of 5.38m, with the northern plinth having a length of 5.58m from the eastern side of the north door. The eastern ends of both plinths had been removed.

- 4.13** There were two pipe runs cut into the floor of the Nave, Context **14** was located in the centre of the Nave on an east to west alignment, with the western end turning to the south in front of the west door (Fig. 4). This was a channel 280mm wide formed of two low red brick walls seven courses high, laid in stretcher bond and bonded with a dark grey mortar with gravel inclusions (5%). Three metal pipes were located in the channel, two large pipes laid one above the other, with a smaller bore pipe on their southern side. These were associated with the Victorian heating system.
- 4.14** The second pipe run (Context **24**) was angled from the north-east corner of the Nave and angled to the south-west, for a length of 2.6m (the south-western end of this structure appeared to have been removed). This pipe run consisted of two rows of red bricks laid in stretcher bond, which defined a channel measuring 230mm wide housing a large metal pipe (160mm external diameter). The top of the pipe run was covered with a concrete slab.
- 4.15** To the south side of Context **14** were two probable grave cuts. Context **10** was first noted in Trench **B** where it was excavated to a depth of 500mm, the rest of the excavation was to the impact level of 315mm. The grave cut was on an east to west alignment, and was 2.3m in length with a width at its widest point of 700mm, which narrowed to 400mm at the eastern end, (Plate 8). The northern side of the grave was truncated by the pipe run (Context **14**). The corners of the cut of the grave were slightly rounded, with a sharp break of slope at the top of the cut. The feature was not excavated to its full depth but the sides appeared to be vertical. The grave cut had three fills (Contexts **7**, **11** and **15**).



Plate 8: Grave Cut (Context **10**)

- 4.16** The upper fill (Context **7**) of the grave cut Context **10** was a dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with a firm consistence. The fill had a depth of up to 140mm and inclusions of ceramic building material (1%) and chalk pieces up to 20mm (<1%). Artefacts were of ceramic building material.

- 4.17** Context **11** was the fill below Context **7**, a friable yellowish-brown clayey silt with a depth of up to 130mm. The fill was disturbed and had inclusions of sandstone pieces up to 30mm (<1%) and ceramic building material (<1%). The artefacts recovered from this fill were of a child's skull with a possible shroud pin at the rear of the skull (**Plate 9**), also recovered from this fill were a number of pins.



Plate 9: Childs Skull *in-situ* Context **7**

- 4.18** Below Context **11** was Context **15** which was the lowest fill excavated from Context **10**. It was a disturbed fill with a friable consistence. The matrix of the fill was a dark brown clayey silt with inclusions of sandstone pieces up to 70mm (<1%) and a minimal amount of small pieces of manganese. The fill was excavated to a depth of 280mm where the limit of excavation was reached. No artefacts were recovered from this fill. The disturbed nature of this context and the one above could possibly be caused by the Victorian heating pipe run to the north of the feature, with the child's skull possibly having been re-deposited.



Plate 10: Grave Cut (Context **27**)

- 4.19** Context **27** was a second grave cut located to the east of Context **10** (Fig. 4). The plan of this grave cut was of an irregular linear shape on an east to west alignment (**Plate 10**). This feature had been truncated on the northern side by the heating pipe run (Context **14**). The grave cut was 1.95m in length with a width of 500mm at its widest point, with the eastern end of the feature being stepped in to a width of 250mm. This grave cut was only excavated to the impact level of 315mm, but the break of slope at the top was slightly rounded with vertical sides. The excavated depth comprised a single fill (Context **28**).
- 4.20** Context **28** was the single fill of Context **27**, and was an orange-brown clayey silt with a firm consistence. This was excavated to a depth of 315mm which was the impact level and had inclusions of sandstone pieces of sandstone up to 40mm (<1%), ceramic building material (<1%) and pieces of a darker grey stone up to 70mm (<1%). Artefacts recovered from this fill comprised bone and ceramic building material. The dark grey stone were possibly pieces from a now removed grave capping.
- 4.21** Both of the grave cuts (Contexts **10** and **27**) which were cut into the assumed natural (Context **16**), which was orange-brown in colour; and a silty clay with a firm consistence. The deposit had inclusions of sandstone pieces up to 30mm, with animal or other disturbance in the south-western and north-eastern areas of the Nave floor. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.
- 4.22** To the north side of Context **14**, it was much more disturbed than the southern side. Adjacent to the north wall of the Nave were the earliest features discovered during the excavations. These consisted of two shallow Medieval pits; Contexts **8** and **22** (**Plate 11**). Context **8** was first discovered during the excavation of Trench **B**. A heavily truncated, irregular oval shaped feature with a squarer cut projecting on its western edge, cut into the assumed natural (Context **16**). The feature measured 700mm in length east to west, and a maximum width of 520mm. The pit had an irregular break of slope at the top of the cut on the north side and a sharper edge on the western side. The break of slope at the base of the feature was irregular with an irregular dished base.



Plate 11: Medieval Features (Contexts 8 and 22)

- 4.23** Context **9** was the single fill of Context **8**, a dark brown clayey silt with a firm consistence with a depth of up to 310mm. The inclusions in the fill comprised charcoal flecks (1%) and sandstone pieces up to 30mm; some of these were burnt. Artefacts recovered from this fill comprised Medieval pottery and bone.
- 4.24** Context **22** was located to the east of Context **8**, and cut into the assumed natural Context **16**. This feature was first noted as a square cut in the western end of Context **5**, which sealed its eastern end. Cut **22** was curved at the western end with the eastern end and southern edge being cut by possible grave cuts Contexts **29** and **30**. The feature also appeared to be cut by the north wall of the Nave. The dimensions of this feature were approximately 800mm in both a north to south and east to west directions. The break of slope at the top was rounded which led to gradual but irregular sides. The break of slope at the base was gradual, and the base was irregular but sloped to the eastern end before being truncated by the possible Grave Cut **29**. The base also had a step down at the western end. This feature was interpreted as a second Medieval pit, however it could be the same pit as Context **8** but because of the various truncations it was very difficult to define the actual edges of both features.
- 4.25** Context **23** was the single fill of Context **22** and had the same matrix as the fill of Context **8**. This was a dark brown silty clay with a firm consistence, and was up to 300mm deep. The inclusions in the fill were of charcoal flecks (1%) and sandstone pieces up to 30mm (<1%), some of which appeared to be burnt. Recovered from this fill were a number of sherds of Medieval pottery.
- 4.26** Context **5** was the remains of a pummelled earth floor which was most apparent during the excavation of Context **22**, where it was noted overlying the southern and eastern edges of that feature (**Plate 12**). The floor had a thickness of up to 30mm and was a compact mid orange-brown silty clay. The dimensions of the feature were approximately 800mm north to south by 700mm east to west at its widest point. The surface of the floor had chalk flecks (1%). No artefacts were recovered from the floor layer.



Plate 12: Remnant of Pummelled Earth Floor (Context **5**)

- 4.27** Context **29** was located at the eastern end of the Medieval feature Context **22** which it cut, and was assumed to be a grave cut. The cut was a slightly curved linear with a sharp break of slope, leading to almost vertical sides. The fill of this feature was not excavated but was a dark orange-brown silty clay with a loose consistence, and had inclusions of mortar (<1%). This feature was not excavated, and no finds were recovered from it.
- 4.28** To the south of the two Medieval features was a Victorian pew support (Context **21**), which was above Context **31**. This was constructed of two courses of re-used clay tiles some of which had a single rounded edge. The two courses of tiles had been bonded together with a light yellowish grey sandy mortar, with the same material being used to cap the upper face.
- 4.29** Context **25** was a semi-circular cut in the north-east corner of the Nave (**Plate 13**), and was adjacent to the north wall of the Nave or possibly cut by it, and cut into the assumed natural Context **16**. The eastern side of the feature was truncated by the angled drain run of ventilation for the pews (Context **25**). The feature measured 390mm north to south by 400mm east to west. The break of slope at the top was sharp which led to steeply sloping sides. The break of slope at the base was gradual, with the base being dished.



Plate 13: Truncated Un-dated Semi-Circular Pit (Context **25**)

- 4.30** Context **26** was the single fill of Context **25**. This had a similar matrix to the two Medieval features Contexts **8** and **22**. This was a dark brown clayey silt with friable consistence, with inclusions of pieces of sandstone up to 70mm (<1%). The fill was up to 180mm deep. Although, the fill was of a similar type to those in the Medieval features no artefacts were discovered, which means that this feature could not be dated with any certainty.
- 4.31** Context **30** was a linear cut which truncated the south sides of the Medieval features (Contexts **8** and **22**). The cut had a degraded break of slope at the top, which led to almost vertical sides, which were excavated to depth of 700mm at which depth the limit of excavation was reached.

- 4.32** Context **30** had a single fill (Context **31**), which was a dark brown silty clay with a loose consistence. This was excavated to a depth of 700mm where the limit of excavation was reached, at this depth a skull was discovered but was left *in-situ*. The inclusions in the fill were of sandstone pieces up to 50mm (<1%) and pieces of clay. The pieces of clay were only apparent in the upper part of the fill in the north-east corner and were thought to be the remains of the pummelled floor (Context **5**), which suggests that this grave was later than the floor layer, and had been cut through it.
- 4.33** Context **12** was a cut on the north side of the pipe run (Context **14**). The boundary between the fill of this cut (Context **13**) and the fill of Grave Cut **30** (Context **31**) to the north of it was very indistinct. Cut **12** was linear in plan with a rounded break of slope at the top of the cut leading to steeply sloping sides. The cut was filled by Context **13**.
- 4.34** Context **13** was the single fill of Context **12**, which was orange-brown clayey silt, with a loose consistence. The fill was excavated to a depth of 700mm. Artefacts recovered from this fill were of re-deposited human bone (located close to the pipe run), ceramic building material and a fragment and a complete Medieval floor tile. This cut and fill were interpreted as being associated with the construction of the Victorian heating pipe structure in the centre of the Nave (Context **14**).
- 4.35** Context **6** was a thin (up to 50mm thick) layer of mortar pieces which sat above the southern side of Context **13**, and extended for 700mm (Fig. 6). No artefacts were recovered from this layer which was interpreted as being the base for the Victorian tiled floor.

The watching brief on the service trench

- 4.36** In the trench for the services at the western side of the church there were three deposits apparent. Context **101** was the soft to firm, dark grey-brown, clayey-silt with a moderate clay component which was 200mm deep and had inclusions of moderate rooting (3%).
- 4.37** Context **102** was the subsoil deposit below Context **101** (the topsoil). It was a soft, dark grey-yellow silty-clay with a moderate clay component and was 450mm in depth and had no inclusions. A piece of worked stone was recovered from this deposit. Below this deposit of subsoil was the natural Wealden Clay (Context **103**). This was excavated into to a depth of 320mm, at which depth the limit of excavation was reached. Bioturbation in the form of roots along the north-western edge was present at 3%.

- 4.38** In the service trench on the eastern side of the church there were also three deposits. However, in this part of the trench Context **104** replaced Context **102** which was below Context **101** and above Context **103** on the excavations on eastern side of the church. Context **104** was a dark grey-yellow silty-clay, with a moderate to strong clay component and sandstone inclusions of <30mm in size at 2%. It was 1m in depth and contained ten pieces of disarticulated human bone found approximately 6 to 7 metres from the east wall of the church. The very mixed nature of this deposit, suggests that this was a disturbed cemetery soil deposit.
- 4.39** Context **105** was assigned to a brick-built crypt exposed in the east-west excavation of the service trench, 3.5m from the eastern wall and running underneath the tarmac path. It was not excavated.
- 4.40** No grave cuts or other features were noted during the monitoring of the service trench.

5.0 The Finds.

5.0.1 A fairly large assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the evaluation excavation, with only a small quantity from the later watching brief. The artefacts are summarised in Table 1 by quantity and weight.

Table 1 The Finds (For bone see Table 2)

Context	Pot (by period)	Ceramic Building Material	Metal	Other	Date
U/S	-	-	Iron 2/10g Lead 1/10g	Mortar 2/129g Glass 2/7g	Post-medieval
1	-	Brick 1/42g Peg tile 2/131g	Iron 6/186g Lead 2/8g	Clay pipe 2/11g Mortar 7/146g Glass 9/13g	c. 1640-80 (on pipes, but some CBM possibly C18th)
6	-	-	Iron 4/15g CU 2/13g	Coins 2/12g	Later 20 th century
7	1550-1750: 1/2g	Brick 2/47g Peg tile 17/2166g Floor tile 1/97g	Iron 5/35g Lead 2/6g CU 4/1g	Clay pipe 11/31g Stone 9/705g	c. 1700-50
9	1100-1300: 8/78g	-	-	Mortar 4/4g	c. 1175-1250
11	1550-1750: 1/2g	Brick 2/12g Floor tile 6/413g	Iron 13/136g CU 1/<1g	Clay pipe 1/1g Mortar 1/54g Glass 6/6g	c. 1600-1750
13	-	Peg tile 1/94g Floor tile 5/3332g	-	Mortar 3/367g	c. 1575/1600-1750
15	-	-	Iron 1/3g	Glass 1/6g	18 th -19 th century?
21	-	Tile hanging 1/499g	-	-	c. 1675/1700-1800+
23	900-1100: 1/4g 1100-1300: 17/170g	-	-	Slag 1/4g Glass 1/1g	c. 1175-1275 (residual C10th-11 th x1)
28	-	Brick 3/1268g	-	Stone 2/988g	c. 1750-1900
31	1100-1300: 1/17g	Peg tile 1/3g	Iron 2/32g CU 2/2g	Mortar 1/4g	Mixed: pot c. 1125-1225, tile C18th/19 th (but possibly intrusive)
102	-	-	-	Stone 2/317g	Medieval?
105	-	Brick 1/349g	-	-	c. 1800-1900

Quantification of finds (no./weight in grams)

5.0.2 The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and the majority is recommended for discard. However, as there has been no earlier archaeological work done at Whatlington it is recommended that the pottery and clay pipes be retained for long-term curation. The complete floor tile should also be retained as an example of the main type of early post-medieval flooring at the site.

5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.1.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of pottery spanning the Saxo-Norman to Early Post-medieval periods. Sherd sizes tend to be small to medium (to 50mm across) with most exhibiting some degree of abrasion. As such the assemblage appears to have been subjected to at least some reworking.

5.1.2 Medieval pottery dominates the group with 27 sherds being represented. Six different fabrics were identified:

F1 – Moderate multicoloured flint grits with no sand (Probably C11th to 12th century).

F2 – Moderate multicoloured flint with sparse sand (Probably mid C12th to mid 13th).

F3 – Sand with sparse shell (Probably mid C12th to 13th)

F4 – Sand with rare flint inclusions (Probably late C12th to 13th)

F5 – Fine sand with very rare flint inclusions (Probably C13th to early 14th)

F6 – Fine/medium sand Bohemia-kiln type (Probably later C13th to mid 14th)

5.1.3 Context **9** produced eight sherds including a residual bodysherd (4g) in F1 but otherwise sherds in F2 (2/14g), F3 (1/18g), F4 (3/26g) and F5 (1/15g). The only feature sherds consist of a cooking pot with everted thickened rim (F2), a cooking pot with bulbous club rim (F4) and a small square-sectioned jug handle with ribbed back and slight glazing (F5). A deposition date in the later 12th to mid 13th century is likely.

5.1.4 Context **23** produced a larger assemblage of 18 medieval sherds. This deposit also contained a residual bodysherd in F1, likely to be no later than the 11th century (4g). Other sherds include two pieces (24g) from an F2 chimney pot/roof ventilator and three F3 sherds (17g) from a cooking pot with flat-top expanded rim of developed type. The nine (104g) sherds of F4 are all from cooking pots, including an example with finger-tip decoration along its shoulder. There is also an F5 jug (2/10g) possibly from the same vessel as in Context **9** and a 16g sherd from a clear glazed F6 jug with vertical ribs. An early to later 13th century date is suggested overall, but with a notable residual element.

5.1.5 The only other context to produce medieval pottery was Context **31** though the presence of tile in this deposit suggests the pot may be residual. The single sherd is from the base of an F2 cooking pot.

5.1.6 The only other pottery is from the Early Post-medieval period and consists of a bodysherd in 17th to mid 18th century glazed red earthenware with all-over glaze (Context **11**) and a small fragment from a German Westerwald stoneware mug with blue and purple colouring and moulded decoration. A mid 17th to mid 18th century date is likely for this vessel.

5.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

5.2.1 A small assemblage of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from three different contexts. On the whole the material is in fairly fresh condition suggesting it has not been subjected to significant reworking. Context **1** produced a stem and complete bowl, both falling within a 1640-60 date range. A much larger group was recovered from Context **7**, all of which can be placed in the first half of the 18th century. These include eight fresh stem fragments and a bowl fragment with maker's initials IH, probably relating to John Harman I of Lewes. The stem fragment from Context **11** is split and is not closely datable.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Materials by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The ceramic building material from the site consists of brick, roof tile and floor tile fragments spanning the Post-medieval period. Four different brick types are present:

B1 – Quite well formed but low/medium fired types tempered with sparse/moderate fine sand with abundant iron oxides to 2mm. Probably 17th to mid 18th century, but only recovered from Context **1**.

B2 – Quite well formed but low fired brick, tempered with moderate fine sand and common iron oxides to 3mm. Probably 16th to 17th century, this type accounts for all the brick in Contexts **7** and **11**.

B3 – Well formed and medium fired bricks tempered with sparse fine sand, moderate/abundant iron oxides to 4mm and some marl streaks. Probably of mid 18th to 19th century date. All of the bricks from Context **28**, including an example with full height of 62mm, were of this fabric.

B4 – Well formed and fired brick tempered with abundant slag/clinker to 20mm. A single example, measuring 105mm wide by 61mm tall, was recovered from Context **105**. A 19th century date is probable.

5.3.2 Four different roof tile fabrics were noted in the assemblage, most apparently deriving from peg tiles.

T1 – Quite well formed and medium/well fired. Tempered with sparse fine sand and sparse iron oxides to 0.5mm. Where noted, thicknesses were of 11mm and fixing holes of

diamond form. Probably 18th to mid 19th century. Examples were recovered from Context **1** (1/97g), Context **7** (3/342g) and Context **31**. There is also a 159mm wide U-shaped wall cladding tile in the same fabric from Context **21**.

T2 – Quite crudely made but medium/well fired and tempered with sparse fine sand, sparse iron oxides to 0.5mm and moderate marl swirls. Where noted, thicknesses varied between 12 and 13mm. probably of 17th to mid 18th century date. This type was recovered from Contexts **1** (1/34g) and **7** (2/187g), the latter including a piece with diamond-shaped fixing hole.

T3 – Quite crudely formed and very hard/over fired. Tempered with sparse fine sand and rare/sparse calcareous inclusions and iron oxides to 2mm (most to 1mm). With the exception of a piece from Context **13** all fragments (10/961g) were recovered from Context **7**. These included a single complete 140mm width with 12mm being the normal thickness. A mid 17th to mid 18th century date is likely though a slightly earlier date cannot be ruled out.

T4 – Quite well formed and hard fired tiles tempered with sparse fine sand and sparse iron oxide and marl pellets to 1mm. Two pieces were recovered from Context **7** between which measurements suggested tiles 245mm long by 135mm wide by 11mm thick with diamond-shaped peg holes. A later 17th to 18th century date is probable.

5.3.3 The floor tile fragments from the site are present in one of three fabric types.

F1 – Moderate fine sand with rare iron oxide pellets to 4mm. Eight fragments were recovered, measuring between 27-29mm thick and with very slightly bevelled edges (Contexts **7**, **11** and **13** 1/239g). Most pieces show signs of heavy wear though traces of a clear glaze are present on some. An early post-medieval date is likely, perhaps of the 16th/17th centuries.

F2 – This is essentially the same fabric as F1 but the glazing in black. A single complete example of one of these tiles was recovered from Context **13**. This measured 190mm square by 27mm thick but a true weight cannot be recorded due to adhering mortar. The context also contained another re-used (broken) example, set in an off-white very fine sandy lime mortar bedding.

F3 – A dull yellow fine sandy Flemish-type 'brick' or hearth tile, measuring 22mm thick was also recovered from Context **13** (1/98g). A 15th to 16th century date is quite possible for this piece.

5.4 Mortar by Luke Barber

5.4.1 Six different mortar types were recovered during the archaeological work:

M1 – Buff with abundant sand and some fine sandstone and coal pieces. The presence of a thick whitewash shows this to have been used as render (U/S only).

M2 – Very fine off-white sandy. Again the presence of whitewash shows this to have been internal render context **1** only.

M3 – Off-white very fine lime mortar. Used in bedding floor tiles (Context **13**: 1/148g) though whether this was original to the 16th/17th century tiles or from later re-use is uncertain.

M4 – A dull yellow fine sandy mortar with moderate sandstone and shell to 3mm. Context **13** contained two pieces.

M5 – Pale brown very sandy lime mortar. Only recovered from Context **31**.

M6 – Off-white very fine lime mortar with occasional sandstone pellets to 5mm. Only recovered from Context **11**.

5.4.2 Unfortunately the ceramic dating is too tenuous to establish any chronology for the mortars, however, in general all except M1 could be placed in a later medieval to, more likely, early post-medieval date range.

5.5 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Context **23** produced a single piece of iron slag that cannot be attributed to any specific process. Other pieces of slag were found in the soil sample from this context.

5.6 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.6.1 Two pieces (317g) of stone from a shattered architectural fragment, with traces of one roll, were recovered from Context **102**. The stone is an off-white oolitic limestone with sparse shell fragments but does not appear to be of Bath or Portland type. It could be from one of a number of other sources, including midland outcrops of oolite (eg the Lincolnshire Limestones). Context **7** contained nine pieces of light grey Tilgate-type sandstone, possibly from roofing slabs while Context **28** produced two pieces of fossiliferous limestone, likely to derive from the Purbeck Beds near Mountfield.

5.7. Human & Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth

5.7.1 A moderate mixed assemblage of human and animal bones were recovered from 10 contexts during the excavation and comprised of 26 mixed animal fragments weighing just 1gram and 370 mixed human fragments weighing 3019grams, with a total bone fragment count of 396, weighing 3020grams (Table 2). The animal bone was identified using Schmid (1972) and Brown & Lawrence (1974), the human bone was identified using White & Folkens (2005) and Schaefer *et al* (2009).

5.7.2 The assemblage comprised mostly of mixed human remains; the minimum number of individuals suggests that there is one adult human represented in contexts un-stratified, surface finds, Context **28**, Context **9 (Tr. B)**, Context **15**, Context **7**, and Context **13 (Tr. B)**. Two adult humans are present in Context **11 (Tr. B)** and Context **9** included one juvenile and one adult with Context **1 (Tr. A)** containing three adult humans. Animal bones were also present, the majority of which suggest intrusion by burrowing into contexts. The remains were in a moderate condition with slight surface erosion.

Table 2: Human & Animal Bone

Context	Human Bone	Animal Bone
Un-stratified	2/8grams	-
Surface	1/9grams	-
28	1/10grams	-
9 (TR.2)	1/<0grams	-
15	10/19grams	1/1grams
7	3/14grams	21/<0grams
Trench B 11	253/702grams	1/<0grams
TR.B 13	21/295grams	1/<0grams
9	11/182grams	-
1 TR.A	67/1780grams	2/<0grams

5.7.3 The un-stratified context remains included a human left rib fragment and a proximal right hand phalange. The surface finds included an adult human cervical vertebra; atlas. Context **28**, contained a robust adult human right clavicle. Context **9 (Tr. B)**, contained a human rib fragment. Context **15**, contained nine unidentifiable fragments, a left adult human talus and a medium mammal rib. Context **7**, included an adult human right proximal hand phalange and two maxilla fragments with tooth roots present from the left arcade; I1, I2, C, P1, P2, M2. The animal bones which included long bones and pelvic elements have been identified as rodent; the pelvic elements have been identified further to common vole. Based on the condition of the rodent bones it is likely that these animals are intrusive to this context.

5.7.4 Context **11 (Tr. B)**, contained several unidentifiable fragments of bone as well as a shrew mandible, possibly intrusive to this context. The human bone comprised of three rib fragments, two left metacarpals and one left metatarsal. Also present was a robust right adult scapula, a right humeral head fragment and two vertebrae fragments; one thoracic and one lumbar. A robust right ulna with slight osteophytic lipping at the humeral articulation point suggests the beginning of degenerative joint disease. Three mandible fragments, one with evidence of ante-mortem tooth loss suggests the age of the individual to be mature. Five skull fragments were present, characteristics of which suggest the individual was female. A more complete skull was also present within this context, which also displays female traits.

5.7.5 Context **13 (Tr. B)**, contained seven adult human rib fragments, a right radial fragment, a right metatarsal and tarsal bone. Three fragments of pelvis were also included; the

presence of a wide sciatic notch suggests the individual was female. Two adult human tibias, right and left, with similar measurements could belong to one individual, eight unidentifiable fragments were also included. The animal bone was represented by a left bird radius fragment.

5.7.6 Context **9** included a right juvenile humerus fragment and several pieces of bone from a left tibia. Context **1 (Tr. A)**, contained one adult human skull fragment, thirteen rib fragments and seven thoracic vertebrae fragments. One right femur with osteophytic lipping on the distal articulation surface, suggests the onset of a degenerative joint disease. Two femurs, right and left, which could be a pair based on measurements were also included in this context. Also present were nine unidentifiable fragments, two right adult tibias along with three tibia fragments, an adult left humerus, two fibula fragments, two ulna fragments and fragments from a right and left scapula. A right adult femur with some osteophytic lipping around the femoral head was present, as well as an adult female pelvic fragment, slight remodelling of the acetabulum suggests the presence of degenerative joint disease. A right maxilla fragment with teeth; M2, M1, P2, P1, C, I2 were all very worn, with calculus and some bone reabsorption, this suggests gum disease of a mature individual. Several bones from the feet were also included within this context. The animal bone was represented by a rodent tibia and a right pig metacarpal fragment.

5.8 Metal artefacts by Chris Butler

5.8.1 Metal items were predominantly iron, but also included lead and copper-alloy pieces. The iron pieces were mostly nail fragments (20 fragments), either coffin nails or from furniture/wooden fittings. Only one (Context **1**) was complete, and had a round head 12mm diameter, and a square shaft 80mm long, corresponding to a 3" nail. Context **1** also produced part of a coffin handle, and a fragment of a coffin plate. Other fragments from Context **11** were probably also from a coffin plate.

5.8.2 All of the lead comprises window lead comes of varying sizes and lengths, amounting to 5 pieces weighing 24g from Contexts **1, 7** and U/S.

5.8.3 The copper alloy pieces included six shroud pins (Contexts **7 (4), 11 (1)** and **31 (1)**), all of which had round heads, and shafts which varied from 22mm to 26mm in length. A small domed coffin tack, 11mm in diameter, was also found in Context **31**.

5.8.4 From Context **6** a small ornamental mount was recovered. It was domed, 20mm high and 10mm (max) diameter, with an iron shaft 18mm long, and weighed 9gms. An unidentified fragment of copper alloy 35mm long was also found in this context.

5.9 Glass by Chris Butler

5.9.1 A small assemblage of stained glass fragments were recovered during the work comprised 19 fragments weighing 33gms. Generally the stained glass was degraded, and pieces were very fragmentary. The staining on most of the fragments had a light yellow colour, although one piece from Context **11** was bright yellow. This is probably the result of the use of *yellow stain*, which was made from silver nitrate, and gave the yellow effect. It was usually painted onto the surface then fired to make it permanent. This technique was used from the 14th century through to the 17th century¹⁹.

5.9.2 A small number of pieces (single examples from Contexts **1**, **15** and U/S) were thicker (c.3mm) and were a darker colour, although having dappled yellow/white patches, perhaps the remains of a painted surface. These pieces are likely to be later in date, perhaps 19th century.

5.10 Coins by Chris Butler

5.10.1 Two coins were recovered, both from Context **6**.

- a) Edward VII One Penny 1906
- b) Elizabeth II Sixpence 1958

5.11 Soil Samples by Chris Butler

5.11.1 Two soil samples were taken, each comprising some 16 litres, from the medieval pits (Contexts **8** & **22**), although these are almost certainly the same pit. The soil samples from Fills **9** and **23** were identical and they are therefore discussed here as being the same.

5.11.2 The sample was processed using bucket floatation, with the residue being washed through a 1mm mesh sieve. Once the residue was dry it was sorted by eye to extract material of archaeological and environmental interest. The results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Environmental Sample

Context	Modern roots	Charcoal	Seeds	Molluscs	Residue
9/23	*	****	-	-	Slag

Frequency Key: None - ; Very low * ; Low ** ; Moderate *** ; High ****

¹⁹ Cowen, P. 2008 *English Stained Glass*, Thames & Hudson

- 6.11.3** The floatation produced a large quantity of charcoal, predominantly small to very small pieces (<10mm), together with some roots. No seeds, molluscs or bone were noted. The residue produced numerous small stones, some of which were magnetic, and a few pieces of slag. Amongst the magnetic pieces were quantities of what may be hammer-scale.
- 6.11.4** The material from the soil samples suggests that this pit feature contains material associated with some industrial activity, perhaps connected with the building of the church. There was no burnt clay found in the pit so its' unlikely that the feature was directly associated with metalworking, such as a hearth or furnace, but may have simply been a refuse pit.

6.0 Discussion

- 6.1** The earliest features discovered during the excavations at Watlington Church, were two pits, which were possibly actually just a single pit, located adjacent to and appearing to have been cut by the north wall of the Nave (Fig. 9). The pottery recovered from the fill of these features predominantly dated to the period 1175 to 1250 for Context **8** and from 1175 to 1275 for Context **23**, however there were sherds from possibly the same jug in both features, reinforcing the view that they are a single feature. Also recovered from Context **23** was a single, probably residual, pottery sherd dating to the Saxo-Norman period (900 to 1100).
- 6.2** The sherds of pottery found in these pits appeared to be more in keeping with domestic refuse, being predominantly sherds from cooking pots and jugs, although also recovered were two pieces of a chimney pot or roof ventilator. However, the large quantity of charcoal and magnetic material in the soil sample hints at some industrial activity taking place. The date of these pits would appear to be contemporary with the suggested date for the construction of the church in the late thirteenth century²⁰.
- 6.3** The small semi-circular pit (Context **25**) which was discovered in the north eastern corner of the Nave, and which had been truncated by the pipe run, produced no dating evidence but may possibly be contemporary with the Medieval pit(s).
- 6.4** Evidence for an earlier tiled floor(s) in the form of tile fragments and a single complete tile, was recovered from Contexts **7**, **11** and **13**. This floor most likely dated to the early Post Medieval period (16th to 17th centuries). All the tiles show heavy wear, and had a glazed finish. One of the pieces of tile recovered from Context **13** had a black glaze. Also recovered from this context was a single piece of Flemish-type brick or hearth tile with a slightly earlier date of the 15th to 16th century.
- 6.5** The Victorian heating system running down the centre of the Nave and the ground to the north of it (possibly the construction trench associated with the heating system) had disturbed a number of graves and any other archaeological remains here. The ground to the southern side of the heating pipe and structure was much less disturbed, with two grave cuts (Contexts **10** and **27**) being discovered on the southern side of the pipe run. The southern brick retaining wall of the pipe run had truncated both of the grave cuts.

²⁰ <http://www.sussexparishchurches.org/content/view/296/34/>

- 6.6** The two grave cuts were only excavated to the impact depth of the proposed groundworks in the Nave, but did reveal to different type of interment. The grave cut of Context **10** suggesting that the body was buried in a coffin, whereas the shape of the cut of Context **27** was much more irregular in shape possibly implying that the body had been buried directly into the ground without a coffin.
- 6.7** As with other church excavations it was noted that there was very little stratigraphy, for example Old St Helens Church, Ore, where much of the excavation was in a single homogenous deposit²¹. This layer was apparent in both the trench in the Chancel and also in the northern side of the Nave at Whatlington Church. In both these areas there was evidence for multiple grave cuts, which had resulted in the later graves being cut into the fills of earlier ones, which makes it almost impossible to identify individual graves.
- 6.8** In the Chancel there was evidence for a number of possible grave cuts. One, Context **3**, being located just above the limit of excavation at 850mm. This grave cut was identified by a lip of the natural sandstone into which it had been cut. A later grave cut on the northern side at the eastern end of the trench cut the eastern end of the primary grave removing the sandstone lip.
- 6.9** Apart from the single brick built tomb to the east of the church, the watching brief on the service trenches did not encounter any archaeological features or deposits. The shallow depth of the trench meant that it was not deep enough to reach any of the potential underlying graves.
- 6.10** The work carried out at Whatlington Church was informative, as it provided some evidence for the people perhaps involved with the construction of the 13th century church, whilst hinting at earlier activity at the site. The excavations in the Chancel and Nave provided a view into a typical church interior, which has in places, especially along the central aisle, been heavily disturbed by Post Medieval (and potentially Medieval) burials. As the excavation did not investigate any of these burials, their actual dating remains unknown, although in some cases an 18th century date seems likely.

²¹ Pers. Comm. Chris Butler

7.0 Acknowledgements

- 7.1** I would like to thank the PCC of St Mary Magdalene Church, Whatlington, for commissioning this archaeological watching brief. Luke Barber and Chris Butler reported on the artefacts, and Hayley Forsyth reported on the bones. I would also like to thank Andrew Bradshaw for preparing the drawings for this report and David Atkin for his assistance with the fieldwork and maintaining the watching brief.
- 7.2** The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler MCIfA, and it was monitored by Vivienne Coad, Archaeological Advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

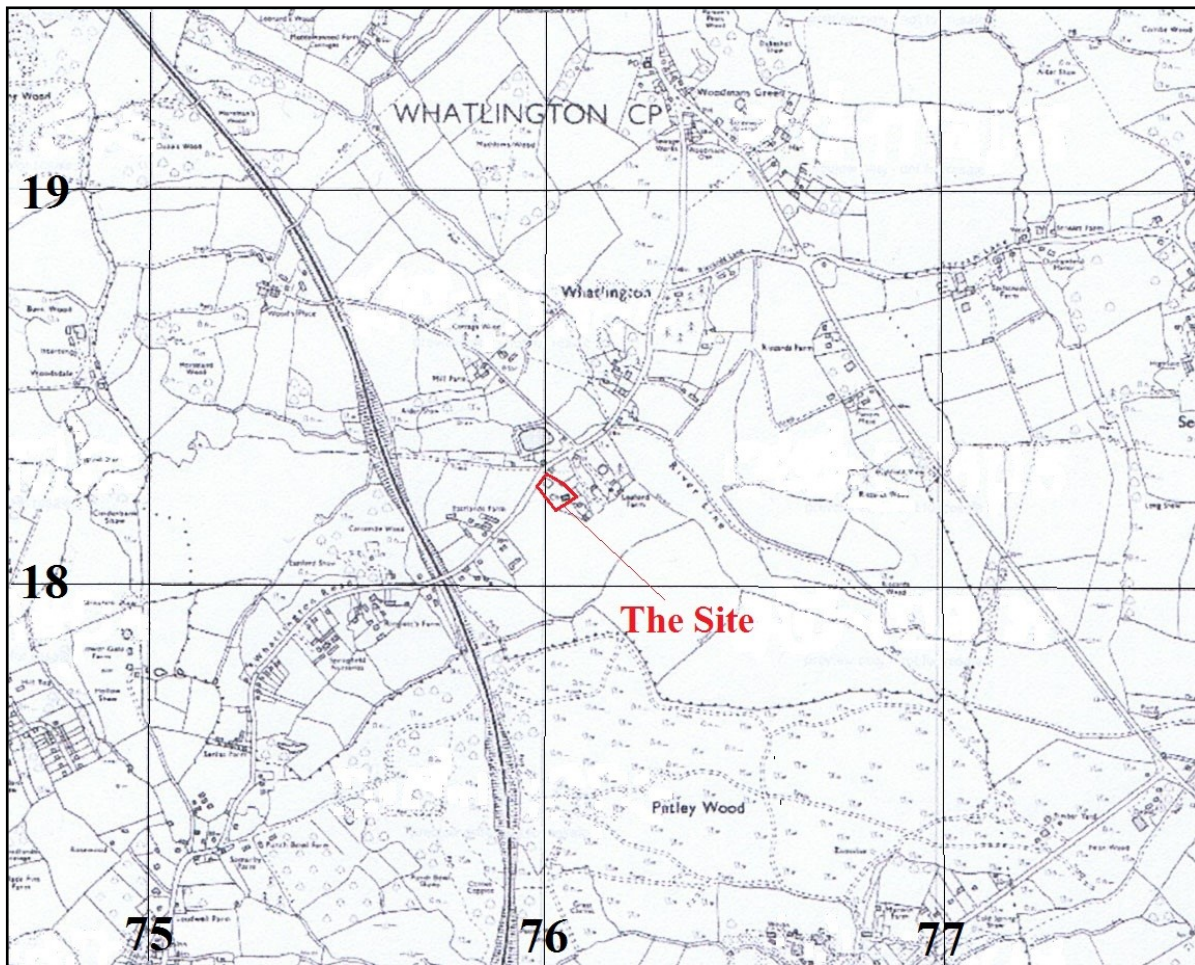


Fig. 1: Whatlington Church: Location Map
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright All rights reserved. Licence number
100037471

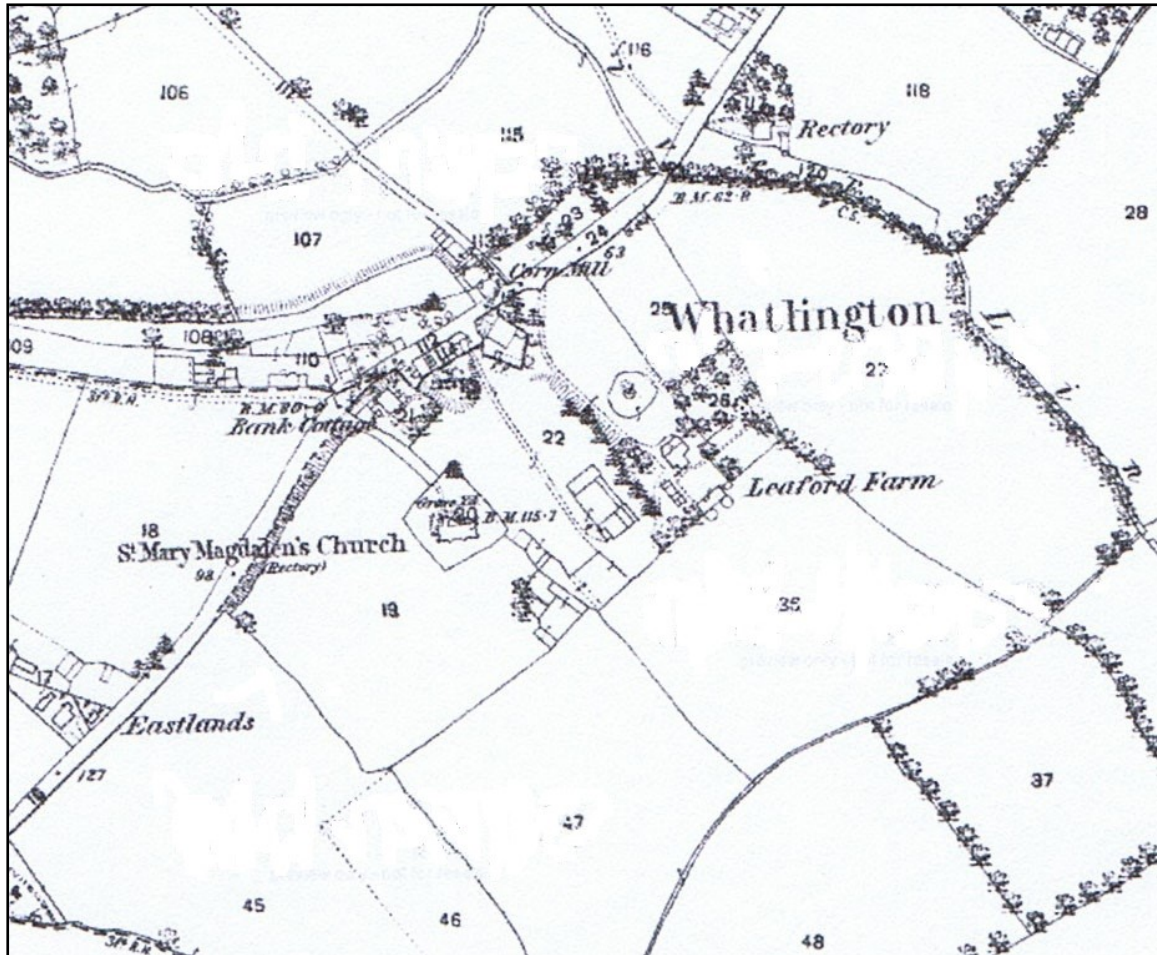


Fig. 2: Whatlington Church: 1st Edition OS map (1873)

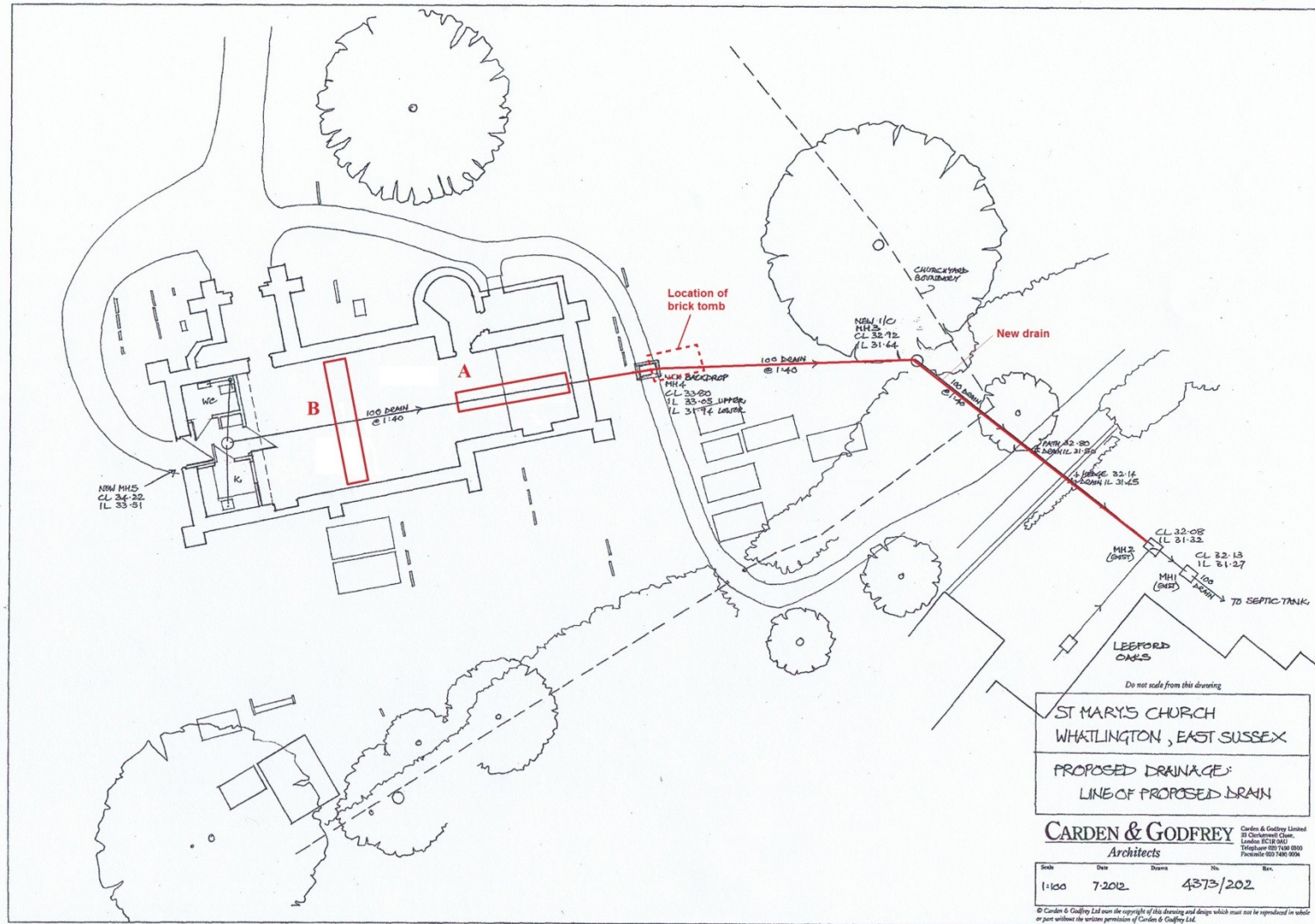


Fig. 3: Whatlington Church: Plan showing location of evaluation trenches and drain trench
(adapted from architects drawing)

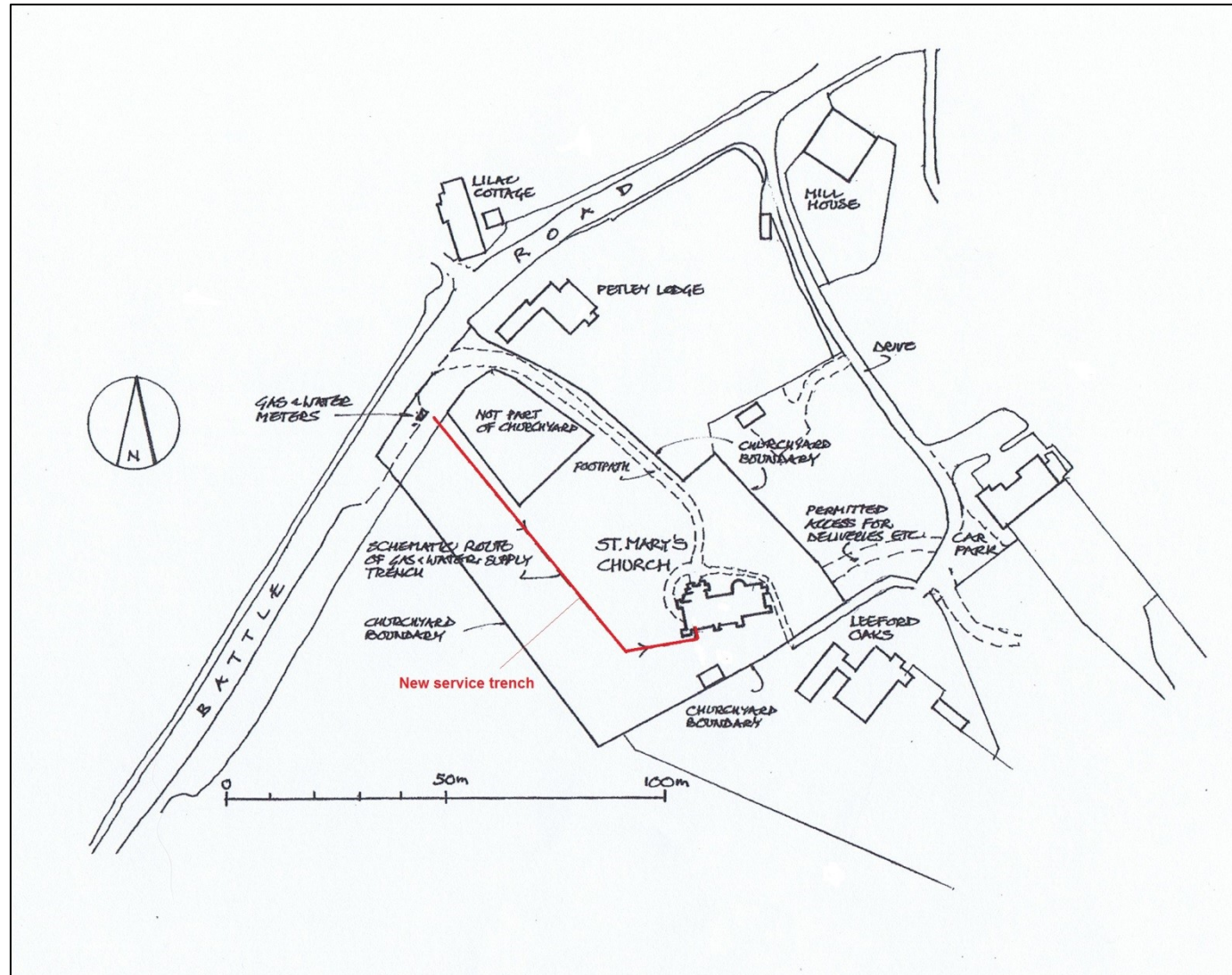


Fig. 4: Whatlington Church: Plan showing location of service trench to west of Church
(adapted from architects drawing)

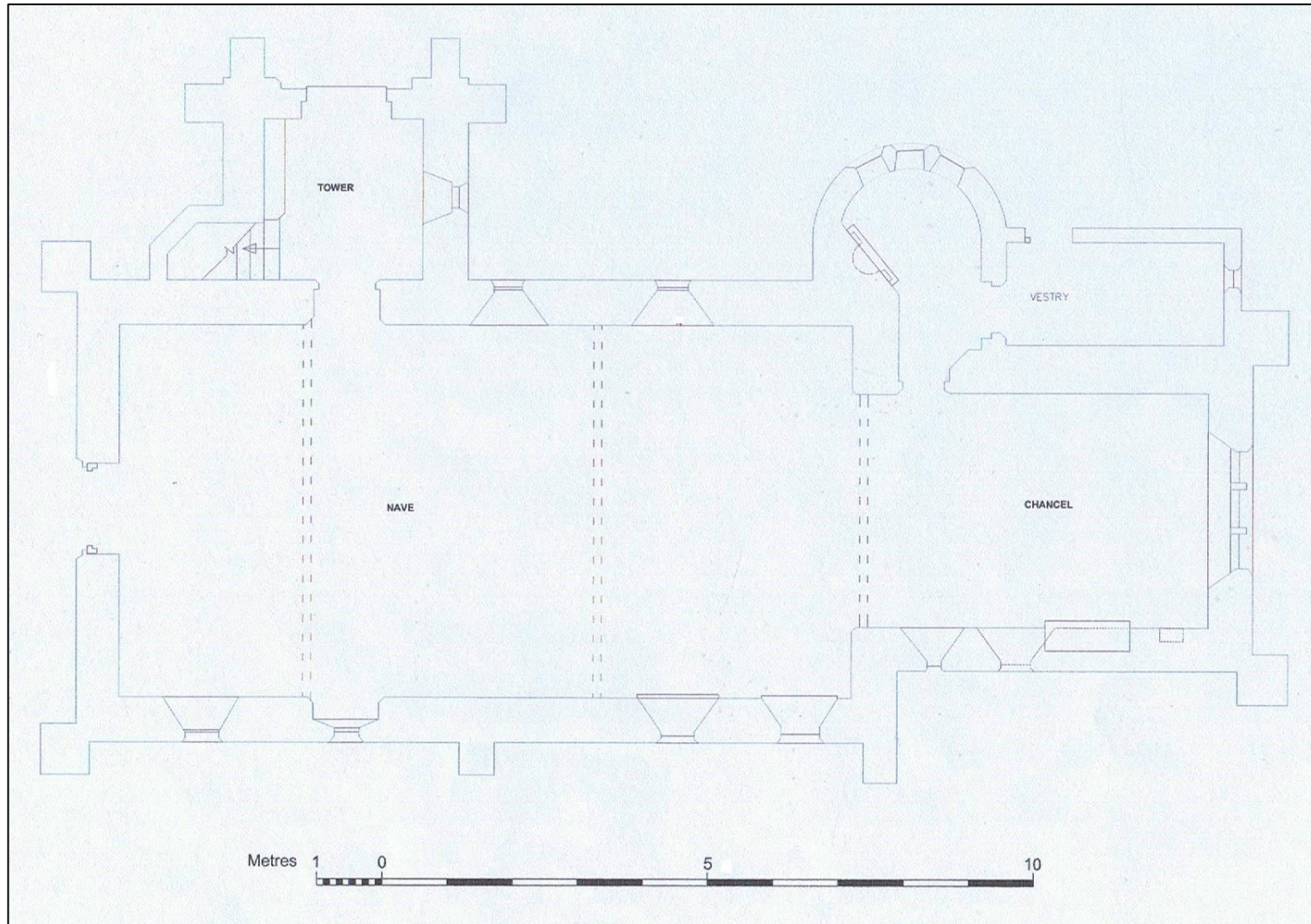


Fig. 5: Whatlington Church: Plan of Church
(adapted from Archaeology South-East Report)

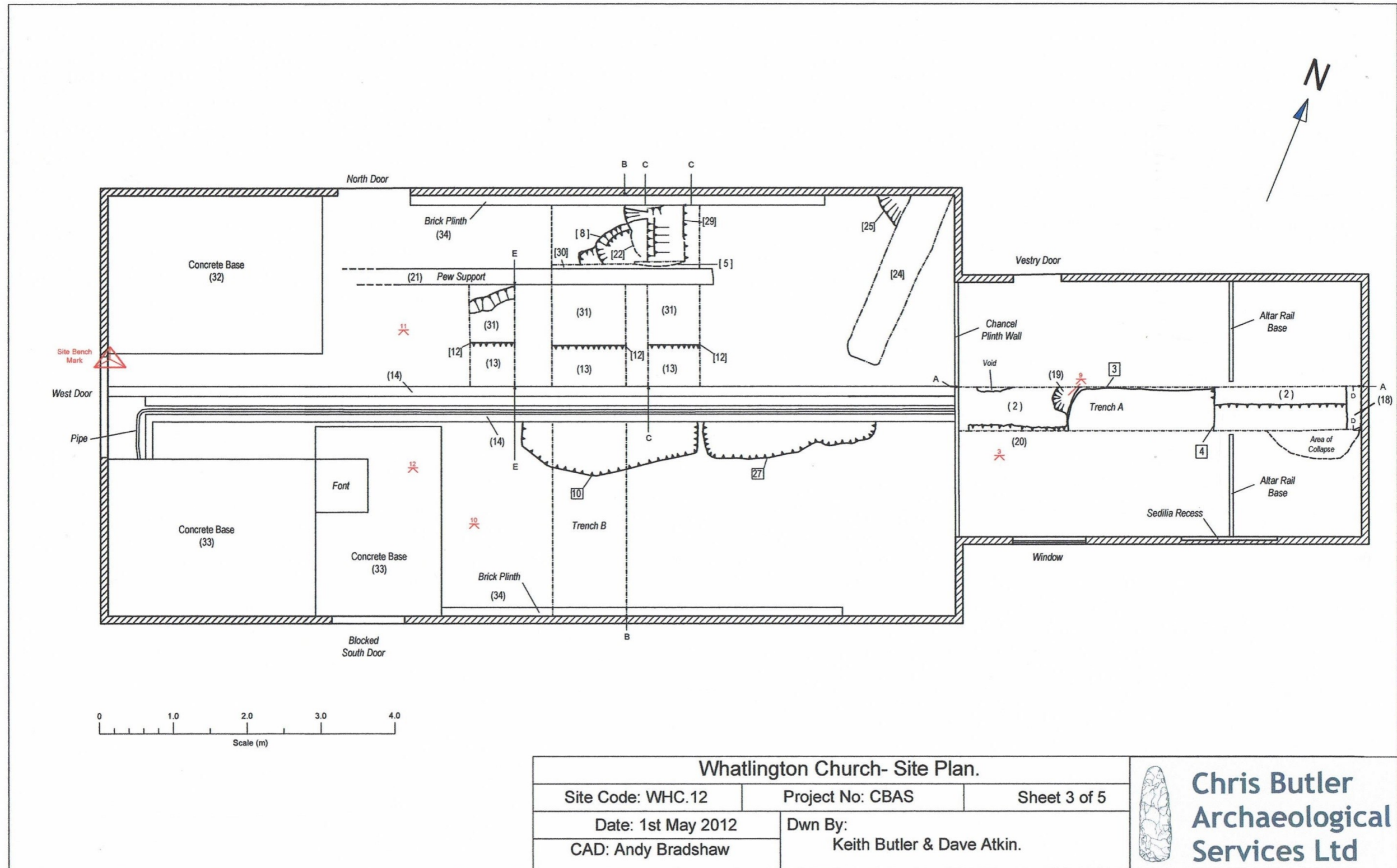


Fig. 6: Whatlington Church: Site Plan showing all features and locations of sections

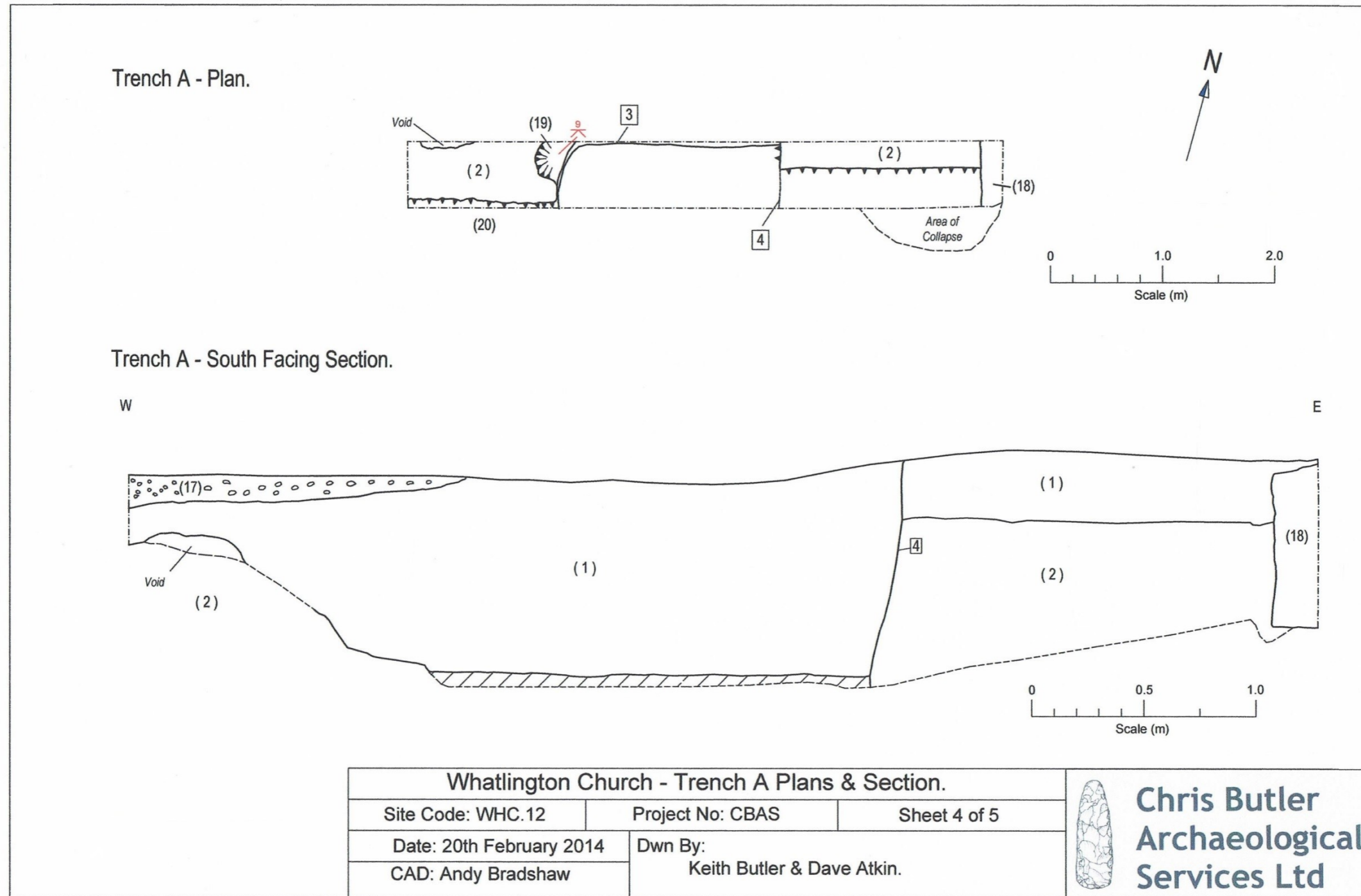


Fig. 7: Whatlington Church: Trench A Plan and Section

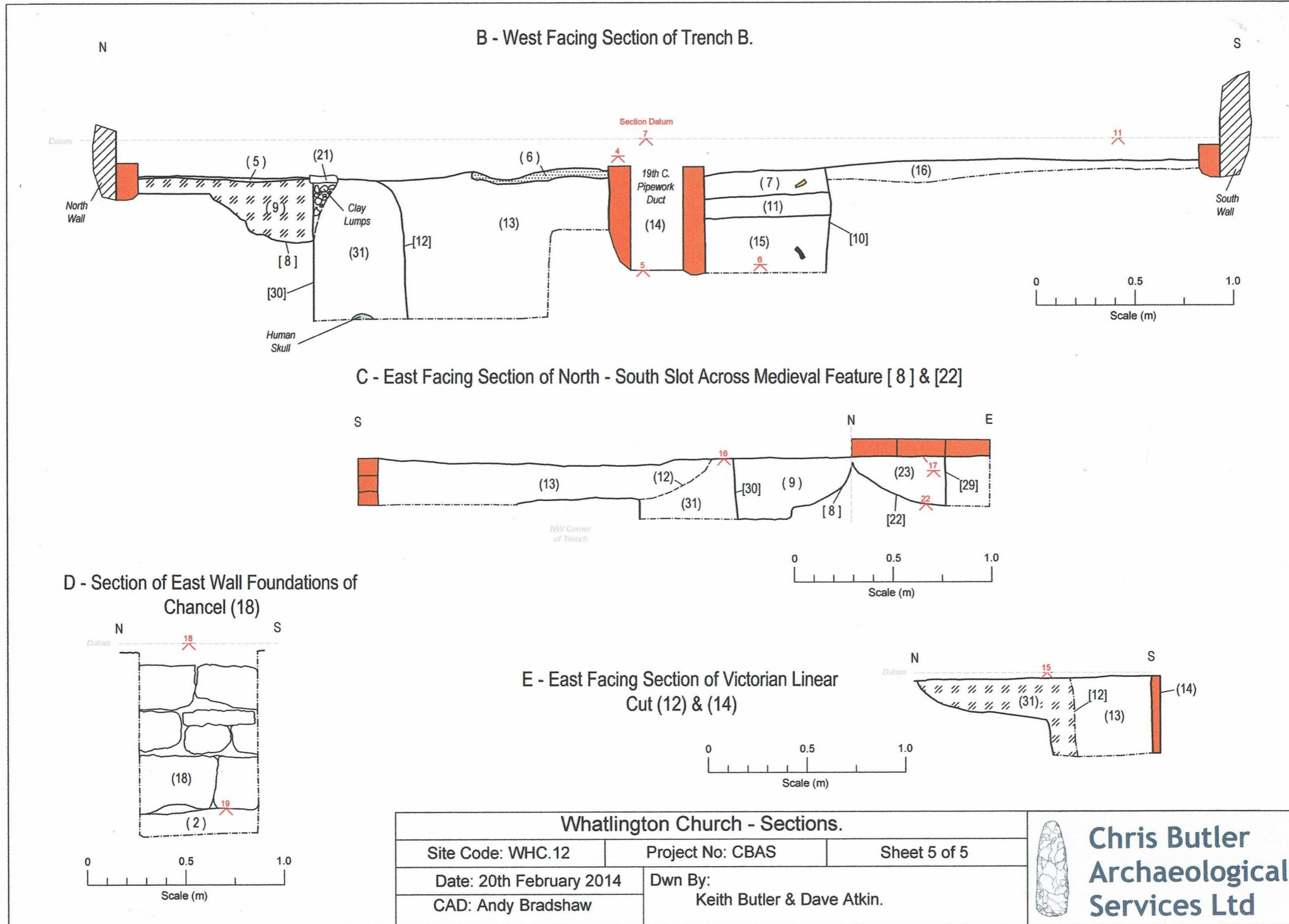


Fig. 8: Whatlington Church: Nave Sections

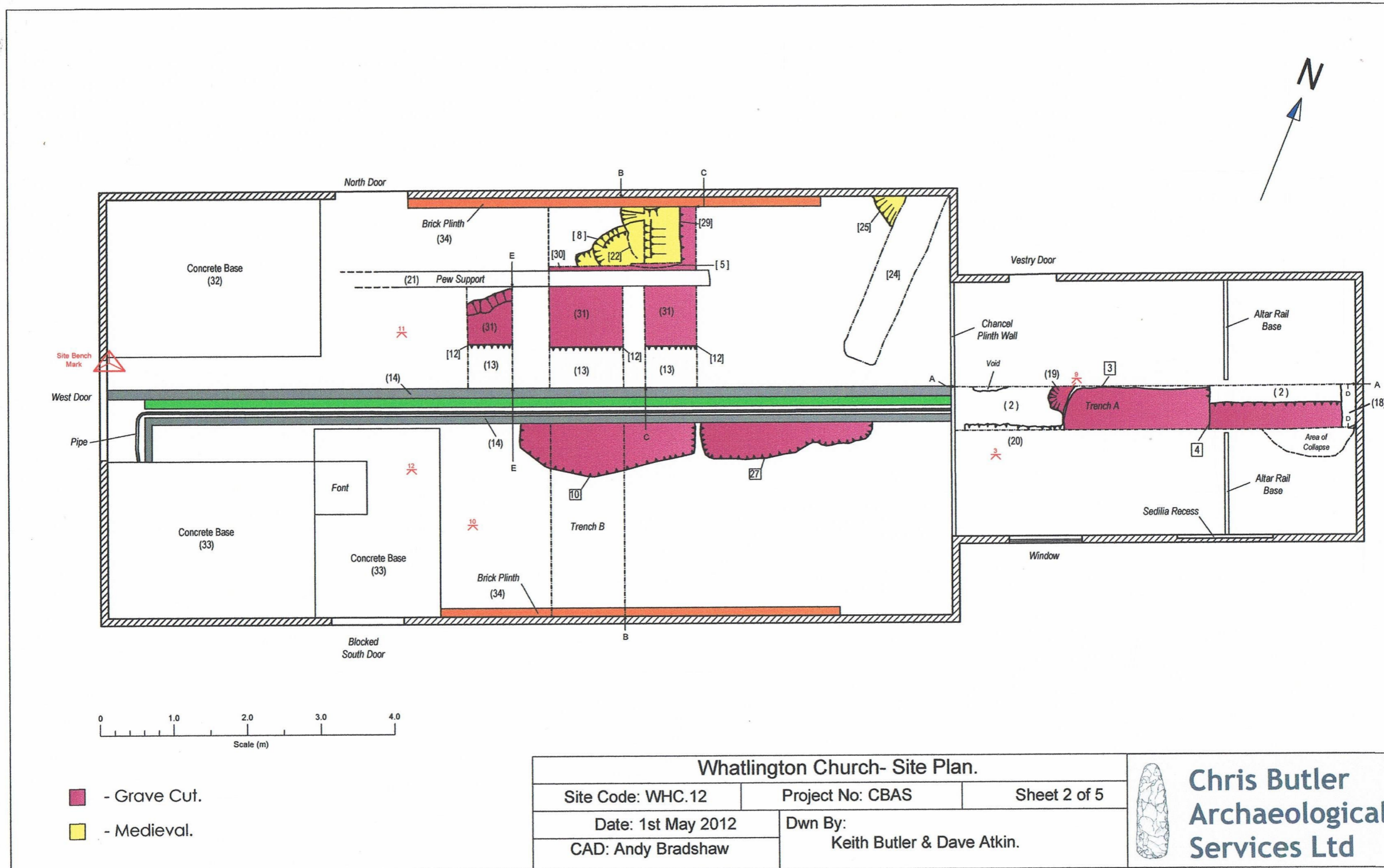


Fig. 9: Whatlington Church: Interpretive Plan

CONTEXT REGISTER

CONTEXT	TYPE	SUB DIVISION	RELATIONSHIPS
1	FILL	Trench A	Above 2 and below 17 at the west end
2	DEPOSIT	Trench A	Below 1 west and east end of trench
3	CUT	Trench A	Below and filled by 1 Primary Grave cut
4	CUT	Trench A	Below and filled by 1 cut into 2 at east end
5	LAYER	Strip & Plan	Poss Floor Layer above 22
6	LAYER	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Thin layer of mortar above 13
7	FILL	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Upper fill of 10 above 11
8	CUT	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Cut into 16 filled by 9
9	FILL	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Single fill of 8
10	CUT	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Grave cut south of 14 cut north side of feature Filled by 7 11 & 15
11	FILL	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Fill of 10 below 7
12	CUT	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Cut into 30 Filled by 13
13	FILL	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Single fill of 12
14	PIPE RUN	Strip & Plan	Heating pipe run in centre of Nave
15	FILL	Trench B & Strip & plan	Lower fill of 10 below 11
16	DEPOSIT	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Assumed natural in Nave
17	DEPOSIT	Trench A	Above 1 western end of Trench A
18	MASONRY	Trench A	Foundations of East wall of Chancel above 2
19	CUT	Trench A	Cut into 2 filled by 1
20	CUT	Trench A	Cut into 2 filled and cut by 1
21	MASONRY	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Victorian Pew Support above 31
22	CUT	Strip & Plan	Medieval feature poss the same as 8. Filled by 23 and cut into 16
23	FILL	Strip & Plan	Single fill of 22
24	PIPE RUN	Strip & Plan	Pipe run in north-east corner of the Nave
25	CUT	Strip & Plan	Feature cut by 24 on eastern side and north wall of nave on its northern side. Cut into 16
26	FILL	Strip & Plan	Single fill of 25
27	CUT	Strip & Plan	Grave Cut to East of 10 cut into 16 filled by 28
28	FILL	Strip & Plan	Single Fill of 27

29	CUT & FILL	Strip & Plan	Poss. Grave cut to east of Context 22 which it cut. Not Excavated.
30	CUT	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Grave cut to south of Medieval features filled by 31
31	FILL	Trench B & Strip & Plan	Single fill of 30 cut by 12 on southern side
32	MASONRY	Strip & Plan	Two modern Plinths to North and South of West door to nave.
33	MASONRY	Strip & Plan	Victorian plinth for Font
34	MASONRY	Strip & Plan	Brick plinth running at the base of the north and south walls of Nave.
101	DEPOSIT	Service Trench	Topsoil in Service Trench
102	DEPOSIT	Service Trench	Below the Topsoil 101 only apparent in Western run of Trench
103	DEPOSIT	Service Trench	Natural Wealden Clay below 102 & 104
104	DEPOSIT	Service Trench	Below topsoil 101 and Wealden Clay Natural 103 in Eastern side of Church
105	MASONRY	Service Trench	Brick Built Crypt located 3-5m from eastern wall of Church.

Appendix 2 Levels

Level No	Description	Height
1	Top of Context 2	35.308
2	Top of Context 3	34.733
3	Floor level Chancel	35.563
4	Top of Context 14	36.458
5	Base of Context 14	35.033
6	LOE Context 10	35.033
7	Section line Trench B	35.643
8	Section line Trench A	36.013
9	Base of Context 19	35.138
10	Natural in south of Nave	35.668
11	Natural in north of Nave	35.708
12	Font Plinth top	35.828
13	Ground level Context 25	35.543
14	Floor level Context 5	35.603
15	Section E string line	35.578
16	Section C	35.603
17	Section C	35.593
18	Section D string line	35.853
19	Base Chancel foundations	35.073
20	Base of Context 22	35.423

APPENDIX 3 HER Summary Form

Site Code	WHC 12					
Identification Name and Address	Mary Magdalene Church, Whatlington, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Rother District					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 7605 1822					
Geology	Ashdown Beds, with Head Deposits and Alluvium immediately to the north.					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. X	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. 25-09 to 05-10-12	WB. 19-02-13	Other		
Sponsor/Client	PCC of St Mary Magdalene Church, Whatlington,					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MifA					
Project Supervisor	Keith Butler PifA					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED X	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>Two evaluation trenches were initially excavated in the interior of the church, one in the Nave and the other in the Chancel, in advance of works to install a new heating system. It was then decided to strip and plan the entire Nave to reduce the internal ground level to the depth of potential impact. In the Chancel multiple grave cuts were discovered below a very disturbed made ground. In the Nave, adjacent to the north wall, two very truncated pits were discovered with pottery dating them to be roughly contemporary with the construction of the church in the 13th century. Multiple grave cuts were also discovered in the Nave, although these were disturbed by a Victorian heating system running through the centre of the Nave. Other artefacts recovered included a number of glazed floor tiles possibly associated with a 16th to 17th century floor. A watching brief on service trenches in the churchyard revealed a single brick built tomb, but no other features.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex. Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Field Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

Chris Butler MfA Archaeological Services Ltd

**Unit 12, Mays Farm
Selmeston
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TS**

Tel & fax: 01323 811785

e mail: chris@cbasltd.co.uk