

**Archaeological monitoring and recording  
at the parish church of  
All Saints, The Street, Feering, Essex  
CO5 9QJ**

**March 2020**



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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological recording and monitoring project was carried out at the parish church of All Saints, The Street, Feering, Essex, during the groundworks for a single-storey bathroom extension on the northern side of the church, as well as a trench arch, new service connections and excavations within the church's north aisle and the nave. Fifteen burials were exposed by the groundworks and a quantity of disarticulated human bone was found across the site. Also exposed were the foundations of the church's north aisle and its nave, and the remnants of a medieval tiled floor within the building, containing an inscribed tile with apotropaic markings. The arch and doorway comprising the north entrance into the church was photographed and recorded.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological recording and monitoring project at the parish church of All Saints, The Street, Feering, Essex which was carried out between 3rd and 11th March 2020. The work was commissioned by the church warden Tom Foster on behalf of Church of All Saints PCC and took place during the groundworks for a single-storey bathroom extension, associated service trenches (including a trench arch), the re-flooring of the north aisle and the installation of an organ within the nave. This work was undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (DAA) advised that in order to ensure the proper recording and investigation of archaeological assets impacted by this development, a scheme of archaeological work should be implemented.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by the DAA (CBC 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with the DAA (CAT 2020).

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (2014b), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (Historic England 2015), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24).

## 3 Archaeological background (Figs 1-2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/)).

All Saints' Church is located within the medieval village of Feering in Essex. It is a Grade I listed building that dates from c1200, although various parts of the building are later additions (NHLE no. 1123841, EHER Monument nos. 13899, 13900 and 30038).

The foundation trenches observed during this work are adjacent to the north aisle, which dates from the early 14th century. The monitored service trenches wrap around the 15th-century tower to the west of the church. The groundworks within the interior of the church impacted the north aisle and the west end of the nave, which is part of the original footprint of the church, dating to c1200.

As many of the groundworks were adjacent to later additions to the building, it was considered highly likely that burials would be encountered relating to the initial (c1200) phase of the church.

#### 4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits, remains and burials exposed by the groundworks.

#### 5 Methodology

All the groundworks were carried out by the contractors under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Outside the church the groundworks were excavated by a machine equipped with a toothless bucket, while inside the church the groundworks were all hand-dug. The excavations were monitored, and whenever a deposit, burial or another feature was encountered, the excavation was stopped and a CAT archaeologist entered the trench to hand-clean and excavate the context. Once the context had been excavated and fully recorded (and in the case of burials, the remains lifted) the excavation of the groundworks would continue. This method continued until the groundworks reached their required depth.

Burials encountered during the work were cleaned, photographed, planned and drawn before the remains within the trench were lifted (the remains outside the limits of the trench were left *in situ*). CAT's resident osteologist was onsite to carry out identification and metrical analysis of the lifted bones (see section 7), after which they were left with the church to be re-interred within the graveyard when the opportunity arose.

#### 6 Results (Figs 2-10)

##### *Outside the church*

The groundworks outside of the church consisted of a foundation trench for the bathroom extension, a trench arch and a series of service trenches (Fig 2).

The groundworks outside of the church impacted three layers. Modern topsoil (L1, a dark black sandy silt with common rooting and CBM flecks c 0.25-0.52m thick), covered a layer of burial soil/mixed grave fill (L2, mid brown/grey sandy silt with common small irregular sub-rounded stones c 0.75-0.82m thick) beneath which was natural (L3, medium/light orange sand and gravel encountered at a depth of 1-1.3m bcgl). As well as the burials detailed below, a large amount of disarticulated human remains were recovered from L2.



**Photograph 1** Foundation trenches during monitoring. Photograph taken facing east.

The foundation trench (9.8m long and 0.4-0.5m wide) was excavated to the north of the church, immediately outside of the existing north doorway (Photograph 1, Fig 1). The trench was excavated to a depth of 1-1.5m below current ground level (bcgl), being shallowest to the south (adjacent to the church foundations) and deepest to the north. Within the foundation trenches fifteen burials were encountered along with the foundation of the church's north aisle.

Burials F1-14 were located within the foundation trench. All were aligned east/west and varied in depth between 0.65m bcgl and 1.5m bcgl, in different states of survival. None of the burials were fully excavated, as all continued beyond the limits of the trench.

Several of the graves within the foundation trench contained disarticulated remains in addition to their 'main' burial. This is often happens in graveyards that have been in use for a substantial length of time, and occurs due to intercutting graves disturbing remains from earlier burials. In particular, F12 seems to contain deliberately placed disarticulated remains, in an organised bundle above the 'main' juvenile burial (Photograph 12).

All the burials are detailed more closely below in section 6.



**Photograph 2** Detail of F15 beneath northern wall of north aisle, in western foundation trench. Photograph taken facing south-east.



**Photograph 3** Northern foundation trench, showing burials below the extent of the trench cutting into natural L3. Photograph taken facing south-west.

The foundation trench was extended beneath the north wall of the church in order to carry out underpinning. In doing so F15 was impacted and observed in section (Photograph 2). It was a straight-sided feature that cut through L2 and lined up with the face of the wall above. It was filled with alternating layers of lime, mortar and a large amount of soil (Photograph 2). Although the fill of this feature was not particularly

compact it unquestionably must be associated with the construction of the church's north aisle and forms a rudimentary support for the mortar and flint walls above.

In the base of the foundation trench, after it was excavated to its required depth, the edges of several, deeper, graves were visible (Photograph 3).

Approximately 6m to the west of the foundation trenches a trench arch (a form of soakaway) was excavated (Photograph 4). This trench arch measured 10m x 1.5m in size and was excavated to a depth of 0.78-0.95m bcgl (deepest to the east, shallowest to the west). A single burial was encountered at the eastern end of the trench arch (F16).

F16, like the burials encountered in the foundation trench, was aligned east/west and was not fully excavated as it continued beyond the limits of the trench arch (Fig 4). It was encountered at 0.8m bcgl and is the only burial to have evidence of a coffin; a series of nails were observed in the base of the grave cut, all laid horizontal and with their pointed ends facing in towards the body. Unfortunately by the time the burial was recorded these nails had been disturbed and so only one appears on the resulting plan, and even then at the wrong orientation (Fig 7). F16 also contained the only dating evidence from a burial on the site: a single residual body sherd of Roman coarse greyware.



**Photograph 4** Trench arch after excavation.  
Photograph taken facing south-west.

A series of service trenches were excavated between the trench arch, the foundations, and the already existing services runs to the west of the church's tower (Fig 2). These trenches were 0.4m wide and, in total, 24.4m long. They varied in depth between 0.4-0.6m, and as a result no burials were encountered during their excavation (although some disarticulated human remains were still recovered from L2).

#### *Inside of the church*

Three areas were excavated in the interior of the church. They have been assigned the labels Areas A, B and C for ease of description. After the removal of the floor level in each area (wooden floorboards over Area A, and concrete over Areas B and C), L5 was exposed, a soft, dry medium/dark sandy silty subsoil. No other soil layers were observed during the interior excavations and at no point was natural sand and gravel (L3) reached.

Area A (3.4m x 2m) was located in the north aisle immediately by the northern entrance into the church (Fig 2). It is the largest area and was excavated to a depth of 0.3m below the current floor level. In the east corner of the area at around 0.2m below the current floor level a patch of tiled-floor, embedded in mortar, was uncovered (L4, Fig 5).

This floor contained 39 *in situ* tiles (or bricks) as well as two loose tiles that presumably had been recently dislodged. The tiles varied slightly in size but were all square and measured approximately 0.12m x 0.12m. The bricks were all unfrogged and seem to represent a later phase of repair to the floor. Tile 35 is noticeably larger than the other tiles and may be a reused Roman tegula (see finds pg 15).



**Photograph 5** Area A, showing patch of tiled floor L4 *in situ* in the north aisle. Photograph taken facing north-east.

Almost all of the tiles had remnants of glaze on their face or sides, and two tiles are of particular interest as they have surviving decorative elements (Fig 9). These two tiles, as well as the rest of the floor, are examined in detail in the finds report below. The floor and its mortar base were lifted after recording to allow for Area A to be completely excavated down to its required depth.

Area B (1.7m x 1.5m) was excavated down to a depth of 0.3m below the current floor level of the nave. No features were encountered in this area.



Area C (2.2m x 2.4m) was located in the south-western corner of the nave, up against the interior walls of the church (Fig 2). Like the other areas, it was reduced to 0.3m below the current floor level. As with Area B, there were no features within the area itself, but its excavation did expose the foundation of the surrounding walls, showing them to be constructed of loose courses of flint, bonded in lime mortar (Photograph 6).

The top 0.2m of this foundation appeared to be largely flint with minimal mortar bonding. Below that it was almost entirely mortar, with only the occasional nodule of flint. The base of these foundations was not reached, but even so it shows the foundations of the nave (part of the original c1200 phase of the church) to be significantly more substantial than those of the 14th-century north aisle (observed as F15 in the foundation trenches).



**Photograph 6** Area C, showing mortar and flint foundations of nave wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.

#### *The northern doorway*

The north entrance into the church is via a doorway in the wall of the north aisle (Fig 2). As part of the work being carried out on the church the threshold of this doorway was lowered to create a consistent floor-level between the north aisle and the new extension. The remainder of the doorway was not impacted.

The doorway (Photographs 7-8, Fig 10) is currently occupied by a modern vertical-planked door, constructed of machine-cut planks with a latticed exterior pattern (Photograph 7).

On the exterior the doorway is central to the surrounding two-centred, recessed arch, whereas on the interior it is not centred to the, much taller, arch. There is also a significant gap between the top of the arch and the doorway on the interior (Photograph 8). Whether this indicates a partial rebuilding of the arch or is just a product of the recessed archway design is uncertain. The interior threshold of doorway consists of unfrosted red bricks mortared together, with observable measurements of 105mm x 50-60mm.



**Photograph 7** Exterior of doorway in north aisle. Photograph taken facing south-east.



**Photograph 8** Interior of doorway in north aisle. Photograph taken facing north-west.

## 7 Human bone (Figs 3, 4, 6 & 7) by Megan Seehra

The burials encountered during the monitoring were recorded and lifted, but were not removed from the site in order to expedite their reburial. What follows is the summary of a brief on-site observation and analysis of each burial, undertaken without the remains being washed, but with enough cleaning undertaken to allow metrical data to be collated.



**Photograph 9** Burial F1. Photograph taken facing south-west.

tooth, with mandibular alveolar resorption seen. Minor marginal osteophytes were noted on several vertebral bodies. A cut was found on one vertebral body, however it is unclear at this level of analysis if this was inflicted on the bone peri-mortem or post-deposition.

### **F2**

As there was no skull, post-cranial analysis took place to determine sex. The femoral head and radial head diameters were measured; the femoral heads indicate the individual was male, while the radial heads indicate female. The trochlea of the humerus was analysed for constriction, and indicated this individual was female. The pelvis was also analysed; the three areas analysed indicates the individual was male. Overall, the individual was **probably male**.

Fusion of S1-S2 was seen at the sacrum, indicating the individual was over 30 years old. Using the Suchey-Brooks pubic symphysis scoring system, this individual's pubic symphysis was scored at phase 4 out of 6, indicating this individual was between 23-57 (the mean age for this phase is 35.2, however). Therefore this individual was likely between **30-57 years old**.

### **F1**

Sexually dimorphic cranial features was the only data available to sex this individual, the five features analysed indicate the individual was **probably male**.

Epiphyseal fusion seen on the humeral head, vertebrae, cranium and clavicle indicate the individual was above the age of 30 years old. Significant tooth wear to the molars on the maxilla and mandible indicate the individual was between **33-55 years old**.

Estimation of stature was unable to be carried out due to the lack of complete long bones.

This individual had their wisdom teeth (3rd molar) present but abscesses were found on one 2nd premolar, one first molar (both left mandible), and one on the 1st molar (right mandible). The abscess on the right 1st molar led to the loss of the

Estimation of stature could be calculated for this individual using the left and right ulnae and radii. The range was from **154.2cm-166.7cm (5.1ft-5.5ft)**.

No pathologies were seen in F2.

### **F3**

Two sexually dimorphic cranial features were analysed and indicated the individual was probably male. No constriction was seen in the humeral trochlea, indicating the individual was **male**.

Epiphyseal fusion was seen in both epiphyses of the humerus, as well as both clavicles, indicating the individual was older than 25 years old. The wear seen on the molars indicates the individual was between 25-45 years old. Using the Meindl and Lovejoy (1985) cranial suture fusion site system, the score indicates the individual was between **39-45 years old**.

Estimation of stature was calculated from both humeri, resulting in a range from **153.7-164.4cm (5ft-5.4ft)**.

There was no indication this individual ever had their wisdom teeth (3rd molars) erupt. This individual had lost both of their lower 2nd molars, with mandibular alveolar resorption seen in both. An abscess was noted on the upper right 1st premolar, with the root of the tooth only remaining. Minor osteolytic lesions were seen inside the cranial vault - not visible from the outside of cranium – which could indicate the presence of a malignant tumour(s).



**Photograph 10** Burial F3. Photograph taken facing south-west.

### **F4**

F4 was an unexcavated grave and therefore no analysis took place.

### **F5**

Only one aspect of the pelvis was used to determine the sex of the individual, which indicated a definite **male**.

Fusion was seen in S1-S2 of the sacrum, indicating the individual was older than 30 years old. The wear on the auricular surface of the pelvis indicates the individual was between **30-45 years old**.

Estimation of stature was calculated using the left radius. The range was between **158.2-168cm (5.2ft-5.5ft)**.

Minor marginal osteophytes were noted on several vertebral bodies.

### **F6**

Determination of sex was not possible due to the degradation of the remains. However it was noted that there were strong muscle attachments on the upper and lower leg bones; this can sometimes be an indication of a **male**, however it is unreliable as the only method of sexing.

Epiphyseal fusion was seen in the femoral head, indicating the individual was **older than 21**.

Estimation of stature was calculated using the right femur. The range was between **147.6-155.7cm (4.8ft-5.1ft)**.

No pathologies were seen in this individual.

### **F7**

Seven aspects of the skull were analysed to determine sex, with a strong conclusion that the individual was **female**.

Epiphyseal fusion was seen in both epiphyses of the humeri but the epiphyses of the medial clavicles were unfused. This places this individual between 16-22 years old. The individual's third molars had erupted, with minor wear to the 1st and 2nd molars; this indicates the individual is between 17-25 years old. Overall, the individual was between **16-25 years old**.

Estimation of stature was calculated using the right humerus, with the addition of Pearson (1899) and Dupertuis and Hadden (1951). The range is **153.8-168.7cm (5ft-5.5ft), with an average of 159.3cm (5.2ft)**.

Calculus was seen on teeth on the upper jaw. Minor osteolytic lesions were seen inside the cranial vault - not visible from the outside of cranium - which could indicate the presence of a malignant tumour(s).



**Photograph 11** Burial F7. Photograph taken facing north-west.

### **F8**

Four aspects of the skull were analysed for sex determination, and they indicated the individual was **female**.

The wear on the molars indicate the individual was between 33-45 years old, possibly older. Using the Meindl and Lovejoy (1985) cranial suture fusion site system, the score indicates the individual was between **33-57 years old**.

Estimation of stature was unable to be calculated.

A cranial non-metric trait was observed; the individual has a supra-orbital notch on the left side, but the trait is not bi-lateral.

Significant calculus was seen on most teeth on the maxilla and mandible. The individual had lost both 2nd molars on the upper jaw, as well as the lower right 1st molar, resulting in maxillary and mandibular alveolar resorption. The upper right 1st molar has a carious lesion, as well as an abscess, resulting a great deal of tooth decay to this particular tooth. Considerable wear was also noted to all teeth, not just the molars.

### **F9**

Four aspects of the skull were analysed for sex determination, which indicated the individual was **female**.

Epiphyseal fusion was seen at both humeral epiphyses, indicating the individual was older than 20 years old. The wear on the molars indicated the individual was between **33-45 years old**.

Estimation of stature was calculated using the left humerus, with the addition of Pearson (1899) and Dupertuis and Hadden (1951). The range was **155.1-170.2cm (5.1ft-5.6ft), with an average of 160.8cm (5.6ft)**.

Schmorl's nodes were seen on one vertebra. The individual had lost one lower second molar (left) and one lower 1st molar (right), resulting in mandibular alveolar resorption. There was also an indication of the loss of several teeth after upper 1st premolar (right), this was fragmentary. Minor osteolytic lesions were seen inside the cranial vault - not visible from the outside of cranium - which could indicate the presence of a malignant tumour(s).

### **F10**

Post-cranial analysis took place to determine sex. Both femoral heads were measured and both indicated the individual was female. One aspect of the pelvis was analysed, and indicated the individual was also **female**.

Epiphyseal fusion was seen in the femoral head, but was only partial in the humeral head. This indicates the individual was between **16-20 years old**.

Estimation of stature was calculated using the right humerus, with the addition of Pearson (1899) and Dupertuis and Hadden (1951). The range was between **146.06-160.65cm (4.79-5.27ft), with an average of 150.83 (4.95ft)**.

Schmorl's nodes were seen on two vertebrae. No other pathologies were noted.

### **F11**

Due to the presence of three humeri this grave was noted to contain some disarticulated remains, which are examined separately.

Determination of sex was carried out using the measurement of the radial heads, as well as constriction of the humeral trochlea and two features of the pelvis. The individual was determined to be **male** due to aspects indicating male.

Determination of age was carried out by epiphyseal fusion and two aspects of the pelvis. Fusion was seen in the pelvis, clavicles, humerus, fibula and sacrum, and indicates the individual is older than 30 years old. The aspects of the pelvis indicate the individual was between 27-44 years old. Therefore, the individual was probably between **30-44 years old**.

Estimation of stature was calculated using the humeri. The range was between **159.7-168.7cm (5.2ft-5.5ft)**.

Minor osteophytes were observed on the superior margin of one patella. No other pathologies were seen.

The disarticulated individual within this grave was **probably female**, as most aspects indicated a probable female.

Determination of age for the disarticulated individual was not conclusive, although is likely **older than 18 years old** due to epiphyseal fusion of the radial head and distal end of the humerus. Estimation of stature was calculated using the humeri and the calculations also included the addition of Pearson (1899) and Dupertuis and Hadden (1951). The range **was between 153.8-168.7cm (5ft-5.5ft), with an average of 159.3cm (5.2ft)**.



**Photograph 12** Burial F12, showing substantial amount of deliberately placed disarticulated remains. Photograph taken facing north-west.

### **F12**

This burial contained a large amount of disarticulated remains, with 6 tibiae (2 sets were juvenile, 1 set was adult), plus two adult mandibles. The "main" bones were that of a juvenile individual.

The individual was aged based on epiphyseal fusion, length of tibiae and teeth wear. The tibiae measurements indicated they were between 6-7 years old (Maresh, 1970; Gindhart, 1973), but the fusion of their ilium, distal femoral epiphyses, vertebrae, ribs, radial head metatarsals and calcaneus indicate they were between 7-9 years old. Therefore this individual was between **6-9 years old**.

Estimation of stature was calculated using juvenile-specific formulae by Telkka *et al* (1962), with the addition of Smith (2007). The range is **112.69-123.90cm (3.70ft-4.06ft), with an average of 119.57cm (3.92ft)**.

Cuts were seen across the vertebral body and the shaft of a humerus; it is unclear whether these were carried out peri-mortem or post-deposition. As the remains were disarticulated it is possible these cuts were made when disturbing the remains. No other pathologies were seen.

The disarticulated remains appear to consist of 3 individuals. Determination of sex of the disarticulated remains was limited due to age of individuals, with only two individuals (adult) being sexed using one aspect of the cranium. One was **male**, the second was **female**.

The two adults were aged based on the wear and eruption of their molars. The male had one third molar fully erupted, but did not have one erupted on the other side. The female's mandible was fragmented, but one fully erupted 3rd molar was seen. Both individuals had no wear to the 3rd molars, and minimal wear to the other molars. Therefore, the ages for both individuals ranges between **21-35 years old**.

A further disarticulated individual was between **6 months-1.5 years old** (but likely around 1 year old), based on the measurements of their tibiae (Maresh, 1970; Gindhart, 1973). Their stature ranged from **67.6-86.55cm (2.21-2.84ft)**.



**Photograph 13** Representative section of the foundation trench, showing L1, L2 and L3, alongside burial F13. Photograph taken facing north-east.

### **F13**

Only the cranium was seen and lifted from this feature.

Determination of sex was unable to be carried out due to fragmentation and limited remains.

There were four teeth seen in the left hand side of the maxilla. They were deciduous teeth, and using the Universal dentition system, G, H, I and J were present. Using the Liversidge *et al* (1998) system, the second incisor was measure, the individual was between 1.67-2.01 years old. Using combined methods based off tooth eruption by Ubelaker (1979), the individual was between 3-6 years old. It is therefore likely the individual was between **2-6 years old**.

No pathologies were seen.



#### **F14**

This grave contained several disarticulated remains, multiple femora plus a juvenile mandible fragment. A cow phalanx was also found in this feature.

Determination of sex was carried out based on femoral head diameters and length of femur. They all indicate the individual was **male**.

Ageing was carried out using the analysis of epiphyseal fusion. Fusion was seen in the femur and tibia epiphyses, indicating the individual was older than 21. The wear on the pubic symphysis indicates the individual was between **20-29 years old**.

Estimation of stature was calculated for using their left femur, fibula, ulna and tibia. The results ranged from **161.7-176.4cm (5.3ft-5.8ft), with an average of 169cm (5.5ft)**.

No pathologies were seen.

The disarticulated remains within this grave are from two individuals, one was a **probable female** whose fusion of the femur epiphyses and humeral head indicate they were **older than 20 years old**. Only the crowns of the molars had developed in the other individual, placing them between **6 months-18 months old**.

#### **F16**

Determination of sex was carried out using two aspects of the cranium, the diameter of the radial head, and constriction of the humeral trochlea. They all indicate the individual was **female**.

Ageing was carried out using the analysis of epiphyseal fusion and dental wear on the molars. Fusion was seen in all arm bones, and partial fusion at the clavicle. This places the individual between the range of 18-25 years old. The wear to the 2nd molars indicates the individual was between **17-25 years old**.

Estimation of stature was calculated using the humerus and ulna. The range was between **152.9-167.7cm (5ft-5.5ft)**.

The individual had lost their lower right 1st molar, resulting in mandibular alveolar resorption. Their 3rd molars had not erupted, which could either be due to their age (i.e. they have not erupted *yet*), or they do not have them; either is normal, but the answer is probably the latter. Calculus was seen on all teeth. The manubrium and sternal body have fully ossified, an unusual occurrence as this does not normally happen until much later in life. There are medium-large porotic-type lesions around the parietal, in the cranial vault. Limited analysis of the pathologies may indicate tumours or another disease; it could also be porotic hyperostosis.

## 8 Finds

### 8.1 Pottery and ceramics by Dr Matthew Loughton

The watching brief uncovered 72 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of nearly 31 kg (Table 1). CBM, mostly of plain and decorated floor tiles, accounts for the majority of this material by sherd count and weight (Table 1).

Ceramic material	nr	weight/gr	MSW/gr	Rim EVE
Pottery	17	634	37	0.00
CBM	55	30,270	550	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>30,904</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Pottery and ceramics finds were recovered from only a small number of features and layers and the majority of the material came from the floor level L4 (Table 2).

Cxt	Description	nr	weight/gr	MSW/gr
F16	Grave	1	9	9
L1	Top soil	4	838	210
L2	Burial soil	15	574	38
L4	Floor level	52	29,483	567
<b>Total</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>30,904</b>	<b>429</b>

**Table 2** Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features and contexts.

#### **Pottery**

The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (1999) while the post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (2000) and Cunningham (1985).

Pottery was limited to one sherd of Roman coarse grey-ware (or Fabric F20: Medieval sandy grey greyware?) from the grave F16, 15 sherds (574 gr.) of early Medieval sandy ware from the burial soil L2, and a glazed handle (51 gr.) from a Post-medieval red earthenware chamberpot (?) which came from the top soil L1.

#### **Ceramic building material (CBM)**

There were 55 sherds of Post-Roman CBM with a weight of just over 30 kg (Table 3). CBM was recovered from only two layers and the majority came from the floor level L4 (Table 4).

CBM code	CBM type	nr	Weight (gr.)	MSW
Post-Roman				
BR	Brick	11	8,259	751
FT	Floor tile	27	11,420	423
GFT	Glazed/decorated floor tile	17	10,591	623
<b>Total</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>30,270</b>	<b>550</b>

**Table 3** Building material by period and type

Cxt	Feature type	nr	weight	MSW
L1	Top soil	3	787	262
L4	Floor level	52	29,483	567
<b>Total</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>30,270</b>	<b>550</b>

**Table 4** Quantities of CBM by features and layers

The 11 brick fragments with a weight of 8,259 gr. all came from the floor L4. These are all un-frogged and are in brown to orange coloured sandy fabrics sometimes with rounded black inclusions, while some sherds have traces of a blue/grey glaze perhaps resulting from the deliberate or accidental (over-fired?) melting of the sanded surfaces. There was one complete brick with dimensions of 230 mm x 110 mm x 55 mm and this perhaps a late 17th to early 18th century brick according to Ryan's Essex brick typology (1996, 95).

The majority of the CBM consist of plain Medieval floor tiles of which 22 examples were recovered from the floor level L4 and a further two from the layer F1 (top soil). These have dimensions of 115-125 mm x 115-130 mm x 17-32 mm and many have traces of a yellow, green, or purple glaze and date from the 14th to the 16th century (McComish 2015, 35). Many, of the tiles are however very worn with smoothed and polished upper surfaces with no surviving glaze. There was one significantly larger sized floor tile (tile 35) with dimensions of 190+ mm x 150+ mm x 25 mm and with curved edges, which may in fact be part of a reused Roman *tegula*. There is possibly a trace of a glaze on the upper surface.

There are at least two decorated floor tiles (with a possible third example), which date from the mid 13th to the 15th century (McComish 2015, 29):

Tile 21, square floor tile (730 gr.) with dimensions of 120 mm x 118 mm x 32 mm, traces of yellow and purple glaze, and decorated with two slightly curved lines of which the spaces between are filled with large circles (Fig 9).

#### **Decorated and inscribed floor tile** (Fig 9)

*by Emily Harris*

Square floor tile (639 gr.) with dimensions of 119 mm x 119 mm x 21mm, with traces of a green glaze and an inscribed pattern. A central inscribed circle encloses a hexagram (a six-pointed star) overlain with a compass drawn design of 6 interconnecting arcs that form a 6 lobed central shape and 6 further arcs forming an outer hexfoil (daisy wheel). The main outer circle measures 90mm in diameter. Whilst the hexagram alone represents the Star of Creation in a Christian context, its coupling with the compass drawn design may be evidence of further meaning. Similar inscribed geometric patterns incorporating the hexagram, pentangle (though this is rarer), compass-drawn designs and hexafoil (daisy wheel) have been documented within medieval churches throughout Britain (Champion, 2015) and are thought to relate to apotropaic beliefs, otherwise known as ritual protection markings. It is possible, therefore, that this floor tile was marked with a pattern that was believed to offer spiritual protection to the church and congregation from evil spirits.

The north door of a church is known as the 'Devil's Door' after the association between evil and the north side of the churchyard. In some churches there was a tradition (which remains so in some areas) that this north door is even left ajar during the ceremony to allow the evil to exit the building unhindered (Champion, 2015). Given that the tiled floor was directly adjacent to the north entrance of the church, this adds further weight to the theory.

There are countless examples of ritual protection marks in churches made up of a variety of patterns incorporating the hexagram, pentangle (though this is rarer),

compass-drawn designs and hexafoil (daisy wheel). Many of these were whitewashed over after the Reformation but those that have been inscribed into tile or scratched deeper into walls are still visible. The need for spiritual protection was incredibly important within a building where Christ was being worshipped.

### **Conclusion**

Tables 5 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and other contexts which produced dateable pottery and ceramic finds. The floor (L4) can be dated to the 14th to 16th century although the presence of some later (late 17th-early 18th century?) unfrogged bricks suggest that the floor was repaired at a later date.

<b>Cxt</b>	<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Roman Pottery</b>	<b>Post-Roman Pottery</b>	<b>CBM</b>	<b>Overall date Approx.</b>
F16	Grave	GX (or F20?)	-	-	-
L1	Top soil	-	F40	GFT	c.1500-19/20th century
L2	Burial soil	-	F13	-	11th-early 13th century (TPQ)
L4	Floor level	-	-	FT GFT BR unfrogged	14th-16th century

**Table 5** Approximate dates for the features and layers

## **8.2 Iron nails**

*by Laura Pooley*

Iron nails came from two contexts.

**F12 (finds no. 3):** Complete, square-sectioned shank with traces of mineralised wood, flat oval head (15mm by 18mm), 74.3mm long, 11.8g.

**F16 (finds no. 4):** 1) Almost complete with tip missing, square-sectioned shank with mineralised wood, head damaged and partially incomplete (possibly oval or diamond-shaped), 41mm long, 3.4g; 2) Almost complete with tip missing, square-sectioned shank with mineralised wood, head damaged and partially incomplete (possibly oval or diamond-shaped), 32mm long, 2.6g.

## 9 Discussion

The groundworks undertaken around All Saints church exposed the remains of 15 burials along with the disarticulated remains of several more individuals from earlier, truncated, graves. The limited onsite analysis of these burials suggests that of the identifiable remains, 8 were male and 8 were female, and that the age range of the individuals varied from juvenile to 57 years old. Most of the adults appear to have been in general good health, although several showed evidence of tooth decay and abscesses. A small number (F3, F7, F9 and F16) had evidence of minor lesions within the skull that could indicate the presence of malignant tumour(s), which may have contributed to the death of these individuals.

There is a significant variance in the depth of the encountered burials (ranging between 0.7m-1.5m bcgl), and even deeper burials are visible in the base of the foundation trenches. This variance in depth, combined with the number of disarticulated bones recovered, suggests that the cemetery has been in use over a long period of time and that earlier graves were not routinely marked.

Although no burials contained any dating evidence (disregarding a residual sherd of Roman pottery in F16), it seems likely, given the multiple shallow graves and the lack of evidence of coffins (with the single exception of F16) that at least some of the burials encountered in the foundation trenches are associated with the initial phase of the church (c1200). Several of the burials (such as F1, F4 and F5) are in extremely close proximity to the 14th-century north aisle and in several cases seem likely to project beneath buttresses or be buried across the north doorway (Fig 3).

Although the burials encountered during this work were all located to the north of the church (Figs 3-4), this is undoubtedly due to the depth of the trenches in this location, rather than any historic concentration of burials. It seems likely that if the trench arch, service trenches, or indeed Area A, had been excavated to a deeper level they would also have impacted a significant number of burials.

Even though no burials were encountered within the interior of the church, the excavated areas did allow an insight into the nature of the early church and nave. Specifically the lack of any wall foundations in Area B indicates that the original northern wall of the nave must have been to the north of this location, as opposed to in-line with the wall of the chancel to the east (Fig 2). The exposed foundations of the nave in Area C show it to be of a far more substantial make-up than that of the later north aisle (exposed in the foundation trenches to the north).

The section of floor encountered on the interior of the north aisle in Area A was quite fragmentary and contained areas of repair in the form of 17th or 18th-century bricks. Nevertheless, there is the potential that the medieval tiles recovered from this layer represent the remnants of the original floor of the 14th-century north aisle. Specifically, the presence of a highly decorated and inscribed floor tile with ritual protection markings near the north doorway into the church (the 'Devils Door') is of particular interest.

## 10 Acknowledgements

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The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by M Baister and M Seehra.

Figures are by M Baister and E Holloway.

The project was monitored by Deborah Priddy for the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

The text was reviewed and edited by Philip Crummy, director of CAT.

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Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at

<http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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## 12 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
DAA	Diocesan Archaeological Advisor
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
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> cces <b>S</b> to the Index of Archaeological Investigation <b>S</b> , <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	<b>W</b> ritten <b>S</b> cheme of Investigation

## 13 Contents of archive

**Finds:** two boxes (all human bone reburied)

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1545)

DAA monitoring brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, sections)

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1545)

DAA monitoring brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

## 14 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 Colchester Museum under the EHER code: FEAS20.

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**Distribution list**

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Date: 28.04.2020



## Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	2	Topsoil	Dark black sandy-silt with common rooting and CBM flecks	Modern
L2	5	Burial soil/grave fills	Mid brown/grey sandy silt with common small irregular sub-rounded stones	Medieval/post-Medieval
L3	-	Natural	Medium/light orange sand and gravel	Post-glacial
L4	1	floor	Tiled floor with brick repairs, sitting on base of mortar. Only partially surviving.	Medieval
L5	-	subsoil	Soft dry medium/dark brown sandy silt. Only observed on the interior of the church.	?Medieval
F1	-	burial	soft dry medium/dark brown sandy silt	Medieval
F2	-	burial	soft dry medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F3	-	burial	soft dry/moist medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F4	-	burial	soft dry medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F5	-	burial	medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F6	-	burial	medium grey/brown sandy silt	Medieval
F7	-	burial	medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F8	-	burial	medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F9	-	burial	medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F10	-	burial	medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F11	-	burial	medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F12	3	burial	medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F13	-	burial	medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F14	-	burial	medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F15	-	?foundation cut	Cut directly beneath wall of north aisle, consisting of alternating layers of lime, mortar and dark/medium brown sandy silt	Medieval
F16	4	burial	medium/dark brown sandy silt	Medieval

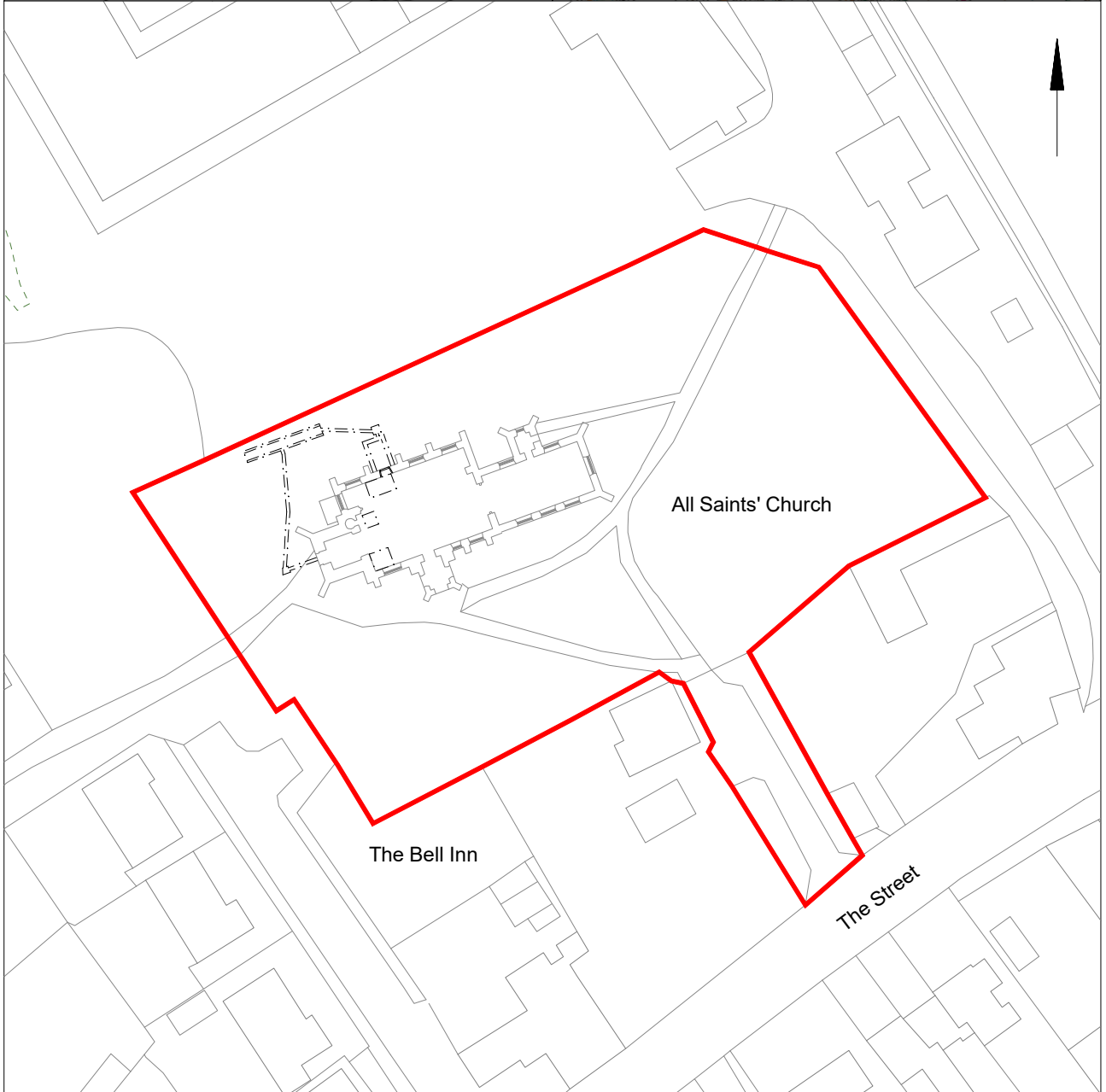
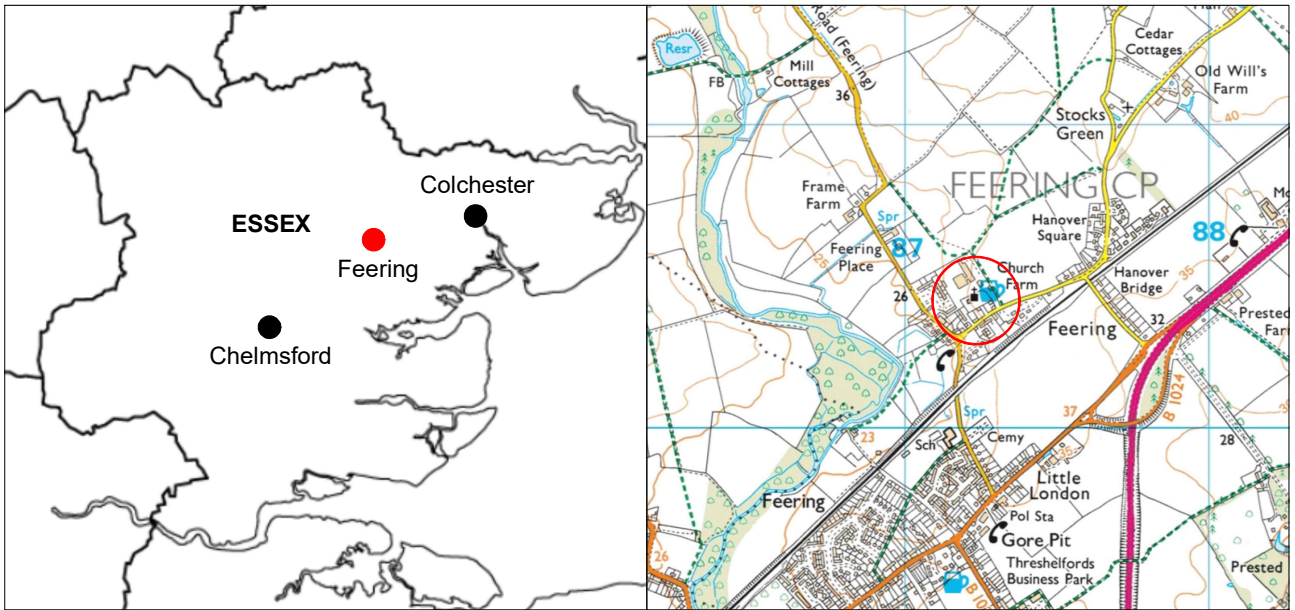
## Appendix 2 Ceramic and pottery list

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 Slip	Typology	Vessel Height	Diam.	EVE	Comments	Date
F16	Grave	4		1	9	9																							GX						or F20?	
L1	Top soil	2		1	51	51		0	1	0																			F40	Chamberpot?						
L2	Burial soil	5		15	574	38		0	0	3																			F13							

## Appendix \* CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	TR	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	Flange			Cut Aways			Marks 1			Marks 2			Flue tile			Peg-tile			Brick dim.			Mortar	Burnt	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date		
										NR FL	FL H.	FL W.	LCA L.	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Stamp	Sign	Tally	Grat PF	Animal	Shoe	Scored	Comb	Roller	Circ. VT	Rct. VT	Bl. VT	PH R	PH SQ							2 PHs	TH
L1	Top soil	2		1	168	168		GFT																												Yellow glaze on top	14th-16th century	
L1	Top soil	2		2	619	310		GFT																												Yellow/copper flecked glaze on top	14th-16th century	
L4	Floor level	1		1	349	349		BR																												Tile 32, brown, sandy, black round nods	Medieval-Post Medieval	
L4	Floor level	1		1	550	550		BR																												Tile 28? orange very sandy	Medieval-Post Medieval	
L4	Floor level	1		1	1224	1224		BR	Un-frogged BR																											Brown, sanded surface have melted, pitted top	Late 17th and early 18th century	
L4	Floor level	1		1	1204	1204		BR	Un-frogged BR																											Tile 27 goes with Tile 28, sanded surf. Melted	Late 17th and early 18th century	
L4	Floor level	1		1	558	558		BR	Un-frogged BR																											Brown, sandy, black round nods	Medieval-Post Medieval	
L4	Floor level	1		1	535	535		BR																												Tile 18, orange brown sandy	Medieval-Post Medieval	
L4	Floor level	1		1	1123	1123		BR	Un-frogged BR																											Brown, sanded surface have melted, dense, burning on break	Late 17th and early 18th century	
L4	Floor level	1		1	1216	1216		BR	Un-frogged BR																												Tile 26, brown sandy, black round nods	Medieval-Post Medieval
L4	Floor level	1		3	1500	500		BR	Un-frogged BR																												Orange, sandy	Medieval-Post Medieval
L4	Floor level	1		1	568	568		FT																													Tile 15, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	627	627		FT																													Tile 9, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		3	643	214		FT																													Tile 17, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	656	656		FT																														14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	388	388		FT																													Mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	639	639		FT																													Green glaze & inscribed decoration	Mid 13th-15th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	503	503		FT																													Tile 8, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	420	420		FT																													Tile 34	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	655	655		FT																													Tile 25, mortar on underside	14th-16th century

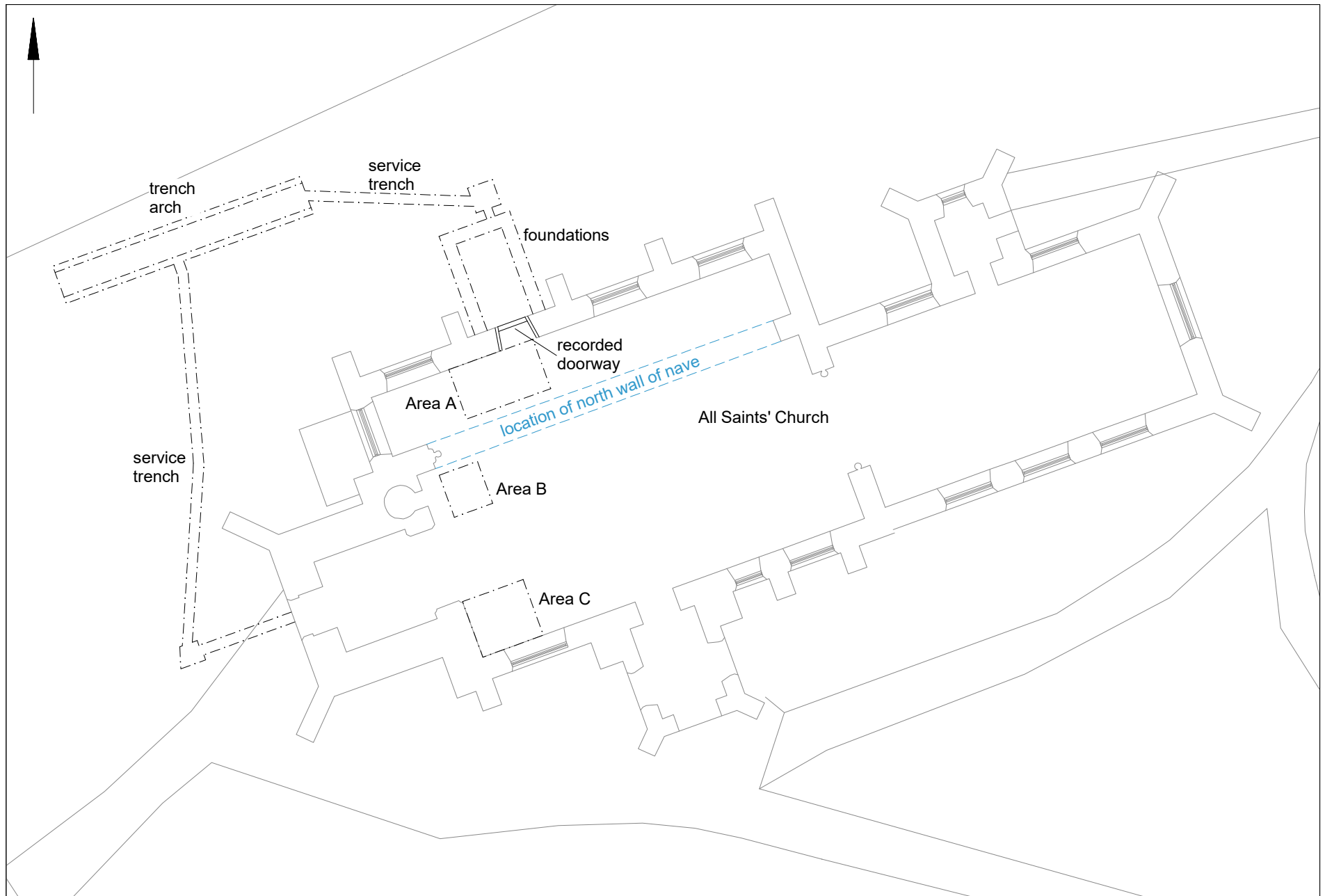
Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	TR	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	Flange			Cut Aways			Marks 1			Marks 2		Flue tile			Peg-tile			Brick dim.			Mortar	Burnt	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date	
										NR FL	MINI	FL.H.	FL.W.	FL.TH.	LCA	UCA	UCA L.	UCA L.	Stamp	Sign	Tally	Graf PR	Animal	Shoe	Scored	Comb	Roller	Circ. VT	Ret. VT							Bl. VT
L4	Floor level	1		1	550	550		FT																				118	116	22	X				Tile 22, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	817	817		FT																				120	120	29	X				Tile 7, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	539	539		FT																				120	120	22	X				Tile 24, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	583	583		FT																				120	118	23	X				Tile 14, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	570	570		FT																				120	120	21	X				Tile 2, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	591	591		FT																				115	115	25	X				Tile 19, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	684	684		FT																				125	125	22	X				Tile 6, lots of mortar	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	605	605		FT																				117	117	28	X				Tile 37, traces green/copper flecked glaze	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		4	512	128		FT																				120	120	22	X				Tile 3, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	859	859		GFT																				130	130	30	X				Tile 23, green glaze, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	701	701		GFT																				120	120	30					Tile 33, trace glaze on sides	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	690	690		GFT																				122	120	30	X				Tile 16, glaze on sides	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	730	730		GFT																				120	118	32					Tile 21, glazed decorated with circles & lines	Mid 13th-15th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	689	689		GFT																				120	118	28	X				Tile 5, traces copper glaze	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	610	610		GFT																				?	?	30	X				Tile 13, green glaze, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	512	512		GFT																				117	115	25	X				Tile 12, glaze on sides	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	597	597		GFT																				118	117	25	X				Tile 11, glaze on sides, mortar on underside	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	746	746		GFT																				122	120	30					Tile 39, green glaze	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	689	689		GFT																				121	121	26	X				Tile 30, traces of glaze	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	510	510		GFT																				120	117	23	X				Tile 20, green/purple glaze on sides	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	725	725		GFT																				122	122	28	X				Tile 1, mortar on underside, traces green/purple glaze	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	489	489		GFT																				118	118	20	X				Tile 4, green glaze, decorated?, mortar on underside	Mid 13th-15th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	1257	1257		GFT																				118	116	30	X				Tile 10, traces of green glaze on up. surf.	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		2	772	386		FT																				190+	150+	25	X				Tile 35, larger (or reused RBT?)	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	70	70		FT																											More of tile 35	14th-16th century
L4	Floor level	1		1	28	28		FT																											More of tile 35	14th-16th century



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Fig 1 Site location.





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Fig 2 Detailed plan of site showing locations of monitoring.



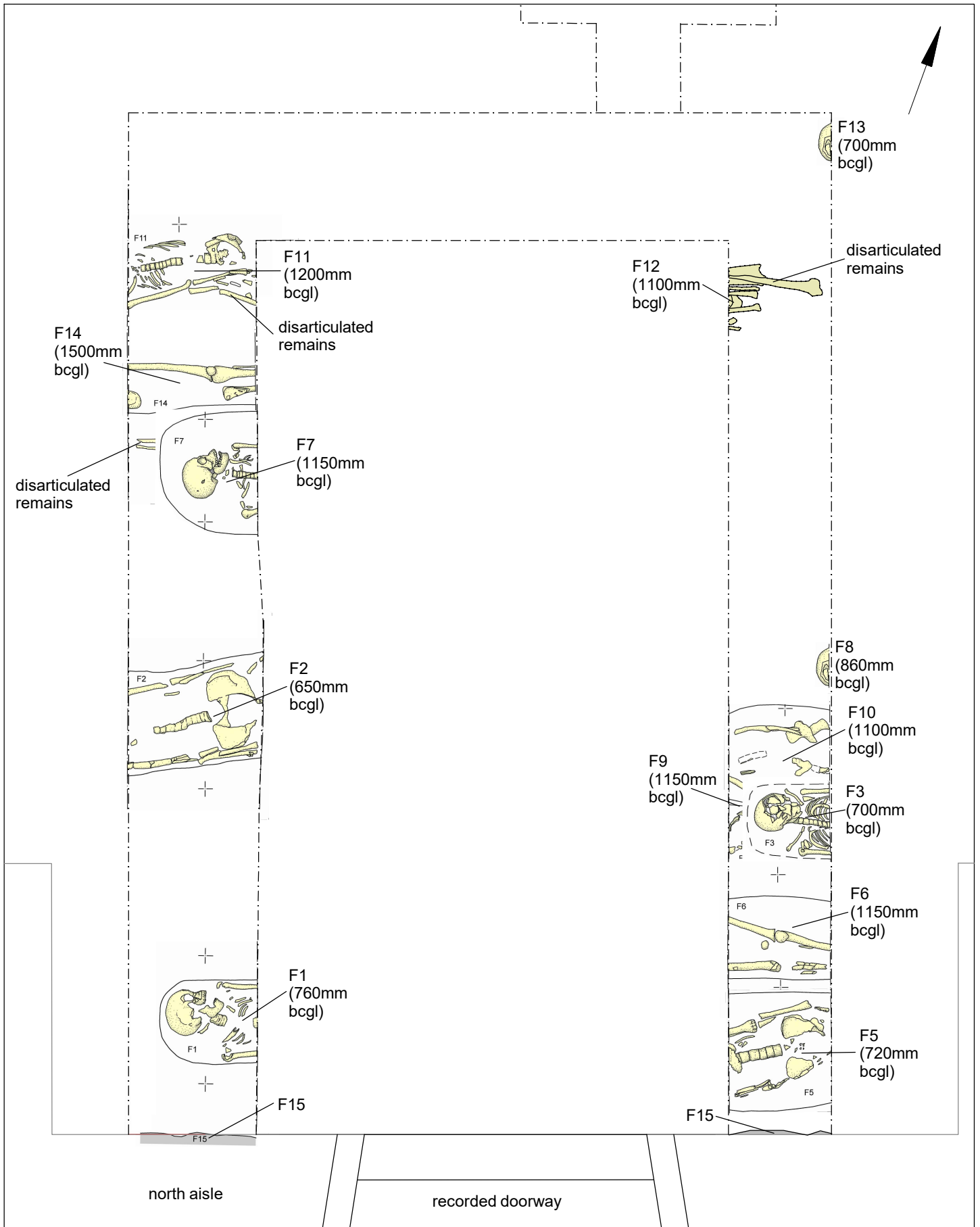


Fig 3 Detail of foundation trenches, showing the location of burials and their depth below current ground level (bcgl).

0 1 m

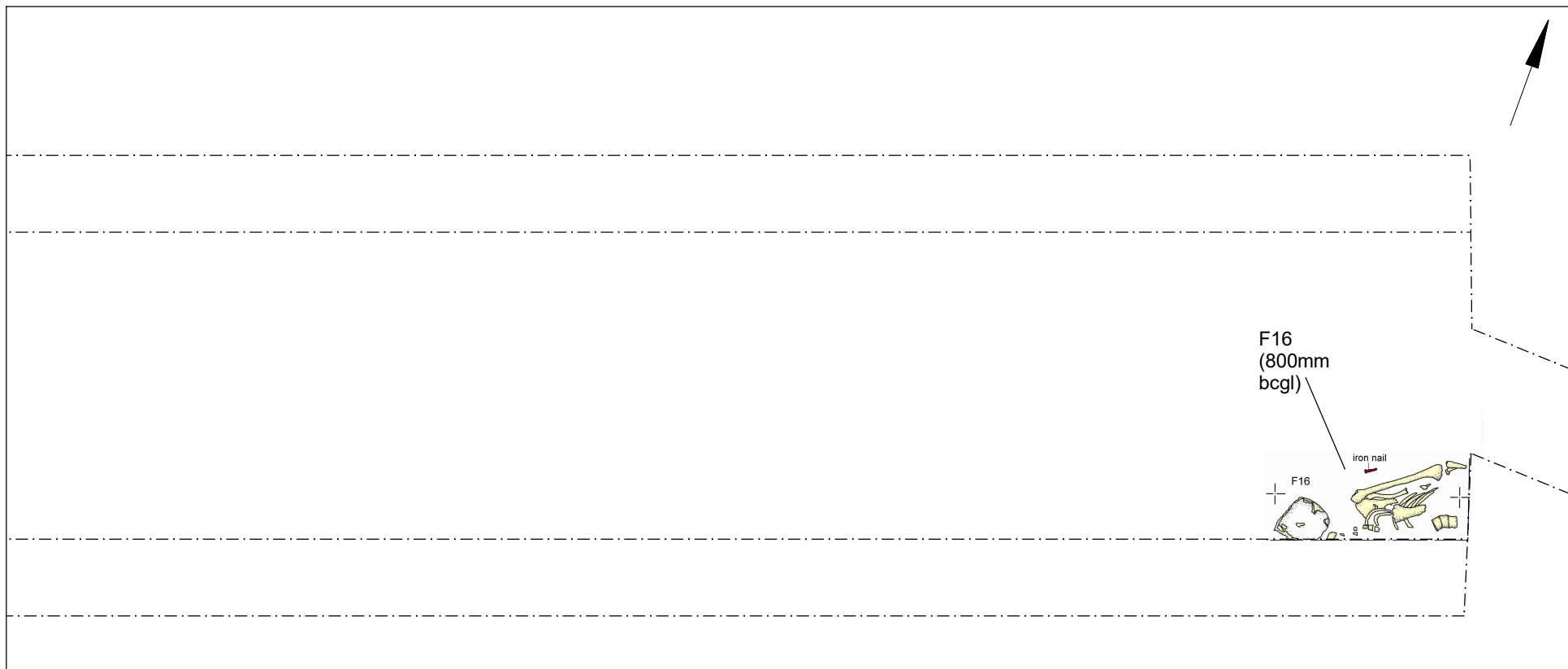


Fig 4 Detail of eastern end of trench arch, showing the location of burial F16 and its depth below current ground level (bcgl).



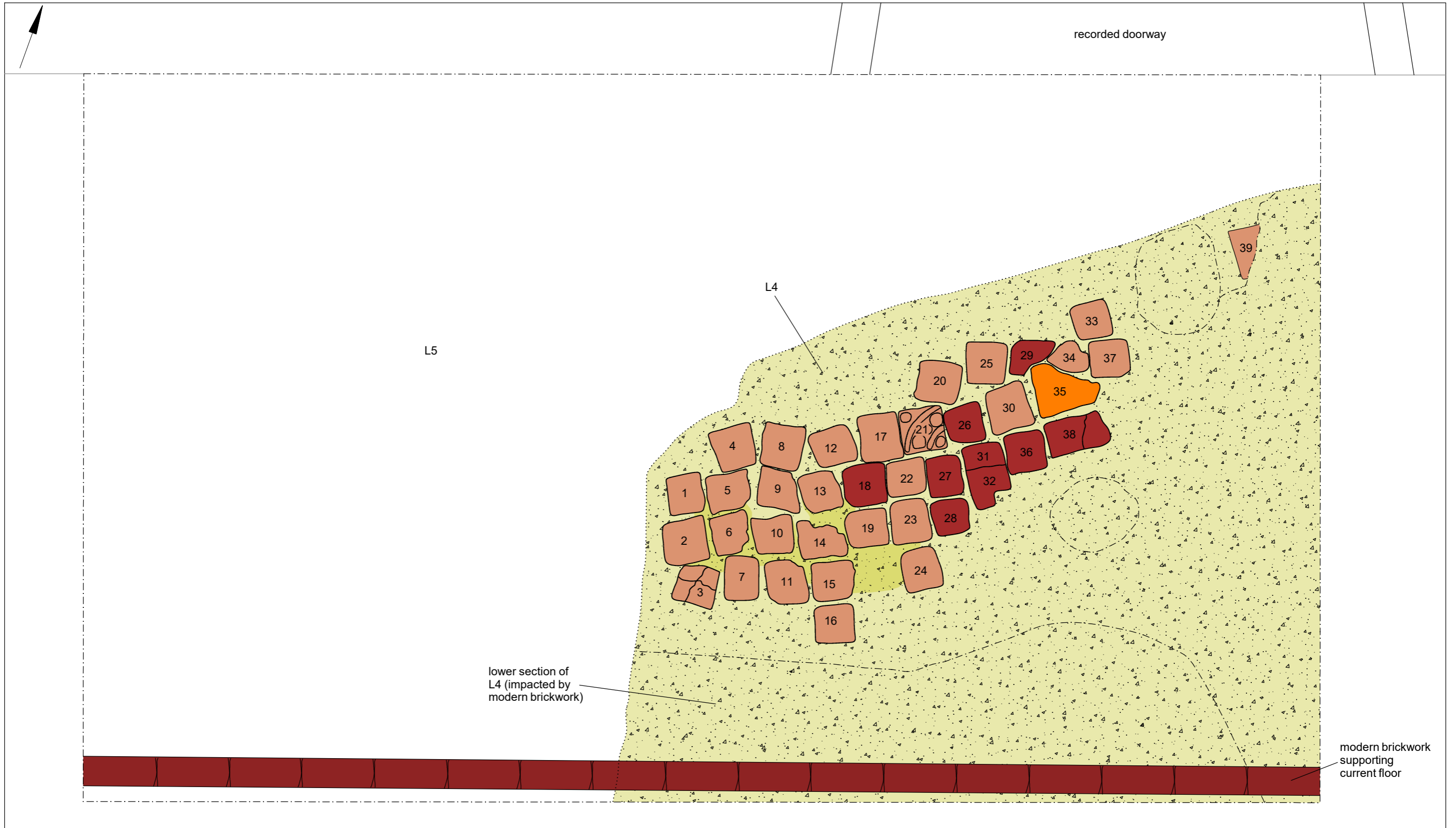
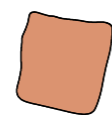


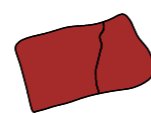
Fig 5 Detail of partial surviving tiled floor (L4) uncovered in north aisle of church, showing tile numbers.

0 1 m

key



floor tile

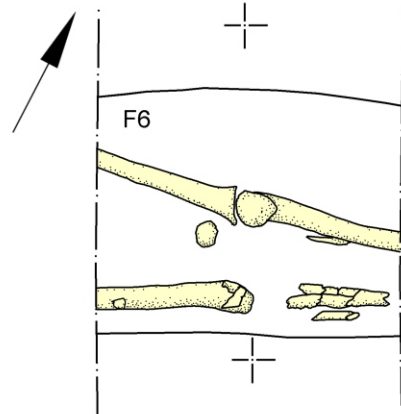
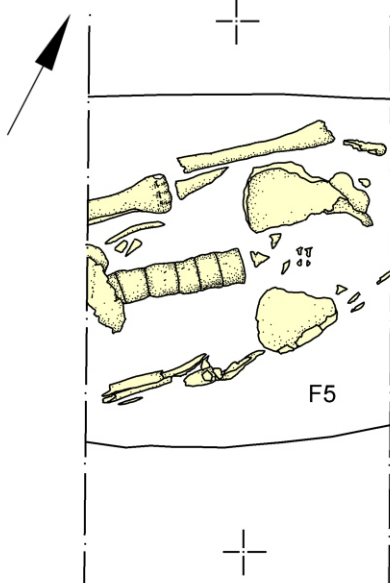
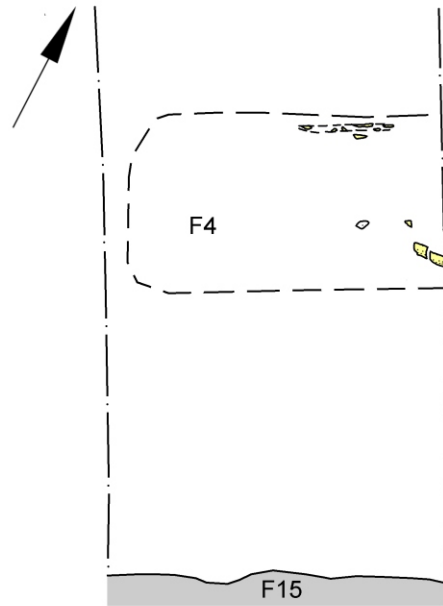
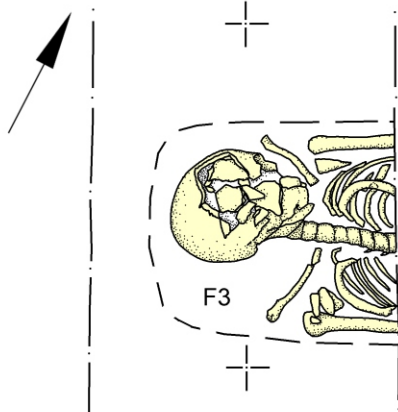
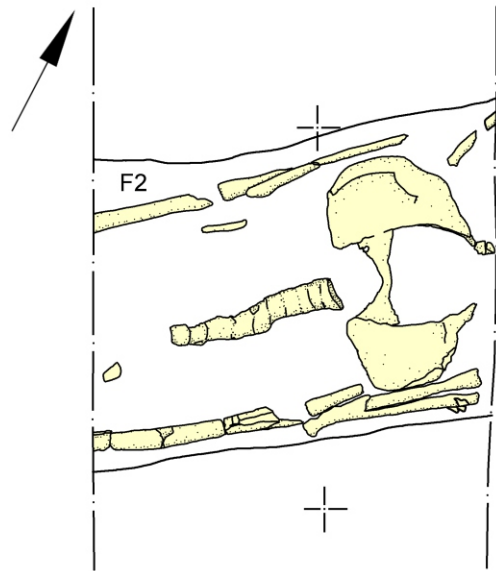
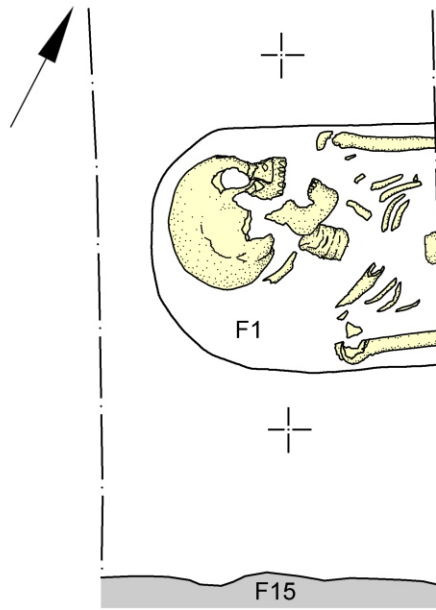


brick



?Roman tile





0 0.5m

Fig 6 Burial plans.

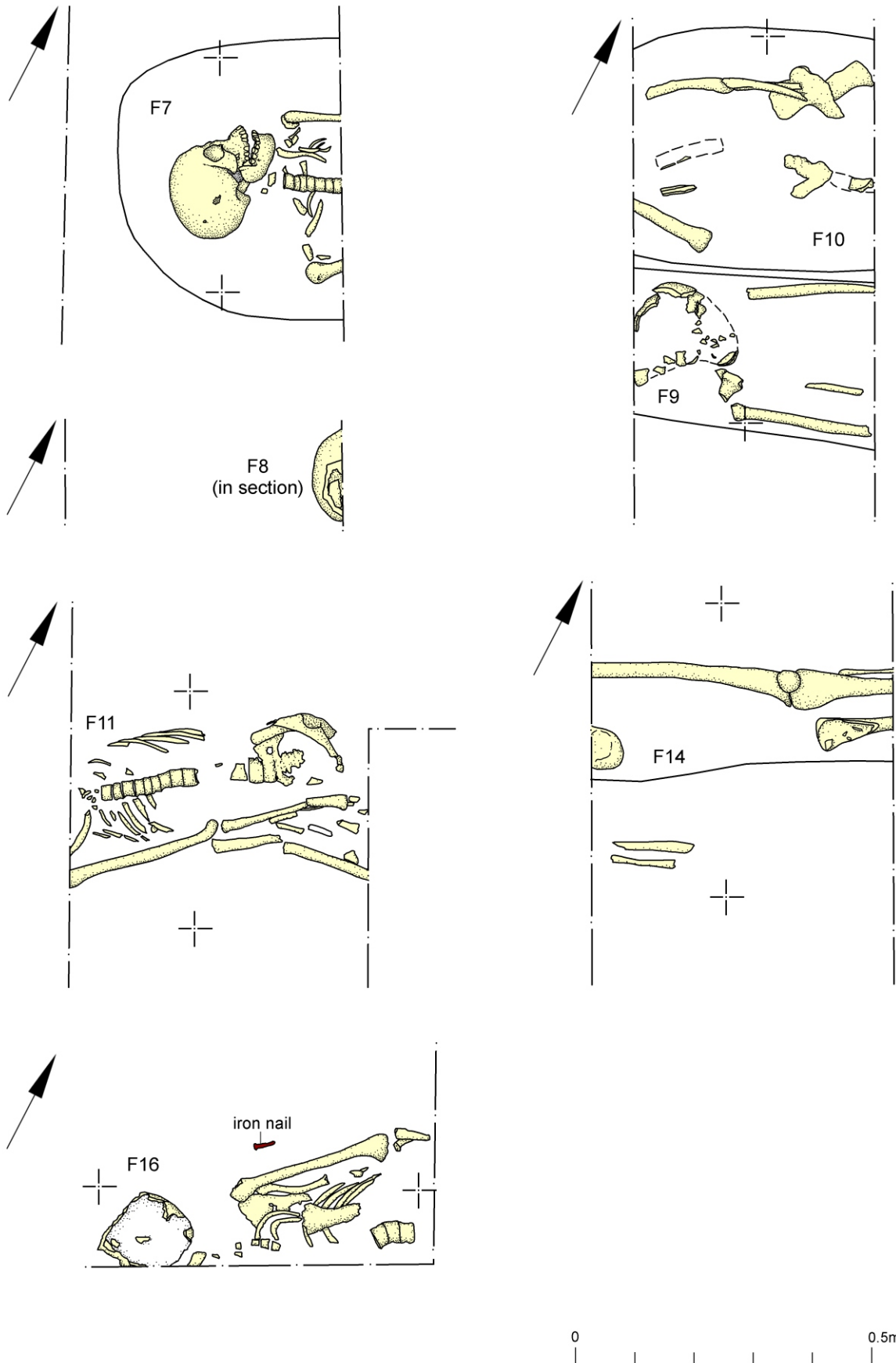


Fig 7 Burial plans.

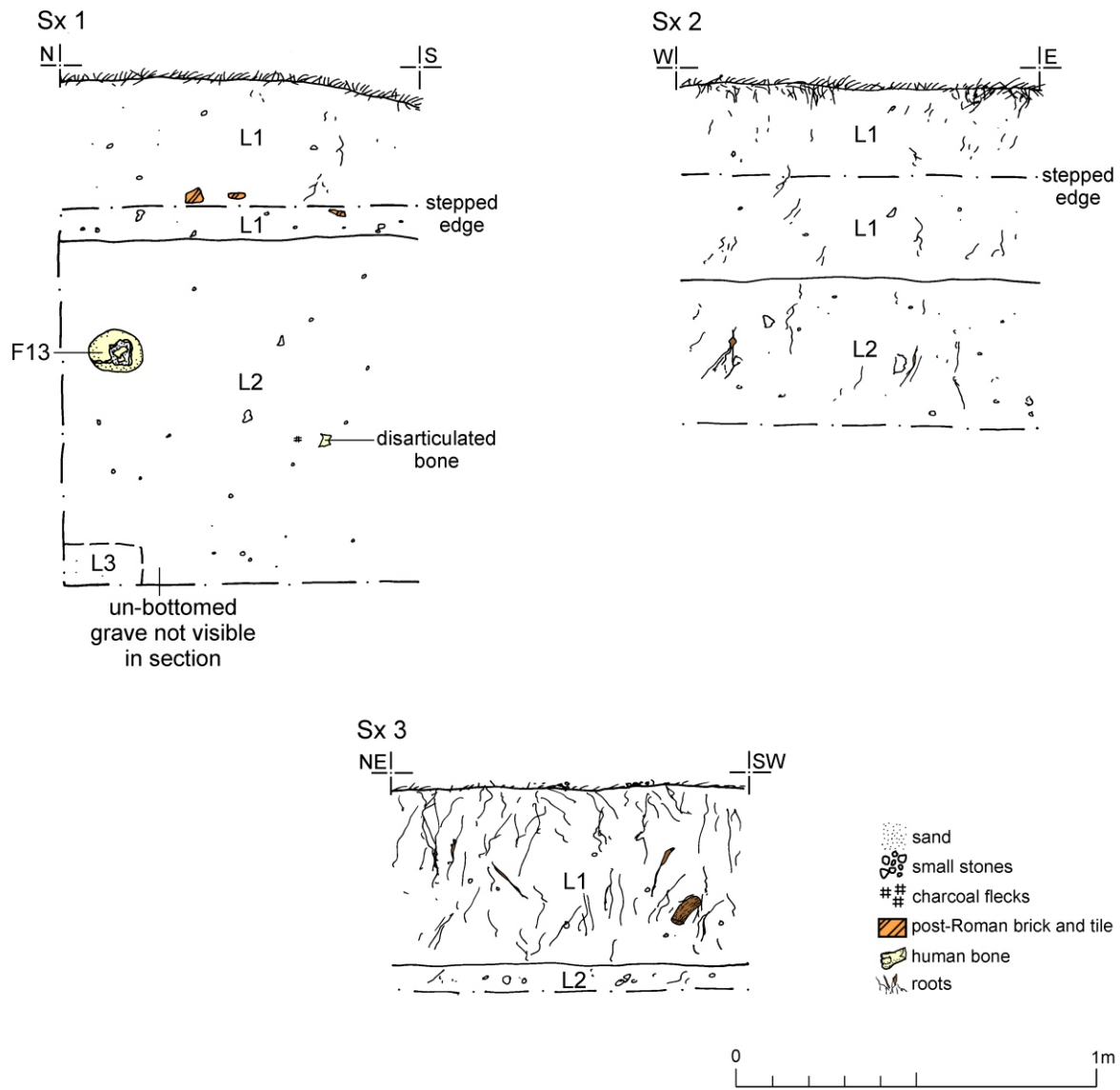


Fig 8 Representative sections.



Fig 9 Decorated floor tiles.

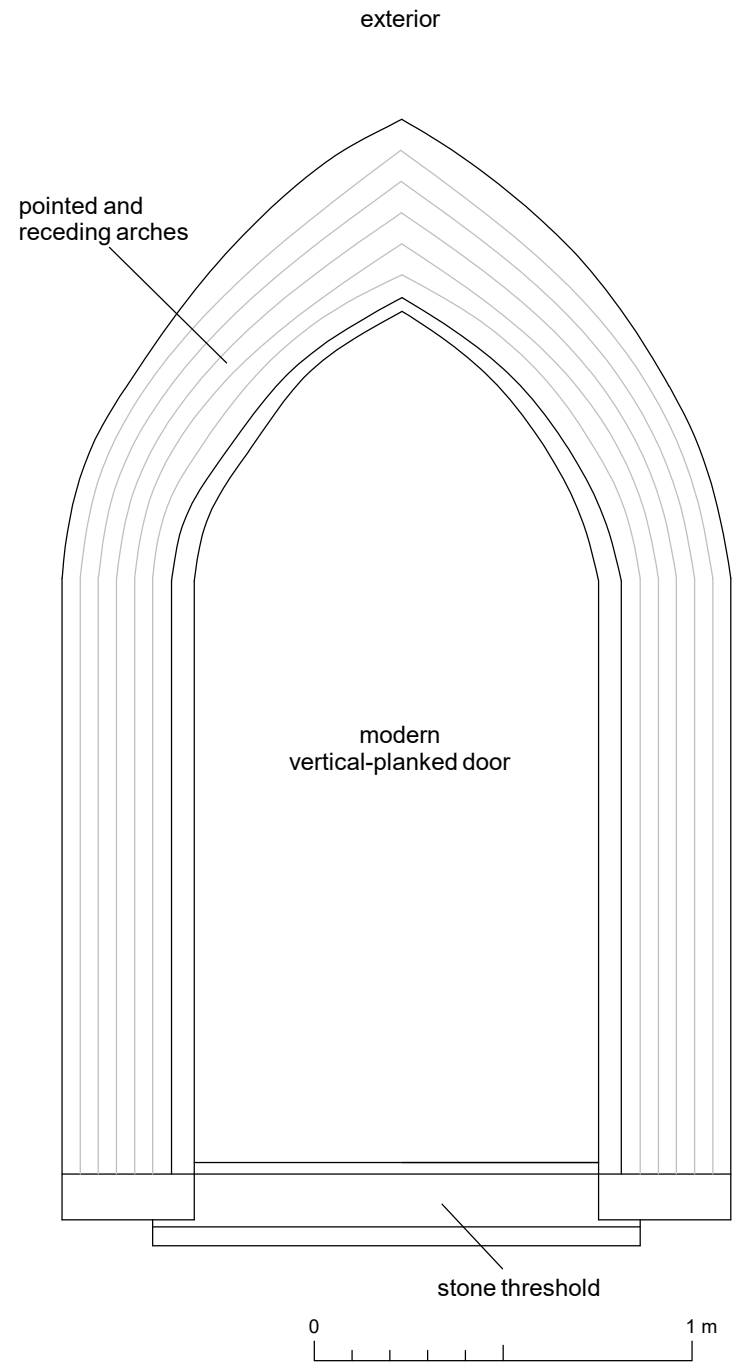
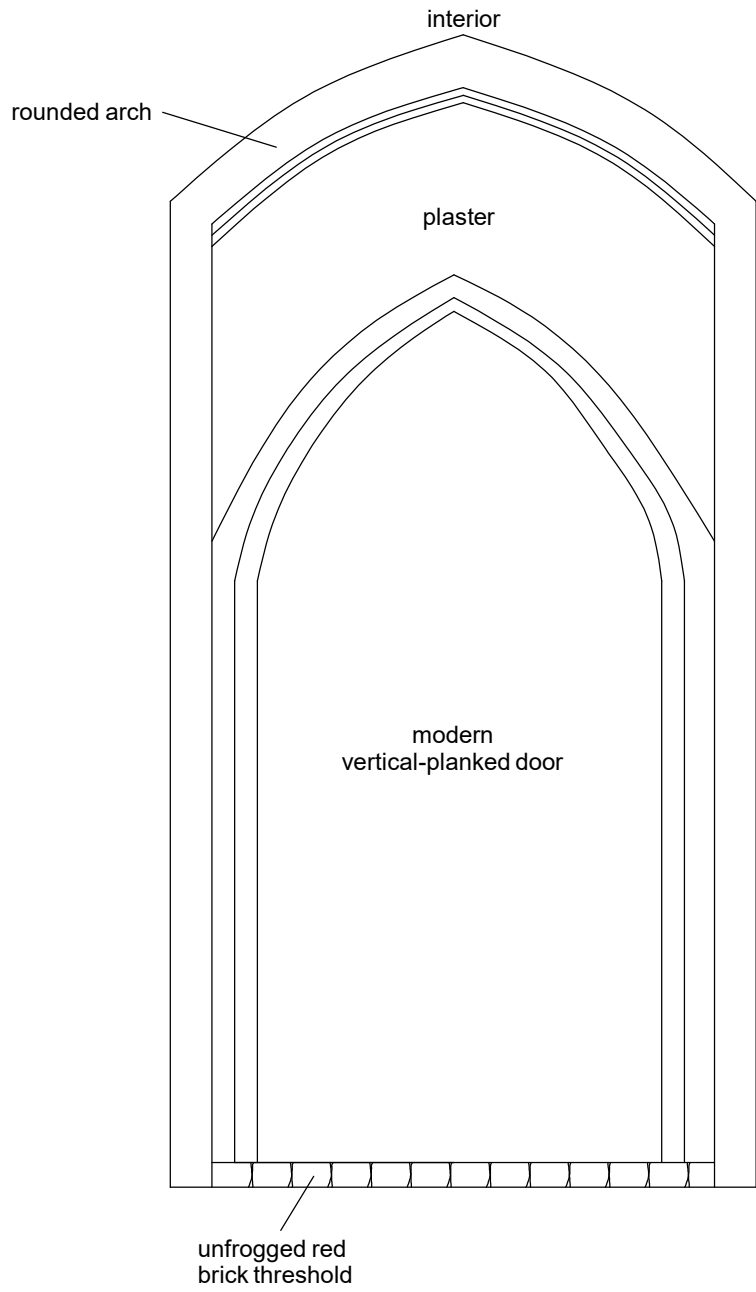


Fig 10 Drawing of doorway and arch on northern elevation of church.

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-385822**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at The Parish Church of All Saints', The Street, Feering, Essex CO5 9QJ
Short description of the project	An archaeological recording and monitoring project was carried out at the parish church of All Saints, The Street, Feering, Essex, during the groundworks for a single-storey bathroom extension on the northern side of the church, as well as a trench arch, new service connections and excavations within the church's north aisle and the nave. Fifteen burials were exposed by the groundworks and a quantity of disarticulated human bone was found across the site. Also exposed were the foundations of the church's north aisle and its nave, and the remnants of a medieval tiled floor within the building, containing an inscribed tile with apotropaic markings. The arch and doorway comprising the north entrance into the church was photographed and recorded.
Project dates	Start: 03-03-2020 End: 28-04-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	20/02j - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	FEAS20 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	18/02127/REG4 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	BURIAL Medieval
Monument type	FLOOR Medieval
Significant Finds	FLOOR TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	HUMAN REMAINS Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE FEERING Feering All Saints' Church
Postcode	CO5 9QJ
Study area	46.1 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 87220 20417 51.850392454976 0.718601161982 51 51 01 N 000 43 06 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1m Max: 1.3m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeological Advisor
Project design originator	Chris Lister

Project director/manager Chris Lister  
 Project supervisor Mark Baister  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Parochial Church Council

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Digital Archive ID FEAS20  
 Digital Contents "Survey"  
 Digital Media available "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Paper Archive ID FEAS20  
 Paper Contents "Ceramics", "Survey"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological monitoring and recording at the parish church of All Saints, The Street, Feering, Essex  
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 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1545  
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