

Report on watching brief

Site address: St Andrew's Church, Parsonage Lane, Barnston, Essex
Date of fieldwork: 17th March 2008
NGR: TL 652 197 (centre)
CBC brief?: No: ECC project, code BARAC 08
Sketch attached?: Yes (Figs 1-2)
Museum accession: SAFWM 2008.30
CAT report no: 464

Archaeological background:

St Andrew's church, Barnston in Essex is a Grade II* listed building. Much of the structure originally dates from the 12th century. The church comprises a nave of coursed flint construction, c 1160-1170, but it is now plastered. At the west end of the building there is a rectangular timber-framed bell turret of re-used medieval timbers. The chancel was probably rebuilt in the 13th century. The church appears to have developed as part of a church/hall complex, which would have been founded in the early medieval period. The church building would have formed a focus for occupation throughout the medieval period.

Brief report

Observations were made during a single visit to the site on the 17th March 2008, during the excavation of a pit for new septic tank and an associated pipe run. Both the pipe trench and the tank pit were excavated using a 360° mini excavator (Fig 1).

Both the pipe run and the tank pit were excavated through a modern topsoil (L1), then through an accumulation layer (L2) into natural geological clay deposits (L3). Excavation continued to a formation level of 700mm below ground-level for the pipe run and 2.3m for the tank pit.

No archaeological features were observed during the excavation of the pipe trench. However, a single inhumation burial was recorded and lifted from the tank pit (Fig 2). No dating material was recovered although the cut contained peg-tile, suggesting a post-medieval date. The remains were transferred to the Churchwarden for reburial on completion of the project

Finds

Post-medieval/modern peg-tile; none of the pieces were retained.

References

Havis, R, 2008 *Brief for archaeological monitoring of a new septic tank and pipe trench at St Andrew's Church, Barnston, Essex County Council Archaeology Section.*

Report author: B Holloway
Report date: March 2008

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Distribution list:

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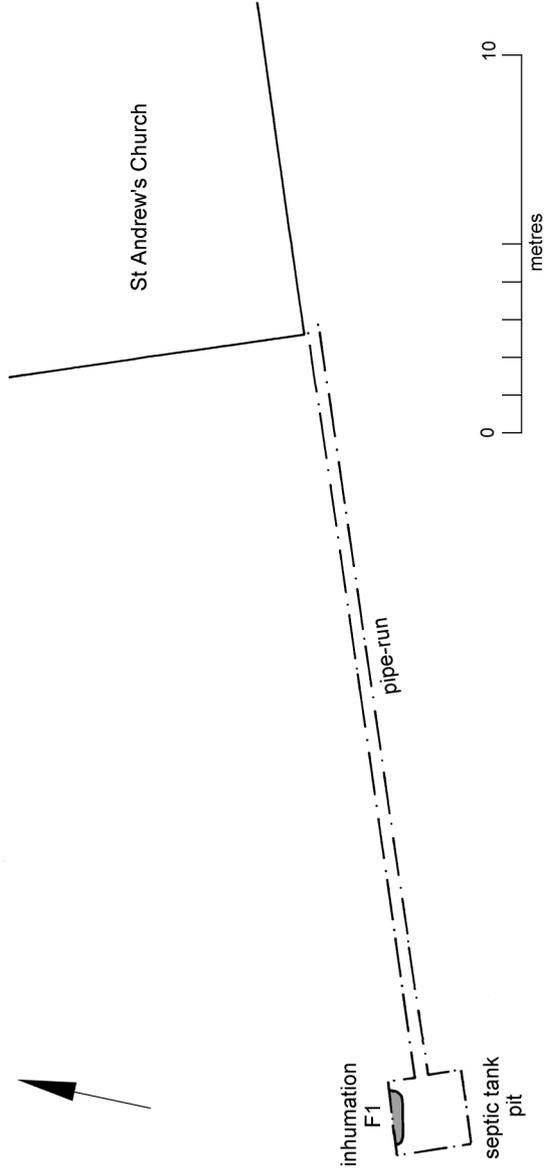


Fig 1 Site plan.



Fig 2 Inhumation F1: plan.

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site address: St Andrew's Church, Parsonage Lane, Barnston, Essex	
Parish: Barnston	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 652 197 (centre)	Site codes: HEM - BARAC 08 CAT - 08/3c Museum - SAFWM:2008.30
Type of work: Watching brief	Site Director/Group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 17th March 2008	Size of area investigated: 12 square metres
Location of finds/curating museum: Saffron Walden	Funding source: St Andrew's Church PCC
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER nos:
Final report:	CAT Report 464 and summary in <i>EAH</i>
Periods represented:	post-medieval
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Observations were made during a single visit to the site on the 17th March 2008, during the excavation of a pit for new septic tank and an associated pipe run. Both the pipe run and the tank pit were excavated through modern topsoil (L1), then through an accumulation layer (L2) into natural geological clay deposits (L3). Excavation continued to a formation level of 700mm below ground-level for the pipe run and 2.3m for the tank pit. No archaeological features were observed during the excavation of the pipe trench. However, a single inhumation burial was recorded and lifted from the tank pit. The remains were transferred to the Churchwarden for reburial on completion of the project.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Ben Holloway	Date of summary: March 2008