

An archaeological watching brief at St George's Church, Great Bromley, Essex

October 2013



report prepared by Ben Holloway

on behalf of Gregory Frostick and
The Bromleys PCC (Fabric Committee)


CAT project ref.: 12/02i
NGR: TM 0836 2683



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CAT Report 743
November 2013

Summary of archaeological watching brief at St George's Church, Great Bromley

Address: St George's Church, Great Bromley Essex	
Parish: Gt Bromley	District: Tendring
NGR: TM 0836 2683 (centre)	Site codes: CAT project – 12/2i
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 18 - 22nd October 2013	Size of area investigated: -
Location of curating museum: Colchester	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related UAD number: -
Final report: CAT Report 743	
Periods represented: modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>Great Bromley is mentioned in Domesday, and St George's church itself dates from the 14th century. However, the fabric of the building (and in particular the chancel) may have been altered significantly by Victorian restoration. A watching brief was carried out in October 2012, on behalf of the PCC of the Bromleys (Fabric Committee) during the re-excavation and deepening of an existing drain to a new formation depth of 400mm (dug through topsoil only).</p>	
	<p>No archaeological features or finds were seen in the narrow trench. A small amount of displaced cremated material and a brass marker plaque (probably disturbed during the original excavation of the drain) was left with the church authorities for reburial.</p> <p>The removal of plaster from an internal wall exposed an earlier door and possible window concealed by 19th-century restoration works (photographs are appended here).</p>
Previous summaries/reports: none	
Keywords: modern	Significance: neg
Author of summary: Ben Holloway	Date of summary: November 2013

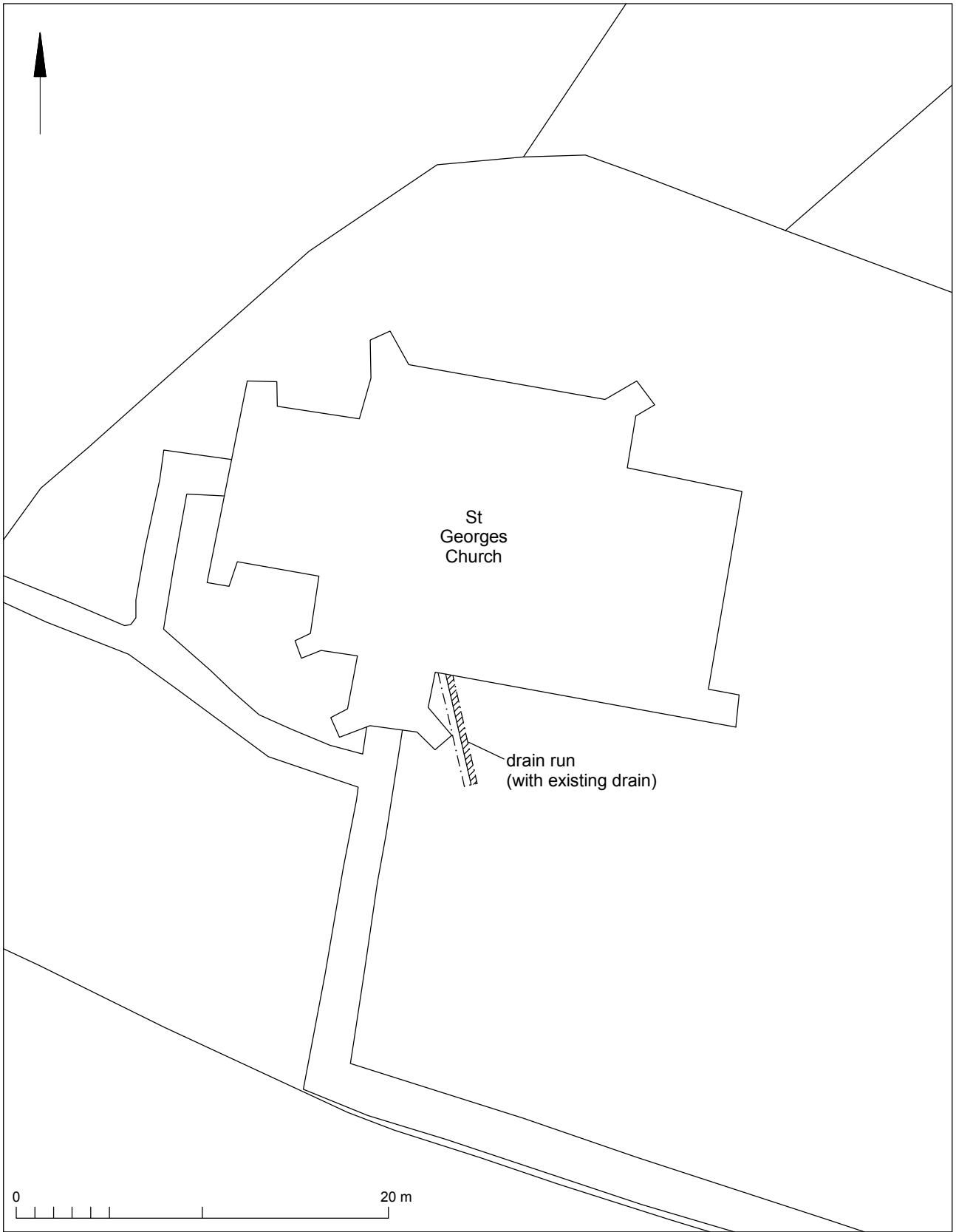
Appendix: photographs of interior



The two photos above of the south wall of the south aisle appear to show a blocked doorway arch immediately east of the present porch, and a blocked ?window approximately 4m to the east (partially hidden by middle notice-board). We share Rodwell's view (*Historic Churches – a wasting asset*. CBA Research Report 19, 1977, page 99) that there must be an earlier medieval church under the 14th/15th century fabric now extant. Could these be part of it?



This photograph is farther along the south aisle wall than the previous two. It appears to show two different building styles (ie, periods) near this small door. To the right is older work (original south aisle?) and to the left is more recent work with the external door (extension to south aisle).



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Fig 1 Watching brief results