

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address: St Nicholas Church, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Maldon, CM9 8TS</b>	
<b>Parish:</b> Tolleshunt D'Arcy	<b>District:</b> Maldon
<b>NGR:</b> TL 92822 11698 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 18/04a
<b>Type of work:</b> Archaeological monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> July 2018	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 19m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> St Nicholas Church
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER number(s):</b> NHLE: 1328214 EHER: 11417, 11418
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1302	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Medieval, Modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Archaeological monitoring was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at St Nicholas Church, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Maldon in July 2018. The monitoring was undertaken during the lowering of the floor of the chapel projecting from the north of the church (Fig 1).</p> <p>The church is a Grade I listed building (NHLE. 1328214) and the list entry describes it as being constructed in the late 14th and early 15th centuries. The chapel within which the archaeological investigation was undertaken was an addition to the church in the late 15th century.</p> <p>The removal of the old floor in the chapel allowed the ground below to be examined and any archaeology recorded. Beneath the floor were several brick pads, and three partially surviving courses of brick, two of which were supported on concrete slabs (see Photographs). These bricks were all re-used unfrosted red bricks (probably paviers) and were not mortared together. Collectively these bricks were recorded as F1, and they supported the old floor of the chapel prior to its removal. The chapel floor was last altered in the mid to late-20th century (Church Warden, <i>pers. comm.</i>), so F1 probably dates from this time.</p> <p>These brick courses and concrete slabs took up most of the west and centre of the chapel, and were at a depth of 300-350mm below the old floor level.</p> <p>To the east of the chapel the ground-level was higher, and there was only a 220mm-260mm cavity beneath the old floor. As a result of this, in the north- and south-east corners of the chapel a compacted layer of lime mortar survived (F2). This lime</p>	

mortar is probably original to the chapel (i.e late 15th century) and would have supported the first, probably tiled, floor.

Between the instances of F1 and F2 was a friable, dry medium grey/black sandy silt with regular flecks of chalk (L1). One clay pipe stem was observed within this layer, but was not retained. F1 was cut into this layer, but L1's relationship with F2 could not be determined. It may possibly be the original subsoil below the chapel, but the clay pipe stem and chalk flecks within its make-up suggest it is probably the result of earlier floor alterations, probably in the post-medieval period.

**Previous summaries/reports:** -

**ECC monitor:** -

**Keywords:** church, chapel, floor

**Significance:** \*

**Author of summary:**  
Mark Baister

**Date of summary:**  
July 2018

## Selected photographs



**Photograph 1** Interior of Chapel after floor removed. Brick and concrete supports (F1) visible to left. Photograph taken facing north-east.



**Photograph 2** Detail of east of Chapel floor after cleaning. Original lime mortar floor (F2) visible in corners. Brick pads (F1) visible in centre. Photograph taken facing east.





**Photograph 3** Detailed shot of lime mortar (F2) and brick pads (F1) in south-east corner of Chapel. Photograph taken facing east.



**Photograph 4** Detailed shot of lime mortar (F2) in north-east corner of Chapel. Photograph taken facing north-east.



**Photograph 5** Section of lime mortar (F2) in south-east corner of Chapel, showing thickness. Photograph taken facing east.

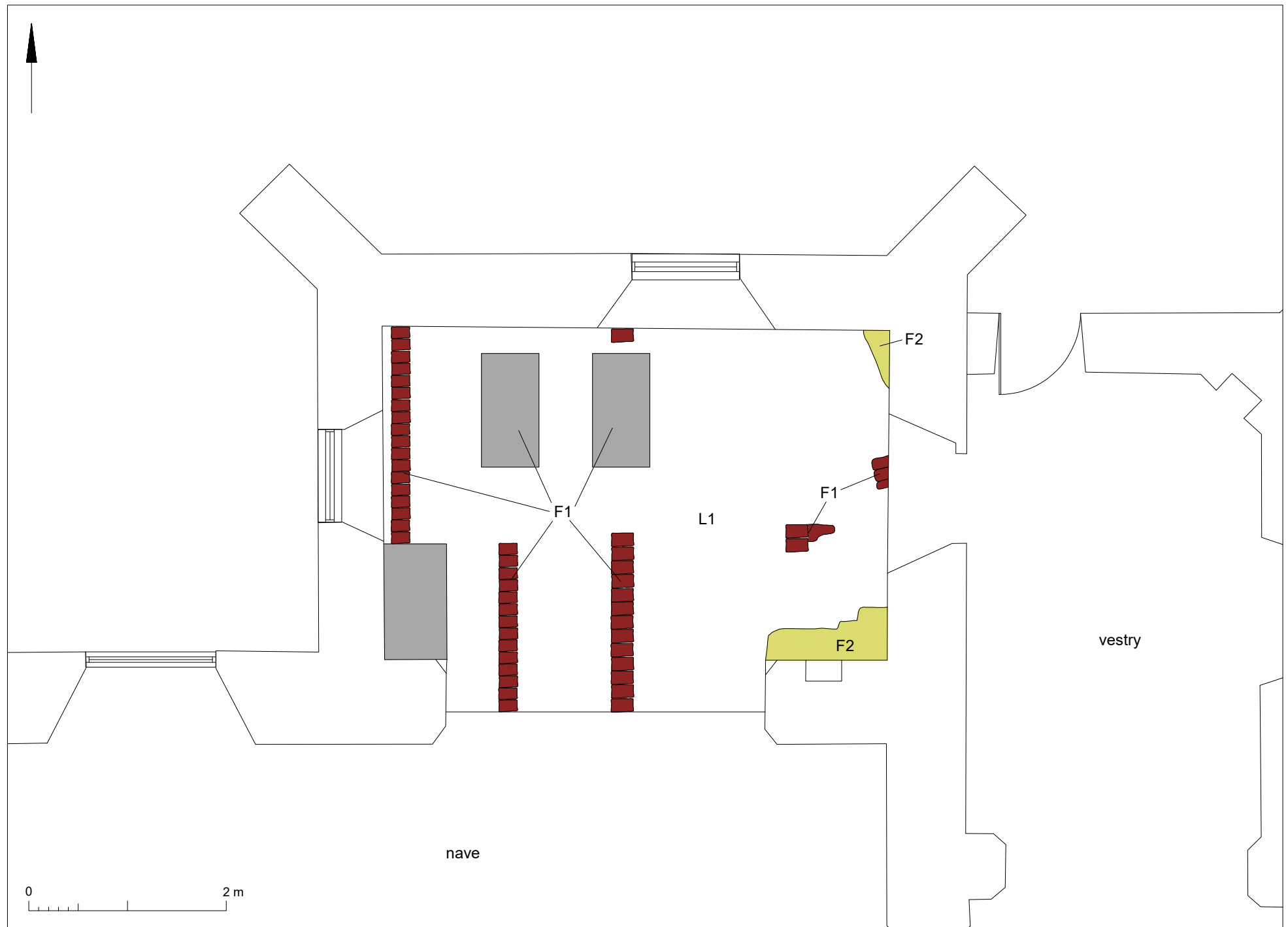


Fig 1 Plan showing monitoring results in chapel of St Nicholas Church, Tolleshunt D'Arcy.