

**PROJECT DESIGN FOR THE EXCAVATION AT
St.NICHOLAS GARDEN, ANGMERING, JUNE 6th to 27th 2015**



Figure 1 Site Location

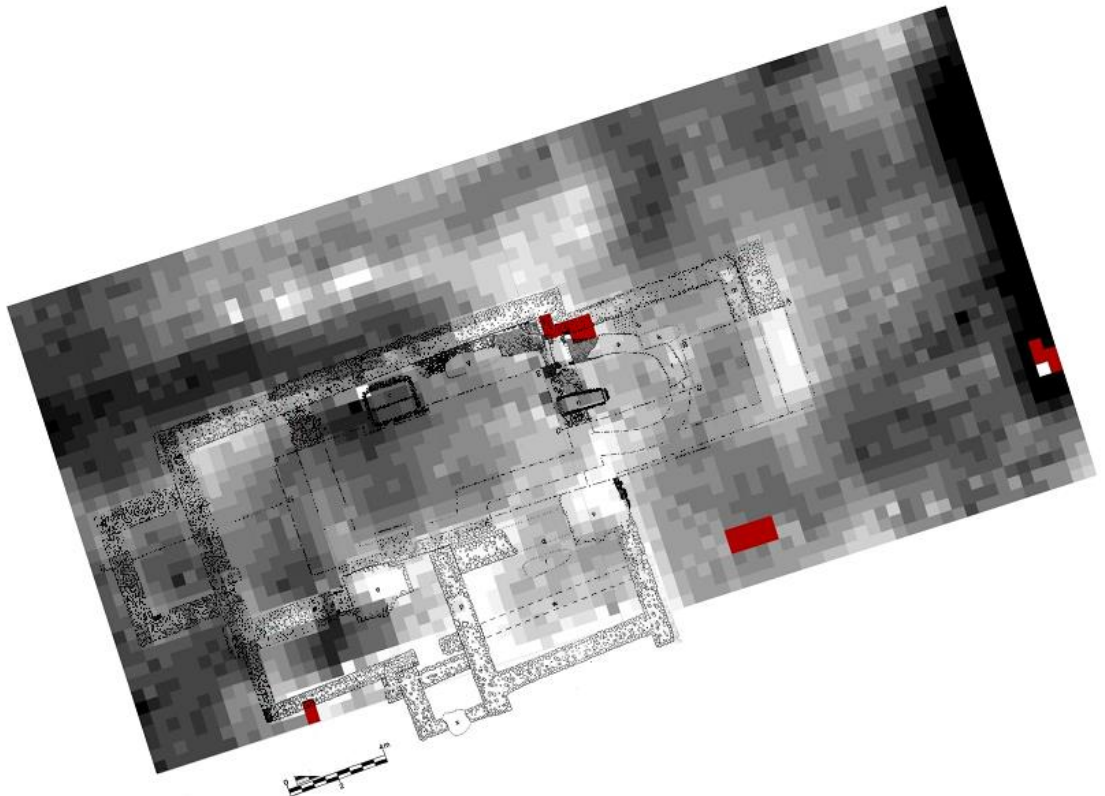


Figure 2 Resistivity Survey results with Bedwin's results superimposed.

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1 Introduction

St Nicholas Garden, in the centre of Angmering (Grid ref TQ067044, see Figure 1) is the site of an old church which was abandoned in the late 16th century, the remains being used to build various buildings around the village. Since that time the area has been used as the Rector's garden (part of the glebe land), allotments and a school playing field. In 1974 permission was sought to build on the site. In anticipation of this SAS, under the directorship of Dr Owen Bedwin carried out an archaeological excavation of the extant remains. The site was purchased in 1975 by Mr & Mrs Oberman, who then sold it to Arun District Council. Angmering Parish Council leased it in 1978, maintaining it as an open space in the village. In 2011 the Parish Council's Environment Committee identified that some of the trees planted in the gardens were dying, possibly because they had been planted over the archaeological remains. It was decided that there needed to be an investigation of the site to determine the exact location of the archaeology in order to ensure that future plantings were not in archaeologically sensitive areas of the site. This investigation would consist of three phases;

Phase 1 A non-invasive survey of the site to accurately locate the position of the building uncovered by Bedwin's excavations.

Phase 2 A community orientated excavation to confirm these locations and to investigate any further features thrown up by Phase1.

Phase 3 To mark out the foundations in a manner as yet undecided. In addition it is hoped to install a story board at the two entrances of the garden and write the history of the site and display the findings of the dig in the library or new heritage centre that is currently under discussion.

Worthing Archaeological Society was approached with a view to carry out Phase I of this investigation, i.e. a geophysical survey of the site. A WAS team, led by Mr P Skilton, conducted a resistivity survey of the available area. The site was divided into 20m squares, with readings being taken every 0.5m. From the results obtained (see Figure 2) it was possible to identify the exact location of key features of the building revealed by Bedwin's excavation, as well as identify an area of archaeological interest to the north of the known building.

The Project design is for Phase II of the investigation, i.e. the excavation.

2 Site Location, Geology and Archaeological Background

The site is in the parish of Angmering, centred on TQ067044, at a height of c.15m above sea level, see Figure 1. It is in the centre of Angmering Village and is accessed by two entrances, one from the car park of The Lamb public house, the other from the Library. Geologically, there is a thin soil layer, below which is the Hamble Series of silty drift.

In 1974, a unit from Sussex Archaeological Society led by Dr Owen Bedwin excavated the site. Little remained of the walls above the foundations and not a single piece of mortared masonry with flints was found by the excavators. Bedwin suggests

that the site may have been demolished quickly and systematically, with the material being used in the construction of other structures within the building. Glazed floor tiles were found mortared in position in several places within the building, and burials within the church appear to have survived intact. From these excavations, Bedwin was able to suggest 4 stages of development for the church, as shown in Figure 3.

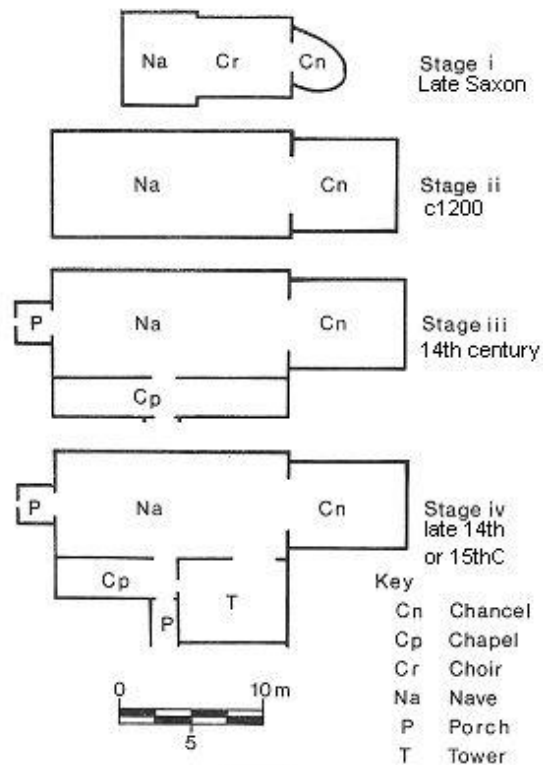


Figure 3. The Development of St Nicholas Church after Bedwin 1975

3 Field Methodology for NCA15 Investigation

3.1 Objectives

1. To locate the church building excavated by Bedwin in 1974

Two trenches will have a primary function of locating the building. Trench A (1.5m by 2.5m, see Figure 4) will be sited over the northwest corner of the porch, Trench B (1.5m by 2.5m) over the southeast corner of the tower. These will be excavated to the level of the foundations recorded by Bedwin and no deeper. One further trench, trench C will also cut across the previously excavated wall foundations, allowing us to fix three defined points on Bedwin's plan.

2. To investigate the geophysical anomaly (as identified in Phase 1) to the north of the known building

Trench C, L-shaped, 1.25m wide with both sides of the L being 4.5m long, will extend in a northerly direction from just within the nave of the church into the resistivity anomaly to the north. This appears to show a rectangular feature, possibly with internal divisions. Initially this trench will be excavated to the depth of the extant remains, though it may be necessary to go deeper in some areas in order to fully understand any features uncovered. The site directors intend placing another trench to investigate this feature, but its exact location and size will be decided based on what is learnt by from Trench C.

3. To investigate the relationship between the late Saxon and 12th century chancels.

Bedwin's plans suggest that the walls of the late Saxon chancel intersect the 12th century chancel at its southern extremity. This area was not excavated by Bedwin, his plans being based on extrapolation of features exposed by him to the north. Trench D (initially 2m by 2m) is sited to investigate this with a view to ascertaining the exact relationship between the earlier and later versions of the chancel.

4. To encourage public participation in the project and provide educational (in its broadest sense) opportunities .

It is a key principal of the Parish Council's project that it should provide opportunities for education and community participation. Following discussions with the Council's representative the following will occur during the excavation:-

1. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays have been designated School days. The local schools have been invited to send groups of pupils (by appointment) to the site at those times to participate in a programme of activities associated with the project which will include experience of the discovery, excavation and post excavation processes. Four activities are planned, site tour, excavation within Trenches A & B, metal detecting, finds handling and drawing.
2. Members of the public are being invited to sign up for a day on site, during which time they will receive training and practice of the excavation process. Anyone doing this will have to have taken out day membership of WAS.
3. Site tours and a display of finds will be available to the public at designated times.

3.2 Excavation Process

- The excavation will be directed by Peter Brannlund and Amie Friend. All 'diggers' will be members of WAS and wear high visibility jackets labelled as such whilst on site.

- The site will be excavated by hand using appropriate hand tools. All turf will be carefully removed, and stored in the order of its removal. Spoil to be placed in designated places, always on tarpaulins. At the conclusion of the excavation, all spoil to be returned to the appropriate trench prior to the reinstatement of the turf.
- All finds will be placed in the appropriate finds tray for examination by the Small Finds team. All glass and metal items will be treated as small finds and will be their position recorded within the site. If a digger feels that a stone or ceramic item warrants full recording they should draw this to the attention of the Site Directors.
- As this is the site of a church, it is quite likely that human remains will be encountered. Indeed, there is anecdotal evidence of children finding bones when the site was used as a playground. We have the appropriate permissions for the excavation of human remains, but need to approach this both sensibly and ethically. The policy will be to excavate sufficiently to allow full recording followed by recovering, i.e. any human remains will not be lifted and removed from site. If a digger finds what they suspect to be human remains, they should quietly report that to the site directors who will then decide the strategy to be adopted. At the least this will involve screening of the remains so that they are not on view to the public.

3.3 Site Records

- Details of the nature, extent and date (where it is possible to determine) of archaeological contexts will be recorded upon the standard WAS pro forma sheets.
- Measured drawings (plans at 1:20, sections at 1:10) will be made as appropriate, with particular emphasis on sections. All drawings to be accurately related to the OS National Grid.
- Levels will be taken where appropriate; ensuring that each context recorded can be related to Ordnance Datum. A TBM will be established on site and linked into the nearest OS BM.
- Photographs will be taken using a digital camera, using a suitable scale.
- Artefacts will be retained where considered appropriate in the light of their context and/or importance.
- All artefacts recovered during the excavation will be processed according to guidelines as set out in First Aid for Finds, 1998, and to the standards of Worthing Museum.
- All artefacts will be quantified by number and where appropriate weight.
- All artefacts will be bagged and boxed in containers approved by the museum and sympathetic to their condition. Specialist help will be sought where more detailed analysis and/or conservation is required.

3.3 Environmental Material

Environmental samples will be collected from all ditch contexts, and funding sought for their analysis if appropriate.

3.4 Metal Detecting

Metal detectors will be used to scan the various spoil heaps to locate finds missed by the diggers. Metal detectors will be used over the area of the trenches prior to hand excavation. Any 'hits' will be marked and left for recovery in the course of excavation.

3.5 Timetable

The excavation will take place between 6th and 20th June 2015, with June 21st-26th being contingency if extra time is required to complete the works.

- Thursday 4th June Survey team to lay out the position of the trenches
- Friday 5th June Heras fencing erected
- Saturday 6th June Site tent and kit transported from Slindon Base Camp, site set up, deturfing if time allows.
- Sunday 7th June Deturfing of Trenches A, B & C. Begin excavation of trench C.
- Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th School parties on site under supervision of both staff provided by their school and WAS members. Deturfing of Trench D, excavation of Trenches C & D by WAS members.
- Thursday 11th-Sunday 14th June, excavation by WAS members of trenches C & D.
- Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th School parties on site under supervision of both staff provided by their school and WAS members. Trench E deturfed, excavation of trenches C, D & E by WAS members.
- Thursday 18th- Saturday 20th, Excavation completed by WAS members.
- Sunday 21st June Tent and kit cleared, site backfilled and turf relaid

3.6 Health and Safety

1. The site will be enclosed by heras fencing. There will be two entrances, these to be kept locked when no WAS personal on site. The trench(es), when unattended, will be secured and clearly marked in a manner commensurate with Health & Safety regulations. 'Deep Excavation' notices will be used as appropriate.
2. A Risk Assessment will be carried out prior to the archaeological excavation and all relevant Health and Safety regulations will be complied with during the excavation. All members of the excavation team will be briefed on its contents before commencing work at the site. A first aid kit will be available on site at all times.
3. WAS are fully insured through Towergate Insurance, specialists in archaeological fieldwork insurance.
4. The initial excavation will be funded by the Worthing Archaeological Society and Angmering Parish Council. If dating or other scientific analysis is required, Sussex Archaeological Society will be approached for a Margary Grant. Alternatively the CBA South East regional society will be approached for a grant.
5. Personnel. All personnel will be members of WAS.

4 Post Excavation

4.1 Reporting

1. An interim report will be produced within three months of completion of the excavation. This report will be distributed to those mentioned below, and will be posted on the WAS website. It will also be published in the WAS newsletter/journal.
2. A final report will be prepared, which will include details of the excavation method, a description of the archaeological features, details of artefacts and an assessment of environmental evidence. The report will also include site location, trench details and feature plans tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and sections showing levels above Ordnance Datum.
3. The site will be recorded on the West Sussex County Council HER and OASIS within twelve months of completion of the project.
4. WAS, in conjunction with Angmering Parish Council, organise an open/information evening to report the results of the excavations to the residents of Angmering.

4.2 Deposition of Archive and Finds

Artefacts remain in the ownership of the Angmering Parish Council and will be stored, initially at the Slindon office. Where relevant some material will be kept off-site if conservation standards require it.