



**CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
ULTING, MALDON
ESSEX CM9 6QU**

[TL8013308765]



RESISTIVITY SURVEY OF GRAVEYARD

[2nd June 2007, September 2009 and 25th - 26th May 2010]



**CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
ULTING, MALDON
ESSEX**

<p>GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY</p> <p>Prepared By: Bernie Steel</p>	<p>Date: 25.02.2025</p>
---	-------------------------

Report Issue Date:	27.02.2025
Circulation:	Geoff Austin
	MAHG
	Historic Environment Record

© **MAHG**, Unit 2, Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Poulton Close, Mundon Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6NG.

E-mail: mahgdigup@gmail.com



Contents

1. BACKGROUND & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS & OBJECTIVE(S).....	4
3. DOCUMENTARY SOURCES	4
3.1 Documents Reviewed.....	4
3.2 LIDAR Data.....	5
4. APPROACH & METHODOLOGY: RESISTIVITY	5
4.1 Area UC1	5
4.2 Area UC2	5
5. APPROACH & METHODOLOGY: EXCAVATION.....	5
5.1 Area UC1	5
5.2 Area UC2	6
6. FINDS.....	7
7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONCLUSIONS.....	7
APPENDIX 1: SITE LOCATION & LiDAR DATA.....	8
APPENDIX 2: GRID-BASED RESISTIVITY SURVEY RESULTS	9
APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHS.....	10
APPENDIX 4: HER SUMMARY SHEET	12



1. BACKGROUND & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is recorded that a chapel dedicated to 'Our Lady of Ulting' was built within the Ulting Church of All Saints churchyard in the C.15th and was demolished after the Reformation (see the article by Dr Janet Cooper – "The Cult of Our Lady of Ulting" - Essex Journal 2003).

The location of the chapel is unknown apart from a historical reference to it being to the West of the church. It is not known if it was a separate structure or formed part of the church building. Had it been entered via the church a trace of a connecting doorway would have been lost as the church West wall was re-built in the C.19th.

Upon observing parch marks on the ground in 2007, Jim Page and Geoff Austin determined to try to locate the site of the chapel.

Our thanks go to Dr David Andrews for his advices, to Pat Ryan for finds dating and to John Strange for much practical assistance.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS & OBJECTIVE(S)

A resistivity survey was carried out by Dr. Tim Dennis on 2nd June 2007 (see survey results shown at Appendix 2). From the results of that survey, four (4) points of interest were identified and a plan of works established.

A formal request was submitted to the Diocesan Authorities (by others) to allow excavation at these points of interest to be undertaken by Maldon Archaeological and Historical Group (MAHG).

In September 2009 limited permission was granted by the Diocesan Authorities to excavate at two (2) out of the four (4) specific locations (identified as UC1 and UC2 in this report), to a limited extent and depth.

Prior to the commencement of any excavation activities, MAHG carried out resistivity cross sections (pseudo-sections) and this further data was used to give localised insight into the likely findings at the two (2) approved positions and their immediate surroundings. Unfortunately the pseudo-section data has been misplaced and is not available for inclusion within this report.

3. DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

3.1 Documents Reviewed

- OS maps (see extract at Appendix 1)
- Chapman & Andre Map; 1777
- Google Earth satellite view – parch marks.
- Tim Dennis's resistivity survey results and related notes.
- Article by Dr Janet Cooper – "The Cult of Our Lady of Ulting" - Essex Journal 2003.



3.2 LIDAR Data

- DTM 50cm – 1m centred on OS locator TL8013308765 (see Appendix 1).

4. APPROACH & METHODOLOGY: RESISTIVITY

4.1 Area UC1

The feature of most interest on the grid-based resistivity survey data is seen as a line running West from close to the SW corner of the church. This correlated with the line of the parch marks seen from the satellite imagery. This feature may indicate the South wall of a structure. Pseudo-sections confirmed that a solid feature extended over 5m from close to the SW corner of the church to a point where two (2) successive brick covered graves lay on almost the same line, preventing further investigation in that direction.

A pseudo-section run out to the West of these brick graves showed no continuation of the feature and therefore its original length could not be determined. Investigation of any connection to the actual church wall was prevented by brick paving which we were not permitted to disturb.

Neither the grid-based resistivity survey data or the pseudo-section data indicated any signs of the existence of any North or West walls in relation to the insitu remains of an East West wall located during the excavation works.

4.2 Area UC2

This location was within an area of high resistance which had been originally selected as an area of interest on the grid-based survey data. High resistance results can mask underlying features and we ran several pseudo-sections through the location. These showed a shallow layer but with no apparent deeper feature.

5. APPROACH & METHODOLOGY: EXCAVATION

5.1 Area UC1

The 2.5m x1.2m plan of trench UC1 straddled the feature with the largest portion being within the potential chapel area. See photograph in Appendix 3.

On removal of the turf a thin uneven layer of very black topsoil was noted. This material overlay a pale grey-brown soil which had no observable lower limit, but which merged to become a loamy granular soil. This material contained small stone and gravel inclusions, particularly in the southern section of the trench. The presence of artefacts of various dates indicated that the soil was of a disturbed nature and considered to be fill from past grave digging and back filling activity.

The structural feature was encountered at approximately 300mm below the surrounding ground level.



It was later inspected by Dr. David Andrews, who observation was that it was of un-mortared construction with the stones and gravel having been rammed into a trench to form the foundations for a wall.

Due to past disturbance the feature was misshapen. Side extensions to the trench were undertaken which confirmed that the true construction line was as predicted. The irregularity of these "foundations" was due to removal of part of the top, probably during attempts to dig graves). Both sides of the structure had bulged outwards where ground alongside had previously been removed (also likely due to past grave digging activities).

The roundish stones used in the construction of this feature were typically up to 40mm in size with a few up to approximately 70mm. The original width of the feature was estimated to be approximately 550mm.

Above and to the south of the feature the soil contained a high, but variable, amount of stone and gravel and showed evidence of digging but without any discernible pattern.

The stone and gravel were of the same types as formed the feature, and no doubt much of it had originated there. The content varied from 5% to 90% with an average of approximately 50%.

North of the feature the soil contained relatively little gravel and appeared to be generally uniform in nature. The only exceptions were firstly some localised layering at a shallow level (probable topping up), and secondly, close to the feature, as depth increased, patches of yellowish coarse sand appeared continuing to the end of the trench where it was seen to form a continuous vertical band close to the feature.

The excavation ended at a depth of 500mm at which time it became apparent that the soil on both sides of the feature was unrelated to the feature itself, having been excavated and refilled on previous occasions, probably during grave digging.

Lastly, a narrow sondage was inserted down the face of the feature which determined that at a depth of 640mm below ground level it was seated on black silty soil. Such soil had not otherwise been encountered in the trench.

5.2 Area UC2

A trench of 1.5m x 0.5m was initially established which was partially widened later to allow retrieval of an artefact.

On removal of the turf, a layer of pale grey - brown topsoil was encountered which extended downwards to a layer of dense fine gravel at approximately 400 mm. depth.

A probe inserted into the gravel showed it substantial enough to give the high resistivity readings indicated on the grid-based resistivity survey output. Artefacts found within the gravel indicated that it was not a natural feature, but associated with the earlier disturbance or demolition of the surviving foundation structure.



6. FINDS

Finds were made in all soils and at all depths except within the yellowish sandy soil and the black silt in UC1. The range of finds was similar in both trenches. Most numerous and widespread were fragments of building materials, mainly from demolition, including brick, floor tile, roof tile, mortar (some shaped as plaster) and nails. Amongst these were a few worked flints and pot fragments. Several pieces of painted window glass were found in UC2 and one piece in UC1. These were provisionally dated as 15th -16th Century. A plain iron cross, approx. 250mm long was found in UC2.

Some of the building material may have come from the lost chapel. The brick and tile have been evaluated by Mrs Pat Ryan whose overall comment was "The bits of brick are very fragmentary, but on the whole I think that they are likely to be Tudor /17th Century except for one fragment of a London stock type brick which is 19th Century. Some of the roof tile is slightly cambered and is likely to be post medieval. One piece is very flat and could be medieval in date".

From Pat Ryan's dating a wide time-line applies, but relatively recent items (e.g. the London stock brick fragment) were in the top soil layer where they could have been spread during topping up of the ground level.

Photographic records are shown in Appendix 3.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONCLUSIONS

The structure found in UC1 is an interesting and potentially important discovery.

Whilst it might seem to potentially belong to a structure (chapel?) built on or onto the west side of the church, foundations of this type are mostly typical of the C.11th - C.13th, and not the C.15th.

It may be that the elusive chapel made use of an earlier structure. The lack of any sign of corresponding walls may be due to them having been completely robbed out, but due to disturbance of the area no evidence of robbed-out trenches was noted. The ground level at the time appears to have been similar to that of today. The ground on both sides having later been dug out and refilled, most likely during grave digging activities.



APPENDIX 1: SITE LOCATION & LiDAR DATA



Fig 1: OS Map of Ulting Area.

Church of All Saints, Ulting.

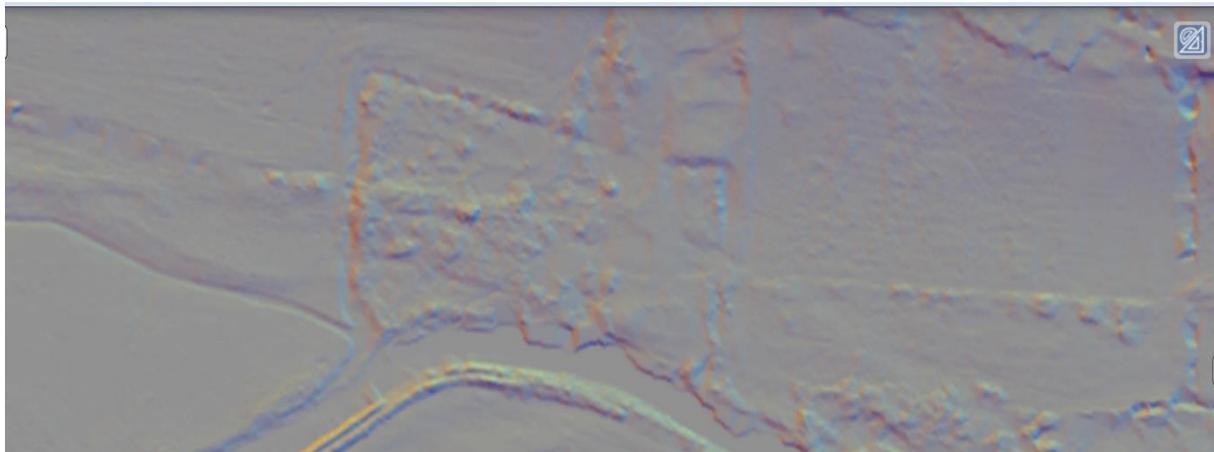
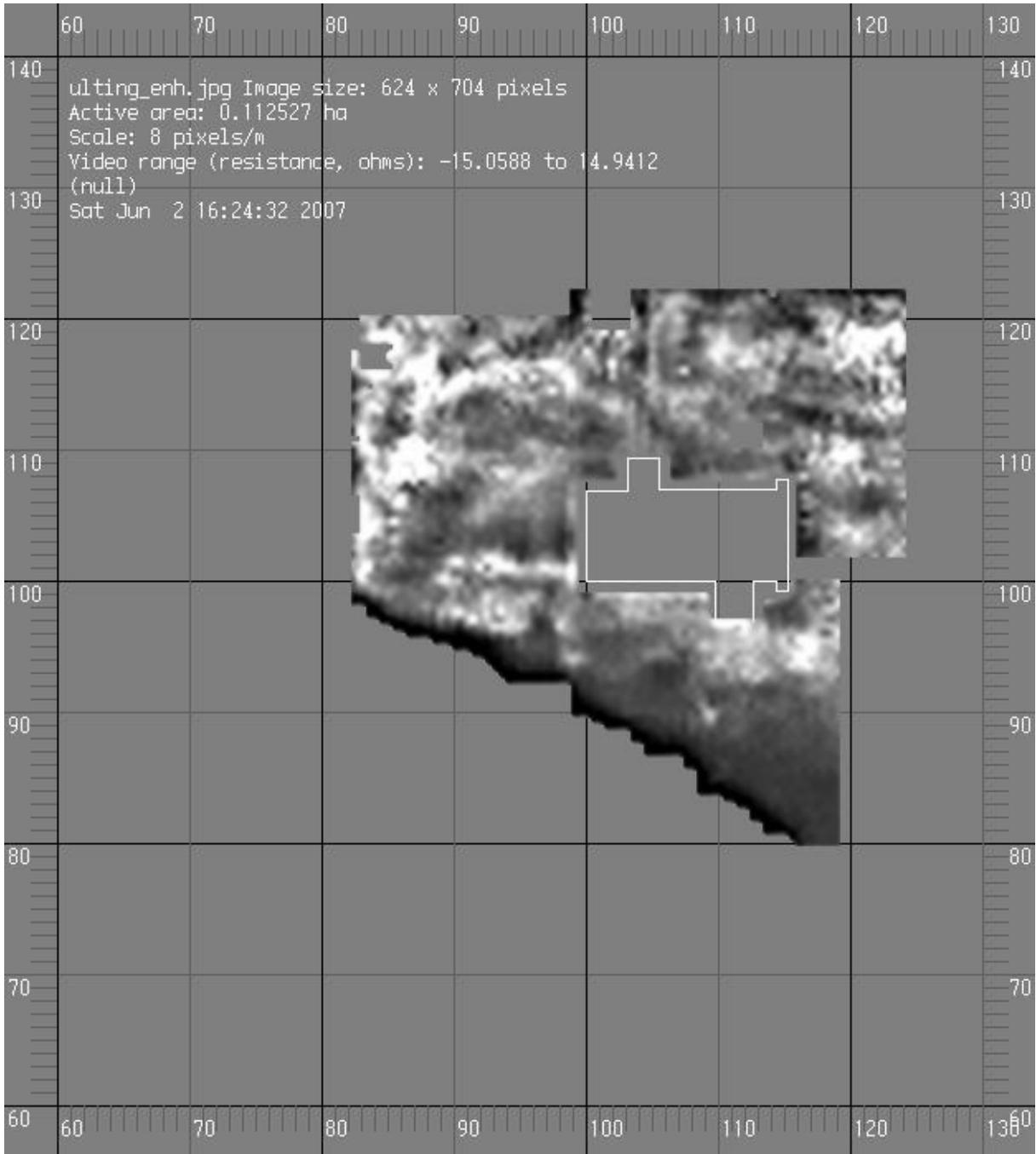


Fig 2: DTM LiDAR 50cm - 1m of rectilinear site of the church & churchyard.



APPENDIX 2: GRID-BASED RESISTIVITY SURVEY RESULTS

Resistivity survey output (from survey carried out by Dr. Tim Dennis):





APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHS



Fig 1: Trench UC2



Fig 2: Painted window glass shard.



Fig 3: Painted window glass shard.



APPENDIX 4: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Church of All Saints, Church Road, Ulting, Maldon, Essex CM9 6QU	
Parish: Langford & Ulting	District: Maldon
NGR: TL8013308765	Site Code: MAHG / UC
Type of Work: Geophysical survey and excavation.	Site Director/Group: MAHG
Date of Work: September 2009	Size of Area Investigated: Graveyard
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: MAHG	Funding source: None
Further Seasons Anticipated? No	Related HER Nos: None
Final Report: Attached.	
Periods Represented: Foundation structure potentially C.11th- 13th centuries. Finds (particularly the shards of painted glass) circa C15th – 16th century.	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>The structure found in UC1 is an interesting and potentially important discovery.</p> <p>Whilst it might seem to potentially belong to a structure (chapel?) built on or onto the west side of the church, foundations of this type are mostly typical of the C.11th - C.13th, and not the C.15th.</p> <p>It may be that the elusive chapel made use of an earlier structure. The lack of any sign of corresponding walls may be due to them having been robbed out but due to disturbance of the area no evidence of robbed-out trenches was noted.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Bernie Steel	Date of Summary: 25.02.2025