

93/4

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

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Your ref. GS/DC

Our ref. 93/4

1st April 1993

Mr. G.M. Seymour,
Purcell Miller Tritton & Partners,
14 St. Clement St.,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
SO23 9HH.

Dear Mr. Seymour,

Mortimer West End Chapel Restoration Project.
Archaeological Watching Brief.

We have now completed a watching brief on the foundation work during restoration of the chapel (SU61666419). Six separate areas were examined. Four were holes c. 1m square and 0.75m deep for concrete foundations within the chapel. Two were pipe trenches. The long one was c. 10m long, 0.5m wide and 0.6-0.8m deep. It ran beneath the chapel wall in the south east corner. The small one was located outside the chapel wall to the north east and was 1.2m long, 0.5m wide 0.9m deep.

Nothing of archaeological significance was discovered pre-dating Post-Medieval times. The long pipe trench in the south east corner of the chapel, however, did locate tile dumps that pre-dated the construction of the chapel, or to be more precise, the southern wall of the chapel. The tile appeared to be of Medieval or later date but did not accompany any more closely datable finds.

Bedrock (a yellow clay/silt) was typically about 0.6m deep and was usually buried beneath a humic soil (old topsoil). A layer of gravel was also present in all of the holes within the chapel, c. 0.1-0.2m thick. This gravel was present beneath the footings of the southern wall seen in the long pipe trench but petered out just beyond the wall. The gravel also overlay a dump of tiles.

A second dump of tile/rubble was seen in the south east

corner of hole B adjacent to a short length of brick wall. Here, this rubble may have been overlain by the gravel layer but this was not clear.

You mentioned on the telephone that the chapel had been extended at some time and we considered if the deposits of tile/rubble observed in the holes were related to this. This may indeed be the case but I cannot say for certain that what we observed was an infilled foundation trench of an earlier wall. The tile deposit in the pipe trench was quite shallow and broad although it must be borne in mind that the current foundations are just as shallow. Perhaps it was just the use of hard core for a levelling operation prior to the laying of the gravel.

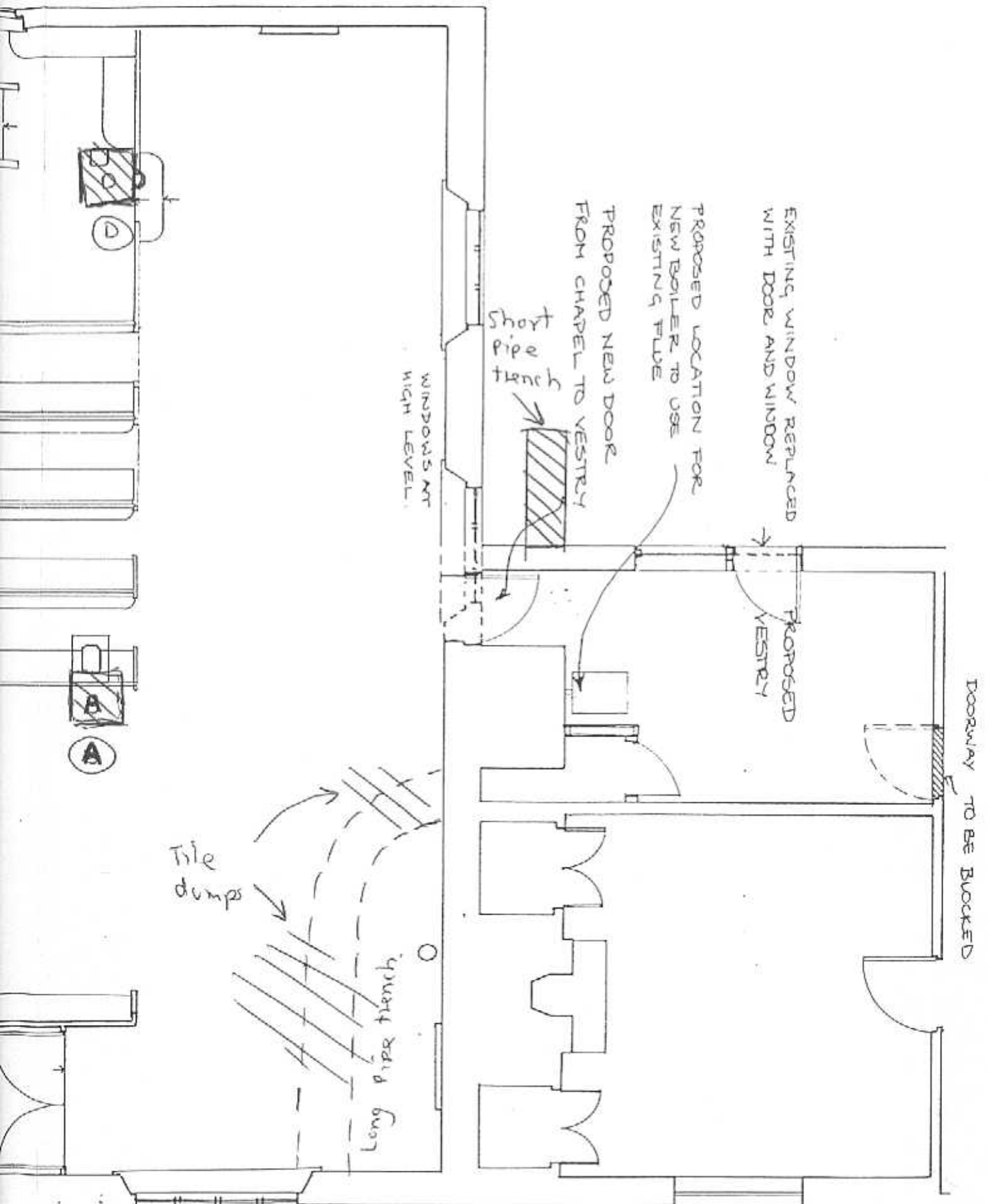
I hope these comments are of some use to you in your work on the chapel.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Ford

Dr. S. Ford.

cc Rosemary Braithwaite, Hampshire County Council,
Archaeology Section



EXISTING WINDOW REPLACED WITH DOOR AND WINDOW

PROPOSED LOCATION FOR NEW BOILER TO USE EXISTING FLUE

PROPOSED NEW DOOR FROM CHAPEL TO VESTRY

Short pipe trench

WINDOWS AT HIGH LEVEL

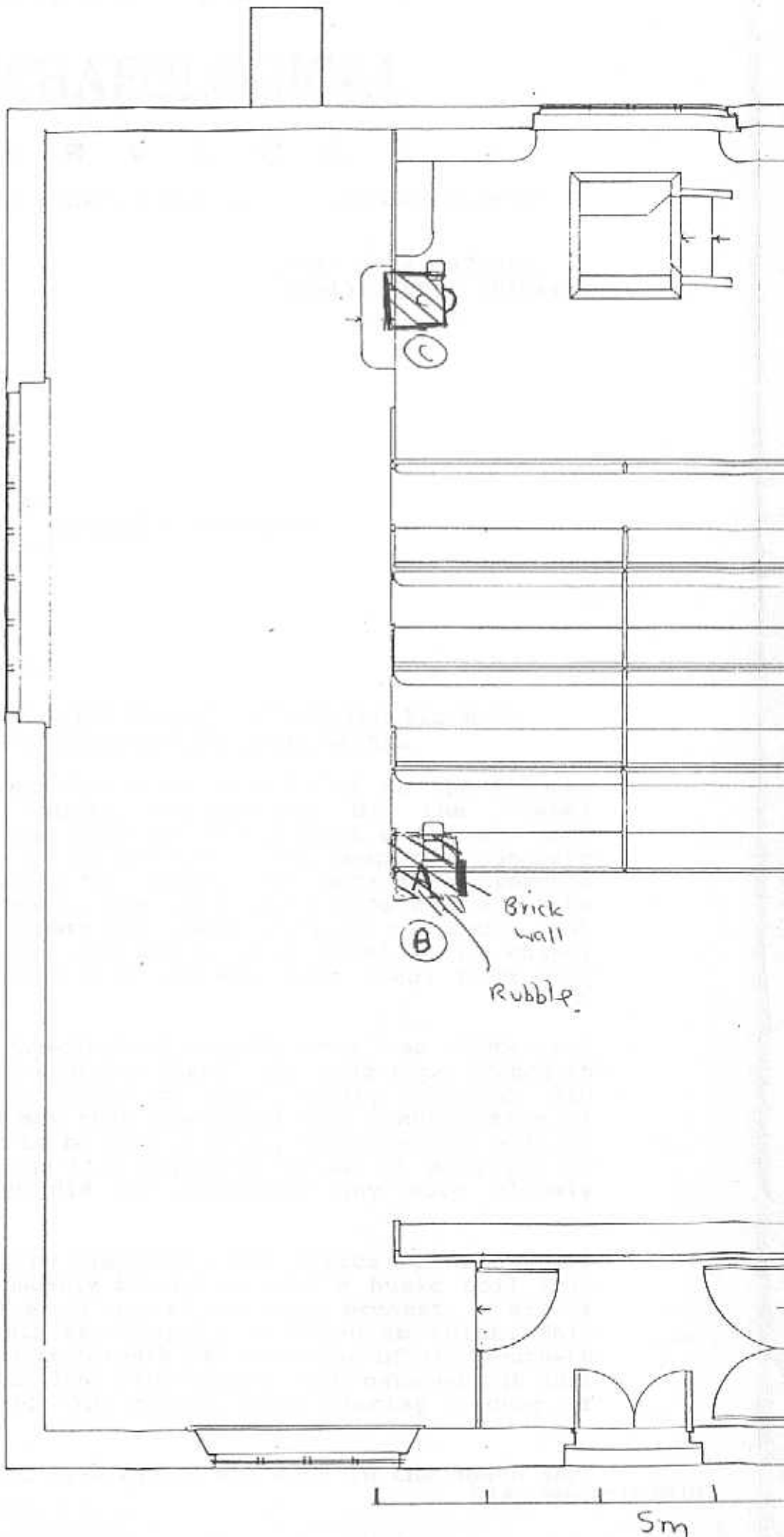
PROPOSED VESTRY

DOORWAY TO BE BLOCKED

Tile dumps

Long pipe trench

bm Suther



REV A 11/92 VESTRY CURVED AWAYED REPAIR
 BENCH REINSTATED

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Purcell Miller Tritton and Partners

Corinne Bennell BA (Arch) RIBA

CLIENT	JOB	TITLE
TRUSTEES OF THE COUNTS OF HUNTINGDON'S CONNECTION	WORKING WEST END CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL	PLAN OF CHAPEL AND ADJACENT G.FLOOR ROOMS OF HOUSE
Scale A4/42	Drawn LB	Date 7/92
Appr'd		Drawn 0058600/10 A