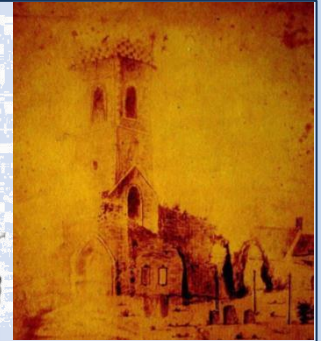


# All Saints

## Drawing on the evidence



☐ 1543 – All Saints destroyed by fire

☐ c. 1750 – Thomas Martin outline plan

☐ 1790 – Original sketch prior to demolition

☐ 1903 – Sketch redrawn

☐ 2015/16 – Geophysics / Archaeological dig

1500



2016



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



**Reepham is unique in Gt Britain in having three churches sharing one churchyard where three ancient parishes meet. St Mary's Reepham and St Michael's Whitwell remain in daily use, but All Saints Hackford was demolished in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, having been destroyed by fire in 1543.**

**This display is concerned with the visible evidence of All Saints, in the form of:**

- **Contemporary plans and sketches,**
- **Modern electronic imagery from the geophysics survey,**
- **Photographic records from the archaeological dig.**

**We begin by looking at the work of Thomas Martin in the mid 1700s (*see below*).**

**Thomas Martin** (1697-1771) known as “Honest Tom of Palgrave” was an antiquarian and lawyer. He was born in Thetford but lived most of his adult life in Palgrave, Suffolk. He was an avid collector of manuscripts and also compiled notes and sketches on Norfolk and Suffolk churches.

His plan of Reepham churchyard was probably drawn about 1750 and is part of a five volume set of church plans held in Norfolk Records Office

It was drawn at a time when All Saints’ nave and chancel were “quite demolished” but while the tower was still standing, the latter not being demolished until 1796.

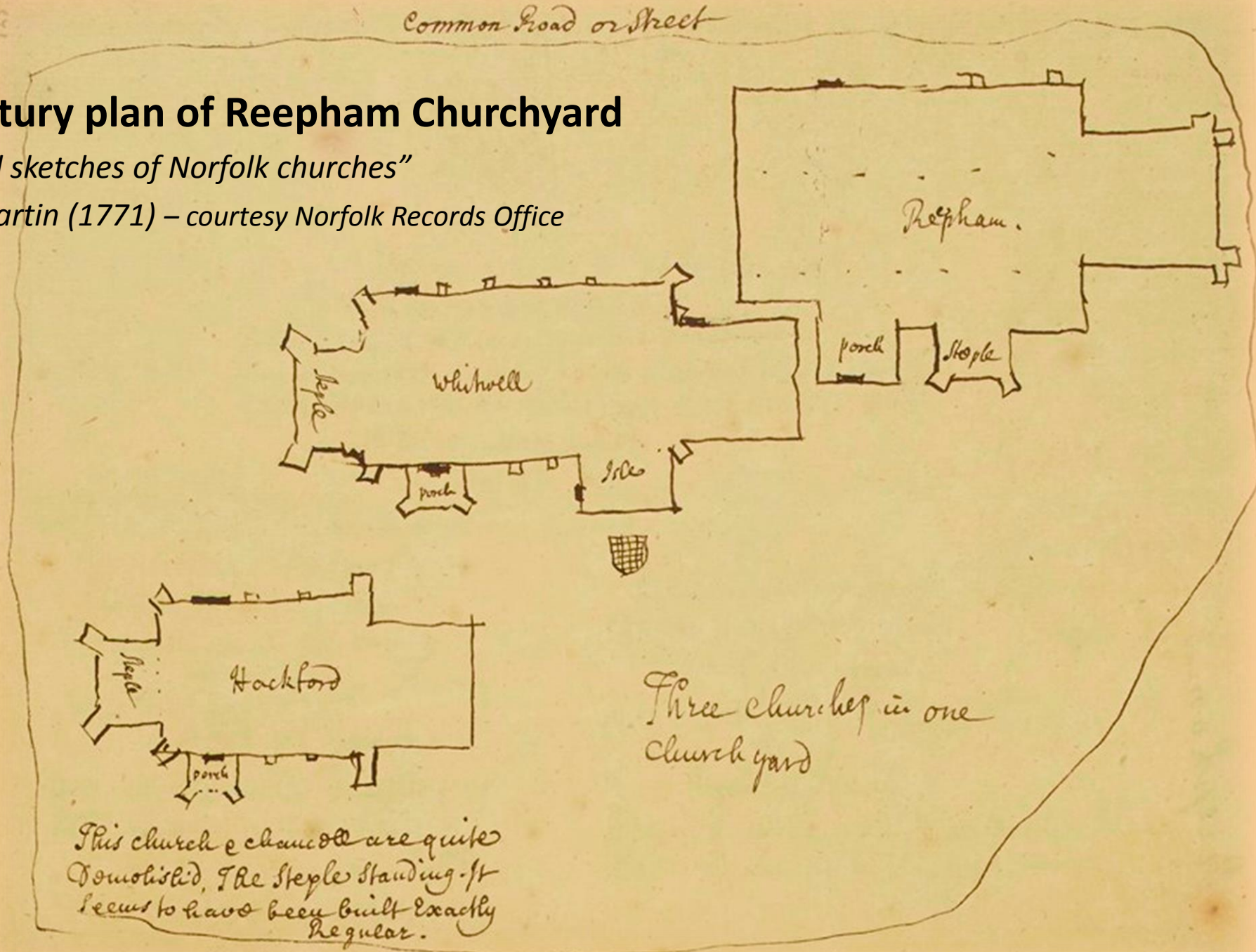


Common Road or Street

# 18<sup>th</sup> century plan of Reepham Churchyard

"Notes and sketches of Norfolk churches"

Thomas Martin (1771) – courtesy Norfolk Records Office



This church & church are quite demolished, The Steeple standing. It seems to have been built exactly regular.

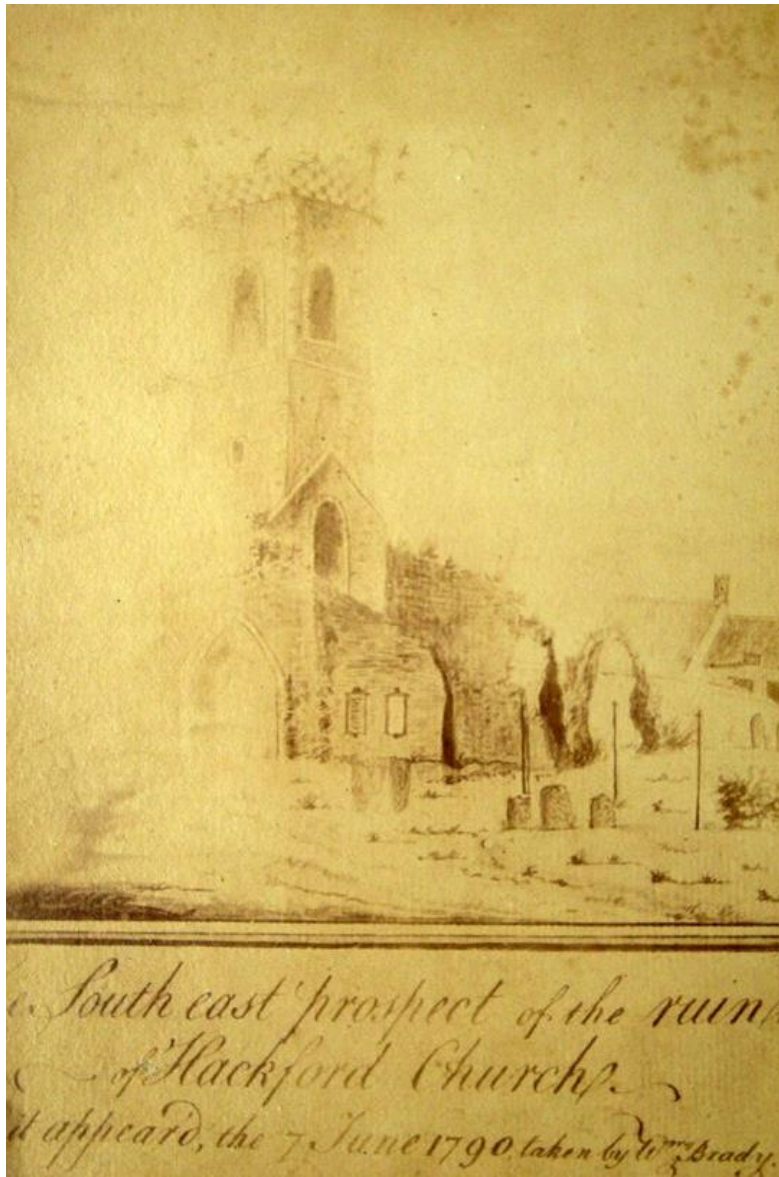
# ***Contemporary sketches***

The Church has in its safe-keeping, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century photograph of a sketch of All Saints ruins possibly dating from 1784 but annotated by the photographer “*as it appeared the 7 June 1790*”, which was the date when it is recorded the steeple began to be taken down.

The church also possesses the original of a 1903 sketch based on that earlier picture, but romanticised by the inclusion of trees and the omission of the cottages in Church Hill, and annotated “*Hackford Church in 1784 (pulled down in 1796)*”.

The sketches are viewed from a south-eastern viewpoint near today’s Town Hall, from which angle the south porch and tower appear visually aligned.



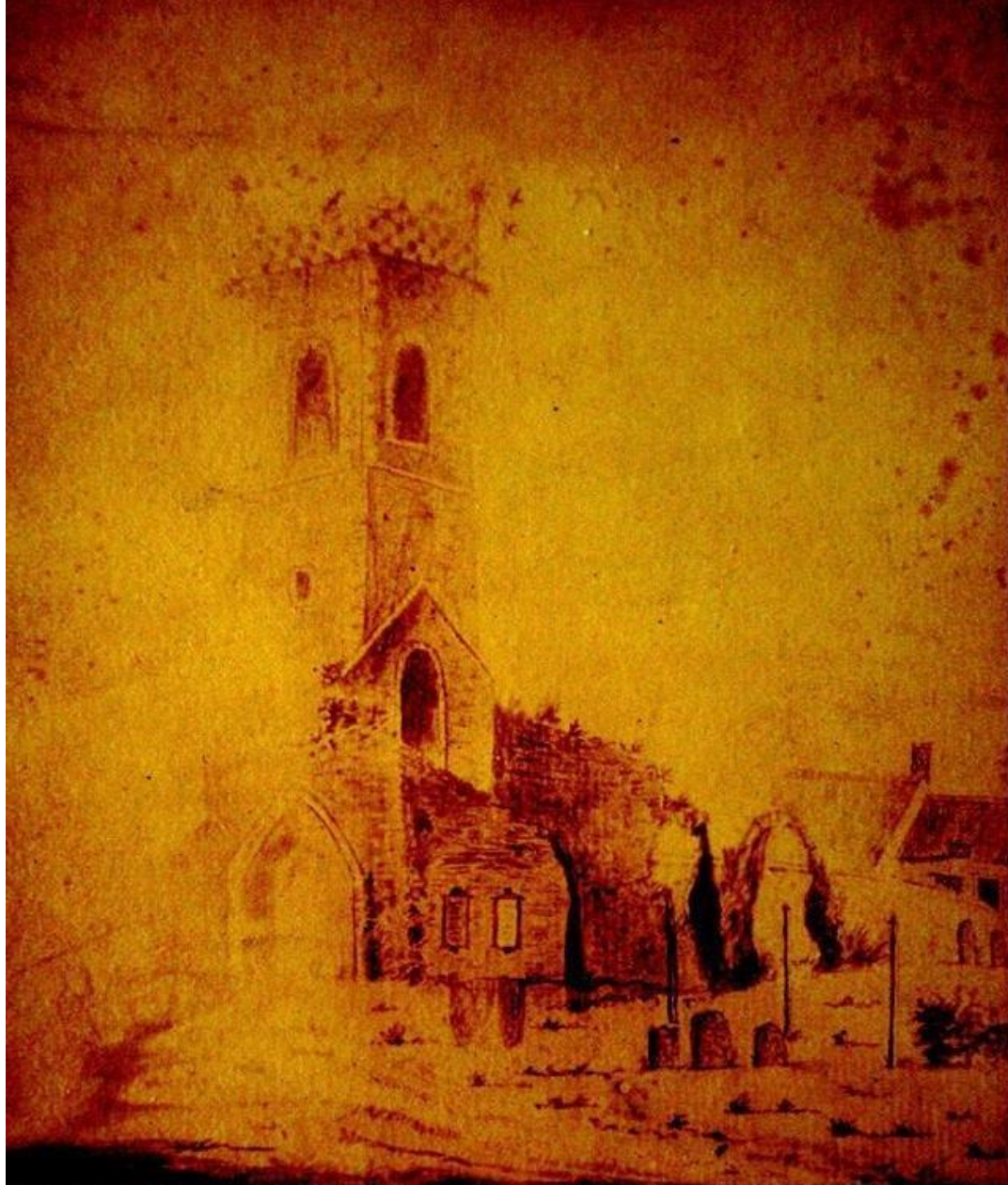


**Reproductions of the two pictures of All Saints as it looked in 1790:**

**Left:** 1901 photograph of an original drawing possibly dating to 1784.

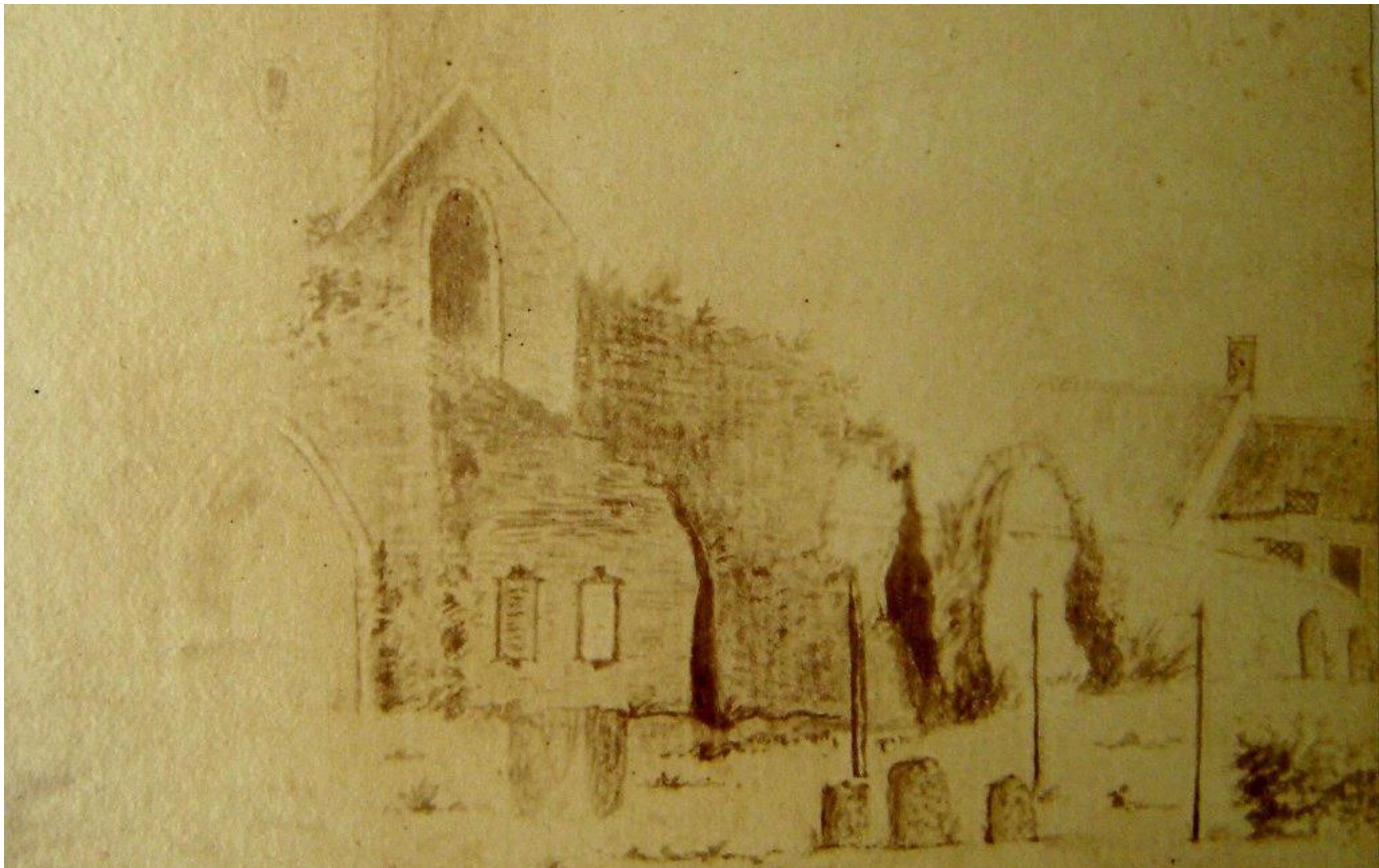
**Right:** Romanticised copy of that sketch drawn in 1903.





**A high-contrast, false-colour copy of the 1784 drawing, compared with the scene today.  
The remaining wall fragment is the (hidden) left side of the porch.**





**Detail from the 1784 sketch showing the cottages in Church Hill and what appear to be clothes posts in the foreground (both missing from the 1903 copy).**



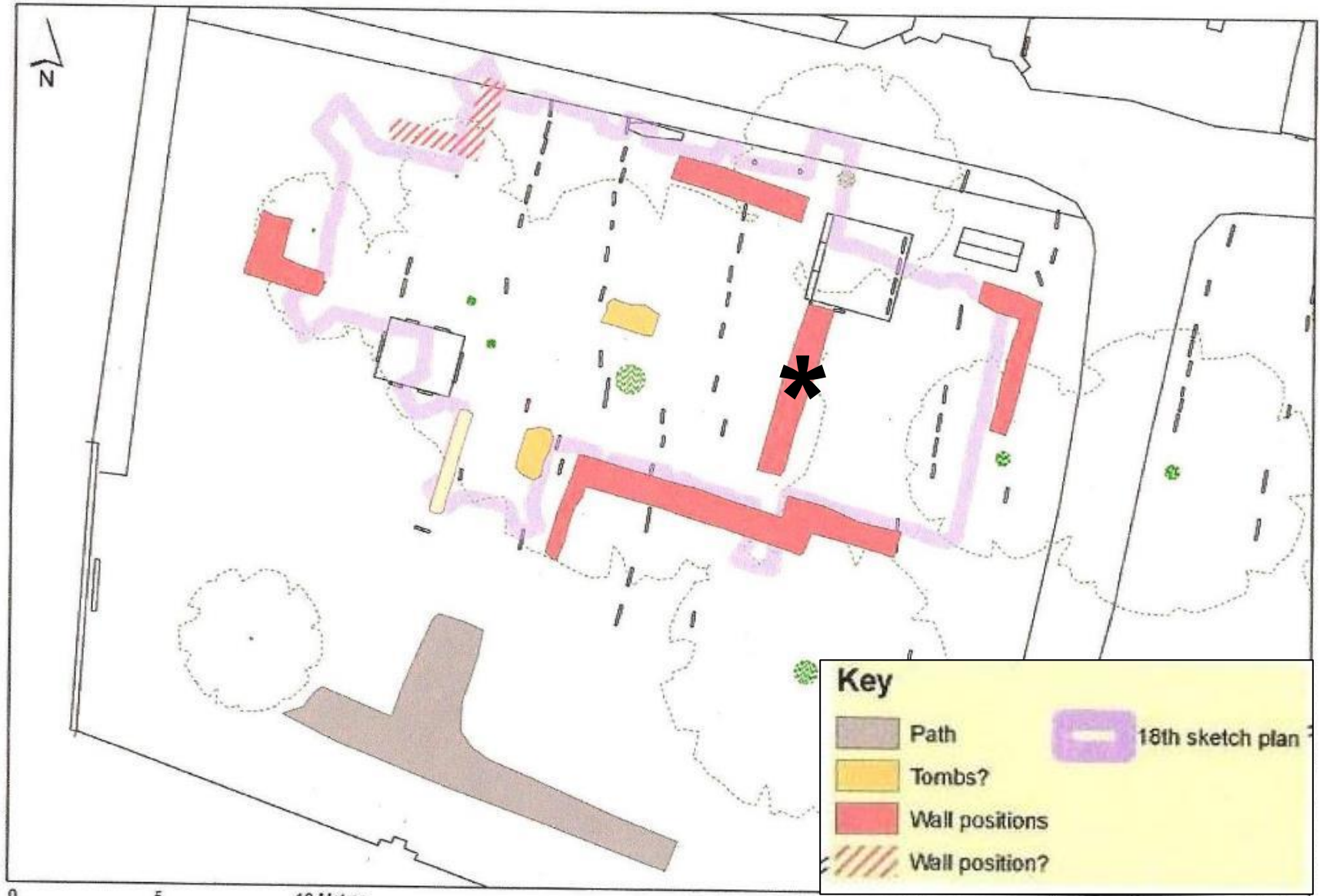
# ***Geophysics***

**In October 2015, Dr David Bescoby undertook a geophysical survey of the SW corner of the churchyard and found supporting evidence for a church in the position shown by Thomas Martin.**

**These findings were confirmed by archaeological excavations in 2016 which uncovered wall foundations at the interface of the nave and chancel.**



# Interpretative plan of geophysical findings



\* Position of wall foundations found in archaeological dig





## ***Archaeology***

**In July 2016, Nigel Steel and Anna van Nostrand from *Dig Ventures* led a team of 12 students from the High School archaeology club in a 3-day trial excavation of the All Saints site.**

**The students were taught archaeological techniques and recording skills as they investigated three trial pits, one of which uncovered the remains of wall foundations between the nave and chancel.**





**The emerging wall foundations**



***Ready ..... Steady ..... Dig !***



**Natasha Hutcheson** (*Historian*) and **Saul Penfold** (*Activity and interpretation consultant*) get down to business.



**Two of the most interesting finds were this fragment of the stem of a clay pipe (*left*) and a decoratively carved sheep's or goat's bone believed to have been the handle of a scoop or a fruit corer (*lower left*).**





# *Engaging with Heritage*

Anna leads sessions with the High School Students and visiting Primary School Children.



It was a condition of our HFL grant for tower repairs, that we included a community project through which **“more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage”**.





**Canon Margaret Dean, David Everett, June Betts, Winifred Rogers and Anne Birch discuss the finds at the Community Day.**