

# Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy

**St John's Church, Yarburgh, Lincs.**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: TF 3510 9307**

**Site Code: YSJC 09**

**LCNCC Accn No.: 2009.97**

**Report**

**for**

**The Churches Conservation Trust**

**By**

**Naomi Field BA (Hons) MIFA**

**NFAC Report No. 0903**

**October 2009**

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## **Contents**

<b>List of Figures and Plates</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Site Location and Description</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Archaeological and Historical Background</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Scope of Work</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Method</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Results</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Contents of the Site Archive</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Context Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Appendix 2: List of Photographs</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Appendix 3: OASIS Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The Figures</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>The Plates</b>	<b>11</b>

### **List of Figures**

Fig. 1 Location of St John's Church, Yarburgh. (C based on 2000 1:25000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map, Sheet 272. © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. NFAC Licence No. WL10960).

Fig. 2 Yarburgh Church location of the monitored trench. Scale 1:500

Fig. 3a) Profile of north aisle foundations b) typical sequence of deposits encountered in the soakaway. Scale 1:10

### **List of Plates**

Pl. 1 Yarburgh church general view from the south-west

Pl. 2 Yarburgh church general view from the north-east, showing the chancel and north aisle

Pl. 3 Drain trench and soakaway north of the north aisle, looking south

Pl. 4 Drain trench detail looking south. Scales 1m, 0.50m, 0.30m.

Pl. 5 Detail of north aisle foundations looking south. Scales 0.50m, 0.30m

Pl. 6 Detail of north aisle foundations looking south-east. Scales 0.50m, 0.30m

Pl. 7 The drain trench looking north. Scale 1m.

Pl. 8 The soakaway, looking north, partially filled. Scales 1m, 0.50m

## **St John's Church, Yarburgh, Lincs.**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: TF 3510 9307**

**Site Code: YSJC 09**

**LCNCC Accn No. 2009.97**

#### **Summary**

*Excavation of a drain and soakaway on the north side of the church revealed the foundations of the north aisle but no other archaeological features were present and there were no finds.*

#### **Introduction**

Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy was commissioned by the Churches Conservation Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Yarburgh Church in accordance with the Trust's Archaeology Policy (2004), and with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

#### **Site Location and Description**

The village of Yarburgh is located 5km north-east of Louth, in the Lincolnshire Middle Marsh. St John's Church is near the centre of the village.

St John the Baptist's Church is a redundant church vested in the Churches Conservation Trust since 1983, but the churchyard is still in the care of Yarburgh PCC.

#### **Archaeological Background**

The settlement of Yarburgh is mentioned in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086. The name is thought to indicate an earlier earthwork, which has not been identified.

St John's Church was entirely rebuilt in sandstone with chalk in 1405 after a fire, and restored by James Fowler in 1853-55 (Pls 1 and 2). A south aisle was demolished in 1777.

#### **Scope of Work**

A programme of repairs is being undertaken in the church which is vested in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. The churchyard is still in the care of the PCC and a faculty was required for the drainage works in the churchyard.

The works comprised the provision of a new downpipe and gulley, with a 100mm diameter drain leading north from the east end of the north aisle for c. 6m to a soakaway, close to the northern boundary of the churchyard.

#### **Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site.

## **METHOD**

One experienced archaeologist was present on site during the excavation of the drain trench and soakaway by the contractors. Archaeological features were excavated, and drawn where appropriate. Context numbers were assigned for the purposes of recording and are referred to in the text (nos **100-103**). A full photographic record was made of the works on site. Work was carried out on February 2009.

## **Results (Figs. 2 and 3)**

A trench 0.40m wide and 0.30-0.45m deep was hand-excavated by the contractors leading from the north-east corner of the north aisle to a soakaway (1.40m x 1.30m and 0.90m deep) near the churchyard northern boundary (Pls 3 and 7). The ground at the junction of the trench with the wall was disturbed by the previous gully, which had been removed prior to the arrival of the archaeologist. The excavations exposed the north aisle foundations (Fig. 3a and Pls 4-6).

The drain trench only penetrated the top of the subsoil but the full sequence of deposits was recorded in the sides of the soakaway (Pl. 8). The soakaway area was disturbed by tree roots. The topsoil **100** was c.0.25-0.30m in depth and was a mid brown-grey clay. This overlay the subsoil **101** which was a red-brown clay with chalk flecks and 0.35m deep. Beneath the subsoil was a thin layer of chalk pebbles, **102**, 0.05m deep which overlay the natural pink brown clay, **103**. There were no finds. No graves were disturbed during the works.

## **Conclusion**

There was no disturbance to any archaeological remains on the site during the programme of drainage works

Naomi Field  
October 2009

## **Contents of the Site Archive**

Correspondence

Site notes

Context sheets 4

Drawings 1 A4 sheet

Photographs 29 digital images

# Appendix 1

## St. John the Baptist Church, Yarburgh, Lincolnshire (YSJC 09)

### Context Summary

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation
100	Layer	Topsoil. Mid grey brown clay. 0.25m thick. Frequent inclusions of roots).
101	Layer	Subsoil red-brown clay with chalk flecks
102	Layer	Thin lens of small chalk pebbles
103	Layer	Natural pink-brown clay
104	Wall	North aisle wall

## Appendix 2

NFAC Film No. 2009/04	
No.	Description
1	Tower door
2	Tower door detail
3	Interior nave looking east
4	Damp on tower, looking west
5	Interior nave looking west
6	Parish chest
7	Statue niche
8	statue niche base
9	South aisle
10	Tower from south-west
11	Tower from south-west
12	Tower from south-west
13	Tower from south-west
14	Tower door
15	General view looking west, south side of church
16	General view looking west, south side of church
17	General view looking west, north side of church
18	General view looking west, north side of church
19	N aisle north door
20	Drain trench at NE corner of N aisle, looking south. Scales 0.3m and 0.5m
21	N aisle foundation looking south. Scales 0.3m and 0.5m
22	N aisle foundation looking south. Scales 0.3m and 0.5m
23	N aisle foundation looking south-east. Scales 0.3m and 0.5m
24	Drain trench at NE corner of N aisle, looking north. Scale 1m
25	Soakaway looking north. Scales 1m and 0.5m
26	Soakaway and drain trench looking south-west. Scales 1m and 0.5m
27	Soakaway and drain trench looking south-west. Scales 1m and 0.5m
28	General view of church from the main road, looking east
29	General view of church from the main road, looking east

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: naomifie1-65989**

## Project details

Project name	St John's church Yarburgh
Short description of the project	Excavation of a drain and soakaway on the north side of the church revealed the foundations of the north aisle but no other archaeological features were present and there were no finds.
Project dates	Start: 01-02-2009 End: 28-02-2009
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	YSJC 09 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC 2009.97 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ELI10910 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	CHURCH Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY YARBURGH St John's Church
Study area	3 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 3509 9308 53.416920635519 0.032907391314 53 25 00 N 000 01 58 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12.35m Max: 12.35m

## Project creators

Name of	Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy
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Organisation	
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	Naomi Field
Project director/manager	Naomi Field
Project supervisor	Naomi Field
Type of sponsor/funding body	The Churches Conservation Trust
Name of sponsor/funding body	The churches Conservation Trust

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection Lincoln
Digital Archive ID	LCNCC 2009.97
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The collection Lincoln
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC 2009.97
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Section"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	St John's Church Yarburgh Lincs.: Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Field, N.
Other bibliographic details	NFAC Report 0903
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	NFAC
Place of issue or publication	Lincoln
Description	A4 comb bound 2pp+3 appendices + 3 figs + 8 plates
Entered by	Richard Watts (Richard.Watts@lincolnshire.gov.uk)
Entered on	7 June 2016

## **The Figures**

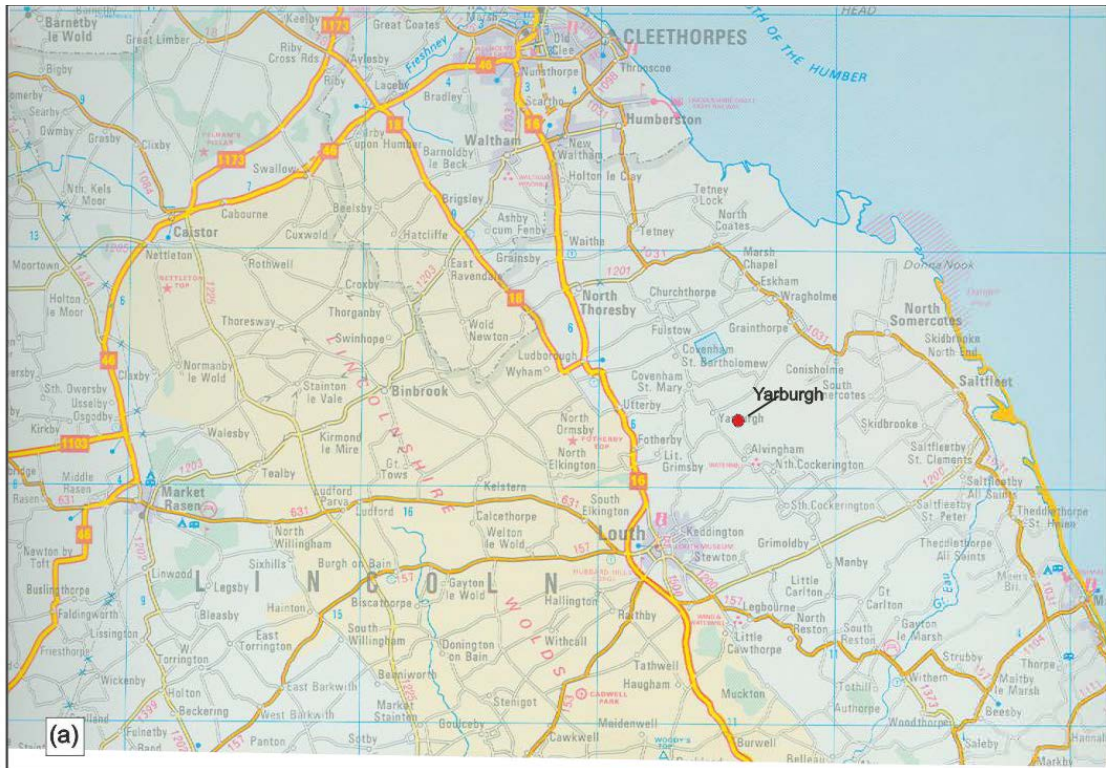


Fig.1 Location of Yarburgh, Lincs. Inset (b) reproduced from the 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey Explorer map 283, Crown copyright, with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO. NFAC Licence No.WL 10960)

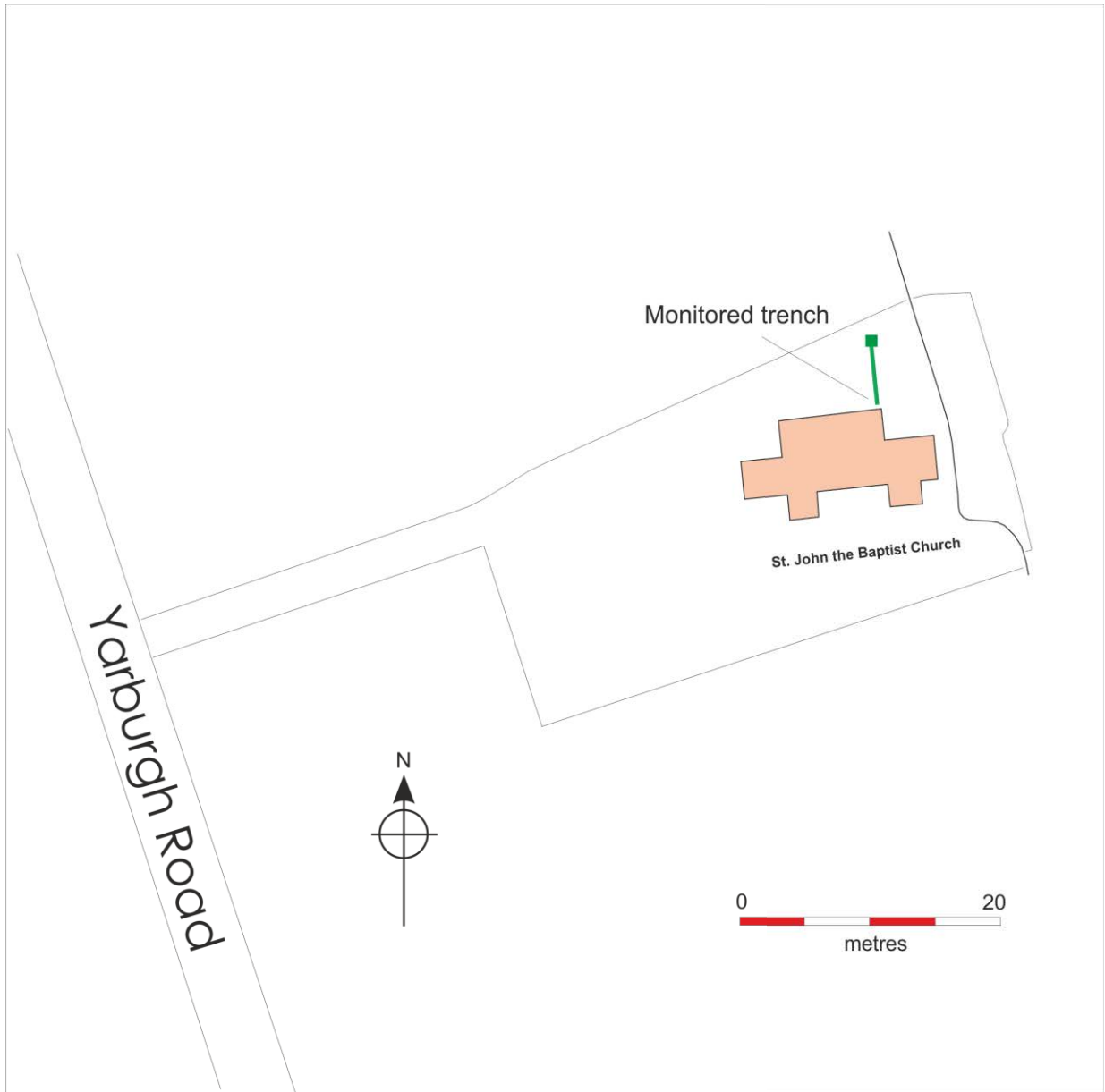


Fig. 2 Yarburgh church Location of the monitored trench. Scale 1:500 .

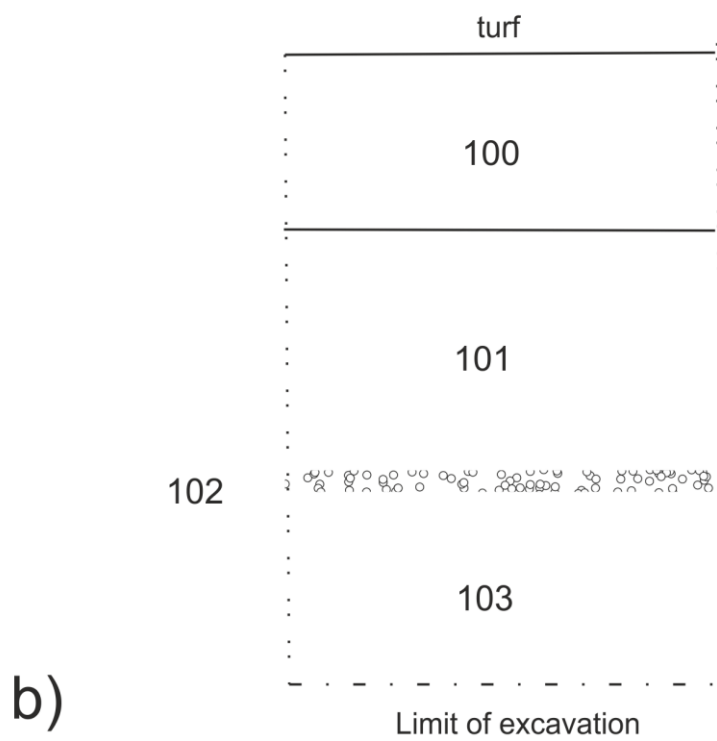
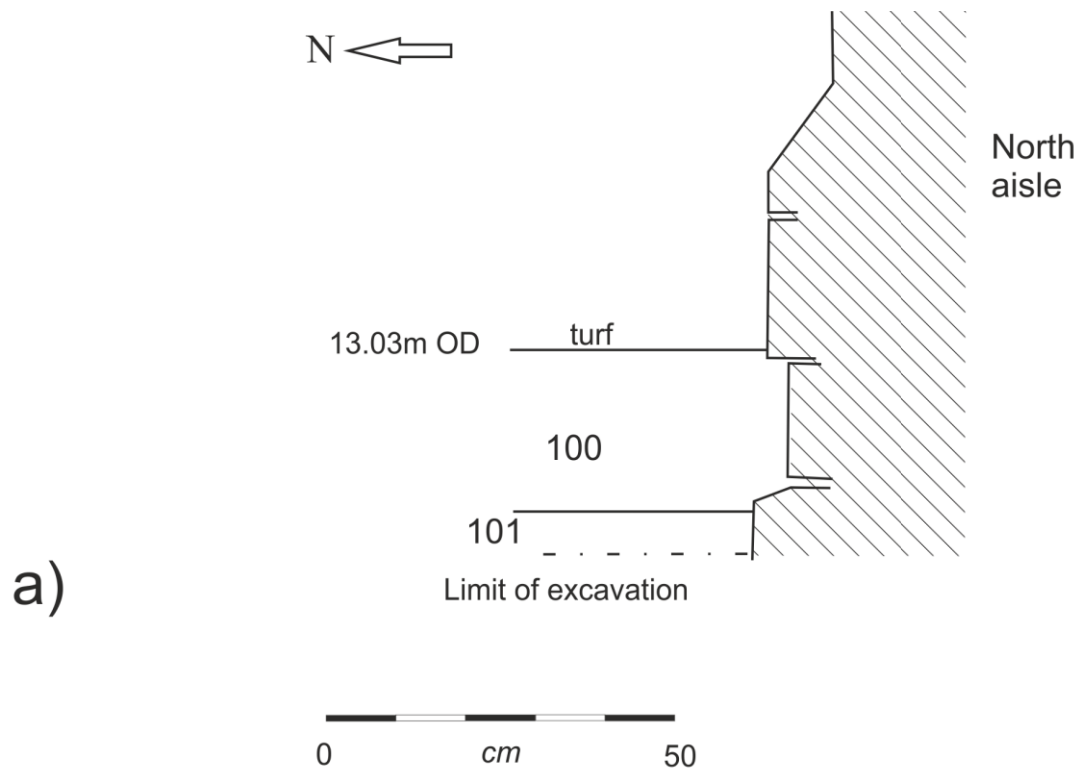
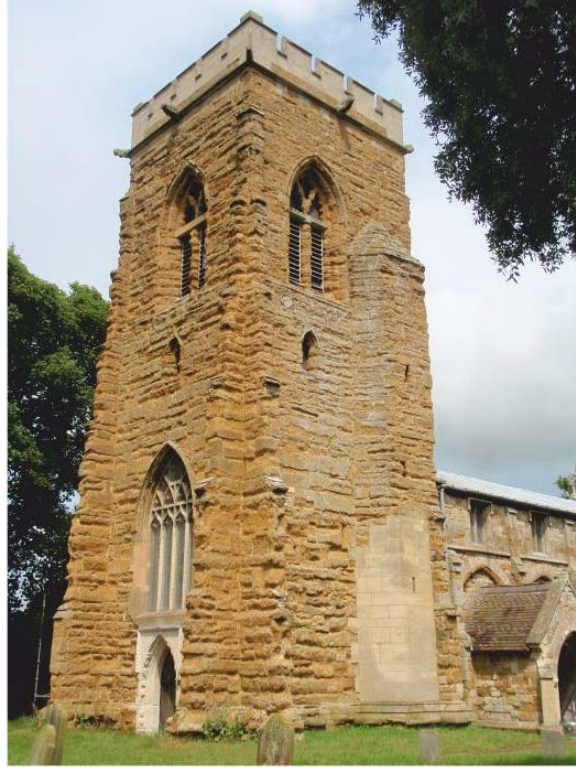


Fig. 3a) Profile of north aisle foundations b) typical sequence of deposits encountered in the soakaway. Scale 1:10

## **The Plates**



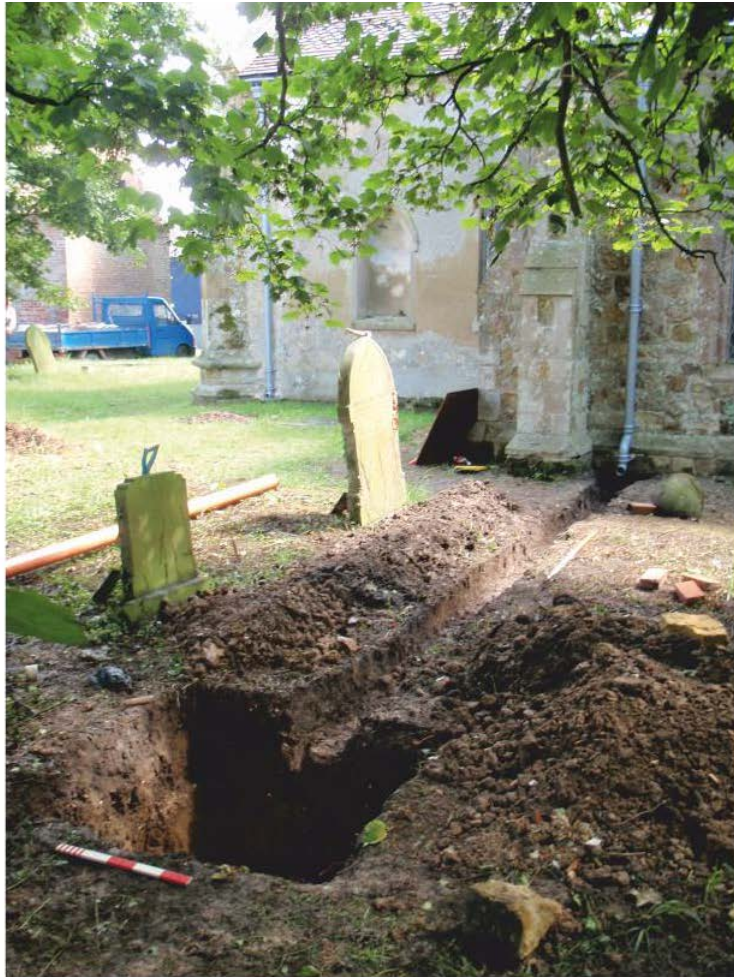


Pl. 1 Yarburgh church general view from the south-west



Pl. 2 Yarburgh church general view from the north-east, showing the chancel and north aisle





Pl. 3 Drain trench and soakaway north of the north aisle, looking south Pl. 4 Drain trench detail looking south. Scales 1m, 0.50m,





Pl. 5 Detail of north aisle foundations looking south. Scales 0.50m, 0.30m



Pl. 6 Detail of north aisle foundations looking south-east. Scales 0.50m, 0.30m





Pl. 7 The drain trench looking north. Scale 1m.



Pl. 8 The soakaway, looking north, partially filled. Scales 1m, 0.50m