

# Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy

## St Helen's Church, Barnoldby le Beck, NE Lincs. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

NGR: TA 2353 0330

Site Code: BBSH09

### Report

for

**Barnoldby le Beck PCC**

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE
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**St Helen's Church, Barnoldby le Beck, NE Lincs.**  
**Archaeological Monitoring and Recording**  
NGR: TA 2353 0330  
Site Code: BBSH09

**Summary**

*Installation of a new toilet inside the west tower involved the drilling of a small hole through the tower west wall above foundation height and the excavation of a drainage trench along the west side of the churchyard. The presence of a few stones in the soil next to the tower indicated the presence of the construction layer for the tower. No archaeological features were present and, apart from a few pieces of human bone that were reburied in the pipe trench, there were no finds.*

**Introduction**

Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy was commissioned in March 2009 by Gordon Smith Conservation on behalf of Barnoldby le Beck PCC to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Barnoldby le Beck Church in accordance with faculty requirements of the Diocese of Lincoln, which was undertaken in accordance 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief' (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 rev. October 2008).

**Site Location**

The small village of Barnoldby le Beck is situated at the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds 7km south-west of Grimsby. St Helen's Church is located at the northern side of the village. The church sits on a pronounced knoll on the north side of Church Lane at a height of c.33m OD, the highest point in the parish (Figs. 1 and 2, Pls 1 and 2).

**Scope of Work**

The proposed programme of work comprises groundworks in advance of works to create a new toilet within the tower. These works include:

- the excavation of a trench south from the tower to the western side of the churchyard entrance
- installation of a toilet and refreshment unit within the tower, with an upper ringing chamber.

**Archaeological Background**

A settlement at Barnoldby le Beck is recorded in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086. The place-name contains Old English and Old Norse elements, probably referring to the farmstead of Bernulf. The church was extensively rebuilt in 1839 but incorporates a south doorway dating from c. 1200 and late thirteenth century chancel and south aisle windows. The tower is in Decorated style with some 12<sup>th</sup> century work. The remnant of an early tower arch can still be seen next to the north side of the present arch, inside the tower. Part of the tower north wall was rebuilt in 1901; the architect was C.Hodgson Fowler.

**Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the Archaeological Monitoring and Recording was to allow appropriate recording of any archaeological deposits exposed during groundworks at



the above site. This included

- Recording of any archaeological stratigraphy present
- Recording and removal of archaeological artefacts as necessary

### **Method**

One experienced archaeologist was present on site to observe earth moving operations. Plans were drawn to a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 depending on the size of the site, and sections at 1:20 or 1:10 and related to the existing church and churchyard boundaries. Location plans were based upon plans supplied by the architect.

A full photographic record was made and a context numbering system for archaeological remains was in operation. NFAC operates a standard context recording system, based on the MOLAS and CAS models.

### **Results**

Two visits were made to the site on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup> 2009. A pit for an inspection chamber (No.1) was dug adjacent to the south west corner where a hole was drilled through the wall to connect a pipe to the interior of the church (Pl. 3). A trench, 0.30m wide and c.0.50m- 0.70m deep, was dug westwards from the inspection chamber for 5m towards the churchyard boundary, where a second inspection chamber was installed (Pl. 4). The trench turned southwards along the western boundary of the churchyard for a further 9 m to the steps next to Church Lane (Pls 5 and 6) to join the main sewer in the road.

Beneath the turf in the churchyard was a dark brown clayey topsoil 0.20m in depth which overlay the churchyard soil comprising a mid-brown soil with chalk flecks. The ground next to the tower contained stone fragments which are interpreted as being associated with the construction of the church (Pl. 3). A few fragments of human bone were found during the excavation of the trench but no graves *in situ* were disturbed. There were no other finds.

### **Interior**

The tower arch appears to have been rebuilt and on the elevation facing the nave has mostly been replaced with modern ashlar (Pl. 7) and may be contemporary with the rebuilding of the tower north wall in 1901. There is evidence on the elevation inside the tower that the original arch was wider, and the current arch has probably been constructed partly reusing the original stones. It is badly affected by damp (Pl. 8). Plasterwork on the walls inside the tower which was 15mm thick had been stripped to a height of 2.34m above floor level on three walls (north, south and west) to reveal a yellow brick lining which may also be part of the 1901 work (Pl. 9).

The tower floor comprises flagstones over a concrete base 0.08m thick. (The nave also appears to be concrete beneath stone and quarry tile floor). The flagstones, and concrete beneath, were removed in the south-west corner of the tower over an area 0.34m x 0.25 and to a depth of 0.12m. A hole was drilled through the 0.98m thick tower west wall, just above floor level, to enable the insertion of the sewer and water pipes (Pl. 10). No earlier floor surfaces were observed and the remainder of the existing floor surface was left undisturbed, with the toilet and its cubicle being constructed on top of the flagstones.

**Conclusion**

No archaeological remains were encountered either inside or outside the church during the excavations associated with the installation of toilet in the tower.

Naomi Field  
October 26<sup>th</sup> 2009

**Contents of the Site Archive**

Site Notes, 2 sheets

Photographs x 23 (see Appendix 1)

Correspondence

Plan of church supplied by Gordon Smith Conservation

## APPENDIX 1

[illegible]



## APPENDIX 2

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM:

## England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: naomifie1-66838

### Project details

Project name	St Helen's Church Barnoldby le Beck
Short description of the project	Installation of a new toilet inside the west tower involved the drilling of a small hole through the tower west wall above foundation height and the excavation of a drainage trench along the west side of the churchyard. The presence of a few stones in the soil next to the tower indicated the presence of the construction layer for the tower. No archaeological features were present and, apart from a few pieces of human bone that were reburied in the pipe trench, there were no finds.
Project dates	Start: 02-04-2009 End: 11-06-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BBSH09 - SM No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE BARNOLDBY LE BECK St Helen's church
Study area	10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TA 2353 0330 53.5115848220 -0.136931112715 53 30 41 N 000 08 12 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 33.00m Max: 33.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy
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	Parochial Church Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Barnoldby le Beck PCC

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Naomi field Archaeological Consultancy
Digital Archive ID	BBSH09
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Spreadsheets', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	NE Lincolnshire Council
Paper Archive ID	BBSH09
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Drawing', 'Manuscript', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report'

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	St Helen's Church Barnoldby le Beck NE Lincs.: Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Field, N.
Other bibliographic details	NFAC Report 0904
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	NFAC
Place of issue or publication	Lincoln
Description	A4 comb bound 3pp + 2 appendices +2 figs + 10 plates
Entered by	Naomi Field (nfarchinfo@googlemail.com)
Entered on	5 November 2009

## THE FIGURES





Fig.1 Location of St Helen's Church, Barnoldby le Beck (Crown copyright: c reproduced from the 1:1250 Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO. NFAC Licence No. WL10960)

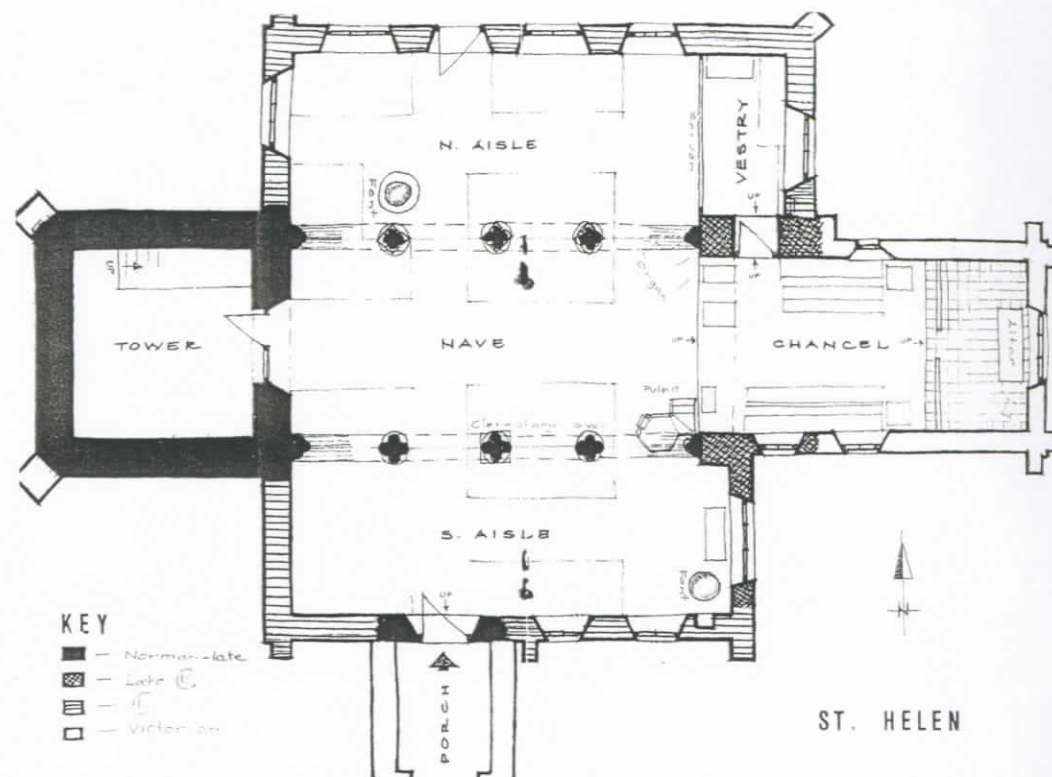
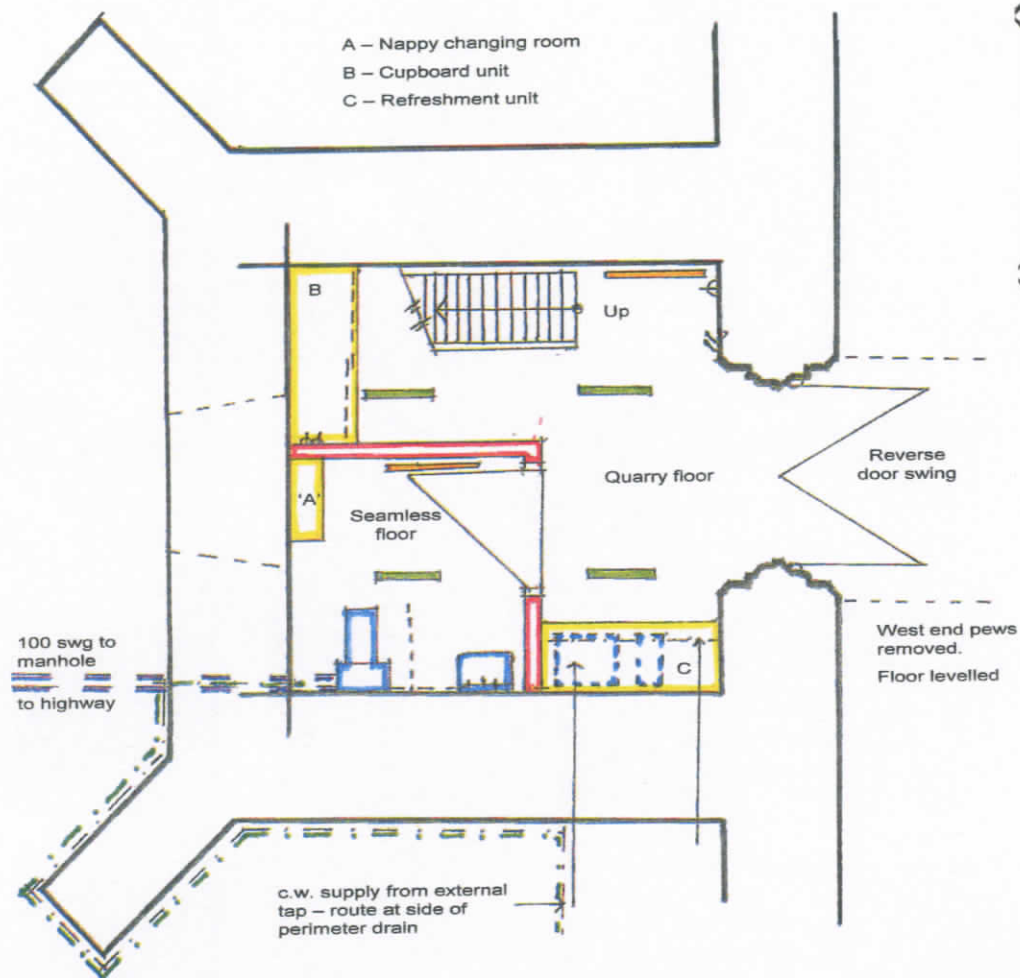


Fig. 2 St Helen's church, Barnoldby le Beck. Location of new toilet and kitchen in tower. Drawings kindly supplied by Gordon Smith Conservation

## THE PLATES





Pl. 1 St Helen's Church Barnoldby le Beck. General view of the church looking w showing its elevated position.



Pl. 2 St Helen's Church Barnoldby le Beck. General view of south elevation show south aisle and porch, with tower to the left.





Pl. 3 Connection of the pipe from Inspection Chamber 1 into the church, looking east. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 4 The pipe trench extending eastwards from Inspection Chamber 2 towards Inspection Chamber 1 next to the tower





Pl. 5 The pipe trench extending south from Inspection Chamber 2 towards the main road, looking south.



Pl. 6 Excavation of the pipe trench along the western boundary of the churchyard

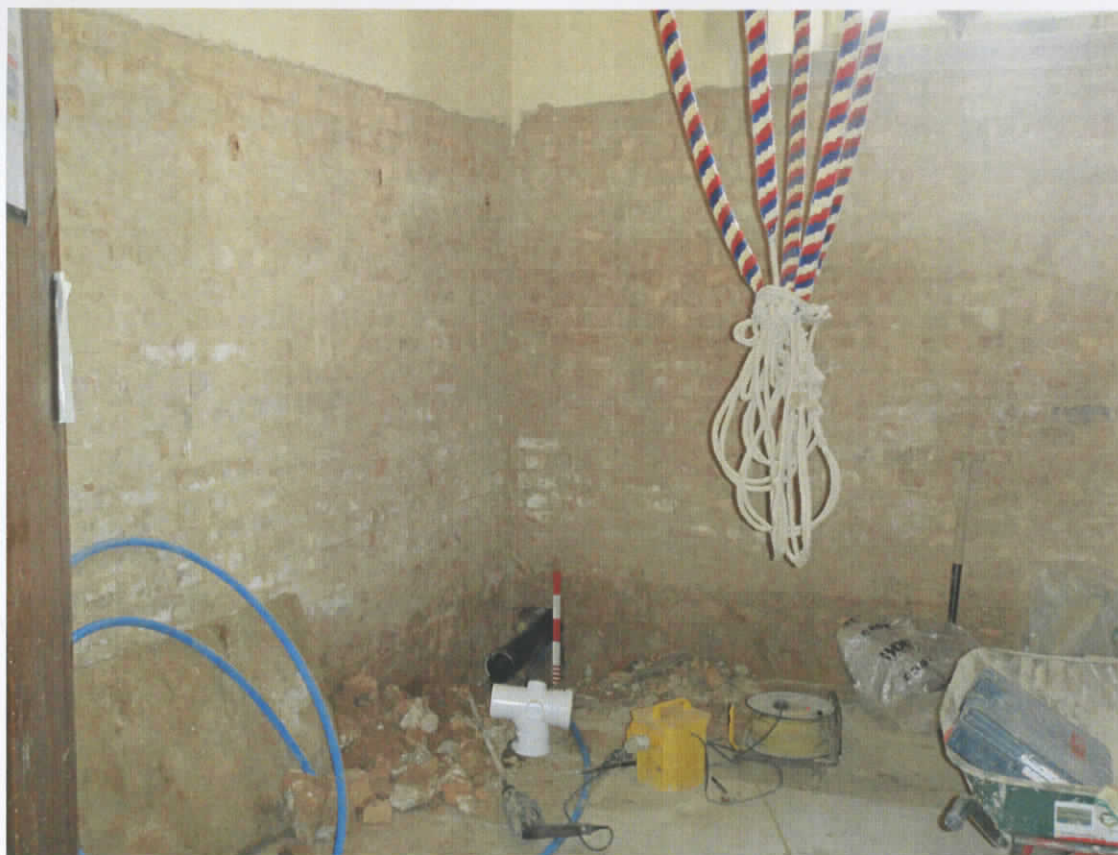




Pl. 7 The Nave, looking west towards the tower. Note the scar of the original nave roof above the tower arch.



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