

Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy

**All Saints Church North Collingham, Notts
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: SK 82974 62042

Site Code: NCAS 10

Report

for

Collingham PCC

**NFAC Report No. 0918
July 2010**

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All Saints Church North Collingham, Notts
Archaeological Watching Brief
NGR: SK 82974 62042
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Summary

Installation of a new toilet inside the vestry involved the laying of a connecting pipe through the vestry west wall, above foundation height, and the excavation of a pipe trench to a septic tank at the west boundary of the church, with a further pipe trench along the west side of the churchyard to connect with the mains sewer in the road. Inside the vestry revealed the original plinth at the base of the Saxo-Norman tower was revealed in the side of the pipe trench. In 1989 24 burials had been recorded and both Roman and medieval pottery were found during installation of a French drain around the church but no burials were disturbed during the groundworks for the septic tank 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 May 2010 by Gordon Smith Conservation on behalf of Collingham All Saints PCC to undertake an archaeological watching brief at N. Collingham Church in accordance with faculty requirements of the Diocese of Southwell, which was undertaken in accordance 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief' (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 rev. October 2008).

Site Location and Description

North Collingham is a large village situated in the Trent Valley c.10km north of Newark on the A1133. The parish church is on the west side of the village centre overlooking the river terrace. The churchyard is bounded by Church Lane to the north and Low Street to the west, with the modern cemetery to the south.

Scope of Work

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

- installation of a toilet within the vestry
- the excavation of a trench west from the vestry to a septic tank and a trench along the churchyard wall to the mains sewer south of the churchyard.

Archaeological Background

Collingham is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1886. There were two parish churches one for North Collingham and one for South Collingham. All Saints church has a Saxo-Norman tower and nave possibly of the same period. The vestry is a Victorian addition on the north side of the tower.

Drainage works around the church in 1989 revealed evidence for an earlier chancel and possible side chapels on the north side of the church which appeared to be pre-conquest in date. There was also a small amount of Roman pottery present on the site (Field and Clark 1989). It was thought that works in the north-west corner of the church might reveal further evidence for the earlier church.

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. A full photographic record was made during the progress of excavations. The excavations were carried out on May 27th 2010.

Results

Interior

Inside the vestry there is an existing sink unit along the west wall. The new toilet facilities were inserted into the south-east quadrant of the vestry and the flagstone floor was lifted along the south side of the vestry wall in order to lay the connecting sewer pipe. The trench was 2.50m long, 0.28m wide and 0.20m deep and ran from 0.50m inside the partition for the toilet to the south-west corner of the vestry and out through a hole in the vestry wall had previously been drilled at its junction with the tower for gas and water pipes, serving a sink and the boiler.

The whole of the south wall of the vestry (which is the north face of the tower) had already been clad in plasterboard to a height of 2.60m, concealing the wall behind. The only visible part of the wall was at the base where it had been exposed in the pipe trench. The excavation of the pipe trench exposed the original external plinth of the tower. It was badly damaged, presumably as a result of the insertion of the gas pipe, serving the boiler. Only one complete stone survives intact, 0.46m in length. The plinth projects from the wall by 0.08m and is 0.19m high and the top of the plinth sits immediately below the level of the stone flag surface. The plinth on the west wall of the tower is a modern repair so this is the only place where the original plinth survives.

Exterior

A narrow trench was cut through the tarmac from the junction of the tower and vestry and ran 7.80m northwest to the septic tank pit situated 1m from the churchyard wall. The trench was 0.30m deep and 0.30m wide following the natural fall in the ground level on the west side of the church. The tarmac **102** was 0.10m thick at the junction with the vestry wall and forms a skirt 3.10m wide around the west side of the church, connecting to the paths running along the north side of the church and to the gate in the corner of the churchyard. The tarmac overlay the churchyard soil **101** which was a red-brown sandy soil. Beyond the tarmac the turf overlay a thick dark-brown sandy topsoil **100**, 0.50m thick. At a distance of 5.80m along the trench was a stone-capped, brick-lined soakaway with a ceramic pipe draining into it from the northwest corner of the vestry.

The septic tank pit was 3.10m x 2.50m in area and 1.95m deep. Beneath the topsoil its fill comprised a very dry loose sandy soil with occasional pieces of sandstone and pebbles. The area was also heavily disturbed by tree roots and there were no human

remains present. A trench was dug southwards from the septic tank pit for 15m parallel to the boundary wall. The whole length of the trench was heavily disturbed by tree roots.

Note

Next to the south gate into the churchyard is a large stone block 0.75m x 0.80m set into the wall with chamfered stops at each corner. There is an almost square socket in the centre 0.38m x 0.35m and 0.12m deep. This stone is probably the base of a cross, which presumably once stood in the churchyard. The underside which is visible on the outside face of the churchyard wall is inscribed FLOOD IN 1795 with a horizontal line marking the flood level. This indicates that the cross must have gone before this date.

Discussion

There is a considerable drop from the churchyard to the road below of c.2m. When works were carried out in the churchyard in 1989 there were large quantities of burials and both Roman and Saxon pottery were found. The current programme of work did not disturb any ancient remains in the churchyard itself but it exposed part of the original external plinth on the north side of the Saxo-Norman tower. However, the service trench excavated was shallow and there was little disturbance to archaeological deposits.

Conclusion

Despite previous disturbance in the vestry from earlier installation of services the original tower plinth was revealed and is still intact beneath the vestry floor. Excavation of the large pit for the septic tank was potentially the greatest impact on the archaeology of the churchyard. However, the whole of this area was already heavily disturbed by tree roots.

Acknowledgements

NFAC would like to thank Richard Kirk and the team from Kirk & Bills for their assistance on site and Gordon Smith, Gordon Smith Conservation for supplying the plan of the vestry.

Reference

Field, N. and Clark, M. 1989 *All Saints Church Collingham. Excavations 1989*. LAS Report no.2

Contents of the Site Archive

Correspondence

Site drawings 1 sketch plan of vestry supplied by the architect.

1 plan and 2 sections 1 sheet A4

Site notes

Photocopy of architect's sketch of the vestry

Photographs NFAC Film Nos. 10/16 28 images

Naomi Field
July 2010

Appendix 1
Digital Film 10/16

No.	Description
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3	Stone capping of old soakaway in pipe trench, looking north
4	Detail of pipe trench at junction with the vestry and tower, looking east. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m
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28	Base of medieval cross base in churchyard wall next to south entrance showing flood inscription

Appendix 2

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: naomief1-79681

Project details

Project name	Collingham all Saints church
Short description of the project	Installation of a new toilet inside the vestry involved the laying of a connecting pipe through the vestry west wall, above foundation height, and the excavation of a pipe trench to a septic tank at the west boundary of the church, with a further pipe trench along the west side of the churchyard to connect with the mains sewer in the road. Inside the vestry revealed the original plinth at the base of the Saxo-Norman tower was revealed in the side of the pipe trench. In 1989 24 burials had been recorded and both Roman and medieval pottery were found during installation of a French drain around the church but no burials were disturbed during the groundworks for the septic tank and, apart from a few pieces of human bone that were reburied in the pipe trench, there were no finds.
Project dates	Start: 27-05-2010 End: 27-05-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	NCAS 10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	CHURCH None
Significant Finds	NONE Uncertain
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NEWARK AND SHERWOOD COLLINGHAM North Collingham All Saints church
Study area	250 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 82974 62042 53.1487535055 -0.759203685383 53 08 55 N 000 45 33 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9m Max: 9m

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	Parochial Church Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Collingham All Saints PCC

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Naomi field Archaeological Consultancy
Digital Archive ID	NCAS 10
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Newark and sherwood DC store
Paper Archive ID	NCAS 10
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Correspondence','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	All Saints Church, Collingham, Notts. Archaeological Watching Brief
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The Figures

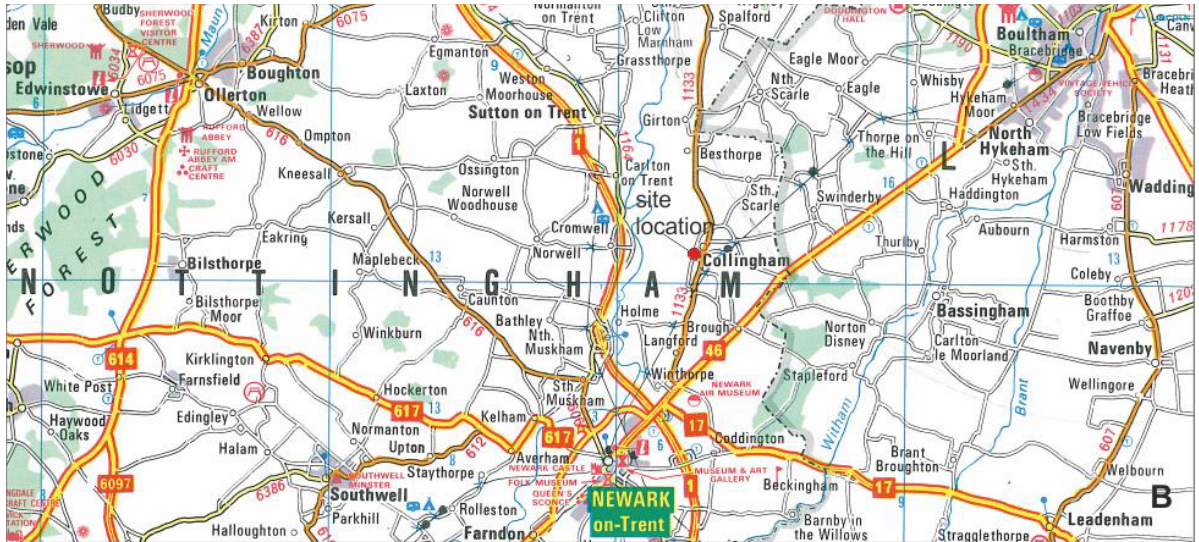


Fig.1 Location of Collingham (C based on the 1:1250 Ordnance Survey map. Crown copyright, reproduced with permission of the controller of HMSO. NFAC licence no. AL 100049154).

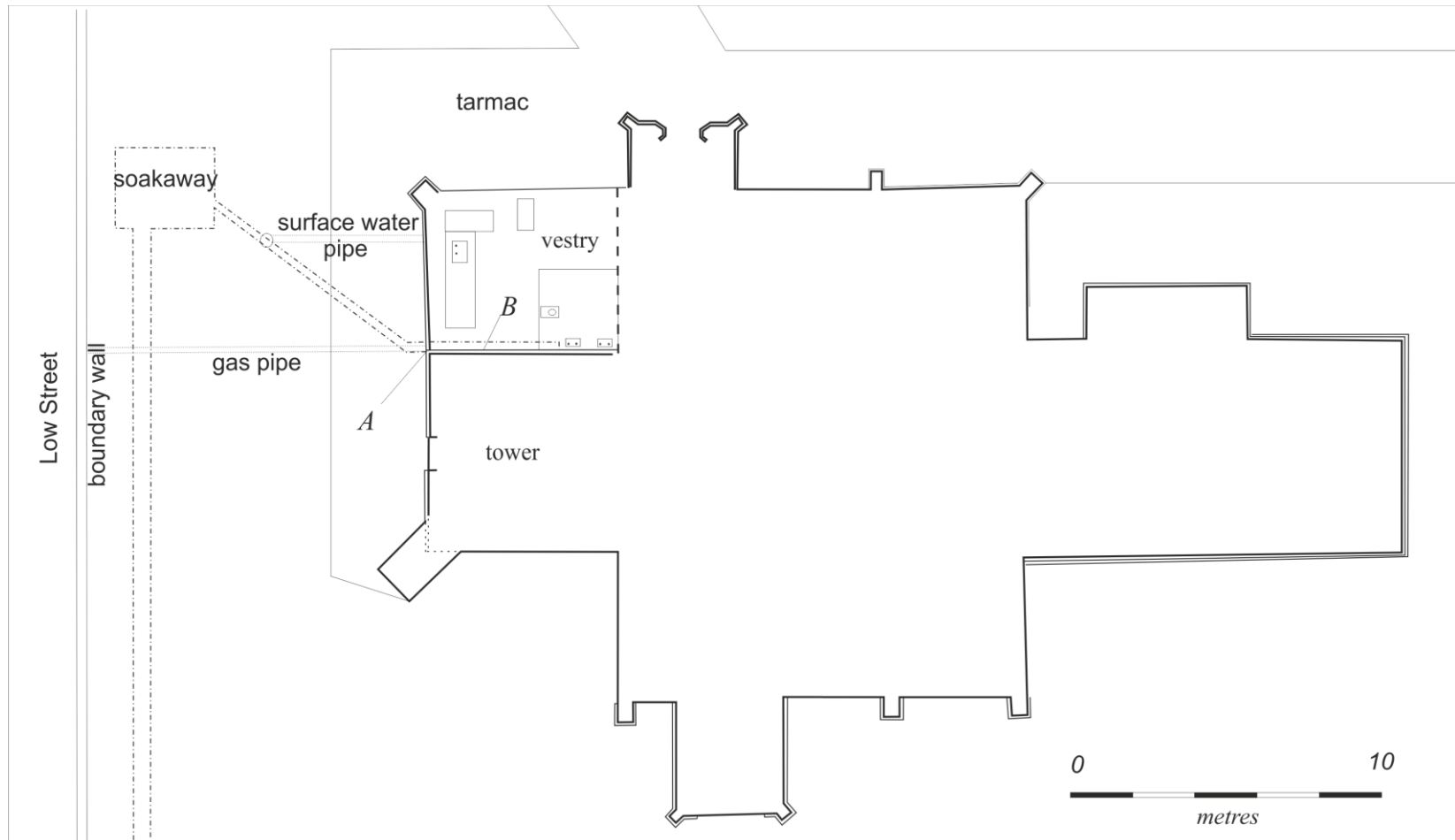


Fig. 2 Collingham all Saints church. Monitored area at the west end of the church

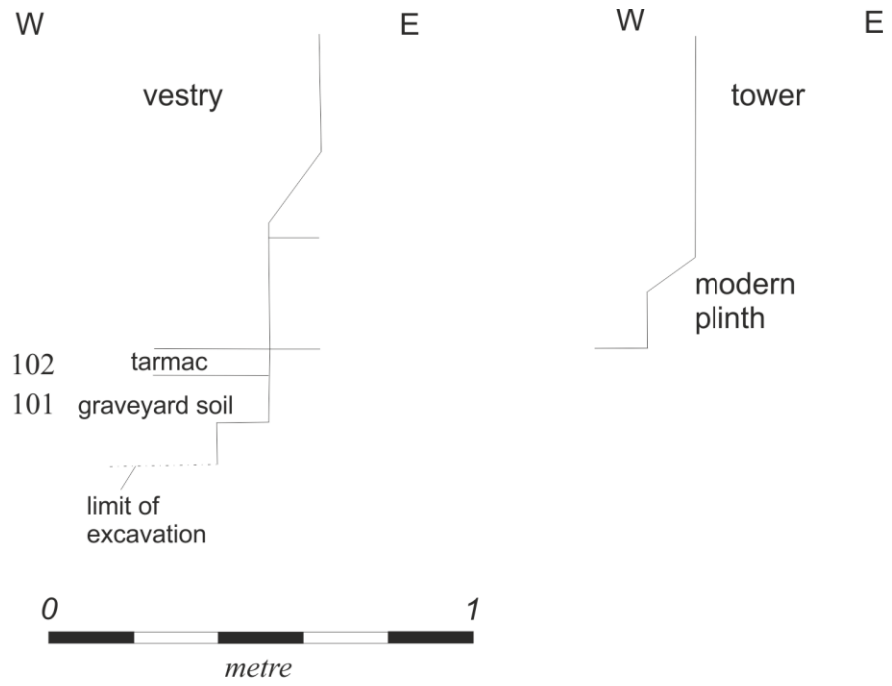


Fig. 3 Sections at A marked on Fig. 2 showing profile of vestry and tower walls at point where the service trench exits the church. Scale 1:20.

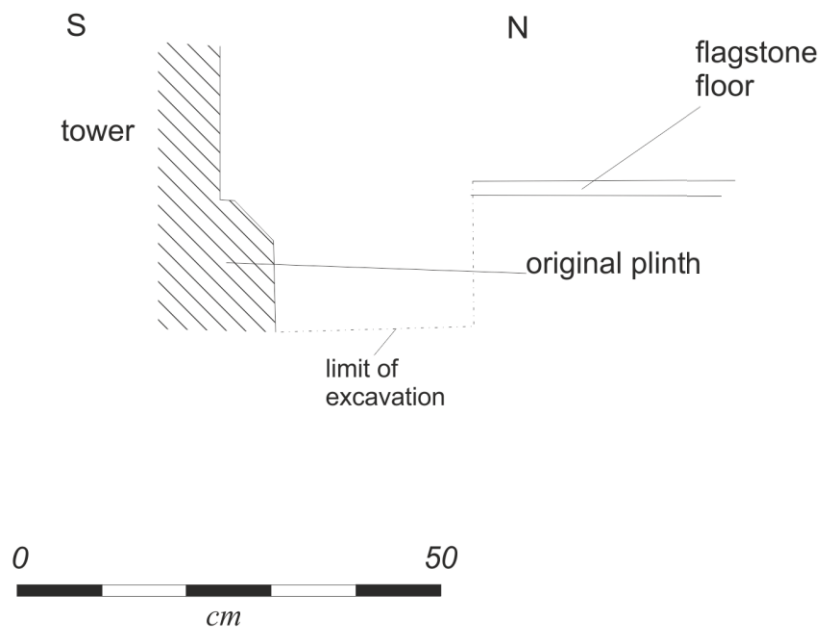


Fig. 4 Section at B marked on Fig. 2 showing service trench dug along north side of tower inside the vestry. Scale 1:10

The Plates



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Pl. 2 Original plinth at the base of the tower north wall, revealed in the service trench in the vestry. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m



Pl. 3 Plinth at base of tower north wall showing diagonal tool marks on the undamaged stonework. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m.



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Pl. 5 The service trench at its exit from the vestry showing the vestry foundations and the pre-existing water and gas pipes, looking east. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m



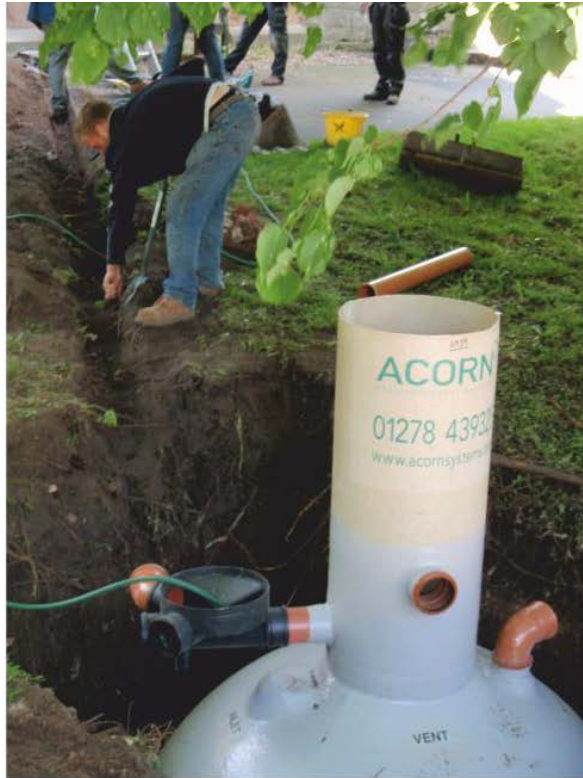
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Pl. 7. Service trench running from the vestry to the septic tank, looking south-east.



Pl. 8 General view of the service trench crossing the churchyard to the septic tank at the boundary wall of the churchyard, looking north-west.



Pl. 9 The septic tank and connecting service trench, looking south-east



Pl. 10 General view showing excavation of the service trench south from the septic tank, along the churchyard boundary.



Pl. 11 Service trench along the churchyard boundary looking north towards the septic tank



Pl. 12. Re-used base of churchyard cross in churchyard wall