



**Monitoring of Works under Archaeological
Supervision and Control**

**3 Church Row, Burnham Market,
Norfolk**

John Percival

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Heather Wallis Report No. 158





Project name	3 Church Row, Burnham Market
NHER Event No	ENF 134982
Grid reference	TF 82973 42077
Date of fieldwork	10th December 2015

Introduction

Planning permission was sought to rebuild and expand an extension to 3 Church Row, Burnham Market, a house of 1970s date (Figs. 1 and 2). This was granted on condition that archaeological monitoring of any below ground disturbances caused construction works be undertaken. A brief for archaeological monitoring was issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. The monitoring was undertaken according to a Method Statement prepared by Heather Wallis with the aims being to identify and record any revealed archaeological deposits and recover any disturbed artefacts.

Approximately 50% of the new-build footprint had been occupied by an existing extension. The east wall of the new-build extension lay between 2.5m and 3.4m from the western wall of the churchyard St. Mary's church.

The development work was undertaken by Tim Hurrell (Building Contractor) on behalf of Mr and Mrs Telfer-Smith.

Geology, Topography and Location

Burnham Market is a small town located in the central western part of the north Norfolk coast. It lies within a gentle hollow c. 1km west of the River Burn and c. 3km south of the coast.

The site lay towards the western edge of the town centre at elevation of c. 10m OD.

The surface geology of Burnham Market town is made up of superficial deposits of gravels and clays eroded into the valley of the River Burn in the Quaternary period (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). In practice the undisturbed 'natural' geological deposits encountered consisted of a very mixed brownish red sandy clay with frequent large patches of coarse

yellow sand. Flint gravel and larger flints occurred throughout the sands and clays.

Archaeological Background

3 Church Row Cottages, Church Walk, Burnham Market lies adjacent to St. Mary's Church (Plate 1) towards the western side of the town (Figs 1 and 2). The present settlement of Burnham Market is an amalgamation of the smaller villages of Burnham Westgate, Burnham Ulph and Burnham Sutton. St. Mary's Church (Norfolk Historic Environment Record number 1767, hereafter NHER) was the parish church of Burnham Westgate and mostly dates to the 14th and 15th century, with some possible older fabric within the tower and fine 16th century carvings on the battlements.

There has been a significant settlement at Burnham Market since the Iron Age with occupation continuing into the Roman period. It is likely that the status of Burnham Market increased during the Early and Middle Saxon periods before the settlement began to break up into separate Burnham parishes. During the Medieval period three of these seven parishes began to merge to form Burnham Market (<http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF187>).

The present Church Row Cottages date from the 1970s were probably built in 1973. Unusually for that time an archaeological investigation took place prior to their construction (NHER 1128), no archaeological features or finds were found. The land on which the cottages were built was formerly the parkland of Burnham Westgate Hall (NHER 1768), a grand Georgian house dating to 1783, which possibly incorporates elements of an earlier building.

West of Burnham Westgate Hall, north of Church Walk, in an area of the parkland formerly ploughed small amounts of pottery of Neolithic, Late Saxon and medieval date were found (NHER11608).

In the fields west of Burnham Market metal detecting has recovered finds of Bronze Age to post-medieval date, including significant numbers of unusual and high status objects of Middle and Late Saxon date (NHER 32087, 44627, 56824). A similar range of objects have been recovered both north (NHER 29624, 41977) and south (NHER 32112, 32844, 36155, 42561, 4627) of the town.

Approximately 250m northwest of 3 Church Row Cottages two previous archaeological investigations prior to housing development off Herrings Lane found evidence of ditches of medieval (NHER 35777) and post-medieval (NHER 52598) date.

The centre of Burnham Market has many of historic buildings dating from the 16th to 18th centuries (<http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF187>).

A review of maps accessible on-line (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>) has been made. The enclosure map of Burnham Westgate, Sutton and Thorpe dated 1825 shows buildings immediately west of St. Mary's churchyard including a possible row of cottages on the northern street frontage of Church Walk. This map also shows a series of roads within what is now the parkland of Burnham Westgate Hall marked as 'discontinued', presumably indicating they had already been removed by 1825. By the 1840s, the time of the Burnham Westgate Tithe map all buildings on northern street frontage of Church Walk have been removed and replaced with a wooded shelter belt fringing the parkland of Burnham Westgate Hall. It was not until the 20th century that the area began to be occupied by buildings again.

Methods

One visit was made to site in order to monitor the excavation of the footing trenches for the extension. Spoil was visually checked and metal-detected in order to maximise any finds retrieval.

Prior to the monitoring visit considerable ground disturbance had been caused by the removal of the foundations of the previous extension and the rerouting of foul drains. The large spoil heap resulting from these operations was also scanned for finds by eye and metal-detector.

On completion of this one day of observation a verbal report was made to the Norfolk Historic Environment Service and it was agreed that as no archaeological features or finds had been observed further monitoring was not required.

All work was carried out in full accordance with a method statement approved by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Wallis 2014) and with national and regional standards for the treatment of archaeological remains. In particular the guidance set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2001) were adhered to.

Observations

The footing trenches (Fig. 3, Plates 1 and 2) were excavated by machine; a 5 tonne 360° tracker excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The northern and western arms of the footing trenches had an overall width of c. 0.8m, with 1.5m wide sections at key points. They were 1.0m deep. The southern arm of the footing was 1.00m wide and 1.2m deep. Undisturbed 'natural' geological deposits consisting of mixed sands, gravels and sandy clays was seen in the base of all footing trenches

Within the area of the previous extension (blue of Fig. 3) ground disturbance relating to the construction, demolition and removal of the previous foundations extended to the full depth of the footing trenches. Outside this area undisturbed topsoil consisted a uniform clayey sand-loam 0.7m deep. Below the topsoil in the southern arm of footing trenches lighter sandier subsoil 0.3m deep was seen.

No archaeological features, structures or finds were seen.

Spoil from the excavation of the footing trenches was visually scanned and metal detected along with the spoil and areas of disturbed ground resulting from the demolition of the previous extension. No artefacts dating to earlier than the 20th-century were seen.

Conclusion

Church Row Cottages are set back from the street frontage of Church Walk by c.15m. It is likely that any medieval or earlier occupation was located on or closer to the locations of post-medieval buildings marked on the 1825 Enclosure map, the street frontage or adjacent to the northwest corner of the churchyard wall.

The settlement evolution of Burnham Market and the other nearby Burnham villages is complex and not well understood. Significant discoveries relating to the Iron Age, Roman and particularly Anglo-Saxon history of the area are waiting to be made.



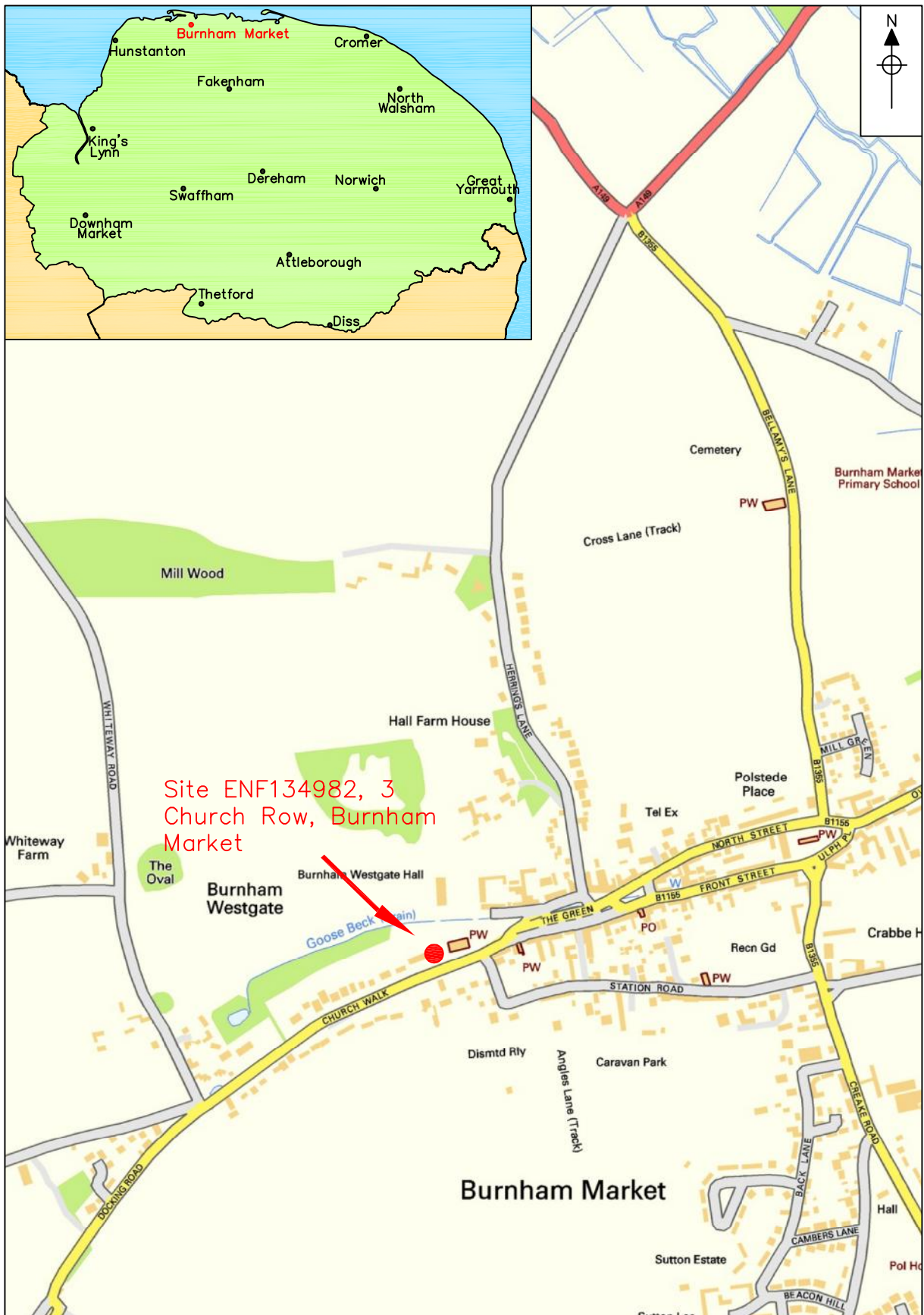


Figure 1. Site location.

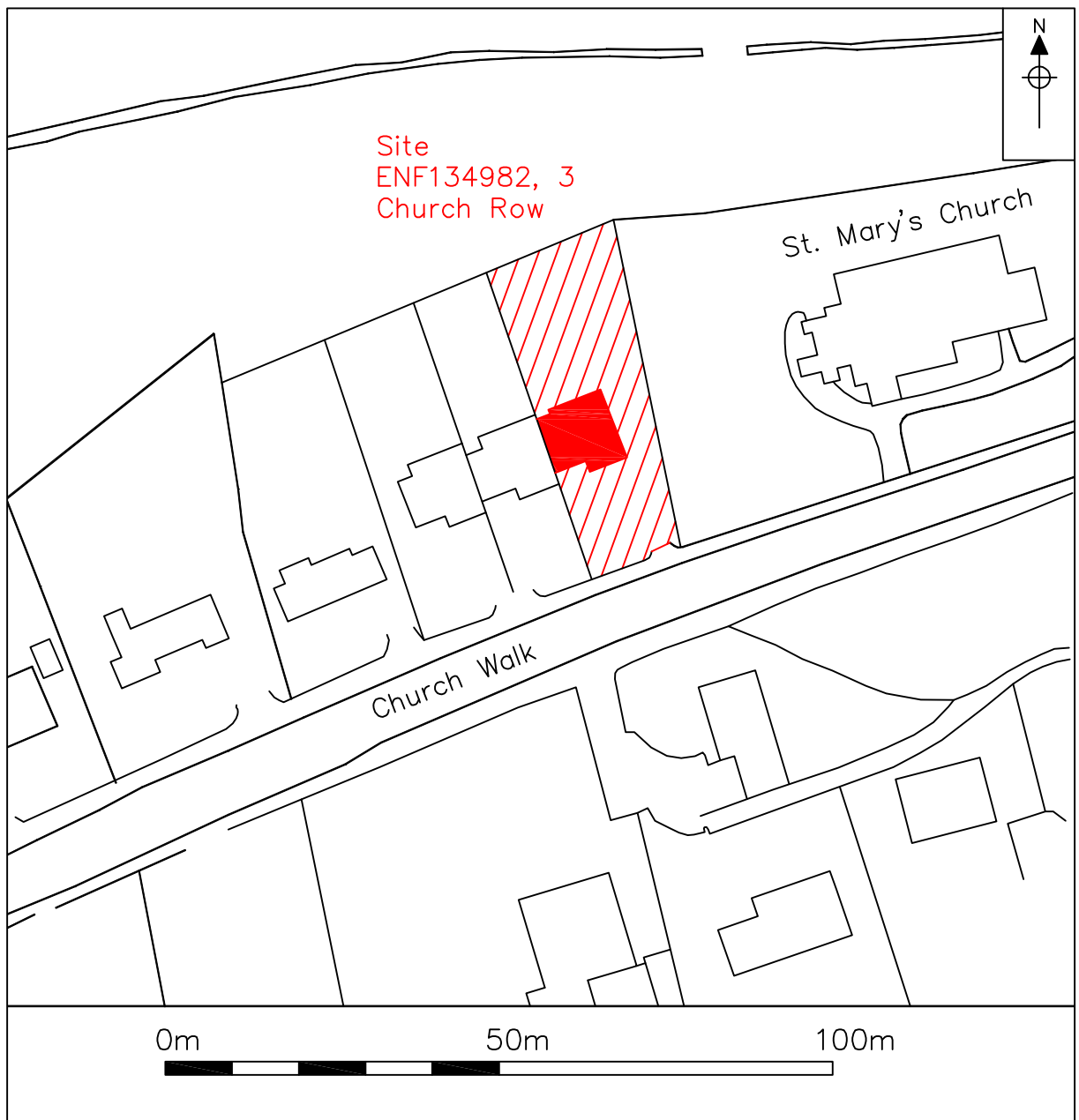


Figure 2. Detailed site location. Scale 1:1000.

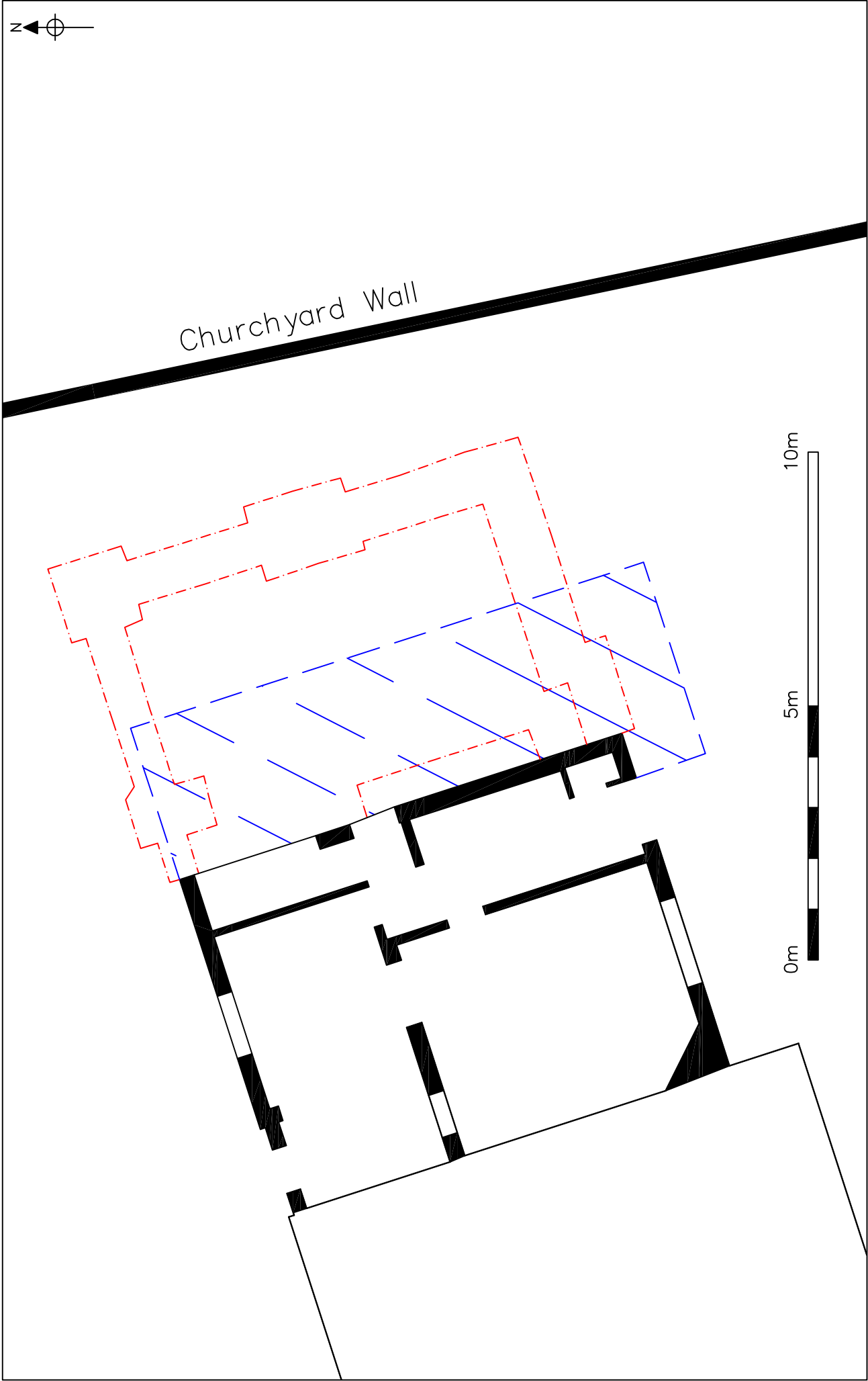


Figure 3. Showing footing trenches (red) and area of previous disturbance (blue). Scale 1:100.



Plate 1 View at start of works. Looking East.



Plate 2 Completed footings. Looking North-West.

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Project details

Project name	Church Row, Burnham Markeet
Short description of the project	Watching Brief was undertaken on a small domestic extension. Site was located adjacent to St. Mary's church. No features or artefacts were found.
Project dates	Start: 10-12-2014 End: 10-12-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF 134982 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK BURNHAM MARKET Church Row Cottages
Study area	65.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 82973 42077 52.9444538276 0.723503864859 52 56 40 N 000 43 24 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Heather Wallis
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heather Wallis
Project director/manager	Heather Wallis
Project supervisor	None
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service

Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","none"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Report"
Entered by	Heather Wallis (archaeology@hwallis.co.uk)
Entered on	23 January 2015

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