
All Saints' Church

Carleton Rode

Monitoring of Works in North and South Aisles

ENF 142292

Heather Wallis

April 2019

HW Report No. 226

Project name	All Saints' Church Aisles
Parishes	Carleton Rode
Event No.	ENF 142292
OASIS Ref.	heatherw1_287829
Accession No.	NWHCM 2019.183
Grid Ref.	TM 1149 9251
Date of Work	August and November 2017

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken when the pews and wooden floor were removed from the north and south aisles at Carleton Rode church. Removal of the wooden wall plate along the south aisle revealed scars in the plaster indicating the position of an earlier set of pews. It was also noted that the width of the south aisle was not consistent along its length, narrowing slightly to the west.

Introduction

The PCC at All Saints' Church, Carleton Rode was keen to improve access and provide space for varied activities to take place within the church building. To this end the pews and wooden floor were removed from the north and south aisles. The wooden floor was replaced with clay floor tiles.

Faculty for this work was granted and a Brief for the Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control was issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. A Written scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring (Wallis, November 2017) was submitted to and approved by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

Works to lower the floor were undertaken by members of the parish, led by Mr. Reg Love. Archaeological input was coordinated by Mrs Pat Graham. Monitoring visits were made in August 2017 when work was carried out in the north aisle and in November 2017 when the south aisle works were undertaken.

Location and Geology

Carleton Rode lay in South Norfolk some 7.5km east of Attleborough. Today settlement in the parish is drawn out along the road. All Saints church lay at the east of the end of the village (Fig. 1).

The bedrock geology is chalk which formed between 71 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The superficial geology is Lowestoft Formation Diamicton, a chalky till with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clay, which formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.

(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)

Archaeological Background

Prehistoric activity is known within the parish of Carleton Rode and includes the discovery of a Bronze Age Hoard in 1844 as well as several Iron Age objects. Three probable Roman settlements are known within the parish all of which have also produced Early Saxon artefacts.

Carleton Rode is mentioned in the Domesday Book and it is thought that a church of Late Saxon date may have stood on the site of the present All Saints' church however the majority of the present church is 13th-century in date. The tower was added in the 14th century and the south porch in the 15th century (English Heritage Listed Building Record). In 1502 a legacy was left 'towards the new works for the bells'. In 1717 part of the tower collapsed and was subsequently rebuilt. (Pevsner and Wilson 1999, 240-1) while a further collapse of the south-east buttress occurred in 1755 (Mortlock and Roberts 1985, 22-23) causing damage to the tower and south porch; the repaired fabric being clearly visible today.

More recently both electricity and a heating system have been installed in the church, the latter included pipes along the walls of the aisles. The first heating system in the central aisle dates to 1861 and was heated by a coke furnace. This was improved and expanded following fund raising in 1924 when central heating was installed and a boiler shed erected. In 1969 a new oil heating system was installed using the existing pipes. Electric light was first installed in 1934 (Graham, 1976, 13).

The Works

The wooden pews (eight in north aisle and eleven in south aisle), wooden wall plates, front rails and wooden floors were removed from both the north and south aisles (Fig. 2). A void c.0.3m deep was revealed below the wooden floor. This void was infilled with rubble and soils and a new tile floor laid at the same level as the nave floor.

Monitoring was undertaken in August 2017 when the works in the north aisle were being undertaken and in November 2017 when the south aisle works were ongoing. The soils revealed by the removal of the wooden floor were recorded. For the southern aisle the elevation of the south aisle wall was also recorded.

North Aisle

No notable features were revealed by the works in the north aisle (Plate 1). Deposits under the old raised wooden floor consisted of mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fleck and lighter orange brown sandy silt. These deposits were very dry and heavily compacted.

South Aisle

Deposit below the former floor were again unremarkable and similar to those in the north aisle (Plate 2). The most interesting element of this work was the elevation of the south wall which had previously been hidden behind a wooden wall plate (Plate 3).

This elevation revealed the former plastered wall. In some places the plaster had crumbled revealing the flints of the south aisle wall. There were also other regularly spaced areas where there was no plaster. Here flint and brick were present representing the positions of an earlier set of pews (Figure 2; Plates 4 to 15 (some areas of recent infilling are also visible in these photos)). The scars representing these early pews were between 0.28m and 0.46m wide and the spacing between the centre of the scars was c.0.75m. Evidence for eleven pews and a front rail was recorded.

Interestingly, at the east end the marks of the front rail and first pew were very ephemeral however, the scars became clearer and deeper towards the west end of the aisle. The shallower scars at the east end revealed the flint structure of the south aisle wall. In the western end deeper scars were present. These scars had been infilled with bricks when the early pews were removed, and the more recent pews inserted. The scars had been hidden by the wooden wall plate which had been erected with the most recent set of pews. The deeper scars to the west end can be accounted for by as the width of the aisle is not consistent along its length. At the east end the width available for the pews was 1.73m while at the west it was only 1.60m, indicating that the south wall of the church is not exactly parallel with the main axis of the church.

Conclusions

The soils revealed in the north and south aisles were unremarkable. Evidence for an early set of pews was recorded in the elevation of the south wall once the wooden wall plate had been removed. Measurement of the aisle also showed that it narrows by c.0.13m from east to west.

Pews were not a feature of early churches; seating was gradually introduced from the late medieval period onwards. It became increasingly common from the reformation onwards when the pulpit was introduced as a focus within the

church and sermons became common practice. Pevsner (Pevsner and Wilson 1999, 118)) highlights examples of early pews in Norfolk which date from the late 16th and early 17th century.

It is not known when pews were first introduced at Carleton Rode church, but there are documents which suggest that the most recent re-seating plan, when the nave and aisle pews were renewed was undertaken in about 1875 (NRO DS 382). These were the pews which have recently been removed.

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and South.</i> |



Figure 1. Site location plan.

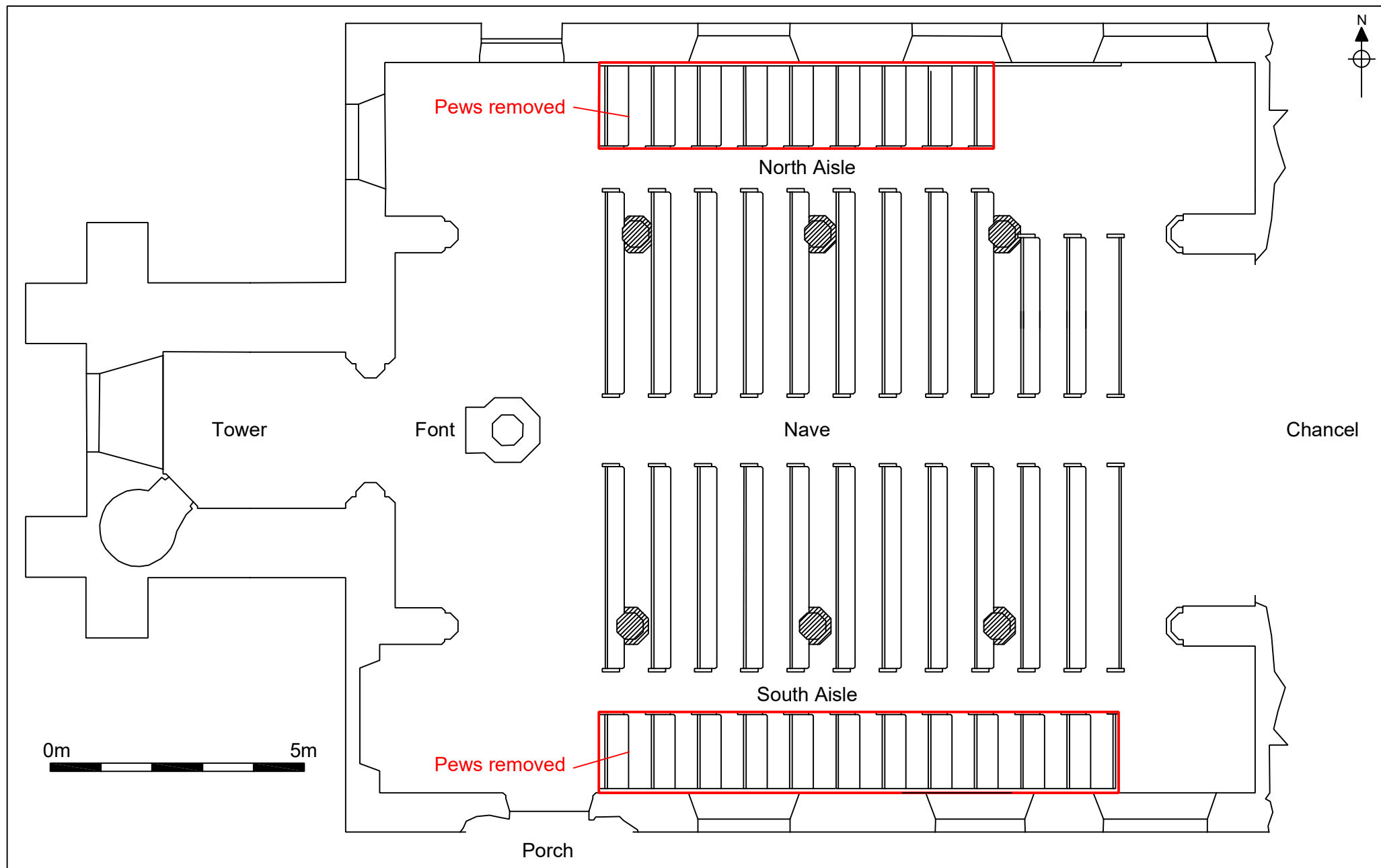


Figure 2. Plan of nave. Scale 1:100.

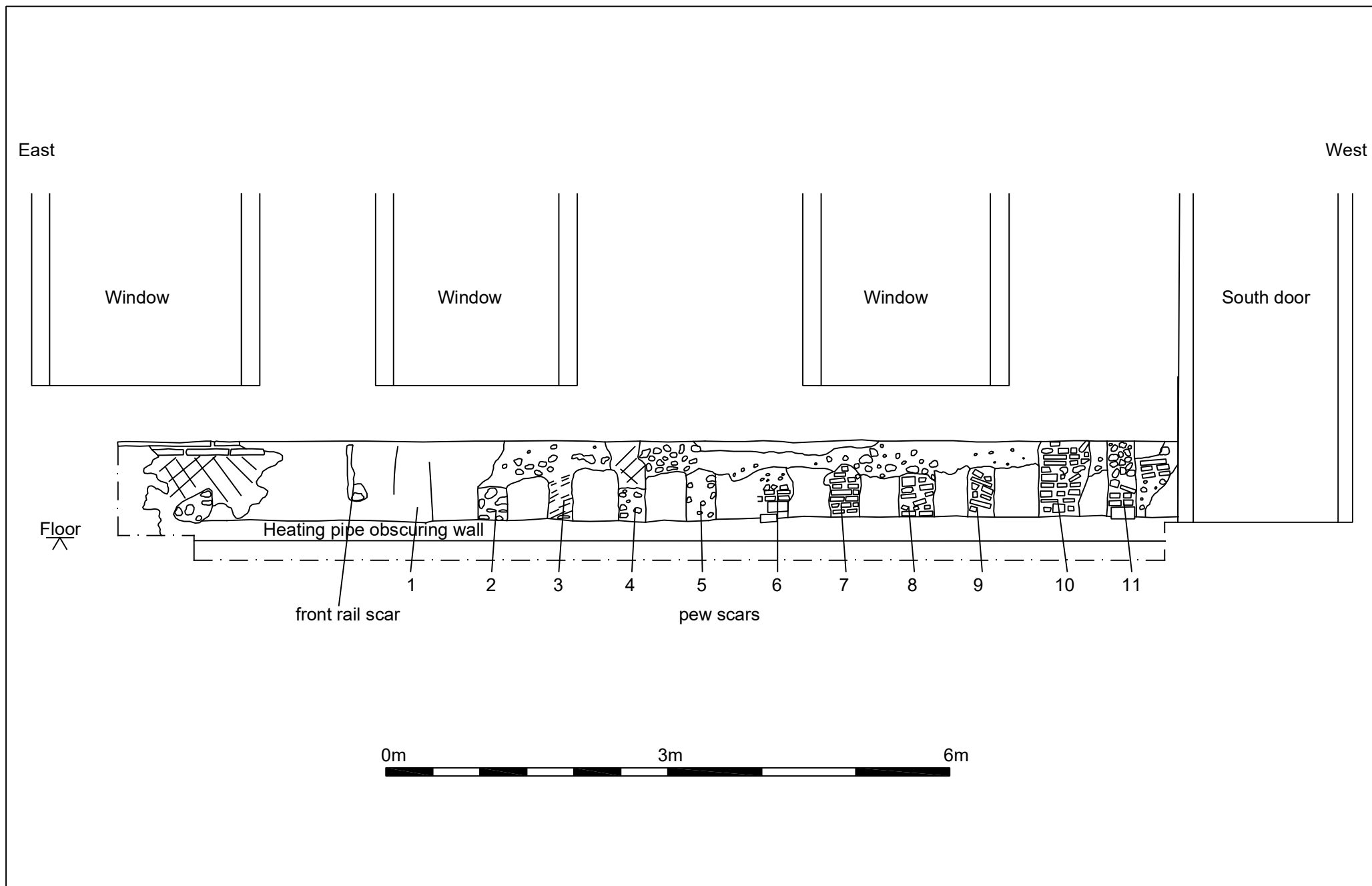


Figure 3. South aisle. North facing elevation of south wall.



Plate 1. North aisle, looking east.



Plate 2. South aisle, looking east.



Plate 3. South aisle, looking south-west, scale 2x1m.

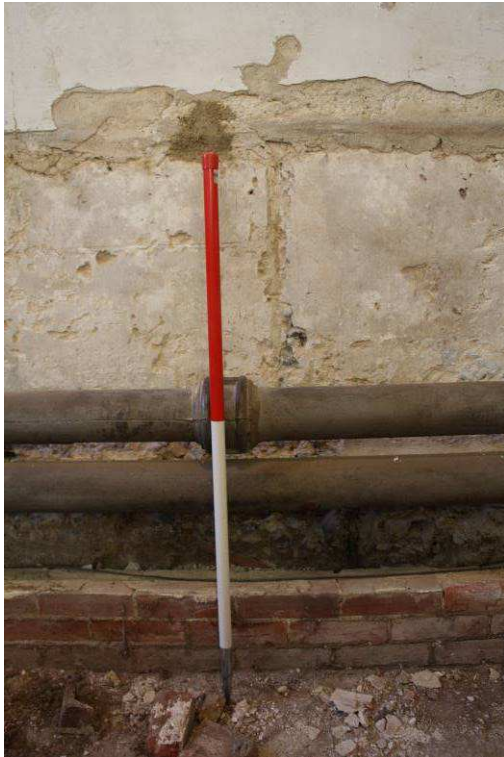


Plate 4. South aisle, front rail scar, looking south, scale 1x1m.

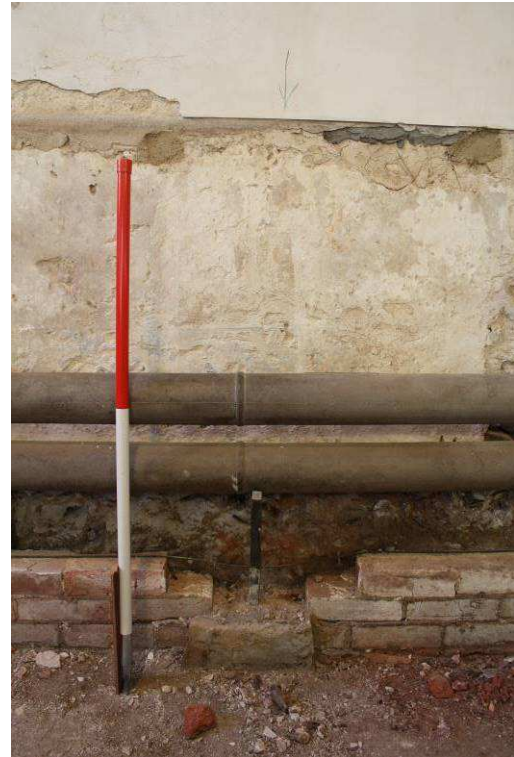


Plate 5. South aisle, pew scar 1, looking south, scale 1x1m.

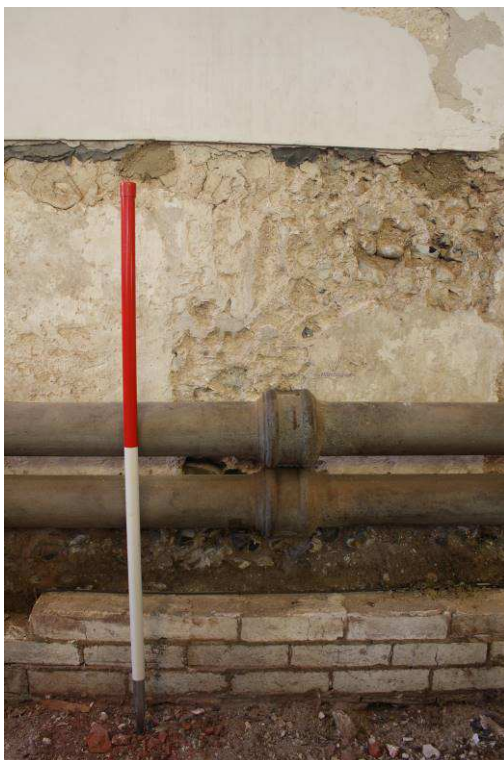


Plate 6. South aisle, pew scar 2, looking south, scale 1x1m.

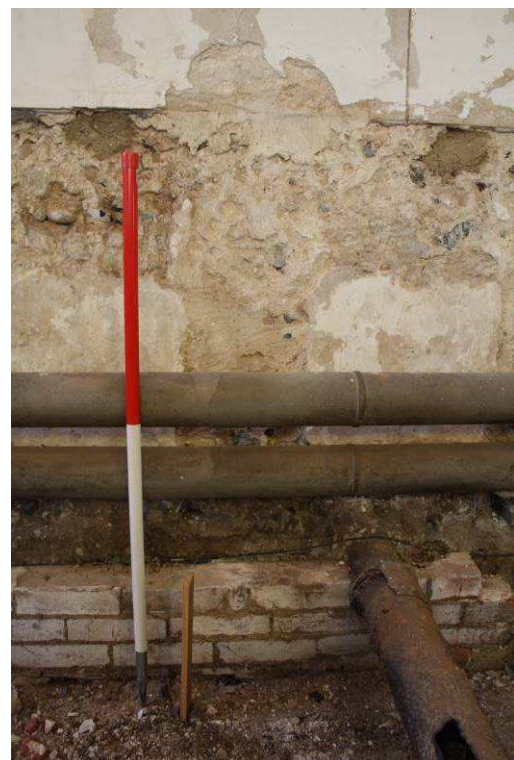


Plate 7. South aisle, pew scar 3, looking south, scale 1x1m.

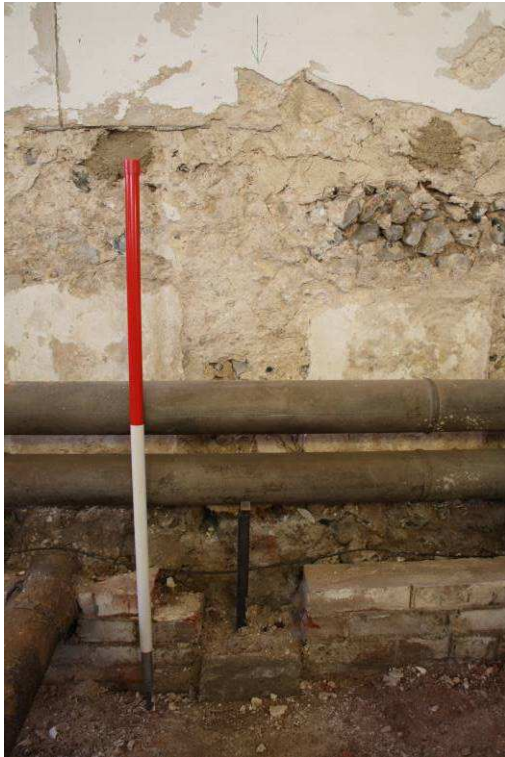


Plate 8. South aisle, pew scar 4,
looking south, scale 1x1m.

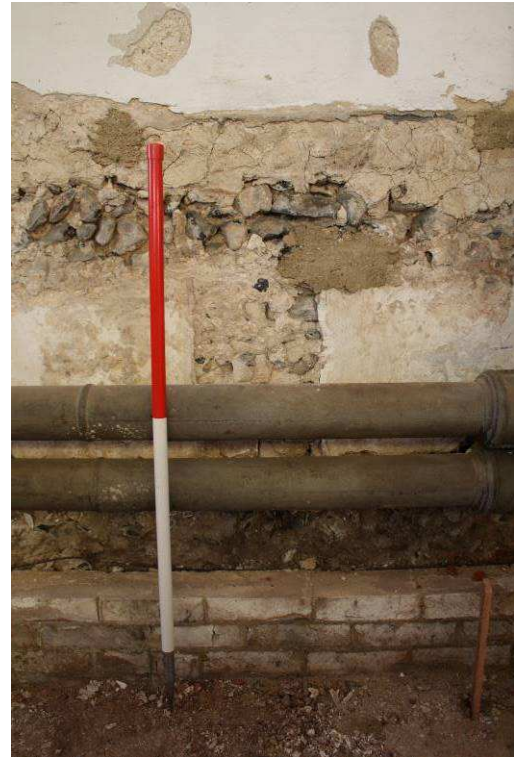


Plate 9. South aisle, pew scar 5,
looking south, scale 1x1m.

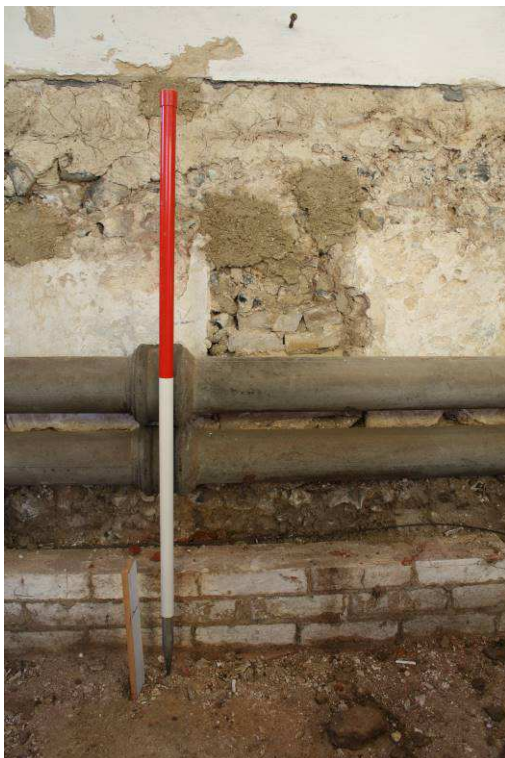


Plate 10. South aisle, pew scar 6,
looking south, scale 1x1m.

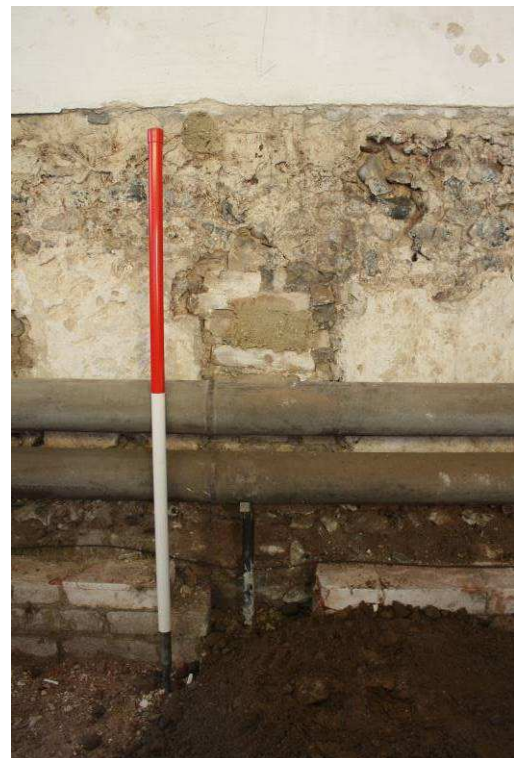


Plate 11. South aisle, pew scar 7,
looking south, scale 1x1m.



Plate 12. South aisle, pew scar 8,
looking south, scale 1x1m.



Plate 13. South aisle, pew scar 9,
looking south, scale 1x1m.

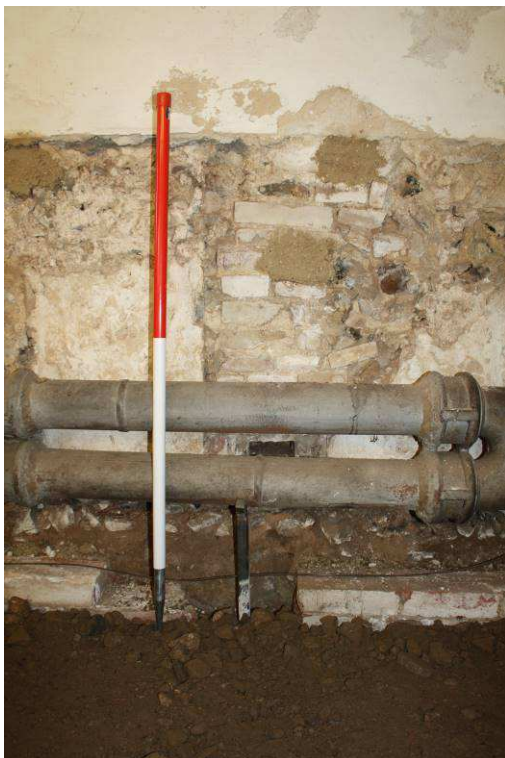


Plate 14. South aisle, pew scar 10,
looking south, scale 1x1m.

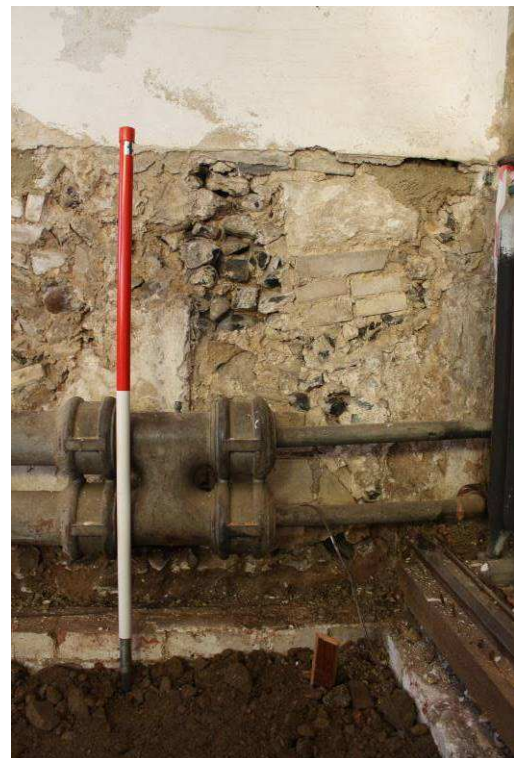


Plate 15. South aisle, pew scar 11,
looking south, scale 1x1m.

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Project details

Project name	Carleton Rode Church
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was undertaken when the pews and wooden floor was removed from the north and south aisles at Carleton Rode church. Removal of the wooden wall plate along the south aisle revealed scars in the plaster indicating the position of an earlier set of pews. It was also noted that the width of the south aisle was not consistent along its length, narrowing slightly to the west.
Project dates	Start: 01-08-2014 End: 30-11-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF 142292 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
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Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK CARLETON RODE Carleton Rode Church
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1149 9251 52.488955673223 1.115430143551 52 29 20 N 001 06 55 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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Report"

Project bibliography 1

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