

St John the Baptist, Barnack
Report on Archaeological Observation and Recording associated with
New Heating Scheme

Archaeological contractor's Site Code: BCHS 19



Prepared by Jackie Hall
for Barnack PCC
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Dr Jackie Hall FSA MCifA
Consultant Archaeologist
51 Back Road, Linton, Cambridge. CB21 4JF
Tel. 01223 890197
Email jackie.hall@riveyhill.co.uk

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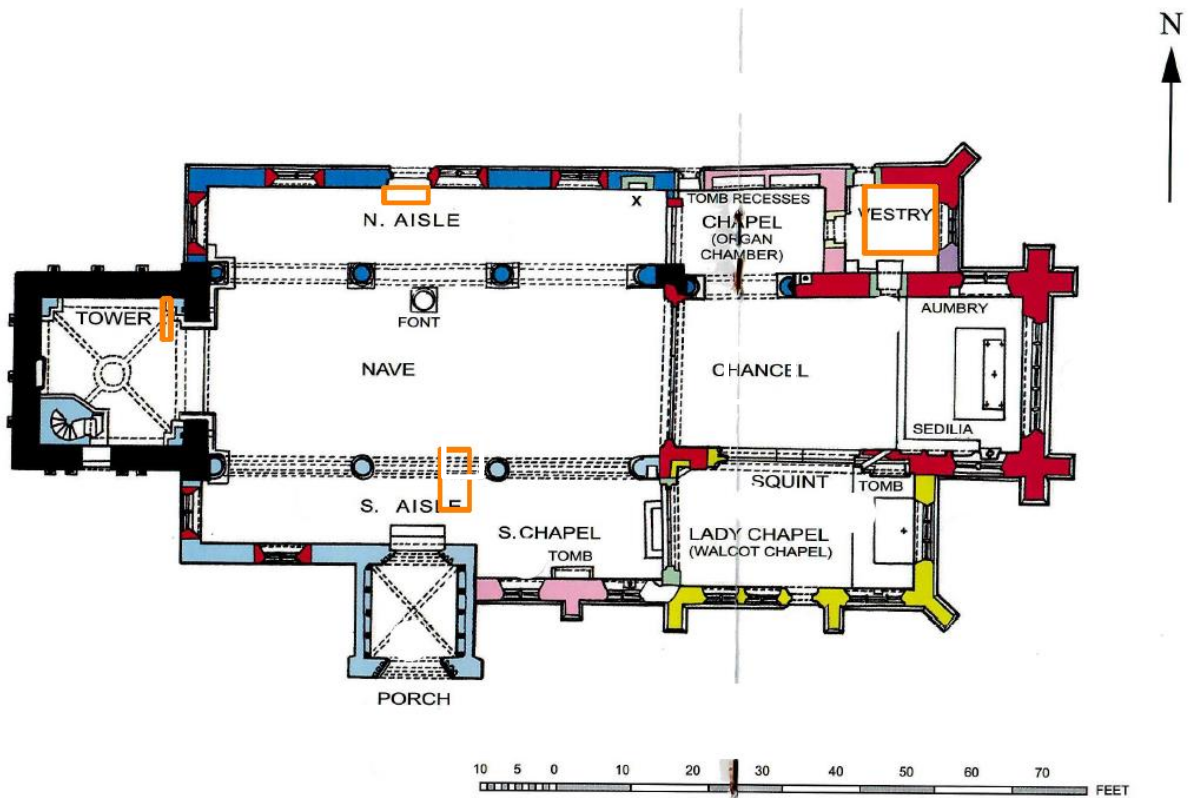


Figure 1: Site Location (upper with 1885 OS as background; lower after Dickinson 1968). Principal areas of archaeological observations shown in orange.

St John the Baptist, Barnack

Report on Archaeological Observation and Recording associated with New Heating Scheme

1 Introduction

1.1 Summary

This report records the results of an archaeological mitigation strategy implemented during provision of new heating, fed by underfloor pipes, and new boiler and sump in St John the Baptist, Barnack. The majority of the work reused existing floor ducts, but two new lengths were required in the north and south aisles, respectively, and a pit was dug for a new pump in the boiler room. Though the ducts were very shallow, they revealed the footings for the north aisle wall, earlier floor levels in the south aisle and part of the cut and fill of a relatively recent grave. Apart from a very small quantity of disarticulated bone, which was reburied straightaway, only two items were found – a fragment of pottery and a fragment of glass. Where floor slabs were temporarily removed, they were inspected for reuse; although the thickness of a few, and the occasional chamfer, suggests a medieval origin, there was no evidence of carving.

The boiler room was photographed while it was empty, and considered to have medieval origins, either as a charnel house or crypt. The pit in the boiler room was dug entirely into natural.

The opportunity was also taken to inspect and record the side of the duct in the Anglo-Saxon tower which, unlike elsewhere, on this side was not entirely brick lined. While there were no heaters, stone walls were photographed, including part of the 10th-century tower north wall. Lastly, a new piece of early sculpture was discovered, not as part of the heating works, but in the north-west quoin of the Anglo-Saxon nave, quite accidentally, during lunch on the last day of archaeological observations.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The church is centred on National Grid Reference 507930 305060 and is located on Main Street, Barnack, c.8.5 miles north-east of Peterborough. The extant church has a long and complex history, probably starting somewhere in the later 10th century with the Saxon tower, with further major developments in the 12th, 13th, 14th and 16th centuries, all very fine work, as well as minor works of later periods. It was restored in 1853–55. It is a Grade I Listed Building, List No. 1126844. It is of international archaeological and architectural significance.

Despite the village giving its name to the famous Jurassic oolitic shelly building stone, the church and surrounding streets appear to sit on Pleistocene gravel and sand (British Geological Survey 1989, 20 and online maps).

1.3 Planning Background

The works proposed did not require planning consent and, under the terms of the Ecclesiastical Exemption, did not require listed building consent. Instead, an application was made to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), whose Archaeological Advisor (Quinton Carroll), specified that archaeological monitoring should take place during the proposed works (DAC Ref 8561), according to the terms of the WSI

(written scheme of investigation) written by Jackie Hall, the archaeological contractor for this project. A copy of the WSI can be found in the appendices.

1.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

Accounts of the architectural development of the church can be found in several sources, including, but not limited to VCH 1906, Taylor and Taylor 1965, Dickinson 1968 (1990), CRSBI, O'Brien and Pevsner 2014, PCCHER, and will not be repeated in detail here. It is enough to say that there is multi-period high quality architecture, beginning with the Anglo-Saxon tower, with its architecture that looks early 11th-century and its sculpture that looks 10th-century or earlier. Other periods of importance in the building are the late 12th and early 13th centuries (the nave arcades, aisles and porch); the first half of the 14th century (chancel, chapels and vestry) and the early 16th century (Lady Chapel, including statue niches and sculpture).

Additionally, there is a significant collection of Saxon and early post-Conquest sculpture now stored near the bottom of the tower; numerous loose medieval cross slabs now on the north side of the church; a loose Christ in Majesty, now in the north aisle; and a fine Anglo-Scandinavian grave cover now in the Lady Chapel. The exceptional sculpture is undoubtedly linked to the flourishing medieval Barnack quarrying industry.

Perhaps surprisingly for such an important site and church, there have been very few recorded archaeological interventions. Accounts of the 1850s works are muddled, but the earliest, and presumably most accurate account tell us that after removing debris from the tower, that they was evidence for benches on the north and south sides, and that a plaster floor was found (Anon 1861, 389). The Christ in Majesty was discovered face down in the north aisle floor in 1930–31 (Dickinson 1968, 14; O'Brien and Pevsner 2014, 422), presumably during a renewal of the floor and it is now displayed in the north aisle. In 1984, a French drain was dug along the whole length of the north aisle north wall, and the foundations proved to be made up largely of broken decorated grave markers, including the fine floriated infant's slab, now near the tower arch (NVRCAR 1983–84). Lastly, the Anglo-Scandinavian grave cover was discovered during the renewal of the churchyard path in 2011, when it was unfortunately damaged.

1.5 Methodology and Timing

The archaeological methodology was as per the WSI (Appendix 3).

As a whole, the Heating Project commenced on Monday 9th September 2019 and was completed 25th October 2019. Archaeological inspection took place over five scattered days, starting with the inspection of moved floor slabs (which took place throughout the project) followed by the inspection of the heating duct in the tower; the new duct in the north aisle; the pit for the sump in the boiler room; and the new duct in the south aisle.

NB Heights OD were calculated from the benchmark on the south side of the tower, using the figure given in the OS Complete Benchmark Archive, which is different from that given in the 1st edition OS (25.87m OD rather than 26.12m OD) and using the builder's laser level. Throughout, north is liturgical north, rather than true north or magnetic north.

2 Archaeological Observations

The old ducts, which were reused in the new heating scheme are thought to be late Victorian. They are brick-lined and c.560-610 mm deep, with cement bottoms. Although some are covered with stone floor slabs, the

majority have fine cast iron grilles on top, of one design throughout most of the church, but another in the tower (Fig 2). Because they are fully lined, inspection of the ducts reveals nothing of the earlier archaeology of the church. There was one exception to this, however, at the west end of the west tower, which is shallower, and unlined on one side and the bottom. This was therefore inspected more carefully, along with the two short lengths of duct that were newly dug for the 2019 heating works, and the new pit in the south-west corner of the boiler room. Lifted floor slabs were examined for reuse; newly exposed walls were briefly

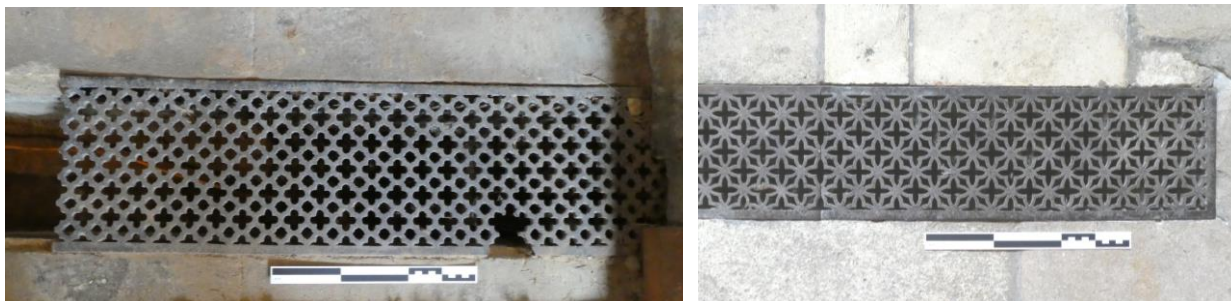


Figure 2: The two style of grille used over the Victorian heating ducts: left, grille used in tower; right, grille used in rest of church (scale = 0.30m)

recorded, including the briefly empty boiler room; and a new piece of early sculpture was discovered in the remnant of Anglo-Saxon nave.

2.1 Heating Duct in Tower

The duct in question runs around the north respond of the tower arch (Figs 1 and 3); at its north end, it lies adjacent to the inserted respond of the 13th-century vault, and then to the wall bench in the angle of that respond. The duct continues south under the floor and returns east to cross into the nave. The very north end, which does touch the Anglo-Saxon north wall, was not removed, and only a short distance of the east-west



Figure 3: General location of duct in tower, looking north-east



Figure 4: Duct in tower, after cleaning, looking north (scale = 0.30m)

branch was uncovered. The duct was only 0.31–0.40m deep and c.0.27m wide; it was lined with bricks on its west and south sides, and with stone on its east and north sides. After cleaning (Fig 4), the floor of the duct was shown to be a uniform compact fine orange-brown clay-silt, with occasional flecks of charcoal, frequent flecks of lime mortar, and occasional lumps of lime mortar (up to 50mm max), with one or two lumps of Barnack rubble at the north end (c.130mm max). One lump of mortar removed from the layer (orange-buff, moderate sand, occasional chalk) had a smooth surface, as if fallen from the wall; it did not appear to belong to the period of creating the duct, and may indicate that this is the level from which the 13th-century insertions were built. Even though only cleaned, there was a notable absence of bone, and no other find types were recorded.

The north side of the duct was lined with roughly coursed rubble (Fig 5). The north end is a continuation of the wall bench (?13th-century) above, while the remainder appear to have been put in to line the duct and support the floor slabs above.

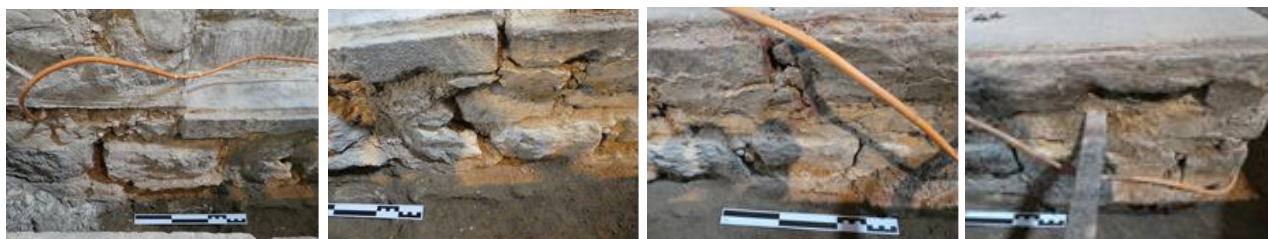


Fig 5: Duct in tower, north side (scale = 0.30m)

2.2 New Heating Duct in Nave North Aisle

The initial plan to cut a new north-south duct across the north aisle to the west of the north door was revised when an existing north-south duct was discovered on the east side of the doorway, and instead the new east-west duct was cut next to the doorstep and a narrow section of adjoining wall to the west (frontispiece and Figs 1 and 6). This decision was made after the removal of two York stone slabs showed that there had already been considerable disturbance in front of the doorstep, which is modern. The depth of bedding for the slabs was such that the archaeological deposits below could be revealed but not disturbed; the depth of sand and cement bedding removed varied from 100mm (to the south) to 210mm, in front of the doorstep itself.



Figure 6: Area excavated for new duct in north aisle, immediately in front of step to north door, looking south (scale = 0.30m)



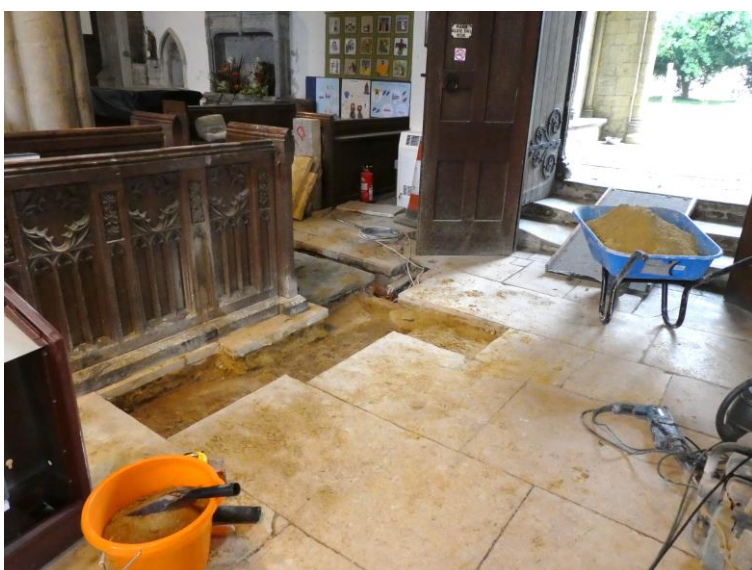
Figure 7: Details of north aisle trench: left, western area after removal of tiles; right, eastern area, immediately in front of door step (scale = 0.30m)

The two sections of trench (Fig 7) were dug on different days, but both revealed either old, fairly rough, floor slabs or, most probably, footings for the aisle wall at a depth of c.175mm below the current floor (24.90m OD). The series of stones making up this footing/floor was not complete (over a total width of 1.90m) but was sufficiently substantial to suppose it was once complete but now broken/disturbed; the maximum projection was 250mm from the wall/ modern doorstep. If the stones are the footing for the wall, this implies that the medieval (late 12th-century) floor was not much higher than this. This also makes sense of the treatment of the arcade bases that, on the slightly later south side, look as if they have sunk into the floor i.e. the floor has risen. On the north side, the bases of the arcade stand unnaturally above the floor level i.e. they have been deliberately raised at some point, most likely during the mid-19th-century restoration.

The layer around the footings was very similar in appearance to that in the tower. As it was not excavated, the relationship between it and the footings was not obvious but, with no clear cut for the footings, this deposit must surely post-date them.

Another, larger and flatter stone (400 x >235 x c.65mm) was found south of the footings (Fig 7). It was not clearly *in situ* and may have been re-used just as part of the leveling for the extant floor.

2.3 New Heating Duct in Nave and South Aisle



A new duct was required from the main run through the south aisle to a new heater to be sited behind the south-eastern block of nave pews (Figs 1 and 8). As with the north aisle trench, it was possible for the builders to just remove the bedding sand for the stone floor slabs, leaving the archaeological layers

Figure 8: Trench for new duct in nave and south aisle. General view during excavation, looking south-east



Figure 9: Trench in nave and south aisle, after excavation, looking east (scale = 1m)

below for inspection (Fig 9). While all the other slabs were bedded on sand, the floor slab edging the duct (south-east of trench) was bedded on a mixture of mortar and earth and a thin organic layer (decayed wood?) was visible just below the floor slab.

After removing the bedding, the bulk of the trench (northern three-quarters) came down onto a crumbly silty layer, with occasional small stones. A fragment of fine window glass was retrieved from the clean of this layer – it may have dated to the change in floors rather than the layer below; it is likely to be late medieval to early post-medieval (Appendix 2). Where this layer was not disturbed, it had a firm surface at 145–160mm below the current floor, (24.94m OD), possibly indicative either of a beaten earth floor, or of consolidation below a mortar or stone floor. It dipped from north to south.

The south end of the trench was more complex, with three different features visible (Figs 10 and 11). Easiest to see was the sand-filled cut for the Victorian heating duct to the south, shown partially emptied on its north side. This cut into two earlier deposits: a loose deposit on the west, and a mortar surface on the east, which had been partly cut away by the builders. The loose deposit was very mixed: mainly silt with moderate chalk, moderate large lumps of clay, frequent small stones. Two fragments of disarticulated child's rib bone were found (subsequently reburied in the same place), and a fragment of rim from a mid-11th to mid-12th-century small jar (Appendix 1). Almost certainly, this is grave fill. On further investigation, the north side of the grave cut could be established c.0.50m from the Victorian duct to the south. Its east side probably cut through the mortar deposit, although this relationship could not be established for certain, within the constraints of the project and the trench.

The area of mortar had a very smooth upper surface, either indicative of a floor or the bedding layer for an earlier stone floor lower than the existing one; the surface was at 24.93m OD. An area was removed for examination (Fig 12), after the main excavation had been completed; it was seen to be lime-based, buff-coloured and even textured; it was not very hard. Below it was a second flat surface at 24.90m OD (Fig 11 and 12), which seemed to be a mixture of silt and mortar, with significant fine layering, including charcoal. This had the same uncertain relationship with the grave. These floors may have once been more continuous, with this area a fortuitous survival.

Unfortunately, there is little clear dating evidence for any of these features, except that they all pre-date the Victorian heating duct. Since the grave is cut into the principal deposit, the Saxo-Norman pottery found there must surely be residual, and the glass is also residual, found just below the bedding sand.

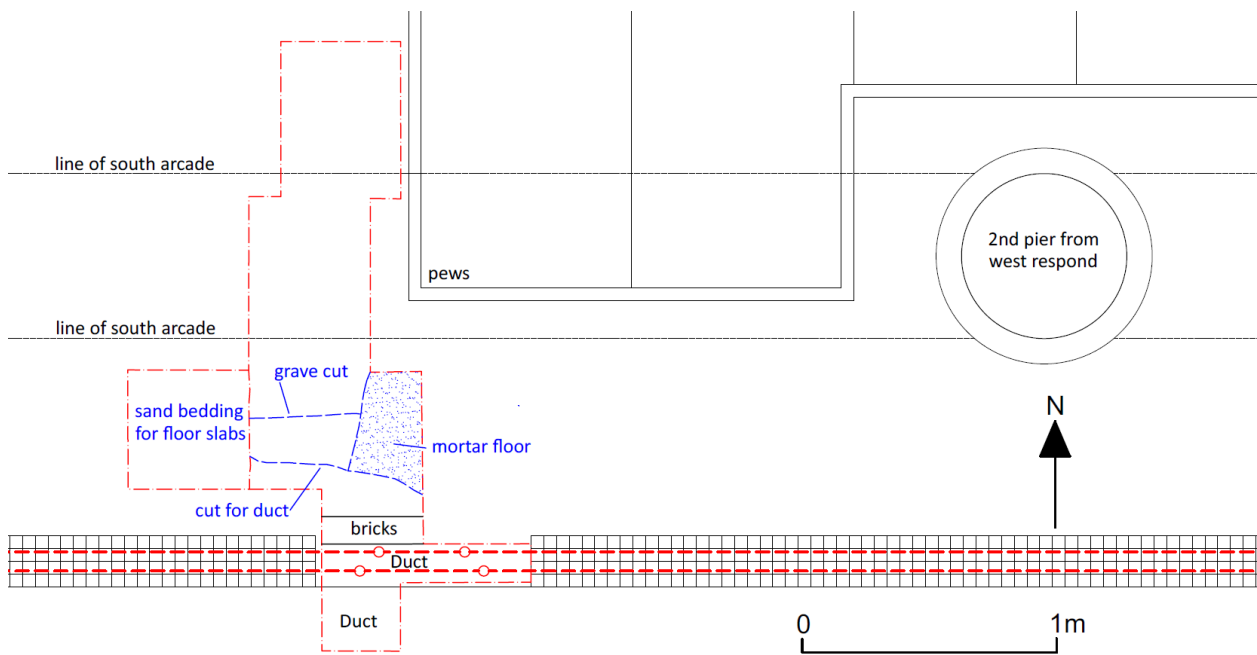


Figure 10: Plan of archaeological features in new duct south aisle-nave, plotted onto engineer's plan



Figure 11: South end of south aisle-nave trench, after further investigation. Parts of mortar floors have been removed, and the loose grave fill can be seen. All of these are cut, on the south side, by the trench made to create the brick-lined duct (scale = 0.30m)



Figure 12: The mortar floors: (upper) the upper floor; (lower) the lower surface. Both samples disintegrated after they were photographed

2.4 The Floor Slabs

Paving was removed and reset in the chancel, the east end of the nave, and the north and south aisles. The majority of the slabs were quite thin, and probably date to the restoration of the 1930s, when the Christ in Majesty was discovered. Two slabs from the west end of the north aisle were probably medieval: one was 960 x 425 x 120mm, and the reuse is based solely on its thickness – it may originally have been a plain grave cover; the other is c.460 x 435 x 100mm, with a 45° 92mm long chamfer at one end. A further tapered slab from the eastern end of the nave, 1090 x 470-320 x 110 mm, might be a small plain reused grave cover.

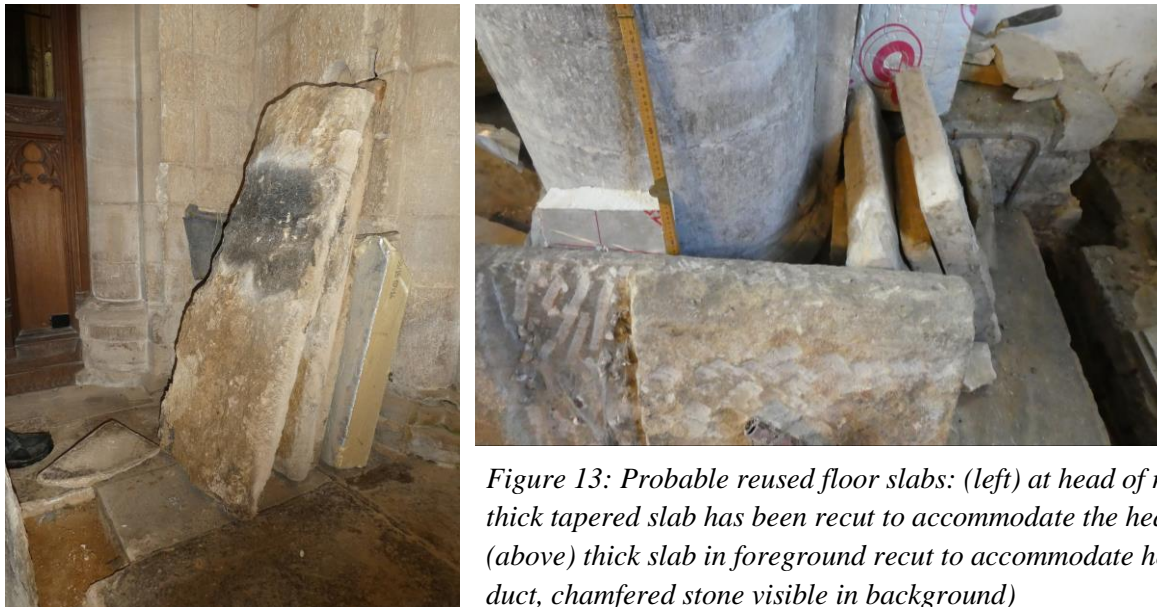


Figure 13: Probable reused floor slabs: (left) at head of nave, this thick tapered slab has been recut to accommodate the heating duct; (above) thick slab in foreground recut to accommodate heating duct, chamfered stone visible in background)

2.5 The Boiler Room and Vestry

While the boiler room (c.2.88m N–S and c.2.64m E–W), located beneath the vestry, was divested of its boilers and related equipment, the opportunity was taken for some quick record shots (Figs 14a–d). The walls are constructed of coursed ashlar, while the ceiling is a low brick vault, with a segmental arch. The doorway and staircase walls are clearly inserted into the medieval fabric of the church above, and are of Ketton stone. The floor is at c.1.60m to the top of the stair, or c.23.24m OD.

From an archaeological perspective, it is unfortunate that the whole chamber is whitewashed, since it is now impossible to comment on the geology of the ashlar walls. All the 14th-century work in the church is of Barnack stone, with the early 16th-century Lady Chapel being the first use of other building stone, also Ketton. Although the doorway, the brick vault, and various brick-lined insertions in the east wall are manifestly Victorian, or later, the same cannot be said of the stone walls themselves, especially in the lower sections, while whitewash obscures the relationship of the door jambs to the walls to each side. Apart from the stonework, the walls also have various unexplained plinths and other projections (e.g. a plinth in the south-west corner; a high ledge either side of the door including a possibly 11th-century grave cover (Fig 14e–f); and a partial plinth east of the door), all of which seem more in keeping with medieval techniques than 19th-century ones. The most likely medieval use of this space is either as a charnel house, or a crypt.

The probable gravecover is only c.115mm high (and more than 640mm long), has a roll-moulded edge on three sides, at least at one end, within which a small St Andrew's cross is incised. This is reminiscent of the much more ornate, and earlier (2nd half of the 10th century) mid-Kesteven covers, carved from Ancaster stone, which have decorative side panels (Everson and Stocker 1999, 36–46). If this is a correct



Figure 14: The boiler room. (a) north-east corner; (b) east wall; (c) south wall; (d) west wall and north-west corner; (e) and (f) probable reused 11th-century gravemarker in north wall.

interpretation, then the stone is part of a practice in Barnack of producing monument types *'that are essentially crude copies of earlier Ancaster monuments'* (David Stocker and Paul Everson, pers com).

The vestry above is also more mysterious than appears today: apart from originally having two floors, which is well-known, it is also recorded that, before the mid-19th-century restoration, there was no doorway into the church, but instead a small opening (2ft 6in by 2ft 4in), from which, presumably, the closely adjacent high altar could be seen (VCH 1906, 469). This makes no sense at all for a vestry, and the possibility that there, perhaps, a two-storey anchorite's cell above a charnel house should be considered. Alternatively, the upper two stories may have been priest's house, associated with either a chantry or with the Guild of Corpus Christi, as suggested by Syers (1899, 19–20). Further research, into the records of the 1850s restoration, other antiquarian records, and into the means of access to the various chambers, is required, but cannot be considered here.

A pit for the new sump pump was cut into the north-west corner of the boiler room c.890mm north–south and 680mm east–west, to a depth of 530mm from the boiler room floor. The removed floor slabs (largest 225-330 x 780 x 70mm) were of a shelly oolitic limestone i.e. Barnack, if reused, or Clipsham if Victorian or later. This excavation (Fig 15) showed that both the walls and the floor slabs sit directly on natural, which, here, is a dark orange and gravel mixture, although there is a thin trampled layer at the top.



Figure 15: Pit for boiler room sump pump: (left) general view, looking north; (right) north section, showing solid sand and gravel (scale = 0.30m)

2.6 Hidden Walls

As part of the project, all the wall heaters were removed and replaced. While most of them lay against plastered walls, three were attached directly to the stone walls. Purely as a matter of record, these walls were photographed before being hidden again (Figs 16–18). They were the north wall of the tower, the east end of the south aisle wall (14th-century section) and the east wall of the north chapel (organ chamber).

In the tower and south aisle, only plain walling was recorded, similar in character to that around it. Modern ribbon pointing obscured the joints in the south aisle and north chapel. In the tower, the wall behind the heater had been smeared with cement, and fixing holes drilled directly into stones, both probably part of the 1980s heating scheme.

In the north chapel, the temporary exposure of the east wall revealed the top of the foundations (suggesting that the original floor level was higher than now); the relationship with the later east door; and the relationship with the south wall, which can clearly be seen as originally the exterior north wall of the chancel.



Figure 16: North wall of tower, temporarily exposed; 13th-century insertion at right hand side (scale = 1m)



Figure 17: South wall of south aisle, temporarily exposed (scale = 1m)



Figure 18: East wall of north chapel, temporarily exposed; foundations and earlier external wall of chancel can clearly be seen (scale = 1m)

2.7 Sculpture

Purely by chance, a previously unseen item of Anglo-Saxon sculpture was identified, in the north-west quoin of the Anglo-Saxon nave, which can be seen at the exterior junction of the tower with the north aisle (Fig 19). It was identified by the strong textural difference between it and the much smoother long quoins and pilaster strips visible in the quoin and in the tower, and the sculpture is probably on two sides, with the right hand edge showing clear marks of retooling. It must pre-date the construction of the Anglo-Saxon nave, which is almost certainly contemporary with the tower. Unfortunately, the carving is very worn and the subject is difficult to make out; opinions have varied from a standing figure to a scroll. Further work on this piece requires specialist photography.

The information has been passed on to the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture.



Figure 19: New sculpture in north-west quoin of Anglo-Saxon nave. Location is two stones above the cover to the lightning conductor, seen in the left hand picture

3 Conclusions

Despite the new heating scheme having only a small impact on the historic fabric and archaeology of Barnack Church, the archaeological monitoring was worthwhile on a number of fronts. New sculpture and a new gravemarker were discovered; the new ducts in the north and south aisles, and the newly cleaned duct in the tower revealed information about foundations, floor levels, graves, and the principal layer below the church. The boiler room revealed itself to have probably medieval origins, which may relate, liturgically, to a possible original use of the ‘vestry’ above, either as a crypt or charnel house below with a chapel or anchorite’s cell above.

4 Acknowledgements

I owe thanks to everyone who worked on this project, who were all unfailingly helpful and interested in the history and archaeology of this important and beautiful church building. I am especially grateful to John

Ward and Mike Mills from the church; James Sheehan, heating consultant; Peter McFarlane, architect; Oliver Foster-Pollard, project manager for the principal contractor and his staff; and last but by no means least, to the building contractor, Nick Evans, and his staff. I am also grateful to Jane Young and Jenny Mann for examining the pottery and glass fragments, and to various members of CASSS who have commented on the sculpture (Derek Craig, Rosemary Cramp, David Stocker, Jeff West), the 11th-century grave cover (David Stocker and Paul Everson). I am additionally grateful to Jeff West for passing on to me the references to Canon Argles' accounts of the 1850s discoveries in the tower.

5 Project Archive

The project archive, paper and electronic, including drawn, written and photographic records will be deposited with Peterborough City Museum under the project code BCHS 19.

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Appendix 1: Pottery Report by Jane Young

Introduction

A single sherd recovered from the intervention was submitted for examination. The vessel is of Saxo-Norman date.

The sherd was catalogued by ware (common name) and fabric type using a Lincolnshire mnemonic codename with a concordance to Cambridgeshire codes (Spoerry 2016). The fabric (Kilmurray 1980) was identified using a x20 binocular microscope. The sherd was quantified by ware and fabric type with three measures: number of sherds, estimated vessel and weight. The ceramic data including attributes such as decoration, condition and usage was entered on a Microsoft Access Database using ceramic codenames. Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001) and the PCRG, SGRP, and MPRG Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology guidelines (2016). Form types were identified using the Medieval Pottery Research Group's guide to the classification of forms (MPRG 1998; 2001).

Condition

The sherd is in a fairly fresh condition and stable condition and weighs 4grams. The sherd retains evidence for use in the form of an external soot residue.

Overall Chronology and Source

The single sherd recovered from the intervention was found in a grave fill in a trench at the south end of the South Aisle. The rim sherd comes from a small un-glazed collared jar in Stamford Fabric A/B dating to between the mid 11th and mid 12th centuries. Traditionally this form has thought to be of post-conquest introduction but more recently excavation of a Stamford-type ware kiln at Pontefract in West Yorkshire has suggested that the form may have been introduced earlier (Roberts and Cumberpatch 2009).

Summary and Recommendations

A single sherd from a small Saxo-Norman jar probably used domestically for cooking was recovered from the site. The sherd should be retained for further study of Stamford ware distribution.

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Appendix 2: Glass Report by Jenny Mann

A single piece of glass was recovered from the middle of the south aisle-nave trench in the church. This is a small, flat, very thin triangular fragment (14.8 x 10.2 x 1.2mm max) that was probably originally clear (i.e. colourless), but now has patchy black weathering. Almost certainly a piece of window glass, the longest edge appears to be slightly curved, with very slight traces of shaping (grozing?) towards one end. In the absence of diagnostic features, close dating is impossible, but it is most likely to be late medieval or very early post-medieval.

Appendix 3: WSI

A Written Scheme of Investigation detailing a Programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording in the Church of St John the Baptist, Barnack, Peterborough

Prepared by Dr Jackie Hall

19th August 2019

1 Summary

This written scheme details an archaeological mitigation strategy which, if approved, will be implemented during provision of new underfloor heating, and new boiler and sump in St John the Baptist, Barnack.

2 Site Location and Description

The church is centred on National Grid Reference 507930 305060 and is located on Main Street, Barnack, c. 8.5 miles north-east of Peterborough. The church has a long and complex history, probably starting somewhere in the later 10th century with the Saxon tower, with further major developments in the 12th, 13th, 14th and 16th centuries, all very fine work, as well as minor works of later periods. It was restored in 1853–55.

It is a Grade I Listed Building, List No. 1126844. It is of international archaeological and architectural significance.

3 Planning Background and Project Impact

The works proposed are too minor to require planning consent, and do not require listed building consent, under the terms of the Ecclesiastical Exemption. Instead, an application was made to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), whose Archaeological Advisor (Quinton Carroll), specified that archaeological monitoring should take place during the proposed works (DAC Ref 8561).

The archaeological impact of the project is limited to *c.* 6m of new ducting, approximate depth 150mm and a new boiler sump in the boiler room (*c.* 450 x 450 x 450mm). Additionally, *c.* 22m of stone slabs will be temporarily removed, as the heating pipes are upgraded. Thus, identifying reuse in these slabs is of particular importance.

4 Brief Architectural and Archaeological Background

Accounts of the architectural development of the church can be found in several sources, including, but not limited to VCH, Taylor and Taylor 1965, Dickinson 1968 (1990), CRSBI, O'Brien and Pevsner 2014, PCCHER, and will not be repeated here. As well as the multi-period high quality architecture, there is a significant collection of Saxon and early post-Conquest sculpture now stored near the bottom of the tower; numerous loose medieval cross slabs now on the north side of the church; a loose Christ in Majesty, now in the north aisle; and a fine Anglo-Scandinavian grave cover now in the Lady Chapel. Some of these stones were found during previous works to the building, and are thus particularly relevant to the current works. The exceptional sculpture is undoubtedly linked to the flourishing medieval Barnack quarrying industry.

Previous discoveries, where find-spots recorded:

4.1 Christ in Majesty

This was discovered face down in the north aisle floor in 1930 or 31 (Dickinson 1968, 14; O'Brien and Pevsner 2014, 422), presumably during a renewal of the floor in that area. This is now displayed in the north aisle.

4.2 Cross slabs and grave covers

In 1984, a French drain was dug along the whole length of the north aisle north wall, and the foundations proved to be made up largely of broken decorated 'grave markers', including the fine floriated infant's slab, now near the tower arch (NVR CAR 1983–84).

4.3 Anglo-Scandinavian grave cover

Now in the Lady Chapel, this was discovered during the renewal of the churchyard path in 2011, when it was unfortunately damaged.

5 Aims of the Archaeological Project

- To determine whether any of the stones that will be turned over for the new heating pipes have been reused and, if so, to determine their original function/ appearance.
- To identify and characterise the nature of any archaeological deposits disturbed during the course of the work, and interpret them in the context of the known archaeology of the site and surrounding area.
- To create a photographic record of the works and any features observed, and a drawn record, if that is appropriate.

6 Methodology

6.1 Site Work

6.1.1 The contractors will allow adequate time and access for the archaeological contractor, who for this project is Jackie Hall, or her appointed replacement (if necessary), to make a full and detailed record of any archaeological deposits or architectural or sculptural features which are uncovered within the

limits of the development. The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the development timetable and will cause no delay to the development unless otherwise agreed if, for example, major archaeological or architectural or sculptural finds are encountered (see below).

- 6.1.2 All archaeological features encountered will be located on a copy of the developer's plan and elevation, at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20, with levels relative to Ordnance Datum, and details of each feature or deposit will be recorded to enable the determination of their form and function and stratigraphic sequence. Any significant features will also be recorded at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10, as appropriate, and in sectional drawings.
- 6.1.3 A digital photographic record, will be made of archaeological and architectural features, where appropriate, and general views of the site will be taken to record the context.
- 6.1.4 All finds made during the works will be collected, located and assessed for later analysis. Architectural and sepulchral stone will be recorded by Dr Jackie Hall and may be retained by the Church. All finds made during the works will be collected, located and assessed for later analysis by appropriate specialists. Modern artefacts will be noted but not retained.
- 6.1.5 In the event that a major archaeological (including, for instance, unexpected structural remains or significant pre-church activity) / architectural / sculptural find is identified, the archaeological contractor will immediately inform the Church and Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, and a site meeting will be convened with the Church, the architect, the archaeological contractor, the main contractor and relevant specialists at the earliest opportunity. Completion of the works in the relevant part of the site will not be permitted until a mitigation strategy has been agreed and implemented.
- 6.1.6 In the event that human skeletal remains are exposed, *in situ* burials will be left undisturbed as far as is practicable, and disarticulated bones will be reburied in the same place as soon as possible. If there are articulated remains that must be disturbed, then work must stop, the DAA/DAC contacted, and a faculty obtained, with a new mitigation in place.
- 6.1.7 In the unlikely event that deposits relating to industrial activity are encountered, samples and/or assemblages of slags and residues will be submitted to the appropriate specialists for analysis.
- 6.1.8 All relevant Health and Safety Legislation will be complied with throughout the period of the watching brief.
- 6.1.9 The supervising archaeologist will be covered by current Public Liability Insurance.

6.2 Analysis and Report

- 6.2.1 All saved finds will be recorded and reported upon by appropriately skilled archaeologists. The finds will also be assessed for their suitability for inclusion in the site archive.
- 6.2.2 Within six months of the completion of the watching brief a written description and analysis of the methods and results of the watching brief will be produced, incorporating specialist artefact and environmental reports where necessary and/or available.
- 6.2.3 Digital copies of the report will be supplied to St John the Baptist, Barnack, the DAA and PCCHER, and an OASIS record will be created.
- 6.2.5 Jackie Hall and/or her representative will retain copyright of the report relating to the programme of archaeological investigation associated with St John the Baptist, Barnack, but agrees that the Peterborough City Council Historic Environment Record and representatives of the church has licence

to reproduce any or all material contained in the report and archive for reference purposes on the understanding that this licence does not cover commercial use of the material by any third party. In all cases Jackie Hall and/or her representative retains the right to be identified as the originator of the work.

6.3 Archive Deposition

- 6.3.1 A paper and electronic archive, ordered to MoRPHE PPN3 standards, and containing all primary and secondary written and photographic material will be prepared and lodged with the Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery.
- 6.3.2 The finds, barring architectural and sculptural finds at the request of the church, that are judged suitable for inclusion in the site archive will be appropriately packaged, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery.
- 6.3.3 A copy of the archive index, including the location of archive materials, will be supplied to the PCCHER.

References

- CRSBI, Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland, <https://www.crsbi.ac.uk> (last accessed 19-08-2019)
- Dickinson, P G M, 1968, *Barnack Church Guide* (revised J M Goodwin 1990), Barnack
- NVRCAR, Nene Valley Research Committee Annual Report
- O'Brien, C and Pevsner, N, 2014, *The Buildings of England, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough*, London
- PCCHER, Peterborough City Council Historic Environment Record
- Taylor, H M and Taylor, J, 1965, *Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, vol. 1
- VCH, 1906, *The Victoria County History of the Counties of England: Northamptonshire*, vol. 2, London