

Report on Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation

St John the Baptist Church, Bressingham, Norfolk

ENF ref. 141139

Prepared for Bressingham PCC



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Project name	St John the Baptist Church; drainage improvements
Parish	Bressingham
District	South Norfolk
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Summary

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during drainage works At St John the Baptist Church, Bressingham.

The monitoring work led to the recording of mortar foundation deposits at the north side of the chancel and north aisle and at the east end of the south aisle. It is possible that the presence of mortar foundation deposits beneath the chancel wall suggests that an earlier wall existed in the vicinity. Three post-holes excavated near the tower and north-west corner of the building may represent the position of scaffolding during building work in the post-medieval period.

At least thirty burials were recorded, all of them within the area of a trench for a new soakaway north of the church. Other burials were unexcavated as they lay beneath the level required by the drainage works.

Finds recovered from the site during the work include prehistoric struck flints, pottery of later Neolithic earlier Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and ?Late Saxon/medieval date, some small fragments of fired clay including a piece from a possible Saxon loomweight, fragments of post-medieval floor and roof tile and brick, and fragments of clay tobacco pipe and animal bone.

The human remains were reburied by the Vicar below the north path and immediately to the north of trench from which most of them came.

1.0 Introduction

St John the Baptist Church is situated on the south side of the A1066 which runs through Bressingham to the south of the existing main built up area of the village and about 4km west of Diss in South Norfolk (TM 0760 8075).

Building repairs and improvements were being undertaken at the church by Nicholas Warns Architect Ltd and G.F. Atthowe Builders Ltd for Bressingham PCC. The work included a new nave roof, repairs to the tower roof and masonry repairs at some

parapets and other areas. New gutters and downpipes were installed around the church with associated new drainage gullies, drains and soakaways.

The archaeological work involved monitoring and recording during the groundworks for the drains (Fig. 1). The work accorded to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Sarah Bates to meet the requirements of a brief set by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES Generic Brief for the Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control, Stephen Heywood, 15.09.16).

Bressingham PCC funded the improvement work at the church with the aid of a National Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

The archaeological archive will, on completion of the project, be prepared following the relevant policy on archiving standards, and deposition of the archive with Norfolk Museums Service will be arranged. An Oasis form is included below as Appendix 1.

2.0 Geology and topography

The church is positioned on the gentle south facing slope of the Waveney valley; the river being about 600m to the south.

The underlying solid geology of the area is chalk, overlaid by Lowestoft Formation chalky till and outwash sands and gravels of glacial origin. Just to the south are fluvial and detrital sands, silts and clays on the terrace and slopes of the river valley with organic accumulations of peat closer to the river (British Geological Survey © NERC 2017). The area falls within that of the South Norfolk Claylands and 'Strong Loams' area of central Suffolk and sandy loam soils led to extensive arable farming from the medieval period onwards (Williamson 2005, 8-9, Martin 1999, 20-21).

Immediately to the west of the church, on the other side of Church Lane, is a small extension to the graveyard. To the east is Bressingham Hall and gardens and to the north and north-west are a few houses and a large horticultural nursery. Surrounding all these to the north is, mainly, arable farmland while to the south, towards the River Waveney, are strips of woodland and pasture.

A benchmark on the north-west corner of the tower is at 30.35m OD.

3.0 Archaeological and historical background

Bressingham parish includes several scattered hamlets and a number of commons including Bressingham Common the position of which is indicated by Common Road and Common Farm (the latter about 2km north-east of the church). The presence of possible medieval tofts visible as ditched enclosures on aerial photographs suggests that settlement then extended further onto the common than it now does in that area. It does not appear to have been centred on the church.

The existing church building comprises chancel, nave with north and south aisles, buttressed square west tower, south porch and, north of the chancel, a small vestry. The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER no. 10912) describes the 13th-century

chancel as the earliest part of the building, the tower as rebuilt in the 1440s and the nave and aisles as dating to 1480-1527 (although perhaps incorporating 14th-century arcades and doors). The chancel roof is recorded as of 18th-century date and building restoration occurred in the 19th century. Interior woodwork includes 16th pew ends and 17th-century box pews.

A conservation report has been prepared for the current project by Hugh Richmond (2016) and his description of the development of the building is summarised here. The 13th-century chancel is described as including priest's doorway, sedilia and piscina and a north window as perhaps dating from c. 1300. The chancel arch, nave arcades, north and south doorways, tower and font date from the first half of the 14th century and show that present layout of the church was established then although a change in the quoin types in the aisles show that they, originally, were lower. The belfry openings suggest a mid-14th-century date for the tower. The church was remodelled in Perpendicular style from the earlier 15th to earlier 16th century. Work included the introduction of a west doorway and window to the tower, the raising in height of the aisle walls, construction of the existing clerestory, re-roofing of nave and aisles, construction of the south porch and replacement of south windows in the chancel. A date of 1527 on the north side of the clerestory may be that of its completion. Later work includes provision of pews (see above). Richmond also mentions that Blomefield (1805) records the demolition in the mid-17th-century, of a vestry from the north side of the chancel. The doorway to this vestry was reused as an entrance to the existing 19th-century vestry. Major restorations to the church were carried out in 1910 and included re-roofing (involving recasting, in the churchyard, of lead). Other more minor repairs to the building have been undertaken more recently.

There are 15th-century bequests for work on the tower and a new bell, and in the 16th-century money for lead, and fadders of lead were given by individuals and from collections made in nearby parishes to help re-roof the building (Cattermole and Cotten 1983, 240).

Relatively few finds or sites pre-dating the post-medieval period are known from the close vicinity of the church. Sherds of Roman pottery (and a single post-medieval sherd) have come from a horticultural area 500-600m to the SE and an Early Saxon bird-shaped brooch was found 230m north of the church in 2009. A medieval pit was recorded during excavation just north of the early 16th-century guildhall of St John the Baptist approximately 160m WNW of the church.

A burial of 7th-century date was found in 2009 during renovation of the fire-gutted Chequers Inn which is immediately north of the church on the opposite side of the A1066. The burial was that of a middle-aged man who had been laid west to east in the manner of Christian burials. This, and some other human remains found just outside the churchyard to its NW in 1956, might suggest the former extent of the churchyard, or, perhaps, burials made close to the church (or a previous church). Both the first edition Ordnance Survey map and a 19th-century tithe map show a widened area of road between the inn and the church and this survives today with a wider grass verge in front of the churchyard boundary fence and lychgate (the latter dated 1915). Perhaps, at one time, the north side of the churchyard was defined differently, or less distinctly, than it is today.

Part of an undated wattle and daub building is recorded, found during garden digging about 150m east of the church and close to the A1066/Low Road. Other records on the NHER for the vicinity of the church are all of 17th to 19th-century buildings (mostly timber-framed, or 'Tudor-style'). Closest to the church are the 17th or 18th century timber-framed and thatched Chequers Inn, a 17th century timber-framed cottage just west of the inn and the Tudor-style former rectory and its stable, dovecote and other outbuildings built in 1842, just to the east of the church.

Overall, maps show that only a few houses have been built in the vicinity since the mid-19th century, these located on School Road to the north-west of the church. A small number of buildings appear to have disappeared since being shown on a 19th-century tithe map including two formerly set between fields just to the south of the church.

4.0 Methodology

Archaeological monitoring aimed to observe and record the presence or absence, location, nature and date of any surviving archaeological deposits within the areas affected by drainage works.

The trenches were dug by machine and by hand by the site contractors under archaeological supervision and control.

The location of the trenches was recorded and trenches were assigned context numbers for the purpose of reference and description. *Pro forma* context sheets were used to record the trenches.

Articulated skeletons (or parts thereof) were hand-excavated and recorded and were carefully lifted. Individual burials were recorded on *pro forma* 'burial' context sheets which include all aspects of the grave, skeleton and grave fills. They were bagged individually (one skeleton per bag). Disarticulated bone was recorded and bagged by context. The human remains were reburied by the Vicar.

Digital and black and white film photographs recorded the archaeological deposits and the work at the site generally.

Finds of archaeological significance were retrieved. No deposits required sampling for environmental assessment.

Site conditions (weather, light and access) were good.

5.0 Results (Figs. 1 - 6, Plates 1-24)

Context numbers are shown in square brackets and listed in Appendix 2.

Excavated trenches were allocated context numbers and are shown in Figure 1. Depths given below were measured from the ground surface. In each of the small trenches for new downpipe gullies, a deeper circular area was dug by the contractors for the installation of the new gully pot.

Deposits below the topsoil which had accumulated due to the repeated digging and redeposition of material by grave-digging or other activity, and where individual features

were not identifiable, are referred to as churchyard soil [86] and varied slightly in different areas but (unless described otherwise below) were light to mid brown sandy silt with occasional mortar flecks and small flints. Topsoil comprised brown sandy silty loam with occasional flints and, in some areas, some fragments of brick/tile and mortar rubble [85].

On completion of the archaeological work the human remains recovered during the excavations were reburied, during a service led by the Vicar, in a trench dug immediately to the north of (and adjoining) new northern soakaway (trench 2).

North of the church

Trench [7]; and evidence from trench [1] to its north (Figs 1 and 2, Plates 1 -3)

Trench [7]: Area 6.00 x 1.80mm.

A trench was dug for the installation of a catchpit at the north side of the tower (Figs 1 and 2A). The base of the trench sloped down away from the church to a maximum depth of approximately 0.40m. Towards its east end a deposit of slightly yellowish cream sand and coarse mortar rubble was exposed and included frequent flints of all sizes [18]. The material was compacted but could be quite easily broken using a trowel. Two postholes ([14] and [16] cut the rubble layer and a sondage, dug to half-section [14], showed the sequence of deposits in the area (Fig. 2A and B, Plates 1 and 2). Deposit [18] was at least 0.20m thick – it continued below the base of the excavated post-hole. To the north and west its upper ‘surface’ appeared to slope down slightly away from the building. Above [18] was a thinner layer (70mm) of cream finer sandy mortar [19]. This was quite hard and appeared to run under the buttress footing to its north-east so it may have been deliberately laid (when wet). Above layer [19] was a mix of brown sandy silt and cream mortar with frequent flints; mostly angular small to medium-sized pieces [22]. This was 0.10m thick and also continued southwards beneath the buttress. Deposits [18], [19] and [22] are interpreted as foundation deposits for the tower.

Posthole [14] cut the deposits [18] and [19] and, almost certainly, [22]. It was well-defined with steeply sloping sides and a concave base and was 0.35m in diameter. Its surviving depth was 0.28m – although its upper part had probably been truncated by later activity. Its fill was mid to light yellowish grey brown gritty sandy silt with occasional to moderate amounts of small flint and an occasional larger piece which may have been post-packing material [15]. Five small fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (three of brick and one of possible roof tile) and two pieces of clay tobacco pipe of 17th and 18th century date were found in post-hole [14]. About a metre to the west a similar post-hole [16] survived at a slightly lower level cutting deposit [18] (its surviving depth only 0.18m). Its fill was yellowish grey brown mortar-rich silty sand with occasional to moderate amounts of small flint [17]. A few much larger brown cobbles (alike to some in the tower walls) had probably been used for post-packing. The two post-holes formed a ‘line’ parallel with the wall of the tower and were interpreted as probably having supported scaffold during historical remedial works to the structure (see also [55] below).

A modern drain cut across the north-east part of the catchpit area; part of the ceramic drain pipe was exposed (Fig. 2A). The drain continued westwards along the north side of the excavated area. It, and the archaeological deposits to the south-east, were overlaid by the topsoil.

In the trench dug for the new drain from the catchpit an area of compacted quite solid dark cream sandy mortar with moderate amounts of flint rubble was recorded near the north-west corner of the north aisle [9] (Fig. 2A and C, Plate 3). No 'construction cut' for this feature was identified. Its make-up was very similar to deposit [18] seen to its south-west. Its highest point, at the south side of the trench nearest the building, was just 0.25m below the ground surface. Its west and north sides, at depths of between 0.40 and 0.45m, were fairly well-defined in the bottom of the trench although they appeared to slope further out and down slightly, away from the building. The solid mortared flint rubble extended beyond the base of the excavated trench (Fig. 2C). The rubble deposit thus followed the alignment of the corner of the building and was interpreted as a foundation deposit. Of interest was a probable post-hole which was recorded cut into the mortar layer [55] (Fig. 2A). It contained grey silty sand fill [56] and its position, roughly perpendicular to the two post-holes recorded in the catchpit to the south-west suggested that it probably related to those two features and was another scaffold post support.

Trench [64]; for new gully (Fig. 1, Plate 4)

Area 1.20 x 0.70m, depth 0.25m, depth of 'pothole' 0.75m.

Trench [64] was just to the east of the north doorway. Dark brown sandy silt was exposed in the bottom of the pot-hole above which was compacted yellowish cream mortar and flint rubble interpreted as a foundation deposit [63]. This was overlaid by 'churchyard soil' [62] and some compacted chalky sandy silt [61]. The rubble and overlying layers were cut to their north by a modern drain and overlain by topsoil.

Trench [44]; for new gully (Figs 1 and 3A, Plate 5)

Area 1.25 x 0.75m, depth 0.22m, depth of 'pothole' 0.80m.

Trench [44] was positioned at the north-east corner of the north aisle. In the lower part of the pot-hole and continuing below its base was very compacted orange cream mortar with occasional to moderate amounts of flint and flecks of chalk [72]. This was thought to be a foundation deposit equivalent to the rubble seen in trench [64] to the west. Above it was churchyard soil, some compacted chalk and the topsoil and, as in [64], a modern drain cut across the area at its south side. The chalk deposit was some kind of consolidation layer; it was only about 50mm thick.

Trench [45]; for new gully (Figs 1 and 3B, Plate 6)

Area 1.20 x 0.85m, depth 0.20m, depth of 'pothole' 0.70m.

Trench [45] was positioned at the corner between the chancel and north aisle. A series of deposits was recorded in the bottom and sides of the hole dug for the gully pot.

The earliest deposit was some fairly compacted orange cream mortar which was exposed in a small hole dug in the bottom of the pot-hole (at depth 0.68m from the existing ground surface) and continued below the maximum depth reached (0.73m). Above this were alternate deposits of dark brown compacted fine sandy silt [74], [76] and [78], and more orange cream mortar [75] and [77]. Above these layers was a deposit of slightly pinkish cream mortar which was about 60mm thick and had a hard upper 'surface' (Plate 6; visible on exposed 'step' at left side of pot-hole). This deposit extended

across the area of the excavated hole and continued southwards beneath the off-set flint footing to the chancel.

Above it was a thick layer comprising occasional medium sized flints in compacted crushed cream mortar with patches of brown sandy silt [80]. This appeared to be cut almost vertically by feature [81] which was filled by brown sandy silt with relatively few inclusions [82] and was interpreted as the construction cut and fill for the flint footing of the chancel. The extent of an overlying thin spread of compacted chalk [83] was uncertain but it probably represent consolidation material similar to that seen in gullies [44] and [64] (see above).

Trench [65]; for new gully (Fig. 1, Plate 7)

Area 1.20 x 0.70m, depth 0.25m, depth of 'pothole' 0.80m.

Trench [65] was positioned at the north-west corner of the vestry. Church yard soil with some rubble (probably relating to the previous vestry) was seen in the area dug out for the pot-hole. The mortar footing of the existing (19th-century) vestry was exposed along the bottom of its wall. Nothing else was seen in the trench.

Trench [46]; for new gully (Fig. 1, Plate 8)

Area 1.20 x 0.80m, depth 0.20m, depth of 'pothole' 0.70m.

This trench was immediately to the north of the vestry doorway. Some loose sandy mortar and rare flint rubble was seen at a depth of 0.30m from the surface and continuing down beneath the bottom of the area dug for the pot-hole. This probably related to the 19th century vestry.

Along the bottom of the existing vestry wall were two rows of bricks with another incomplete row closest to the wall. Bricks were also seen just above these at the bottom of the wall. The flat-laid bricks were on a very slightly different alignment to the wall but, with those above, probably represented a gully along the base of the wall (a similar feature may have existed alongside the south aisle; see below Trenches [69] and [70]).

Trench [66]; for new gully (Fig 1, Plate 9)

Area 1.20 x 0.75m, depth 0.25m, depth of 'pothole' 0.70m.

The trench was located at the north-east corner of the chancel. A small area of flint cobble footing existed/survived at the wall corner (Plate 9). It may have been partly destroyed by the former brick gully part of which was removed during digging the new pot-hole. Nothing else of archaeological interest was seen. Churchyard soil beneath and around the former gully was overlaid by topsoil.

Drain trenches [1]

Trenches for drains [1] ran from the gullies and catchpit to a trench for a new soakaway north of the church [2]. The trenches were 0.40m wide and ranged in depth from 0.35m near the building to approximately 0.75m just south of Trench [2].

A foundation deposit of mortar and rubble and a post-hole recorded near the north-west corner of the north aisle is described (above) with the related evidence from catchpit trench [7].

Some bricks exposed in the north side of the drain trench just north-east of the vestry related to a grave there and in the area of the path outside and near the north door a thick layer of orange sand make up material existed beneath the gravel surface (see Fig. 6). Elsewhere only the churchyard soil and topsoil was exposed and, in most areas nothing of significance was seen.

Trench [2]; for new soakaway north of the church (Figs 1, 4-6 Plates 10-16)

Area of soakaway 6.50 x 1.70m, depth 1.10m

Trench for silt filter at S end of [2] 1.20 x 1.20m, depth 1.10m

Trench [2] was located about eight metres north of the church and ran northwards beneath the gravel path to the north door (Plate 10). The depths of excavated burials were measured from highest points on various parts of the skeletons to the ground surface at the nearest side of the trench (see archive for details). Any depths cited below are for the highest surviving part of each skeleton but it should be noted that individual bone heights can vary significantly, for example; the top of the skull usually being several centimetres above the rest of the skeleton. All skeletons lay with the skull to the west (east-facing). Unless mentioned below, no evidence for coffins was identified.

Undisturbed natural dark orange sand was seen in very few areas and a minimum of thirty burials was recorded within the area of the trench. Many burials were partly, or heavily, truncated by subsequent ones and grave cuts were not always apparent. A few infilled graves were identified extending below the bottom of the excavated trench and in most other areas redeposited soils on the trench base showed that other graves also existed. It is impossible to definitively assign the burials to phases especially as the position and alignment of some burials suggest their contemporaneity while stratigraphic evidence is unclear. All burials (apart from [40] - mentioned below), however, are illustrated in Figures 4 and 5 with earlier' and 'later' burials shown respectively. For clarity of reading, in each Figure burials shown in red denote the earliest shown there. Figure 6 (section) shows the depths of some of the burials but grave cuts and relationships between them were not visible above the level shown. The burials for each 'phase' and 'sub-phase' are summarised below from north-to-south along the trench.

Burials shown in Figure 4

At the east side of the trench towards its northern end two 'features' were excavated and shown to be of earlier date than the nearby burials [34] and [35] (Figs 4 and 6). No skeletal remains were found within them, however, and it was uncertain whether or not they represented burials.

The earliest of a series of burials in the north-east corner of the trench was adult skeleton [53] which lay at a depth of 1.07m, was truncated to three sides, and extended eastwards of the trench. Just to the south (depth 0.89m) were the left leg and foot bones of a probable adult [47], the burial, again, heavily truncated by later graves. About a metre to the south-west, at depth 1.04m the left lower leg and foot bones of a skeleton were recorded [40] (Plate 11). These do not appear in Figure 4 as they were immediately

beneath the burial of a child [33] (depth 1.00m). However, the tibia [40] can be seen faintly (running west below the pelvis of [33]) in Plate 12. The skull of [33] was fragile and only partly survived. These two burials appeared to be within the same grave cut and it is likely that they represent an adult and child buried together in a grave which was subsequently truncated by burial [32] (Plate 12, and see below). The earliest in another series of burials to the south-east was [25] (depth 0.95m) (Plate 13). This appeared to be an adult skeleton but it only partly survived; its upper part and the vertebrae were missing (unexplained) and the burial was truncated by later graves at each side.

In the north-east corner of the trench burial [53] was cut by burial [54] which was at a slightly higher level (depth 0.84m) and did not truncate the earlier skeleton. Burials [40]/[33] were truncated to their south by burial [32], that of an adult which extended westwards of the trench (depth 1.00m) (Plate 12). To the south-east the partly preserved burial [25] (described above) was cut to its north by [26] (depth 0.94m) which itself only survived in small part; its right arm bones and a rib were present but the rest of the skeleton was truncated to its north (Plate 13). Burial [24] cut the south side of [25] (depth 1.00m). It can be seen partly excavated in Plate 14 and was the burial of an adult, probably female. On excavation the distal ends of the lower leg bones were seen to be missing; the skeleton was truncated immediately to the east of the trench. Its upper right part was also truncated, by a probable grave cut to its south-west within which were seen a few coffin nails (but no further evidence for that probable grave was seen). About a metre and a half to the south another adult burial was on a very similar alignment to [24]. Burial [13] (also at depth 1.00m) was truncated to its west although no grave cuts were identified in the area or for the burial itself. Further southwards the west end of adult burial [12] extended into the trench at depth 0.96m. The rounded end of the burial suggested that no coffin had existed (and there was no evidence for one).

Two other adult burials were recorded in the area dug for the silt filter at the southern end of the soakaway. Only the lower right part of burial [10] (at depth 0.86m) survived truncation (possibly during machining which began at this end of the trench) and no grave cut was identified. Burial [43] (depth 1.02m) extended just west of the trench dug for the silt filter and was truncated (Plate 15).

Burials shown in Figure 5

In the north-east corner of the trench the earlier burials [53] and [54] were cut by burial [52] (depth 1.05m) which itself was cut by a slightly deeper burial [51]. Both of these survived only in part as they were truncated to their west and south by later graves (see below). Just to the south, at the west side of the trench (and in between two later graves) were the poorly preserved remains of a small child [48] (depth 1.00m). Although the leg bones were not present the trace of a grave cut, seen during excavation, suggested that burial [48] may have cut through burial [47] to its east.

To the south, and mostly extending east wards of the trench, were several burials the earliest of which was probably that represented by the truncated remains (only some of the leg bones remained) of a young child [29] (depth 0.88m) (Plate 16). No grave cut was identified in plan but the burial was cut to its north by burial [28] (depth 0.84m). This contained the unfused remains of a juvenile. A little to its south was adult burial [30] (depth 0.84m) (both shown in Plate 16). A nail found beside its skull and a straight 'edge' running west-to-east within the south of the grave probably represented a coffin. Further

to the south, at the west side of the trench, some foot bones and the lower leg bones of burial [27] extended into the excavated area (at depth 1.06m. A coffin nail was found under the left foot bones.

Further south again, the some of the lower leg and foot bones of adult burial [8] (depth 0.90m) extended into the west side of the trench. At least three coffin nails were found with burial [8] but its south side was truncated.

In the south-east corner of the trench part of the left pelvis and femur of burial [84] were exposed but were left in situ as they were below the depth required for the installation of the silt filter. It was notable that the leg bone was on a different alignment to the other burials in the trench (Plate 15). It truncated burial [43] to its north but such a small part of it was exposed it is difficult to offer further interpretation.

Further burials either appeared to be, or were certainly, of later date than those described above. These included, at the north end of the trench, burial [39] (depth 0.99m). Several *in situ* nails defined the east end of and the skeleton was very well-preserved supporting its relatively late date - although it itself was cut to its north by a still later burial. Further south burial [23] was that of a juvenile and this, as well as its position in the trench (aligned roughly with some similar burials which have been described above suggest it may be 'contemporary' with them) (Plate 14). However, the stratigraphic position of burial [23] cutting an unexcavated grave (or graves) – recorded as [31] -suggested that it may be of later date than the others (this is uncertain).

Several graves extended below the base of the trench and were undisturbed. Mostly these appear to be of relatively late date; graves [50], [42], [49] cut through earlier burials. An infilled feature [31] (presumably a grave – see previous paragraph) was an anomaly as it was cut by burial [23].

Above the described burials the fills of the various graves were recorded as churchyard soil and this was overlaid by the sand make up material and gravel of the churchyard path.

Finds from trench [2] included seventeen struck flints of likely prehistoric date, two or three of which are likely to date from the earlier Neolithic period (or earlier). There are also five sherds of later Neolithic earlier Bronze Age Beaker pottery and a sherd of probable later Iron Age pottery, fifteen sherds of Roman pottery in two different fabrics and a range of dates and eight sherds of Thetford-type pottery of probable 11th-century date. A fragment of 18th-19th-century floor tile, two small fragments of fired clay one of which is probably from a loomweight, a pig tooth and cattle tooth were also found in the trench.

South-east of the church

Trench [67]; for new gully (Fig 1, Plate 17)

Area 1.25 x 0.70m, depth 0.20m, depth of 'pothole' 0.80m.

The trench was located at the south-east corner of the chancel. Churchyard soil was overlaid by up to 0.2m of topsoil. The wall base and footing were not exposed and nothing of archaeological interest was seen.

Trench [41]; for new gully (Fig. 1 and 3C, Plate 18)

Area 1.20 x 0.80m, depth 0.20m, depth of 'pothole' 0.80m

A deposit of quite compacted dark brown sandy silt was exposed in a small area at the bottom of the pot-hole at its east side [60]. Flecks of chalk and small flints were rare. No dating evidence was recovered but the deposit appeared to predate construction in this area. It was cut to its west by a probable construction trench [73] which contained compacted cream mortar; mostly crushed but with some larger fragments, and occasional small to medium-sized flints [59]. Overlying that was a more mixed layer of yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium flint and some mortar, mostly flecks [58] and, above that, some slightly compacted flint and mortar rubble [57]. These upper deposits were cut to their east by a former drain and overlaid by the 'topsoil' which was flint and mortar-rich in this area and disturbed by the drain.19

Trench [68]; for new gully (Plate 19)

Area 0.90 x 0.70m, depth 0.25m, depth of 'pothole' 0.75m.

The trench was located at the south-east corner of the south aisle. Churchyard soil was overlaid by up to 0.25m of topsoil. The area was previously disturbed by the previous gully and drain part of which can be seen in Plate 19). The wall base and footing were not exposed and nothing of archaeological interest was seen.

Drain trenches [3]

Drains ran southwards from the gullies being installed at the south-east side of the church to a new soakaway. The trenches were 0.40m wide and ranged in depth from 0.35m near the building to approximately 0.50m to the south [3]. Churchyard soil and topsoil were exposed and nothing of archaeological interest was seen.

Trench [6]; for new soakaway south-east of the church (Plate 20)

Area of soakaway 3.20 x 2.20m, depth 0.60 – 0.70m.

Trench for silt filter at N end of [6] 1.20 x 1.20m, depth 1.00m

Trench [6] was located about ten metres south of the south aisle in an area close to standing gravestones. Quite light slightly orangey brown churchyard soil and topsoil was removed from the area. The brown fine sandy loam topsoil with occasional to moderate numbers of small flints and occasional flecks of chalk/mortar was 0.30 – 0.40m deep. The frequency of chalk flecks and small to medium-sized flint inclusions in the lower deposit varied slightly across the trench, probably reflecting disturbance by grave-digging. No graves were identified, however, at the level reached – either in the relatively shallow main trench or the deeper trench for the silt filter at its north end. A few fragments and disarticulated pieces of human bone were recovered but were rare in occurrence.

South-west of the church

Trench [69] for new gully (Plate 21)

Area 1.20 x 0.80m, depth 0.25m, depth of 'pothole' 0.75m.

The trench was located immediately west of the central window of the south aisle. Churchyard soil was overlaid by up to 0.2m of topsoil. Bricks, partly exposed, and protruding from along the base of the aisle wall may have been some kind of footing or, probably, a gully alongside the building. Nothing else of interest was seen.

Trench [70]; for new gully (Plate 22)

Area 1.10 x 0.65m, depth 0.25m, depth of 'pothole' 0.75m.

The trench was located at the wall of the south aisle, immediately to the east of the porch. Two downpipes existed in the area and the remains of a former brick gully were partly removed. Bricks were exposed at the base of the aisle wall (a continuation of those seen in Trench [69]). Otherwise only topsoil, and nothing of archaeological interest, was seen in this trench.

Trench [71]; for new gully

Area 1.20 x 0.80m, depth 0.25m, depth of 'pothole' 0.80m.

A gully had previously existed in this area at the west side of the porch. The wall base and footing were not exposed and nothing of interest was seen.

Drain trenches [4]

Drains ran from the gullies being installed at the south-west side of the church to a new soakaway to the south. The trenches were 0.40m wide and ranged in depth from 0.30m near the building to approximately 0.60m to the south [4]. Immediately south of the porch doorway a layer of chalk was seen in the sides of the excavated trench at a depth of 0.20-0.30m from the gravelled path surface (Plate 23). It represented make up and consolidation of the area at the entrance to the building.

Otherwise, churchyard soil and topsoil were the only deposits exposed and nothing of archaeological interest was seen.

Trench [5]; for new soakaway south-west of the church (Plate 24)

Area of soakaway 3.00 x 2.10m, depth 0.70 – 0.85m.

Trench for silt filter at N end of [5] 1.20 x 1.20m, depth 1.00m.

Trench [5] was located about eight metres south south-west of the porch. The soils excavated from the trench were very similar to those described above for trench [6] and, again, no graves were identified although 19th century gravestones exist in the surrounding area and burials almost certainly existed at a greater depth than that reached by the trench. Only a couple of small fragments of human bone were found in the soil from the trench.

A dog-gnawed equid phalanx was the only other find from the trench.

Re-interment of human remains

The human remains excavated from the churchyard during the work were all reburied at a depth of approximately 0.60m in a trench dug for the purpose immediately to the north of [2]. The remains were laid to rest during a burial service by the Vicar

6.0 The finds

(Appendices 3-11)

by Sue Anderson (except where stated below)

Prehistoric Pottery (Appendix 3)

by Sarah Percival

A total of six prehistoric sherds weighing 37g were collected from three contexts in Trench 2. All the material is either unstratified or residual (recovered from later features). Five sherds of later Neolithic early Bronze Age Beaker came from burial [30] and deposit (37) in trench 2. The sherds are all made of sandy fabric containing moderate fine crushed calcined flint and are decorated with paired fingernail impression forming 'crowsfoot' motifs similar to examples found locally at Kilverstone (Garrow *et al.* 2006, fig.3.2, P174). A plain direct flat rim, also from a Beaker and in similar fabric was amongst the sherds found in deposit (37). A single micaceous sandy reduced body sherd found in a soakaway at the north end of the church may be Later Iron Age or possibly Early Saxon.

The Roman Pottery (Appendix 4)

by Alice Lyons

Fifteen sherds of Roman pottery weighing 129g were collected from seven contexts in Trench 2. All the material is either unstratified or residual (recovered from later features). As a result of continued disturbance within the church yard the pottery is extremely abraded and has an average sherd weight of only 8.6g.

Two pottery fabrics were identified. The majority of this small assemblage (by sherd count) are fragments from Sandy grey ware jars, made from a clay with abundant silver mica as a natural component. This type of clay is common in the Waveney Valley, north Suffolk, where a Roman pottery production centre is known to have been active from the late 1st century AD. Also found were a small number of Shelly ware jar fragments and a single large sherd from a storage jar. Clays rich with fossilised shell are not present in Norfolk so these wares were possibly traded from the Cambridgeshire or Bedfordshire areas. Both fabrics are commonly found in south Norfolk (Lyons and Tester 2014) and suggest the presence of domestic Roman activity in the vicinity.

Post-Roman pottery (Appendix 5)

Eight sherds of pottery weighing 47g were collected from two contexts. Seven were recovered from soakaway trench (02) and all appeared to be fragments of Thetford-type wares. They were in fine to medium sandy hard grey fabrics, apart from one sherd with buff-coloured margins and external surface. Two sherds appeared to be from sagging

bases. A rimsherd from burial (32) was from a medium jar (130mm diameter) and was in a rounded wedge form suggesting an 11th-century date.

It should be noted that Roman greystones and shelly wares were also recovered from the site, however, and there is a possibility that some or all of this material could be Roman, given the similarities of these wares in this area.

Ceramic building material (Appendix 6)

A fragment (46g) of quarry floor tile or pavement was recovered from soakaway trench (02). It was in a fine sandy white-firing fabric with a pinkish core and the surface was very worn, resulting in a thickness of only 20mm. This type of tile was commonly used in the 18th/19th centuries.

Post-hole fill (15) contained five small fragments of CBM (13g) representing pieces of post-medieval roof tile and brick in fine and medium sandy red-firing fabrics.

Fired clay (Appendix 7)

Two fragments (47g) of fired clay were recovered. A flattish fragment in a fine sand and chalk-tempered red/grey clay was found in soakaway trench (02).

Burial (32) contained a sand and chalk-tempered fragment with a convex surface and part of a central hole, probably representing a fragment of a circular loomweight, possibly of Early or Middle Saxon date.

Clay tobacco pipe (Appendix 8)

Post-hole fill (15) contained fragments of two stems. Two joining fragments with a bore diameter of 3.0mm may be of 17th-century date, while a third stem fragment with a bore diameter of 2.1mm may be later (18th c.).

Animal bone (Appendix 9)

Three animal bones (71g) were recovered: a pig canine was found in soakaway trench (02), a worn cattle lower incisor came from burial (24) and soakaway trench (05) contained a complete proximal phalanx of an equid. The latter showed signs of gnawing by a dog at the distal end.

Flint (Appendix 9)

Seventeen pieces of struck flint were recovered from the site.

They include four blades (or fragments of blades). The proximal part of a very small neat blade (from burial [31]) has its platform edge abraded showing that it was struck from a prepared core, and characteristic of the Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic period (Butler 2005, 84, 121). The medial part of another blade (found unstratified in trench [2]) is patinated bluish white and this, along with its form, probably suggests that it is of similar date. A very small quite neat blade and a medial fragment from another blade were also from context [2]. Eight flakes, a blade-like flake and a spall came from unstratified context [2] and are quite irregular but most of them appear to be of prehistoric date (although they are not closely dateable). A slightly utilised blade-like flake was found in possible

grave [34] and two very small flakes (spall-sized) were found during hand-cleaning at the north end of trench [2] (context [37]).

All of the flint was residual in the contexts where it was found and, unsurprisingly, it is all edge damaged to some degree. It is noted that all of the flint was from trench 2; this might be significant and suggest activity in that area during the prehistoric period but it is probably more likely to reflect the fact that most of the hand-excavation took place in that area. The recovery of two or distinctive blades, which are probably of earlier Neolithic date but could be a little earlier, is of interest.

7.0 Conclusions

Dark orange sand with occasional flint gravel was exposed in a few areas in the bottom of the trench excavated for the new soakaway north of the church. It occurred in some small areas in between some of the burials and showed that, at that level, some small areas were undisturbed by grave digging.

A few struck flints, including some blade type pieces of likely earlier Neolithic date, five sherds of later Neolithic earlier Neolithic Beaker pottery and an Iron Age sherd were found residually in later, or unstratified, contexts. These finds are significant as, prior to the present work, no prehistoric finds or sites were recorded in the NHER for the area surrounding the site (see above; Archaeological and historical background).

Fifteen Roman pottery sherds were found. Again, material of this date is not previously recorded from the immediate area around the church although Roman pottery has been found 500m to the south-east (see above).

A fragment of fired clay may be from a loomweight of Early or Middle Saxon date. This would add to the evidence, provided by the excavation of a burial beneath the Chequers Inn, for activity in the vicinity of the church during the Saxon period. Several sherds of pottery are probably from Thetford-type wares of likely Late Saxon/11th-century date (although it is noted that it is possible that the pottery might be of Roman date as the regional pottery from the two periods is very similar in nature).

The earliest excavated evidence relating to the church appeared to be some foundation deposits recorded in trench [45] at the north side of the chancel. These comprise alternating layers of mortar-rich material and sandy silt which seemed to pre-date the offset flint footing of the existing 13th-century chancel the sidewalls of which are considered to be among the earliest surviving parts of the building (Richmond 2016) and, thus, could represent an earlier wall. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from the deposits. This is, however, uncertain and it is possible that the deposits represent a wider lower raft-type foundation below the solid flint footing exposed at the base of the wall. Such foundation types are fairly commonly seen around churches (Rodwell 2012, 101). Whichever is the case, the source of the mortar present in the foundation deposits suggest that an earlier wall existed nearby.

Elsewhere along the north side of the church, compacted mortar rubble was seen in the lower parts of trenches [64] and [44] alongside the north aisle, and at the west end of the north aisle and north of the tower (in trenches [1] and [7]), These deposits appeared to differ from those recorded in trench [45] as they did not include alternating bands of silt (at least not in the excavated depth). These thick layers of mortar rubble are

interpreted as a raft type foundation deposit extending from alongside the building. The source of this rubble is easier to explain as the aisles and tower date from the first half of the 14th century and their construction would have involved demolition of formerly existing walls. At the south side of the church a construction trench, filled with mortar rubble was recorded at the east end of the aisle.

Two post-holes recorded to the north of the tower and another near the north-west corner of the nave was cut into the mortar rubble foundation deposit discussed above. The post-holes appeared to form a right angle aligned with the corner of the building and were interpreted as scaffold post support holes. Finds of post-medieval date came from one of the post-holes near the tower suggesting that the features related to work on the building during this period.

A total of at least thirty burials were recorded; some of them were only partly surviving or were unexcavated. All of them were found in the trench dug for the new soakaway beneath the churchyard path to the north door.

Several phases of burial were apparent although the exact sequence of some of the graves was uncertain as successive intercutting of graves had resulted in heavy truncation of many of the burials. They were typical, however, of a churchyard which has been in use over many centuries (Rodwell, 2012, 327) Concave-bottomed, round-ended graves without any evidence for coffins were present and suggested that some burials dated from the medieval period when burial was most likely to be in simple-earth cut graves, often with a shroud (although shroud pins were not found). A few graves were square-ended and/or included coffin nails in their fills or demarcating the side or end of a decayed wooden coffin. These are of likely post-medieval date (Roberts 2009, 50-51). The different grave types are discernible in Figures 4 and 5 – although not always clearly assigned to the ‘earlier’ or later’ phases shown. Stratigraphic relationships between the burials have, however, also been taken into account and the illustrations show the most likely sequence of graves. The spacing of the graves is also, clearly, an indicator of the ‘contemporaneity’ of burials as graves would probably have been dug in approximate rows. There are no very obvious such alignments within the area of the trench although the spacing of burials from south to north is particularly notable in Figure 4. Another notable group comprises several juvenile or child burials shown in Figure 5 although there is some discrepancy in the stratigraphic positions of these burials with burial [23] appearing to be of later date than (some) others. Child and infant burials often seem to be under represented in churchyard populations (Rodwell 2012, 316, Daniell 1999, 124) but within the excavated trench at Bressingham there are several. In one instance (Plates 11 and 12) it appears that a young child was buried in the same grave as an adult (probably a parent) but it is also possible that this part of the churchyard, at one point, was reserved for the burial of juveniles (Fig. 5).

To the south of the church no burials were disturbed at the depths reached by the excavated trenches.

A few later features and deposits were encountered during the groundworks; these included former drains and gullies and some path make up material near the south porch and below the paths at the north side of the church.

Finds recovered from the site during the work include prehistoric struck flints, pottery of later Neolithic earlier Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and ?Late Saxon/medieval date, some small fragments of fired clay including a piece from a possible Saxon loomweight, fragments of post-medieval floor and roof tile and brick, and fragments of clay tobacco

pipe and animal bone. Almost all of the finds were found residually or in unstratified contexts.

All of the human bone recovered during the work was left in the care of the church was subsequently reinterred by the Vicar.

Acknowledgements

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Hugh Richmond carried out the historical research of the building and information from the NHER was provided by staff of Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

Archaeological monitoring, excavation, recording and interpretation was by Sarah Bates and Simon Underdown. Figure 1 is based upon a plan of the church provided by Nicholas Warns Architect Ltd. The finds were examined and reported on by Sarah Percival (prehistoric pottery), Alice Lyons (Roman pottery), Sarah Bates (flint) and Sue Anderson (other finds).

This report has been approved by Steve Hickling (NCCES).

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Appendix 1

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: sarahbat1-285498

Project details

Project name	Drainage works at St John the Baptist Church, Bressingham
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during drainage works At St John the Baptist Church, Bressingham, May 2017 The monitoring work led to the recording of mortar foundation deposits at the north side of the chancel and north aisle and at the east end of the south aisle. It is possible that the presence of mortar foundation deposits beneath the chancel wall suggests that an earlier wall existed in the vicinity. Three post-holes excavated near the tower and north-west corner of the building may represent the position of scaffolding during building work in the post-medieval period. At least thirty burials were recorded, all of them within the area of a trench for a new soakaway north of the church. Other burials were unexcavated as they lay beneath the level required by the drainage works. Finds recovered from the site during the work include prehistoric struck flints, pottery of later Neolithic earlier Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and ?Late Saxon/medieval date, some small fragments of fired clay including a piece from a possible Saxon loomweight, fragments of post-medieval floor and roof tile and brick, and fragments of clay tobacco pipe and animal bone. The human remains were reburied by the Vicar below the north path and immediately to the north of trench from which most of them came.
Project dates	Start: 02-05-2017 End: 16-05-2017
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF141139 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	FOUNDATION Medieval
Monument type	POST HOLE Post Medieval
Monument type	INHUMATION Medieval
Monument type	INHUMATION Post Medieval
Monument type	GRAVE Medieval
Monument type	GRAVE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Early Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	BLADE Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	FLAKE Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval

Significant Finds	LOOMWEIGHT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK BRESSINGHAM St John the Baptist Church, Bressingham
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0760 8075 52.384874421934 1.050908480711 52 23 05 N 001 03 03 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Sarah Bates
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Sarah Bates
Project director/manager	Sarah Bates
Project supervisor	Sarah Bates
Type of sponsor/funding body	PCC
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bressingham PCC

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Report on Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation, St John the Baptist Church, Bressingham, Norfolk, ENF 141139
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Bates, S.,

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Appendix 2: List of contexts

Context	Type	Area	Category	Description
1	Trench	1	Contractor's trench	drain trenches N of church
2	Trench	2	Contractor's trench	soakaway trench N of church
3	Trench	3	Contractor's trench	drain trenches SE of church
4	Trench	4	Contractor's trench	drain trenches SW of church
5	Trench	5	Contractor's trench	soakaway trench SW of church
6	Trench	6	Contractor's trench	soakaway trench SE of church
7	Trench	7	Contractor's trench	catchpit N of tower
8	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut and fill, coffin and leg bones (adult)
9	Deposit	1	Footing	mortar ?footing NW corner of aisle
10	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill and lower right part of skeleton (adult)
11	Burial	2	Burial	grave fill and skull and upper vertebrae (adult)
12	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill and upper part of skeleton (adult)
13	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut and fill, most/lower part of skeleton (adult)
14	Cut	7	Post-hole	possible scaffold PH
15	Deposit	7	Post-hole fill	fill of PH [14]
16	Cut	7	Post-hole	possible scaffold PH
17	Deposit	7	Post-hole fill	fill of PH [16]
18	Deposit	7	Dump	mortar dump/foundation material
19	Deposit	7	Layer	thin quite hard mortar layer on top of [18]
20	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut and fill, skeleton (juvenile)
21	Deposit	7	Layer	topsoil
22	Deposit	7	Layer	demolition material ?relating to tower construction
23	Burial	2	Burial	skeleton only (child)
24	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill and adult skeleton
25	Burial	2	Burial	part skeleton only (adult)
26	Burial	2	Burial	part skeleton only (child)
27	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill, coffin, foot bones of skeleton (adult)
28	Burial	2	Burial	grave fill, skeleton (juvenile)
29	Burial	2	Burial	skeleton, arm bones only (child)
30	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill, coffin and skeleton (adult)
31	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill, coffin, not fully excavated - below soakaway level
32	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill and skeleton (adult)
33	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill and skeleton (child)
34	Burial	2	Burial	?grave cut and fill
35	Burial	2	Burial	?grave cut and fill
36	Skeleton	2	Burial	human bone - photographed
37	Deposit	2	Unstratified	finds from lower N end of Trench 2
38	Burial	2	Burial	same as burial 50, coffin nails, not fully excavated - below soakaway level
39	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill, coffin and most of skeleton (adult)
40	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill and lower leg and foot bones
41	Trench	41	Contractor's trench	trench for downpipe gully at W end of S aisle
42	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill and coffin, not fully excavated - below soakaway level
43	Burial	2	Burial	in inspection chamber area, grave cut, fill and most of skeleton (adult)

44	Trench	44	Contractor's trench	trench for downpipe gully NE corner of N aisle, mortar foundation recorded
45	Trench	45	Contractor's trench	trench for downpipe gully NW corner of chancel
46	Trench	46	Contractor's trench	trench for downpipe gully NE corner of vestry, loose mortar deposit and brick floor/footing recorded
47	Burial	2	Burial	grave fill and left leg bones of skeleton (?adult)
48	Burial	2	Burial	grave fill and part of skeleton (child)
49	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut and fill, not fully excavated - below soakaway level
50	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut and fill, not fully excavated - below soakaway level
51	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut and fill, foot bones only
52	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut and fill, leg bones of skeleton (adult)
53	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut, fill and part of skeleton (adult)
54	Burial	2	Burial	grave cut and fill, skull and upper vertebrae only (?adult)
55	Cut	1	Post-hole	post-hole near NW corner of N aisle
56	Deposit	1	Post-hole fill	fill of post-hole [55]
57	Deposit	41	Layer	mortar layer/dump
58	Deposit	41	Layer	sandy silt layer
59	Deposit	41	Layer	compacted mortar ?foundation deposit within [72]
60	Deposit	41	Layer	dark brown sandy silt, ?pre-construction layer
61	Deposit	64	Layer	compacted chalky sandy silt
62	Deposit	64	Layer	churtyard soil
63	Deposit	64	Layer	mortar and flint rubble ?foundation deposit
64	Trench	64	Contractor's trench	trench for gully E of N door
65	Trench	65	Contractor's trench	trench for gully at NW corner of vestry
66	Trench	66	Contractor's trench	trench for gully at NE corner of chancel
67	Trench	67	Contractor's trench	trench for gully at SE corner of chancel
68	Trench	68	Contractor's trench	trench for gully at SE corner S aisle
69	Trench	69	Contractor's trench	trench for gully, central S aisle
70	Trench	70	Contractor's trench	trench for gully, central/W , S aisle
71	Trench	70	Contractor's trench	trench for gully SW end of S aisle
72	Deposit	44	Layer	mortar layer, ?foundation deposit
73	Cut	41	Construction cut fill	construction for S aisle
74	Deposit	45	Layer	silty foundation layer
75	Deposit	45	Layer	mortar foundation layer
76	Deposit	45	Layer	silty foundation layer
77	Deposit	45	Layer	mortar foundation layer
78	Deposit	45	Layer	silty foundation layer
79	Deposit	45	Layer	hard mortar foundation layer
80	Deposit	45	Layer	mortar foundation layer, or make up
81	Cut	45	Construction cut	construction cut for flint footing
82	Deposit	45	Construction cut fill	fill of [81]
83	Deposit	45	Layer	compacted chalk
84	Burial	2	Burial	burial left in situ
85	Deposit	all	Layer	churtyard soil
86	Deposit	all	Layer	topsoil

Appendix 3: Prehistoric pottery

Context		Fabric and form	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Date	Comment
2	Trench	Sandy reduced ware jar/bowl	1	6	Late Iron Age	Possibly Early Saxon
30	Burial	Rusticated Beaker	2	15	Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age	
37	Deposit	Rusticated Beaker	3	16	Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age	

Appendix 4: Roman pottery

Context	Category	Fabric and form	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Date
2	Trench	Shelly ware storage jar(handmade)	1	66	Late Iron Age to early Roman (C1BC-ADC2)
2	Trench	Shelly ware jar	1	1	Roman (mid 1 st to 4 th century)
2	Trench	Sandy grey ware (abundant silver mica) jar with girth groove	4	13	Early to mid-Roman (mid 1 st to 2 nd century AD)
10	Burial	Sandy grey ware (abundant silver mica) jar/bowl	1	1	Roman (mid 1 st to 4 th century)
24	Burial	Shelly ware jar	1	6	Mid to late Roman (2 nd to 4 th century AD)
26	Burial	Sandy grey ware (abundant silver mica) jar	1	1	Roman (mid 1 st to 4 th century)
30	Burial	Sandy grey ware (abundant silver mica) jar with girth groove	1	10	Early to mid-Roman (mid 1 st to 2 nd century AD)
37	Unstratified	Shelly ware jar	1	6	Roman (mid 1 st to 4 th century)
37	Unstratified	Sandy grey ware (abundant silver mica) jar/bowl	2	9	Roman (mid 1 st to 4 th century)
37	Unstratified	Sandy coarse ware jar	1	4	Early Roman (mid 1 st to 2 nd century AD)
52	Burial	Shelly ware jar	1	12	Mid to late Roman (2 nd to 4 th century AD)

Appendix 5: Post-Roman pottery

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Base
2	THET	U	4	16	4			
2	THET	B	2	15	2			sag
2	THET	U	1	2	1			
32	THET	R	1	14	1	AB medium jar	5/6	

Appendix 6: Ceramic building material

Context	Form	Fabric	No	Wt	Abr	Notes	Date
2	QFT	wfs	1	46		worn, pinkish with red streaks	18-19
15	RTP?	fs	2	2		flakes, could be LB	pmed
15	LB	fs	1	4	+		pmed
15	LB	ms	2	7			pmed

QFT – quarry floor tile; RTP – plain roof tile: post-med; LB – later brick

Appendix 7: Fired clay

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	Colour	Surface	Notes
2	fsc		1	26	grey/red	flattish	17mm thick
32	fsc	LW?	1	21	pink-grey	convex	fragment of circular loomweight? Part of central hole c.30mm diameter

Appendix 8: Clay tobacco pipes

Context	Frag	No	Wt (g)	Bore diam	Abrasion	Notes	Date
15	stem	2	6	3.0		joining	17th c.
15	stem	1	2	2.1			18th c.

Appendix 9: Animal bone

Context	Species	Part	No	Wt (g)	MNI	Notes
2	Sus	Canine	1	8	1	
5	Equid	Prox phal	1	60	1	?canid gnawing at distal end
24	Bos	Lower incisor	1	3	1	worn

Appendix 10: Flint

Context	Type	No.
2	spall	1
2	flake	8
2	blade-like flake	1
2	blade	3
31	blade	1
34	utilised flake	1
37	utilised flake	1
37	spall	1

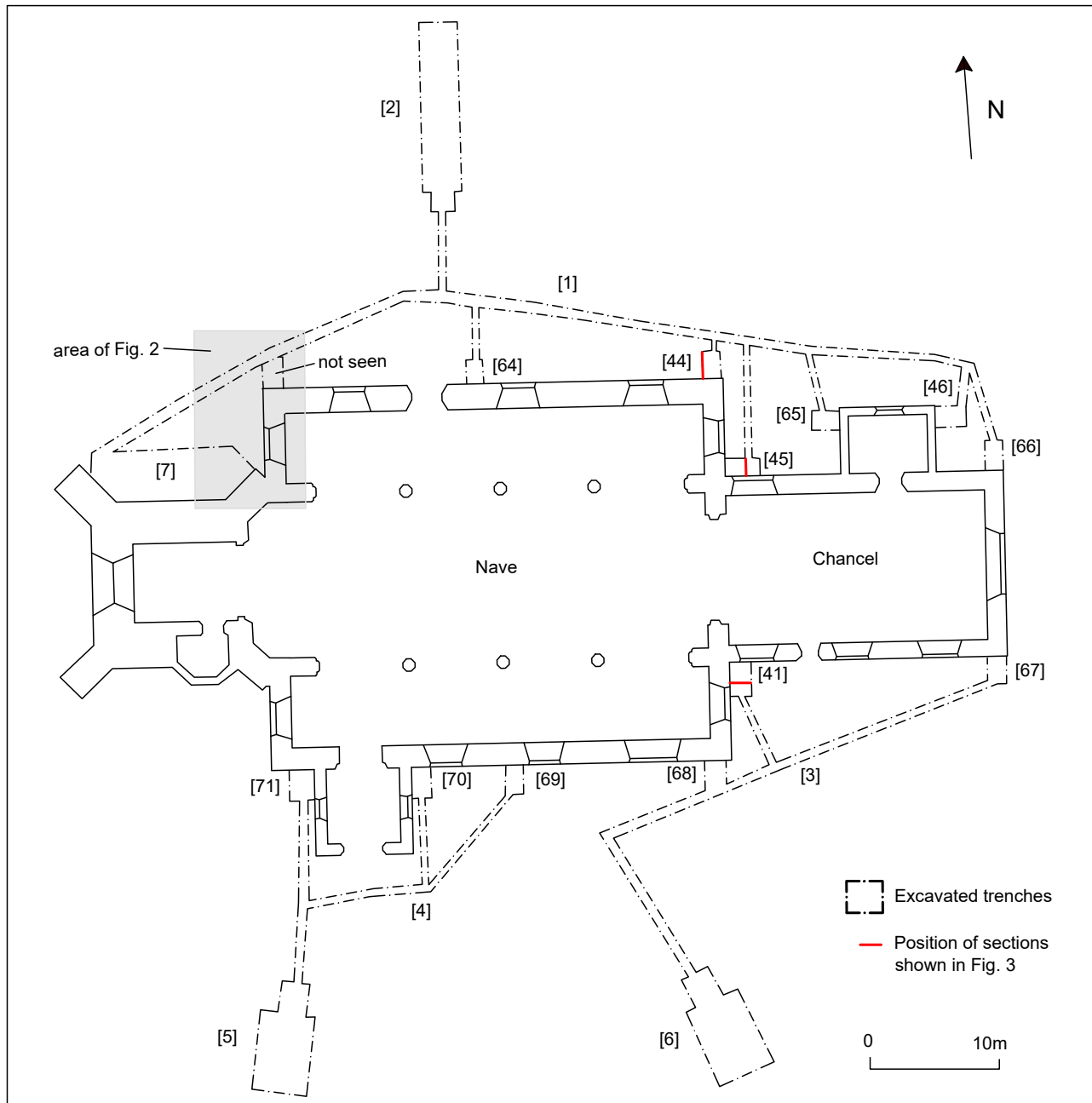


Fig. 1: Plan of St John the Baptist Church showing excavated areas, scale 1:250

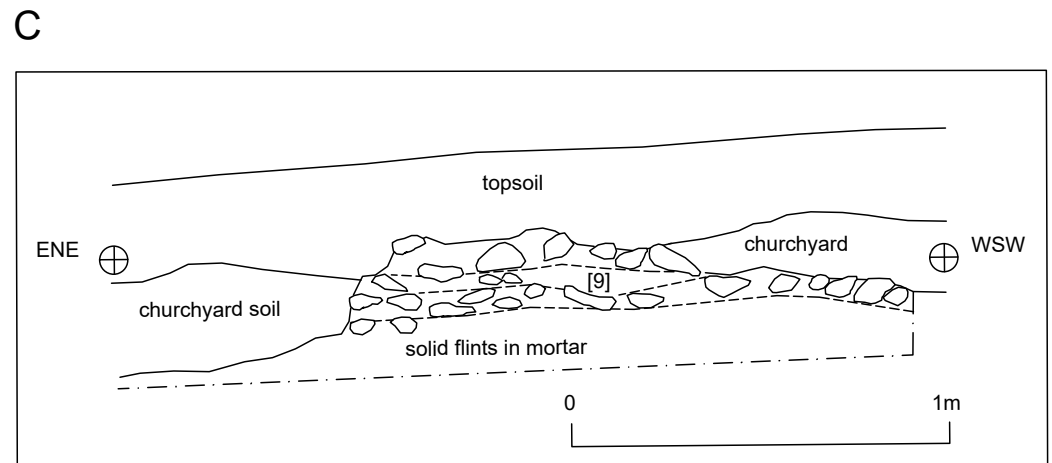
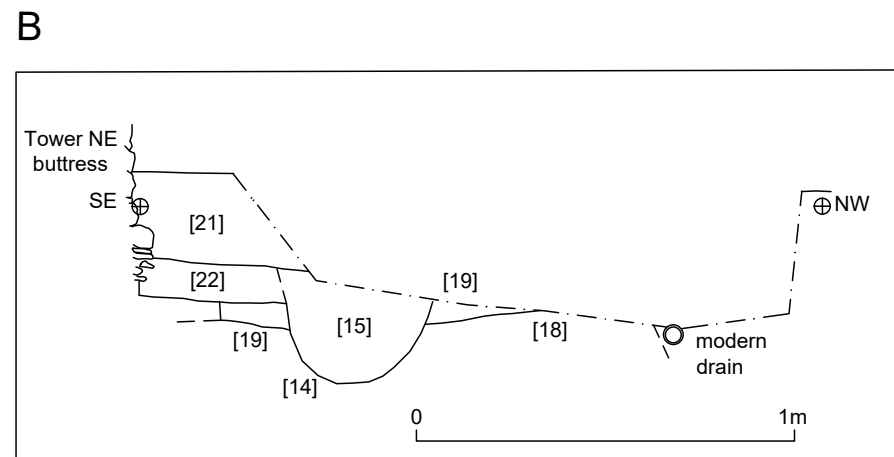
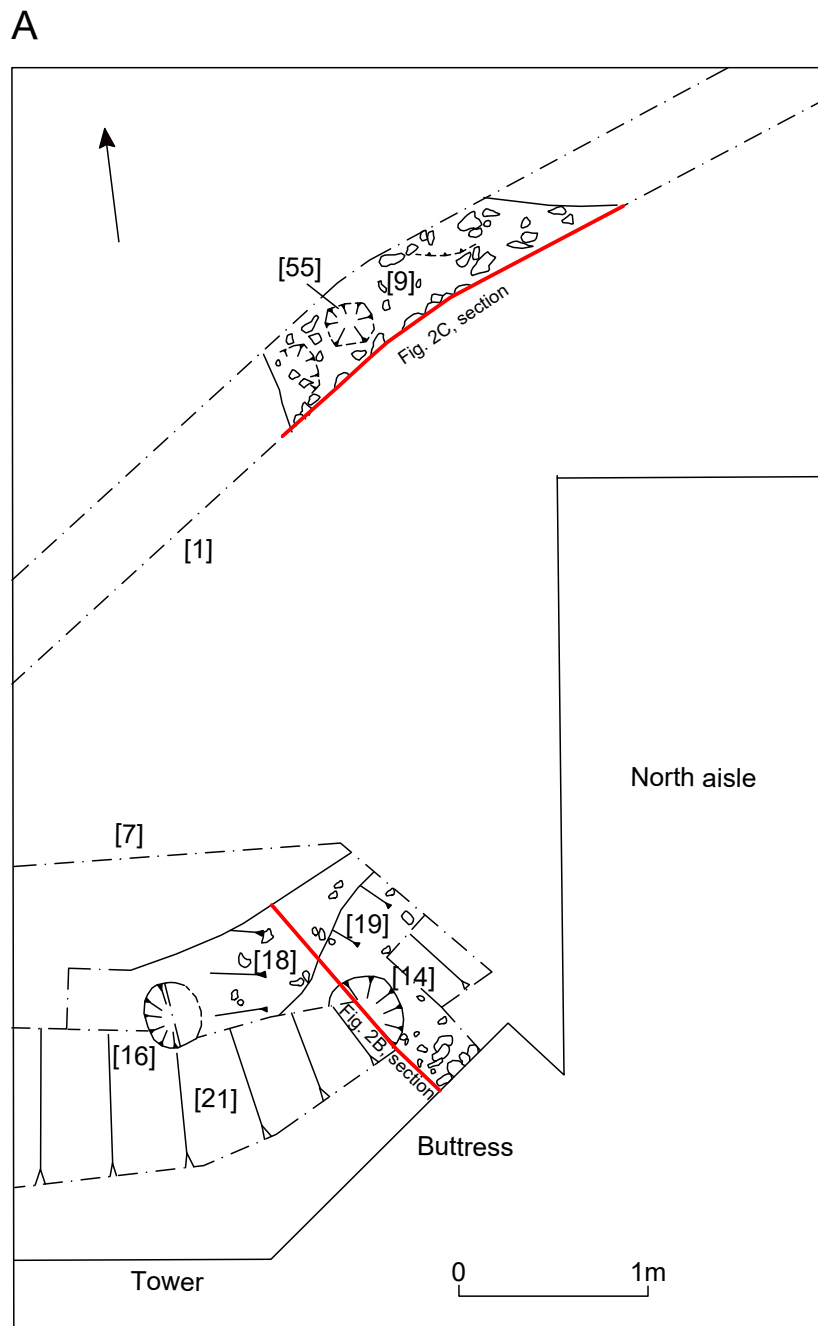


Fig. 2: A: plan showing deposits and post-holes at north-west of north aisle and north of tower (open hachures indicate slope of catchpit), scale 1:40

B: Trench 7, NE-facing section, post-hole [14], deposits [19] - [22]

C: Trench 1, NW-facing section, deposit [9], scale 1:20

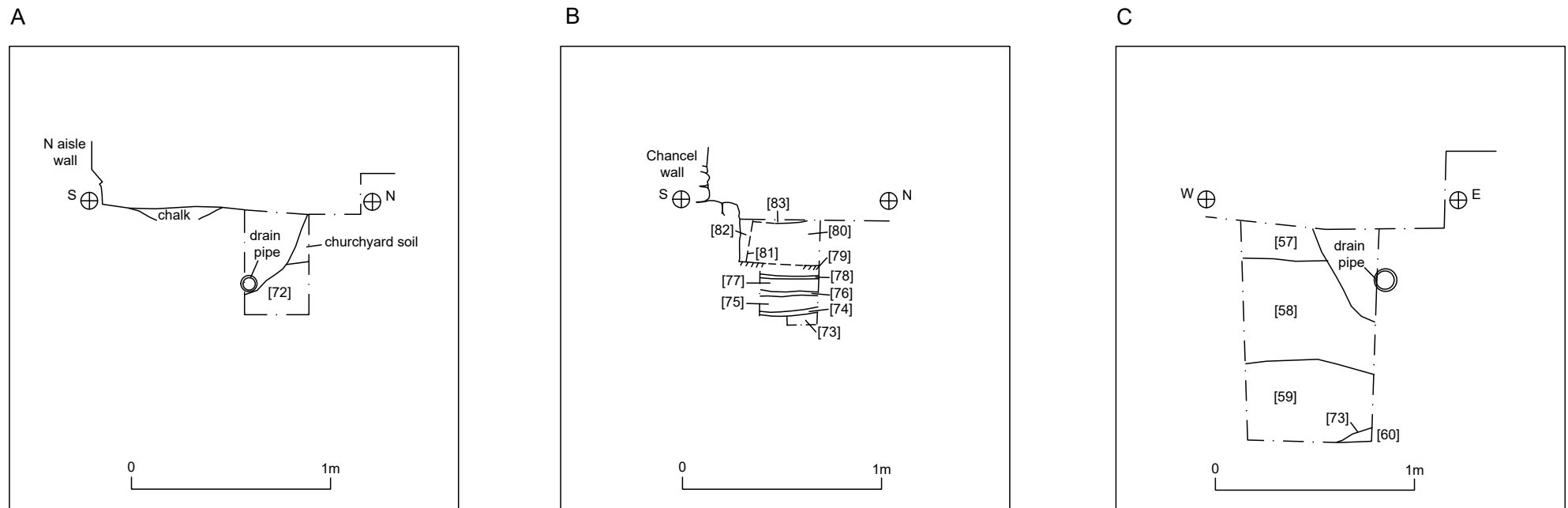


Fig. 3: Gully trench sections showing foundation deposits, scale 1:20. A: Trench 44, east-facing section, B: Trench 45, east-facing section, C: Trench 41, south-facing section

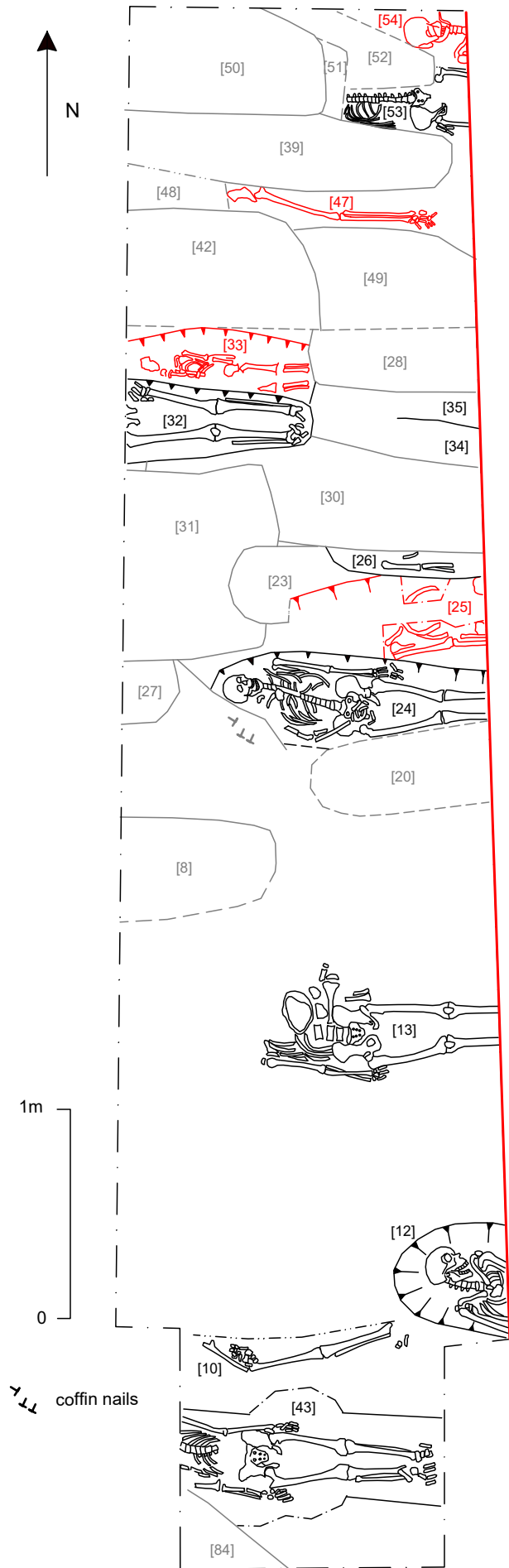


Fig. 6, section

Fig. 4: Trench [2], earlier burials (with earliest burials in red and later and/or unexcavated ones in grey), scale 1:30

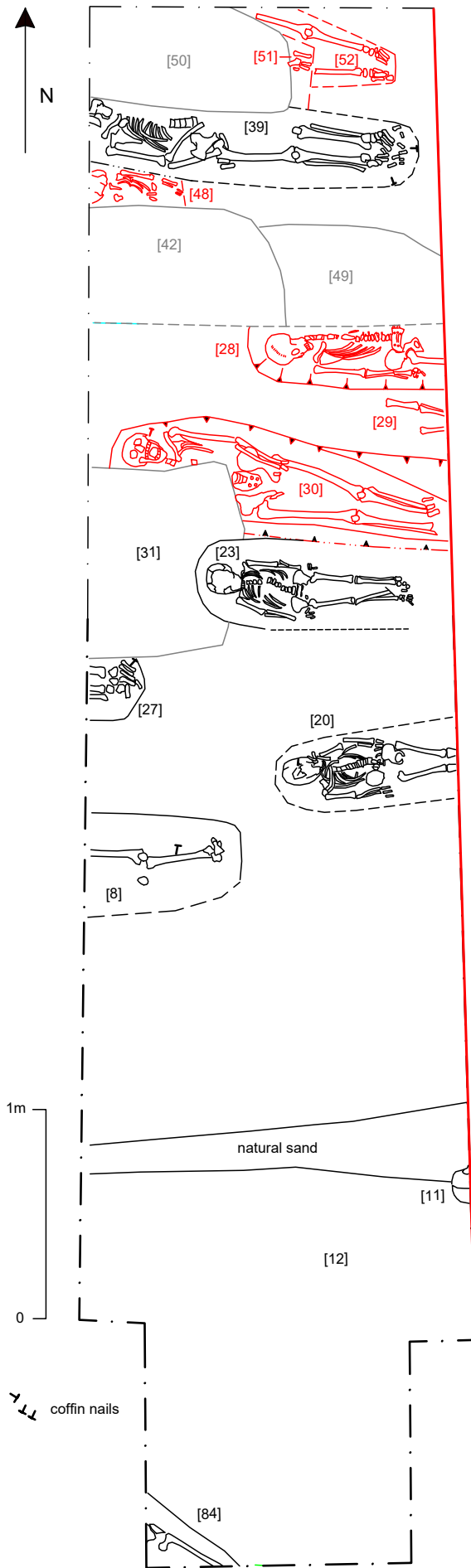


Fig. 6, section

Fig. 5: Trench 2: later burials, (with earliest burials in red and unexcavated ones in grey), scale 1:30

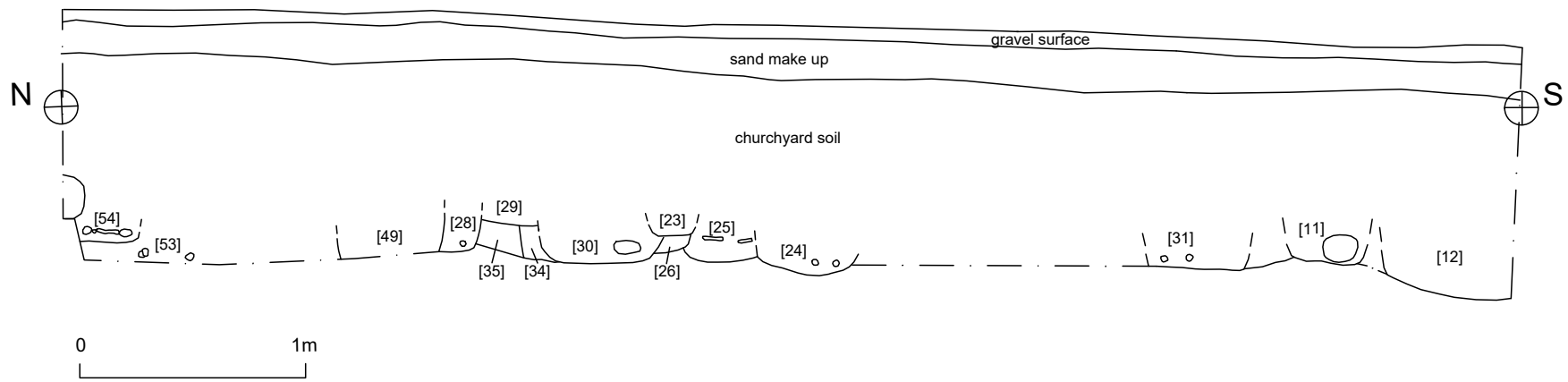


Fig. 6: Trench [2], west-facing section, scale 1:30



Plate 1: Trench 7; foundation deposits cut by post-hole [14], looking W, 0.2m scale



Plate 2: Trench 7; post-holes [14] and [16],
looking W, 0.5m and 0.2m scales



Plate 3: Trench 1; foundation [9], looking SW,
0.5m and 0.2m scales



Plate 4: Trench 64, looking S, 0.5m scale



Plate 5: Trench 44, looking W, 0.5m scale



Plate 6: Trench 45; foundation deposits, looking W, 0.5m scale



Plate 7: Trench 65, looking W, 0.5m scale



Plate 8: Trench 46, looking W, 0.5m scale



Plate 9: Trench 66, looking S, 0.5m scale



Plate 10: Trench 2, looking S, 1m scale



Plate 11: Trench 2; burial [40], looking E from above, 0.5m scale



Plate 12: Trench 2; burials [33] and [32] (tibia [40] visible under [33]) looking E from above, 0.5m scale



Plate 13: Trench 2; burials [25] and [26], looking W from above, 0.5m scale



Plate 14: Trench 2; burials [24] (partly exposed) and [23], looking W, 0.5m scale



Plate 15 Trench 2; burials [43] and [74], looking W, 0.5m scale



Plate 16: Trench 2; skeletons [29], [28] and [30], looking W, 0.5m scale



Plate 17: Trench 67, looking N, 0.5m scale



Plate 18: Trench 41; construction cut and fill [73]/[59], looking N, 0.5m scale



Plate 19: Trench 68, looking N, 0.5m scale



Plate 20: Trench 6, looking NW, 0.5m scale



Plate 21 Trench 69, looking N, 0.5m scale



Plate 22: Trench 70, looking N, 0.5m scale



Plate 23: Trench 4; path make up material, looking N, 0.5m scale



Plate 24: Trench 5, looking N, 0.5m scale