Report on Archaeological Monitoring

All Saints Church, Upper Sheringham, Norfolk

NHER ENF 135843

Prepared for Upper Sheringham PCC

Sarah Bates (Report No. 16) April 2015

Contents

Summary

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Geology and topography
- 3.0 Archaeological and historical Background
- 4.0 Methodology
- 5.0 Results
- 6.0 The Finds
- 7.0 Conclusions

Acknowledgements

References

Appendix 1: OASIS form

Appendix 2: List of contexts

Appendix 3: Finds by context

Appendix 4 Pottery

Appendix 5 Ceramic building material

Appendix 6 Glass

Illustrations

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Plan of church showing trenches
Fig. 3	Plan of former N porch
Fig. 4a	Section across entrance to former porch
Fig. 4b	Plan of wall [6] (and soakaway [9])
Fig. 4c	Section through wall [6]
Fig. 5a	Plan of wall [8]
Fig. 5b	Plan of wall [7]
Fig. 5c	Section through wall [8]
Fig. 5d	Plan of mausoleum base
Fig. 6	Trench [4] showing excavated burials
Fig. 6a	Trench [4], west-facing section
Plate 1	Walls and floor of former N porch
Plate 2	Walls of former N porch
Plate 3	Wall [2] detail
Plate 4	Wall [15] detail
Plate 5	Floor and threshold of former porch
Plate 6	Wall [6]
Plate 7	Wall [7]
Plate 8	Sunken churchyard path and wall [8]
Plate 9	Wall [8]
Plate 10	Footings in gully trench [5]
Plate 11	Chalk ?footing [34]
Plate 12	Mausoleum base
Plate 13	Mausoleum base
Plate 14	Chancel footings
Plate 15	Trench [4]
Plate 16	Trenches S of church

Project name	All Saints Church
Parish	Upper Sheringham
District	North Norfolk
Grid reference	TG 1442 4185
NHER Ref.	ENF 135843
Date of fieldwork	12th-20th January and 3rd February 2015

Summary

Archaeological monitoring during the installation of a new drainage system at All Saints Church led to the discovery of the remains of a porch which formerly stood outside the door of the north aisle. Part of its west wall, the north-west corner and part of a brick floor was uncovered as well as part of its stone threshold. Bricks from the floor suggested a 18th or 19th-century date for its demolition.

A short length of north to south wall of unknown purpose, recorded just to the south of the north aisle, included a brick of 13th-15th century date. Two other walls, recorded running east to west either side of the existing churchyard path, but today buried beneath the topsoil, were undated.

Some chalk and flint footing to the church were recorded as well as the lower part of the Upcher Mausoleum which stands at the north side of the chancel.

A sherd of pottery of possible Middle Saxon date, one of Late Saxon date, a few medieval sherds and a piece of post-medieval pottery were found as well as a few small fragments of window glass which are probably of medieval date.

At least nine burials were recorded in a trench for a new soakaway to the north-east of the church. The burials were excavated and left in the care of the church for reburial as were quantities of disarticulated human bone found during the work.

1.0 Introduction

All Saints Church is situated at the corner of The Street and Church Lane, and centrally within the village of Upper Sheringham which is about two kilometres to the south-west of Sheringham in north Norfolk. (TG 1442 4185) (Fig. 1).

Building and rainwater drainage improvements were being undertaken at the church by G.F. Atthowe Builders on behalf of Nicholas Warns Architect Ltd for Upper Sheringham PCC.

The work involved installing drains around the north side and east end of the church. Archaeological work involved monitoring of all groundworks associated with the new drains (Fig. 2). This work accorded to a Project Design prepared by Sarah Bates to meet the requirements of a monitoring brief set by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES Generic Brief for the Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control). Drainage works included new drainage gullies beneath downpipes, a catchpit next to the tower and, from these, drains running to new soakaways dug in the churchyard.

Upper Sheringham PCC funded the repairs, improvements and archaeological work with the aid of an English Heritage Repair Grant for Places of Worship in England.

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

2.0 Geology and topography

The site is located within the area of the North Norfolk Heathlands. Soils are, generally, sandy loams derived from glacial tills and outwash sands and gravels (Williamson 2005, British Geological Survey © NERC 2015).

All Saints Church is located on High Street at approximately 45m OD (OS bench mark on west tower 45.04m). The land rises to the south of the church forming the north scarp of the Cromer Ridge. A spring exists about 200m south of the church in an area marked as Osier Carr on the first edition Ordnance Survey map.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The church today comprises nave and chancel, north and south aisles, west tower, south porch and vestry and a mausoleum to the north of the chancel (Fig. 2).

The Domesday book (1086) records a church at Silingeham the name being of Scandinavian origin - 'home of Scira's people' - but the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) describes the present church as dating largely to the late 13th or early 14th century with its side windows, porch and font of probable 15th-century date. A rood screen and loft of 14th or 15th-century date are a rare survival. The Upcher Mausoleum was built in c.1820 by the Upcher family of nearby Sheringham Hall. The Vestry dates to 1848. The NHER mentions thirteenth century stone coffin lids which were found when a boiler house was removed, and fragments of coffin slab of the same date were found in the churchyard in 1991.

All Saints Church was also the parish church of Sheringham until 1953 when the Chapelof-Ease of St Peter in Sheringham became the parish church there.

A report written by Hugh Richmond in advance of the present repair work describes the development of the church and details the condition of the church and proposed repairs

(Richmond 2013). Aspects of Richmond's report pertinent to the archaeological monitoring work are summarised in the following two paragraphs.

The earliest surviving fabric within the existing church is the 13th-century piscina in the chancel; its position suggests that the plan of the nave and chancel have remained the same since then. The church was probably almost entirely rebuilt c.1300 with the arcades, clerestory, chancel arch and tower dating to that period. Evidence in the fabric of the aisles suggests that that they were lower than today and that both current doorways remain in their original positions. The two windows and the door in the south wall of the chancel and one window in its north wall probably date to c.1400. In the mid-15th century the aisles were raised in height and the existing windows installed as well as the window in the tower. The south porch with side windows (now blocked) probably dates to this period.

A drawing of the church by R. Ladbrooke, dated c.1820, shows the chancel with steeperpitched roof than today but shows the Upcher Mausoleum – which must have been recently built. The drawing shows an undulating grassy churchyard north of the building with a few upstanding gravestones. A faculty was issued in 1794 to remove lead from the chancel roof but the lead can be seen in the Ladbroke drawing and another faculty in 1842 allows the sale of the lead and re-roofing of the chancel and other repairs. The roofs of the chancel and south porch are in the same style and this leads Richmond to suggest that both may have been restored at this time. The vestry seems likely to be of very early 20th-century date.

Other sites and finds recorded in the NHER within a 500m radius of the church include, immediately to the north-west of the church, a large circular flint and brick cistern with spouts which was built over a conduit from the aforementioned spring by Abbot Upcher in 1814. Just to its west, the base of a medieval cross was found in a garden and is now kept in the church. Sherds of Late Saxon and medieval pottery were also found in the garden.

Prehistoric activity in the vicinity is suggested by the presence of a possible Bronze Age ring ditch to the west of the village and metal detecting has led to the recovery of metal finds of Bronze Age, Early, Middle and Late Saxon, Roman, medieval and to post-medieval date from fields north of the church with Roman pottery and two coins found to the south. To the south-east of the churchyard a group of probable pits have been identified on aerial photographs. The pits are thought possibly to represent the quarrying of iron ore for metal-working. They could be of Late Saxon to post-medieval date.

The first Ordnance Survey map shows a Vicarage marked on the west side of Lodge Hill (Norfolk County Council 2012) but it seems that this was a 'new house' built in 1886 and mentioned in the NHER (NHER 33528); no rectory is apparent on the slightly earlier tithe map or on Faden's map of Norfolk (1797).

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 the drainage works.

The trenches were dug, mostly by min-digger with some hand-digging, by the site contractors.

Most of the archaeological monitoring work was undertaken in January 2015 with a return visit in February to monitor the trenches around the chancel.

The location of the drains and gully trenches was recorded; where relevant, gully trenches were assigned a context number for ease of recording. Otherwise, archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* context sheets in the standard way. 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 were generally good although some collapse of the trench section occurred in the north-east soakaway.

5.0 **Results** (Figs. 2 -6, Plates 1-16)

(Context numbers are shown in square brackets and listed in Appendix 2. Context numbers allocated as trench numbers were also used for unstratified finds from those trenches).

Deposits described below as 'churchyard soil' [11] (from the repeated digging and redeposition of material by grave-digging) were slightly orangey brown silty sand with occasional more orangey- coloured sandier patches, occasional (mostly small) flints and rare small fragments or flecks of ceramic building material.

Topsoil was dark brown sandy loam with occasional flints and more frequent small gritty gravel [10].

Area outside the north door (Figs 2-4, Plates 1-5)

The remains of a former porch were discovered in the drain trenches outside the door at the west end of the north aisle. The excavated deposits and masonry included some of the west side and the north-west corner of the structure and parts of its brick floor and stone threshold (Fig. 3, Plates 1 -5). Rubble, presumably relating to its demolition, was also excavated.

The exposed part of the west side of the porch [2] consisted of a footing course of medium to large rounded flints in slightly crumbly cream-coloured lime mortar. Above this a single surviving course of rounded flint cobbles was set in more solid mortar and probably formed the lowest part of the wall face; it was set back from the footing course (Fig. 3, Plate 3). More irregular, mostly smaller, flints filled the core of the wall. The masonry survived to a total height of 0.60m. No construction cut for the wall was identified in the narrow drain trench. The wall was not investigated beyond the excavated drain so it is uncertain whether it continued southwards as far as the church wall. At its north end it was truncated by a 'slot' [42] which had apparently been cut through it. The

sides of this feature were vertical and neatly cut and it is possible (although unproven) that it was a modern service trench.

The outside corner of the former porch was approximately 4.0m north of the north aisle wall [15]. The drain trench cut across it at an angle and the east to west return of the wall was seen below the modern slab path leading to the north door (Fig. 3, Plate 4). This section of wall was truncated by slot [42] to its south and its east face was formed by some rounded flint cobbles and a large flint nodule. The footing of this part of the porch wall was not defined clearly; on removal of the wall from the width of the trench by the contractors, solid mortared flint rubble was seen to continue below the bottom of the excavated drain trench. The wall survived to a maximum height of about 0.35m above the bottom of the drain trench (and in one place its upper surface was only 50mm below the modern slab path). The internal corner of the wall was revealed; it was also 'faced' with rounded flint cobbles some of which were loose and were removed during excavation (and do not appear in photographs). A modern iron pipe ran across the top of the wall just below the slab path.

Part of the brick floor of the former porch was seen in the drain trench which ran from beside the buttress east of the north door (Figs 2 and 3, Plates 1 and 5). The earliest exposed deposit was a layer of slightly compacted cream mortar [20] which ran east from the end face of wall [15] (Fig. 4a). It was about 50mm thick. It may have represented construction debris but appeared to have been used as bedding for a floor of pinkish red bricks of probable 18th or 19th-century date which were laid in blocks in an irregular herringbone fashion. At the north side of the brick floor a broken, but *in situ*, slab of grey stone [16] was partly exposed and formed the threshold in the entrance of the former porch.

Overlying the brick floor was a slightly patchy deposit of cream and light brown compacted crushed mortar and silty sand [17]. This was about 20mm thick and might have represented an initial disuse or demolition deposit. Some of this it (at the south end of the trench) was left in place. Above it was more mixed, and quite loose deposit of cream mortar, orangey brown gritty silty sand and brown silty sand [14] with occasional fragments of ceramic building material (including part of a Flemish floor tile of late medieval date and a 17th or 18th-century pantile fragment) and large flints, and moderate numbers of smaller flints. This was interpreted as consisting mostly of demolition material from the porch but it had been disturbed (for example by a modern lightning conductor cable which crossed the trench. The drain trench section was examined to see whether slot [42] continued eastwards here – it was not seen. Some gravelly make up, presumably for a former path, was seen in places at a depth of about 0.20m beneath the existing path slabs.

The brick floor and threshold were left *in situ* (apart from one brick retained for dating) and the new drain was laid, on a bed of gravel, above it.

The contractor's trench for the downpipe gully immediately east of the north door was dug into an area of modern rubble and was not further investigated.

Other work to the north of the church

Part of a north to south wall or wall-footing was exposed in the drain trench towards the east end of the north aisle [6] (Figs 2 and 4b and c, Plate 6). It was seen in the lower part of the trench at a depth of 0.30m and consisted of medium and large flints in quite hard whitish cream lime mortar. Larger flints were laid neatly along the sides of the wall

with the inner core including smaller rougher flints and mortar The solid footing (when probed beneath its sides) seemed to be only about 0.10m thick and appeared to be constructed upon the orangey brown silty sand seen in the bottom of the drain trench. In the south-facing trench section a brick of 13th-15th-century date was 'set' on its side into the mortar and another brick could just be seen (and felt) continuing in line to the north. These gave the impression of forming the east face of the wall (although they seemed very close to the bottom of the wall to be facing bricks). Immediately above the solid footing was some loose mortar and other wall debris [13] which must have resulted from its demolition, and orangey brown silty sand churchyard soil [11]. The original purpose of this wall is unclear but it was thought most likely to pre-date two path-side walls (see following paragraph and below; Conclusions).

Two walls were recorded running from east to west, one either side of an existing 'sunken' grassy path through the churchyard immediately north of the church (Figs 2 and 5a-c, Plates 7 and 8). To the south of the path, wall [7] was built of large rounded flint pebbles set in slightly orangey cream lime mortar (Plate 7). On its north side an offset lower course of the pebbles formed a footing which was 0.15-0.20m deep. The wall above it survived to a height of 0.25m and was truncated at the top. On the north face there no such clear differentiation between the wall and its footing; the exposed face was almost vertical. No construction cut for the wall was identified. The continuation eastwards of wall [7] was verified by its being exposed in the drain to the east of the mausoleum and, in another very small area, by the machine as it tracked up the shallow grassy bank further eastwards (Fig. 2, [38] and unnumbered). It is of note that a continuation of wall [7] did not appear in the north-to south drain trench that was dug about six metres to its west. Wall [7] was removed by the contractors from the area of the drain trench.

To the north, wall [8] was a very similar construction of large flint pebbles and lime mortar (Fig. 5a and b, Plates 8 and 9). Here, the churchyard soils [11] were seen to have been cut by [18] during the construction of the wall. An offset footing was seen at both sides of the wall and was 0.20m in depth with the wall above it being 0.40m high. The north face of the wall was vertical while the south face inclined. Construction cut [18] contained slightly orangey brown silty sand with a moderate number of small flints [19]. Wall [8] was left in place and the new drain was laid in a 'tunnel' beneath its footing.

Walls [7] and [8] represent former 'retaining' walls alongside the path through the churchyard. It is notable that both walls had a more pronounced offset footing on their path frontage which would have provided added support to withhold pressure from the soils behind them. Both walls were vertically sided on their opposite rear 'faces'. This, and the identification of the construction cut 'behind' wall [8], concurs with the walls having been built into or 'against' existing churchyard soils [11]. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered from (or for) either of the path-side walls.

A trench for a downpipe gully was dug at the west side of the first buttress on the north aisle [5] (Fig. 2, Plate 10). It was 1.30 x 0.70m in size with the entire area dug to a depth of between 0.25m and 0.35m and a deeper hole (an additional 0.55m) dug for the placing of the gully pot. In the lower part of the deeper hole was seen brown silty sand with occasional small flints and mortar flecks. Above this, in the west side of the trench a thick layer (up to 0.30m) of crushed and compacted chalk was exposed. This was cut to its east by the footing for the buttress which was a solid construction of flints in cream chalk-flecked mortar. The chalk layer appeared to continue southwards underneath the north aisle wall and was probably a raft type foundation deposit for the wall (The deposits in

this gully trench were recorded under the overall context number for the trench and were not assigned individual numbers).

A north to south drain trench was dug in the area between the mausoleum and the north aisle. The archaeologist was not present when it was dug but observed the trench after the drain had been laid and before backfilling occurred. Near its north end some degraded packed chalk (possibly blocks) was seen in the west facing trench section [34] (Fig. 2, Plate 11). The chalk was 0.35m wide (in the west-facing section) and 0.25m deep. The contractor reported that it had continued westwards for approximately a metre (where it may have been truncated by previous digging against the wall of the north aisle). Its purpose was unknown; it resembled a small footing but did not appear to relate any existing structure and may have just been a dump of chalk.

To the east of the mausoleum building its lower part was partly exposed [39] (Figs. 2 and 5d, Plate 12 and 13). The top east edge of the brick structure was seen in the drain trench at a depth of 0.40m below the ground surface and, to the north, the bricks stepped down, representing its 'vaulted' chamber. It extended 1.60m north of the standing building.

To the north of the north aisle, just west of wall [6] a brick soakaway [9] was revealed in the drain trench (Fig. 2 and 4c). It was damaged by the machine and its vaulted internal void was seen. It was probably of 19th or 20th- century date. For safety reasons it was infilled by the contractors.

North of the tower

A water catchpit was excavated by the contractors at the north side of the church tower [41]. It was 2.0 x 1.40m in size and 0.15m deep. Brown silty sand with frequent fragments and flecks of mortar rubble were seen beneath the shallow topsoil. Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed.

A shallow drain trench was dug from the catchpit to join the drain to the north. A small collection of disarticulated and fragmentary human bone was recovered from about halfway along the trench. It probably represented the deliberate reburial of human remains previously disturbed by work in the churchyard.

Drains around and to the south of the chancel (Fig. 2)

A concrete gully was removed by the contractors from around the bottom of the chancel walls. A small area was hand-cleaned by the archaeologist and the quite neatly coursed flint footing of the chancel was revealed (Plate 14). It protruded about 0.10m from the wall face and was exposed to a depth of just over 0.20m. At that depth was a flat mortar/or 'rendered' surface with grooved longitudinal indentations. This probably related to the former drain gully.

Nothing of archaeological significance was seen in the drains to the south of the chancel. The churchyard soil and overlying topsoil were similar to those recorded to the north of the church ([11] and [10]).

Soakaway [4] (Figs 2, 6 and 6a, Plate 15)

Soakaway [4] was located to the north-east of the church. It ran from roughly north to south, was 5.80 in length, 1.20m wide and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.30m (the initially-dug southernmost metre was over-machined to 1.50m and backfilled). The west side of the trench was stepped at the top for safety reasons.

At least nine skeletons (or part skeletons) were partly revealed within the area of the soakaway (Fig. 6). Some of them had been truncated or disturbed by later grave-digging and in several cases it was difficult to differentiate grave cuts for individual skeletons; cuts were not always separately recorded. Coffin nails were recorded with just over half of the burials. All of the skeletons were recorded but most of them were left *in situ* in the bottom of the trench as they were below the proposed formation level for the soakaway. (On returning to site to complete the monitoring to the south of the church, however, it was discovered that most of these remains had been removed from the trench by the contractor prior to the soakaway crates being put in place. The human skeletal remains had been bagged and left for reburial with the other HSR from the soakaway). The burials are summarised in Table 1 and only those of particular interest are further discussed below.

Sk.	Exposed in trench	Minimum depth from surface	Grave cut	Further information
[33]	Skull	1.08m	Identified but number not allocated	Rest of skeleton below formation level
[25]*	Tibia and fibula	1.00m	Not identified, coffin nails present	Feet possibly lost during trench excavation, upper part extended W of trench
[31]	Feet	1.05m	Partly identified	Rest of skeleton below formation level,
[24]*	Skull and upper torso/arm s	1.00m	Partly identified, number not allocated, coffin nails present	At a higher physical level but possibly cut by grave [21], lower part extended E of trench
[23]	Skull torso and arms	1.10m	[21], coffin nails present	Buried slightly more deeply but possibly post-dated burial of skeleton [24], below formation level, lower part extended E of trench
[30]	Skull, upper left torso	1.10m	Not identified	Skull apparently to E, rest of skeleton below formation level, lower part extended W of trench
[26]	Legs	1.10m	Not identified	Truncated at both ends, below formation level
[3]*	Torso and arms	1.20m	[40], coffin nails present	At a higher physical level, lower part extended E of trench, truncated to W, possibly post-dating some other burials
[27]	Legs and foot	1.10m	[28], coffin nails present	Below formation level, upper part extended W of trench

Table 1: Skeletons from soakaway [4] with grave details (where identified) (see Fig. 6)(listed from N to S; those asterisked were lifted by the archaeologist)

Two of the skeletons [3] and [24] were at a slightly higher level than the others (1.20m and 1.00m respectively from the ground surface). In no case, however, was there a definitive relationship in plan between any of the burials which could suggest a sequence of deposition. Nor could any clear relationship between different graves be seen in section; the east facing section was stepped and slightly battered for safety reasons and the southern part of the west facing section collapsed (Fig. 6a). To the north the deposits seen in section were very similar. It was considered possible, during excavation, that graves [21] and [40] post-dated some of the other burials.

Of interest was skeleton [30] which, unusually, had been buried with its head to the west.

Disarticulated human bone was found in moderate amounts in the soakaway trench. Of particular note was a collection of large fragments, and near-complete bones [29] near the south end of the trench immediately south of skeleton [3]. The latter had been truncated to its west and there had clearly been several episodes of grave-digging in the area. The disarticulated bones represented material recovered by grave-diggers and reburied.

Three sherds of medieval pottery, four fragments of floor tile of 14th to 15th century date, single fragments of pantile of 17th and 19th-century date, three pieces of medieval (or probably medieval) window glass, an oyster shell and a sheep/goat jaw bone were found, unstratified in soakaway [4].

Soakaway [36] (Fig. 2, Plate 16)

Soakaway [36] was located to the south-east of the church. It ran from WNW-ESE, was 2.60m in length, 1.10m wide and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.10m.

The lowest deposit seen in the trench was slightly orangey brown silty sand with occasional to moderate amounts of flint and occasional fragments of human bone. Some areas were quite loose. The deposit was general 'churchyard' soil from the disturbance and redeposition of soils during grave-digging. No grave cuts were identified but there was a greater concentration of disarticulated human bone in the deepest part of the trench suggesting that the burial horizon was almost reached.

The churchyard soil was overlaid by dark brown sandy loam topsoil and turf. The topsoil was up to 0.35m deep.

6.0 The finds

by Sue Anderson

Introduction

Table 2 shows the quantities of finds collected during the fieldwork. A full quantification by context is provided in Appendix 3.

Find type	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	6	107
CBM	13	4549
Glass	8	13
Stone	7	49
Shell	1	12
Animal bone	1	62
Table 2	Einde quantitie	<u> </u>

Table 2. Finds quantities.

Pottery

Six sherds of pottery weighing 107g were collected from three contexts. Table 3 shows the quantification by fabric, and a full quantification by context is included in Appendix 4.

Description	Fabric	No	Wt/g	MNV	Eve
Gritty Ipswich Ware?	GIPS?	1	27	1	
Thetford Ware	THET	1	2	1	
Medieval coarseware	MCW	1	18	1	
Yarmouth-type glazed ware	YARG	1	3	1	
Unprovenanced glazed	UPG	1	12	1	
Speckle-glazed ware	SPEC	1	45	1	0.15
Total		6		6	0.15

Table 3. Pottery quantification by fabric.

One sherd of possible Middle Saxon Ipswich ware was found in demolition layer [14]. The sherd was in a fabric which would be compatible with this identification, but it was relatively thin-walled, and appeared to have been made on a fast wheel, rather than the slow turntable method of manufacture used for Ipswich Ware. It may be a transitional piece from the end of the Middle Saxon period, or possibly an imported continental greyware. A small sherd of Late Saxon Thetford-type ware was also recovered from [14].

Three medieval sherds were found in soakaway [4], all body sherds. One was a coarseware in a brownish fabric containing abundant fine sand and common mica. The sherd may have been from a handmade vessel and was fairly thick. A small body sherd of ?Yarmouth-type glazed ware was found, but there were no traces of glaze on the surface. The third sherd was in a fine white fabric with sparse small ferrous inclusions and a pale green glaze over incised horizontal line decoration. Several possible sources for this unprovenanced sherd can be suggested. Whitewares with pale green glazes were made in the Saxo-Norman period in Stamford, Lincolnshire, but the sherds are generally not as thick as the example from Upper Sheringham. Other possibilities include French whitewares from Normandy or South-west France, but again they are not usually thick-walled. Similar sherds have been found in Norwich, but they are as yet unidentified.

A fragment of collared rim from a brown speckle-glazed ware jar was found in drain trench [37]. These vessels are of 17th/18th-century date.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

Thirteen fragments (4549g) of CBM were collected (Appendix 5) from six contexts. They comprised four pantile fragments, six floor tile fragments and three bricks.

Pantile fragments were recovered from soakaway [4], drain trench [37], and demolition layer [14]. All were in fine sandy fabrics. One fragment from [4] was probably machinemade and of 19th-century or later date. The other fragments were glazed dark brown and probably dated to the 17th/18th-century.

Five fragments of late medieval Flemish floor tiles in fine sandy fabrics were recovered from [4] and [14]. Apart from one fragment, 28mm thick, which still had green glaze on the surface, all pieces were extremely worn, with one as little as 10mm thick. There was lime mortar on the base and/or sides of four fragments. One other fragment of floor tile of uncertain type, comprising only a base flake, was found in layer [17].

An estuarine clay 'early brick' of 13th-15th-century date was found in the east 'face' of wall [6]. It measured 110+mm wide and 56mm thick and had a sanded base.

A complete floor brick was sampled from the floor of the former north porch [12]. It measured $233 \times 107 \times 55$ mm and was in a fine sandy pale buff fabric with medium and very large chalk, flint and occasional ferrous inclusions. The surface was slightly worn. Bricks of this type were generally used in the 18th–19th centuries to pave passageways and other well-trodden areas.

A fragment of red-firing 'late brick' in a soft fine sand and flint fabric was collected from layer [17]. It measured only 39mm thick but the surfaces were abraded and this may not have been its original size. It was probably of 17th-19th-century date.

Glass

Six fragments (representing three pieces) of medieval window glass were recovered from soakaway [4]. All pieces were incomplete and in poor condition with iridescent surfaces. Two fragments were part of a ?rectangular quarry with three grozed edges (46 x 22+ x 2.5mm), and traces of a rad-painted border pattern. Three fragments were part of a triangular or diamond-shaped quarry with two converging grozed edges surviving (2.9mm thick), but no obvious painted decoration. A smaller fragment, possibly with one or two grozed edges, had traces of red paint and was 1.5mm thick.

There were two small fragments of window glass in demolition layer [14]. One fragment was 1.5mm thick and had one straight edge which seemed to have been set into a came. It was snapped but did not appear to have been grozed. A very thin fragment (0.5mm) of yellow glass may be a piece of flashing. Plain glass was coloured by adding a thin layer of stained glass from the 15th century onwards.

Stone

Seven laminated sheet fragments of a coarse mica-rich schist, up to 5mm thick, were found in demolition layer [14]. They may have been used in construction but there is no evidence for working and no mortar adhering to any of the pieces.

Shell and animal bone

An oyster shell was recovered from contractor's trench [4], along with the complete right mandible of a sheep/goat with all premolars and molars in situ.

7.0 Conclusions

No archaeological features or deposits of pre-Church date were discovered during archaeological monitoring of the drainage works. A sherd of pottery might be of Middle Saxon date (AD651-855) but this is uncertain.

The base of a wall was recorded running from north to south in the drain trench to the north of the nave. The purpose and significance of this former wall is unknown but a brick from its 'face' is of 13th-15th-century date (although it is possible it might have been reused?). The wall may, however, have been of relatively early date. Its position, beneath the line of the existing 'sunken' path shows that it almost certainly pre-dated the path-side walls (see below) (see Plate 6). Furthermore, it had been removed almost entirely and some of the churchyard soil had accumulated above it below the topsoil.

The west side, north-west corner and part of the floor of a former porch were recorded outside the north door of the church. The existence of this porch was unknown prior to the present work although, with the newly excavated evidence as a 'prompt', it is possible to see a change in the wall fabric around the north door, presumably 'within' the area of the former porch. There are smaller pebble-type flints infilling the area around and above the door and larger flints, including cut pieces, higher up and to the sides; (Plate 1). A slot which ha**d** been cut through the west wall of the former porch seems most likely to of modern date; it might relate to installation of services although no evidence in the form of pipes, cables or modern finds was seen.

The lengths of wall exposed in the drain trench were of flint and mortar construction with many of the flints being large rounded pebble type pieces. They show that the former porch extended approximately 4.0m from the wall of the north aisle tuning at right angle to form an entrance-way. At the time of its demolition the porch had a brick floor with stone slabs forming the threshold. The floor, of bricks which date to the 18th or 19th century, provides a terminus post quem (earliest possible date) for the demolition of the structure. The recorded north-west corner suggests that the former north porch was very slightly larger in plan than the surviving south porch. The extent of the different flint-work around the north door may suggest that it was slightly lower in height (see Plates 1 and 16) but this is uncertain.

The porch of a church not only provided protection around the doorway but also played an important part in many aspects of church life and liturgy in the medieval period (Hayman 2007, 94-95, Rodwell 2012, 82-83, Lunnon, 2012, 44). Amongst other things, the first part of marriage and baptismal ceremonies took place there and penitents received absolution on Maundy Thursday. They also became coveted as places of burial (Lunnon 2012, 63). The relationship between the church entrance, its doorway and the porch was highly significant in terms of what was considered to be within or without the church and the spiritual protection it offered (Lunnon 2012, 47-48). Porches also had a secular role as meeting places for business and legal affairs and for the exhibiting of public notices.

Traditionally, most churches have their main entrance, often with a porch, at the south side although, where the north side of the church is more accessible or easily approached, the north door may act as the main entrance (Rodwell 2012, 83). It is less usual, but not uncommon, for a church to have porches at both north and south doors; sometimes as a result of patronage or benefaction (Lunnon 2012). The donation of funds to many aspects of church building and furnishing occurred widely in the 15th century (Hayman 200, 15); the date at which the aisles of All Saints were raised in height and *it* is thought that the south porch was probably built (Richmond 2013). It seems likely that a north porch was built at around the same time.

The 'handsome and well-proportioned' south porch is described in All Saints Church Guide as showing that it was intended as the main entrance-way to the church (Linnell 2005) but, today, the north door provides the main entrance, or at least the most oftenused, way into the building. Although unknown by the writer, it seems likely that the north door has always been well-used; it faces the village green and is the most easily accessed side of the church. A 15th-century carving of a mermaid is positioned on the pew end nearest to that door and might be seen as suggesting that it was in popular use at that time.

The bricks from the floor of the former porch show that is demolition must have occurred in the 18th or 19th centuries. It could be the case that the porch fell into disrepair and money was not available to maintain it. Might it also be possible that the demolition of the north porch, in some way, related to 19th-century restorations and the construction of the Upcher Mausoleum? The Ladbrooke drawing (1820) shows the north porch gone and the mausoleum completed. Perhaps the mausoleum was considered a valid 'replacement' for the porch (perhaps aesthetically, or to emphasise the prestige of the mausoleum for the Upcher family)? The restoration of the south porch at a slightly later date (see above Archaeological and Historical Background) may have been prompted by the disappearance of that at the north side of the church and might even have been an attempt to confer greater status upon the south entrance.

Two walls ran east to west through the churchyard one each side of the existing 'sunken' path just to the north of the church. The date of the walls is unknown, as is the date of their disuse and disappearance beneath the topsoil. Unlike the north to south wall described above the northernmost path-side wall was recorded as cut from immediately below the topsoil into the churchyard soil. The path itself can be seen on the first edition Ordnance Survey map which dates to the later 19th century but does not appear on a tithe map produced forty to fifty years earlier (Norfolk County Council 2012). It seems likely that the path existed, however, as the cottages to the east of the church appear on both maps as they are today. It is unclear, however, whether the path shown on the map was walled. Both walls had their upper parts removed. It might be that they fell into disrepair with the path between them becoming infilled with soil. The walls were probably levelled and deliberately buried beneath the topsoil to enable easier maintenance of the churchyard.

It may be of significance that the southernmost path-side wall did not appear in the drain trench dug further to the west. A pronounced rise in ground level to either side of the path, which is strongly evident in the eastern part of the churchyard (and which reflects the presence of the walls there) is less apparent further westwards and it may be that the walls did not continue across the whole length of the churchyard (although the path itself continues). Alternatively, it may be that the wall was more thoroughly removed to the west (although no sign of it was apparent in the western drain). It is also noted that the path-side wall exists to the east of the north to south wall (described above) but not to its west. However, as it is likely the north-to south wall pre-dated the east to west walls, this is probably of little significance. The Ladbrooke drawing shows no sign of any walled path or, indeed of any path in the churchyard. Although their date is unknown the nature of the path-side walls suggested that they pre-dated the mausoleum - and it is possible, therefore, that they were levelled and buried as part of the early 19th-century work at the north side of the church.

Some chalk seen below the north aisle near its east end represented the foundation of the wall there and a small area of chalk seen in the drain trench between the mausoleum and the north aisle was probably also a footing of some kind.

At least nine burials were recorded and removed from the soakaway trench dug to the north-east of the church. In some cases parts of the grave cuts were identified but this was not always possible due to the very similar soils and the intercutting nature of some of the graves. One burial was orientated with its head to the east. The presence of coffin nails suggested a post-medieval date and the alignment of one or two burials with surviving gravestones highlighted their relatively recent date of these.

The lower part of the Upcher Mausoleum was recorded in the drain trench just to the east of the standing building. The east side and the 'vaulted' north part of the burial chamber were constructed of red bricks. The mausoleum was built in memory of Abbot Upcher of Sheringham Hall who died in 1819.

Disarticulated human bone was found, mostly in the soakaway to the north of the church but also, in smaller amounts, in other trenches. This, and the excavated skeletons were bagged and labelled and were stored safely in the church for reburial by the Rector.

Nothing of archaeological significance was seen in the trenches dug around and to the south of the chancel.

Gullies, like those around the base of the chancel, which were to be cleaned out around the south and west sides of the vestry were not monitored by the archaeologist. It seemed very unlikely that anything would be revealed in these gullies and nothing was reported by the contractors.

Acknowledgements

The archaeological work was commissioned and funded by Upper Sheringham PCC. The drainage works were undertaken by G.F. Atthowe Builders

The advice of Iain Walker (architect), Alan Boardman (Upper Sheringham PCC) and Hugh Richmond (historian) is gratefully acknowledged.

Archaeological monitoring and recording was by Sarah Bates. Heather Wallis prepared the Figures included in this report. The finds were examined and reported on by Sue Anderson.

The report was read and commented upon by Kelly Gibbons (NHES).

References:

British Geological Survey 2015	http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html
Faden's Map of Norfolk	http://www.fadensmapofnorfolk.co.uk
Hayman, R., 2007	A Concise Guide to the Parish Church (Tempus)
Linnell, C.L.S, 2005	All Saints Upper Sheringham, Church Guide (First edition 1960, 2005 Reprint available in the church)
Lunnon, H.E., 2012	Making an Entrance: Studies of Medieval Church Porches in Norfolk, Volume 1 PhD Thesis, University of East Anglia, School of Art Studies and Museology
Norfolk County Council 2012	http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk
Richmond, H., 2013	English Heritage, Repair Grants for Places of Worship in England, Church of All Saints, Upper Sheringham, Norfolk, Conservation Report. File Ref. No. GRC 12/001/224650
Rodwell, W, 2012	The Archaeology of Churches (Amberley)
Williamson, T., 2005	'Soil Landscapes' in Ashwin, T. and Davison, A. <i>An Historical Atlas of Norfolk</i> (Third Edition)

Appendix 1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: sarahbat1-199565

Project details

Project name All Saints' Church, Upper Sheringham

Short description Archaeological monitoring of drainage works in churchyard. Part of the W wall, the NW corner and part of a brick floor of a former N porch were discovered outside of the project the door of the N aisle. Bricks from the floor were of 18th or 19th century date. Three other walls were recorded in the churchyard to the north of the church. A N-S wall was undated but was probably earlier than two E-W walls which ran either side of a (still existing) path. It is possible that the demolition of the north porch was roughly contemporary with the construction of the Upcher Mausoleum at the north side of the chancel (the disuse of the path-side walls may also relate to this early 19th-century work at the church). The lower part of the mausoleum was exposed in a drain trench. Some chalk and flint footings below the church walls were exposed at various places. Nine burials were partly exposed in a soakaway dug to the NE of the church and these were recorded and lifted for reburial by the Vicar. One sherd of possible Middle Saxon pottery and a sherd of Late Saxon pottery were was found as well as a few sherds of medieval pottery and a sherd of post-medieval date. CBM was mostly of post-medieval date but a brick of 13th-15th-century date came from the N-S wall and some pieces of late med floor tile were found. A few small fragments of medieval window glass were also found.

Project dates	Start: 12-01-2015 End: 03-02-2015
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	135843 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	WALL Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	FLOOR Post Medieval
Monument type	BURIAL Post Medieval
Monument type	GRAVE Post Medieval
Monument type	FOUNDATION Medieval
Monument type	FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval

4/16/2015

OASIS FORM - Print view

Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Medieval
Significant Finds	WINDOW GLASS Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK NORTH NORFOLK UPPER SHERINGHAM All Saint's Church
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 1442 4185 52.9307174606 1.19070036512 52 55 50 N 001 11 26 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	Upper Sheringham PCC

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass"
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	"Stratigraphic", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

OASIS FORM - Print view

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Report on Archaeological Monitoring at All Saints Church Upper Sheringham Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Bates, S.
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 16
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Sarah Bates
Place of issue or publication	Sarah Bates
Description	A4 grey literature report
Entered by Entered on	Sarah Bates (sj.bates@yahoo.co.uk) 4 April 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice © ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012 Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page

Appendix 2: List of contexts

Context	Туре	Area	Category	Feature	Description
			Contractors		
1	Trench	NW	trench		new drain NW, N aisle
2	Masonry	NW	Wall		wall of former N porch
3	Skeleton	4	Skeleton	40	burial
			Contractors		
4	Trench		trench		soakaway to NE of church
_	Tuonoh		Contractors		for downsing cully NE. Naida
5	Trench Masonry	N	trench Footing		for downpipe gully NE, N aisle wall footing in drain N of N aisle
7	Masonry	N	Wall		pathside wall (S) thru churchyard
8	Masonry	N	Wall		pathside wall (N) thru churchyard
9	Masonry	N	Drain		brick soakaway
10	Deposit	N	Topsoil		topsoil N of church
10	Deposit	N	Layer		churchyard soils N of church
12	Deposit	NW	Floor		brick floor of former N porch
13	Deposit	N	Layer		mortary layer above footing 6
14	Deposit	NW	Layer		demolition material in area of former N porch
15	Masonry	NW	Wall		NW corner of former N porch
16	Masonry	NW	Threshold		threshold of former N porch
17	Deposit	NW	Layer		demolition material within former N porch
			Construction		
18	Cut	N	cut		cut for wall 8
			Construction		
19	Deposit	Ν	cut fill	18	construction deposit
			Construction		
20	Deposit	NW	deposit		mortar beneath threshold 16
21	Cut	4	Grave	21	grave
22	Deposit	4	Grave fill	21	grave fill
23	Skeleton	4	Skeleton	21	burial, left in situ
24	Skeleton	4	Skeleton		burial
25	Skeleton	4	Skeleton		burial
26	Skeleton	4	Skeleton		burial, left in situ
27	Skeleton	4	Skeleton	20	burial, left in situ
28	Cut	4	Pit Pit fill	28	disturbance with redeposited HSR
29 30	Deposit Skeleton	4	Skeleton	28	fill of 28 burial, left in situ
30	Skeleton	4	Skeleton		burial, left in situ
31	Cut	4	Grave	32	grave
33	Skeleton	4	Skeleton	32	burial
33	Deposit	ч NE	Footing	52	chalk possible footing W of mausoleum
35	Deposit	E	Footing		footing of chancel
		-	Contractors		
36	Trench	SE	trench		soakaway SE of chancel
			Contractors		,
37	Trench	SE	trench		drains S of chancel
38	Masonry	NE	Wall		continuation of pathside wall 7
39	Masonry	NE	Mausoleum		mausoleum and footings
40	Cut	4	Grave	40	grave
			Contractors		
41	Trench	W	trench		catchpit N of tower
42	Cut	NW	Cut		Slot cut through wall 2

Context	Pottery No	Pottery Wt	CBM No	CBM Wt	Stone No	Stone Wt	Glass No	Glass Wt	Shell No	Shell Wt	Animal bone No	Animal bone Wt	Spotdate
4	3	33	6	471			6	10	1	12	1	62	19th c.+
6			1	1219									13th-15th c.
12			1	2670									18th-19th c.
14	2	29	2	48	7	49	2	3					17th c.+
17			2	82									17th-19th c.
37	1	45	1	59									17th-18th c.

Appendix 3: Finds list

Appendix 4: Pottery

Context	Fabric	Туре	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Spot date
4	MCW	U	1	18	1			12th-14th c.
4	YARG	U	1	3	1			13th-15th c.
4	UPG	D	1	12	1			?
14	GIPS	U	1	27	1			9th c.?
14	THET	U	1	2	1			10th-11th c.
37	SPEC	R	1	45	1	JR	COLL	17th-18th c.

Appendix 5: CBM

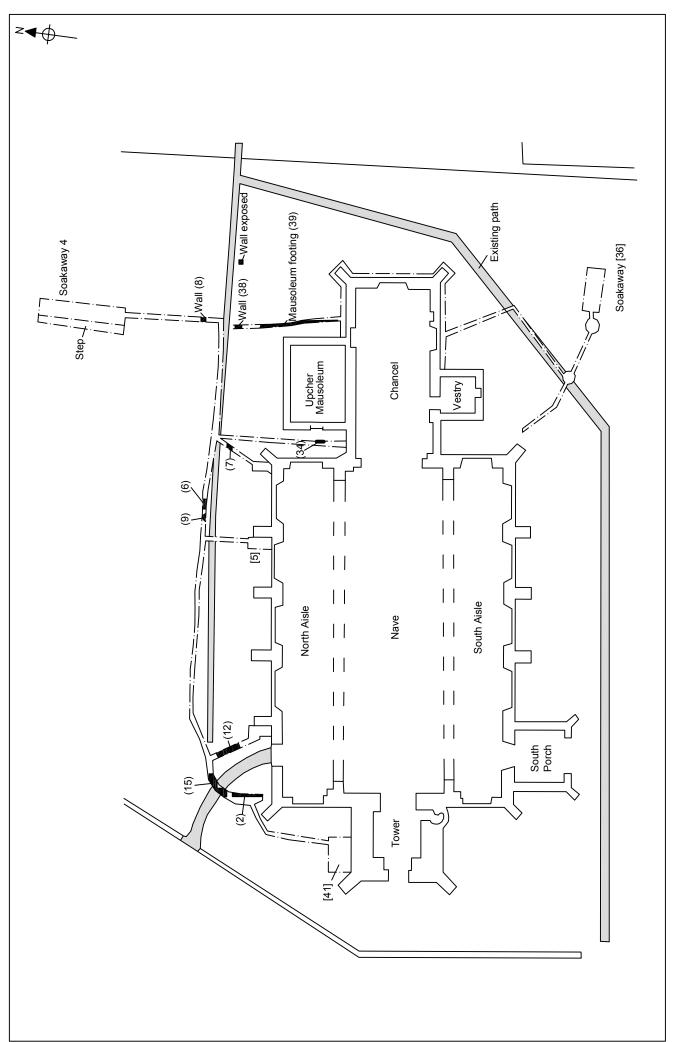
Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt	Abr	L	W	Т	Base (EB)	Mortar	Peg	Glaze	Notes	Date
4	fs	FFT	1	48	+			28				G		14-15
4	fs	FFT	1	138		102+		21+		ms on base & sides			v worn, no glaze. Fingermarks in base	14-15
4	fscp	FFT	1	22	+			10+		ms on base			v v worn	14-15
4	fs	FFT	1	53	+			20+		thin on edge			v worn, no glaze	14-15
4	fs	PAN	1	87								DB	occ calc inclusions	17+
4	fsfe	PAN	1	123									machine-made?	19+
6	est	EB	1	1219			110+	56	sand	small patch ms on top				13-15
12	fscf	FB	1	2670		233	107	55					pale buff, small calc, large chalk pebbles, some flint & occ Fe. Worn surface	18-19
14	fs	PAN	1	14								С		17+
14	fsfe	FFT	1	34				16+		thick white ms on base				14-15
17	fscp	FT	1	14	+								base flake	Imed/pmed
17	fsf	LB	1	68	+			39					soft, not certain it's full thickness	pmed
37	fs	PAN	1	59								DB		17+

Appendix 6: Glass

Context	Туре	Colour	No	Wt/g	Notes	Date
4	w	?	2	3	?rectangular quarry, 3 grozed edges, 46 x 22+ x 2.5mm, partial red-painted border	med
					pattern	
4	w	?	3	6	incomplete ?triangular quarry, 2 grozed edges, 2.9mm thick	med
4	w	?	1	1	v poor, 1.5mm thick, poss 1-2 grozed edges, traces of red paint	med?
14	w	?	1	2	snapped edge? Traces of came position, 1.5mm thick	pmed?
14	W	yellow	1	1	small frag, 0.5mm thick, poss flashing?	med?



Figure 1. Site location



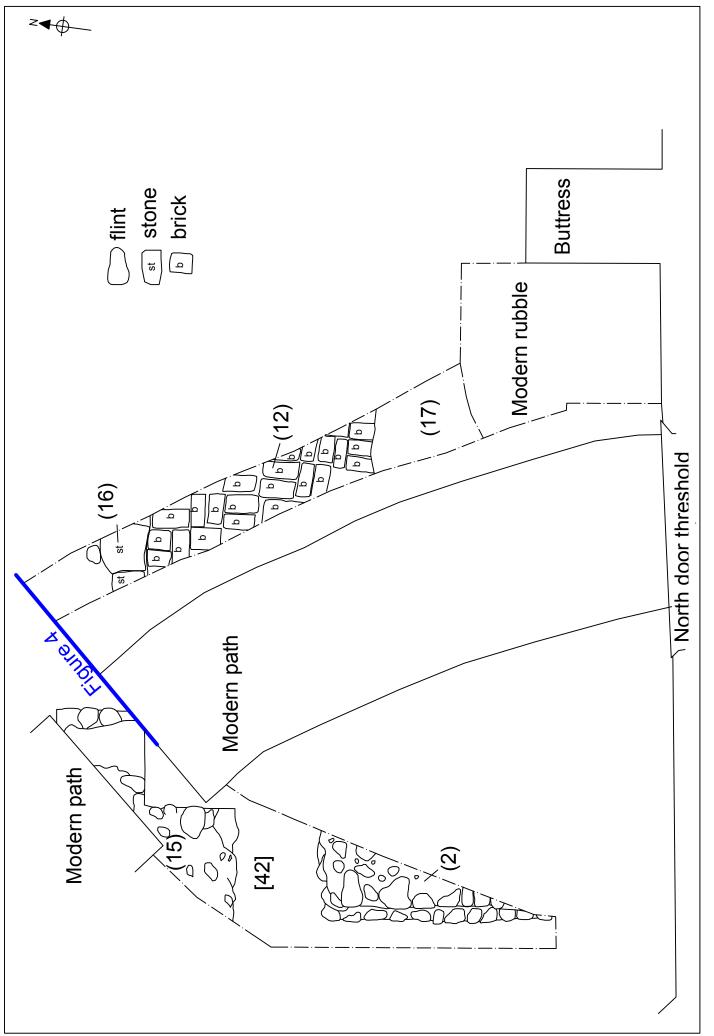


Figure 3. Plan showing exposed part of former north porch. Scale 1:25

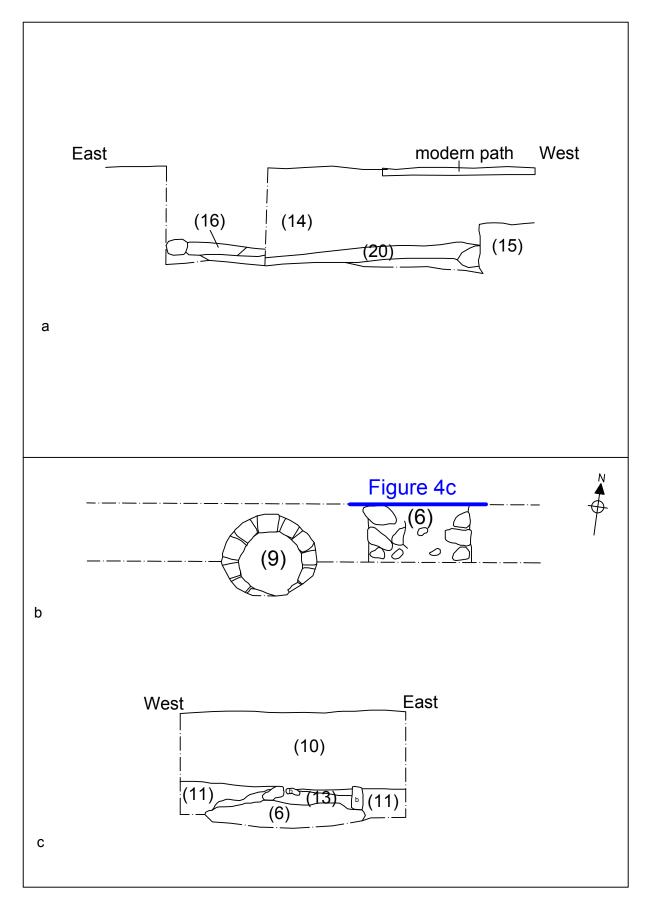


Figure 4. a: Section across porch entrance. Scale 1:15. b: Plan of wall (6). Scale 1:25. c: Section across wall (6). Scale 1:15.

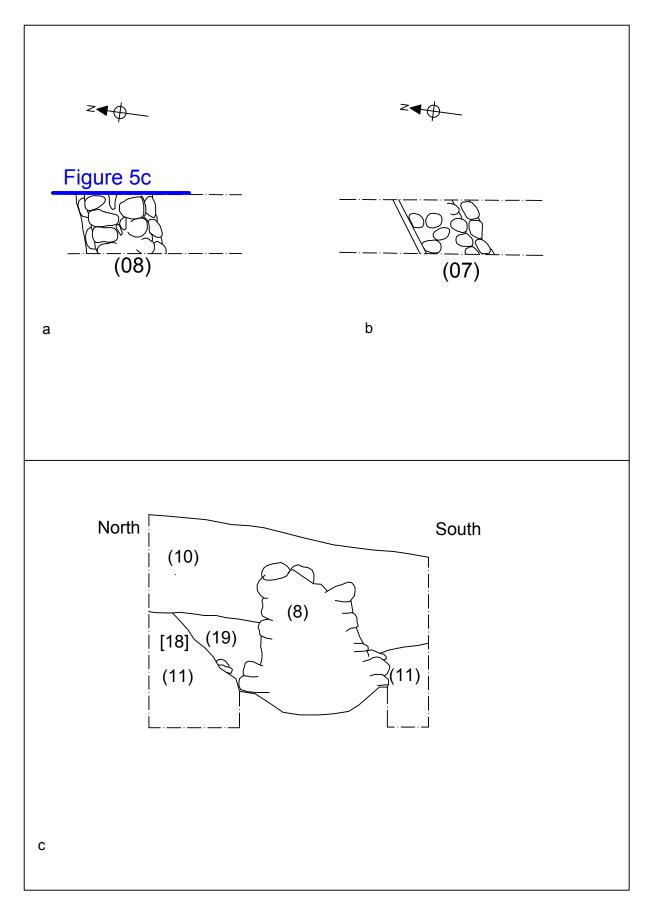


Figure 5. a: Plan of wall (8). Scale 1:25. b: Plan of wall (7). Scale 1:25. c: Section across wall (8). Scale 1:15.

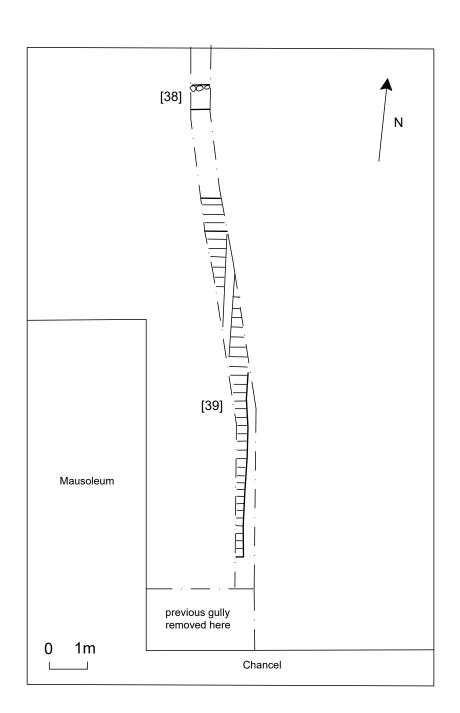
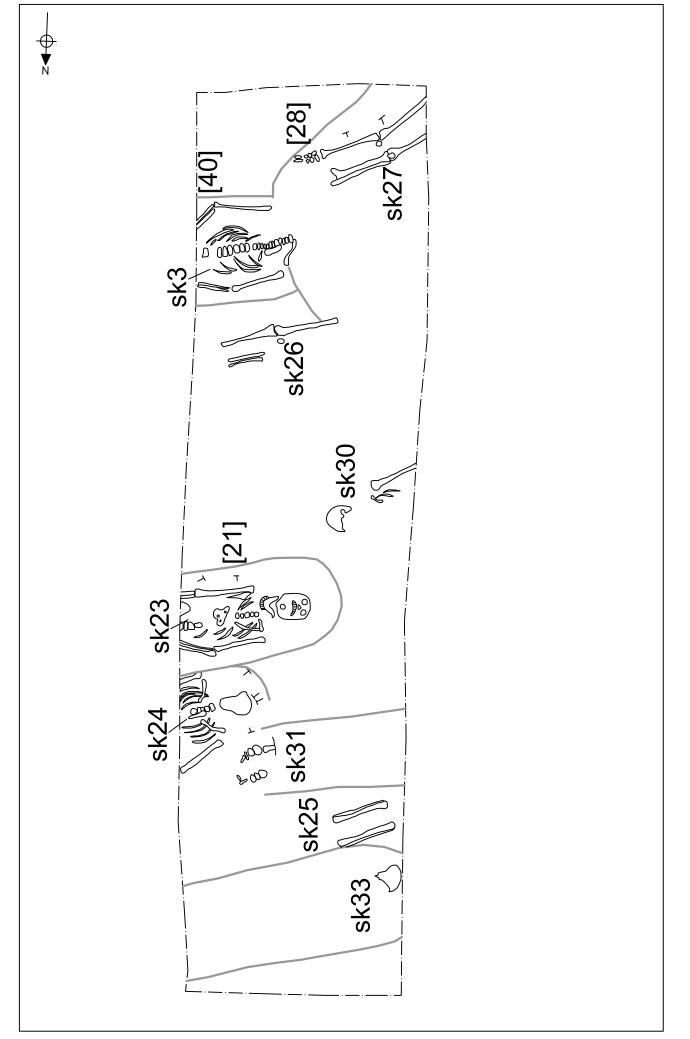


Figure 5d: Base of mausoleum, scale 1:100



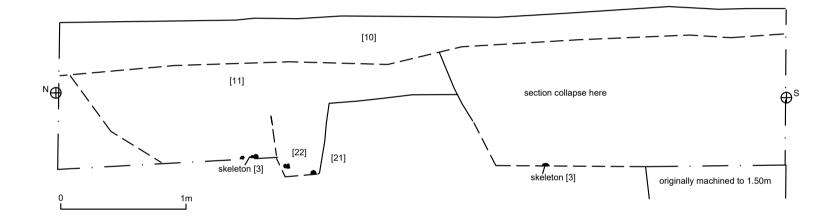


Figure 6a: Trench [4], west-facing section, scale 1:30



Plate 1: Wall [2]/[15], floor [12], looking S, 0.2m scale



Plate 2: Wall [2]/[15], looking S, 0.5m scale



Plate 3: Wall [2], foundation and W face, looking E, 0.5m and 0.2m scale

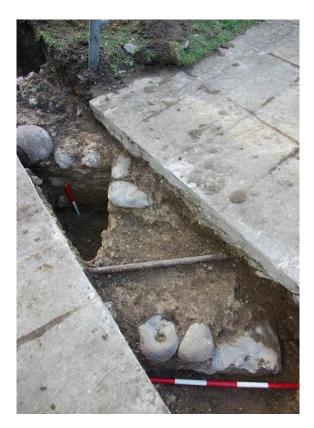


Plate 4: Wall [15], internal corner and E faces, looking W, 0.5m and 0.2m scales



Plate 5: Brick floor and stone threshold of former porch, looking S, 0.5m scale



Plate 6: Wall [6], sunken churchyard path behind, looking E, 0.5m scale



Plate 7: S path-side wall [7], looking S, 0.5m scale



Plate 8: 'Sunken' churchyard path, wall [8], looking NE, 0.5m scale



Plate 9: N path-side wall [8], looking S, 0.5m scale



Plate 10: Gully trench [5], chalk and buttress footings, looking S, 0.5m scale



Plate 11: Chalk ?footing [34]; looking E, 0.5m scale



Plate 12: Base of mausoleum [39], looking S, 0.5m and 0.2m scales



Plate 13: Base of mausoleum [39], looking N, 0.5m and 0.2m scales



Plate 14: Chancel footing, looking SSE, 0.2m scale



Plate 15: Trench [4], looking N, 1m scales



Plate 16: Trench [36] and drains S of church, south porch visible, looking WNW, 1m scale