

Report of Work under Archaeological Supervision and Control

St Andrew's Church, Thursford, Norfolk; installation of lavatory and kitchenette

NHER ENF 145651

Prepared for Thursford PCC



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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
- 8.0 Conclusions

Acknowledgements

References

Appendix 1: OASIS form

Appendix 2: List of contexts

Appendix 3: Finds list

Appendix 4: Pottery

Appendix 5: Ceramic building material

Appendix 6: Stone

Appendix 7: Fired clay?

Appendix 8: Flint

Illustrations

Frontispiece: St Andrew's Church from the north-east

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Plan showing excavated areas and results
Fig. 3	Section through N aisle footings [4]/[9]
Plate 1	Trench 6 from the east
Plate 2	Trench 6 from the west
Plate 3	Trench 6; section
Plate 4	Trench 3
Plate 5:	Trenches 1 and 3
Plate 6	N aisle footings [9]/[4]
Plate 7	N aisle footing [4]
Plate 8	N aisle footings [9]/[4] and deposits to the north
Plate 9	Porch buttress foundation deposits [26], [25], [5] and footing [24]
Plate 10	Vestry footing [2]
Plate 11	Trench 10 from the west
Plate 12	Trench 10 from the east
Plate 13	Trench 10; human remains partly exposed
Plate 14	Vestry; excavated hole 7
Plate 15	Vestry floor lowered, western area
Plate 16	Vestry floor lowered, eastern area
Plate 17	Vestry threshold stone removed
Plate 18	N aisle, hole 8, brick footing [4]
Plate 19	Nave/N aisle; trench 12
Plate 20	Nave; brick channel for heating duct [22]

Project name	St Andrew's Church; installation of lavatory, kitchenette and associated services
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Summary

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the installation of a lavatory and kitchenette and associated services at Thursford Church.

At the 19th-century north aisle a stepped brick footing stood upon a substantial flint footing, possibly of earlier date although this was uncertain; previously the church was not thought to have had an earlier north aisle.

At the south-west vestry a small part of a roughly made flint footing was exposed. Within the vestry, and in a narrow channel ('Trench' 12) excavated across the nave and north aisle sub-floor deposits of sandy crushed mortar rubble were seen and, in the nave, part of a brick heating duct was exposed.

In situ burials were very slightly exposed in the trench for the trench arch drain and in the service trench near the vestry but they were below the required depth for the drains and were re-covered with soil. Nothing else of interest was seen in the excavated trenches.

A new water supply pipe was connected to the mains at Church Lane and ran across the field to the east of the church. A slight concentration of flint and brick rubble near the west side of the field may have related to a building shown on a 19th-century map.

Archaeological finds included a few pieces of prehistoric struck flint, sherds of Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds and single fragments of post-medieval roof tile (possibly reused in a kiln), worked limestone and possible fired clay.

A small amount of disarticulated human bone found during the work was reinterred in the churchyard.

1.0 Introduction

St Andrew's Church is located, at TF 9839 3379, almost centrally within Thursford parish just north of Thursford Old Hall and about 600m to the south-east of the area of most concentrated settlement in the parish at Thursford Green. The church is approximately mid-way between Fakenham and Holt in North Norfolk and to the north of the A148 road (Fig. 1A).

Building improvements were being undertaken at the church by Nicholas Warns Architect Ltd and Phoenix Build site contractors for Thursford PCC.

The work involved installation of a lavatory in the south vestry and a kitchenette at the west end of the north aisle. Services for these included the laying of a new water supply connected to the mains at the road to the north-east of the church, and a trench arch drainage system for the lavatory.

Other work included restoration of some windows. Work to improve access at the north doorway and to form a lobby area in the south aisle which had been planned (see Bates 2019) was not carried out due to a lack of funding.

Archaeological work involved observation and recording during the groundworks in the churchyard and within the building. It followed a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Sarah Bates (2019) to meet the requirements of an archaeological brief set by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES Brief for the Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control, CNF44559, Steve Hickling 17/12/18).

Thursford PCC funded the improvements and archaeological work.

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 church is located centrally in Thursford parish at a height of approximately 68m OD (OS benchmark at 68.17m OD on the church. Land slopes down gently westwards of the church towards the River Stiffkey about a kilometre away.

The underlying solid geology in the area of the site is chalk. This is overlaid by till deposits from glacial and post-glacial outwash and meltwaters (British Geological Survey 2017). Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey with moderate to high fertility and slightly impeded drainage (LandIS 2019).

The churchyard is grassed and roughly level. A gravel path leads directly from the entrance at the north-west side of the churchyard to the main north doorway. Gravestones have, previously, been cleared from most of the northern part of churchyard.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

St Andrew's Church

Historic Environment Record

The existing church comprises a square west tower, nave with north porch and north and south aisles, chancel, with an organ chamber to its north and chapel to its south, and a vestry at the west end of the south aisle and south of the tower.

The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) records the north doorway as dating from around 1200 and the tower from the early 14th century. Much of the rest of the building was 'thoroughly renovated' in the early 1860s' – paid for by the Chad family from the nearby Thursford Hall. The east window, designed by Albert Moore in 1862 is considered to be one of the finest of the period in the country.

Conservation Report 2018

The church was described by Hugh Richmond in a report written in advance of previous drainage work at the church (Richmond 2012). Hugh Richmond's full report will be deposited with the NHER with this report but his description and interpretation of the building's development are summarised here: He dated the north doorway as 13th-century, part of the south aisle and the tower as from c. 1300 (with the belfry c. 1350) and the south and west walls of the south aisle as from c.1400.

Major restoration of the church took place in in the late 19th century with work occurring in 1865 and c.1874. A drawing by R. Ladbroke from c.1820, and a description of the church from 1868, suggests that before restoration the building comprised tower, nave with south aisle and north porch, and chancel with north and south chapels. The first restoration involved re-roofing the nave and south aisle and rebuilding the south chapel as the Chad family pew and burial vault. It probably also included rebuilding the north porch and the addition of the south-west vestry. The second restoration (covered by a Faculty of 1873) included rebuilding the chancel, building the organ chamber, adding the north aisle and re-opening the south doorway.

The churchyard

The first edition late nineteenth century Ordnance Survey Map shows the area of the churchyard as the same as that today but a slightly earlier tithe map suggests that the churchyard boundary may have previously curved slightly outwards at its southern side (Norfolk County Council 2011).

Other archaeological evidence

A search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for an area within a 500m radius of the church shows records of sites and finds of prehistoric to post-medieval date:

The church lies within the north-east area of Thursford Park; a post-medieval landscape park surrounding Thursford Hall. The hall originally dated to the 16th century but only a service wing of that date survives along with 17th-19th-century outbuildings. The hall itself was rebuilt in 1820 and 1857 but was demolished in 1918.

Metal detecting in the field immediately east of the churchyard in 2005-2006 resulted in finds of a Late Saxon furniture fitting or harness mount, three medieval jettons, a post-medieval jetton and a post-medieval token.

Other sites and finds are also recorded in the NHER further to the east of the church. They include cropmarks of fields, and the post-medieval sites of an ice house with a well unusually sited next to it, a brick kiln and a windmill. Detecting in an area to the north-east led to the recovery of a prehistoric flint, Roman, medieval and post-medieval coins, a Roman pendant, an Early Saxon brooch and a post-medieval harness fitting.

The first edition Ordnance Survey map and an aerial photograph from 1988 show the development of the surrounds of Thursford Hall and north-west of the church from parkland with occasional trees in the 19th century to open arable/pasture in the late 20th century. Strips of woodland to the north of the church and around the field to its west have been introduced since 1988 (Norfolk County Council 2011). The nineteenth century Ordnance Survey Map maps show that the churchyard boundary has remained the same. A 19th-century tithe map shows the field to the east of the church subdivided and a building/buildings in its north-west corner beside the track but these are not shown on the slightly later OS map.

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 improvement works.

The trenches in the churchyard were dug by machine, with some smaller areas dug by hand, by the site contractors under archaeological control and supervision.

The location of the areas of work was recorded and trenches were assigned context numbers for the purpose of reference and description (Fig. 2). *Pro forma* context sheets were used to record the excavated trenches, features and deposits. A few pieces of human bone were recovered; they were left in the care of the church for reinterment in the churchyard.

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

Finds of archaeological significance were retrieved. Spoil heaps were metal detected. No deposits required sampling for environmental assessment.

Site conditions were good. Weather was fine and dry, and areas of work (both inside and outside the church) were accessible.

5.0 Results (Figs. 1 -3, Plates 1-20)

Introduction

All context numbers are listed in Appendix 2. Archaeological context numbers are shown in square brackets. Excavated trenches/areas assigned 'context' numbers are shown by Trench or Area number. Unless otherwise described, depths given below were measured from the ground surface existing at the time of work.

In the churchyard, deposits below the topsoil which had accumulated due to the repeated digging into underlying subsoil and redeposition of material by grave-digging or other activity are referred to as churchyard soil [13] – this varied slightly in different areas but was generally orangey brown slightly clayey sandy silt with occasional small to medium flints. Topsoil in the churchyard was dark brown slightly fine silty/clayey loam [14].

Trench for water supply pipe and foul drainage

A trench was dug for a new water supply which was connected to the mains supply beside Church Lane to the north-east of the church. The trench was 0.30m wide assigned separate numbers in different areas. Trench 6 crossed the field east of the churchyard and entered the churchyard at its north –east corner (Fig. 1B). Trench 3 ran across the northern part of the churchyard and Trench 1 was the continuation of the trench around the west end of the building (Fig. 2). Trench 1 also held the foul drainage pipe from the new lavatory in the south-west vestry.

Trench 6 was between 0.75m and 0.90m deep (slightly shallower, 0.65m, near the western end of the field) (Plates 1 and 2). Fine, slightly gritty, orange brown sandy silt subsoil included rare to occasional small and medium sized flints and a very rare fragment of brick or tile [15] (Plate 3). Eastwards from about mid-way across the field the lower subsoil included patches of orangey grey clay reflecting the natural geology. Topsoil was brown silty loam with a slightly stonier lower horizon in some places. [16]. At the time of the work, the topsoil was quite dry and quite hard. Approximately 55m from the west end of the trench an area of more flint-rich spoil (with moderate amounts of flints) and a few fragments of brick was observed over a distance of about five metres. Finds recovered from the spoil from Trench 6 include a sherd of possible Middle Saxon pottery from near the west end of the field and post-medieval pottery (a small number of sherds) from along its length. A fragment of post-medieval roof tile may have been used as a spacer in a pottery kiln. A crudely retouched thermal fragment of flint was also found.

Metal detecting of the spoil from trench 6 led to the recovery of a few iron nails, a cartridge case and a few other fragments of modern date. These finds were not retained.

Trench 3 ran from the north-west corner of the churchyard to just east of the north path, then turning southwards to serve the kitchenette in the north aisle (Fig. 2, Plates 4 and 5). It was between 0.65m and 0.75m deep, being shallowest to the east of the church. Churchyard soil [13] was overlaid by 0.30m of topsoil [14]. At the church wall, the footings of the north aisle and porch's north-east buttresses were exposed.

A substantial stepped solid footing was recorded at the wall of the aisle with two

lower steps of flint in cream mortar with chalk flecks [9] (Plate 6). The lowest step extended 0.30m from the face of the aisle wall and its bottom was reached at a depth of 0.95m below the existing ground level (1.86m below the bottom of the stone window sill to the east). Above the solid flint footing were three steps of red brick with greyish white hard mortar [4] and [5] (Figs 2 and 3, Plate 7). Soil deposits recorded immediately to the north of the aisle footings included a lower layer of yellowish brown soft silty sand with very few flecks of mortar [19] overlain by a thin spread of cream sandy mortar [23] which was roughly level with the top of the lowest step of footing [9] and probably related to the subsequent construction (Fig. 3). Above [23] was deposit [18] which was very similar to [19] but with slightly more mortar flecks. The upper horizon of layer [18] coincided with change in the stepped footing from flint [9] to brick [4] and deposit [18] lapped into the interface between the two different parts of the footing (Plate 8) although on its removal the north faces of the footings [9] and [4] were seen to be flush to each other (Fig. 3). Above this level was deposit [17]; a darker yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate amounts of crushed mortar and very rare fragments of brick. This merged with the 'churchyard soil' described elsewhere but, here, clearly post-dated the construction of the north aisle.

The north-east corner of the porch's north-eastern buttress footing was seen in the side of Trench 3. (Plates 6, 7 and 9). The lowest exposed deposit, its bottom not reached, was compacted crushed chalky mortar [26] which appeared to have an overlying layer of yellowish brown silty sand [25] running between it and an upper, very similar chalky mortar [5] (Plate 9 – red brick dust visible on part of the buttress footing resulted from cutting through aisle wall). Above the compacted mortar foundation layers, the north-east corner of the solid mortared flint footing [24] protruded into the excavated trench extending 0.55m from the end of the buttress and 0.15m from its south-east side. Its upper surface was 0.40m below the bottom of the chamfer on the buttress plinth.

A lump of brick rubble was found near the north-east corner of the churchyard but was not *in situ* – it had probably been dumped in the corner of the churchyard. Part of a gravestone dated 1769 which was found in the trench about 2m east of the churchyard path (Fig. 2). It was not fully legible. A very small number of fragments of human bone were found in the trench.

Trench 1, west of the church was 0.75m deep. Churchyard soil [13] was overlaid by 0.30m of topsoil [14]. The vestry footing was exposed at the base of its west wall [2] (Fig. 2, Plate 10). Its bottom was not reached within the excavated trench but the lower (main) part comprised solid roughly mortared flints with occasional brick fragments. A layer of creamy white mortar with small flints (0.15m thick) formed the top of the offset footing which extended 0.20m from the face of the wall.

About 2m from the south vestry wall some rib bones were found *in situ* (position shown in Fig. 2) and slightly further west a few other bones (including some rib bones of a juvenile individual) were disturbed in the bottom of the trench but they were below the depth required for the drain were re-covered with soil and left in place. Two adjoining fragments of a stone slab were found just to the south-west of the tower's south-west buttress; there was no inscription on one plain face and the rear and sides of the slab had chisel marks. They may have been from a gravestone or were, perhaps, part of an architectural slab. Nothing else of archaeological interest was seen in the trench.

Trench arch soakaway

Trench 10 was positioned in the open area of churchyard approximately 3.50m north of the north aisle (Fig. 2, Plates 11-13). It was 14.30m in length and 1.20m wide. The base of the trench sloped down from a depth of 0.20m at the west end to 0.60m about five metres to the east and to a maximum depth of 0.75m along the central length. The easternmost two metre length sloped up to ground level (as per the design specification). Churchyard soil [13] was overlaid by 0.30m of topsoil [14]. In the eastern part of the trench some *in situ* lower leg and foot bones were exposed (Plate 13) (but were actually below the depth required for the trench arch drain so were re-covered with soil). Just to the north of these bones, the drain from the church to a soakaway in the north-east part of the churchyard was partly exposed running from WSW to ENE.

Two fragments of gravestone were found one of them a small unmarked piece and the other with a degraded surface and only a letter 'S' legible. A sherd of early medieval pottery, a small fragment of possible fired clay and a patinated flint flake fragment were found in the trench.

A very small number of fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered from the area of Trench 10.

The drain from the north aisle to the trench arch soakaway was laid in the same trench as the water pipe.

Work within the vestry

In September 2019 a few of the floor tiles (105mm square red and black) were lifted in the south-west corner of the vestry and a small hole was dug by the contractor to allow the cutting of a hole through the wall footing for service pipes to enter the building. The hole was approximately 0.30m 'square' and 0.65m deep. It was too dark in the small area to see the under-floor deposits but flash photography revealed a thick layer of crushed mortar rubble with occasional brick fragments [20] and, in the bottom of the hole, a large piece of worked limestone which had at least one concave surface (Plate 14). It must have been a building fragment dumped or reused here, as part of the footing, during the construction of the vestry in the 19th century (a piece broken from it during the contractors work was retained - see below; *Finds, Stone*).

A return visit to the church was made in July 2020 when work continued inside the vestry (Area 11) and the floor was lowered to enable level access from the south aisle. The tiled floor was lifted (almost all of the tiles broke or were damaged during lifting) and the sub-floor deposits of compacted and semi-hardened sandy lime (?crushed mortar or screed) with frequent fine gravel and rare fragments of floor pavement or brick [20] were removed to the required depth (250mm below the original floor surface). The same material continued below this level (Plates 15 and 16). No features of archaeological interest were seen within the area.

The internal wall footings were exposed by the removal of the floor and under-lying deposits (Plates 15-17). Three courses of red bricks were seen at the west and south walls above which were the plastered wall faces. The bricks were just below the external ground level (measurements were taken at the west window). At the north side of the vestry a small area of flints was exposed at the bottom of the tower stair turret wall but most of that area, and the surface exposed at the tower's south wall remained partly covered in render. To the east, flints were exposed at the base of the nave's west wall and, at the vestry doorway, the stone threshold slab (the top of which was flush with the former floor of the vestry) was removed. Loose mortar

rubble was seen below it and the heavily disturbed areas of the south aisle wall were exposed at each side, partly supported by bricks - presumably from when the doorway was inserted in the 19th century (Plate 17). The original wall base or footing was not seen below/within the doorway.

Work within the north aisle and nave

In September 2019 a few of the floor tiles) were lifted in the north-west corner of the north aisle and a small hole was dug by the contractor to allow the cutting of a hole through the wall footing for service pipes to enter the building [8]. The hole was approximately 0.40 in diameter at the top, and 0.80m deep. It was hard to see the sides of the small deep hole but material removed from it comprised crushed sandy mortar with some flints [21]. In the north side of the hole the brick footing of the north aisle wall was exposed (Plate 18); this was the south side of footing [4] described above (see Trench 3).

In July 2020 a narrow 'trench' was dug from the vestry doorway across the nave and north aisle to lay an electricity cable to the new kitchenette (Fig. 2, Plate 19). This was approximately 0.20m wide and deep and along almost all of its length only the crushed sandy mortar subfloor make-up material [21] was seen and very little of it was excavated from below the tiled floor. Centrally within the nave the brick channel for a former heating duct was exposed, its uppermost bricks only 0.10m below the floor surface (Fig. 2, Plate 20). Its inner faces were sooted black and there was a thick layer of soot in its base. It was 0.30m wide and 0.58m in depth from the nave floor surface to a flat surface at its base (presumably the brick base but not exposed due to the thick deposit of black soot (80mm) in the bottom). Existing electricity cables were exposed in two places (see Fig. 2).

Reinterment of the human remains

The small amounts of human bone recovered during the excavations were bagged and labelled and left securely in the church. The PCC was informed. Reinterment was arranged by the contractor and the PCC.

6.0 The finds

by Sue Anderson

Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds collected during the fieldwork. A full quantification by context is provided in Appendix 1.

Find type	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	8	215
CBM	1	26
Fired clay?	1	7
Stone	2	1954

Table 1. Finds quantities.

Pottery

Eight sherds of pottery weighing 215g were collected from two contexts. Table 2 shows the quantification by fabric, and a full quantification by context is included in Appendix 2.

Description	Fabric	Date range	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Sandy Ipswich Ware?	SIPS?	L.7th-9th c.	1	16		1
Early medieval ware?	EMW?	11th-12th c.	1	7		1
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	16th-18th c.	3	54	0.07	1
Nottingham stoneware	ESWN	L.17th-19th c.	1	116		1
English stoneware	ESW	17th-20th c.	1	17		1
Stoneware	SW	17th-20th c.	1	5		1
Total			8	215	0.07	6

Table 2. Pottery quantification by fabric.

One sherd of possible Middle Saxon Ipswich ware was found in the east end of contractor's trench [6]. The sherd was in a fabric which would be compatible with this identification, but it was relatively thin-walled. It may be a transitional piece from the end of the Middle Saxon period, or perhaps an early Thetford-type ware fragment.

A possible early medieval ware sherd was found in contractor's trench [10]. It was handmade and fairly thick-walled, so may be earlier.

There were three sherds of post-medieval glazed red earthenware from contractor's trench [6], two body sherds with orange glaze on both surfaces, and a brown-glazed ?pipkin rim of collared type. Also recovered from the trench were three pieces of stoneware, of which only one was identifiable. This was a footring base of Nottingham-type stoneware, probably from a large bowl, but the edges of the bowl appeared to have been deliberately chipped away, possibly with the intention of modifying the large footring into a small dish. A body sherd of 'tiger ware' in a pinkish fabric may be an underfired Frechen stoneware or a London copy. A sliver of pale buff stoneware with no surfaces was also recovered.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

One fragment (26g) of ?plain roof tile was collected from the west end of contractor's trench [6] (Appendix 3). It was in a fine sandy fabric and measured 15mm thick. A kiln scar was present on the surface, which was partially covered in dark brown glaze, suggesting that the fragment may have been used as a spacer in a late medieval or early post-medieval pottery kiln. Similar fragments were recovered from a large waster assemblage recently excavated at Cringleford, and dated to the 17th century (Anderson 2020).

Stone

Two joining fragments of a large limestone block were recovered from contractor's trench [7] (Appendix 4). The limestone is a coarse shelly type with copious gastropod fossils and flakes of mica visible in the broken section, suggesting a possible southern English origin for the stone. The fragments make up part of an approximately right-angled corner, which was damaged, or possibly intentionally but crudely rounded. The stone measures 180+ x 170+ x 80+mm. Lime mortar is present in small patches on the edge. The stone may relate to the 19th-century renovations of the church, although an earlier date cannot be ruled out.

Fired clay?

A small fragment (7g) of ?fired clay was recovered from contractor's trench [10] (Appendix 5). It was in a silty fabric with ferrous inclusions and had one flattish, very smooth surface. It may be a natural siltstone which had been oxidised through exposure to fire.

Flint

by Sarah Bates

Four pieces of struck flint were recovered during the work.

Two flints were found close to the footing of the north aisle (and were recorded under the context number assigned for the footing [9]). A broad thick hard hammer struck flake with a hinged distal termination has very slight use-related damage to its short right lateral edge. The other flint is a tiny fragment from a flake or spall.

A small fragment from a thin flake found in the trench arch drain trench [10]. It is patinated.

An irregular flake like thermal fragment is crudely retouched along one side and a slight notch in the opposite edge may be use-related although might be accidental damage; overall the piece is rather edge damaged and abraded. This flint was found central area of a trench in the field to the east of the church [6].

The flints represents activity in the vicinity of the site during the prehistoric period. It is not closely datable but the presence of the broad thick hard hammer struck flake and the use of such a flake, as well as the use of an irregular thermal fragment, is characteristic of the later prehistoric period (Late Bronze Age or Iron Age) (Robins 1996, 269).

7.0 Conclusions

Clean undisturbed natural deposits were not clearly exposed during the work although, in the field to the east of the church, the lowest soils encountered were probably close to such a horizon. In the area of the churchyard only 'churchyard soil' was reached at the excavated depths.

Four struck flints represented activity in the prehistoric period and the nature of some of them suggested a later prehistoric date (Bronze Age or Iron Age). A prehistoric flint flake or knife was found some distance to the north-east of the church in the past but none was previously known from the churchyard or the area of the water pipe in the adjacent field.

Small parts of the church footings were observed during the work. The upper, brick, footings exposed at the north aisle wall clearly related to the 19th-century construction. The lower part of the footing (flints in a cream lime mortar), was very different in fabric and mortar type and there was a distinction in the soil layers abutting the footings with silty sand deposits possibly pre-dating the construction of the upper, brick, footing. These facts might point to an earlier date for the lower part of the footing with it then being utilised during the construction of the 19th-century north aisle. The very exact overlaying of the brick footing upon the mortared flints,

with the vertical north face flush between the two parts, might, however, suggest that they are of the same date and the overall stepped nature of the footing seems consistent with a 19th-century date (Richmond pers. com. August 2019).

The faculty of 1873 gave permission to *add* a new north aisle and Hugh Richmond found no evidence to suggest that a north aisle previously existed (Richmond 2010, 3- 4). Pevsner dates the north aisle east bay as 14th century but precise evidence for that dating is not described (Pevsner and Wilson, 1999, 696). The nature of the lower part of the excavated north aisle footing is very substantial compared to many 19th-century foundations (e.g. seen elsewhere, and see below, the footing of the south vestry) and its fabric is entirely of flint and lime mortar, which might suggest an earlier date. Medieval windows in the wall of the 19th-century north aisle are thought possibly to have been moved from the nave north wall (Richmond 2012, 2) – but perhaps they came from a former north aisle?

It was difficult to clarify any relationship between the recorded aisle and porch buttress footings due to the small area and awkward angle between them exposed in the trench (see Plate 9). Richmond considers it most likely that the porch was rebuilt as part of the first phase of 19th-century restoration with the construction of the north aisle a few years later. The date of an original porch is uncertain but it seems quite likely that its footings would have been utilised and the porch rebuilt in the same position. The position of the porch in relation to the north aisle is unusual and suggests that it predated the existence of a north aisle.

Part of a gravestone dated 1769 was found buried in the area of the water pipe trench to the north of the north porch. A gravestone of similar date (William Lark, 1765) and another probably of similar age, were seen (previously removed from their original positions) leaning against a tomb to the south of the church but other gravestones in the churchyard appeared to be of 19th-century date.

A slight concentration of flint rubble and a few pieces of brick came from an area of the water pipe trench near the western side of the field to the east of the churchyard. This corresponded roughly with the position of a building/s shown on a 19th-century tithe map and a local resident reported that a 'row of cottages' once stood there. The building was probably demolished during the 19th century as it is not shown on the late 19th-century first edition Ordnance Survey map.

Within the church sub-floor deposits were exposed, footings of the vestry walls were partly exposed and the southern side of the brick footing of the north aisle was seen. Part of the brick channel for a heating duct was recorded in the nave.

The footing of the 19th-century vestry comprised roughly mortared flints with an occasional fragment of brick, the mortar was creamish white. The footing was unlike those at the north aisle and porch.

In the trench for the trench arch drain a small part of a burial was exposed but was reburied, as were some in situ human remains seen near the south vestry.

Archaeological finds included a few struck flints of prehistoric date, Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds, a piece of post-medieval roof tile (possibly reused in a kiln), a piece of worked limestone and a fragment of possible fired clay.

A few fragments of disarticulated human bone were reinterred in the churchyard.

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The archaeological work was commissioned and funded by Thursford PCC. The improvement works were undertaken by Nicholas Warns Architect Ltd and Phoenix Build were the main site contractors.

The advice and interest of Nichols Warns is gratefully acknowledged as is that of Chris Rheinberg (Thursford PCC). Thanks are also due to Ashley Banester and his colleagues from Phoenix Build for their cooperation and help in facilitating the archaeological work.

The archaeological brief was set by Steve Hickling (Norfolk County Council Community and Environment Service). Archaeological site work was undertaken by Sarah Bates. Figure 2 uses a plan of the church provided by Nicholas Warns Architect Ltd.

A report on the background and development of the church building (Richmond 2012) is referred to above and the author is gratefully acknowledged. A copy of Hugh Richmond's report will be deposited with the NHER along with this archaeological report which has been commented upon and approved by Steve Hickling NCCCES.

References:

Anderson, S., 2020	<i>Newfound Farm, Cringleford (ENF145412): pottery and kiln waste archive report.</i> Report for Oxford Archaeology East (unpubl.)
Bates, S., 2019	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation, Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control, St Andrew's Church, Thursford, Norfolk, St Andrew's Church, Thursford, Norfolk, Installation of lavatory and kitchenette with associated services, improvements to access at north porch and formation of lobby in south aisle</i>
British Geological Survey 2017	http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html
LandIS 2019	http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/ Cranfield University, Soil and Agrifood Institute, Land Information Service
Norfolk County Council 2011	'1946 Aerial', and 'Ordnance Survey 1st Edition' http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/
Pevsner, N. and Wilson, B, 1999	<i>The Buildings of England, Norfolk 2: Norwich and North-East</i> (2nd edition) (Pevsner Wilson)
Richmond, H., 2012	<i>The Church of St Andrew, Thursford, Norfolk</i> , Conservation Report, English Heritage Repair Grants for Places of Worship in England 2010-2011 GRC 10/001/224018
Robins, P., 1996	'Worked flint' in Ashwin, T. 'Excavation of an Iron Age Site at Silfield, Wymondham, Norfolk, 1992-3', <i>Norfolk Archaeol.</i> XLII, part III, 266-270

Appendix 1

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: sarahbat1-367413

Project details

Project name	St Andrew's Church, Thursford, installation of toilet and kitchenette improvements
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the installation of a lavatory and kitchenette and associated services at Thursford Church. At the 19th-century north aisle a stepped brick footing stood upon a substantial flint footing, possibly of earlier date although this was uncertain; previously the church was not thought to have had an earlier north aisle. At the south-west vestry a small part of a roughly made flint footing was exposed. Within the vestry, and in a narrow channel ('Trench' 12) excavated across the nave and north aisle sub-floor deposits of sandy crushed mortar rubble were seen and, in the nave, part of a brick heating duct was exposed. In situ burials were very slightly exposed in the trench for the trench arch drain and in the service trench near the vestry but they were below the required depth for the drains and were re-covered with soil. Nothing else of interest was seen in the excavated trenches. A new water supply pipe was connected to the mains at Church Lane and ran across the field to the east of the church. A slight concentration of flint and brick rubble near the west side of the field may have related to a building shown on a 19th-century map. Archaeological finds included a few pieces of prehistoric struck flint, sherds of Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds and single fragments of post-medieval roof tile (possibly reused in a kiln), worked limestone and possible fired clay. A small amount of disarticulated human bone found during the work was reinterred in the churchyard.
Project dates	Start: 10-09-2019 End: 14-07-2020
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	FOOTING Medieval
Monument type	FOOTING Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK NORTH NORFOLK THURSFORD St Andrew's Church
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 9839 3379 52.864547817332 0.947604307224 52 51 52 N 000 56 51 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	Thursford 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	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Report of Work under Archaeological Supervision and Control, St Andrew's Church, Thursford, Norfolk; installation of lavatory and kitchenetteChurch, Sibton, Suffolk, Drainage works
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Bates. S
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 56
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Sarah Bates
Place of issue or publication	NORWICH
Description	A4 Grey literature report

Entered by Sarah Bates (sj.bates@yahoo.co.uk)

Entered on 16 December 2020

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Appendix 2: List of contexts

Context	Type	Area	Category	Description
1	Trench		Contractor's trench	trench for new water supply pipe W of church
2	Masonry	1	Footing	S vestry footing
3	Trench		Contractor's trench	trench for new water supply pipe S of church, and from S aisle
4	Masonry	3	Footing	N aisle footing
5	Masonry	3	Footing	upper foundation of N porch buttress footing [24]
6	Trench		Contractor's trench	trench for new water supply pipe, in field E of the church
7	Trench		Contractor's trench	small hole dug in SW corner of vestry
8	Trench		Contractor's trench	small hole dug in NW corner of vestry
9	Masonry	3	Footing	flint footing beneath N wall of N aisle
10	Trench		Contractor's trench	trench for trench arch sewer
11	Trench		Contractor's trench	area of vestry/during removal of sub-floor material
12	Trench		Contractor's trench	narrow slot dug across W nave floor for electricity cable
13	Deposit	all	Layer	churtyard soil
14	Deposit	all	Layer	topsoil in churtyard
15	Deposit	6	Layer	subsoil in field
16	Deposit	6	Layer	topsoil in field
17	Deposit	3	Layer	churtyard soil (upper)
18	Deposit	3	Layer	churtyard soil (middle)
19	Deposit	3	Layer	churtyard soil (lower)
20	Deposit	11	Layer	sub-floor deposit in vestry
21	Deposit	12	Layer	sub-floor deposit in nave and N aisle
22	Masonry	12	Duct	brick duct for heating
23	Deposit	3	Layer	mortar spread between [18] and [19]
24	Masonry	3	Footing	solid flint footing of porch buttress
25	Deposit	3	Layer	?same as [18]
26	Deposit	3	Footing	lower foundation of [5]/[24]

Appendix 3: Finds list

Context	Pottery No	Pottery Wt	CBM No	CBM Wt	FC No	FC Wt	Stone No	Stone Wt	Spotdate
6	2	36							16-18
6E	2	121							L.17-19
6W	3	51	1	26					17+
7							2	1954	med?
10	1	7			1	7			11-12+

Appendix 4: Pottery

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Spot date
6	GRE	D	1	13	1			16-18
6	GRE	D	1	23	1			16-18
6 E	ESWN	B	1	116	1			L.17-19
6 E	SW	U	1	5	1			pmed
6 W	ESW	D	1	17	1			17+
6 W	GRE	R	1	18	1	PK?	COLL	16-17
6 W	SIPS	U	1	16	1			L.7-9
10	EMW	U	1	7	1			11-12?

Appendix 5: Ceramic building material

Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt	Abr	L	W	T	Glaze	Notes	Date
6 W	fs	RTP?	1	26	+			15	db	kiln scar on surface, poss pot kiln waste	pmed

Appendix 6: Stone

Context	Type	No	Wt (g)	Notes	Date
7	coarse shelly (gastropods) limestone	2	1954	joining frags of large block, 3 surfaces, approx right-angled corner (damaged, or poss intentionally but crudely rounded), 180+ x 170+ x 80+mm. mortar on edge	?

Appendix 7: Fired clay

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	Colour	Surface	Abrasion	Notes
10	sfe		1	7	orange	flattish, v smooth	++	may be natural siltstone?

Appendix 8: Flint

Ctxt	Type	No.
10	flake	1
6	spall	1
6	retouched fragment	1
6	utilised flake	1
9	retouched flake	1
9	utilised flake	1

A



B

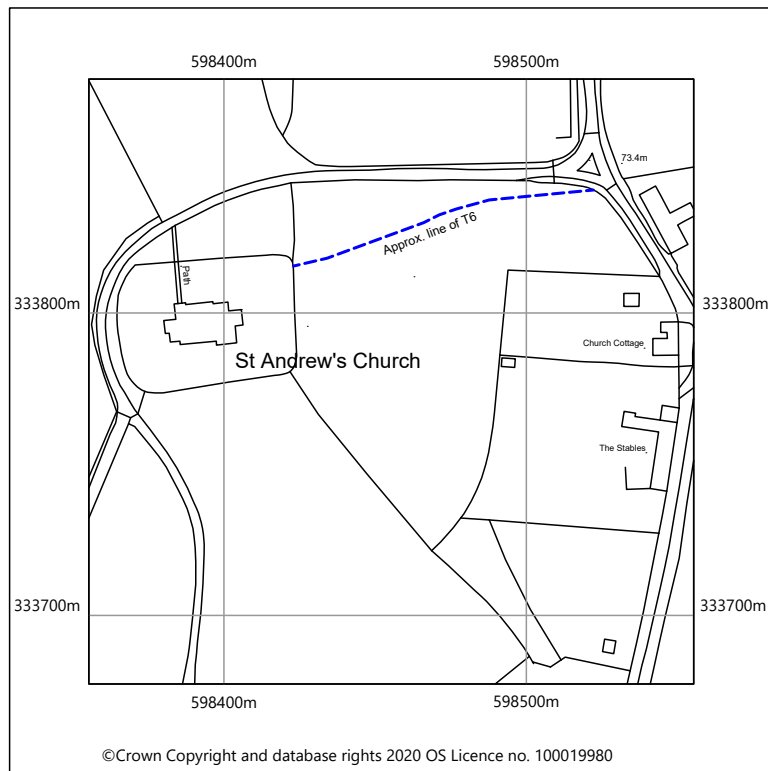


Fig. 1: ENF 145651; Site location

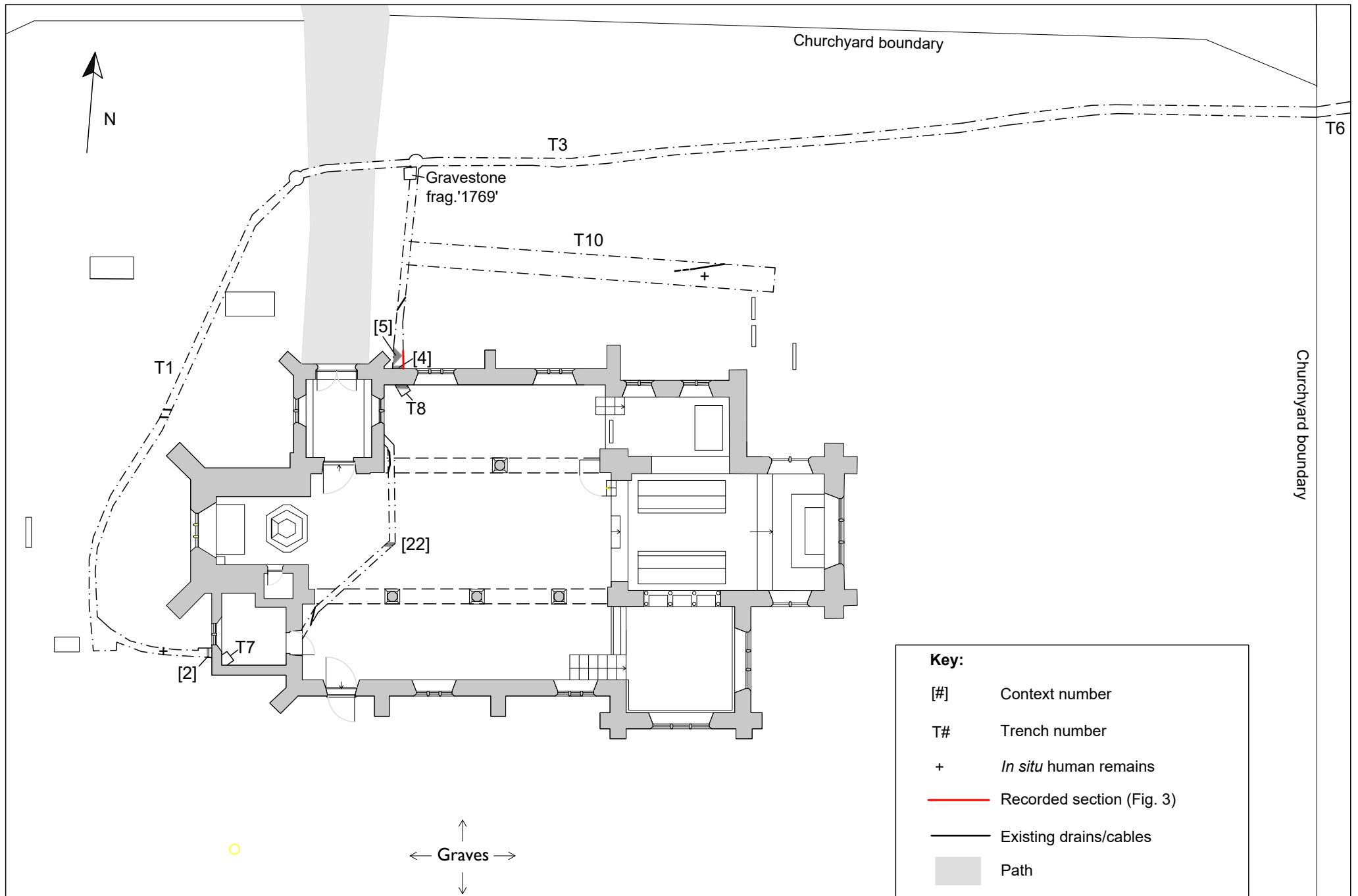


Fig. 2: ENF 145651; St Andrew's Church with excavated trenches and results of work. Scale 1:200

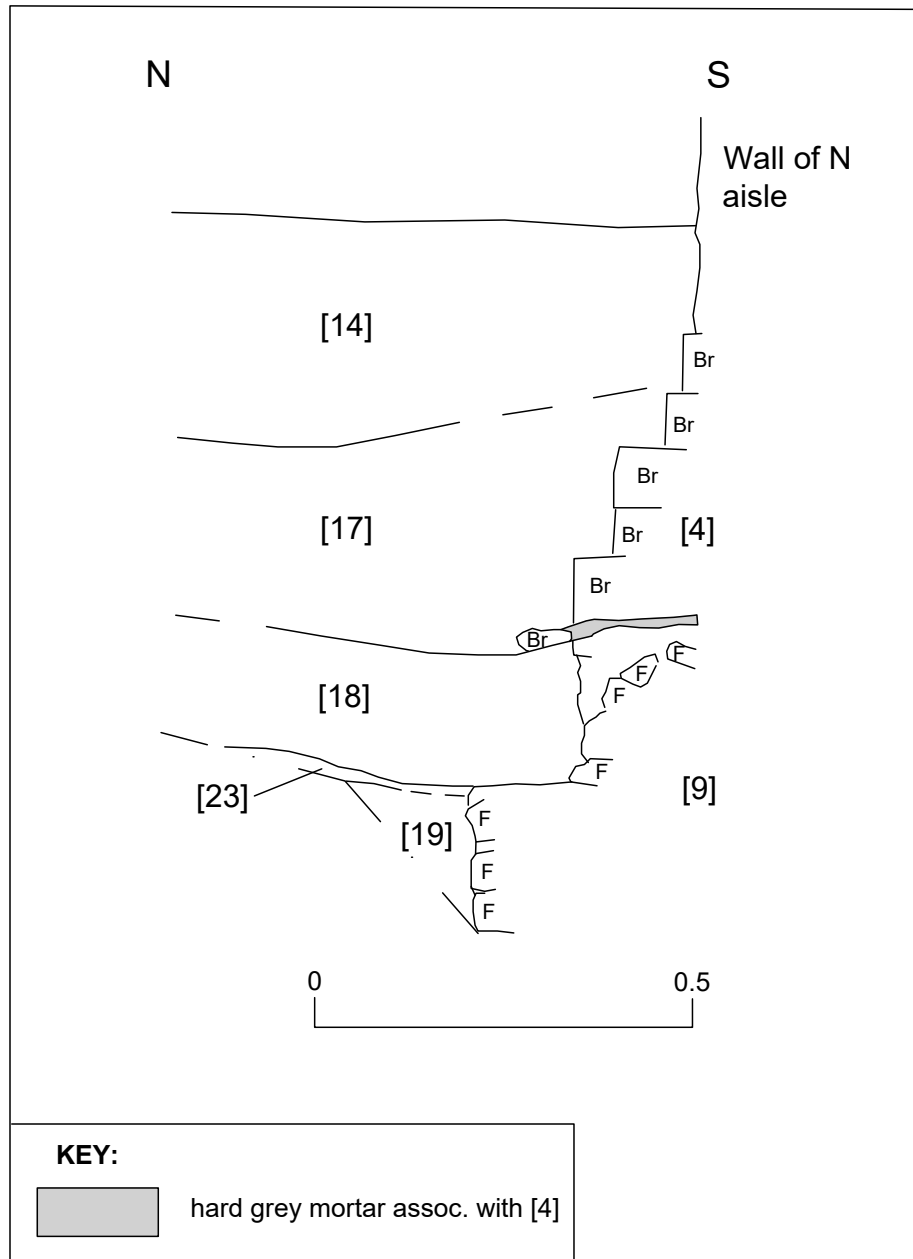


Fig. 3: ENF 145651; W-facing section across N aisle footing [4]/[9]. Scale 1:10



Plate 1: Trench 6, looking WSW



Plate 2: Trench 6, looking ENE, showing connection point at Church Lane



Plate 3: Trench 6; typical deposits (subsoil [15] and topsoil [16]), looking NW from above, 1m scale



Plate 4: Trench 3, looking E, 1m scale



Plate 5: Trenches 1 and 3, looking NW, 1m scale



Plate 6: N aisle stepped footing [9], brick footing [4] partly removed, looking S, 0.5m and 0.2m scales



Plate 7: N aisle stepped brick footing [4], looking SE, 0.5m scale

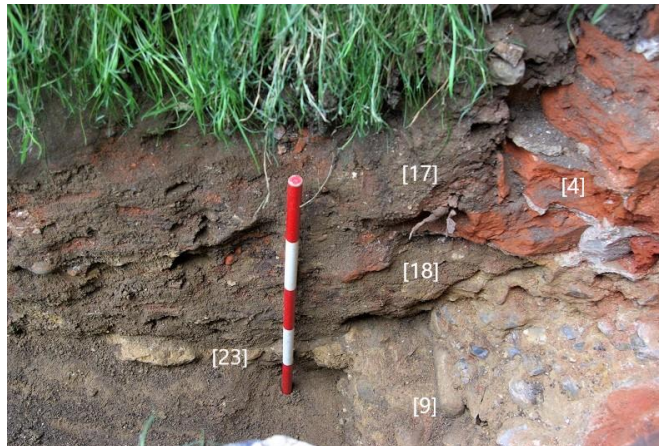


Plate 8: Deposit [18] before its removal from above top of footing [9], looking E from above, 0.5m scale

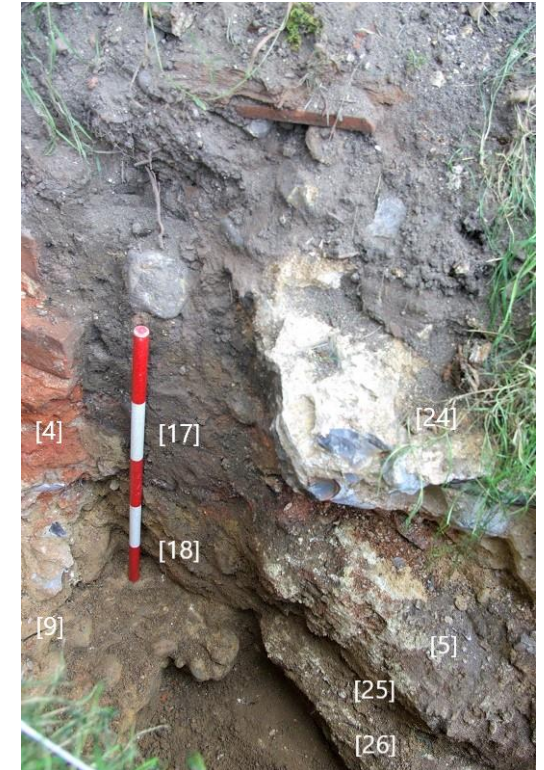


Plate 9: Porch buttress footings [26]/[25]/ [5]/[24], N aisle footing [9]/[4], looking SW, 0.5m scale



Plate 10: Trench 1; footing [2],
looking E, 0.5m scale



Plate 11: Trenches 10 and 3 (to left);
looking E, 0.5m scale



Plate 12: Trench 10;
looking W, 1m and 0.5m scales



Plate 13: Trench 10; human bones partly
exposed, looking S, 1m and 0.5m scales



Plate 14: Vestry; hole 7, worked stone in bottom, looking W from above, 0.5m scale



Plate 15: Vestry; floor level lowered, deposit [20], looking WNW, 0.5m scale

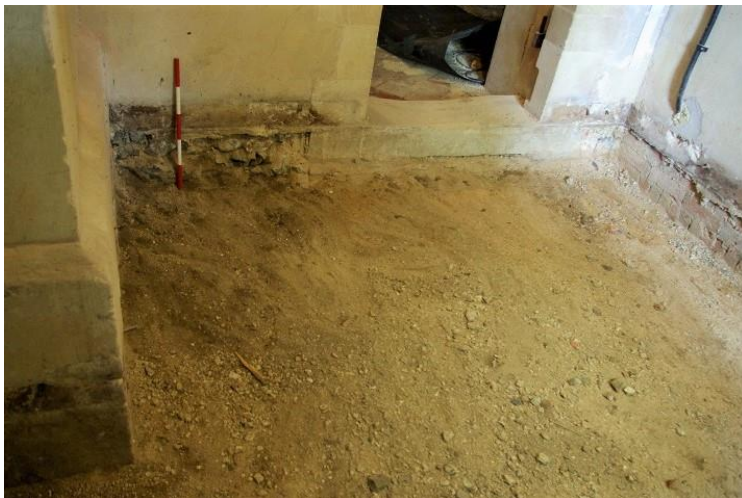


Plate 16: Vestry; floor level lowered, deposit [20], looking E, 0.5m scale



Plate 17: Vestry; floor level lowered and threshold removed, looking E, 0.5m scale



Plate18: N aisle; hole 8, footing [4]
looking NE, 0.2m scale



Plate 19: Nave; area 12, looking SW



Plate 20: Nave; area 12, brick channel [22],
looking N, 0.2m scale