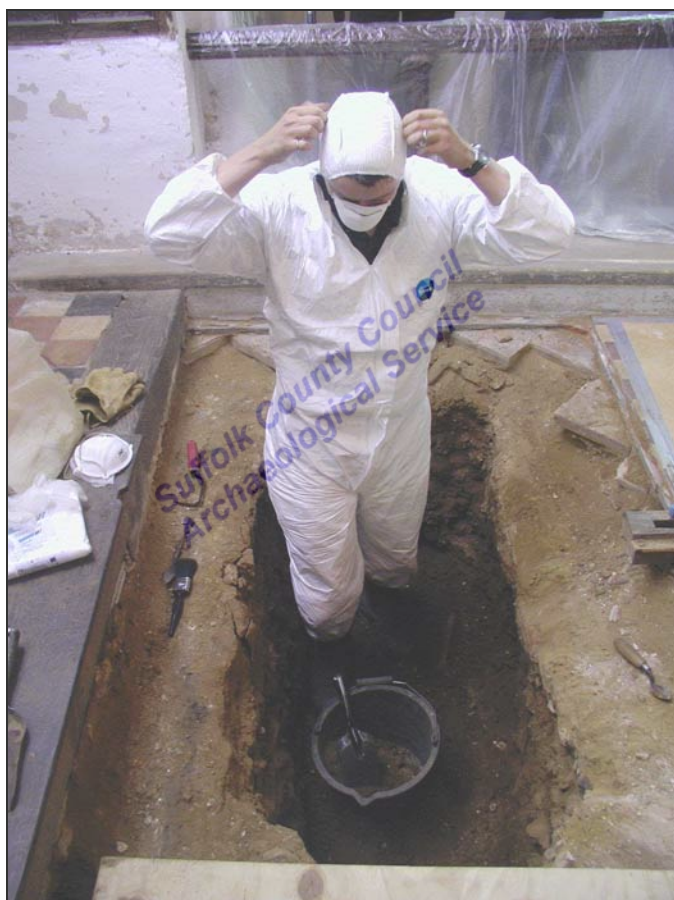


ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

APVA EXCAVATIONS AT SHELLEY & STOWMARKET CHURCHES, SUFFOLK (SHY 004 & SKT 015)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS, 2005



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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© December 2005

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The project was monitored by Robert Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Team. Additional on-site advice and monitoring input was provided by Edward Martin of SCCAS Conservation Team and Dr Joseph Elders of the Council for the Care of Churches, Archbishop's Council of The Church of England. Thanks are due to them for their advice in the unusual circumstances. In addition, thanks are extended to the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, particularly James Halsall, and the Parochial Church Councils of both Shelley and Stowmarket for supporting the project.

The project was directed and implemented by Stuart Boulter and Rhodri Gardner and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Finds processing was carried out by Richenda Goffin and Anna West. Richenda Goffin produced the specialist Finds Report. Robert Carr contributed the section on the grave slab/ledger stone from Shelley.

Particular thanks are also due at Shelley to churchwarden Andrew Scott and Fabric Officer Jane Hudson. Also to the Rector, The Very Revd. Canon David Stranack and the ever willing team of volunteers for sieving the excavated spoil and those who provided much needed refreshments. Equally, thanks at Stowmarket to the Revd. Michael Eden for his support and patience throughout and to churchwarden Gary Hopkins for providing specialised camera equipment.

Thanks are also due to the media staff of the National Geographic Society for their patience and understanding throughout the excavation.

Summary

The discovery by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) of a burial in Jamestown, Virginia thought to be that of Bartholomew Gosnold, one of the original founders of the Jamestown settlement, resulted in a search in England for living relatives that could provide suitable DNA samples that would prove the identity of the skeleton.

Having failed to trace living relatives that could provide a sample, it became necessary to locate burials of known female relatives (only mitochondrial DNA inherited through the female line would be suitable). A documentary/historical search identified two candidates for which it was possible to determine the location of their burials with some degree of accuracy. These were:

- Elizabeth Tilney née Gosnold. Bartholomew's sister. Buried in All Saints' Church, Shelley in 1646.
- Katherine Blackerby née Bowtell. Bartholomew's niece. Buried in St Peter and St Mary's Church, Stowmarket in 1693.

Subsequently, controlled excavation was undertaken at both locations with a view to recovering small samples of bone that would contain the required DNA.

Shelley, All Saints Church (TM 0309 3846; SHY 004) The removal of wooden pews revealed an earlier brick floor with a broken ledger stone close to the predicted location of the Tilney grave. Subsequent removal of this floor revealed a distinct grave cut which, on excavation, contained the skeleton of a woman, the condition and character of which was consistent with her being Elizaebeth Tilney. Samples of bone were duly taken and the grave restored to its original condition.

Stowmarket, St. Peter & St. Mary's Church (TM 0492 5868; SKT 015) Trial excavation beside the inscribed Blackerby ledger stone revealed the top of a brick built vault in the location that was predicted from an earlier geophysical survey. Introducing a small camera through a hole drilled through the vault roof failed to provide any evidence to confirm the presence or absence of burials. While the construction style and materials used in the vault itself looked more recent than could be expected for the original Blackerby burial, it was thought possible that they had been re-interred in the vault during a Victorian reordering of the church. On that basis, full entry to the vault was considered necessary and was subsequently gained through its west end. Removal of a slab over each of the two tombs within the vault revealed coffins that clearly dated to the 19th century and have since been attributed to John Bobby and his wife Ann who are commemorated by a memorial plaque on the south wall of the chancel. No further work was considered necessary and the tombs, vault and floor were restored to their original condition.

(Stuart Boulter & Rhodri Gardner for Suffolk County Council & The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) Rpt. no: 2005/162)

SMR information

Planning application no.	N/A, carried out under faculty jurisdiction
Date of fieldwork:	13/06/05 – 17/06/05
Grid Reference:	TM 0309 3846 (Shelley); TM 0492 5868 (Stowmarket)
SMR No.s	Shelley (SHY 004); Stowmarket (SKT 015)
Funding body:	The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

1 Introduction

1.1 General Project Background

Archaeological investigations were carried out at two sites in Suffolk (Fig. 1) as a result of research carried out by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) at Jamestown in Virginia, USA. This research resulted in the excavation of an inhumation burial - putatively that of Bartholomew Gosnold, one of the founders of the original Jamestown settlement (Kelso, 2005; Appendix I). He first sailed to the region in 1602 and returned as part of a convoy of three ships in 1607, dying shortly after the founding of the Jamestown settlement at the age of 36.

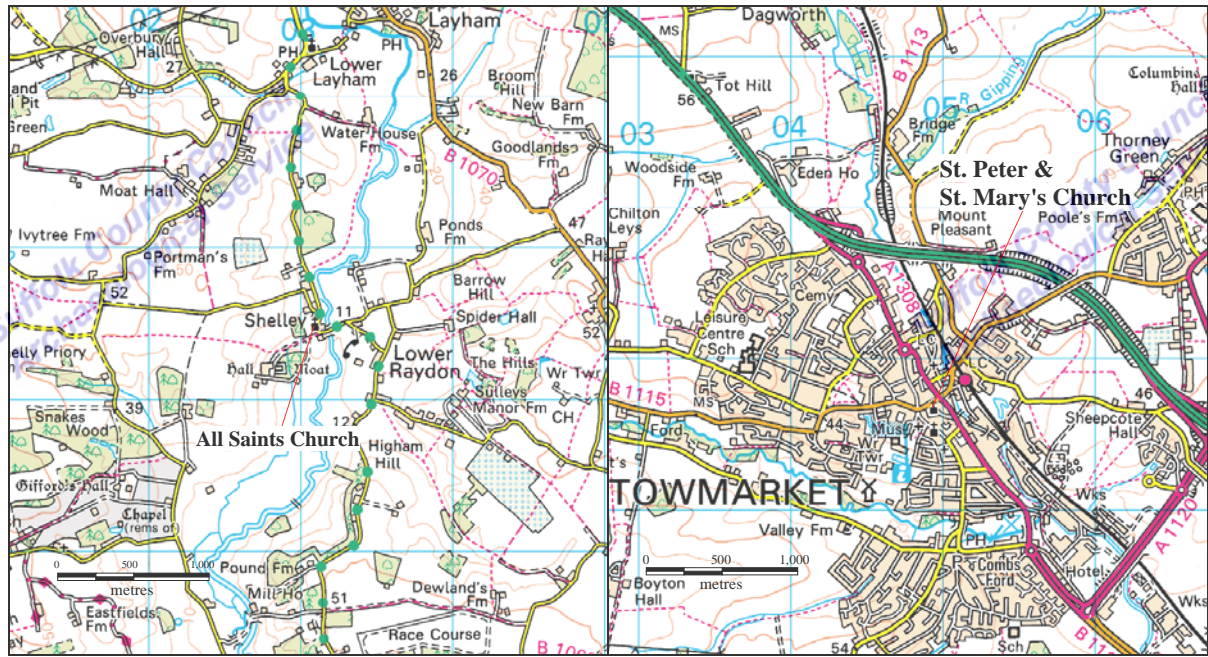
The identification of this particular burial has up to now hinged on artefactual evidence, as the grave goods included an item identified as a 'Captain's Leading Staff'. However, a broad suite of analytical techniques was applied to the burial and as a consequence an intact sequence of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) was recovered from the skeleton. This raised the possibility that the skeleton could be positively identified as that of Gosnold if the recovered DNA sequence could be matched with that from a known female (mtDNA is only inherited maternally) descendant or relative.

Initially the APVA sought to find living relatives. Given the nature of mtDNA inheritance these descendants had to be in direct maternal line-of-descent from Bartholomew Gosnold's sisters, maternal aunts or other female-line ancestors. Thorough genealogical research (Martin, 2005; Appendix II) unfortunately failed to trace any suitable living descendants.

An alternative source of appropriate mtDNA would be from a sufficiently well preserved burial of any such maternal relatives. The same genealogical research could only identify two possible relative's graves with a sufficient degree of certainty about their location.

- Elizabeth Tilney née Gosnold. Bartholomew's sister (died 10th April 1646). Buried in All Saints' Church, Shelley.
- Katherine Blackerby née Bowtell. Bartholomew's niece. Buried on 22 December 1693 in St Peter and St Mary's Church, Stowmarket.

The locations of both churches, All Saints, Shelley and St Peter and St. Mary, Stowmarket, are shown on Fig. 1.



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Fig. 1 1:50,000 Scale OS Map Extracts Showing the Location of the Churches

Following the APVA's application to the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, consultation led to the production of a Brief and Specification for the work, prepared by Robert Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Team, dated December 2004 (see Appendix III).

A Method Statement was then prepared by SCCAS Field Team, detailing the necessary staged phases of work, a time frame and points of consultation (Boulter, 2005; Appendix IV).

Further advice was provided to the Diocese by Joseph Elders of the Council for the Care of Churches, Archbishops Council of the Church of England in March of 2005.

This project is particularly noteworthy as it is the first time that permission has been granted by the Church of England for the exhumation of archaeological remains from within consecrated ground inside a church to facilitate the recovery of DNA samples.

Subsequently the SCCAS Field Team was commissioned to undertake the work by William Kelso, Director of the Jamestown Rediscovery Project on behalf of the APVA. The fieldwork at All Saints, Shelley was undertaken by Rhodri Gardner and at St. Peter's and St. Mary by Stuart Boulter, in June 2005.

1.2 Shelley

At All Saints' Church, Shelley (NGR TM 0309 3846, close to the Essex/Suffolk county boundary) the historical records indicated that Elizabeth (Gosnold) Tilney was buried in 1646 beside her husband in the chancel, according to the wishes of her will. Although the location of the grave had been established with a reasonable degree of certainty (Martin, 2005; Appendix II) a number of unknowns remain:

- Were the historical records accurate? It remained possible that Elizabeth Tilney was not buried in the identified grave.

- Were there any later (undocumented) insertions/burials in the same grave? Given the assumption that any excavations were to be undertaken with the *minimum possible disturbance* to human remains; excavation would cease at the first articulated skeleton to be encountered in the grave, even if a later burial were found to be present and was clearly identifiable as being male or of an age at variance with that expected for Elizabeth Tilney (who was at least c. 60 years old when she died, extrapolating from the historical records for the date of her marriage and that of her death).
- Had the grave marker been moved? Although the location of grave slabs had been recorded by the antiquarians Blois and Davy (Martin, 2005) the documentary records show that the church saw 'thorough restoration' in the 1880s, including the tiling of the chancel. It is possible that the slab concerned was moved during these restorations.

1.3 Stowmarket

At the church of St. Peter and St. Mary's, Stowmarket (NGR TM 0492 5868) in central Suffolk, the parish registers indicate that the burials of Thomas Blackerby (4th November, 1688), almost certainly the husband of Bartholomew Gosnold's niece (Katherine), and indeed that of Katherine herself (22nd December, 1693), are both located within the church. The location of the Thomas Blackerby tomb was described by David Elisha Davey in 1811 as being '*within the communion rails, on the south side*' (Martin, 2005; Appendix II). As it is likely that Katherine was buried with her husband, the accurate locating of his burial would be crucial to the subsequent identification of that of his wife.

The present location of the black stone slab commemorating Thomas Blackerby is in the centre of the chancel, partially underlying the alter steps. However, there are some inconsistencies regarding the relationships between the positions of named slabs as described by Davey and those that are now evident in the chancel (Martin, 2005; Appendix II). In addition, differences in the wear of the surrounding stone slab floor with a clearly defined line running from north to south across the chancel, with more worn slabs to the east, suggests that the position of the alter rail and possibly the alter steps had at sometime been moved towards the west. Given that the church had been subject to reordering and restoration in both 1840 and again in the 1860's it was considered entirely possible that some movement of the grave slabs and spatial changes within the church may have occurred at that time.

The relative wealth and importance of Thomas Blackerby meant that his burial may have been placed in a brick-built tomb or vault. Prior to any invasive work, a geophysical survey (Ground Penetrating Radar) was undertaken to try and locate any structural features that may indicate the presence of brick-built tombs/vaults in the vicinity of the Blackerby memorial slab.

Results of the geophysical survey (Elks, 2005) revealed a significant anomaly below the Blackerby slab and permission was sought from the relevant bodies to investigate further with a view to the clarifying the following unknowns;

- Did the anomaly in the geophysical survey plots indicate the presence of a structure such as a tomb or vault?
- If a tomb or vault were present, was it that of Thomas Blackerby or had the phases of reordering in the 19th century resulted in the moving of the slab from its original location, or in the disturbance of the grave itself?

- If there was a burial that could be attributed to Thomas Blackerby and was there also an associated female burial that was likely to have been that of his wife Katherine?

Only if it could be ascertained beyond reasonable doubt that the burial was that of Katherine Blackerby were the samples of bone to be removed for DNA analysis.

2 Methodology

2.1 Shelley

The earlier removal of pews and associated wooden floor on the western side of the chancel, to facilitate a geophysical survey (Ground Penetrating Radar) (Elks, 2005), had revealed part of a ledger stone set in an earlier floor of white brick similar to that seen in the nave. The subsequent geophysical survey revealed that any underlying burial was likely to be in an earth-cut grave rather than a structured tomb.

The ledger stone (for a description of the stone itself see Section 4.5, p.15) was fully exposed once the latest layer of tiles was removed (Plate 1). The grave marker did indeed seem to be in the location described in the antiquarian accounts (Martin, 2005, Appendix II). Whilst it did not appear to have been moved significantly during the late 19th century restoration of the church a large horizontal crack was visible and the stone was incomplete. The date of this damage remains unclear.

The brick floor was removed by professional stonemasons, who were also to be responsible for reinstatement of the floor and stone following the excavation. Care was taken not to disturb the stone so that it could be recorded *in situ* prior to removal.

Following removal of the brick floor archaeological work began by the hand removal of the sand bedding layer on which the bricks had been laid. The surface revealed was then cleaned by hand and planned prior to further excavation.

All further excavation was undertaken manually, with all spoil sieved in order to maximise finds recovery.



Plate 1 SHY 004, Ledger Stone 0010

The conditions of excavation were difficult, given the narrow confines of the grave and the extremely dry and consequently loose/friable condition of the deposits. This meant that there was a significant risk of collapse of the grave sides, especially as excavation progressed toward the maximum depth of 1.15m. The skeleton was extremely difficult to clean as a result and disturbance had to be kept to an absolute minimum. One consequence of this was the decision to omit a scale from the final photograph of the skeleton (Plate 3), due to the amount of spoil that would have been produced in order to get close enough to the deep, open grave cut.

Plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. Only one feature was excavated – the grave. This was excavated to the top of the first articulated skeletal remains. The skeleton was then cleaned sufficiently for some basic osteoarchaeological analysis and a DNA sample to be taken by the relevant specialist (Dr Douglas Owsley) from the Smithsonian Institution. A photographic record (35mm monochrome print, 35mm colour slide and digital) was maintained throughout. As soon as the sampling and recording was completed the grave was carefully backfilled (following a short service and the placing of a small wooden cross in the grave) with maximum care taken to avoid any further damage to the remains. The open grave was filled to the level of the existing floor and the area made temporarily safe with wooden boards until the floor could be properly reinstated.

The SMR reference number SHY 004 was assigned to the Shelley site and all the stratigraphic elements of observed archaeological features were allocated 'observed phenomena' (OP) numbers within a continuous numbering system. This context information is presented as Appendix V. Context records were entered onto an Access97 database, and inked copies of the drawings were prepared on archive quality drafting film.

The DNA samples were removed for analysis by the specialist team from the Smithsonian Institution and all remaining finds were processed and quantified by SCCAS staff with the data then input onto a Microsoft Access97 database. Subsequently the different finds were examined by the relevant specialists. Their findings are presented as section 4 of this report (pp. 14-16).

2.2 Stowmarket

The tomb slab of Thomas Blackerby now lies in the centre of the chancel at the foot of and continuing under the present altar steps and was surrounded by flagstones. Clearly, lifting the Blackerby stone itself would be a major engineering feat and it was decided that the removal of two flagstones adjacent to and south of the grave slab would provide ample area in which to evaluate the character of any underlying tomb or vault.

The project was then progressed by phases broadly conforming to those laid out in the Method Statement (Boulter, 2005, Appendix IV), these being:

- Removal of two flagstones by qualified stonemasons
- Limited excavation to expose the tomb
- Breaching tomb in small area to facilitate the insertion of a camera
- Further removal of flagstones to enlarge the excavation area with a view to gaining access to the tomb
- Assessment of tombs contents
- Archaeological recording of excavation
- Resealing tomb, backfilling excavation and replacing flagstones (all undertaken by the stonemasons)

Finds recovered from the excavated fill were used as dating evidence but were not retained.

Plans and sections of the excavated area were drawn at a scale of 1:20 in pencil on plastic drafting film (reproduced in this report as Fig. 4) and have been inked as part of the project archive.

A photographic record (colour slide, monochrome print and digital) was made at all stages of the project and will be curated as part of the site archive held at Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Store at Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds.

3 Results

3.1 Shelley

A total of 21 context numbers were assigned during the Shelley excavation. Conventional dating and phasing of the deposits was not particularly informative, as only a single feature was excavated and its date was historically documented.

The plans in Fig. 2 show the area of excavation prior to the removal of the brick floor [0011], with the ledger stone (0010) *in situ* (left). The plan on the right of Fig. 2 shows the ground surface following the removal of the sand bedding layer (0012), with the outline of grave [0013] clearly visible (also see Plate 2).



Plate 2 SHY 004. Grave 0013

The earliest excavated feature was the grave itself [0013]. This was broadly rectangular and was 1.75m+ long (east to west), 0.7m wide and was at least 1.15m deep. It had vertical/near vertical sides with a very sharp break of slope at the top. It was not fully excavated, partly because its eastern end extended beyond the altar step and also because the objective of the project was to sample the skeleton interred with the minimum of disturbance. Consequently the base of the grave cut could not be described and excavation ceased at 1.15m below the prevailing ground level.

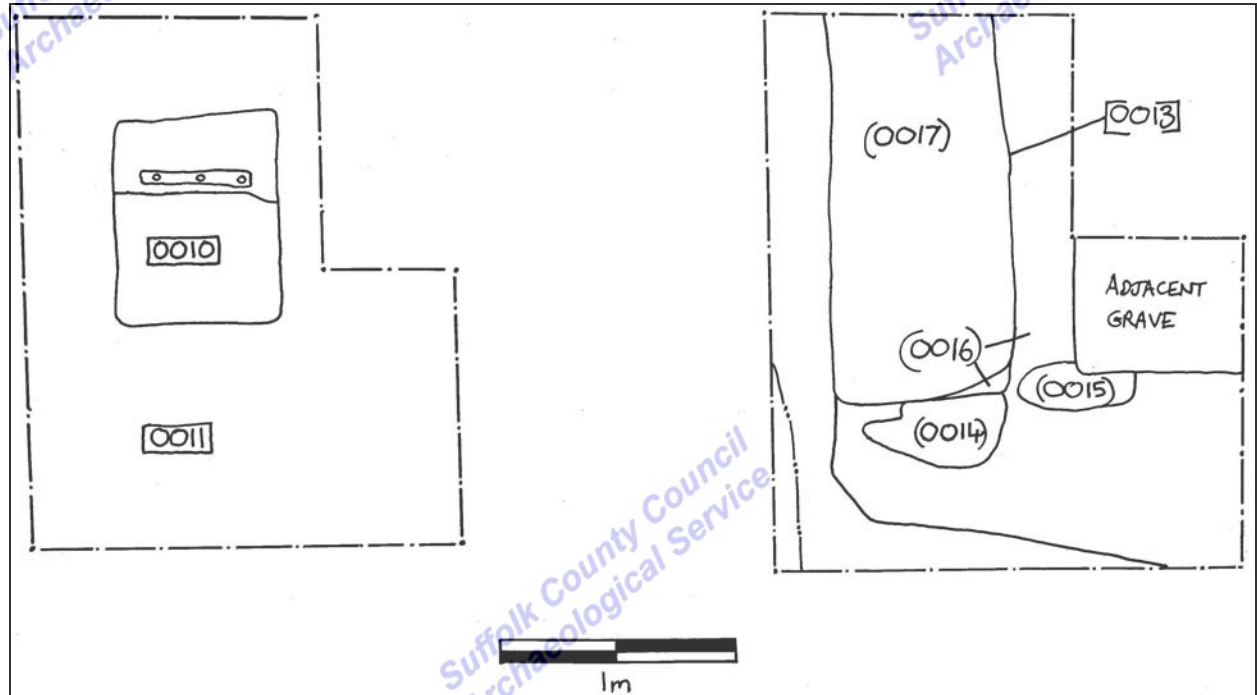


Fig. 2 SHY 004, Excavation Plans

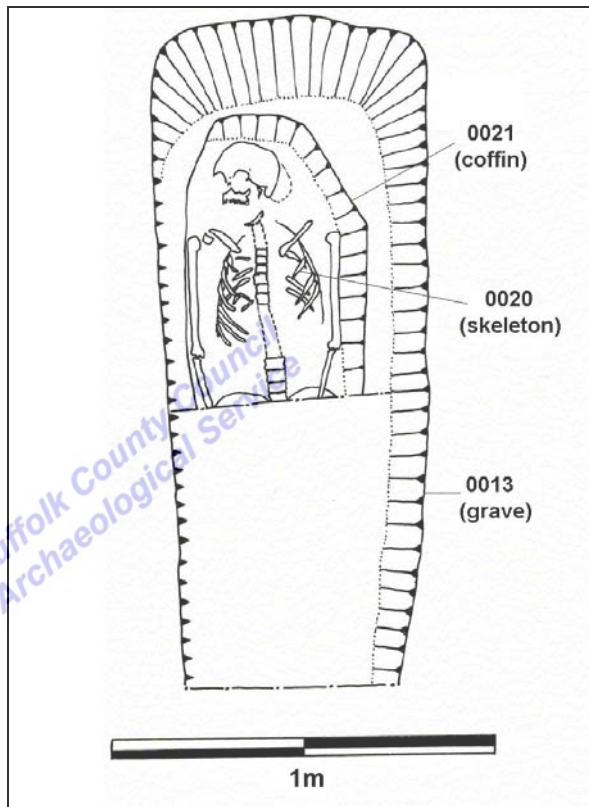


Fig. 3 SHY 004, Grave 0013, Detail

A single fill (0017) was recorded within the grave. This was a very dry, loose and friable mid grey mixed sandy silt with occasional small to medium (<25mm diameter) clay lumps. It contained frequent small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles, occasional brick/tile fragments (some decorated), rare stained glass fragments, occasional very decayed wood fragments and rare disarticulated human bone fragments. Two of the more substantial wood fragments, (0018) and (0019) were recorded erroneously in the belief that they may be *in situ* coffin remains. Further excavation proved this was not the case.

The *in situ* coffin (0021) was encountered at a depth of 1m below the existing ground level. Due to the need to keep disturbance of the skeletal remains to a minimum it was only partially excavated (see Fig. 3). Despite

the limited excavation and the very poor state of preservation it was clear that the coffin was of a hexagonal type (earliest known example dated 1591 in the De La Warr family vault at Withyham, Sussex; Litten *pers. comm.*). The lid had decayed completely and was present only as a thin layer (<0.05m) of fine black silt/staining covering skeleton 0020. No coffin furniture was observed. Two *in situ* nails were located along the northern side, but were not recovered. A total of 28 other nails/nail fragments were recovered during the excavation of grave fill 0017. As these were all recovered from the upper grave levels, above the lid of coffin 0021, it is assumed that they were redeposited following the disturbance of other earlier burials.



Plate 3 SHY 004, Skeleton 0020

The base of the grave did not seem to be level, as a slight slope down to the south-west could be detected. However, this could not be confirmed by detailed recording, as full exposure of the base of the cut or coffin was not possible. As a result of this slope the coffin had slumped

to the north during its collapse/decay. Some of the southern side of the coffin therefore had to be removed in order to expose the right arm of the skeleton.

The excavation of the skeleton was unusual in that full exposure was not attempted (or indeed possible given the narrow confines of the grave and the fact that it extended beyond the altar step). The skeleton was exposed so that DNA samples could be taken, which involved the removal of six teeth and a section cut from the mid-shaft of a femur (as advised by the church authorities half of the samples were retained in England).

The skeleton itself (0020) was laid in a supine extended position, with the hands positioned over the pelvis, as might be expected of a coffin inhumation (Plate 3). Preliminary observation suggested that the skeleton was female (based on the limited morphological characteristics visible on the partially excavated skull) and of a relatively advanced age. This could be estimated as although the dentition was remarkably complete the tooth wear that was visible was significant. The epiphyses of all the exposed longbones were also fully fused. No accurate estimation of age could be made in the field, given the limited exposure of the remains. However, further observation and recording was carried out by the team from the Smithsonian Institution and more detail on the age of the remains will appear in their specialist report.

These initial observations (the individual being female and of appropriate age) were sufficient for the limited excavation to proceed to the point where DNA sampling would be undertaken.

Bone preservation was highly variable, with extremely poor survival of the upper postcranial skeleton, while the skull and upper longbones were very well preserved. The ribs, cervical and thoracic vertebrae, clavicles and sternum had little physical integrity and were visible only as 'stains'. Preservation of the postcranial skeleton was much better at the distal (eastern) end of the skeleton, from the lumbar vertebrae down. It is difficult to speculate on the reasons for this highly differential preservation, but there did appear to be a slight slope 'down' to the west. When sampling the leg the base of the coffin was cleaned away revealing undisturbed natural subsoil. Given this finding it is therefore possible that any underlying fluctuating moisture regime could have affected the 'lowest' western part of the skeleton and that the smaller more fragile postcranial bones were adversely affected. A notable feature of the preservation in this particular grave was the presence of hair, found in substantial quantities (though not fully exposed or recorded) as a 'bun' on which the skeleton's skull rested and was raised from the base of the grave cut.

It also worth noting that the presence of undisturbed natural deposits beneath the base of coffin 0021 indicates that either previous burials were not encountered by the gravediggers at the time of skeleton 0020's burial or that they disturbed or removed them. This is interesting given Elizabeth Tilney's request in her will that she be buried 'in Shelly chauncell by Thomas Tylney Esquier my late husband' (Martin, 2005, Appendix II). Her husband died c. 28 years before her and presumably his remains and coffin would have been relatively intact after such a short period of time, and the grave clearly marked. Some disarticulated bones and fragments of wood were encountered during the excavation of the grave, but in the excavator's opinion this material was not present in sufficient quantity to indicate the disturbance of a near-contemporary grave during the later burial, unless provision for the burial of charnel elsewhere within the church or churchyard was made. It is therefore suggested that either the body of Elizabeth was interred *beside* that of her husband who most

likely remains *in situ*, or that his burial was completely removed and his remains reburied as charnel.

3.2 Stowmarket

Plate 4 shows the inscription on the Blackerby slab and its junction with the flagstone floor to the north and south. Two of these slabs were subsequently lifted by qualified stonemasons and the underlying bedding material and spoil removed down to the top of a brick-built structure by an SCCAS archaeologist.

The removal of the slabs, which had been set on small pads of mortar, revealed a relatively unconsolidated c.0.15 metre thick layer of mixed lime mortar, brick/tile fragments and flints which could also be seen to continue beneath the Blackerby slab to the north (Fig. 4 & Plate 5). Fragments of roofing slate were also present which suggested that this layer was Victorian or later in date.



Plate 4 SKT 015, The Thomas Blackerby Grave Slab

Removal of the mixed rubble layer revealed bonded brick masonry on the north side of the trench at a depth of 0.3 metres with a relatively homogenous silty, clayey sand with chalk flecks and occasional flints in the remainder of the trench. When reduced further it became clear that the exposed brickwork represented the arched roof of what was almost certainly a large tomb/vault. It was at this juncture that the decision was made to drill a hole through the top of the structure to facilitate the insertion of the directional camera (Plate 6).



Plate 5 SKT 015, Layer Below Slabs

While proving difficult to operate within the confined excavation area the specialised camera equipment was able to project onto a screen an image of the interior of the vault and by moving the camera about it was possible to build an overall impression of its character. A series of stone slabs could be seen on the north side of the vault with a drop down on the south side. It was not possible at this stage to assess whether these represented shelves for coffins open to the south or if the coffins were intended to lay on the slabs themselves and that the vault was in fact empty.

There were already some reservations as to the dating of the vault. The bricks used in its construction were hard and dense with a yellow/buff coloured fabric, measuring 22.5 x 11.2 x

6 centimetres (approximately $9\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches) with no obvious frog. Given that the Blackerby tomb would have dated to the late 17th century, the character of these bricks was more consistent with a 19th century date.

However, there had clearly been major alterations during the 19th century reordering of the church and it was considered a possibility, due to the historical importance of its occupant, that the original Blackerby burial had been re-interred in a new vault with the original grave slab placed back on top. Consequently, as there were still uncertainties regarding the identification and date of the burial, the decision was made to continue with the excavation in order to gain access to the vault.

Two more flagstones were lifted immediately to the west of the northernmost of the first two, both adjacent to the ledger stones to the north. The western end of the vault had clearly been visible during the camera survey and was calculated to fall within the confines of the extended excavation.

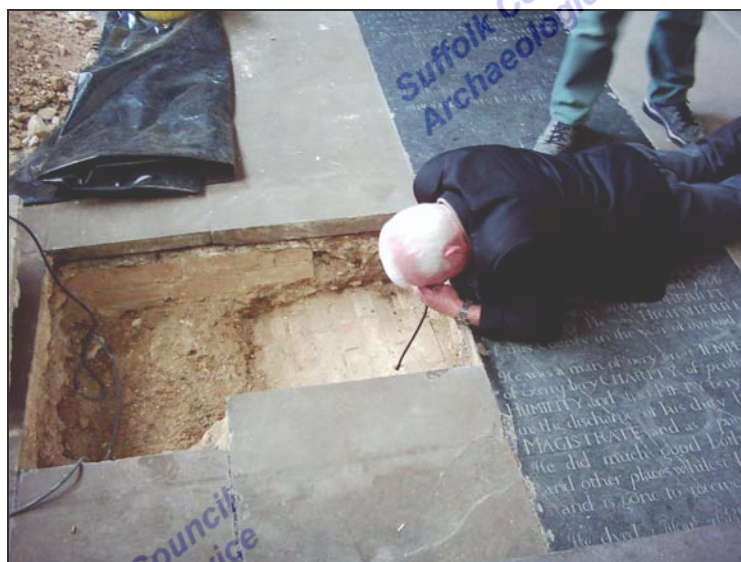


Plate 6 SKT 015, William Kelso Looks Inside the Vault

Removal of the third and fourth flagstones revealed the continuation of the previously recorded rubble layer and a right-angled, two brick thick structure extending out beyond the western and southern edge of the trench (Fig. 4 & Plate 7). The bricks were predominantly



Plate 7 SKT 015, Brick Structure

light pink in colour, unfrogged and measured $23 \times 11 \times 6$ centimetres (approximately $9 \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches). This wall was not built upon any foundation, simply bedded on the underlying soil with a thin layer of unconsolidated material between it and the overlying flagstones.

Stratigraphically, the wall post-dated the backfill that would have been deposited after the construction of the adjacent vault. One possible interpretation for this feature is that it had been intended to support a ledger stone that has since been moved. This hypothesis was strengthened by the later discovery of a second vault that directly underlay this feature.

The western end of the brick vault was exposed with its west wall abutting the main body of the tomb (Fig. 4 & Plate 8). This wall had clearly been constructed last and represented the point of access through which coffins would have been introduced into the vault. The excavation was extended down to a depth of 0.9 metres in an area extending $c.0.9$ metres to the west of the vault to allow room in which to work.

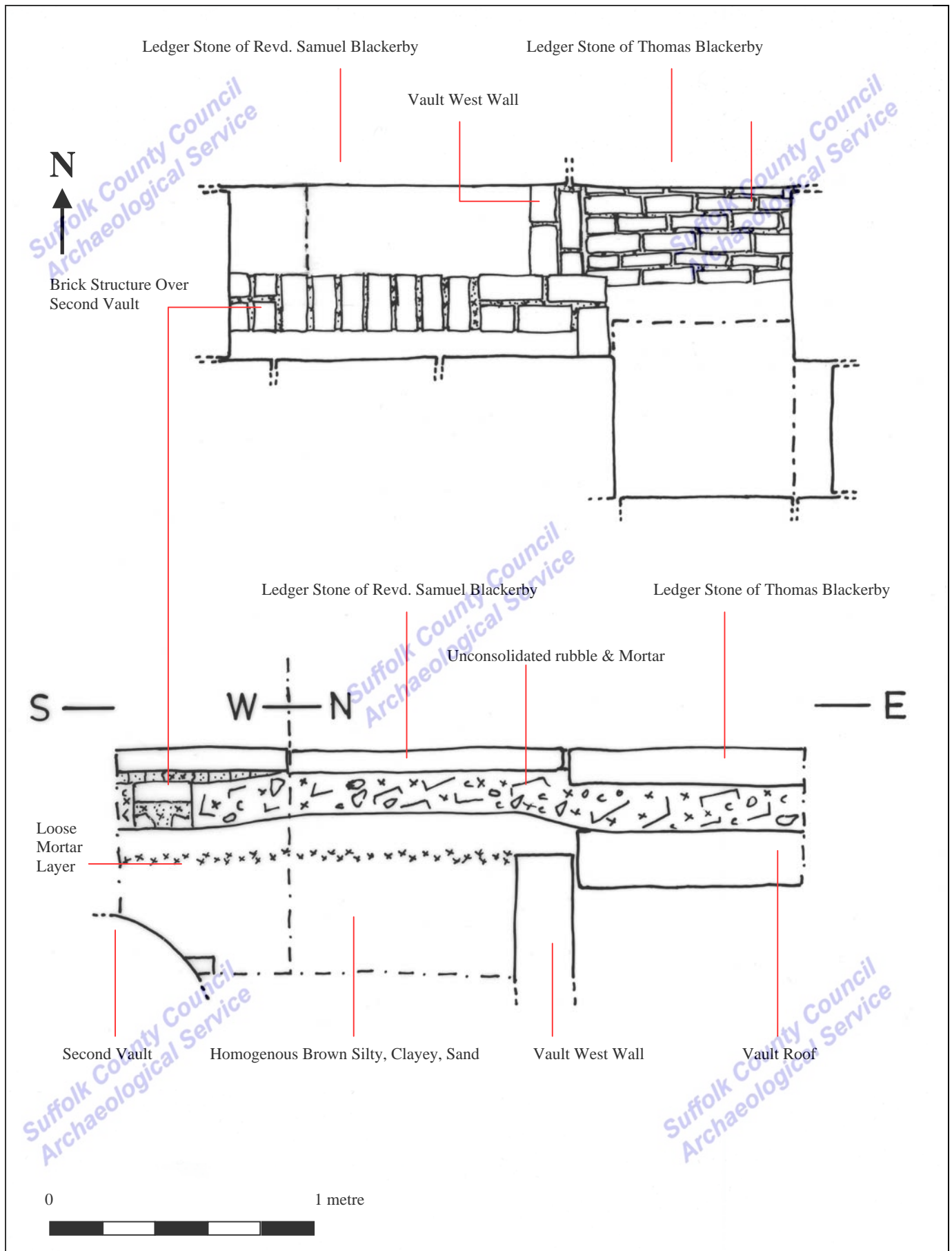


Fig. 4 SKT 015, 1:20 Scale Plan & Section Drawings

A second vault was encountered west of the first, at a depth of 0.6 metres below the existing floor surface (Fig. 4). Initially, two courses of bricks were removed from the top of the vault's west wall to expose a gap through which the camera could again be inserted.

While manoeuvring the camera around sufficiently to encompass the whole interior of the tomb was still found to be awkward, it was possible to further assess its character. There were clearly two lines of stone slabs running from west to east taking up the northernmost two thirds of the vault, with a drop down to its base on the southern side. As these slabs would need some support along the junction between the two rows, it seemed logical to suppose that the area under the flags must be separated into two equal compartments each of which would be consistent in size with that which would hold a single coffin.



Plate 8 SKT 015, West Wall of Vault

As there was still no evidence with which to date the burials, even if the vault itself was probably 19th century, it was decided to remove further courses of bricks from the west wall in order to provide a gap through which a person could gain full access. The vault itself was found to be 2.88 metres long and 2.26 metres wide with a height from the top of the arched roof to the floor of 1.41 metres (all internal measurements). The side walls were vertical for 0.58 metres before curving to form the roof and had been whitewashed up to that point. The

gap on the southern side was 0.69 metres wide dropping 0.56 metres from the top of the slabs to the floor, a distance consistent with that which could hold a single coffin. Three brick ribs running north to south across the floor of the vault are evidence to suggest that the gap on the south side was meant to take another coffin but had not been used. A wooden mallet had been left propped against the eastern wall of the tomb by the last people to gain access (Plate 9).



Plate 9 SKT 015, Interior of Vault

The decision was then taken to instruct the stonemasons to lift a

single slab over the southernmost of the two tombs within the vault. As expected, the tomb contained the collapsed remains of a single coffin with evidence that it had been covered in leather attached by a series of round-headed metal studs. Coffin furniture included two iron plates which although suffering badly from rust had originally been painted black. The larger

of the two plates, that immediately below the removed slab, exhibited vestiges of a white painted inscription that was too badly degraded to read but included the number 7. While it was still possible that these burials represented the re-interment of the Blackerbys within new coffins, the likelihood of this was receding. However, to make sure, a slab was removed from the second tomb revealing a second coffin, this one with a lead plaque (or possibly a lead lined coffin), the decoration on which included cherubic figures.



Southern Coffin

Northern Coffin

Plate 10 SKT 015, Detail of Coffin Furniture

At this juncture, Dr. Joseph Elders (Council for the Care of Churches) sought specialist advice regarding the character and style of the burials. Very quickly it became clear that coffin furniture of these burials was distinctly 19th century in style and was actually consistent with that of the vault itself. Subsequent inspection of other monuments within the chancel identified, on a marble plaque attached to the south wall (Plate 11), possible



Plate 11 SKT 015, Memorial Plaque for John & Ann Boby

candidates for the burials. John Boby (died 7th April, 1817 aged 74) and his wife Ann (died 25th January, 1835 aged 84) were said to have been buried 'Near this place'. The number 7 seen on the coffin plate may also be significant as it appears three times in the dates and age of John Boby.

The evidence now overwhelmingly suggested that the burials were not those of Thomas Blackerby and his wife Katherine, but John and Anne Boby who died during the first half of the 19th century. It is entirely possible that the Blackerby ledger stone still marks the approximate position of

their burials which were either destroyed or moved during the insertion of the Boby vault.

No further investigation was considered necessary and after recording the stonemasons were instructed to carefully restore the vault and its surrounds to its pre-excavation condition.

4 The Finds (Shelley, SHY 004 only) R. Goffin

4.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the Table 1 below.

Context	CBM		Mortar		Window Glass		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0017	7	3997	3	406	43	35	Late medieval – early post-medieval
Total	7	3997	3	406	43	35	

Table 1: Finds Identification & Quantifications

4.2 Ceramic building material

Eight fragments of floortile were recorded in total from grave fill 0017. Two pieces from the same large slipped and glazed tile were recovered. The tile measures 223mm in length, and has a thickness of 40mm. It has clearly been re-used, as there is mortar over a broken edge and over the upper surface. The surface condition of the tile is poor, but it is likely that it is Flemish, although it has no surface nail-holes. Two further, less complete slipped floortiles were also present. One of these, which has a worn surface still has evidence of the overall lead glaze, whilst the second fragment is only covered with the white slip. A fourth floortile is much smaller and less thick. It is made from a fine sandy fabric and has the worn remains of a slipped surface over which is a green glaze which is also likely to have had copper added to it. Another tile fragment which has a mixed fabric with silty bands, is covered with a dark green lead glaze, with medium moulding sand on the reverse. Two further fragments of floortile have a much coarser sandier fabric, one of which has a reduced core, partially covered with a crude covering of lead glaze. No complete dimensions apart from the overall thicknesses of the tiles could be measured. They have varying moulding sand on the reverse, ranging from fine to medium sandy.

All the tiles are plain-glazed, with no evidence of any further decoration. The group is likely to comprise a mixture of Flemish and indigenous tiles, which date from the late medieval to the early post-medieval period. Plain cream and dark green/brown glazed tiles used in floors in a chequered pattern to create a contrasting decoration are standard in late medieval contexts, but continue to be used into the sixteenth century. From the later part of this century onwards, the floortiles are generally unglazed, except for a few Dutch imports (Drury, p.166). Several fragments show evidence of re-use through mortar on the upper surface, or on broken edges.

4.3 Mortar

A total of three fragments of mortar were found in 0017. A single large amorphous piece at least 60mm in thickness has a coarse fabric containing moderate gravel inclusions up to 20mm in length, and calcareous inclusions, probably chalk up to 4mm. Two much harder fragments are similar in appearance, and are probably post-medieval in date. The largest piece has two flat surfaces and is made of a finer and harder lime mortar with sand, mica and occasional chalk up to 3mm in length.

4.4 Window Glass

A total of 43 fragments of window glass were recovered from grave fill 0017. Most of the fragments are opaque, with only a few of the thinner pieces being clear. The glass has a mixed date range, and includes both medieval and post-medieval material. Two pieces which are thicker in depth than the others are medieval in date (*c.*3mm). They are painted with a monochrome design on both fragments, which is linear in style. A third undecorated fragment with a similar thickness has at least one grozed edge, and may also be medieval. In addition some other unpainted fragments may also be of this date rather than being later.

4.5 Description of Ledger Stone (R. Carr)

The stone (SHY 0004 0010) is a grey/green shelly limestone typical of Purbeck marble. The surface has polish or smoothing – but shows signs of surface wear subsequent to positioning. There is a rectangular indent for a (missing) brass plaque with three plugs for fixing – at least one with surviving lead insert.

The slab is in two pieces. There is a clean vertical break between the two with matching surfaces pushed back together.

The side edges of both fragments have close vertical tooling which define worked faces, determining the width dimensions. However, only the west end has tooling, the east end is a clean break analogous with the break between the two fragments. The breaks are sharp and uneroded.

The lower surface of the slab was not seen but feels uneven, like a natural cleft along a bedding plane, rather than a tooled surface.

The indent is close to one end of the surviving stone, in the smaller eastern portion adjacent to the missing section; originally it is likely to have been more symmetrically placed within the total stone face.

Because of the missing portion the overall length of the slab cannot be determined.

Slab width: 680mm

Slab thickness: 85 – 90mm

Surviving slab length not measured.

Indent dimensions not measured.

Clean orange sand had been laid in the area around the slab as bedding for the floor bricks. Rod reported that this sand ran under the edge of the slab. The brick flooring was carefully laid around the slab, and came to the same surface level.

The incompleteness of this slab and the stratigraphic indications are evidence that the stone has been raised and re-laid since its original positioning.

4.6 Discussion of the Artefactual Evidence

The finds recovered from grave fill 0017 show a mixed date range, from the medieval through to the early post-medieval period. A small number of window glass fragments are medieval. Other pieces of glass are clearly later, although this material has not been precisely dated. Several plain glazed floortiles are likely to be Flemish and exhibit similar fabrics to

Drury FT6-10 which occur in deposits of late 14th to late 15th century (Drury, p.165). Some of these show evidence of re-use. Two other fragments of a coarse sandy tile fabric with splashes of lead glaze are definitely floortiles rather than roof tile. They are more fragmentary and less well made, and may be locally produced and slightly earlier in date. The mixed dating of these finds is entirely consistent with the redeposition and movement of building materials in an ecclesiastical setting where floor levels were being disturbed, and general repairs and alterations were commonplace.

5 Discussion & Conclusions

This project had an unusually direct objective: the recovery of DNA samples from two burials known to be maternal relatives of Bartholomew Gosnold. There were a number of reservations about the project, mainly based on the fact that the disturbances could be considered to be for research purpose only and would be causing unnecessary disruption to these and surrounding burial deposits. However, given the perceived historical importance of the project aims, it was successfully argued that the relatively minor disturbances were justifiable provided they were kept to a minimum and that a series of controls and consultation points were adhered to throughout.

5.1 Shelley

In this case the objective was met. Samples were successfully recovered from a skeleton located in the identified grave that also met (as ascertained from characteristics observable in the field) the required age/sex profile.

5.2 Stowmarket

Investigations at Stowmarket have proved beyond reasonable doubt that the burials now lying in the brick vault beneath the Blackerby ledger stone are in fact those of John Boby and his wife Ann who died in the first half of the 19th century. The exact locations of the earlier Blackerby burials remain uncertain. One possibility that must be considered is that they were damaged/destroyed or moved during the insertion of later brick tombs. Another equally possible scenario is that the present location of the Blackerby memorial stone is not its original position, it being moved during the 19th century reorderings of the church.

6 References

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Appendix I Background to the Jamestown Rediscovery/Shelley/Stowmarket, England Gosnold DNA Project

APVA Preservation Jamestown's Rediscovery Archaeological Project, Dr. William M. Kelso, Director, seeks the permission to archaeologically obtain DNA samples of bone from the burials of two 17th century maternal relatives of Suffolk, UK and Jamestown's Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, in order to determine if an early 17th century Captain's burial recovered at Jamestown, Virginia is, in fact, Captain Gosnold's remains. The burials for the proposed testing are those of Elizabeth Gosnold Tilney, Gosnold's sister, who is buried in the chancel of Shelley All Saints Church and Katherine Blackerby, Gosnold's grandniece, who is buried at St Peter and St Mary Church, Stowmarket (Suffolk, UK). Obtaining the DNA sample, with no damage to the fabric of the Churches nor any full skeletal disturbance, likely can produce the exacting comparative scientific data necessary for the Jamestown identification.

There are a number of compelling historical, scientific, political, and educational reasons for this study and for doing it soon:

1. Because Bartholomew Gosnold died within a few months of the establishment of the 1607 Jamestown settlement, he is without doubt the most overlooked of the founders of the United States. He became the "prime mover" of the settlement of Jamestown, the first permanent English colony in America, when he first gathered notable English men together in Suffolk, UK to fund the venture and then to sail to and settle the new land. America's English language, rule of law and representative government all originally sprang from this effort first championed by Gosnold. In 2007 the United States will observe the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown colony. The positive identification through DNA of the presumed Gosnold remains, is a key to underscoring in 2007 his historical importance and the pivotal role of Great Britain in the founding of America.
2. The burial found at Jamestown is likely that of Gosnold because it is an early 17th century interment that was buried ceremoniously with a Captain's leading staff. Forensic analysis determined that he was in his mid to late thirties when he died. Gosnold died at a documented age of 36 in August, 1607. His maternal DNA signature (mtDNA: the type only passed down through the female line and the only DNA type surviving in ancient skeletal material) has been positively determined.
3. Exhaustive genealogical research by Dr. Edward Martin and Dr. Joanna Martin, Suffolk, UK could not trace Gosnold lineage to within 13 generations of a living maternal-line, the ideal source of a comparative DNA sample. So samples from deceased maternal descendants from Shelley Church chancel and from St Peter and St Mary Church are the only known source of DNA to compare with the DNA of the Jamestown Captain's burial. The procedure would be to cover but not exhumate Elizabeth's and Katherine's remains, examine them with a minimum of disturbance, obtain a bone sample for DNA reading, followed by a recovering and closing of the burial. A positive comparison of the DNA of these two samples and a positive comparison with the DNA of Jamestown's Captain will be key to a solid identification.
4. This is a project with great scientific and educational value. Again in the year 2007, America will commemorate its 400 year old English heritage with Jamestown as the focus. The 11-year old Jamestown Rediscovery Archaeological Project, has uncovered the lost site

of James Fort and a number of burials of those that died there planting the colony 1607-1610. The owners of the Jamestown Fort site and sponsors of the project, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) in partnership with the United States Park Service, owners of the rest of the 1600 acre Jamestown Island, will contribute to the memorial event by completing a \$45 million interpretive plan which includes expansion of a state-of-the-art archaeological collection facility meeting the highest museum standards for the preservation and protection of the 1.2 million artifacts and two museum facilities for anticipated 1 million visitors (annual visitation is typically 350,000 in other years). One of the facilities so named the Archaearium, will exhibit many of the artifacts from the James Fort excavation (this is now in the advance planning stages with Haley Sharpe Design LTD. of Leicester, UK and the building under construction). Two areas are dedicated to explaining to the public the scientific study and findings of the study of early English Jamestown burials. This will require the respectful and tasteful display of two burials that we feel symbolically tell of the struggle to establish the colony: a young soldier and The Captain who we think could well be Gosnold. The theme of this area will be teaching what forensic anthropology has told us about these two men and address medical practices, colonial diet and how we can learn about them from skeletal material. This part of the exhibit will become a major part of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History exhibit for 2008 in Washington, DC as well. Also the Archaearium is built around a commemorative atrium viewable from all sides within the exhibit honoring the Jamestown colonists with a monument above their re-interment with particular emphasis on names and individuals. To be able to positively identify Bartholomew Gosnold among them, or even to explain how we tried to do so through the proposed DNA study, we feel would add tremendously to the educational and emotional impact of this monument.

5. The Jamestown burial we think is Gosnold (for the archaeological and scientific reasons stated above) was buried at the head of what the colonists called Smithfield, the military parade ground. If we can say this is positively Gosnold, who was held by the other leaders to be the moving force behind and the success of the American colony, then his burial place, just beyond the fort wall, certainly adds to understanding the degree to which the leaders both maintained British religious and social order and adapted it to their relations with the Virginia Indians. For example, documents tell us that Gosnold was buried ceremoniously with the firing of cannon and muskets yet the Jamestown sponsoring Virginia Company in London instructed the colonists to hide evidence of any weaknesses, especially deaths or sickness, from the native Virginia Indians. Burials recently found inside the fort walls indicate the colonists did follow these instructions except possibly for the Captain. Determining that the Captain's grave is Gosnold through DNA will establish where the military ceremony did take place and so in plain view of the enemy, contrary to Company directives. This raises questions about reason for burying a Captain this way which can lead to more insight into how they were coping with the two greatest challenges they had to face, their health and their adversaries. So by positively identifying Gosnold as the Smithfield Captain who was buried with such a show of force, gives testimony to the ability of the leaders at Jamestown to adapt their pre-settlement strategy to the realities of their American situation. This is perhaps another example of the impact of the Virginia situation on the English culture and so perhaps the process of Americans inventing themselves which is one of the themes of an APVA sponsored book to be published by the University of Virginia Press by Fall 2006. A successful Gosnold DNA study will undoubtedly be a significant subject to include in this book. In order for it to be on the shelves by 2007, the UVA Press requires a completed manuscript by late summer 2005. For this reason and scheduling considerations related to the on-going archaeological excavations at Jamestown, there is a great need for the proposed

Gosnold study to be completed in April or May 2005. That is also the most desirable timeline for the proposed Jamestown National Geographic film.

William Kelso
2004

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Appendix II EVIDENCE FOR THE BURIAL PLACES OF TWO MATERNAL-LINE RELATIVES OF CAPT. BARTHOLOMEW GOSNOLD OF VIRGINIA

Research has been carried out to try and find living individuals who would have the same mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) as Capt. Bartholomew Gosnold. Bartholomew inherited his mtDNA from his mother, but, as this type of DNA cannot be passed on by males, descendants needed to be found who had a maternal-line descent from his sisters, maternal aunts or other female-line ancestors. Unfortunately it has not been possible to trace any female-line descendants alive today.

As a second line of enquiry, research was done to try and locate the burial places of any such female-line relatives. In only two cases could the burial place of a female-line relative be tied down to a relatively small area. These two are:

- 1. Elizabeth Tilney née Gosnold, Bartholomew's sister, in Shelley Church.**
- 2. Katherine Blackerby née Bowtell, Bartholomew's niece, in Stowmarket Church.**

The evidence for these is reviewed below.

1. Elizabeth Tilney née Gosnold

a) Evidence for her identity:

Elizabeth, the sister of Bartholomew Gosnold, married Thomas Tilney esq. of Shelley Hall around 1598. Although an actual record of the marriage has not been found, the marriage is documented in the pedigree her husband recorded at the Heralds' Visitation of Suffolk in 1612.¹ Her husband died c.1618 (will dated 1618, proved 1620).² Their son, Philip Tilney, sold Shelley Hall c.1627.

b) Evidence for her burial place:

Elizabeth was living at Higham St Mary in 1646 when she made her will. In her will she commended her 'body to the earth to be buried in decent maner in Shelly chauncell by Thomas Tylney Esquier my late husband at the discretion of my sup[er]visors [Robert Brooke, esq. of Ipswich and William Wakelyn, gent. of Higham] in case my executor canot conveniently be present at the charge of my sayde executor [her executor was her grandson Frederick Tilney, then at Cambridge University]'.³

There are no Shelley parish registers for this period, but luckily the Higham St Mary register records that on the 10 April 1646 Elizabeth, widow of Thomas Tylney Esquire died 'and was buried in Shelley chauncell the day followinge'.⁴

In the later 17th century Shelley church was visited by William Blois (or Bloys; 1600-1673) an antiquarian from Grundisburgh in Suffolk. He recorded:

An Isle in the church built by the Tilnys. Their coat in stone. And stools.

1) A monument for a Tilny

¹ W.C. Metcalfe, *The Visitations of Suffolk 1561, 1577 and 1612*, Exeter 1882, 170: Tylney, Tilney of Shelley.

² Public Record Office: PROB/11/136.

³ Public Record Office: PROB/11/199

⁴ Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich): Higham St Mary parish register

2) Another for Dame Margaret wife to Philip Tilney Esq., whose son Freder. Tilney Esq. by Anne, da. of Francis Framlingham of Debenham, had issue Charls [sic] that dyed without issue Anno 1595.

3) A stone. *Hic iacet Wm. King fil. Joh. King, Do'o huius ville circiter 1500. His coat (not there) a lion ramp &c.*⁵

In 1825 Shelley church was visited by another Suffolk antiquarian, David Elisha Davy (1769-1851) who recorded the following information:⁶

The church ... consists of a Chancel, Nave and Isle on the S[outh] side.

The chancel is 19ft 10ins long, & 18ft 3ins wide, covered with tiles, and ceiled. The Communion Table is not raised, but railed around... On the north side was a large opening into what was probably a chapel or burial place for the family residing at the Hall, but now used as a vestry, the entrance to which is through a narrow modern door.

[Description of the hatchments in the church].

The heads of the Seats, some of them, of oak, handsomely carved; upon those on each side is a griffon holding a shield, on which are the Arms of Tilney ... quartering Thorpe ...

The Vestry, or chapel, is 15ft 8ins long by 11ft 4ins wide, raised 2 steps and covered with tiles and ceiled. ...

The Nave is 42ft 6ins long by 18ft 10ins wide, tiled and ceiled. ... The Pews are of deal stained with oil & very neat... The Nave is separated from the Isle by 4 pointed arches, which are supported on octagon pillars. ...

The whole floor of the church is paved with white brick, and the church is kept in very neat and clean order.

Monuments, inscriptions etc.

In the chancel

1) Near the E. end & fixed to the wall is part, perhaps the end, of a table monument, consisting of 3 compartments, in each of which is a field of arms.

i. W[est]: Tilney as above quartering Thorpe, as before

ii. Centre: Tilney quartering Thorpe. Impaling Teye: A fesse between 3 martlets in chief & a chevron in base.

iii. E[ast]: Teye: a fesse between 3 martlets in chief & a chevron in base.

From these arms, this appears to have been the monument of Sir Philip Tilney, Knight, who married to his second wife Joan, daughter of Thomas Teye of Essex and died 26 H[enry] 8 [1532-3].

⁵ Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich): GC17:755, vol. III, f. 178.

⁶ The original Davy manuscripts are in the British Library (Add. MS 19105), but there are microfilms in the Suffolk Record Office. The Shelley visit is on ff. 96r-99v.

⁷ Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich) FB83/E1/1: Shelley Churchwardens' accounts 1760-1840: 1761. To Pewing the Church £22.

2) In the floor below the rails, on a small slab of Purbeck stone, were brasses in this form [Davy sketches the indent of a brass here, showing the outline of a kneeling figure with a small shield above its head]

3) On another small one, near the Vestry door, was a brass of this shape [Davy sketches a simple narrow rectangle].

4) Near the S[outh] side, in the floor, lies a small piece of stone, on which is a shield somewhat similar to those on no.1, with these arms:

Tilney and Thorpe, quarterly. Impaling ?Jeffery Quarterly, 1 and 4 Jeffery? a chevron between 3 birds 2 & [1] popinjays? 2 and 3, 3 pheons, 2 & 1.

In the Vestry

5) Against the north wall is fixed a square frame of stone, in the centre of which is the following shield of arms:

Tilney quartering Thorpe. Over it: crest: from a ducal coronet, a double plume of 5 and 4 feathers, and arising thence a griffon's head.

Supporters: two griffons, but broken.

[Davy continues with a further description of the heraldry].

[Also in the vestry, several floor slabs mainly to members of the Kerridge family, successors to the Tilneys at Shelley Hall: 6) Thomas Kerridge d. 1657; 7) uninscribed black slab; 8) Dame Mary Lomley d. 1650 (mother-in-law of Thomas Kerridge); 9) John Kerridge d. 1661; 10) Samuel Kerridge d. 1678].

In the Nave

11) Against the north wall is a handsome monument of stone and marble. It consists of an altar tomb, on which, at the height of about 5 feet, lies the figure of a woman in a ruff, her hands joined and raised, a close cap, her head on 2 cushions. This tomb is placed in a niche about a foot deep and at the head and feet are 2 Ionic pillars of dark Purbeck marble with gilt capitals, supporting a square entablature. At the back of the niche on tablet is the following inscription in capitals:

*This Tombe was made by Philip Tylney Esquire
In remembrance of his duty to his dear mo-
ther Dame Margrett, the wife of Frederick
Tylney Esquire, who had issue by her Thomas
Tylney who died without issue, and the above named
Philip Tylney who by Ann, the daughter of Framlingham
Of Debenham had issue Charles that died without issue.
His father living 1598.*

[further description of the arms on the monument].

From the descriptions given by Blois and Davy it is possible to identify and locate some of the graves in the chancel. Using Davy's numbering (see also the accompanying plan) these are:

1. Jane Teye, second wife of Sir Philip Tilney. Living 1517. Tomb against the north wall, near the side of the altar.

2. William King of Shelley Hall, died before 1485. In the centre of the chancel, near the rails.

3. Unknown.

4. Elizabeth Jeffery, third wife of Sir Philip Tilney. Living in the 1540s. South side of the chancel.

11. Margaret Smyth, widow of Frary (or Frederick) Tilney (died 1540, buried at Kelsale) and John Smyth (died 1578). She died 1597. Tomb with an effigy on the north side of the nave.

Sir Philip Tilney (died 1533) is buried in the separate Tilney chapel (now the vestry) on the north side of the chancel. He requested burial there in his will and his son Thomas (died 1557-9) requested burial beside his father in the 'Tylney Chappell'.⁸

The unaccounted for members of the Tilney family who could be buried in the grave marked by slab 3 (see above) beside the entrance to the Tilney chapel, are:

a) Philip Tilney (son of Frary and Margaret – see above no. 11; he died 1602⁹) and his wife Anne Framlingham. No burial records at Shelley nor wills to identify where they were living when they died.

b) Emery Tilney (brother and heir of Philip; died 1606¹⁰) and his wife Winifred Davis. No burial records at Shelley nor wills to identify where they were living when they died. He had lived in London and also had a house at Syleham in north Suffolk.

c) Thomas Tilney (son of Emery) and Elizabeth Gosnold his wife. Both are known to have been buried in Shelley church (see above).

In 1882-3 Shelley church was 'thoroughly restored' at a cost of £380 having been 'very much in need of repair'.¹¹ The restoration included the removal of the old pews and their replacement with solid oak benches, 'the fronts facing the chancel being filled in with the old linen fold pattern panels; the benches in the chancel retain the figures of griffins supporting shields bearing the arms of the Tilney family, and have also old oak poppy heads'.¹² The restoration also involved the tiling of the chancel, possibly covering the grave slabs recorded by Blois and Davy. There is no mention in the churchwardens' accounts of anything to do with the monuments between 1840 and 1890.¹³

⁸ Public Record Office PROB/11/25 and PROB/11/42B).

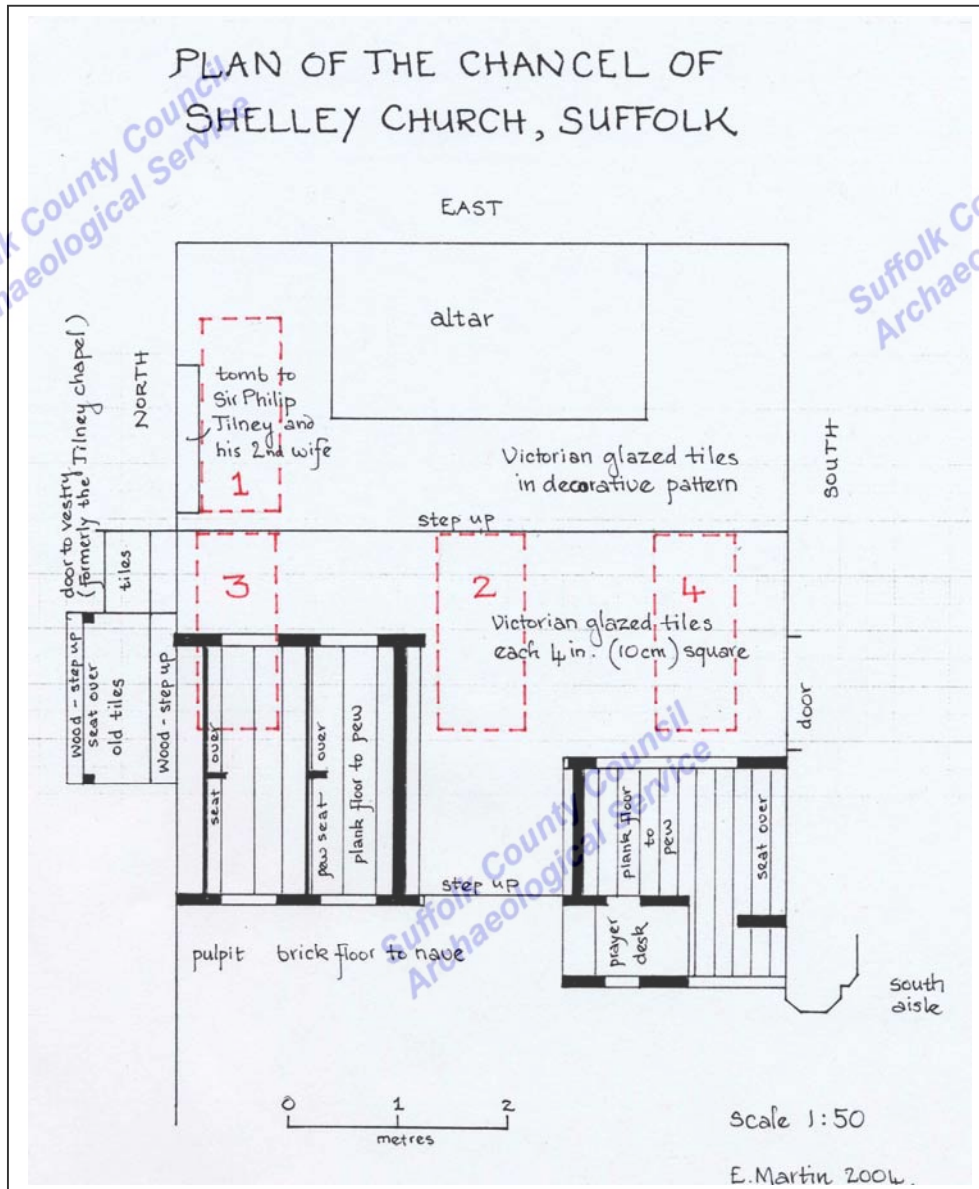
⁹ Death date given in W. Copinger, *Manors of Suffolk*, vol. VI, 1910, p. 81.

¹⁰ Ditto

¹¹ *Kelly's Directory of Suffolk* 1879 and 1883.

¹² *Kelly's Directory of Suffolk* 1937, 395.

¹³ Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich): FB83/E1/2: Shelley churchwardens' accounts 1840-1931.



Plan of the chancel of Shelley church. The approximate locations of the graves listed by D.E. Davy are indicated and numbered in red.

2. Katherine Blackerby née Bowtell

a) Evidence for her identity:

Katherine is named as the 'daughter of Francis Bowtell of Parham hall in com. Suffolk' in the pedigree that her husband, Thomas Blackerby, recorded at the Heralds' Visitation of Suffolk in 1665.¹⁴ In his will, dated 1687, Thomas Blackerby mentions by name the six children (Phillip, Francis, Nathanael, Joseph and Priscilla) of his 'brother Bowtell deceased'.¹⁵ The children's names match with those of Barnaby Bowtell esq. (1609-84) of Parham Hall, confirming that he was her brother. It was Barnaby who acquired Parham Hall (from Lord Willoughby), holding his first court there as lord of the manor in 1649.

Barnaby was baptised in 1609 at St Matthew's, Ipswich, the 'sonne of Francis Bowtell and Marie his wife'. Francis was newcomer to Suffolk, having been baptised in 1586 at Boston in Lincolnshire. A record of his marriage to Marie has not been found, however there is good reason to believe that she was Mary Gosnold, Bartholomew's sister.

The Suffolk antiquarian, David Elisha Davy, in his manuscript *East Anglian pedigrees* recorded this about Bartholomew's family:¹⁶

Gosnold of Otley:

Anthony Gosnold of Grundisburgh and Clopton married Dorothy, dau. of [blank] Bacon of Hessest.

Issue:

[blank] Gosnold, married Thomas Tilney of Shelley, living 1606; [blank] Gosnold married Edmund Goldsmith; [blank] Gosnold married [blank] Bowtell of Ipswich; [blank] Gosnold married Zachary Norman of Dunwich; Capt. ... Gosnold; Ursula Gosnold, buried at Grundisburgh 10 July 1688 [sic]; Bartholemew Gosnold, son and heir, of Virginia 4 James, 1606, Captain of a vessel, died in Virginia 1607.

The names of Bartholomew's sisters are known from family wills and other sources, so it is possible to match up most of the names in the Davy list:

1. Elizabeth. Married Thomas Tilney
2. Margaret. Married Zachary Norman.
3. Dorothe. Married, 1593, Edmund Goldsmith.
4. Anne.
5. Mary.
6. Ursula, bap. 1588, bur. 1588.

From this it can be deduced that the daughter who married a Bowtell was named either Anne or Mary. The name Bowtell is uncommon in Suffolk and the only gentry family of the name is the one descended from Francis and Mary of Ipswich. The dates match well for Francis to have married Mary Gosnold. Unfortunately there is no known will of Francis nor of Mary his wife.

Katherine's husband, Thomas Blackerby (c.1612-88) was a wealthy and influential man. Although a native of Suffolk, he had spent much of his life as a merchant in London, rising to be an Alderman in 1667 and Master of the Skinners' Company in 1668. In Suffolk, he served as Sheriff in 1668-9. He purchased the lordship of Stowmarket, together with the advowson

¹⁴ W.H. Rylands, *Heralds' Visitation of Suffolk 1664-8*, London 1910: Blackerby of Shackerland Hall.

¹⁵ Public Record Office: PROB/11/396.

¹⁶ British Library Add.MS 19,133, ff. 9v-12r.

of the church (to which he presented his cousin Samuel Blackerby). Katherine is named as his 'deare and loveing wife' in his will, dated 1687.¹⁷

Katherine Blackerby is therefore very likely to have been the niece of Bartholomew Gosnold, being the daughter of his sister Mary.

b) Evidence for her burial place:

The Stowmarket parish registers record the burial of Katherine's husband:

1688 Thomas Blackerby Esq. was Buried the 4th day of November.

Her own burial is also recorded:

1693 Mrs Katherine Blackerby Widow Buried December 22.

When the antiquarian David Elisha Davy visited Stowmarket church in 1811 he recorded the monuments, including these:¹⁸

2) In the chancel 'within the communion rails, on the south side'

Memorial to Thomas Blackerby, died 2 November 1688, aged 76.

Arms above: Blackerby: Gyronny of 8 on a canton, a mullet, impaling 3 roses, 2 & 1, on a chief a lion passant – a crescent for the impaling line.

Crest: on a helmet & torse, a moor's head in profile, coupé at the shoulders, filleted and jewelled, between 2 palm branches.

3) Below the rails, on the south side:

Samuel Blackerby and Anne his wife, daughter of Richard Forster of Nassington, Northants., and Nathaniel, Thomas and Martha their children. He died 20 Dec. 1674 aged 56; she died 12 November 1666 aged 46.

Arms above: Blackerby with a crescent, impaling Forster, a chevron between 3 bugles. Crest: Blackerby as before.

[Samuel was a cousin of Thomas Blackerby and through his patronage was appointed Vicar of Stowmarket in 1662. Samuel's sons Thomas and Nathaniel were buried in 1667 and 1676; Samuel's second wife, Catherine Cotton, was buried in 1674).

At the head of no.3: Nathaniel Fairclough, gent. and Elizabeth his wife.

The Rev. A.G.H. Hollingsworth (Vicar of Stowmarket 1837-59) in his *The History of Stowmarket* (Ipswich 1844) p. 207 states that Thomas Blackerby was buried 'under the altar steps – the most distinguished place in the church, and chosen expressly to mark the high estimation in which his character and person were held by the townsmen.'

Stowmarket church was 're-pewed and beautified in 1840 at a cost of £1000'.¹⁹ A further restoration was carried out in the 1860s under the direction of the architect R.M. Phipson.

Today, a black floor slab commemorating Thomas Blackerby can be seen in the centre of the chancel of Stowmarket church. The extreme eastern end of the slab appears to go under the Victorian altar step. The slab carries a long inscription in praise of Thomas, but there is no mention of Katherine. However it seems very unlikely that Katherine would have been buried

¹⁷ Public Record Office PROB/11/396

¹⁸ D.E. Davy, BL Add.MS 19106, f. 186v.

¹⁹ *White's Directory of Suffolk* 1855, 418.

separately from her husband. Her absence from the inscription could be due to either a lack of room or because there was no one left with a sufficient interest to add the inscription. Katherine and Thomas were childless and by 1693 it is doubtful whether there were any other relatives still living in Stowmarket.

At its west end, Thomas's slab abuts that of the Rev. Samuel Blackerby, which also lies on the central axis of the chancel. This central position does not agree with Davy's description of both these grave slabs as being on the 'south side' and it is possible that they were relocated during one of the Victorian restorations. Also both slabs now lie between the altar rails and the altar steps, whereas Davy describes Thomas's slab as being 'within the communion rails' and Samuel's as 'below the rails'. A continuous joint line in the stone slabs flanking the grave slabs crosses the chancel close to the west end of Thomas's slab and this could indicate the line of the communion rails seen by Davy. Hollingsworth must have seen the slab before any of the restorations, so his description of Thomas's burial place as 'under the altar steps' is likely to be accurate – either centrally where the slab now is, or to the south of it.

In view of the wealth and prominence of Thomas Blackerby, together with the date of the burial, it is likely to have been in either a brick-lined shaft or an actual vault. A survey using ground-penetrating radar should be able to locate such a shaft or vault.

Edward Martin
15 Jan. 2005



Chancel of Shelley Church. One of the Tilney monuments (no. 1) can be seen against the north wall.



Chancel of Stowmarket Church. Thomas Blackerby's grave slab is immediately in front of the altar steps; Samuel Blackerby's slab is in the foreground.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

Appendix III Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Investigation

GOSNOLD DNA PROJECT

1. Background

- 1.1 Research by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) at Jamestown in Virginia, USA, has identified an inhumation burial which has the potential to be that of Bartholomew Gosnold one of the leaders of the earliest permanent English settlement in the USA. A separate historical study defines the background and identifies the academic and educational benefits of confirming the identity of the burial. An investigation of the likely burial sites of two of Gosnold's female relatives in Shelley and Stowmarket churches has been proposed in order to provide suitable mt DNA links to achieve this objective. This work would be carried out in conjunction with the National Geographic Society (NGS) who intend to film the project.
- 1.2 The burials to be investigated are those of:
 1. Elizabeth (Gosnold) Tilney, the sister of Bartholomew Gosnold. Historical records indicate that she was buried in 1646 in the chancel of Shelley Church, beside her husband, Thomas Tilney (d.1618-20). The exact location is unknown but there is a presumption that it may be on the north side, near the entrance to the Tilney family chapel.
 2. Katherine (Bowtell) Blackerby, niece of Bartholomew Gosnold (daughter of his sister Mary). She was buried in 1693 at Stowmarket. It is presumed that she was buried with her husband, Thomas Blackerby (d.1688), who is buried beneath a large ledgerstone in the chancel of Stowmarket church.
- 1.3 There is a presumption that all archaeological fieldwork specified will be undertaken by the same research team. There is similarly a presumption that further analysis and post-excavation work to final report stage will be carried through by the same body. Any variation from this principle would require a justification which would show benefit to the archaeological process.
- 1.4 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
- 1.5 Faculty Consent for the investigation will be required under the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.

2. Brief for Archaeological Project

- 2.1 Define a programme of phased archaeological work which would, if completed, lead to the acquisition of a mt DNA sample from burials which are either identified as the target burial or have a high potential to fit the desired criteria.
- 2.2 There is to be recognition throughout that unnecessary disturbance or sampling of burials will not be accepted, and a presumption that the highest professional standards are to be maintained.
- 2.3 The academic objective will centre upon the high potential for this site to further inform the political and social history of the early American settlements.
- 2.4 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2). Excavation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential for analysis. Analysis and final report preparation will follow assessment and will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design.
- 2.5 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee on the Care of Churches (Churchgates House, Cutler St., Ipswich, IP1 1UQ and copied to their archaeological advisor at: Archaeology, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until the Diocese has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of any condition on any Faculty Consent will be adequately met.
- 2.7 The applicant or his archaeologist will give the Secretary of the D.A.C. five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of the investigation will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3. Specification for the Archaeological Excavation

The excavation methodology will form part of the Project Design and is to be agreed in detail before the project commences; defined minimum criteria in this outline are to be met or exceeded:

- 3.1 The PD must provide details of how the burials will be located and how they will be investigated. Consultation points between critical stages of the project must be identified.

- 3.2 Human remains are to be treated at all stages with care and respect, and are to be dealt with in accordance with the law. They must be recorded *in situ* and subsequently only sufficient samples for mt DNA analysis will be removed. These will be packed and marked to standards compatible with those described in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Technical Paper 13: Excavation and post-excavation treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains*, by McKinley & Roberts. Proposals for the final disposition of any residues or unused samples following study and analysis will be required in the Project Design.
- 3.3 A finds recovery policy is to be agreed before the project commences. It should be addressed by the Project Design.
- 3.4 All finds will be collected and processed. No discard policy will be considered until the whole body of finds has been evaluated.
- 3.5 All ceramic, bone and stone artefacts to be cleaned and processed concurrently with the excavation to allow immediate evaluation and input into decision making.
- 3.6 Metal artefacts must be stored and managed on site in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines* and evaluated for significant dating and cultural implications before despatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of excavation.
- 3.7 Plans of the archaeological features on the site should normally be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.8 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.9 Excavation record keeping is to be consistent with the requirements Suffolk County Council's Sites and Monuments Record and compatible with its archive. Methods must be agreed with the Conservation Team of SCCAS.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences.
- 4.2 Consultation at the defined breaks between stages of work will be with a nominated group chaired by the Archdeacon and consisting of representation from the DAC, the PCC, the APVA and the NGS. A decisions on progression to the next stage of work or substitution of a revised programme will be taken by the Archdeacon with the advice of the nominated group.
- 4.3 Monitoring of archaeological field work standards and techniques will be undertaken by a sub-committee of the DAC and its archaeological advisor.

- 4.4 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors). For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this site there must be a statement of their responsibilities for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites.
- 4.5 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for each site affected.
- 4.6 The Project Design must include proposed security measures to protect the site and both excavated and unexcavated finds from vandalism and theft.
- 4.7 Provision for the reinstatement of the ground and filling of dangerous holes must be detailed in the Project Design.
- 4.8 Provision of adequate control methods and/or screening to restrict access to and visibility of human remains during excavation is to be made.
- 4.9 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Archive Requirements

- 5.1 Within four weeks of the end of field-work a timetable for post-excavation work must be produced. Following this a written statement of progress on post -excavation work whether archive, assessment, analysis or final report writing will be required at three monthly intervals.
- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principle of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), particularly Appendix 3. However, the detail of the archive is to be fuller than that implied in MAP2 Appendix 3.2.1. The archive is to be sufficiently detailed to allow comprehension and further interpretation of the site should the project not proceed to detailed analysis and final report preparation. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for lodgement in the County SMR or museum.
- 5.3 A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the Project Design (see 2.5).
- 5.4 The site archive quoted at MAP2 Appendix 3, must satisfy the standard set by the "Guideline for the preparation of site archives and assessments of all finds other than fired clay vessels" of the Roman Finds Group and the Finds Research Group AD700-1700 (1993).
- 5.5 Pottery should be recorded and archived to a standard comparable with 6.3 above, i.e. *The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication*, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occasional Paper 1 (1991, rev 1997), the *Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery*, Study Group for Roman Pottery (ed. M G Darling 1994) and the *Minimum Standards for the Processing*,

- 5.6 The Project Design must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from P Murphy, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available from the Conservation Team of SCCAS.
- 5.7 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record. All record drawings of excavated evidence are to be presented in drawn up form, with overall site plans. All records must be on an archivally stable and suitable base.
- 5.8 A complete copy of the site record archive must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 12 months of the completion of fieldwork. In the interests of commercial confidentiality related to the NGS publication programme, the results may remain confidential until NGS publication is complete or by December 2006 whichever is the earlier.
- 5.9 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with UK Institute Conservators Guidelines.
- 5.10 It is hoped that the PCC will agree to the deposition of the finds with the County SMR or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County SMR is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.
- 5.11 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project, a summary report in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology journal, must be prepared and included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner, but see 5.8.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided consistent with the principle of MAP2, particularly Appendix 4. The report must be integrated with the archive.
- 6.2 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.3 An important element of the report will be a description of the methodology.

- 6.4 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.5 The report will give an opinion as to the potential and necessity for further analysis of the excavation data beyond the archive stage, and the suggested requirement for publication; it will refer to the Regional Research Framework (see above, 2.5). Further analysis will not be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established. Analysis and publication can be neither developed in detail or costed in detail until this brief and specification is satisfied.
- 6.6 The assessment report must be presented within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and the Conservation Team of SCCAS
- 6.7 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive), but see 5.8.

Specification by: R D Carr

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 15 December 2004

Reference: /Gosnold.doc

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

Appendix IV Method Statement for a Programme of Archaeological Excavation at Shelley Church & Stowmarket Church

Background

In order to obtain mitochondrial DNA that could identify a skeleton excavated in Jamestown Virginia as being that of Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service have been asked to undertake programmes of archaeological excavation at Shelley Church and Stowmarket Church in Suffolk. The purpose of the excavations would be to recover samples of skeletal material from burials of female members of the Gosnold family.

A Brief and Specification document, detailing the scope of the project, has been produced by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service, Conservation and provides the level of standards required for the work.

Each project will be undertaken in clearly defined stages. At the completion of each stage the results will be used to make an informed decision on the desirability and need for further stages of work. These will also allow for the refinement of the details of any subsequent stages of work. These key consultation points have been indicated in the following project programmes. The seven parties to be involved being: the National Geographic Society (NGS), the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA), the Council for the Care of Churches (CCC), the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Shelley and Stowmarket parochial church councils (PCC). As a result of these consultations, elements within the following list of tasks may need to be substantially modified or even eliminated during the course of the project.

Initially it had been intended to undertake the Ground Radar Survey as part of the main project. However, CCC decided that they would prefer to see the results of the survey at an early stage in order to be given time to decide on the overall viability of the project and a more detailed methodology.

General Management

Faculty consent for the project will be sought under the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.

A Home Office Licence will be sought to cover the removal of human skeletal remains.

All parties involved in the mid-project consultations will be constantly informed regarding the timings and progress of the project.

The fieldwork will be undertaken adhering to the requirements of the Brief and Specification document with the standards for excavation maintaining the levels stated in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.

In addition, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service have their own standards manual entitled "Guidelines and Policies for Archaeological Work in Suffolk" which includes guidelines for excavation, finds management and reporting, along with Health and Safety policies and Environmental Management System (BS EN ISO 14001:1996)

Human remains will be treated in accordance with English Heritage guidelines as set out in Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds In England (English Heritage, 2005).

The excavation work will be undertaken by Stuart Boulter (Senior Project Officer) and Rhodri Gardner (Project Officer) both of whom have considerable experience in church archaeology, above and below ground, and burial archaeology. In addition, Rhodri Gardner has a postgraduate qualification (PhD) in Human Osteoarchaeology.

Archaeological Excavation & Recording

Generally, the required procedures and standards for excavation and recording are provided in the Brief and Specification document which is supplemented by EAA Occasional Paper 14 and Suffolk County Council's own guidelines.

The following details involve more project specific tasks:

- All excavation will be undertaken manually. Spoil will be stockpiled in an area designated by the architect/church authority and, where necessary, will be stored on plastic sheeting to help maintain the tidiness working area.
- All finds will be collected and processed, no discard policy will be operated. Manual sorting is considered to be an adequate level of finds retrieval for this project with no requirement for sieving.
- Where necessary (Stowmarket) provision will be made using portable screens to restrict the access and visibility of the working area.
- General backfilling of graves could be carried out by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Excavation Team, but more technical tasks such as rebuilding tombs, floor reinstatement and pew reinstatement will be undertaken by competent contractors assigned by the relevant church architects.

Reporting Requirements

A full formal report is not a requirement of the excavation phase of the project. However, as invasive procedures are being undertaken into a significant archaeological deposit then there is a need to provide the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) with a description and location of these excavations. The report should be consistent with the principle of *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage, 1991 and will include the following:

- Location plans of the excavated trenches and discrete features.
- Descriptive narrative of the methodology and results of the excavation.

- An archived photographic record.
- Details and archive of artefactual evidence.
- Database of contextual information.

County SMR sheets should be completed, as per county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

In addition, a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology* should be prepared and included in the project report.

Health & Safety Considerations

The Archaeological Evaluation will be carried out while adhering to the Suffolk County Council statement on health and safety (copies available on request) and fully complying with health and safety policies of other contractors that may be operating on the site at that time.

Suffolk County Council has been approved by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance to the following Environmental Management System Standard (BS EN ISO 14001:1996). All subcontractors are sent an Environmental Guidance Note for Contractors.

Particular attention should be drawn to the following points that are deemed especially relevant to these sites.

- **Insurance:** Site staff and official visitors are covered by Suffolk County Council insurance policies (copy available on request).
- **Safety Clothing:** Appropriate protective clothing will be worn by all staff.
- **Working in an isolated setting:** A fully charged mobile phone will be available at all times. Site staff will be made aware of the location of the nearest hospital casualty department and a van will always be available for transport purposes. At least one of the site staff will be a qualified First Aider and a fully maintained first aid kit is kept in the van.
- **Deep excavations:** Should the archaeological investigations involve the excavation of deep holes/trenches, battered or stepped sides or other appropriate safety measures may be deemed necessary. Deep excavations left overnight will be covered over.
- **Toilets/washing facilities:** Facilities are available at the sites.

Proposed Project Timetables (Fieldwork)

Shelley

Stage	Description of Task	Undertaken by
1	Dismantling of wooden pews on north side of chancel & lifting of limited area of tiled flooring. (done)	Arranged by church architect
2	Cleaning of area under pews in readiness for Ground Radar Survey, surface plan & photography if necessary. (done)	SCCAS
3	Ground Radar Survey to identify possible targets. (done)	Stratascan
Consultation Point		
4	Removal of Victorian tiled floor and lifting of ledger stone over grave	Arranged by church architect
	Excavation of grave/graves.	SCCAS
	Expose enough of skeleton to identify sex and age of individual.	SCCAS
Consultation Point		
	Sampling to be undertaken by specialists.	Jamestown Rediscovery Project (APVA)
	Recording (plans, photography etc). (Days 1 - 4)	SCCAS
5	Reinstatement of excavated grave fill (Day 5)	SCCAS
6	Reinstatement of tiled floor and pews (Day 5+)	Arranged by church architect

Stowmarket

Stage	Description	Undertaken by
1	Ground Radar Survey to identify possible target (undertaken on morning of the same day as the Shelley survey) (done)	Stratascan
Consultation Point		
2	Removal of flagstone floor or ledger stone. (Day 1)	Arranged by church architect
3	Investigate access to tomb (Day 1)	SCCAS
4	Investigation of tomb using fibre optic camera (Day 1 or 2)	DrainDoctor
Consultation Point		
5	Further excavation to gain access to tomb	SCCAS in consultation with church architect
Consultation Point		
	Opening of coffins & skeletal sampling to be undertaken by specialists	Jamestown Rediscovery Project (APVA)
	Recording (plans, photography etc). (Days 2 - 4).	SCCAS
6	Rebuilding tomb, backfilling & reinstatement of flagstone floor (Day 5+)	Arranged by church architect

Stuart Boulter
Field Projects Team
Archaeological Service
Environment & Transport Dept.
Suffolk County Council
March 2005

Appendix V Context List & Descriptions (Shelley, SHY 004)

OPNo	Feature	Type	Identifier	Description	Dimensions (LxWxD)	Under	Over	Cnt by	Cuts
0010		Object	Grave marker	Ledger stone marking the Tilney grave in Shelley church. Grey/green shelly limestone typical of Purbeck marble. Indent for (now absent) plaque, with three plugs - one has some surviving lead.	0.9 x 0.68 x <0.09	+	????		
0011	0011	Structure	Floor	Herringbone patterned brick floor laid around 0010. 'Suffolk White' bricks BTL = 125 x 40 x 250mm. No notable bonding material, simply laid in sand.		+	0012		
0012	0011	Deposit	Layer	Sand bedding layer for floor 0011. Mid to light brown very dry fine/medium sand with very rare disarticulated HUBN and small glass fragments.	NA x NA x <0.2m	0011	0013		
0013	0013	Cut	Grave	The 'Tilney' grave. Broadly rectangular in plan with vertical/near vertical sides. Sharp break of slope at top. Base not excavated. Eastern end extends slightly beyond the altar step, so could not be excavated.	1.75 x 0.7 x 1.15m+	0020	NFE		0014
0014		Deposit	Layer	Small area of redeposited wall plaster. Loose pale greyish white plaster lumps with soft grey crushed plaster/mortar matrix. Rare small red brick/tile inclusions. Not excavated.	0.58 x 0.4 x ?	0013	NFE	0013	
0015		Deposit	Layer	Small patch of dumped/redeposited mortar/plaster. Firm/compact very pale greyish white plaster pieces in a crushed plaster matrix. Very rare small brick tile fragment inclusions. Not excavated.	0.45 x 0.2 x ?	0013		0013	
0016		Deposit	Layer	Thin sand deposit along southern edge of grave. Very soft/dry pale olive/khaki fine sand with no notable inclusions. Function/purpose unknown. Unexcavated.	NA x NA x NFE	0013	NFE	0013	
0017	0013	Deposit	Fill	Single fill of Tilney grave. Very loose, dry and friable. Mid grey mixed sandy silt with occasional dry small to medium (<25mm diam.) clay lumps. Frequent small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles. See main text for full description.	1.75+ x 0.7 x 1.15+	0012	0020		
0018	0013	Object	Wood stain	Possibly part of collapsed coffin lid. Only survives as loose friable stain. Very soft mid to dark brown silt. See main text for full description.	0.3 x 0.2 x <0.05	0017	0020		
0019	0013	Object	Wood stain	Small area of wood staining initially thought to be part of coffin. Now thought to be a discarded board included in the grave fill rather than a coffin component.	0.5 x 0.15 x <0.05	N/A	N/A		
0020	0013	Skeleton	Skeleton	Supine extended skeleton. Adult female. Only partially excavated in order to facilitate DNA sampling. See main text for full description.	N/A	0018	0021		
0021	0013	Object	Coffin	Very decayed/friable shouldered and tapered coffin. Only partially excavated to reveal skeleton. No furniture observed. See main text for full description.	0.8+ x 0.48 x 0.15+	0020	0013		