## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

St. Nicholas Church, Ipswich (IPS 442), A Recordo of
Archaeological Work Associated with the Reordering and Extension to the Existing Building Report No. 2005/48, Oasis ID Suffolkc1-3168


South Side of the Church

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(C) February 2006

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## Summary

Ipswich, St. Nicholas Church (TM 1617 4429; IPS 442) A re-ordering of the existing church and construction of an adjacent extension required that a programme of archaeological evaluation and recording was undertaken.

The reduced level soil strip for the extension revealed the groundplan of a building known from early maps to have stood to the south-east of the chancel from at least the later $17^{\text {th }}$ century through into the first half of the $20^{\text {th }}$ century. Below this a relatively thick loam soil was encountered with burials throughout, indicating that the graveyard had, at some time, extended under and to the east of a north to south aligned path/lane that was well established by the end of the $17^{\text {th }}$ century. A small group of shallow lain infant burials were formally excavated, while the remainder were left intact beneath the new build, the formation level for which was raised to facilitate this process. One of the burials was found to be in a very poor condition and was truncated by a pit which was tentatively dated to the Late Saxon Period. If this dating is correct then this burial may have been associated with a pre-conquest phase of the church. The excavated burials and all miscellaneous disarticulated human skeletal material and charnel deposits were reburied with due care and respect within the area of the churchyard.

Artefactual evidence included stratified and unstratified pottery dating from the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.

Re-ordering of the interior of the church included the removal of panelling from around the walls which was found to represent the re-use of box-pews, mainly in pine but with some decorative oak panels. The oak panels probably dated to the mid $-17^{\text {th }}$ century while the pine panels where more likely to be $18^{\text {th }}$ century in date. Graffiti on the back of one of the panels suggested that they had been installed in 1864.

Evidence for earlier decoration in the church was recorded in the form of wall paintings and coatings, the majority of which were clearly relatively recent, probably later $19^{\text {th }}$ or early $20^{\text {th }}$ century in date. (Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council \& The Diocese of St. Edmundsbury \& Ipswich, SCCAS Report No. 2005/48)

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Archaeological, Historical \& Planning Background

St. Nicholas Church (IPS 442) lies within the historic core of the town of Ipswich (TM 1617,4429 ) in an area where occupation has been continuous from the Early Saxon period until the present day.


Fig. $1 \quad 1: 10,000$ scale map showing the location of the site
The main body of the extant church building dates predominantly to the early $14^{\text {th }}$ century (decorated style) with alterations and extensions of earlier post-medieval (late perpendicular style) and later post-medieval (Victorian gothic style) date. However, there is compelling evidence, in the form of architectural fragments identified re-used in the later wall fabric, to suggest that the building may have had a Saxon, pereconquest, predecessor. There are fragments of at least two Saxon grave markers embedded in the south aisle wall, but the most significant material was recovered during alterations in the late $19^{\text {th }}$ century (Plunkett, S. J. in West, S., 1998, pp.352356, Plates XVI-XIX). While some fragments have been lost there remains a tympanum, a plaque and fragments from an Apostolic Frieze. St. Nicholas church is not listed for Ipswich in the Domesday Book and it has been strongly argued by Plunkett that the iconography of the group points towards a dedication to All Saints. A building dedicated to All Saints is one of the lost churches/chapels of Ipswich and if themasonry fragments are from a building on the site and not collected from elsewhere, it is entirely possible that the earlier structure was of this dedication. However, that of St. Michael, another of the lost churches of Ipswich, must also be considered as a possibility due to the presence of the St. Michael carving.

Other than the recording of these monumental fragments, various antiquarian references and written descriptions of discoveries made during alterations to the
structure of the church, no formal archaeological work has been carried out until the initiation of this project.

For approximately twenty years St Nicholas had been redundant and in the care of the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust until it was bought back (for $£ 1.00$ ) by the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich in 2001 in preparation for its re-ordering and bringing back into use.

A planning application (IP/03/00575/FUL) was made in 2003, which coyered the reordering of the standing building, construction of an extension and vârious landscaping works. To accompany this application, a Historic Environment Mitigation Strategy document was prepared by The Archaeological Consultancy (Wardle, 2003) which included a map regression exercise.

The church itself is a Grade 2* listed building and as such is covered by Planning Guideline PPG15 while both the standing structure and below ground archaeological deposits are also covered by Planning Guideline PPG16 and are under faculty jurisdiction.

While it was clear that a programme of archaeological recording would be required throughout the project, initial evaluation exercises, involving geophysical survey (GSB Prospection, 2003) and test-pitting (Gardner, 2004), were undertaken to try and characterise the below-ground archaeological deposits.

Subsequently, a Historic Environment Project Design, Brief and Written Scheme of Investigation document was prepared by The Archaeological Consultancy (Wardle, 2004) which outlined the scope of the required archaeological works. During the construction phase of the project (August 2004-March 2005) Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Projects team were commissioned by the main contractor, Jackson Building Services Ltd., to undertake the necessary archaeological recording and any further evaluation.

Details of the archaeological work are presented as sections 2. (Methodologies) and 3. (Results) of this report.

### 1.2 Topographical Setting \& Drift Geology

The church stands towards the south-eastern edge of the historic core of Ipswich on well drained river terrace gravels at approximately 4.2 metres OD overlooking what would have been marshy ground (historically known as The Corporation Marshes), to the south and south-east, on the banks of the River Orwell.

## 2. Methodologies

### 2.1 Fieldwork

### 2.1.1 Wall Fabric Analysis

As part of the overall recording project an external survey of the standing building was undertaken including photographic (colour slide, digital \& monochrome) and fabric description.

With a view to carrying out limited photogrammetry using the digital photographs, a series of known points were imposed on the walls of the north and south aisles,
chancel and vestry and were subsequently recorded using total station survey equipment (Plate 1).


### 2.1.2 Reduced Level Strip \& Other Excavations

The reduced level strip was carried out using a $360^{\circ}$ mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket for a good clean cut. The aim was to excavate down to a predetermined formation level (c.3.48 metres OD). Archaeological deposits encountered above this level, predominantly post-medieval structural features, were recorded and removed. However, identified burials were left intact to await input from the planning archaeologist and archaeological consultant.

Prior to the off-siting of the upcast spoil, manual sorting was undertaken to retrieve the disarticulated human skeletal material that was present throughout. This material was retained forlater reburial on the site.

The excavation of a small group of shallow lain burials was followed by the manual excavation of one of the proposed footing pads and the re-excavation of one of the earlier evaluation holes. These were effectively used as an evaluation to asses the character of the surviving archaeology and the depth of overburden. In addition, the proposed locations of the majority of the ground-beams were excavated to their original proposed formation level of 3.14 metres OD, with a view to identifying any further archaeological problems.

Due to the presence of significant archaeological features, primarily the burials and brick-built tombs, revealed during the initial soil-strip, alterations were made to the
original foundation design. The proposed floor level for the new building was raised, and would now be supported upon reinforced concrete piles, thereby removing the need for large concrete pads. However, the pile-caps were still considered to be archaeologically sensitive and, as a consequence, were excavated manually down to their formation level at 3.18 metres OD. Where articulated human skeletal material was revealed these were formally excavated and later reburied.

A 10100 scale plan was drawn in pencil on plastic drafting film, for the more superficial features, while a 1:50 scale plan was drawn for the detailed archaeology encountered closer to the formation level. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 while excavated graves were recorded at a scale of 1:10.

All features and their stratigraphic elements were allocated OP (observed phenomena) numbers within a 'unique continuous numbering system' under the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) code IPS 442.

A full photographic record was made including colour slide, monochrome prints and digital shots.

### 2.1.3 Miscellaneous Monitoring \& Recording Drainage \& Service Excavations

An archaeological presence was maintained while the main service trench was excavated from the existing gated entrance to the new building. The upcast spoil was sorted manually to retrieve all the disarticulated human skeletal material.

A photographic recorded was made and where articulated burials were revealed, these were recorded as well as was possible with due regard for the health and safety requirements of the site.

Monitoring visits were also made following soil stripping for the new paths, parking areas and the provision of other minor services.

## Interior Photographic Record

A full photographic record (colour slide, monochrome print \& digital shots) was made of the wooden wall panelling, prior to its removal, the floor grave markers and wall monuments.

In addition, a digital photograph record was made of all the arcade pillar bases and areas of wall painting revealed during the internal refurbishment works.

## Exterior Grave Markers

An existing path in the churchyard had been laid using old grave markers as paving slabs. These slabs were lifted, cleaned and photographed (digitally) before being reSited (inscribed face down) in the border immediately south of the church. A location plan was made noting the name, where legible, of the person or persons commemorated on the stone.

## Masonry Repairs \& New Doorway

A digital photographic record was made during a series of visits to monitor masonry repairs to the existing architectural features (windows, south doorway \& buttresses)
and during the insertion of a new doorway in the east wall of the south aisle. Further visits were made during alterations to the existing doorway in the south chancel wall.

## Reburial of Human Skeletal Remains

All disarticulated and articulated human skeletal remains recovered from the excavations, the latter after being studied by an Osteoarchaeologist, were reburied on the site in cardboard finds boxes.

### 2.2 Post-Excavation

Contextual information was input onto Microsoft Access97 database (Appendix I).
Finds were processed (washed \& marked), quantified and identified by in-house finds staff. Information was input onto a Microsoft Access97 database (Appendix II).

Plans, section drawings and grave profiles were inked to archive standard and are reproduced in this report as Figs. 2, 3, $4 \& 5$.

The photographs were added to Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Photographic Archive under the film codes FMS 1-96, FMT 1-96, FMU 1-31 (colour slides), FMY 1-12, FMZ 1-11, FPA 1-12, FPB 1-12, FPC 1-12, FPD 1-12, FPE 1-11, FPF 1-11, FPH 1-25, FPI 1-37, FPJ 1-37, FPK 1-37, EPQ 5-24 and FPR 1-14 (monochrome prints) and FKQ 1-96, FKR 1-96, FKZ 1-96, FMI 1-96 and FMR 1-77 (digital shots).

An archive report (this document) was compiled to include all the information recorded during the project.

## 3. Results

3.1 Wall Fabric Analysis

For the purposes of the wall fabric description, the church will be divided into its main architectural components. Detailed descriptions were only made for the main body of the church (chancel, nave/aisles). Photographs of the building components can be found as Appendix III of this report.

## South Aisle

The south aisle was characterised by two distinct wall fabrics, each representing one of the two principal construction phases.

The westernmost $c .18$ metres of the wall, corresponding with the first four bays of the arcade inside the building, can be dated by the Y and intersecting tracery of the three windows to $c .1300$. While much repaired with hard grey cement filling, the original wiadow tracery was usually present, but had been replaced in some areas. Alsmall, roughly rectangular window high up in the west wall may representa later insertion. The remaining $c .6$ metres, corresponding to the fifth bay of the nave arcade, was almost certainly added as a chapel. The perpendicular style window in its south wall is contemporary with its surrounding wall fabric and from the depressed nature of its arch and the bricks included in the wall itself, is likely to be of late $15^{\text {th }}$ or $16^{\text {th }}$ century. A small perpendicular window inserted into the eastern end of the nave roof may be of similar date. In addition, the scar of another window, known from drawings to be similar to that in the south wall and blocked during the $19^{\text {th }}$ century to
facilitate the construction of a small extension in the angle between the aisle and chancel, was visible in the east wall.

The buttresses while apparently contemporary with the wall exhibited evidence for repair and rebuilding to both their quoins and flint flushwork during recent times.


Plate 2: Saxon Grave-Marker Fragments in South Aisle Wall

The most striking thing about the earlier wall fabric of the aisle was the materials used rather than features relating to the manner of its construction. Sizes of the individual stones forming the rubble component of the wall varied from small flint chips, introduced as galetting between the larger pieces, through to small boulder-sized lumps measuring up to 0.7 metres across, the latter particularly evident in the west wall. A wide range of material had been used. The following percentages are subjective, based on the overall visual impression rather than formal measurements. The wall fabric comprised: septaria ( $60 \%$ ), reused limestone masonry fragments (Barnack 7\%, other 6\%), unknapped flints (10\%), roughly knapped flints (10\%), erratics (5\%) and brick and tile fragments ( $2 \%$ ). The lime mortar used in the construction of the wall was orange in colour (ferrugenous) very coarse with extremely common inclusions of marine shell fragments, possibly indicating the locally available Red Crag beds as a source. Lift-lines were visible or, where the wall face had beenrepointed, could be inferred from the position and alignment of some of the clasts used in the wall facing. Lift-lines were best developed to the west of the poreh where they were sometimes irregular and not perfectly horizontal. Coursing was present but had often been disrupted by the variable size of the stones, Only two putlock holes were identified, both framed by limestone masonry fragments, one each side of the window with intersecting tracery. There was also an area of refacing below this window which included two fragments of Saxon masonry, probably parts of grave markers (Plunkett, pers.comm.) (Plate 2).

The fabric of the extended section of wall, now forming the eastern end of the aisle, was markedly different from that to the west. There was no obvious coursing, the material was apparently randomly lain with the rubble component more uniform in
size. The subjective breakdown of the materials used is as follows: cobble-sized septaria lumps ( $70 \%$ ), brick fragments ( $10 \%$ ), limestone masonry fragments ( $10 \%$ ), roughly knapped flints (5\%) and unknapped flints (5\%). The lime mortar used in the construction of the wall was cream in colour with common inclusions of chalk.

## North Aisle

Similarly to the south aisle, the north aisle exhibited two distinct wall fabrics, each relating to a different phase of construction. The majority of the northaisle, coinciding with the westernmost four bays arcade, was similar in character to its equivalent in the south wall, with two Y-traceried windows and one with intersecting tracery and a doorway, now blocked, in a style consistent with that of the windows. This would suggest that the aisles and nave arcades are broadly contemporary and represent a major rebuilding of the church at the beginning of the $14^{\text {th }}$ century. A roughly rectangular shaped window high in the west wall may be a later insertion. Again, similarly to the south wall, the buttresses had been heavily repaired in relatively recent times, sometimes in brick (Suffolk Whites).

Where visible, lift-lines were recorded at intervals of approximately 0.3 metres, but coursing was poorly developed. Two levels of putlock holes were visible with a total of nine recorded. The material used in the construction of the wall was similarly varied in both size and type to that in its southern counterpart. Larger fragments were concentrated more towards the top of the walle The wall fabric comprised: septaria ( $70 \%$ ), reused limestone masonry fragments (Barnack $10 \%$, other $5 \%$ ), unknapped flints (5\%), knapped flints (5\%), erraties (3\%), ?Roman tile (2\%). Fragments of tile recorded in the wall were relatively thick and have tentatively been identified as being Roman in date. The wall was bonded with a shelly lime mortar similar to that of the south aisle, although there were some chalk inclusions as well.

The second phase of construction was represented by the short length of wall at the eastern end that corresponds with the fifth bay of the arcade inside the church. The wall includes a boarded up perpendicular window. The wall was randomly lain with no obvious lift-lines and was uncoursed with its rubble component varying in both size and type of material. The wall fabric comprised: septaria (75\%), flints, mostly unknapped ( $10 \%$ ), reused limestone masonry ( $10 \%$ ) and erratics ( $5 \%$ ).

Map evidence suggests that this wall was constructed between the surveying for Whites map of 1867 and the OS map of 1884. However, Birkin Haward states that the present organ chamber, of which this section of wall forms a part, was added in 1849 (Haward, 1993, p.278) as part of a major reordering programme at this time. As this reordering is reported widely in various sources it seems likely that this date is correct and that the White map was either surveyed sometime before it was printed or was based on earlier maps.

## Chancel

Only the southern and eastern walls of the chancel are visible as the north side is obscured by the Victorian vestry extension. There were diagonal buttresses both to the north and south, the latter clearly rebuilt relatively recently and faced with roughly knapped flints and dressed with fine-grained limestone quoins. That to the north was constructed almost entirely from 2-inch bricks that seem contemporary with the main body of the wall.

The overall impression given by the chancel was that it was of similar construction to the eastern end of the south aisle and was almost certainly built at the same time. The perpendicular window in the south wall was similar to that of the south aisle, but that in the eastern wall appeared to have been altered, possibly as part of an earlier re-s ordering of the church.

Thewall fabric itself was similar in character to that of the eastern end of the south aisle, although there was just a hint of coursing (but no obvious liff-lines) and a few larger fragments of septaria and limestone incorporated. One small fragment of Norman Zig-Zag moulding was recorded in the south wall. Fragments of brick were relatively common and whole bricks had been used as a decorative border over the south window and in both the north and south buttresses. These ranged in colour from cream-pink but were all 2 inches thick and appear to confirm the proposed late $15^{\text {th }}-16^{\text {th }}$ century date of its construction. The lime mortar used in the construction of the wall was cream in colour with common inclusions of chalk.

## Vestry

The vestry was not recorded in any detail, it being of late $19^{\text {th }}$ century date, constructed in 1884 and replacing an earlier structure. The walls were faced with closely spaced, dark coloured knapped flints with its architectural features, all moulded from a very fine grained white limestone, in the Gothic Revival style widely adopted during the Victorian period.

## Porch

The red brick porch (all 2-inch bricks), probably of $16^{\text {th }}$ century date, had been repaired during relatively recently with a capping course of bricks on its curving façade clearly a replacement to the stepped structure depicted on Ogilby's map of 1674.

## Tower

The tower was not recorded in any detail, it is $14^{\text {th }} / 15^{\text {th }}$ century in date, but was partly rebuilt in the late $19^{\text {th }}$ century (in 1886) (Haward, 1993, p.278) as part of a major reordering.

### 3.2 Reduced Level Strip \& Other Excavations

### 3.2.1 St. Nicholas Church Lane, Buildings \& Structures

Information recorded during the reduced level strip is presented in Figure 2, for the features recorded at a relatively high level which were then removed, while Figure 3 shows features recorded at or below the formation level for the new building.

Features associated with the St. Nicholas Church Lane (0102) and a building (0099), the latter known from map evidence to have occupied the site from at least the late $17^{\text {th }}$ century before becoming ruinous during the second half of the $20^{\text {th }}$ century, were encountered immediately below the existing tarmac surface and a thin layer of hardcore (Fig. 2). In addition a live water-pipe (0101) was recorded, running from north to south across the site, along with various live and redundant drain runs and associated features (0094, 0096, 0106, $0107 \& 0108$ ) and miscellaneous post-bases (0103, 0104 \& 0105) (Fig.s $2 \& 3$ ).


Fig. 2: 1:100 scale plan of the reduced area strip showing higher level features which were then removed


Fig. 3: 1:100 scale plan of reduced area strip showing lower level features recorded at or below the new building formation level

The lane (0102) survived as no more than a scrappy, c. 0.1 metres thick, layer of gravel and small cobbles in sand which, to the north, was covered by a pink layer of ash. The latter was almost certainly introduced as a repair or laid when the ground was icy to reduce slipping (Plate 3). The line of the lane was also marked by a series of iron fence steels on either side. Three other fence posts were recorded to the east of the lane, two ( $0103 \& 0104$ ) comprising amorphous lumps of concrete whilethe other (0105) was square and constructed from brick and concrete.


Materials used in the surviving portion of the building (0099) suggested that while it may have originally been constructed during the $17^{\text {th }}$ century, it had undergone later alteration, repair and possibly even wholesale replacement. Truncated by the footing of the retaining wall to the car park to the east of the site, the building comprised three rooms (Plate 4). (The northern most room, measuring c.2.8 metres from north to south and an in excess of 2.5 metres from east to west, had an intact floor surface of red bricks at a level of $c .4 .30$ metres OD.

Immediately to the south, a second room measuring 3 metres from north to south and in excess of 2.6 metres from east to west was recorded. In this instance the formal floor surface had been removed, but the mortar bedding material remained with clear impressions of 6 inch floor tiles lain diagonally across the room. In addition, the mortar bedding continued through what had clearly been an internal door into a small vestibule (measuring 1 metre by 1.5 metres) to the south where an area of tiles remained intact. These continued the diagonally lain pattern of the adjoining room and comprised alternate red/brown and dark grey tiles. A rectangular York Stone slab lain south of and central to the north wall was interpreted as the base for a chimney.

The third possible room to the south did not have a surviving floor surface and it is possible that the small tiled vestibule was actually an external porch with the southward continuation of the western wall of the building, at this juncture, representing an external yard wall. In addition, map evidence suggests that the configuration of the southern end of the building may have changed during the $19^{\text {th }}$ century.

After recording, the remains of the buildings were removed and the reduced level strip continued down towards the proposed formation level. The external redbrick walls of the building were found to be relatively shallow with no formal footing. However, the east to west orientated footing of the north wall of the northernmost room was
entirely different in character. While the wall itself was similar, its footing (0010), which continued down to the surface of the naturally occurring subsoil at $c .3 .00$ metres OD, comprised stone and brick rubble set in lime mortar. The rubble component included large lumps of septaria, reused limestone blocks and some brick, There were voids between the lumps of rubble suggesting that mortar and rubble components had been introduced separately.


Plate 4: Building 0099
Adjacent to the building on its western side was an informally laid area of broken concrete blocks (0100), almost certainly an attempt at consolidating the ground surface in the area between St. Nicholas Church Lane and the building.

Two additional features, a brick-built soakaway or well (0108) and a brick-built tomb (0027) were uncovered at a relatively high level, the latter at c.3.98 metres OD. However, the location of these features against the northern edge of the site would only result in limited disruption to their structural integrity during the development.

Other features encountered above the original proposed formation level included a cluster of rectangular cuts towards the north-east corner of the stripped area (including $0002,0037,0046,0048,0051 \& 004)$, presumed to be infant and adult burials, a number of articulated skeletons close to the southern edge of the site, eight brick-built fombs, a mortar layer (0005) a rubble spread (0006) and two charnel deposits (0092 \& 0095).

### 3.2.2 Layers

Mortar layer 0005 was recorded against the eastern edge of the site where it had been truncated by the retaining wall and stratigraphically underlay, and therefore predated, building 0099. The eastern edge of the layer was irregular but the material itself was
well consolidated with a smooth upper surface at a level varying from between 3.50 metres OD, at its northern end, to 3.54 metres OD at its southern end. The mortar was a maximum of 3 centimetres thick, cream to orange in colour and contained a high proportion marine shell fragments very similar to that used in the construction of the north and south aisles of the church. While this feature has tentatively been interpreted as part of a formally lain floor surface, there was no other evidence for a building at this juncture and it is equally likely to represent a dump deposit of excess material associated with the construction of the aisles.

Immediately to the south of 0005 and continuing on beyond the edge of the site, a second layer of material was recorded (0006), this time comprising unconsolidated lime mortar with a large quantity of septaria lumps included within it and a flat base at 3.79 metres OD. The northern edge of the layer was irregular and there was no evidence to suggest that it was part of a formal structure.

No dating evidence recovered from either of these layers, but the included materials were entirely consistent with those used in the fabric of the medieval church.

### 3.2.3 Graves (Northern End of the Site)

During the soil-stripping in the north-east corner of the site, it became apparent that visible variations in the soil represented incised features. Manual cleaning of the site surface helped define the edges of some of these features, the majority of which were rectangular and orientated from east to west(Fig, 3). On this basis, even though the


Plate 5: Grave 0002, Skeleton 0004 small size of a number of these features precluded them from containing adult burials, they were almost certainly graves. At this juncture, no final decision had been made regarding the building's formation level and the type of footing that would be used. Until this had been resolved, it was only necessary to excavate and remove those of the features that would be disrupted by groundbeams regardless of the final footing depth, as total of four possible graves.

In addition, Eigure 3 shows a number of possible grave cuts (dashed lines) which it was subsequently not found necessary to investigate due to the final formation level of the building and their


Fig. 4 1:20 scale plan \& profiles of Grave 0002, Skeleton 0004
position outside the line of the groundbeams and pilecaps. These were not been allocated context numbers

Grave 0002
measured 0.3 metres by 1.25 metres with a depth of 0.2 metres and was located entirely within the confines of a groundbeam (0088) (Fig. 3). The fill (0003) comprised dark grey/brown loam with common inclusions of pebbles, tile fragments and disarticulated human bone. The grave contained the well preserved
skeleton of a child (0004) that had clearly been contained within a wooden coffin, the furniture for which (nails and a nameplate) was recorded during excavation (Plate 5 \& Fig. 4). The highest point of the skeleton, the top of the skull, was recorded at a level of 3.52 metres OD. A detailed description of the skeleton can béfound in section 3.5 of this report.

Grave 0037 was located south-east of grave 0002 and encroached upon the north to south orientated groundbeam under the eastern wall of the proposed building (Fig. 3). The grave measured 0.25 metres by 0.8 metres with a depth of 0.15 metres and a fill (0038) comprising


Fig. 5 1:20 scale plan \& profiles of Grave 0037, Skeleton 0039
homogenous grey/brown loam with patches of clay. The skeleton (0039), that of an infant of $0-5$ years, was very poorly preserved (see Fig. 5 \& text section 3.5). The highest point of the skeleton, part of the skull, was recorded at a level of 3.40 metres OD. Unusually, the head of the skeleton was at the eastern end of the grave, perhaps the small coffin was rectangular in shape with no distinguishing characteristics that would inform as to which end was which.

Grave 0046 was $c .1 .75$ metres long, with width varying between $c .0 .3$ metres, at the deastern end, to 0.5 metres at its western end. Due to its location outside the line of the groundbeams (Fig. 3) the grave was only excavated down to proposed formation level for the building. As no articulated human skeletal material was encountered, it was unnecessary to proceed further as the burial itself would remain undamaged by the development. The fill (0047) comprised mid grey/brown unconsolidated loam with mortar flecks and occasional stones, tile and brick fragments.

Grave 0048 was only defined by its eastern end, the remainder indiscernible from the surrounding soil. Similarly to 0046 this feature occupied a position outside the line of the groundbeams (Fig. 3) and, as a consequence, was only excavated down to the formation level for the proposed building with no sign of any articulated human remains. The fill (0049) comprised grey/brown loam with mortar flecks and occasional stones, tile and brick fragments.

Grave 0051 was located immediately south of brick-built tomb 0027 by which it was almost certainly cut (Fig. 3). It was alsocut by an infant burial at a very high level which was effectively unrecorded assit was hit by the machine bucket, completely destroying it with the recovered material added to the disarticulated context. The south-east corner of grave 0057 encroached onto the northernmost east to west orientated groundbeam (0036) and only this small component was excavated. No articulated skeletal material was encountered, although eight coffin nails (2023-2030) were recovered from a relatively small area at the foot of the grave.

Feature 0042 was located partially within the line of the easternmost groundbeam and, as a consequence, was fully excavated (Fig. 3). Measuring only $c .0 .5$ metres by c. 0.75 metres, this was not what could be described as a traditional grave shape. However, given its location and the presence of infant burials, it was considered prudent to excavate the feature as if it was a grave. The fill (0043) comprised unconsolidated mid grey loam with patches of clay, small stones, chalk and brick fragments. With a maximum depth of 0.6 metres, the feature was found to have an irregular bottom, although this may have been a result of the difficulty in identifying the actual base. No articulated skeleton was identified. This does not totally preclude the possibility that it was a grave, as the bones of a young infant may have totally degraded in the acid soil, however, it does seem unlikely.

### 3.2.4 Manually Excavated Footing Pad \& Re-Excavated Test-Pit

Following the excavation of the high level graves it was decided that one of the proposed footing pads would be manually excavated along with the previously excavated Test Pit 2 from the evaluation (Gardner, 2004).

The pad chosen for excavation was the second one down from the north on the western side of the proposed building (Fig. 3). Measuring approximately 1 metre
square, the pad was excavated down to the naturally occurring sand subsoil at a level of 2.86 metres OD. Four features $(0007,0009,0011 \& 0013)$ were recorded in the base of the excayated pad, all incised into the natural subsoil (Plate 6). Three of these (0007, 0011 \& 0013) were probably graves, the other (0009) a pit.


Feature/grave 0007 was represented by a straight east to westorientated cut close to the southern edge of the pad which clearly cut pit 0009 and feature/grave 0013. Excavation was not continued below the level of the natural subsoil and no articulated bone was encountered.

Pit 0009 was recorded as a semicircular feature, measuring 0.55 metres across, which continued under the eastern edge of the pad. Only 0.1 metres deep with a fill of brown silty sand, it may actually represent no more than a irregularity in an area of surviving soil, between the later grave-cuts. Finds recovered from the feature suggest an early medieval date.

Feature/grave 0011 was recorded in the north-west corner of the pad, continuing out to the north and west. Excavation down in to this feature revealed two disarticulated skulls (top measured at 2.66 metres OD) placed tightly together. These were left in situ. While this feature may be a pit which had disturbed earlier graves, its straight sides, right-angled corner and orientation are all consistent with it being a grave which had itself destroyed earlier burials. Either way, it provides evidence that there had been burials in this area of the churchyard.

Feature/grave 0013 was located in the south-east corner of the pad, continuing out to the east and south. This feature was not excavated below the level of the naturally occurring subsôil. Stratigraphically, 0013 was cut by 0007 . While no articulated human skeletal remains were recorded in this feature, its character and orientatione suggest that it was a grave.

Evaluation Test-Pit 2 was completely re-excavated and additional material removed in order to verticalise the sides of the trench (Fig. 3). The rubble and mortar footing (0016) of the northern, east to west, orientated wall footing of the building (0099) previously described in the evaluation report (Gardner, 2003, p.6) and in this report (p.12) was clearly visible in the eastern face of the trench. The base of the wall/footing lay directly on the surface of the naturally occurring subsoil at a level of c.3.00 metres OD. However, the removal of further material from the sides of the trench revealed two more features that had not been previously recorded. At the
eastern end of the trench, a large-pit-like feature (0020) was cut by the wall, but itself cut a grave (0017).


Plate 7: Grave 0017 \& Pit 0020 in re-excavated Test-Pit 2

Pit 0020 was of indeterminate size, although the straight cut of its westernedge that crossed the TestPit suggestst that it was relatively large. Manual excavation was hampered by the restrictive nature of the Test-Pit, but the bottom of the pit at its eastern edge was encountered at a level of 2.24 metres OD, a depth of 1.28 metres below the level of the soil-strip. The ceramic finds recovered from dark grey/brown foam fill (0021) suggested a $10^{\text {th }}$ or $11^{\text {th }}$ century date for the feature, although they may have been residual.

Grave 0017 was recorded on the southern side of the Test-Pit with its legs truncated by pit 0020 (Plate 7). The position of this grave beneath the buildings which had occupied the site at least from the mid $97^{\text {th }}$ century, suggest that it is of some antiquity. If the dating for pit $\theta 020$ is correct with the ceramic finds an accurate reflection of the time in which it was filled, then the grave itself must be Late Saxon or earlier and relate to the earliest phase of the church. The poor condition of the skeleton, with even some of the more robust bones reduced to a very fragile state, supports this interpretation. It was not considered necessary to remove this skeleton as it would not be disturbed by the groundworks associated with the development.

### 3.2.5 Charnel Deposits

Two charnel deposits were recorded during the reduced level strip. Both deposits comprised predominantly of the more robust bones in the human skeleton with longbones particularly well represented.

The first, apit (0092) measuring c. 3 metres by c.1.5 metres with a depth of approximately 0.7 metres, was located against the eastern edge of the site (Fig, 2). This feature had previously been identified as context 1016 in Test-Pit 4 of the earlier evaluation (Gardner, 2004, p.6). The bone was loosely set within an unconsolidated matrix of grey silty loam (0093) with fragments of brick, tile and lime mortar.

Another charnel deposit (0095) was found in association with a now redundant brickbuilt manhole (0094) (Fig. 3). It is likely that the bone was derived from burials disturbed during the construction of the manhole and its related drain runs and had simply been used to backfill the void between the brickwork and the pit.

### 3.2.6 Evaluation of Groundbeams \& Pile-Caps

In order to provide further information that would help resolve the engineering problems with regard to the type of footing that would be used, the archaeologists were asked to manually excavate the originally proposed groundbeams to their full depth at 3.14 metres OD, effectively as an evaluation. It was during this evaluation process that the decision was made to change to a piled foundation with the formation level raised by 0.34 metres. The new scheme was considered to be far less damaging to the archaeological deposits in that there was no longer a need for thelarge square concrete pads which would be replaced by 0.45 metres by 0.45 metres pile caps with a basal level of 3.18 metres OD. As a consequence, it was unnecessary to continue manually excavating the groundbeams, although the locations of the pile caps did still need assessing. While those that were located on the lines of groundbeams already excavated had already been evaluated to a level in excess of what was now necessary, the remaining pile caps needed to be excavated to a level of 3.18 metres. The groundbeams and pile caps that were excavated are shown on Figure 3 while results are presented in Table 1 below. After recording, the pile-cap holes were lined with plastic sheet and were backfilled before the site was prepared for piling by spreading an aggregate layer over it to provide a level platform for the piling rig.

| Description | OP No. | Results |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Groundbeam, excavated to original formation level ( 3.14 metres OD) | 0036 | Relatively undifferentiated brown sandy loam, one grave recognised \& excavated separately. (0050). All disarticulated skeletal material was reburied. |
| Groundbeam, excavated to original formation level (3.14 metres OD) | 0050 | Relatively undifferentiated brown sandy loam, two graves/features \& a layer were recognised \& excavated separately ( 0037,0042 \& 0005 respectively). All disarticulated skeletal material was reburied. |
| Groundbeam, excavated to original formation level ( 3.14 metres OD) |  | Relatively undifferentiated brown sandy loam, no features identified. All disarticulated skeletal material was reburied. |
| Groundbeam, excavated to original formation level ( 3.14 metres OD) |  | Relatively undifferentiated brown sandy loam. Line of septaria fragments \& some consolidated lime mortar (0058) recorded at northern end. All disarticulated skeletal material was reburied. |
| Groundbeam, excavated to original formation level ( 3.14 metres OD) | 0055 | Relatively undifferentiated brown sandy loam, no features identified. All disarticulated skeletal material was reburied. |
| Groundbeam, excavated to original formation level ( 3.14 metres OD) | 0056 | Relatively undifferentiated brown sandy loam, no features identified. All disarticulated skeletal material was reburied. |
| Groundbeam, excavated to revised formation level ( 3.48 metres OD) | 0057 | Relatively undifferentiated brown sandy loam. Brick tomb (0059) at southernmost end. All disarticulated skeletal material was reburied. |
| Groundbeam, excavated to revised formation level ( 3.48 metres OD) | 0088 | Relatively undifferentiated brown sandy loam. One grave (0002) identified \& formally excavated. |
| Groundbeam, excavated to revised formation level ( 3.48 metres OD) | 0089 | On line of rubble wall/footing 0016. |
| Groundbeam, excavated to revised formation level ( 3.48 metres OD) | 0090 | Relatively undifferentiated brown sandy loam, no features identified. All disarticulated skeletal material was reburied. |
| Groundbeam, excavated to revised formation level ( 3.48 metres OD) | 0091 | Relatively undifferentiated brown sandy loam, no features identified at e beam level, graves seen in subsequent pile-cap evaluation. disarticulated skeletal material was reburied. |
| Pile Cap 10 | - | Already excavated to 3.14 metres OD in groundbeam excavation. |
| Pile Cap 2 ${ }^{\text {c }}{ }^{\circ}$ | - | Already excavated to 3.14 metres OD in groundbeam excavation. |
| $\text { Pile Cap } 3$ | - | Already excavated to surface of naturally occurring subsoil, pile cuts grave/feature 0011. Pile moved to east. |
| Pile Cap 4 | - | Already excavated to 3.14 metres OD in groundbeam excavation. |
| Pile Cap 5 | - | Infant skeleton (0098) at 3.20 metres OD. Pile should miss to the north. |
| Pile Cap 6 | - | Excavated to 3.18 metres OD. No intact skeletons. |
| Pile Cap 7 | - | Already excavated to 3.14 metres OD in groundbeam excavation. |
| Pile Cap 8 | - | Already excavated to 3.14 metres OD in groundbeam excavation. |
| Pile Cap 9 | - | Already excavated to 3.14 metres OD in groundbeam excavation. |
| Pile Cap 10 | - | Excavated to 3.18 metres OD. No intact skeletons. |
| Pile Cap 11 | - | Excavated to 3.18 metres OD. No intact skeletons. |

Table 1: continued on next page

Table 1: continued from previous page

| Description | OP No. | Results |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| Pile Cap 12 | - | Excavated to 3.18 metres OD. No intact skeletons. |
| Pile Cap 13 | - | Already excavated to 3.14 metres OD in groundbeam excavation. |
| Pile Cap 14 | - | Already excavated to 3.14 metres OD in groundbeam excavation. |
| Pile Cap 15 | - | Excavated to 3.18 metres OD. No intact skeletons. |
| Pile Cap 16 | - | Already excavated to 3.14 metres OD in groundbeam excavation. |
| Pile Cap 17 | - | Excavated to 3.18 metres OD. No intact skeletons. |
| Pile Cap 18 | - | Excavated to 3.18 metres OD. No intact skeletons. |
| Pile Cap 19 | Pile Cap 20 | - |
| Excavated to 3.18 metres OD. No intact skeletons. |  |  |
| Pile Cap 21 | - | Excavated to 3.18 metres OD. No intactskeletong. |
| Pile Cap 22 | - | Excavated to 3.18 metres OD. No intact skeletons. |
| Pile Cap 23 | - | Already excavated to 3.14 metres OD in groundbeam excavation. |
| Pile Cap 24 | - | Cuts brick feature 0059. Excavated to 3.28 metres OD where intact York <br> Stone tomb lid was encountered. |
| Pile Cap 25 | - | Not tested, remained under fill adjacent to Churchgates House. |
| Pile Cap 26 | - | Not tested, remained under fill adjacent to Churchgates House. |
| Pile Cap 27 | - | Cuts brick tomb 0041. Also an articulated leg (0097) was recorded at 3.18 <br> metres OD. Should be missed by pile. |
| Pile Cap 28 | - | Excavated to 3.18 metres OD. No intact skeletons. |
| Pile Cap 29 | - | Intact skeletal remains <br> partially excavated (grave 0070 recorded at 3.20 metres OD. Subsequently |

Table 1: Details of Groundbeam \& Pile-Cap Evaluation

### 3.2.7 Brick-Built Tombs

Another factor influencing the decision regarding the foundation design was the presence of eight brick-built tombs, all of which at least partially encroached into the footprint of the proposed building, and other articulated burials recorded at a similar level (Fig. 3 \& Plate 8). None of the tombs were marked at the surface, although almost certainly they would have been when originally constructed. However, their presence had been predicted from the results of both the Geophysical Survey (GSB Prospection, 2003) and Test-Pitting (Gardner, 2004). All are thought to date to the first half of the $19^{\text {th }}$ century as the cemetery was closed for burial in 1855 (Breen, 2004). The information recovered regarding these tombs is presented in Table 2.

| OP No. | Associated Levels | Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0022 | 3.85 m OD on York Stone lid | Adjacent to south wall of chancel, originally seen in Test-Pit 3 (1007). Rectangular, brickbuilt ( 1.5 m by 2.25 m ) with 3 intact York Stone slabs as lid. |
| 0023 | 3.76 m OD on York Stone lid | Immediately south of 0022. Relationship unclear, but not contemporary. Rectangular, brickbuilt ( 1.4 m by 2.75 m ) with 4 intact York Stone slabs as lid. Through hole in side a collapsed lead coffin or coffin lining could be seen with skeleton. |
| 0024 | 3.59 m OD on York Stone lid | c. 5 m south of 0023 . Single-break coffin-shaped ( $c .0 .8 \mathrm{~m}$ by 2.2 m ), brick-built, 4 York Stone slabs for lid, one broken \& collapsed. No body visible, whitewashed interior with holes in side to facilitate stacked coffins. |
| 0025 | 3.35 m OD on York Stone lid | Immediately south of 0024. Single-break coffin-shaped ( $c .1 \mathrm{~m}$ by 2.35 m ), brick-built, 4 York Stone slabs for lid, two broken \& collapsed. No body visible, whitewashed interior with holes in side to facilitate stacked coffins. |
| $0026$ | 3.35 m OD on lid of lead coffin | West of 0025 . Double sized tomb (rectangular) appears to represent alteration of earlier single break coffin-shaped tomb. Stack of at least two lead coffins were visible in southern half. No lid, coffins covered brick rubble, possibly from demolished superstructure of tomb. |
| $0040$ | $3.37 \mathrm{~m} \text { OD on top }$ of brickwork | Immediately south of 0026. Single-break coffin-shaped, brick-built, no lid and filled with brick rubble. No coffin or skeletal remains visible. |
| 0041 | 3.37 m OD on top of brickwork | Immediately south of 0040. North-east corner only, almost certainly rectangular, brick-built, no lid and filled with rubble. No coffin or skeletal remains visible. |
| 0059 | 3.28 m OD on York Stone lid | Immediately west of 0026, only eastern end within excavation area. Represented by a single course of bricks forming a rectangle (probably the base for an above ground structure). Evaluation of Pile-Cap 23 revealed an intact York-Stone slab at 3.28 m OD. |

Table 2: Details of Brick-Built Tombs


Plate 8: Brick Built Tombs 0022 \& 0023

### 3.2.8 Articulated Burials (Southern End of the Site)

Other articulated burials were encountered towards the south side of the site (Fig. 3). As a result of the raising of the proposed formation level for the new building, these burials remained intact with the need for further excavation limited to part of skeleton 0063 which encroached on Pile-Cap 28 (Table 1). The burials were generally only allocated one number for the skeleton as specific graves and fills were not discernible. The information recorded about these burials is listed in Table 3.


Table 3: Record of the Miscellaneous Burials

### 3.2.9 Main Drainage Trench

The main drainage/service trench ran southwards from the new building, immediately to the east of the existing driveway, continuing out of the gateway where the sewerpipe was joined into the existing network (Fig. 6). In addition to the $c .1$ metre wide drain run, two 2.5 metres by 2.5 metres square holes were excavated to facilitate the insertion of manholes. The first, outside the bounds of the churchyard and not shown on Fig. 6, was excavated into recently disturbed ground relating to existing services. The second, immediately inside the gates, was excavated into graveyard soil.

For the purposes of recording, the trench was allocated individual context numbers for each length of trench that was seen as a discrete unit. The northernmost 6 metres of the trench were excavated without an archaeologist being present.

The first length of trench monitored (0077) was effectively outside the bounds of the churchyard, dog-legging from the line of the main trench and connecting it to the external manhole. This section of trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 2.2 metres ( 2.69 metres OD). The upper levels ( 1.7 metres) comprised the existing path/road and bedding layers over a mixed sand, rubble and loam layer which in turn gave way to 0.5 metres of homogenous dark brown loam ('town soil'). Naturally occurring subsoil was not seen in this section of trench.

Trench section 0078, measuring approximately 3metres in length, joined 0077 to the south with the manhole inside the churehyard (0079), to the north. A similar sequence of layers, path surface and bedding layers over disturbed loam and rubble (total 1.3 metres) over 0.7 metres of dark brown loam ('town soil') with naturally occurring sand and gravel at a depth of 2 metres ( 2.65 metres OD). A small amount of disarticulate human skeletal material was recovered from the basal dark brown loam layer from a point $c .3$ metres within the churchyard boundary.

Manhole 0079 was located $c .2$ metres in from the existing gateway, measured 2.5 metres square and was excavated to a depth of $c .2$ metres. Natural sand and gravel subsoil was recorded at a depth of 2 metres ( 2.65 metres OD). The overburden comprised the path surface and bedding layers which, in turn, gave way to a relatively homogenous dark brown loam. From this point on the definition between a basal loam layer ('town soil') and an overlying mixed loam layer had effectively disappeared with the whole profile almost certainly representing reworking within the churchyard by successive episodes of burial. In addition to a quantity of disarticulated human bone which was retained for later reburial, an articulated skeleton $(0080)$ was recorded on the southern side of the manhole at a depth of 1,555 metres ( $c, 3.10$ metres OD). No associated grave cut was identified and the burial appeared to have been partially disturbed in the past. Its location on the edgeof the excavation made it unnecessary to remove the skeleton, as it would not be further disrupted by the groundworks.

Trench section 0081 ran northwards from manhole 0079 for a distance of $c .7$ metres. The overburden beneath the modern surface material again comprised of a relatively homogenous dark brown loam. No naturally occurring subsoil was seen in this section of trench which reduced in depth from 1.8 metres, to the south, to 1.6 metres to the north. In addition to a quantity of disarticulated bone that was recovered for
reburial, two pairs of articulated legs ( $0083 \& 0084$ ) were recorded across the trench both at a depth of 1.8 metres below the existing ground surface (c.2.85 metres OD). These were left intact. One other feature, a heat-reddened clay lined oven (0082) was seen cutting the lower levels of topsoil, but was itself cut by the grave containing skeleton $0 \theta 83$. Access to this feature was problematic due to the depth of the trench ${ }_{5}$ and no finds were recovered from the associated spoil.

Trench section 0086 continued northwards from 0081 for a distance of $c .6$ metres reducing in excavated depth from 1.6 metres, to the south, to 1.2 metres to the north. Naturally occurring sand and gravel subsoil was encountered at the bottom of the trench (c.3.2 metres OD). The quantity of disarticulated human skeletal material and iron coffin furniture was greater than in previous lengths of trench and occurred from a higher level in the soil profile. In addition, the soil profile itself appeared to be more disturbed with modern material and gravel layers, possibly associated with the construction of Churchgates House immediately to the east. A skull (0085), recorded in the eastern side of the trench at a depth of 1.4 metres, may have been part of an articulated burial continuing out to the east. One other feature (0087) was recorded in the base of trench, cutting the natural subsoil, the character of which suggests it was a grave. However, any associated skeleton must lie entirely below the level of the natural subsoil and was not disturbed by the trench excavation.

The remainder of the trench to the north of 0086 , approximately 6 metres, was excavated without the presence of an archaeologist due to the shallow nature of the trench which only disrupted superficial deposits and not reaching the known depth of burials.

### 3.2.10 Miscellaneous Excavations <br> Boiler-Pit

During the first quarter of the $20^{\text {th }}$ century, a system of heating was installed which required the provision of a space to hold the fuel tank and other associated machinery that could not be accommodated within the body of the church. To this end a 3.5 metres by 12 metres, approximately 2 metres deep, rectangular concrete lined and


Plate 9: Tomb Seen in Side of Boiler Room Steps floored pit was excavated on the north side of the church at the junction between the north aisle and nave (Fig. 6). Access to the pit was afforded by a set of steps on its northern side.

As part of the landscaping programme on the north side of the church the now redundant tanks and machinery were
removed, the aboveground structural component of the pit was demolished; the concrete floor perforated (to provide drainage) and the remaining pit filled in and covered with topsoil.

During the demolition of the steps the side of a known tomb was exposed (Plate 9). A visit was made to photographically record this feature.

Prior to the backfilling of the main body of the pit, the opportunity was taken to re-inter the disarticulated human bone and excavated


Plate 10: Reburied Skeletal Remains in Boiler Pit skeletons from the reduced level strip. The bones were put into cardboard finds storage boxes and placed in the bottom of the pit (Plate 10). The reburial occurred on the $21^{\text {st }}$ of September, 2004 and was accompanied by a short service and a blessing.

## Service Trench

In addition to the main service trench excavated along the edge of the main driveway, a further L-shaped trench (two c. 3 metres by c. 3 metre lengths, 0.5 metres wide) was inserted on the eastern side of vestry (Fig. 6). The eastern end of a brick built tomb was recorded in the north to south orientated component of the trench. The mechanical excavator had broken through the arched roof of the tomb at a depth of only 0.2 metres below the existing ground level revealing an empty void with no sign of a body or coffin. This tomb may have been emptied when its superstructure was dismantledand adjacent north to south aligned grave slab could originally have, belonged to this burial.

The presence of an empty tomb provided the opportunity to re-inter the disarticulated human skeletal remains recovered from the excavation of the main sefvicefrench. Similarly to the remains buried in the boiler pit, the bones were put cardboard finds boxes and placed in the bottom of the tomb with an accompanying short service and a blessing.


Fig. 6 c.1:350 showing locations of miscellaneous interventions described in the text

## Landscaping Excavations

Superficial landscaping works were undertaken throughout the site with the provision of a new path and removal of much of the existing paving and raised flower beds to the north of the church. The majority of this work had no potential to damage any


Plate 11: Detail of Moulding, West Side of North Doorway archaeological deposits. However, site visits yere made during the soil-strip for the path.

The lowering of the existing ground surface to facilitate the new path around the northern side of the church revealed the top of a brick-built tomb (Fig. 6) and the original mouldings at the base of the door jambs of the blocked north doorway (Plate 11). These would originally have been exposed, but the progressive raising of the ground level, a result of the successive excavation of the soil for burials and its location within a town, where overburden levels tend to build up over time, have led to their being covered.

During soil-stripping to facilitate the parking area on the west side of the driveway two 'coffinshaped' slate slabs with associated iron fittings were uncovered at the interface between the thin topsoil layer and the underlying subsoil (Fig. 6 \& Plate 12). The long axis of both slabs was approximately north to south which suggests that they were not in situ. This was confirmed when moving the slabs revealed no underlying grave-cut. It is likely that these formed part of one or more tombs that were dismantled during an earlier reordering and landscaping of the


Plate 12: Slate Slab Revealed During Landscaping churchyard.

### 3.3 Miscellaneous Monitoring \& Recording

### 3.3.1 Wall Panelling Removal

As part of the re-ordering of the interior of the church, the existing wooden wall panelling in the aisles and nave of the church were to be removed and stored at another location. Prior to their removal they were numbered, their location recorded on an elevation drawing (Figs. $7 \& 8$ ) and were photographed (digital, monochrome \& colour slide).

Panels were present on the internal south aisle wall, from the doorway to its western end, on the west walls of both the north and south aisles and on the entire length of the north aisle wall. The panels covered the base of the wall to a height of 1.25 metres and continued into the recesses below the fenestrated section of the window splays which, with the addition of a horizontal sill component on the base of the recess, could be used as seating.

The vast majority of the panels on the wall faces were plain and constructed in pine with the exception of two (N9 O \& N10 O) on the north wall (Fig. 8) which were oak. In contrast, all of the panels in the window recesses were made of oak. Examination of the panels revealed that some had been cut down to fit and that the majority had their more decorative side (fielded panels) facing the wall (denoted by X on Figs. 7 \& 8) (e.g. Plate $15\{B\}$ ). These observations, along with the fact that the decorated panels in the window recesses exhibited formal carving on both sides, were considered to represent clear evidence that the panels were re-used with the most likely interpretation that they had once been part of box pews. Further evidence for this was provided by the presence of a possible keyhole and filled in mortice holes on one of the panels in the window recess in the south aisle wall (panel S7 O on Fig. 7).

Graffiti on the rear of the westernmost panel of the south aisle wall (S5 PX on Fig. 7) dated their placing on the wall to 1864 . A search of documentary sources may provide more information regarding other work undertaken at the same time, possibly as part of a major re-ordering, and also indicate whether the panels were originally from St. Nicholas or brought in from elsewhere.

The following descriptions of the carved decoration and possible dating for different elements of the panelling are provided by Robert Atfield, a Project Assistant with Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service who is also a qualified Cabinet Maker.

## Introduction (Robert Atfield)

Among the range of wooden panels, which lined the majority of the internabwalt space, there were two distinct styles; carved examples, constructed of oak and in contrast, relatively plain examples made of pine. On the basis of decoration, materials and construction it is possible to suggest a difference in date of at leasta hundred years between the two types.

There is extensive evidence that a large number of adaptations were made to the segments of panelling, providing a clear indication that the panelling occupied a different location and function from that for which it was originally produced.

## The Oak Panelling

The oak panelling is of a kind typically associated with the seventeenth century. This form of high quality work was, during that period, produced by joiners, a trade which at that time covered a far more specific range of skills. The individual quarter sawn oak panels are held within a framework of mortice and tenon joints which are secured


Plate 13: Detail of Panel N. 29 with wooden pegs. The frames are modestly decorated with simple scratch mouildings around the inner edge and some are further embellished with a grooves or channels of around 15 mm . central to each rail or muntin (for example panel N.29, Plate 13).

The carved decoration consists of symmetrical geometric designs including guilloche motifs of interlaced curved lines enclosing floral rosettes and sunbursts (for example panel N.24, Plate 14). Narrow horizontal panels have lunette, arabesque and also fluted decoration in addition to other classically inspired motifs. However, the range of decorative elements appear to be fairly typical of those generally popular in England at around the middle of the seventeenth century and therefore difficult to attribute to a more specific time or region.

The extensive evidence of adaptation includes the existence of decoration on the reverse side of the panelling and laborious efforts to cut-down sections of panelling in order to


Plate 14: Detail of Panel N. 24 fit within spaces such as window recesses. Panels and rails have been shortened and reassembled into the framework, frequently destroying the symmetry of the carved designs (for example see panel N.29). There is also evidence that the panel frames originally had frame components jointed at right angles to create a box-like structure. Evidence for this comprises of carefully filled mortice holes in the faces of some of the frame members (for example see panel S.7). The combination of this evidence of previously different use together with the dimensions and proportions of the panelled sections strongly suggests that the panels once formed parts of a number of box pews.
North Wall, Internal Elevation

$\square 5$ metres
CFig. 8 Internal Elevation North Wall Showing Position of Wooden Wall Pandels


## The Pine Panelling

In contrast to the loak panelling, the sections of pine panels display virtually no decoration, although it remains possible that earlier painted finishes may have existed. The inner edges of the frame have small ovolo mouldings, while the panels are fielded

$\{\mathbf{B}\}$ NW3; Fielded Panels Reversed Against Wall
Plate 15: Pine Panelling

The production of fielded panels is frequently associated high-class work as it was relatively labour intensive and involved using more materials. The fashion for this form of panelling began in domestic rooms during the 1660s, but is far more commonly found during the Georgian period. It is possible that this panelling may be even later, although the pegged joints, carefully executed proportions and the grade of timber do not suggest a Victorian date. The existence of the graffiti dated 1864 on the reverse of one of the panel sections seems a plausible date for the reuse of the panels as wall coverings. The cutting-down of the pine panelling is less severe than that of the oak sections and is generally confined to the muntins, although the pine panels were used in less interrupted runs along the walls and not within the window recesses.

### 3.3.2 Wall Paintings

Wall paintings were recorded in a number of areas of the church. Some evaluation work was done by the project conservator (Julia Park) and will be included in her detailedreport. Other paintings were recorded photographically during the general archaeological monitoring.

During the removal of paint layers and plaster to evaluate the position of the proposed new doorway a wall painting comprising a repeated diamond motif in black lines on a brick-red background, with yellow/gold designs in each diamond, was revealed in a small area at approximately 1.5 metres from the floor. The painting clearly continued over the filling for the blocked window and must, therefore, post-date the second stage of blocking, that of the blind recess. On that basis, a $19^{\text {th }}$ century appears to be the most likely. This painting was recorded in more detail by Julia Park and will form part of her report.

The removal of loose and blown plaster behind the wood panels revealed multiple layers of paint, the majority of which were white or cream in colour, but at least one of the lowercomponents was a red/pink. This colour was identified on the west walls of both aisles and again on the north aisle wall. The red/pink paint appeared to have been used as a blanket covering with no evidence for any design or other colours being used. The fact that it was sealed behind the panels that were erected in 1864 andowas not the top layer of paint suggests that it predated the panelling bysome time.

By far the most impressive of the wall paintings revealed during the reordering were on the wall surrounding the door which, until its demolition during this project, serviced the small kitchen extension to the south. Originally this door and its surrounding panelling were not going to be disturbed during the building work, but the change in the formation level of the external new build led to a change of plan.


Plate 16: South Chancel, Wall Paintings
The removal of the panelling revealed a painted olive green background with alternate motifs of fleur-de-lis and tudor roses, all in gold leaf (Plate 16). The continuation of the olive green background into the door splay, with some additional lettered designs around the door itself, indicates that the painting post-dates the insertion of the doorway which almost certainly occurred during the first half of the $19^{\text {th }}$ century.

### 3.3.3 New Doorways

The original plans for the project had intended that one new doorway would be inserted in the eastern wall of the south aisle. However, the raising of the formation
level of the new build also made it necessary to increase the height of the doorway in the south wall of the chancel.


Plate 17: The Whitaker Monument splay of the new doorway revealed that when originally blocked the shape of the window had been preserved on the inside of the building in the form of a recess with a formally plastered surface (Plate 18). This had later been filled to facilitate the erection of the wall monument. The fill material included horizontally placed wooden beams into which the iron fixings of the monument were inserted. However, given that the wall monument dates to early in the $18^{\text {th }}$ century and there is illustrative evidence to suggest that a perpendicular style window was present during the second half of the $18^{\text {th }}$ century (Breen, 2004) then the monument cannot be in its original position. It is thought that the originat window was blocked early in the $19^{\text {th }}$ century to accommodate the construction of a small extension in the angle between south aisle and chancel.

The removed masonry of the south chancel door was inspected, but not fully recorded as a combination of the documentary evidence and the presence of post-medieval brick used in


Plate 17: Detail of Filled Recess, South Aisle East Wall
the construction of the door splay confirmed its Victorian date.

### 3.3.4 Aisle Pillar Bases

Removal of the existing wooden floor in the nave and aisles revealed the bases of the aisle pillars. The masonry of the decorated moulding of the pillar bases had deteriorated badly and a decision was made to repair the worst sections as part of the overallfeordering project. Prior to the removal of the damaged masonry a ophotographic record (digital only) was made. Plate 19 shows two of the pillar bases Which are broadly representative of the condition of the others.

$\{\mathbf{A}\}$ South Aisle; $2^{\text {nd }}$ from west, aisle side
$\{B\}$ North Aisle; $2^{\text {nd }}$ from west, aisle side
Plate 19: Aisle Pillar Bases
The St. Nicholas aisle arcade has been previously recorded in detail by Birkin Haward in his 1993 book entitled Suffolk Medieval Arcades. Here he states that 'The piers have keeled main shafts and small square spurs in the diagonals. The cap mouldings are deeply undercut, and there are strong wave moulds to the arches in two orders separated by a deep hollow. Bases with three circular rolls on shallow plinths occur near floor level, and complete one of the best early C14 arcades in Suffolk.


Plate 20: North Doorway; Replacement Label Stop

### 3.3.5 Masonry Repairs

A number of site visits were made in order to photographically record minor masonry repairs to the mouldings of windows, doors and buttresses. Included was the replacement of a stop $S^{6}$ (Plate 20) and sections of the hood mould around the north doorway.

### 3.3.6 Grave Markers (Internal)

A photographic record was made of grave markers and ledger stones set in the nave, aisles and chancel floor which would subsequently be covered by the new raised
floor. It was not considered necessary to take detailed transcriptions as these had already been done in the past. However, names and location were noted and are recorded in Tabte 4, along with the relevant photo archive codes ( $\mathrm{D}=\operatorname{digital}, \mathrm{S}=$ colour slide $2 M=$ monochrome print), while their position within the church is shown as Fig. 9. Examples of three of the internal grave markers are shown in Plate 21

A number of the ledger stones were almost certainly in-situ, while others, particularly those at the eastern end of the north aisle, appeared to be gravestones that would originally have been set vertically in the ground. These may have been-moved into the church from the graveyard or possibly have stood close to where they are now as this area was until the mid $19^{\text {th }}$ century outside of the church.


Table 4: List of Internal Ledger Stones \& Grave Markers


Fig. 9 Location of Internal Ledger Stones \& Grave Markers


Plate 21: Internal grave markers

### 3.3.7 Grave Markers (External)

Part of the programme of landscaping associated with the overall project involved the removal of existing paths through the churchyard which had been constructed from old grave monuments.

Many of the slabs still carried inscriptions that were photographed digitally as part of the archaeological recording process. The more complete of the gravestones and those with legible inscriptions were incorporated into the new landscaping scheme in a strip of ground immediately to the south of the church and are listed in Table 5. All the slabs had been numbered during the recording process and details of the inscriptions, limited to names and dates where legible, where noted for each stone (see photo archive). Fig. 10 is a plan showing where each of the retained numbered slabs were lain. Plate 20 shows three examples of the external grave markers.


Fig. 10 Plan of the Re-Set Grave Markers

\{A\} Grave Marker No. 8
\{B\} Grave Marker No. 13
\{C\} Grave Marker No. 39
Plate 22: External Grave Markers


Table 5: List of Moved External Grave Markers

### 3.4 The Artefactual Evidence (Richenda Goffin)

### 3.4.1 Introduction

Table 6, on the following page, shows the quantities of materials recovered during the excavation. A full list by context is presented in Appendix II $\{A\}$.


Table 6: Bulk Finds Quantities

### 3.4.2 The Bulk Finds

## Pottery

A total of two hundred and eighty five fragments of pottery was recovered, weighing 6.379 kg . The assemblage dates from the Early to Middle Saxon to the post-medieval period. Table 7 shows a breakdown of the pottery by major ceramic period. The assemblage has been fully quantified and is recorded on Microsoft Access database which is presented in this report as Appendix II $\{\mathrm{B}\}$. Most of the ceramics were unstratified, or were recovered from grave fills containing disturbed material.

| Ceramic Period | CNo. | Wt/kg |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Early-Mid Saxon | 4 | 0.078 |
| Middle Saxon | 33 | 0.662 |
| Late Saxon | 123 | 1.174 |
| Medieval | 44 | 0.958 |
| Post-medieval | 81 | 3.507 |
| Total | $\mathbf{2 8 5}$ | $\mathbf{6 . 3 7 9}$ |

Table 7: Pottery quantification by ceramic period
The earliest sherds from the excavation are four fragments of hand-made organic tempered wares dating to the Early-Middle Saxon period. Ipswich wares dating to the 8th-9th century were present in some quantity, and include several jar rims. Three fragments of wheelthrown reduced wares made in made in fine fabrics are likely to be Middle Saxon imported wares.

A hundred and twenty-one fragments of Ipswich Thetford-type ware were recovered from the site, dating to the 10th-11th century. The group includes rim sherds of several jars, and a fragment of a spouted pitcher, which was present in grave fill 0003 Thetford-type ware was the only pottery type present in pit fill 0021 and grave fill 0038 , but in all other cases it is accompanied by later pottery or is unstratified. Two fragments of St Neots-type ware found in 0077 may also be Late Saxon in date.

Thirty-nine fragments of medieval pottery were identified, most of which span the period of the 11th-12th century. A number of Early medieval wares such as Early medieval Sandwich ware, Early medieval ware and Yarmouth-type ware were present. A large fragment from the upper part of a Stamford ware bowl or jar (Fabric B) was recovered from 0050, with a developed Stamford ware in grave fill 0049. Two large sherds of Pingsdorf red-painted coarse earthenware dating to the 10th-13th
century were identified in layer 0077. A small quantity of medieval coarsewares and glazed wares span the 12th-14th century.

Nearly $55 \%$ of the pottery by weight is post-medieval. The assemblage includes Glazed red earthenwares, Green and Yellow glazed Border wares, and fragments of Rhenish stoneware of 16th and 17th century date. Two unstratified fragments of a 2 Cologne/Frechen bartmann with repeating medallions, of a shield with ?snakes? heads date to the sixteenth century. The latest fabrics are English stonewares and a Yellow ware base dating to the 18th-19th century.

## Ceramic Building Material

Twenty-five fragments of brick and tile were recovered weighing 3.045kg (Appendix $\mathrm{II}\{\mathrm{C}\}$. The material is wide-ranging in date, with several fragments of medieval glazed pegtile present in groups such as 0050 and 0077 . Three glazed floortiles were identified, including a large late medieval/early post medieval tile from 0053 , and an almost complete smaller one with an overall plain black glaze in 0001 . The remainder of the building material is made up of late or post-medieval roof tile fragments in typical local red clay fabrics. In addition a decorated ventilation brick, made in a postmedieval white-firing clay, was amongst the unstratified finds collected in 0050.

## Mortar

A single fragment of mortar recovered from grave fill 0049 , which has been shaped on two edges may be part of the plaster chamferfrom a door or window. The surface shows the remains of a background colour of dark red ochre. The mortar itself is limey and contains frequent chalk and occasional black inclusions.

## Worked Stone

Two fragments of worked stone were collected, both of which are unstratified. One of these is a fragment of limestone. The second stone is softer, more finer-grained, and is more highly tooled.

## Ceramic Tobacco Pipe

Six fragments of tobacco pipe were recovered from the excavation. All of them are stem pieces, apart from a single bowl with a rouletted rim in grave fill 0047 , which dates to the late seventeenth century.

## Window Glass

Three unstratified fragments of medieval painted window glass were given small find numbers. One fragment from 0001 is decorated with a linear decoration, and the two others from-0053 have a curvilinear design (possibly foliate). One of these glass, pieces has a curved grozed edge. All fragments are in a poor but stable condition:

## Post-medieval Bottle Glass

Three fragments of green post-medieval bottle glass were collected, with an additional two clear glass sherds which are late post-medieval.

## Animal bone

Only a very small quantity of animal bone was recovered from three contexts (three fragments @ 109g).

The identifiable fragments include an unstratified bovine unfused radius in 0036.

## Shell

A total of eighteen fragments of oyster shell was recovered, with one fragment of a whelk.

Stone
Three fragments of slate were collected from the site, and a fourth stone which may be natural flint.

## Miscellaneous

Four cylindrical objects, provisionally identified as modern arc-lighting equipment were collected from unstratified deposits.

### 3.4.3 The Small finds

A total of thirty eight small finds were recovered from the excavation. Most of these are iron and copper alloy finds, but a small number of other material types were present. The painted window glass fragments have been described above under building materials. Table 8 shows the small finds quantities by type while a more detailed breakdown by context is presented in Appendix II $\{\mathrm{D}\}$.


Table 8: Small Finds Quantities

## Iron

Twenty-seven nails or groups of nails were collected. Most of these are miscellaneous undated coffin nails recovered from grave fill deposits such as 0003 and 0052. Some nails have mineralised wood adhering. Eight coffin handles, including some with grip plates were recovered from unstratified context 0001. These have not been fully catalogued, but are post-medieval. Iron coffin grips and other coffin furniture are difficult to date, partly due to regional variations (Beazley, 2001, p.34). A circular sheet of an iron coffin nameplate recovered from this deposit is also of this date (SF 2006).

## Copper Alloy

Fifteen copper alloy artefacts were recovered, most of which are likely to date to the, post-medieval period. An unstratified coin has not been fully identified, but is probably Georgian. Small fragments of textile adhere to its surface. Two smallaings from grave fill 0003 may be attachments for fixing textile lining to theinside of coffins (SF 2007 \& 2019). Ten copper alloy pins were recovered from the same deposit (SFs 2014-15). Six pins have wire-wound spherical heads, and the remainder are thinner with cap-like heads (Margeson, 1993, p.13). Some of these may be shroud pins or pins to attach textile lining inside coffins. A single copper alloy domed cap or finial-type knob is an unstratified find which has not been fully identified. A fragment of tubular copper alloy sheet which has another sheet riveted on to it may be a coffin fitting (SF 2037).

## Vessel Glass

A single unstratified fragment of a cylindrical glass beaker decorated with horizontally applied thick-cut trails of glass dates from the late 16th to mid 17th century (Wilmotts,2002, p.40).

## Bone \& Antler

Two fragments of antler waste were recovered from pit fill 0010 , which contained sherds of pottery of Middle Saxon, Late Saxon and early medieval date.

### 3.4.4 Discussion

Although mainly unstratified or redeposited, the finds from the excavation have a number of features of interest. The presence of several hand-made sherds, which contain varying degrees of organic tempering may be Early Saxon, or contemporary with the Ipswich wares. The Middle Saxon wares also include some possible imported sherds. A larger quantity of Late Saxon pottery was identified, which may be contemporary with the original foundation of the church. In addition the early medieval wares which date to the 11th-12th century cover the same date range as some of the decorated stone fragments which have been recovered previously from the site of the church (Plunkett, 1998, p.328).

### 3.5 The Skeletons (Rhodri Gardner)

### 3.5.1 Introduction

Skeletal remains were recovered from two separate inhumations. Both were of young individuals (see below), which limits their research potential as little can be said beyond estimating age-at-death. Each was examined in order to record basic demographic information as well as details of any palaeopathology that could be observed.

### 3.5.2 Methodology

The basic condition of the remains has been assessed in terms of completeness and preservation. Completeness concerns the proportion of the whole skeleton recovered, with a score of ' 1 ' meaning more than $75 \%$, ' 2 ' meaning $25-75 \%$ and ' 3 ' meaning $25 \%$ or less. Preservation concerns the physical appearance of the bone surface as affected by weathering, defined as "the process by which the original microscopic organic and inorganic components of bone are separated from each other and destroyed by physical and chemical agents operating on the bone in situ, either on the surface or within the soil zone" (Behrensmeyer, 1978, p.153). This was recorded according to the stages of Behrensmeyer (1978) on a scale of 0 to 5 , with 0 being the best preserved and 5 the worst (bone falling apart in large splinters - very fragile).

Age estimation for immature skeletons was based on dental development (Schour \& Massler, 1941; Ubelaker, 1989) and length of diaphysis (Ubelaker, 1978), where preservation allowed. Other demographic data usually recorded, such as sex and stature is only applicable to adult remains and was not relevant in this case.

### 3.5.3 Results

Formal report construction was not thought necessary in this case, as only two individuals were formally excavated and recorded.

## Skeleton 0004

Child ( $8-12$ years). Completeness $=$ ' 2 ', preservation $=$ ' 2 '.

Cranium broken but all fragments present. Mandible present, and although there was some tooth loss the loose teeth were recovered and the stage of dental development was quite clear (see below). The femur, tibia and fibula were all recovered from both legs (though some slight damage to the epiphyses was noted - making some metricab recording inapplicable). Neither patella was preserved intact. Approximately $25 \%$ of the foot bones were present but no detailed record of them was made. Preservation of the arm bones was similar, with all longbones complete but less than $25 \%$ of the bones of the hands were recovered. All vertebrae were recovered and all had the neural arches fused to the centra, though in many cases these had become separated post mortem. The majority of the ribs were present, but no detailed recording was undertaken. Both scapulae were virtually complete with the surface of the glenoid cavity unfused. All three components of both innominate bones (pubis, ilium and ischium) were well preserved and unfused, again confirming the estimate of age-atdeath based on the development of the dentition (see below).

The good preservation of the lower dentition enabled estimation of age-at-death. All the deciduous dentition had erupted and all occlusal surfaces were in wear. At the same time the first teeth of the lower permanent dentition, the first molars, had both emerged from the alveolar cavity but no significant wear could be recorded. According to Schour and Massler (1941) and Ubelaker (1978) this gives an age-atdeath of 6 years ( $\pm 24$ months), while according to Gustafson and Koch (1974) an age range of 8-12 years is indicated. While the first method is the most widely used archaeologically it is known to have some flaws, though a full discussion of these is beyond the scope of the current report(Hillson, 1996, p.147). The latter is widely employed forensically and is considered most applicable here.

Accurate determination of age-at-death using the postcranial skeleton could not be carried out as almost all epiphyses were unfused. The only fusion data of note is derived from the observation that the neural arches of the vertebrae were all fused to the centra of the vertebral body, suggesting an age of at least age 6 (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994, 43).

Given the age of the individual no attempt to determine sex could be made. A small number of measurements were taken from the principal longbones, although this data is of little use in isolation and was recorded in case further juvenile remains were recovered from later work on the site to produce a statistically valid sample. The measurements recorded were: Maximum length of femur (left $=235 \mathrm{~mm}$, right $=$ 236 mm ) and maximum length of humerus ( $\mathrm{left}=167 \mathrm{~mm}$, right $=169 \mathrm{~mm}$ ).

No signs of skeletal or dental pathology were visible.

## Skeleton 0039

Infant ( $0-5$ years). Completeness $=`{ }^{\prime}$ ', preservation $=‘ 4$ '.
C. Fifty fragments were recovered. The majority of these were small rib and vertebra fragments and were not identified in any more detail. The left femur is approximately two-thirds complete but both epiphyseal ends are damaged, so no measurements could be taken. Only a small mid-shaft fragment of the right femur survived. Cranial and dental remains were very fragmentary and consequently no attempt to accurately determine the age-at-death of the individual could be made.

No signs of skeletal pathology were visible.

### 3.5.4 Conclusions

Beyond the individual observations noted above no significant conclusions can be drawn, as the sample size was too small to enable any comment on the wider population represented by these remains.

## 4. Archaeological Interpretation \& Conclusions

The reordering of St. Nicholas Church, Ipswich, was a major project that clearly had the potential to disturb archaeological deposits, particularly in the area of the new build. In addition, the external landscaping and interior restoration works also required a level of archaeological recording.

The design of the foundations for the new build were only finalised following the initial soil-strip which provided the opportunity to assess the full archaeological implications of the work. The final solution was based on the use of mini-piles and groundbeams, the latter at a higher level than originally intended in order to keep the disturbance of burials to a minimum.

The earliest evidence recovered was Saxon in date, comprising almost exclusively of ceramic finds relating to the ?Early, Middle and Late Saxon periods, the majority of which was residual. However, one pit, based on the presence of Late Saxon Thetford Ware, could have dated to this period. If this were the case then a burial cut by the pit would, itself, have to be of Late Saxon orearlier date. Given that the skeleton in the grave was in very poor condition compared to others recorded on the site, this is a distinct possibility. The church is believed to be an early foundation and there would almost certainly have been an accompanying cemetery associated with the original building.

The presence of residual Saxon material is no great surprise given the location of the site within the bounds of the Saxon and medieval town and extensive deposits of this period were seen on the site of Churchgates House immediately to the east. None of this material could be considered to be evidence for the pre-conquest church, indeed the material appeared to be essentially domestic in character and almost certainly generated by occupation in the immediate environs of the site.

Also recorded during the soil-strip were features associated with St. Nicholas Church Lane which runs approximately north to south immediately to the east of the chancel. The lane was shown in its present location on maps dating to the $17^{\text {th }}$ century although the presence of the early grave to the east suggests that it was inserted intoor had always run through the churchyard. Indeed, later burials (c.early $19^{\text {th }}$ century), including a group of child interments, were recorded during the soil-strip in the area east of the lane to the north of the footprint of a building that fronted the lane from at least some time in the $17^{\text {th }}$ century, surviving until its ruination during the first half of the $20^{\text {th }}$ century. The building footprint stratigraphically overlay the early grave.

While it was not easy to date the majority of the burials recorded in the reduced level strip, other than those in brick-built tombs which were Late $18^{\text {th }}$ or early $19^{\text {th }}$ century
(pre-1855), the good condition of the bone would suggest that they were postmedieval.

Two charnel deposits were recorded, one a simple pit while the other represented the backfill around a brick-built manhole. The former may have been generated by $\mathrm{y}_{\mathrm{l}} \mathrm{s}^{e}$ disturbance of earlier graves during the extensive excavation for the brick-built tombs orlater graveyard disturbances, while the latter came from graves destroyed during the insertion of the manhole and associated drain runs, possibly in 1959 (Breen, (2004).

Only limited recording of the standing building was undertaken as part of the project as the chronological progression of the principal extant building components of St. Nicholas Church is already well understood. The aisles, aisle arcade and tower are the earliest surviving elements of the standing structure and date to the early $14^{\text {th }}$ century, although the tower was altered in the $15^{\text {th }}$ century (Haward, 1993, p.278) and partially rebuilt in 1886 (Haward, 1993, p. 278 \& Breen, 2004, unpublished). Later additions and rebuilds include a south chapel of ?c.16th century date (contra. Haward, 1993, p.278), a rebuilt chancel (also ? $16^{\text {th }}$ century) a south porch of ?c. $16^{\text {th }}$ century date (contra. Haward, 1993, p.278), the south-east porch of 1828 (demolished as part of this project), the organ chamber of 1849 and the vestry of 1884.

The existing wall fabric includes a large number of architectural fragments from earlier buildings and monuments, including recognisably Norman pieces and parts of at least two Anglo Saxon grave markers. The architectural fragments, along with the Saxon pieces recovered during the late $19^{\text {th }}$ century, can be considered as evidence for earlier phases of the church.

Excavations adjacent to the north doorway revealed that the present ground level is substantially higher (c. 0.5 metres) than it was when the north aisle was constructed. The evidence for this was provided by mouldings on the door jambs that would have been intended to be visible above ground, but had since become buried. This phenomenon occurs within churchyards due to the bulking up of the soil caused by its repeated reworking during the excavations for burials.

Recording within the church was limited to the superficial decoration and ornamentation that was revealed during the reordering. In addition, a record was made of features (e.g. grave ledger slabs, aisle pillar bases) that would subsequently be covered up.

The most significant discovery was that the panelling on the lower wall of the aisle walls was re-used, almost certainly from box pews. While it is not possible to say whether the box pews were originally from St. Nicholas, or imported from another church, they were installed as panelling in 1864. The panelling itself varied between highly decorated oak to plain pine. The decorated oak panels included motifs that would be consistent with a mid $17^{\text {th }}$ century date while the plain fielded panels in pine were popular in the Georgian Period (1714-1837).

Decorative wall painting was also revealed, probably dating to the Victorian period, comprising principally of repeated stencilled motifs.

While the project had the potential to be archaeologically damaging, the flexible approach applied to the design and detail ultimately resulted in a solution that was sympathetic to the archaeological deposits both within and outside the church. The flexibility was achieved by continually assessing the character of the archaeology as it was uncovered and by maintaining a good working relationship with the on-site contractors, the Archaeological Consultant, Diocesan Archaeologist and the relevant planning bodies.

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UNDER
（2）

CUTS
0044

Orange／cream very shelly lime mortar．Similar to that used in aisle walls．Unto 0.15 metres thick，seen after removal
of p－med building to the SE of the church
Unconsolidated mix of septaria fragments \＆lime mortar．
Max 0.2 metres thick
Grave cut（unexcavated）seen in base of evaluated pad
Homogenous grey／brown sandy loam fill of of 0007
Pit？or shallow depression
Pit？or shallow depression
Brown／orange silty sand fill of 0009
Grave cut seen in base of evaluated p
Grave cut seen in base of evaluated pad．Includes
disarticulated skulls \＆other material
Dark grey／brown sandy，stony loam
Grave cut seen in base of evaluated pad（unexcavated）
Dark grey／brown loam fill of 0013
Unstratified／mixed finds from excavating top c．0．4 metres
of evaluated pad（mixed grave fills $0008,0012,0014 \&$
Northern E－W orientated wall of double roomed building
0099 ，comprised rubble and stone filled trench which had
been excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil．
Seen in re－excavated test－pit 2
Grave recorded in S．side of re－excavated test－pit 2.

Layer
Grave（Cut） Grave（Fill） Pit（Cut） Pit（Fill）

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## Appendix I IPS 442：

OPN （1）

Appendix I IPS 442：Context List and Descriptions

DESCRIPTION
CUTS
OVER

0017／0018／00
19
DESCRIPTION
Dark grey／brown sandy loam fill of grave 0017
Skeleton in grave 0017 ，truncated by 0020 ，in poor
condition．Remained in－situ
Pit
Stratified loam \＆sand fill of pit 0020 ，includes
disarticulated human bone
Brick－built tomb S．of chancel
Brick－built tomb S．of 0022
Brick－built tomb S．of 0023
Brick－built tomb S．of 0024
Brick－built tomb W．of 0025 ．Includes stacked lead coffins
Brick－built tomb E．of chancel
Articulated skeletal material surviving between tombs 0024
\＆0025
Articulated skeletal material surviving S．of tomb 0025
Skull，part of articulated burial E．of 0029
Disarticulated human bone from cleaning below pew bases
Disarticulated human bone recovered during reduced level
dig，includes two discrete deposits（see $0092 / 0093$ \＆
$0094 / 0095$ ）
Articulated skeletal material S．E．corner of site
Articulated skeletal material N．of \＆separate from 0033
Articulated skeleton S．of 0029

[^0]IDENTIFIER Grave（Fill） E
$\frac{0}{0}$
こ
U

Pit（Cut）
Pit（Fill）
Tomb
Tomb
Tomb
Tomb
Tomb
Tomb
Skeleton
Skeleton
Skeleton
Finds
Finds Finds
Skeleton Skeleton
Skeleton

 $0 \%$
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$0 \%$
$0 \%$
 $\stackrel{n}{2}$ n n n ऊิ CONTEXT $\hat{-}$

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OPNO $\stackrel{\infty}{8}$ $\frac{2}{8}$ 0020

IZOD
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 چั $\cdots \underset{\delta}{n} \underbrace{n}$ 13 February 2006

UNDER

CUTBY

OVER
cuts

DESCRIPTION
Unstratified find from the excavation of the groundbeam
trench at the N . end of the site
Cut for infant grave, S. of 0002 Cut for infant grave, S . of 000

Mixed grey/brown sandy loam with some clay, fill of grave
0037
Infant
Infant skeleton in grave 0037, very little surviving
Brick-built tomb S. of 0026 , rubble filled, lids/superstructure
gone gone
Brick-b

Brick-built tomb S. of 0040 , rubble filled, lids/superstructure
gone
gone
Grave?
0044
0044 fill of 0042
Relatively unconsolidated loam with chalk, clay and brick,
Grave? Poorly defined and unusual shape, may not be a
an
Thin ill-defined layer of chalky clay in the N.E. corner of
the site., Cut by graves
the site, Cut by graves
Scattered human bone fragments from feature 0042
possibly not an articulated burial
possibly not an articulated burial
Poorly defined grave, excavated down to building formation
level
level
Homogenous grey/brown sandy loam with chalk \& clay
flecks (included clay pipe), fill of 0046 . No articulated
flecks (included clay pipe), fill of 0046 . No articulated
human remains were encountered
human remains were encountered
Adult-sized grave cut, poorly defined to W., excavated down
to building formation level
Homogenous grey/brown sandy loam fill of 0048 . No
articulated human remains were encountered
IDENTIFIER
U/S finds
Grave (Cut) Grave (Fill) Skeleton
Tomb会

COMPONENT
0001
0037
0037
0037
รั
$\frac{7}{8}$
0042
$\stackrel{y}{8}$
8
0044
0042
0046
0046
Grave (Fill)
Grave (Cut)
Grave (Fill)
 U/S finds CGrave (Cut) Crave (Cut)

Grave cut recorded in groundbeam 0036

Unstratified finds from the excavation of the groundbeam
trench E. side of the site

Appendix I IPS 442:
CONTEXT


UNDER
CUTBY
OVER
CUTS

| DESCRIPTION |
| :--- |
| Homogenous grey／brown sandy loam fill of 0051．No |
| articulated human remains were encountered |
| Unstratified finds from the excavation of the groundbeam |
| trench N．W．of building |
| Unstratified finds from the excavation of the groundbeam |
| trench N．W．of building |
| Unstratified finds from the excavation of the groundbeam |
| trench N．side of building |
| Unstratified finds from the excavation of the groundbeam |
| trench N．side of building |
| Unstratified finds from the excavation of the groundbeam |
| trench W．end of building |
| Solid bonded flint \＆lime mortar wall seen in N．end of |
| groundbeam 0054，possibly a wall－stub |
| Layer of bonded bricks，base for superstructure（not now |
| present）over a brick－built tomb |
| Unstratified finds from excavating pile－cap 5 |
| Unstratified finds from excavating pile－cap 6 |
| Unstratified finds from excavating pile－cap 10 |
| Unstratified finds from excavating pile－cap 11 |
| Unstratified finds from excavating pile－cap 12 |
| Unstratified finds from excavating pile－cap 15 |
| Unstratified finds from excavating pile－cap 17 |
| Unstratified finds from excavating pile－cap 18 |
| Unstratified finds from excavating pile－cap 19 |
| Unstratified finds from excavating pile－cap 20 |

IDENTIFIER
Grave（Fill）
U／S finds
U／S finds
U／S finds
U／S finds
U／S finds
U／S finds
Wall Tomb
U／S finds U／S finds
U／S finds U／S finds U／S finds U／S finds n
$\vdots$
0
0 $\square$
$\square$
$\square$
$\square$ 1 1
 $\stackrel{2}{8}$

Appendix I IPS 442：Context List and Descriptions COMPONENT
CONTEXT 등 0001 $\stackrel{2}{8}$ 0001 0001 $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{8}$ $\stackrel{\infty}{\curvearrowleft}$ 0059 $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{8}$ $\stackrel{2}{8}$ $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{8} \quad \stackrel{3}{8}$ $\stackrel{2}{8}$ $\stackrel{2}{8}$ $\stackrel{2}{8}$ $\overline{8} 3$ $\stackrel{2}{8}$ OPNO气 0052
0053 $\stackrel{n}{2}$ 0055 0056 0057 0057
0058 8 气 0059
0060 $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{8}$ ぞ $\begin{array}{ll}2 & 5 \\ 8 & 8\end{array}$ 83 6
8
8 $\hat{\delta}$ 0068 0068
0069 13 February 2006
UNDER


Appendix I IPS 442: Context List and Descriptions
DESCRIPTION
CUTS
tions
DESCRIPTION
Unstratified finds from excavating pile-cap 21
Unstratified finds from excavating pile-cap 26
Unstratified finds from excavating pile-cap 27
Unstratified finds from excavating pile-cap 28
Grave cut seen in base of pile-cap 0028. Excavation extend
to facilitate removal of whole left leg
Homogenous grey/brown sandy stony loam
Skeleton in grave 0074 , only left leg visible
'Town soil' seen in first section of servile trench outside of
churchyard. c. 0.5 metres thick 5
'Town soil' seen in second section of service trench, 0.7
metres thick, includes low density of disarticulated human
bone
'Town soil' seen in manhole inside churchyard. Overlies
natural subsoil at c. 2 metres. Includes articulated skeleton
0080
Articulated skeleton seen in S.E. corner of manhole
excavation at depth of 1.55 metres, no obvious grave cut.
Left in-situ
'Town soil' seen in N of manhole inside churchyard.
Clay lined hearth or oven, cuts town soil, but was itself cut
by burial 0083
Skeleton seen in service trench 1.8 metres below existing
ground surface, its grave cut oven 0082
Skeleton seen in service trench 1.8 metres below existing
ground surface, no obvious grave cut by machine is side of service trench at
a metres
depth CONTEXT COMPONENT IDENTIFIER
U/S finds
U/S finds U/S finds Grave (Cut)
Grave (Fill) Skeleton
 CONTEXT COMPONENT IDENTIFIER
 0074 0074荅 0001 0001 Layer Skeleton

OPNO CONTEXT

 ธิ ธั 0001 0080 §ิ苞 $\frac{8}{0} \quad \frac{0}{0}$ Skeleton


[^1]UNDER
CUTBY

Appendix I IPS 442：Context List and Descriptions

## DESCRIPTION

Disturbed town soil，N．most section of service trench，
includes skull 0085
Possible grave seen cutting natural subsoil in base of servic
Disturbed town soil，N．most section of service trench，
includes skull 0085
Possible grave seen cutting natural subsoil in base of servic
Possible grave seen cutting natural subsoil in base of service
trench section 0086．No body encountered
Unstratified finds from excavating groundbeam S．of 0036 down to revised formation level

Unstratified finds from excavating groundbeam S．of 0088
Unstratified finds from excavating groundbeam S．of 0089
Unstratified finds from excavating groundbeam S．of 0089
down to revised formation level
Unstratified finds from excavating groundbeam S．side of
Unstratified finds from excavating groundbe
building down to revised formation level
Shallow oval pit，sides in－defined．
Shallowing down to revised formation level
Unconsolidated fill of 0092 ，c． $95 \%$
Unconsolidated fill of 0092 ，c． $95 \%$ disarticulated human
bones，charnel deposit
bones，charnel deposit
Brick－built manhole sup
Brick－built manhole superstructure
Fill around brick－built superstructure，c． $80 \%$ disarticulated
human bone，charnel deposit
Modern brick manhole superstructure and drain run，replaces
Modern brick manhole superstructure and drain run，replaces
0094
0094
Articulated leg in pile－cap 26，remained in－situ
Skeleton of a baby recorded in pile－cap 5，remained in－situ
Skeleton of a baby recorded in pile－cap 5，remained in－situ
includes floors，footing trenches／wall stubs，chimney／hearth base
Informally lain concrete lumps，metalled surface W．of base
Informally lain concrete lumps，metalled surface W．of
0099

0099
Modern blue plastic water pipe in narrow trench

## IDENTIFIER

дәке

Grave（Cut）
U／S finds
U／S finds
U／S finds
U／S finds
Pit（Cut）
Pit（Fill）
Manhole
Fill
Manhole
Skeleton Skeleton Building Building苞

 0001
0087 0087 I000 1000 है ล2 ลै $\frac{2}{2}$ $\begin{array}{ll}\circ & 6 \\ 8 & \circ \\ 8\end{array}$ है $\hat{\circ}$ ह $\frac{2}{8}$ ลे  $C^{0} e^{j^{8}}$



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CONTEXT － ô亏̀亏亏 0001 B ถิ ลิ $\frac{7}{8}$ है气 ลิ o 0099 $\stackrel{3}{3} \stackrel{3}{3}$

OPNO
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©


0088
0089
0089
0090 ò ลิ苟 ลิ है
8 ลิ ลे 0097
0098 0099 0100 $\frac{2}{8} 3$
13 February 2006
COMPONENT
IDENTIFIER
Layer
Post-hole
Post-hole
Post-hole
Brick Gully
Drain Cover
Soakaway
Pit (Cut)
Pit (Fill)
Trench (Cut)
Trench (Fill)
Pipe

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Layer of semi-consolidated gravel with ash marking the line } \\
& \text { of 'St. Nicholas Church lane', also includes line of ireon } \\
& \text { fence steels }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Layer of semi-consolidated gravel with ash marking the line } \\
& \text { of 'St. Nicholas Church lane', also includes line of ireon }
\end{aligned}
$$

Isolated post-hole, filled with concrete
Isolated post-hole, filled with concrete
Isolated post-hole, square, filled with concrete and bricks

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Small ceramic drain cover immediately N. of building } 0099 \\
& \text { Soakaway, or possibly a well with small square hole with an }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Soakaway, or possibly a well with small square hole with an } \\
& \text { iron lid at apex of corbelled dome }
\end{aligned}
$$

UNDER

CUTBY

OVER

CUTS

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { DESCRIPTION } \\
& \text { Layer of semi-consolic }
\end{aligned}
$$

$\underset{\substack{\text { alom } \\ \text { ans }}}{ }$
Short length of modern trench (
fence steels

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Frag, ment of curving brick drainage gully close to SE corner } \\
& \text { of S. aisle }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { of S. aisle } \\
& \text { Small ceramic drain cover immediately N. of building } 0099
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { iron lid at apex of corbelled dome } \\
& \text { Small modern pit (unexcavated) }
\end{aligned}
$$ Brick rubble \& loam fill of 0109

Dark grey/brown sandy loam fill of 0111
Iron pipe seen in Pile Cap 19, probably gas, certainly
disused

[^2]-

## Appendix I IPS 442:

| OPNO | CONTEXT |
| :---: | :---: |
| 0102 | 0102 |
| 0103 | 0103 |
| 0104 | 0104 |
| 0105 | 0105 |
| 0106 | 0106 |
| 0107 | 0107 |
| 0108 | 0108 |
| 0109 | 0109 |
| 0110 | 0111 |
| 0111 | 0111 |
| 0112 | 0113 |
| 0113 |  |


(20)

essess)
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Date Range } & \text { Comments } \\ & \text { Fine fabric, prob MS import } \\ & \text { ?Storage jar } \\ 1 \text { poss med sherd } \\ 1 \text { oxidised with incised dec } \\ 1 \text { with applied strip }\end{array}$
Repeating medallions, shield with
snakes' heads?
16th-18th C

Decoration
STB?

INCD
APD

MED

| S 442: Pottery |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Fabric | Form |
| SIPS | BODY |
| MISC | BODY |
| THET | JAR |
| THET | BODY |
| MCW | BODY |
| YARM | BODY |
| BORDG | PIP |
| UPG | COL |
| UPG | JAR? |
| RAER | BODY |
| FREC | BART |
| THET | SP PITCH |
| IGBW | BODY |
| GRE | BODY |
| SIPS | BODY/BASE |
| THET | CP/JAR |
| THET | HANDLE |
| THET | BODY |
| YARM | BODY |
| MCW | BODY |

            Context
                0001
    0001
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0001
0003

0010
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| Fabric | Form | Decoration |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SIPS | BODY |  |
| MISC | BODY | STB？ |
| THET | JAR |  |
| THET | BODY |  |
| MCW | BODY | INCD |
| YARM | BODY | APD |
| BORDG | PIP |  |
| UPG | COL |  |
| UPG | JAR？ |  |
| RAER | BODY |  |
| FREC | BART | MED |
| THET | SP PITCH |  |
| IGBW | BODY |  |
| GRE | BODY |  |
| SIPS | BODY／BASE |  |
| THET | CP／JAR |  |
| THET | HANDLE |  |
| THET | BODY |  |
| YARM | BODY | BODY |
| MCW |  |  |


| Fabric | Form | Decoration |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SIPS | BODY |  |
| MISC | BODY | STB？ |
| THET | JAR |  |
| THET | BODY |  |
| MCW | BODY | INCD |
| YARM | BODY | APD |
| BORDG | PIP |  |
| UPG | COL |  |
| UPG | JAR？ |  |
| RAER | BODY |  |
| FREC | BART | MED |
| THET | SP PITCH |  |
| IGBW | BODY |  |
| GRE | BODY |  |
| SIPS | BODY／BASE |  |
| THET | CP／JAR |  |
| THET | HANDLE |  |
| THET | BODY |  |
| YARM | BODY | BODY |
| MCW |  |  |





$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Context } \\
& 0010 \\
& 0021 \\
& 0021 \\
& 0021 \\
& 0036 \\
& 0036 \\
& 0036
\end{aligned}
$$

Decoration

$$
3
$$


?
Comments
Mortar adhering
Knife-trimmed fineware, possibly an
import
Copper glaze inside, watery yellow glaze
Very thickwalled handmade sherd, sandy
withorganic tempering, poss chaff
Page 4 of 7
年

Appendix II \{B\} ~ I P S ~ 4 4 2 : ~ P o t t e r y ~ C a t a l o g u e ~

Date Range
16th-18th C
16th-18th C
Group 1C?
Strap handle


| Period |
| :---: |
| PM |
| PM |
| LS |
| PM |
| PM |
| MS |
| LS |
| MS?? |
| M |
| ES/MS |
| MS |
| MS |
| MS |
| MS |
| LS |
| LS |
| LS |
| M |
| $M$ |
| LS |

                    Context
    0043
0043
0047
0047
${ }^{204}$

max
$\underset{\substack{\text { opts } \\ \text { os s }}}{ }$
82
82
$\stackrel{2}{8} \stackrel{8}{8}$
0050
0050
BODY
JAR?



$\square$





$\square$

Comments
Strap handle of mug or tyg
Double-headed rim
Unglazed redwares, not LPME
Glazed slipware
Base sherd
Burnt fabric
Abraded internal surface, poss earlier?
Comments
Strap handle of mug or tyg
Double-headed rim
Unglazed redwares, not LPME
Glazed slipware
Base sherd
Burnt fabric
Abraded internal surface, poss earlier?
Unstratified
Date Range
10th-11 th C
10th-11 th C
10th-1 th C
10th-1 1th C
Thumbed app strip, crises cross grid lines
Thun dec, coarse earthenware
Not mcuh calc
Burnished ext, chaff fabric
1 poss EMSW
1 poss EMSW
West Group IIG
Page 6 of 7



Decoration

Form
MUG
BOWL
BODY
BODY
BODY
BODY
CP/JAR
BASE
BODY
BODY
BODY
BODY
BASE
BODY
Comments
Some fine fabric variants
Averted, almost flattened rim
Internal red/brown core
Almost EMSW
Grey body sherd, could be THET
Upright but bevelled rim
1 oxidised
Transitional hand-made but
approaching med coarseware
Handle from jug or pitcher


is

$$
\text { is } n
$$

$$
\text { Appendix II\{C\} IPS } 442 \text { : CBM Catalogue }
$$

Wt. Length

$$
\stackrel{\infty}{=}
$$


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Appendix II\｛D\} IPS 442: Small Finds Catalogue
Finds No．of
$\stackrel{\infty}{\infty} \rightarrow-\infty-\infty$
Finds
category


Small Context Period Material
find no．

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®
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Z
Z
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$\begin{array}{ll}Z & Z \\ \text { Z } \\ & \end{array}$
Z
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Dimension

S (Depth) \begin{tabular}{l}
Diameter

 

Comments <br>
0
\end{tabular}


Appendix III Composite Photographs of Existing Building Sula $\mathrm{an}^{0}$

## Porch


South Aisle


South Chancel (pre-demolition)


South Chancel (post-demolition)


Appendix III Composite Photographs of Existing Building




[^0]:    Articulated skeleton S．of 0029

[^1]:    Articulated skull? Hit by machine is side of service trench at

[^2]:    disused

