

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

St. Michaels Church, Oulton (OUL 004);
Building Recording & Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2008/154; Oasis No. suffolkc1-42917



Head Corbel above priest's door

Stuart Boulter
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport Service Delivery
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX
Tel. (01473) 264384

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Acknowledgements

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Staff from Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (Phil Camps under the direction of Stuart Boulter) undertook the building recording and the monitoring was carried out by Stuart Boulter. Thanks also to the building contractors (Riddell Construction Limited) with whom a good working relationship was maintained throughout which facilitated the completion of the archaeological monitoring works in a efficient and cost effective manner.

Finds were recorded and identified by Richenda Goffin (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Projects Team).

Funding for the archaeological recording was provided by Oulton Parochial Church Council.

Summary

Oulton, St. Michaels Church (TM 5099 9358; OUL 004) The recording of the north wall of the nave revealed three main phases of construction with the majority of the fabric characterised by well-defined flint courses and dating to the 12th century. A semicircular arched doorway was probably a contemporary feature but had at the very least been re-set in its original location. Three perpendicular windows were inserted during the 15th or 16th century in conjunction with the raising of the nave walls by approximately 0.5 metres. A third strip of wall fabric at the top of the wall was thought to be associated with the construction of a new roof during the 19th century. Four burials were disturbed during the subsequent groundworks, all infants or children. It is not uncommon for the graves of infants and children to be grouped together close to the church in this way.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council & Oulton Parochial Church Council)

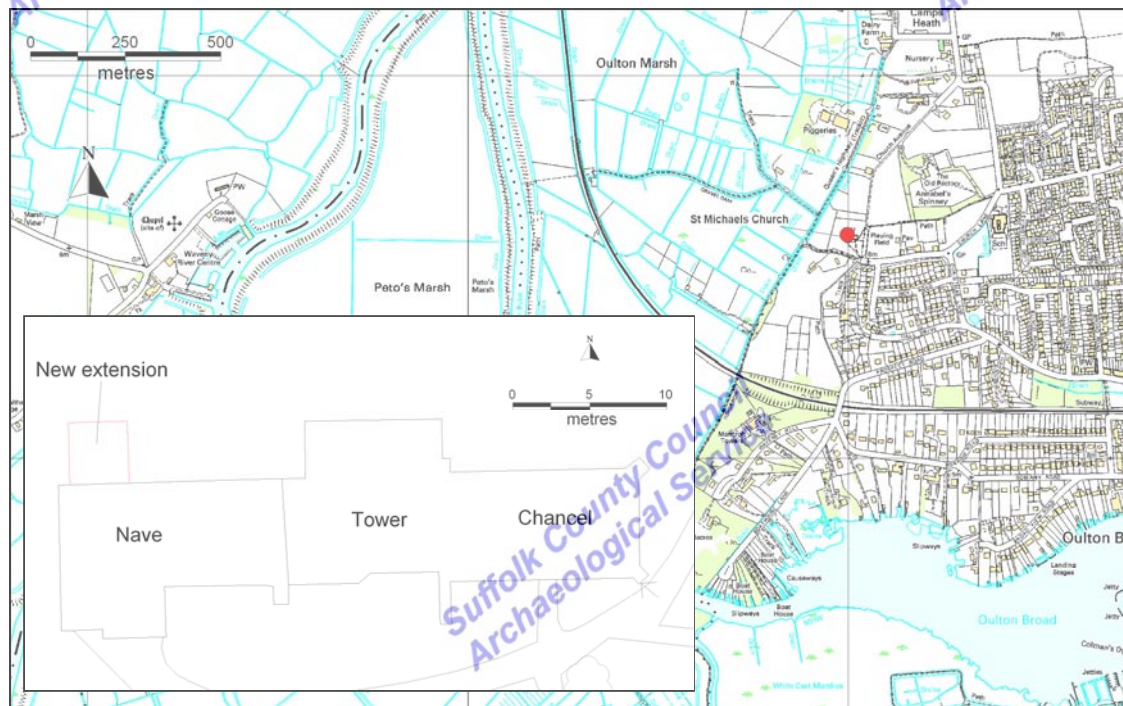
HER information

Planning application no:	W/10782/2BA
Site HER code:	OUL 004
Date of fieldwork:	Building Recording October 2007 & Monitoring April 2008
Grid Reference:	TM 5099 9358
Commissioning body:	Oulton Parochial Parish Council
SCCAS Rpt. No.	2008/154
Oasis No.	suffolkc1-42917

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

The consent for Planning Application W/1078/2BA covering the construction of an extension, housing new kitchen facilities and toilets, on the north side of the nave of St Michaels Church, Oulton (Fig. 1) (TM 5099 9358), was conditional on the applicant providing for a programme of archaeological works involving recording of the standing building and monitoring of the groundworks associated with the development.



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Fig. 1 1:20,000 scale OS map extract showing the location of the church & detail (inset at 1:500)

Bob Carr of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Conservation Team, in his role as Archaeological Advisor to the Local Planning Authority, wrote a Brief and Specification document detailing the scope of the required archaeological works (Appendix I). Subsequently, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Team was commissioned by The OWL Partnership (the project architect's) on behalf of their client (Oulton Parochial Church Council) to undertake the archaeological works. The building recording was undertaken in October 2007 while the monitoring of groundworks was carried out in April 2008.

1.2 Historical & Archaeological Background

The church is considered to be of regional importance as it is only one of five in the county of Suffolk with a central crossing tower, of which only three, Oulton being one, have transepts. Substantial portions of the standing building are 12th century in date with a series of later additions and alterations clearly represented in the fabric. The proposed new building (Fig. 1 inset) would obscure the, now blocked, nave north doorway and some of the 12th century wall fabric and it was this area that was subject to detailed building recording as part of this project.

1.3 Topographical Setting & Drift Geology

The church lies at approximately 8.00 metres OD overlooking the low-lying Oulton Marsh to the west.

The underlying drift geology comprises glaciofluvial sands and gravels.

2. Methodologies

2.1 Fieldwork

The site recording was carried out under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code OUL 004.

A series of crosses were imposed on the north wall of the nave at 1 metre intervals in order to provide scale for the measured photographs. Overlapping digital shots and monochrome prints were taken that could subsequently be merged in order to construct an overall elevation. General shots were also taken of the other elevations and architectural features of the building.

The fabric and architectural features of the north nave wall were studied with the observations recorded in a site notebook.

A full photographic record, both monochrome prints and digital shots, was made during the monitoring of the groundworks.

Three site visits were made while the contractors were manually excavating the footprint of the building to accommodate the rafted footing. The toe of the raft was mostly excavated by the archaeologist as *in-situ* human remains had been encountered by the contractors. Where occurring above the formation level for the new floor, these were recorded on a ground-plan and removed for later reburial.

Other finds (ceramics) recovered during the excavation were retained and sent for specialist identification.

2.2 Post-Excavation

A site archive (including photographs & other site records) was prepared and deposited in the County Historic Environment Record (HER) in Bury St. Edmunds.

Architectural and below ground features were allocated 'Observed Phenomena' numbers within a 'unique continuous numbering system' under the site code OUL 004.

Composite photographic elevations of the north nave and north transept walls were prepared in Adobe Photoshop and registered on MapInfo Professional 8.5 in order to prepare annotated digitised elevations for inclusion in this report.

A basic interpretation of the phased architectural development of the church was prepared with the emphasis on the north wall of the nave which would subsequently be obscured by the new extension.

The report has also been submitted to OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the code suffolkc1-42917.

3. Results

3.1 Building Recording

The principal elements of the standing building comprise a chancel to the east, a central tower with a substantially modified transept on its north side and nave to the west, the latter with a south porch. There was also evidence on the south side of the tower for a south transept and at the eastern end of the south nave wall for a chapel, both now removed. Each component of the standing building is described in more detail below in order to add context to the main areas of study.

Nave & south porch

The nave is c.18.00 metres long with a width of c.6.80 metres and there is a c.4.00 metres wide, c.3.55 metres deep porch providing access to the semicircular arched south door. The porch (Plate 1) was clearly heavily remodelled during the Victorian re-orderings, obscuring much of its original character, with its diagonal buttresses dressed in hard white bricks similar to those used in the vestry extension on the tower's north transept. Immediately to the west of the porch, occupying the angle between its western wall and that of the nave, there is a small chimneyed structure, presumably related to heating the church.

To the east of the porch there are two perpendicular windows inserted into original coursed 12th century wall fabric and two buttresses, the latter dressed with hard white brick and thought to be Victorian in date (Plate 2). Radially lain bricks above the window arches are within a secondary fabric (see 0003 on the north side of the nave) which suggests that the wall was raised in height at the time of the window insertion. A further strip of wall fabric (see 0004 on the north side of the nave) above the secondary fabric is almost certainly contemporary with the cross braced pine roof that was thought to have dated to the 1850's (Mortlock 1992, p.143). At the eastern end of the south nave wall there is a third window, in late decorated or early perpendicular style, this time inserted through wall fabric forming the blocking to a large two-centred arch (Plate 3). This brick arch used to provide access to a side chapel, subsequently, that was dedicated to the Holy Trinity (Mortlock 1992, p.143). One of the buttresses obscures the western side of the blocked arch and, therefore, clearly post-dates the removal of the chapel.

The western end of the nave has been rendered relatively recently covering up all of the external wall face (Plate 4). While we can assume that the west nave wall comprises original 12th century fabric, this cannot be proved as the quoins at the north-west corner (0011) and those at the south-west corner are all reset, probably at the same time that the west wall was rendered. The west nave window is perpendicular in style and while including elements that are original, does exhibit considerable repairs to the tracery.

The north wall of the nave was recorded in more detail as this was the area that would be compromised by the proposed extension. A composite photograph of the entire elevation appears as Plate 7 while a digitised elevation showing the architectural and constructional elements of the wall is presented as Figure 2.



Plate 1 Detail of the south porch



Plate 2 Nave south wall



Plate 3 Detail of blocked chapel arch

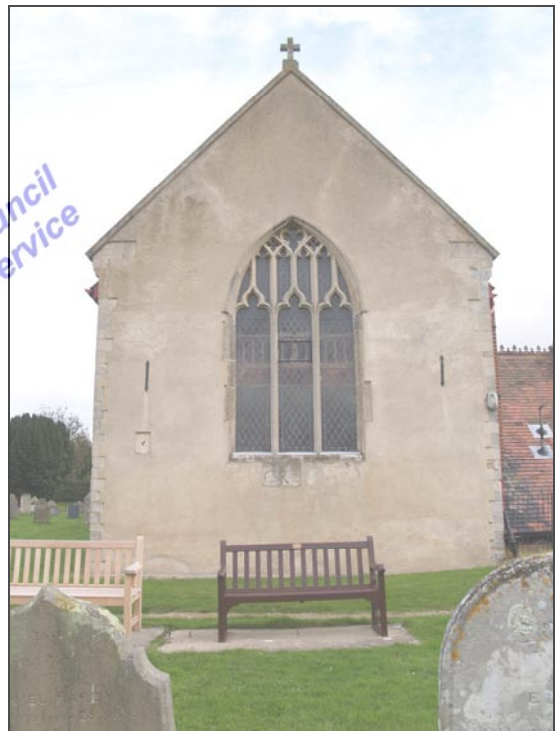


Plate 4 Nave west end



Plate 5 Detail of nave north doorway



Plate 6 Detail of putlock hole 0018

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Plate 7 North nave wall elevation, composite photograph

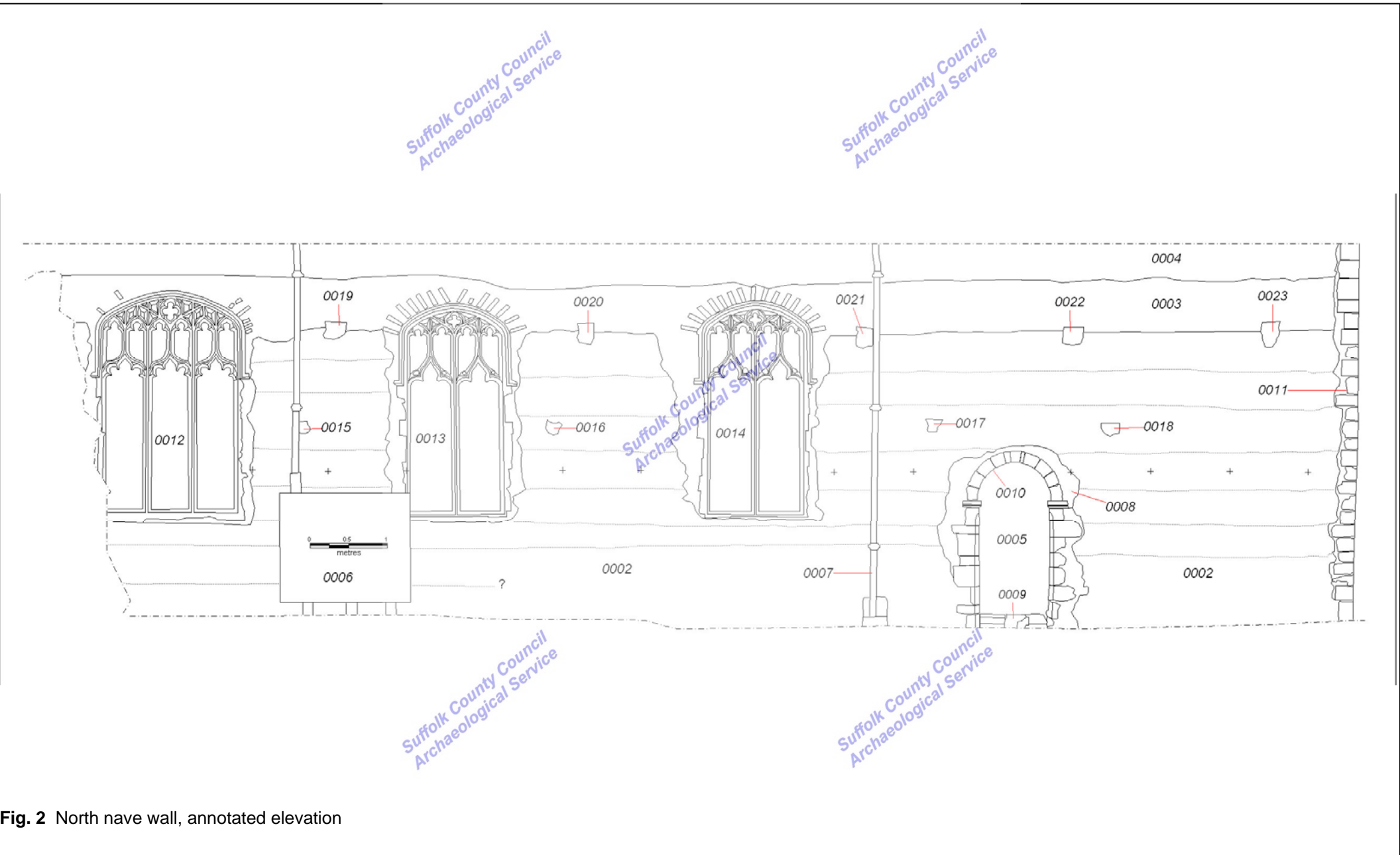


Fig. 2 North nave wall, annotated elevation

The nave wall was c.4.80 metres in height when measured from the extant ground level. The actual base of the wall was encountered in the subsequent groundworks at a depth of 0.30 metres. A step out of approximately 10 centimetres was present for the entire length of the wall at a point 0.50 metres above the base, effectively c.0.20 metres above the existing ground level.

The wall exhibited three main fabrics; 0002, 0003 and 0004 (Fig. 2). The majority of the wall comprised fabric 0002, from its base to a height of c.4.10 metres. With its characteristic well defined courses, constructional lifts at relatively regular intervals and locally diagonally lain clasts, 0002 undoubtedly represents part of the 12th century building. Fabric 0002 comprised c.90% unknapped flint cobbles, predominantly 5-10 centimetre-sized, although occasionally up to 20 centimetres, with one at 50 centimetres. The larger cobbles were often laid at the bottom of constructional lifts. These lifts, which represent successive stages reached during the construction of the wall, were identified easily at the western end of the wall, but were less distinct towards the east. Where tentatively identified in the area between the first window from the east and the second window, the lifts were not entirely consistent with those further to the west. However, while this could be due to wrongful identification of what were poorly developed features, this configuration is possible provided there had been contemporary windows, one of which must have been situated on the site of the existing middle window. The lifts varied in thickness between c.0.25 metres and 0.50 metres and incorporated between three and six flint courses.

The lime mortar associated with fabric 0002 was very coarse with common gravel-sized inclusions. Four contemporary, but now blocked, putlock holes (0015-0018), topped by flat stones, were recorded (Fig. 2 & Plate 6) in a line at c.2.50 metres above the present ground surface.

The north doorway (0010), now blocked with red brick (0005), was the only architectural feature in the north wall that could be considered to be contemporary with fabric 0002 (Fig 2 & Plates 5 & 7). However, there were some inconsistencies which suggest that at the very least it had been reset. The doorway has a simple semicircular arch springing from square impost blocks, the latter with a single horizontal incised decoration and chamfered lower edge, with a simple chamfered edge to the door jambs. Stylistically, the door is completely in keeping with the



Plate 8 Nave north doorway, base of eastern jamb

proposed 12th century date for the wall, but there is a clear insertion line around the doorway. To the west of the doorway the insertion fabric (0008) includes formally lain red bricks. The lower blocks of the western jamb are also set slightly proud of the wall when compared to the eastern jamb, arch and upper western jamb which are essentially flush. In addition, the chamfered edge of the eastern jamb continues down beyond the external threshold to a stop in the bottom block at a point which is c.0.20 metres below the step out at the base of the wall.

The wall footing does not continue below the doorway and the basal masonry of the jambs could be seen sitting directly on earth, as is the clearly later step which is composed from re-used masonry pieces (Plate 8). At the very least, the door has been completely re-set at its original location, although it could also be argued that it is in fact a later insertion.

A second fabric (0003) was recorded above fabric 0002 and forming a continuous 0.60 metres band along the entire length of the wall. In addition, 0003 was continuous with, and therefore contemporary with, the three inserted windows (0012, 0013 & 0014), a similar situation to that seen on the south side of the church. Fabric 0003 was poorly coursed, comprising c.60% flint pebbles with c.40% made up from fragments of two inch thick red bricks, which suggests a very late medieval or even Tudor date for the insertion of the windows and associated raising of the height of the nave wall by c.0.6 metres.

The three included windows (0012, 0013 & 0014) were clearly associated with fabric 0003. While the tracery of these windows is constructed from limestone, there are brick fragments included in the surrounding wall fill and whole bricks had been used in conjunction with dark coloured knapped/split flints to form decorative bands above their hood moulds, although, in the case of 0012, almost totally obscured by mortar/render. The windows are perpendicular in style with flattened four-centred arches. The eastern-most window (0012) is somewhat different in style to the other two, but there was no evidence that it was anything other than contemporary. Stylistically the windows are consistent with a later medieval, 15th century date for their insertion, although the presence of two inch bricks in the contemporary wall fabric could be considered as evidence for a later, possibly 16th century date. While the inclusion of the brick fragments helped to distinguish fabric 0003 from the underlying fabric 0002, fabric 0003 also exhibited a more uniform flush external face, as the mortar between the clasts had not weathered back to any great degree.

There was a series of five blocked putlock holes (0019-0023) associated with fabric 0003, all in a line and located at the interface with fabric 0002. The putlock holes were all framed with fragments of two inch bricks.

A third wall fabric (0004) formed a continuous c.0.40 metre strip above 0003 which, at its east end, was separated from the lower fabric by a single line of bricks. This fabric comprised c.70% randomly lain unknapped flint pebbles with c.30% brick fragments. The lime mortar was very yellow in colour and appeared 'fresher' than that used in the underlying 0003 fabric. A similar strip of fabric was identified at the top of the nave south wall and both are thought to be associated with the replacement of the nave roof dated by Mortlock to the 1850's (Mortlock 1992, p.143).

The limestone quoins at the at the north-west corner of the nave had clearly all been reset in a hard gravelly lime mortar, probably at the same time that the nave west wall was rendered.

Towards the eastern end of the wall a downpipe drained water from the roof into a steel tank used as a water-butt (together numbered 0006). Another downpipe (0007) was located to the east of doorway 0010, this one draining into a below-ground ceramic pipe that was subsequently seen during the groundworks excavation.

Chancel

The chancel measures c.12.50 metres in length with a width of c.7.00 metres. The whole structure is essentially a rebuild of 14th century date with decorated reticulated tracery in its large east window and the three windows in each of its north and south sides (Plates 9-11). Relatively minor stylistic differences between the tracery of the central window and the flanking windows in the north wall (Plate 9) do not represent a conflict in date as both appear to be original features and, therefore, contemporary. There is also a priest's door with a head corbel above (cover photo & Plate 10) and diagonal buttresses at the north-east and south-east corners.



Plate 9 Chancel north wall



Plate 10 Chancel south wall



Plate 11 Chancel east wall

The wall fabric was randomly faced, predominantly with unknapped or naturally split flint cobbles/pebbles, although other stone types (ferruginous sandstone, quartzite pebbles etc) were represented, including limestone pieces, possibly re-used architectural fragments from the earlier structure.

Tower & Transepts

The squat central crossing tower and associated transepts were clearly part of the 12th century church. The characteristic coursed facing visible towards the tower base and in the north wall of, what was originally, the north transept and the architectural style of its internal arches (semicircular) confirm this early date. However, the upper portion of the tower above the level of the nave and chancel roof had at the very least been refaced, possibly totally rebuilt (Plates 12 & 13). The rebuilding has been attributed an 18th century date (Mortlock 1992, p.143).

The south transept no longer exists, although an extant buttress projecting on the line of the east wall of the tower incorporates fabric from its east wall. The scar for the semicircular arch at the junction between the tower and south transept clearly



Plate 12 Tower south side

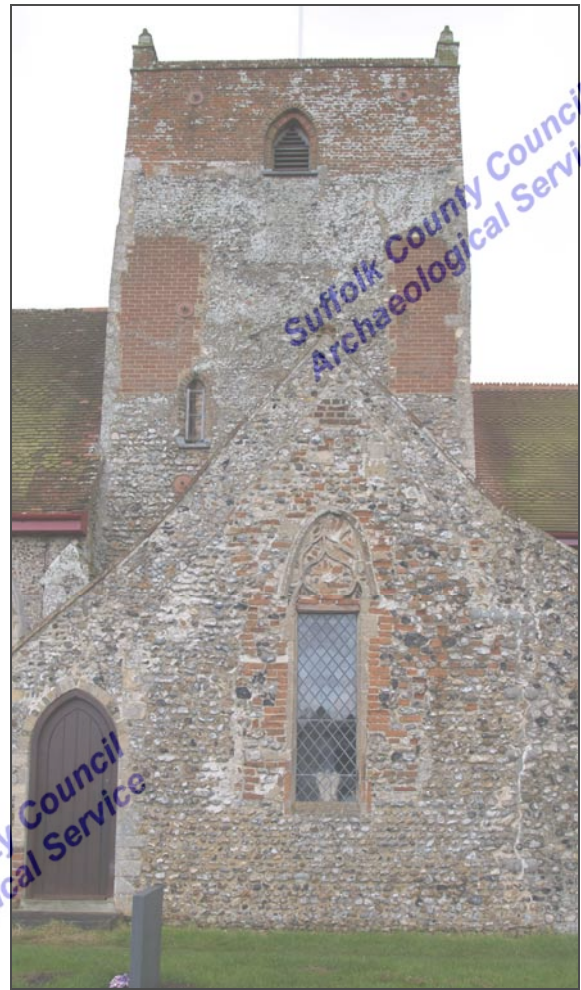


Plate 13 Tower north side

survives (Plate 14). At some time, the semicircular arch was partially blocked with a smaller, two-centred arch inserted which, itself, was subsequently completely blocked with a decorated style window central to the new fabric. While this window is in a style consistent with a date in the first half of the 14th century, it had the feel of being incomplete and may represent parts of a window moved from elsewhere and not reassembled in its entirety.

Considerably more of the wall fabric of the north transept had survived, but not without considerable alteration on a number of occasions. The north wall of the north transept was recorded photographically (Plate 15) in such a way that a digitised elevation could be constructed (Fig. 3). Original coursed 12th century fabric (0024) survived at the base of the wall for at least a height of c.1.30 metres for its entire



Plate 14 Scar of south transept arch

length, rising to c.2.8 metres at the west end and c.4.50 metres at its east end where four of the original quoins survived (0031).



Plate 15 North transept, north wall

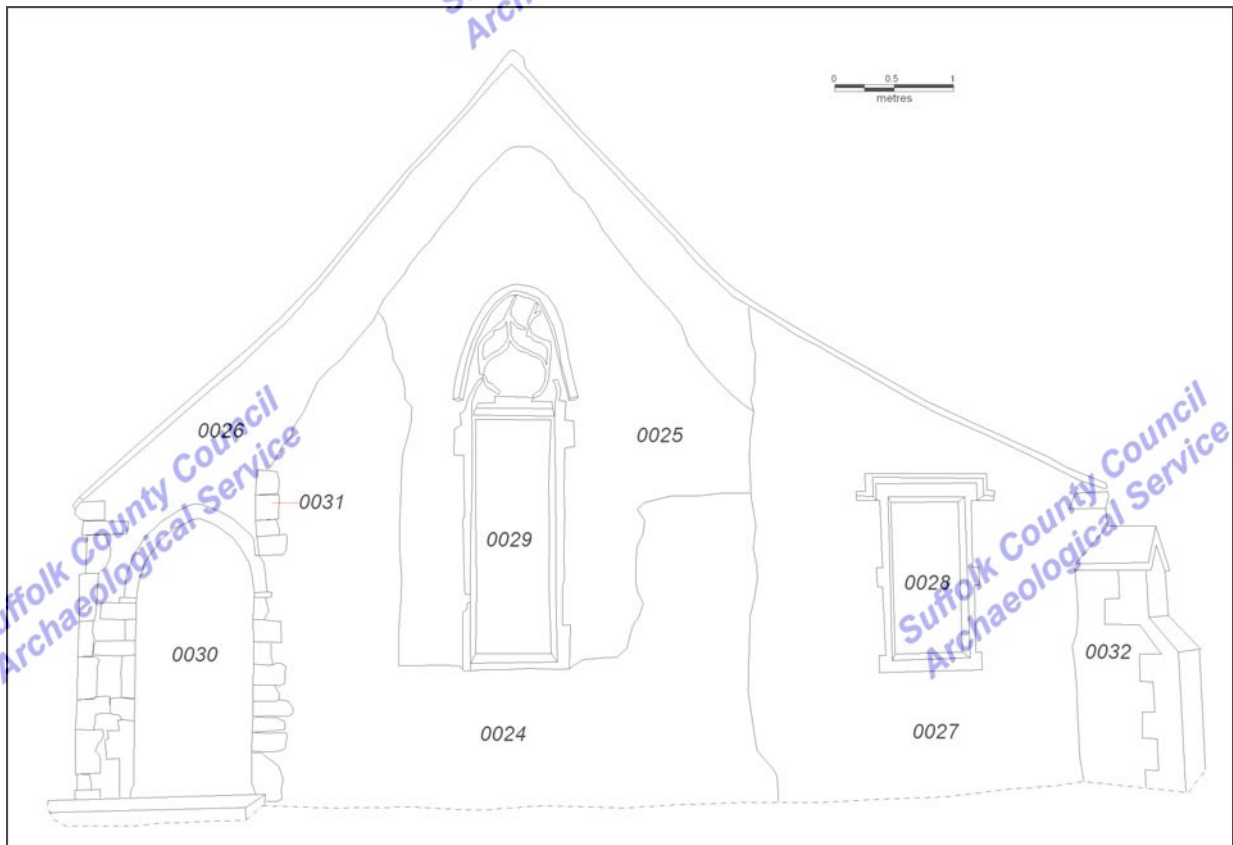


Fig. 3 North transept, annotated elevation

At some time later, a window was inserted into the north wall of the north transept. If the architectural fragments used in the present window were part of it, then a later 14th century date seems likely based on stylistic grounds. Judging by the scar left on the wall after the removal of this window (the junction between fabric 0024 and fabric 0025 on Fig. 3), the window would have been approximately 2 metres wide. However, this window was then removed, along with the upper gable wall, which may or may not have been original 12th century fabric up until that point, and the existing window (0029) constructed and the gable rebuilt (0025). These alterations were probably undertaken at a similar date (18th century) to the tower remodelling as fabric 0025 includes similar bricks, although admittedly used in a rather crude manner. The window (0029) contemporary with fabric 0025 was rectangular, measuring c.2.25 metres high by c.0.75 metres wide and constructed using masonry almost certainly salvaged from the earlier window. Some of the tracery and hood mould were used to form a somewhat irregular area of decoration immediately above the window.

Subsequently, there were two further major alterations, both probably during the 19th century which now, along with the vestiges of the original transept, act as the vestry. Firstly, a small extension was added to the east of the transept with an included window in its east wall, a doorway (0030) in the north wall and was undertaken in conjunction with the raising of the gable end by approximately 0.75 metres. The wall fabric (0026) associated with the extension comprised essentially randomly lain flints in a lime mortar with some bricks used locally and limestone dressings as quoins and in the door jamb.

A second extension was then added on the north side of the transept, almost totally obscuring the external rood stair and exhibiting a straight butting joint with both fabrics 0024 and 0025 to the east. The wall fabric (0027) comprised closely spaced knapped/split flint cobbles with an included rectangular, 1.60 metres by 0.75 metres, window with limestone mouldings in its north wall. A diagonal buttress on the north-west corner is dressed with hard white bricks (0032).

3.2 Monitoring of Groundworks

During the photographic recording undertaken in October 2007 it had been noted that there was a raised bank running parallel to the north nave wall. As the top of the stepped out base of the wall footing was exposed, it was presumed that the ridge was the result of removal of material along the base of the wall, possibly to alleviate damp, and dumping it immediately to the north. However, the excavation of the 4.00 metre by 3.75 metre footprint of the extension exposed a section through the bank which revealed its structure (Fig. 4 & Plate 16). Below the c.0.20 metres thick layer of turf and topsoil (0039), a c.0.40 metres thick layer of stiff grey green clay (0040) was encountered which sealed a layer of brown silty sand (0041), and in turn either overlay naturally occurring yellow/orange sand subsoil (0042), or continued on down as grave fill. Clay layer 0040 was continuous across the trench and clearly sealed all of the underlying graves and must represent imported material. Indeed, the section revealed that it was the clay which formed the ridge and that the upper surface of the underlying layer (0041) almost certainly represented the earlier ground surface. However, this does mean that the north wall of the nave was built with virtually no below ground footing.

All three layers were cut by the inserted drain trench (0036) with its fill of loam and gravel. The sectioned ceramic pipe had been removed in the excavation area and replaced by a section of plastic pipe (0038).



Plate 16 West side of excavated trench, photo

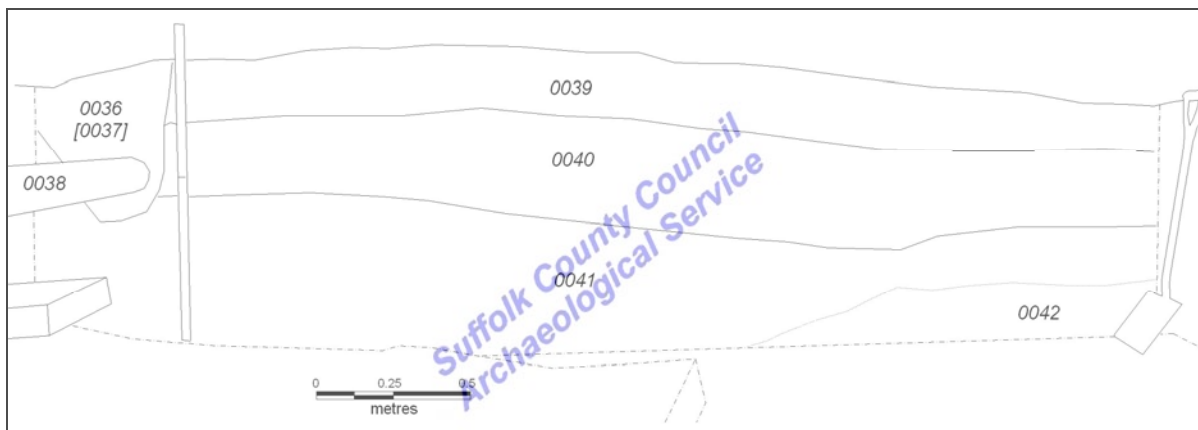


Fig. 4 West side of excavated trench, section

The contractors had excavated the extension footprint down to its general formation level without finding anything more than a few disarticulated human bone fragments. However, when they began to excavate the 0.60 metres wide toe which ran around the edge and through the middle of the building footprint (Fig. 5), articulated human remains were encountered and the archaeologist was called in to excavate them. None of the articulated skeletons or disarticulated fragments were from adults, all were at a relatively shallow depth, particularly if the imported clay layer 0040 is excluded from the sequence, as it would not have been present when the graves were excavated. This is not unusual as it is difficult to excavate a small grave to any great depth without making it considerably bigger than the body. The concentration of child/infant burials in a particular area close to the church has been noted elsewhere, for example St. Nicholas Church, Ipswich (Boulter 2006).

It was also clear that there were further burials below the formation level for the new building as naturally occurring sand subsoil was only encountered towards the north-west corner of the building footprint and close to the nave wall. It is possible that these deeper burials were adults.

Two skulls were encountered close to the western edge of the excavated area (Fig. 5). Further investigation revealed that both were part of articulated skeletons. In the case of 0043, a child (Fig. 5 & Plate 17), it was considered unnecessary to remove the whole body as only the skull would be compromised by the footing. The skull was removed and retained for reburial.

However, the skeleton (0034) c.1.5 metres to the north, that of another child was slightly shallower and it became apparent that it would be severely damaged by the footing (Fig. 5 & Plate 18). The decision was made to fully excavate this burial. While no distinct grave cut was identified, two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the immediate vicinity of the skeleton and must be considered to have been included within its brown sandy fill (0035).

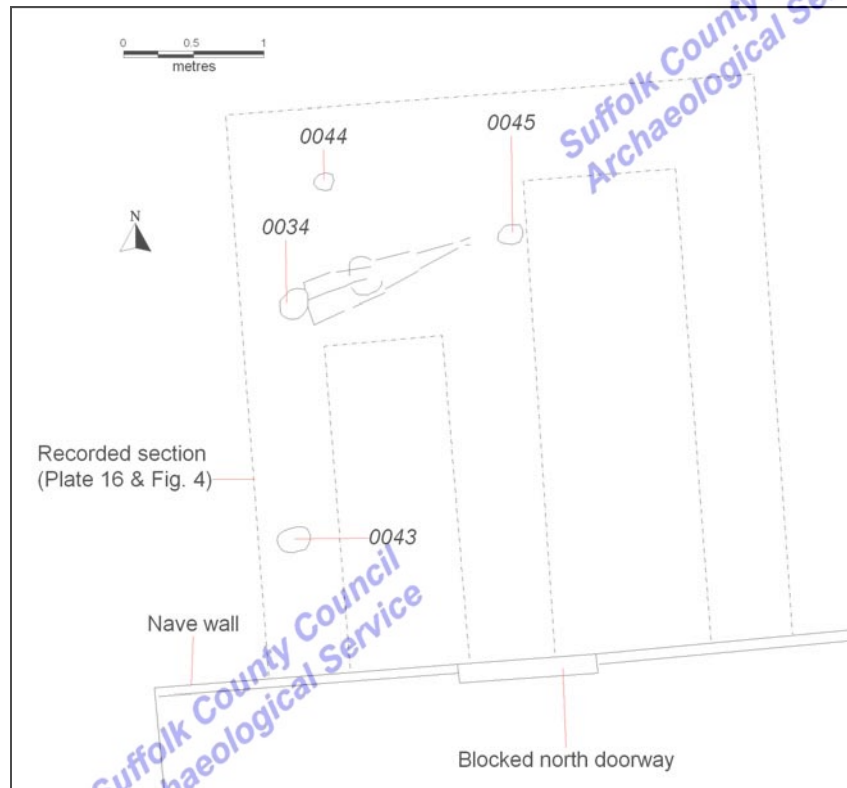


Fig. 5 Plan of the burials recorded in the excavated building footprint

Another child's skull (0045), immediately to the east of skeleton 0034 (Fig. 5 & Plate 18) was removed for reburial. While this could have been articulated, it was not necessary to uncover any more of the skeleton as it would not be damaged.

One other intact burial, that of a very young infant or baby (0044), was recorded (Fig. 5). The bones were paper thin and difficult to lift intact, but were collected together and retained for reburial.



Plate 17 Skull of skeleton 0043



Plate 18 Skull 0045 & skeleton 0034

3.3 The Finds (Richenda Goffin)

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

OP	Pottery		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0035	2	12	L12th-14th C
Total	2	12	

Table 1 Finds quantification

Pottery

Two fragments of pottery (0.012kg) were recovered from the fill (0035) of a child's burial (0033). An abraded sherd of fine medieval greyware similar to Hollesley-type coarseware was present and a small fragment of a glazed medieval redware (L12th-14th century). The sherd has a fine sandy fabric with a reduced core, and has splashes of lead glaze with the remains of slip. It is similar to Hedingham Fine Ware (M12th-Mid 13th C), although the fabric is not as micaceous.

4. Discussion

In common with many of our parish churches, St. Michaels at Oulton has undergone a phased development over a number of centuries, the stages of which can be detected by observing the detailed structure of the extant buildings.

It is clear that the earliest building phase of the church at Oulton dates to the 12th century, with the nave, central tower and part of the north transept surviving from that time. The wall fabric exhibits evidence of the characteristic construction techniques of that period. The chancel dates to the 14th century, probably replacing an earlier, 12th century, structure.

During the 15th century, or possibly even the 16th century if the included bricks are not medieval, the nave wall was raised to accommodate new windows in the perpendicular style that probably replaced smaller, 12th century windows at the same locations.

There was also evidence for a chapel being added to the south side of the nave at its eastern end. The chapel was subsequently dismantled and the arch through into the nave blocked with fabric which included a four-centred perpendicular style window. The brick-built, along with the south porch, provides evidence for the use of brick during the medieval period. Similarly to the dismantling of the south chapel, it is unclear when the south transept was removed but a late medieval or early post-medieval date seems most likely. The dating for the construction of the south porch is also open to debate. Although remodelled during the 19th century, enough of the original structure survives to reveal that its architectural features are essentially in the decorated style, but were executed in brick.

The upper levels of the tower were remodelled during the 18th century with other alterations possibly occurring at that time, including the rebuilding of the north transept gable-end after the removal of a perpendicular window inserted during the late 15th or 16th century. There were also extensive re-orderings in the 19th century; these include extensions to the north transept, remodelling of the south porch, new buttressing to the south nave wall and new nave roof.

The churchyard surrounding the church would have been used for burial immediately after its initial construction. It is impossible to securely date the burials revealed in the groundworks excavation, but they clearly predate the introduction of the clay layer in the area to the north of the nave. The pottery associated with the only grave that was fully excavated was medieval in date, but could have been incorporated as residual material at a much later time. However, while the shallow nature of the graves was partially due to them all being infants or children, it does suggest that they are 18th century or earlier, as later children's burials would almost certainly have been deeper. The concentration of child/infant burials in one specific area of the churchyard, often close to the church, is not that unusual.

5. Conclusion

While obscuring the north doorway and some of the 12th century wall fabric, the construction of the extension on the north side of the nave does not physically damage the standing structure other than superficial interventions at the interface between the old and new builds. The initial programme of photographic recording and interpretation was effectively a mitigation strategy designed to preserve a record of the structure as it was prior to the construction of the new building. The subsequent monitoring was aimed at recording any further structural evidence that might come to light and provide a strategy to deal respectfully with any human skeletal remains that might be encountered. The resulting report (this document) combines the results of both recording phases of the project.

6. Bibliography

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

Appendix I *Brief and Specification for the Recording of the Affected Fabric and Churchyard*

CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL, OULTON

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraph 3.3.

1. Background

- 1.1 An application (W/10782/2BA) has been made to add an extension for a WC and kitchen facilities against the north nave wall of this church. Substantial mitigation has been achieved by the use of a raft type foundation which should avoid disturbance to complete burials, this together with a programme of recording early fabric before construction plus monitoring of disturbance during construction will be accepted as an adequate programme of works.
- 1.2 The church is included in the County Sites and Monuments Record (OUL 004), and is of regional importance because it is substantially of 12th century date and has a crossing tower between nave and chancel with vestigial remains of transepts. There are only c. five crossing towers in the county, of which only three have transepts. The archaeological information visible in the external fabric of this structure is of great significance.
- 1.3 The process of using planning conditions to ensure programmes of work take place to mitigate damage is integral to Planning Policy Guidance 15, "Planning and the Historic Environment". This document is consistent with the advice of PPG 15 and "Informed Conservation: Understanding Historic Buildings and their Landscapes for Conservation", English Heritage 2001.
- 1.4 A programme of Conservation-Based Research and Analysis (CoBRA) is needed in order to:
 - i) Better articulate the significance of the site.
 - ii) Record significant fabric to be removed or hidden during building work
 - iii) Produce a record of features which will be lost in mitigation of partial or wholesale excavation for footings.
- 1.5 All arrangements for the recording, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met

2. Brief for Archaeological Recording of the Historic Structure

- 2.1 Undertake systematic drawn and photographed record of the fabric of the entire north nave wall.
- 2.2 Provide a description and analysis of the fabric, together with a brief description of its context within the Norman structure of the building as a whole.

2.3 Provide an archive of results and a written report.

3. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

3.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.

3.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for burials and the form of the footing for the early church.

3.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal will be the digging of the slab footprint in the area of the churchyard and the exposure of the nave footings. The slab footprint may be done by the main building contractor but must be observed throughout by the archaeological contractor with the objective of recovering any articulated human skeletal remains; a contingency must be made by the main contractor for delays to excavation whilst any articulated skeletal remains are archaeologically excavated. Already disturbed and disarticulated bone should be collected by either contractor and stored for the parish to re-inter.

If the footing of the nave wall is exposed it should be recorded and the information added to the drawn elevation. Any (as yet unplanned) underpinning or other intervention required by the architect should be recorded as necessary, and following agreement with this office.

4 Minimum Standard for Structure Recording

4.1 Locate the recording area on a measured ground plan of the building to be prepared to a minimum scale of 1:20 (architect's plan will be adequate).

4.2 Full face measured elevation of the north nave wall to a minimum scale of 1:20. This need not be a stone by stone record (see below) but must include the limits of the wall, the external outline of windows, any cracks, any identified fabric joint lines or phasing lines, if lift lines showing fabric construction are present these are to be included. This may be achieved by, e.g. direct measurement or photogrammetry.

4.3. To accompany and complement the elevation drawing a photographic record using black and white negative stock and negative size of 6cm x 6cm or greater is to be made. Photographs are to be taken square on to the wall fabric; a wall length no greater than 5m is to be included in each frame; overlaps between frames of at least 2m are to be allowed. The wall face is to have a grid of a minimum of 2m square marked (e.g. by masking tape) on the wall face and related to a horizontal datum shown on the elevation drawing, a conventional 2m photographic scale should also be visible. The photographs to be suitable for orthogrammetry should this be required at a later stage.

4.4 Digital photography may be used to supplement the archive quality black and white images, they may be particularly appropriate to enable cost-effective rectification to overlay with the measured elevation outlines.

4.5 Alternatively, a full stone by stone elevation showing all features in detail to be prepared.

4.6 A descriptive text and linked analysis of results must be provided. The results should be set in the context of the building as a whole.

4.7 Standards of recording and archive keeping should be in general accord with "Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage" (May 2000, English Heritage, National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon).

5. Arrangements for Monitoring of Development Work

5.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.

5.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological

contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

- 5.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 5.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.
- 5.5 Locate the area recorded on a measured ground plan of the building; the existing ground plan prepared by the architect will be adequate.
- 5.6 Full face measured elevation of the north nave wall to a minimum scale of 1:20. This need not be a stone by stone record (see below) but must include the limits of the wall, the external outline of windows, any cracks, any identified fabric joint lines or phasing lines, if lift lines showing fabric construction are present these are to be included. This may be achieved by, e.g. direct measurement or photogrammetry.
- 5.7 Digital photography may be used to supplement the archive quality black and white images, they may be particularly appropriate to enable cost-effective rectification to overlay with the measured elevation outlines.
- 5.8 Alternatively, a full stone by stone elevation showing all features in detail to be prepared.
- 5.9 A descriptive text and linked analysis of results must be provided. The results should be set in the context of the building as a whole.

General Management

- 6.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 6.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 6.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 6.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 6.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

7. Report Requirements

- 7.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991.
- 7.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 7.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 7.4 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.

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- 7.5 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 7.6 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 7.7 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 7.8 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual.

Specification by: R D Carr

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

Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 12 July 2004

Reference: /SpecChurch-Oulton-St Michael07

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

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

Appendix II OUL 004: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	MODIDATE
OUL 004	0001	0001	U/S finds	Unstratified finds					
OUL 004	0002	0002	Wall fabric	Coursed wall fabric forming basal c.4.00 metres of nave N wall, original 12th century fabric				0003	12th century
OUL 004	0003	0003	Wall fabric	Secondary wall fabric forming a strip of c.0.5 metres above 0002 in nave N wall, contemporary with insertion of perpendicular windows. Includes brick fragments		0002		0004	L15th/16th century
OUL 004	0004	0004	Wall fabric	Wall fabric in thin, c.0.4 metres strip along top of nave N wall.		0003			19th century
OUL 004	0005	0005	Wall fabric	Blocking of N nave doorway. Comprises red brick					p-med
OUL 004	0006	0006	Fittings	Down-pipe and attached steel water tank towards E end of N nave wall					20th century
OUL 004	0007	0007	Fittings	Down-pipe immediately E of N nave doorway					20th century
OUL 004	0008	0008	Wall fabric	Insertion fill around nave N doorway, includes red brick	0002				p-med
OUL 004	0009	0009	Step	Existing door step (nave N doorway) formed from re-used masonry pieces, sitting on earth with no underlying footing					p-med
OUL 004	0010	0010	Doorway	Masonry of N nave doorway, plain semicircular arch					12th century
OUL 004	0011	0011	Quoins	Quoins at NW corner of nave. Reset when W nave wall was rendered					p-med

Appendix II OUL 004: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS OVER	CUTBY UNDER	MODIDATE
OUL 004	0012	0012	Window	Three light perpendicular window in N wall of nave, E end. Contemporary with fabric 0002			L15th/16th century
OUL 004	0013	0013	Window	Two light perpendicular window, centre one of three, contemporary with wall fabric 0002			L15th/16th century
OUL 004	0014	0014	Window	Two light perpendicular window, W one of three, contemporary with wall fabric 0002			L15th/16th century
OUL 004	0015	0015	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through original N nave wall fabric 0002			12th century
OUL 004	0016	0016	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through original N nave wall fabric 0002			12th century
OUL 004	0017	0016	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through original N nave wall fabric 0002			12th century
OUL 004	0018	0018	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through original N nave wall fabric 0002			12th century
OUL 004	0019	0018	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole at junction of N nave wall fabrics 0002 & 0003			L15th/16th century
OUL 004	0020	0020	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole at junction of N nave wall fabrics 0002 & 0003			L15th/16th century
OUL 004	0021	0021	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole at junction of N nave wall fabrics 0002 & 0003			L15th/16th century
OUL 004	0022	0022	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole at junction of N nave wall fabrics 0002 & 0003			L15th/16th century
OUL 004	0023	0023	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole at junction of N nave wall fabrics 0002 & 0003			L15th/16th century

Appendix II OUL 004: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	MODIDATE
OUL 004	0024	0024	Wall fabric	Equivalent to 0002 in N transept wall				0025, 0026	12th century
OUL 004	0025	0025	Wall fabric	Fabric of rebuilt gable end of N transept wall, includes brick and re-used perpendicular window tracery		0024		0026	18th century
OUL 004	0026	0026	Wall fabric	Fabric associated with first extension to N transept, includes doorway		0024, 0025			19th century
OUL 004	0027	0027	Wall fabric	Fabric associated with second extension to N transept, includes N window					19th century
OUL 004	0028	0028	Window	Rectangular window in fabric 0027					19th century
OUL 004	0029	0029	Window	Rectangular window in fabric 0025, includes brick and re-used perpendicular window tracery as decoration above					18th century
OUL 004	0030	0030	Doorway	Doorway contemporary with fabric 0026					19th century
OUL 004	0031	0031	Quions	Surviving quoins from original NE corner of N transept					12th century
OUL 004	0032	0032	Buttress	Buttress on NW corner of second N transept extension, contemporary with fabric 0027, dressed with hard white bricks					19th century
OUL 004	0033	0033	Grave (Cut)	Childs grave					?
OUL 004	0034	0033	Skeleton	Skeleton in grave 0033					?
OUL 004	0035	0035	Grave (Fill)	Homogenous brown silty sand fill of 0033					?
OUL 004	0036	0036	Trench (Cut)	Trench with ceramic drain running adjacent to and parallel with N wall of nave	0039, 0040, 0041				20th century

Appendix II OUL 004: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS OVER	CUTBY UNDER	MODIDATE
OUL 004	0037	0037	Trench (Fill)	Mixed soil and gravel fill of 0036		0039, 0040, 0041	20th century
OUL 004	0038	0038	Pipe	Plastic pipe, temporarily fitted during building works to replace ceramic pipe in 0036 during excavation of footing			Modern
OUL 004	0039	0039	Layer	Turf and topsoil of existing churchyard, c.0.2 metres thick		0040	?
OUL 004	0040	0002	Layer	c.0.4 metre thick layer of grey/green clay. Seals underlying graves.		0041	0039 ?
OUL 004	0041	0041	Layer	Homogenous brown silty sand, combination of grave fill and pre-0040 topsoil		0042	0040 ?
OUL 004	0042	0042	Layer	Homogenous yellow/orange sand. Naturally occurring subsoil			0041 ?
OUL 004	0043	0043	Skeleton	Child skeleton, skull removed for reburial			?
OUL 004	0044	0044	Skeleton	Skeleton, baby/infant, totally removed for reburial			?
OUL 004	0045	0045	Skeleton	Child skeleton, skull removed for reburial			?