



**Northamptonshire
County Council**

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief

At the Church of St Bartholomew,

Furtho, Northamptonshire

June 2005



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March 2006

Report 05/102

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
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Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief at The Church of St Bartholomew, Furtho, Northamptonshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the lifting and relaying of floor slabs and the excavation of a test pit within the interior of The Church of St Bartholomew, Furtho, Northamptonshire. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.	
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	Parish church, now in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust.	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	Watching brief 1992/3	
Current Land use	Ecclesiastical	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address (including postcode)	The Church of St Bartholomew, Furtho, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq.m or ha)		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. numbers)	47734 24309	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J.Leigh	
Project Manager	Iain Soden	
Sponsor or funding body	The Churches Conservation Trust	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	June 2005	
End date	June 2005	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		Watching brief forms (2) Colour slides (19) black and white contact prints (19) Digital photographs (26)
Digital		Report text and figures

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Fig 2: The location of the test pit and the area of the lifting and re-laying of floor slabs

Plates

Plate 1: The Church of St Bartholomew, Furtho

Plate 2: The 15th century dovecote lying close to the church

Plate 3: The test pit during excavation

Plate 4: View of floor slabs lifted to be replaced

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
THE CHURCH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, FURTHO,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JUNE 2005**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks connected with excavation of a test pit and the lifting of worn floor slabs in the interior of The Church of St Bartholomew, Furtho, Northamptonshire. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in June 2005 during groundworks associated with the excavation of a test pit and the lifting of worn stone floor slabs in the interior of The Church of St Bartholomew, Furtho, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 7734 4309: Fig 1). The work was carried out on behalf of The Churches Conservation Trust in order to fulfil the requirements of Listed Building Consent granted by South Northamptonshire Council.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

The Church of St Bartholomew lies amongst farmland approximately 1 km from the village of Potterspury. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as Chalky Till.

2.2 Historical Background

The present church of St Bartholomew dates to around 1620 with fabric principally of the 17th and 18th centuries. The chancel also retains some earlier elements. A small Romanesque doorway in the south wall is datable to the 12th century, but may have been relocated. Otherwise the windows, image brackets and piscina date from the 14th century (Audouy and Soden 1993)

Extensive remodelling occurred in the 17th and 18th centuries when the north wall of the chancel was refaced and the tower was incorporated into the west end of the nave. Some medieval fabric was retained but the rest of the nave was rebuilt. A new font may have been incorporated at the same time. Other furnishings such as the alter rails were added in the 19th century and the pulpit was installed c1872 at the last major restoration. The church has been largely disused

since c1920. The chancel was underpinned in 1992, at which time drainage was added to the tower.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the excavation of a one metre deep test pit in the floor of the tower, and the lifting of worn stone floor slabs and associated bedding material in the chancel, and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered.
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts.

The fieldwork comprised a single visit to the site to observe the lifting of worn stone floor slabs in the chancel, and the excavation of a one metre deep test pit in the floor of the tower (Fig 2). A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept along with supplementary digital photographs and the written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IFA 1999).

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

4.1 The floor slabs in the chancel (Fig 2)

Two areas of worn floor slabs were lifted and removed to be replaced by new floor slabs. An examination revealed grey/brown silt clay with numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material, overlying this was the bedding layer for the floor slabs. This comprised pink/white soft mortar 0.19m thick on which the floor slabs 0.18m thick were set.

4.2 The test pit in the tower (Fig 2)

A test pit approximately one metre square was excavated to a depth of one metre in the floor of the tower. This revealed green/grey silt loam containing numerous charcoal flecks. Overlying this was grey/brown silt loam 0.52m thick containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material, mostly tile.

This was sealed by grey/white mortar bedding layer up to 0.18m thick upon which were set the stone floor slabs measuring 0.22m thick.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The site archive comprises:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	3
Colour slides	19
Black and white contacts and negatives	19
Digital photographs	26

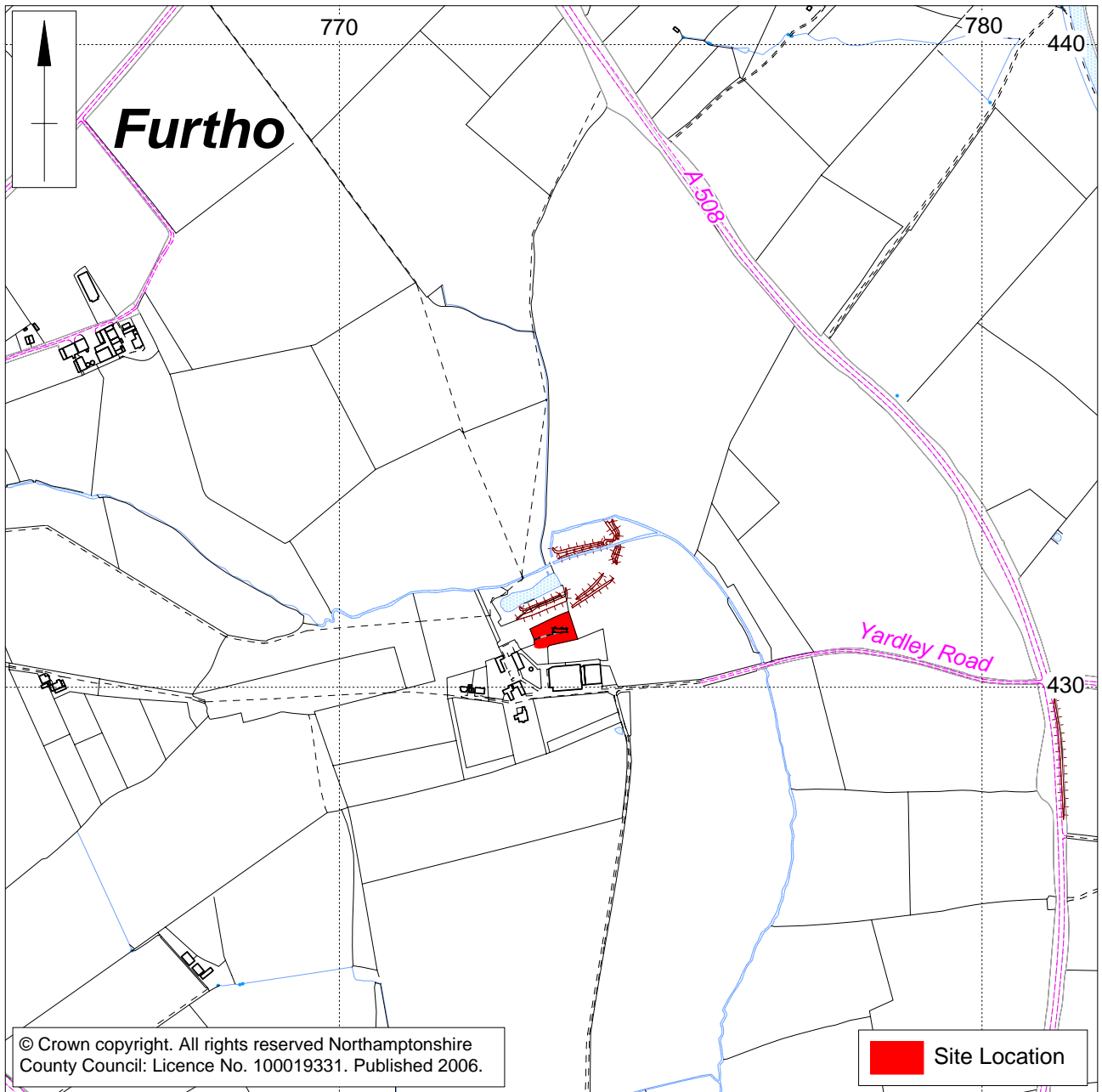
6 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. The shallow nature of the groundworks undertaken in the area of worn floor slabs in the chancel did not impact on layers below the depth of the present floor make-up. In the test pit in the tower, whilst modern material was present the natural substrate was not encountered. It cannot be stated with any certainty whether archaeologically significant deposits are present below the depth of the test pit. The watching brief was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Audouy M, and Soden I, 1993 *Archaeological watching brief at St Bartholomew's Church, Furtho, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report

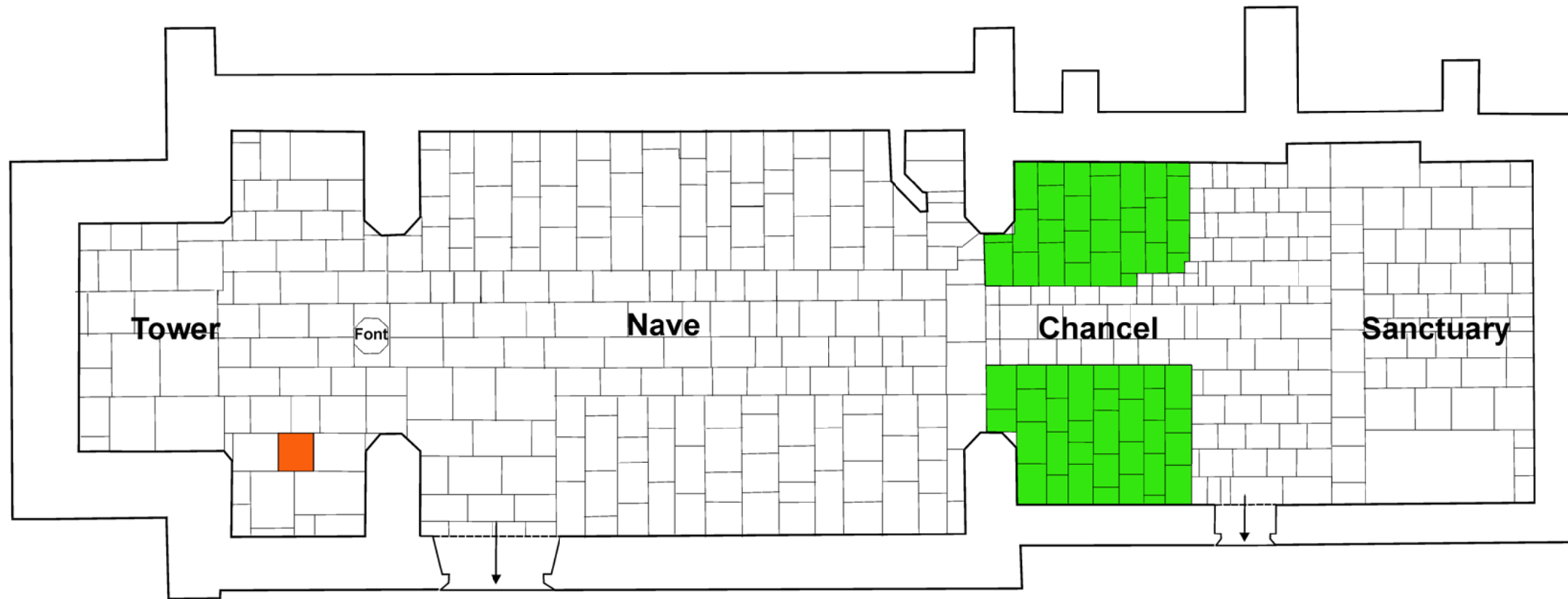
IFA 1999 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* Institute of Field Archaeologists





Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

St. Bartholomew's Church



-  Stone floor slabs lifted and re-set
-  Test pit

