



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,
BACTON,
NORFOLK
(ENF 128831)**

**Work Undertaken For
Birdsall Swash and Blackman Limited
on behalf of
Bacton Parochial Church Council**

May 2011

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TG 3358 3369
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-127246

APS Report No. **39/12**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks at St Andrew's church, Bacton, Norfolk. The investigations monitored the removal of the floor and pew platforms on the north side of the nave.

The church is of the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) with the earliest elements possibly dating to 11th – 12th centuries. Most of the church is of 14th century date with the tower dating to the 15th century.

The investigations revealed levelling deposits for former surfaces of which one small remnant remained. Finds observed suggest a 19th century date which may accord with the church's restoration in 1847.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Birdsall, Swash and Blackman Limited on behalf of Bacton Parochial Church Council to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with new flooring at St Andrew's Church, Bacton, Norfolk. The investigation was carried out on the 3rd May 2012 in accordance with a brief prepared by the Historic Environment Service, Norfolk County Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Bacton is located 27km northeast of Norwich and 33km north of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk (Fig. 1).

St Andrew's church is located 750m west of the village at National Grid Reference TG 3358 3369 (Fig. 2). Located on the north side of Church Road, the church lies

at a height of c. 17m OD on land that gently slopes down northwards to the coast.

Local soils are of the Wick 2 Association, typically deep coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 346).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Bacton is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Baketuna*, the name is derived from the Old English and means 'the village (*tūn*) belonging to *Bacca*' (Ekwall 1989, 21). The Domesday Survey records that the land was held by Robert Malet and contained 14 acres of meadow, woodland and 2 mills (Brown 1984, 7/18).

The church largely dates from the 14th century, although there is possibly some Norman elements preserved in the north wall and a bowl used as a stoup adjacent to the nave doorway. The main 14th century elements of the church date from after 1393 when an indulgence was granted to conserve the church. The tower dates to the 15th century and the church was restored in 1847 (Pevsner and Wilson 1998, 373).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The area of flooring beneath the pews on the north side of the nave was initially stripped by hand of wooden flooring and levelling deposits to a depth of c. 50mm (Plate 1). Foundation trenches for new supporting walls were then excavated to a

depth of 0.4m below the floor level, also by hand. The stripped area was examined for archaeological deposits and the sides of the foundation trenches cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered at the east end of the nave was a levelling layer of grey/white sand and mortar (004) which was over 70mm deep (Fig. 4, Section 1; Plate 3). The remaining area was composed of another levelling layer of orange brown sand (003).

Above (003), at the western end of the stripped area was a small remnant of brick/tile flooring (002) measuring 1m by 0.8m in extent (Plate 2).

Sealing all deposits was a further levelling layer comprising orange brown sand (001) that measured up to 0.13m thick. This provided the levelling for the wooden floor that had been removed as part of this work.

6. DISCUSSION

The deposits encountered during this investigation relate to former surfaces and are mostly levelling deposits for brick/tile or wooden floors. The depth of works precluded archaeologically sensitive deposits being reached. Although no finds were retained, the brick and tile was considered to be of 19th century date and it is possible that the earliest layers date to the time of the church restoration of 1847.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at St Andrew's Church, Bacton, Norfolk, as proposed works may reveal information relating to earlier phases of the buildings construction.

However, only deposits associated with former floor surfaces of probable 19th century date were revealed during the work. No evidence for remains relating to the development of the church was encountered and no finds were retained.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Ruth Blackman of Birdsall, Swash and Blackman Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Bacton Parochial Church Council. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Liz Murray
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, P, 1984 *Domesday Book: Norfolk*

Ekwall, E, 1989 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* (4th edition)

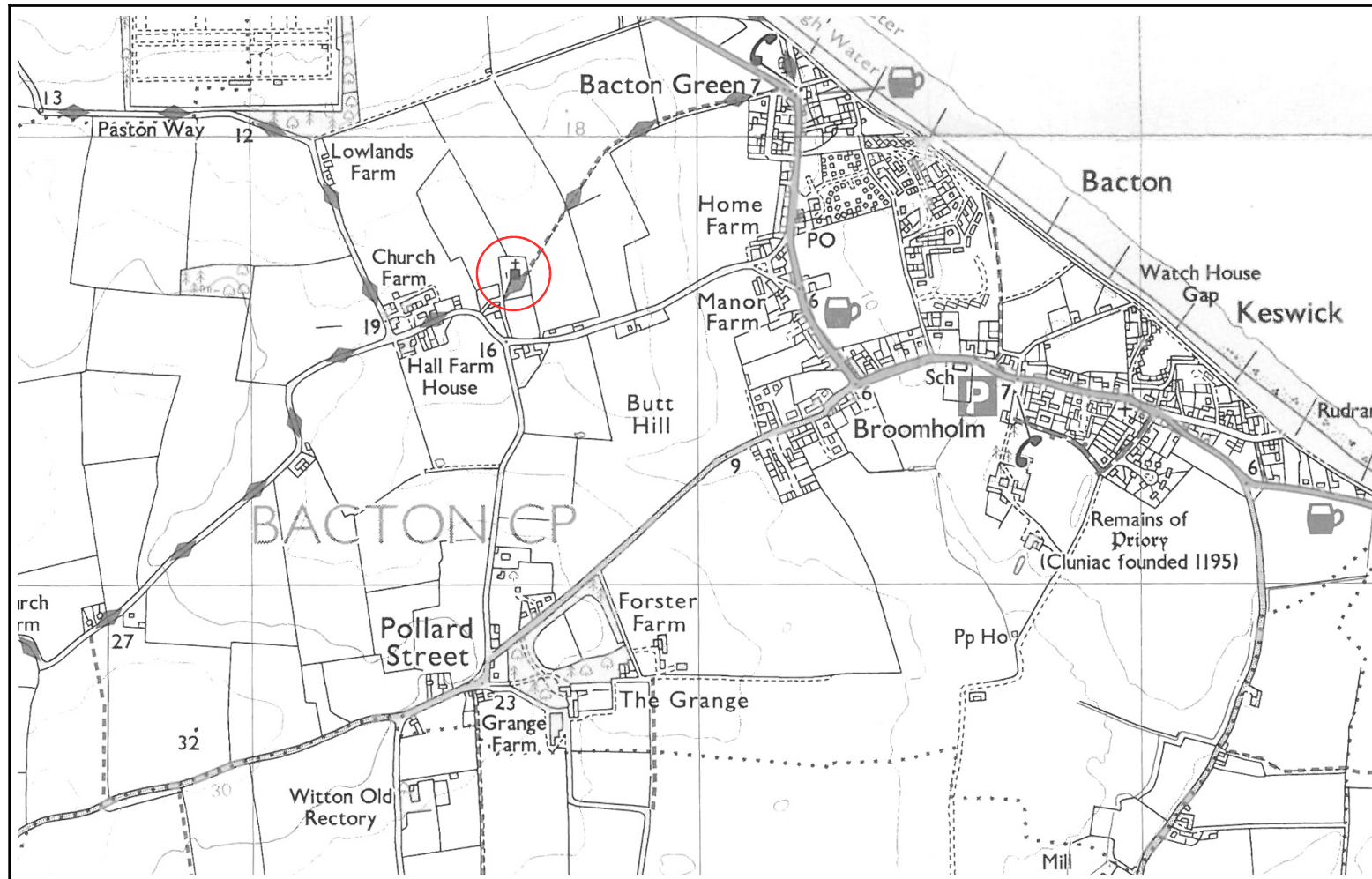
Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Pevsner, N and Wilson, B, 1998, *Norfolk 1: Norwich and North-East*, The Buildings of England (2nd edition)



Figure 1 - General location plan

TG



 St Andrew's Church

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Figure 2 - Site location plan

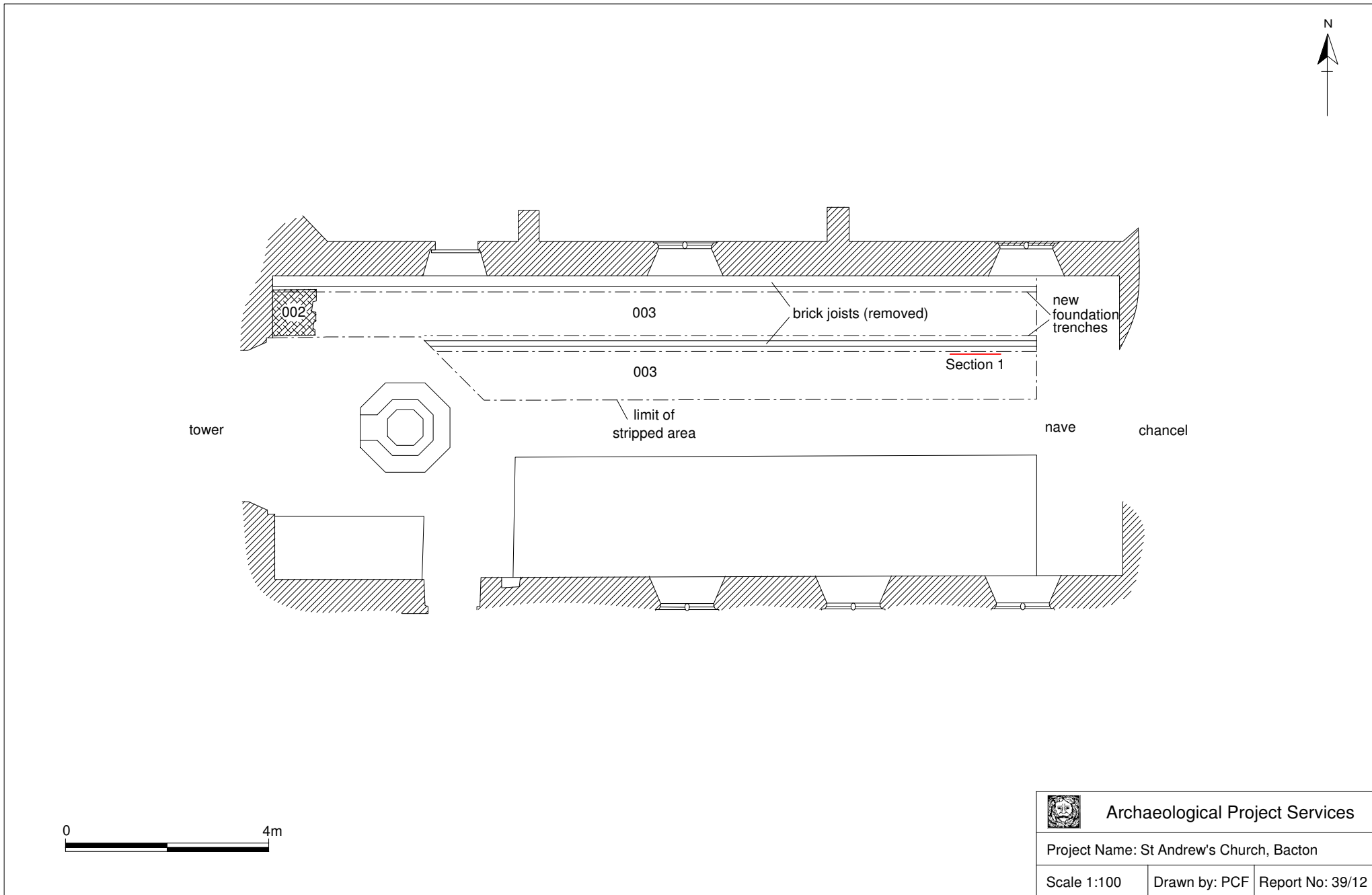
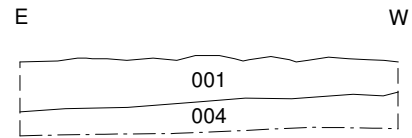


Figure 3 - Plan of the nave showing principal features and section location



Section 1



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Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 – View showing the area of works, looking east



Plate 2 – Brick/tile surface (002), looking west



Plate 3 – Section 1, looking south

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Compacted to friable light orange brown sand with rubble, wood and brick fragments, >0.13m thick	Levelling deposit
002	Brick/tile structure (240mm x 120mm x 50mm), laid flat	Floor surface
003	Firm orange brown sand	Levelling deposit
004	Friable light grey/white sand and mortar, >70mm thick	Levelling deposit

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

1	Daily record sheet
1	Section register sheet
1	Photographic register sheet
1	Context register sheet
4	Context record sheets
1	Sheet of scale drawings

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Norfolk Museums Service
Union House
Gressenhall
Dereham
Norfolk
NR20 4DR

Norfolk Historic Environment Service Site Code:

ENF 128831

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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