

**Report on an Archaeological Watching
Brief at 'St Peter and St Paul's Church,
Carbrooke, Norfolk'**

ENF130370

Prepared for:
Carbrooke Parochial Church Council

Reference No. CB314R
© Chris Birks November 2012

All rights reserved

Contents

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>Summary</i>	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Project Background	1
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	1, 2
4.0 Geology and Topography	2
5.0 Observations	2, 3
6.0 Conclusions	3

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Plate 1 General view of trench, looking southeast

Plate 2 General view of the trench beneath the west door, looking approximately east

Appendix 1 OASIS Record

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Site plan

Licence No. 447333

Fig. 1 is based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50000 colour raster map with the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 'Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings' Chris Birks, 4 Well Green row, Frettenham, Norfolk , NR12 7GL (28.02.2012). **Reference copy: no further copies to be made.**

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at ‘St Peter & St Paul’s Church, Carbrooke, Norfolk’ (NHER ENF130370) during excavations associated with the installation of new drains and mains water supply. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring (‘Watching Brief’) was carried out during development at ‘St Peter and St Paul’s Church, Carbrooke, Norfolk’ (grid reference TF 9498 0222) and was requested by the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.
- 1.2 Norfolk Historic & Environment Record ENF130370; OASIS ID: chrisbir1-138759.
- 1.3 This report, CB314R, details how Chris Birks undertook these works and summarises the results.

2.0 Project Background

- 2.1 A proposal for the installation of new drains and a mains water supply was granted subject to a condition for a Programme of Archaeological work. Archaeological Monitoring (‘Watching Brief’) was required at a level of constant attendance to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological layers or subsoil archaeological features.
- 2.2 This work was undertaken in accordance with a generic Brief issued by the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service and a generic Project Design (Written Scheme of Investigation) for Watching Briefs by Chris Birks (Birks 2004). Full details of research aims, methodology and standards are provided in the Project Design.
- 2.3 The site archive will be held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, in accordance with the relevant policy on archiving standards. An OASIS record has been raised – reference number chrisbir1-138759.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 A number of entries exist in the Norfolk Historic and Environment Record (NHER) for Carbrooke and the surrounding area and only those within the immediate vicinity of the site are described in this report. Full details of these and all other entries can be seen at the NHER office based at Gressenhall, near Dereham, by prior appointment.
- 3.2 Maud, Countess of Clare, founded a house for the Knights Templar on a site to the south of St Peter and St Paul’s Church in 1193 (NHER 8814). When the Knights Templar were suppressed under Edward II their lands were given to the Knights of St John of Jerusalem and the house survived with them until the dissolution in 1540.

- 3.3 St Peter and St Paul's Church (NHER 8794) dates to the 13th century and has a tall western tower, damaged by lightning in 1940 but since repaired. The church was extended in the 14th century and greatly rebuilt in the 15th century. The record states that it has a collection of late 16th century armour and the oldest identifiable tombs in Norfolk - those of Matilda de Clare and her son - dating to the late 13th century.

4.0 Geology and Topography

- 4.1 Carbrooke parish lies upon a solid Upper Chalk geology containing characteristic flint nodules (Funnell 2005). It lies within the Breckland soil landscape typified by soils developed in coversand over a chalk-sand drift (Corbett and Dent 1994). Breckland is a low plateau with gentle slopes to the lower lying areas. The dominant soil on the plateau is a brown sand with a thin red line of clay enrichment at the boundary with the underlying chalky-drift (Corbett & Dent 1994). A sandy colluvium that can develop a distinctive podzol can be seen in the low lying areas. The tendency for these soils to maintain water has made farming practices much harder.
- 4.2 St Peter and St Paul's Church lies towards the south of Carbrooke village (*Fig. 1*) on reasonably level ground at an elevation of c. 50m OD.

5.0 Observations

- 5.1 Monitoring was carried out during excavations associated with the installation of new drains and a mains water supply on 09 October 2012 (*Fig. 2, Plates 1 and 2*).
- 5.2 No context numbers were allocated during fieldwork due to the lack of archaeological remains.
- 5.3 A trench leading from the north porch measured 0.3m wide was excavated to a depth of 0.7m beneath the present ground level (*Plate 1*). Initially, 0.14m of dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil was removed that overlay mid greyish brown sandy silt subsoil with frequent sub-angular medium sized flints, the full extent of which was not removed.
- 5.4 Eighteen fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered and were retained separately for reburial in the excavated trench following instruction by the Parochial Church Council. No specific information was gained from the bone due to its fragmentary nature.
- 5.5 A trench from the west door measured 0.3m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m beneath present ground level (*Plate 2*). Initially, 0.17m of dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil was removed that overlay mid greyish brown sandy silt subsoil with frequent medium sized sub-angular flints, the full extent of which was not removed. The trench followed the line of an existing services trench beneath the west door of the church into the tower. A loosely packed lime mortar rubble was removed internally above a screed floor. No finds or features of archaeological significance were present.

- 5.6 Twenty-six fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered and retained for reburial in the excavated trench. No specific information was gained from the bone due to its fragmentary nature.

Plate 1. General view of trench, looking southeast



Plate 2. General view of the trench beneath the west door, looking approximately east



6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Monitoring during excavations associated with the installation of new drains and a mains water supply did not reveal any remains of archaeological significance. The disarticulated human bone fragments recovered during excavations are typical in churchyard settings where successive grave digging over a number of centuries has disturbed earlier burials and the bone fragments become distributed throughout topsoil and subsoil deposits.

Acknowledgments

The project was undertaken by Chris Birks on behalf of Carbrooke Parochial Church Council who also funded the work. Fieldwork was undertaken by John Simmons. The report was written by John Simmons and Chris Birks.

Many thanks to Heather Hamilton at the Norfolk Historic and Environment Record office based at Gressenhall. Thanks also to James Albone, David Gurney, Ken Hamilton, David Robertson and Andrew Rogerson at the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

Many thanks also to Dr S Mackenzie-Smith.

Bibliography

- Birks, C., 2000 *Generic Project Design for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Chris Birks unpublished document
- English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*
- Funnell, B., 1994 'The Soil Landscapes', in *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk*, Wade-Martins, P. (ed.)
- Funnell, B., 2005 'Solid Geology' in *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk*, edited by Ashwin, T., and Davison, A.
- Corbett, W & Dent, D., 1994 'The Soil Landscapes', in *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk*, Wade-Martins, P. (ed.)
- Gurney, D., 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East Of England* (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14)
- SCAUM 1997 *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992 and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology*

Appendix 1 OASIS Record

OASIS ID: *chrisbir1-138759*

Project details

Project name	Carbrooke Church monitoring
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 'St Peter and St Paul's Church, Carbrooke, Norfolk' during excavations associated with the installation of new drains. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present.
Project dates	Start: 09-10-2012 End: 09-10-2012
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF130370 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	CHURCH Medieval
Monument type	CHURCHYARD Medieval
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE Uncertain
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND CARBROOKE St Peter and St Paul's Church, Carbrooke, Norfolk
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 9498 0222 52 0 52 34 56 N 000 52 41 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Chris Birks
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Chris Birks
Project director/manager	Chris Birks
Project supervisor	John Simmons
Type of sponsor/funding body	Parochial Church Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	ENF130370
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Plan","Report","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at 'St Peter and St Paul's Church, Carbrooke, Norfolk'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Birks, C.
Other bibliographic details	Report Number CB314R
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Chris Birks
Place of issue or publication	Contractor's Report
Description	Bound A4 single-side printed report with text, colour digital images, site location plan and site plan drawing.
Entered by	Chris Birks (chris@chrisbirksarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	6 December 2012

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](mailto:Jo.Gilham@ads.ac.uk) Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

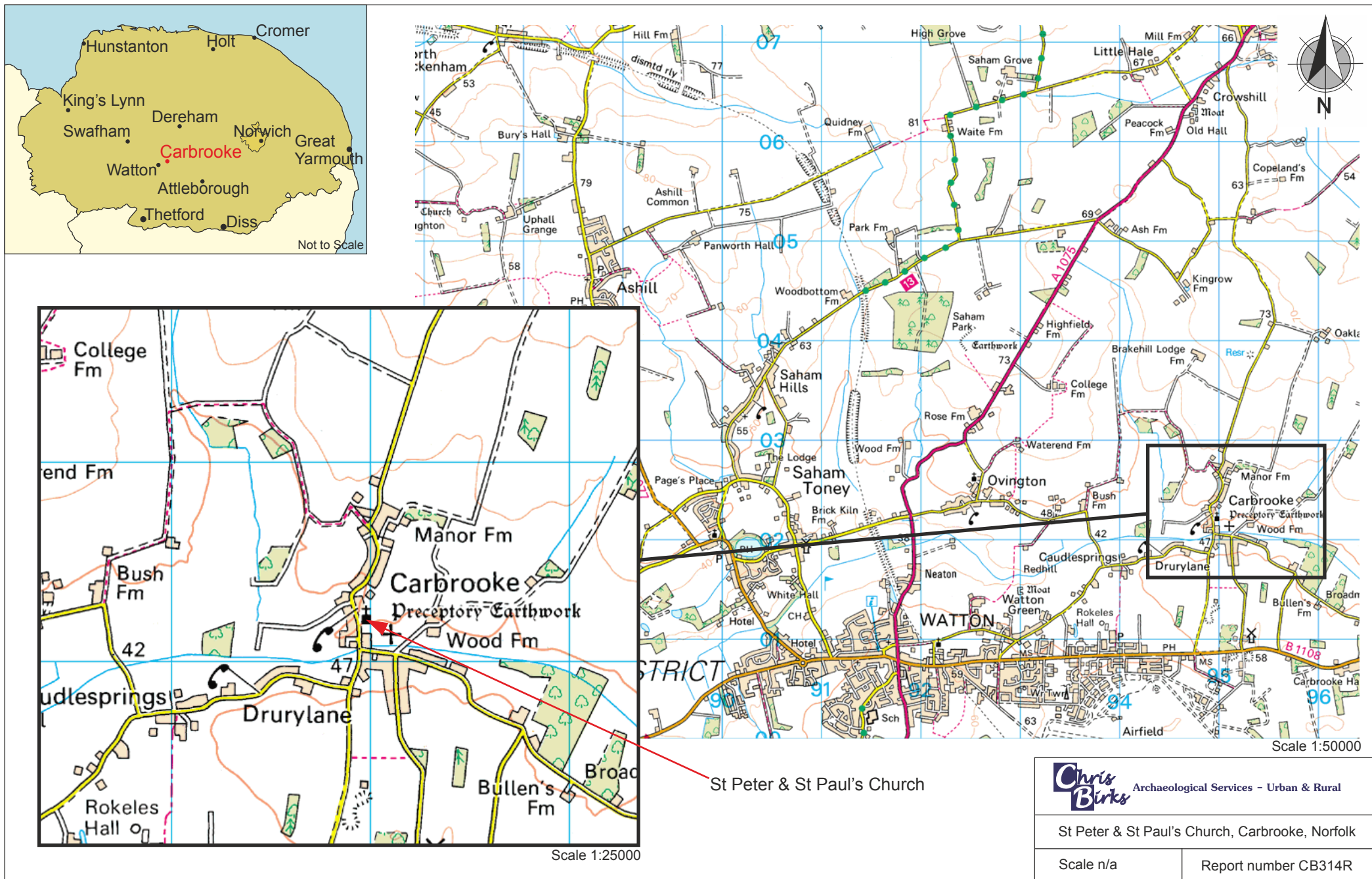


Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. Site plan