

**Report on Works under Archaeological Supervision
and Control at
'St Margaret's Church, Burgh St Margaret
(Fleggburgh), Norfolk'**

ENF141178

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Archaeological Report

CB482R v.1.0

**St Margaret's Church, Burgh St
Margaret (Fleggburgh), Norfolk**

ENF141178

Prepared for:

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Plate 1. Example of excavations (Soakaway 1), looking west

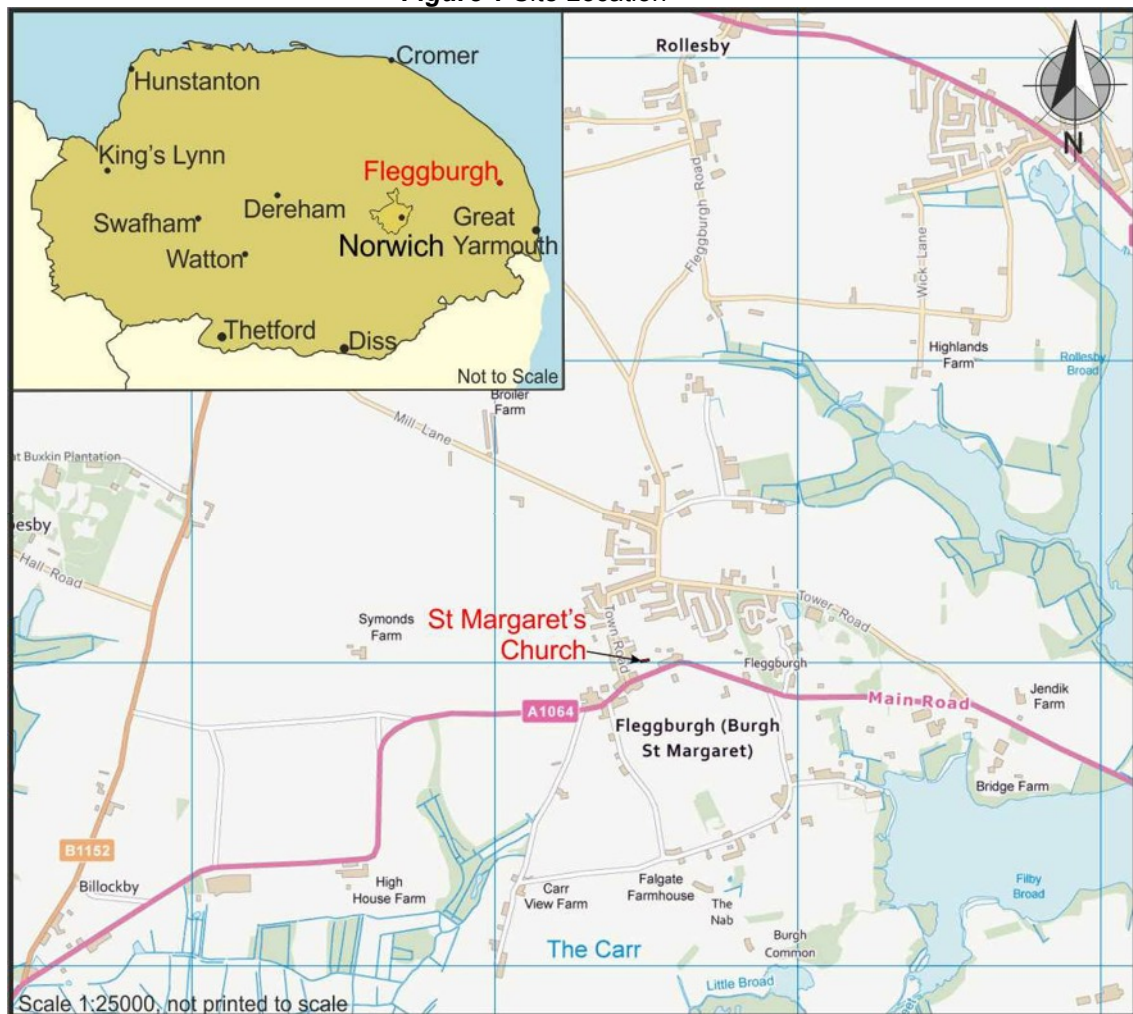
Summary

Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control were carried out at 'St Margaret's Church, Burgh St Margaret (Fleggburgh), Norfolk' (Norfolk Historic Environment Record event number ENF141178) during improvements to the surface water drainage system. The possible eastern extents of a grave cut were recorded. No significant archaeological remains were observed within the limits of the excavations.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological work resulting from development proposals at 'St Margaret's Church, Burgh St Margaret (Fleggburgh), Norfolk' (grid reference TG 4450 1402, Fig. 1) was requested by the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (reference CNF46533_1).
- 1.2 This report, CB482R v.1.0, describes the results and a copy has been submitted to the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

Figure 1 Site Location



2.0 Project Background

- 2.1 A proposal for the improvement to surface water drainage system at 'St Margaret's Church, Burgh St Margaret (Fleggburgh), Norfolk' was approved subject to a condition for a Programme of Archaeological work. Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control (also referred to as "archaeological monitoring" or "Watching Brief") were required at a level of constant attendance.
- 2.2 Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control were undertaken in accordance with a generic Brief issued by the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (reference

CNF46533_1) and a generic Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring ("Watching Briefs") by Chris Birks (CBGenWB v.1.9). Specific aims of the project are to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological layers or subsoil archaeological features. This forms part of the research agenda for the eastern counties of England in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011). Full details of research aims, methodology and standards are provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

- 2.3 The *Code of Conduct* (2014), *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (January 2015 revision) and *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIFA) were adhered to.
- 2.4 Works were carried out according to guidelines set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and *Management of research projects in the historic environment. The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).
- 2.5 Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) number ENF141178; Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) ID: chrisbir-291397 (*Appendix 2*).
- 2.6 The archive will be prepared, including a form suitable for microfilming if required, consistent with the principles of *Management of research projects in the historic environment. The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015) and submitted to the Norfolk Museums Service for long-term storage.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 A search of entries in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) within a 1km radius of the church was carried out on 24 August 2016 and produced 32 records (*Fig. 2*). A summary of records within the immediate vicinity of the church is provided 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. The accuracy of these records is presumed correct.
- 3.2 St Margaret's Church is a medieval parish church dating to the 12th century and the west tower dates from the 14th century (NHER 8618). It was heavily restored in 1876. The church contains a 17th century brass, and an ornate 19th century font. The Historic England listing (list entry number 1372907) includes the following description;
 - 3.2.1.1 *Parish church. C12 origins, remodelled. C14 and C15. Restored 1876, tower restored 1900 by H. Green, Diocesan architect. Cut flint with ashlar dressings and some brick. Thatched roofs. West tower, nave and chancel. 3 stage square unbuttressed tower. 2-light west window with 4-petal vesica. Clock faces to west and south sides. String course below belfry stage. 2- light louvered belfry windows. Crenelated parapet. Gabled south porch with side buttresses. Arched moulded entrance. 2-light side windows. Evidence of work earlier than 1876 elusive. C12 inner south doorway. 2 orders. of shafts, the inner engaged, the outer with cushion capitals and bases. Arch with inner roll, deep zig-zag rolls and double billet hood. Fenestration of church entirely C19. 3 2-light Perpendicular south windows. 2 small lancets over porch and, in roof, a 3-light dormer under thatch. 3 flint and brick stepped buttresses. North nave also with 4 brick and flint stepped buttresses. Wall of whole flints. Remains of billet hood of north doorway. 2 2-light Perpendicular windows as south and 2 trefoiled lancets. One stepped buttress to chancel north and south. 2 2-light cusped Y tracery south windows. Priests' door to north chancel wall. Diagonal stepped eastern buttresses. 3-light east window. Interior. Doorway into tower. Western gallery of timber 1876 lit through dormer window. C19 arched braced nave roof. C19 chamfered chancel arch on polygonal responds. Boarded C19 scissor braced chancel roof. C19 octagonal font with shields and emblems in bowl panels. Rosettes and ornamental details abound. In south chancel wall a brass to Joannes Burton, 1608. Kneeling figure dressed in ecclesiastical costume prays at stall. Behind him a perspective tiled floor recedes in the manner of Flemish Renaissance painters. Below him is an inscription panel. Wall monument to George Fisher who died of wounds received at Gaza 1917.*

- 3.3 Finds indicating activities within the vicinity of the church during the medieval period include a medieval spindle whorl, and medieval coins found in a garden to the north/northwest of the church in 1982 (NHER 18520) and a silver medieval coin, dating to the reign of Henry III, found to the east of the church by a metal detectorist in 1978 (NHER 14101).
- 3.4 The site of a Post-medieval windmill lies to the northwest of the church and is shown on Bryant's Map of Norfolk dated 1826 (NHER 8619). It was converted to steam power and last used in the 1920's before being demolished in the 1940's.
- 3.5 The site of Burgh House, an early-19th century house (NHER 60069) set within designed grounds (NHER 60070) lies to the east of the church. The record states it was associated with the Fisher and Lucas families. Nineteenth century maps indicate a plantation belt around the perimeter of the site with lawn and freestanding trees within. A map surveyed in 1905 shows a pheasantry to the north of the site. The grounds formed part of a Bygone Village Experience until c. 2005 and have since been developed for housing. Some elements of the park's framework remains. An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out within this site in April 2012 though no significant archaeological remains were recovered (Birks 2012). A basic building survey of a complex of buildings within the proposed development site identified only one building of potentially later-19th century date. The remainder were of early-20th century date with later modifications.
- 3.6 The foundations of an undated building located within the grounds of Burgh House were reported in the early-19th century (NHER 12346). They were interpreted as a moated manor house or medieval hunting lodge though may also relate to a windmill or dovecote. A World War Two brick and concrete pillbox also lies within the grounds (NHER 22262).
- 3.7 A brick Wesleyan chapel, dated 1841, with round headed windows, lies to the north of the church (NHER 14222). The Historic England listing (list entry number 1372908) includes the following description;
 - 3.7.1 *Wesleyan chapel. Dated 1841. Gault brick with slate roof. One storey. Entrance to front. Round arched central doorway now with C20 glazed door. Facade of 3 recessed bays, each bay defined by a pilaster. Hipped roof. East and west returns each have 2 round-headed windows with glazing bars and gauged arches.*
- 3.8 One of 8 remaining milestones along the former Norwich to Great Yarmouth Turnpike marking Norwich 15 miles and Yarmouth 7 miles lies to the south of Main Road and southeast of the church (NHER 56578). This turnpike was created in 1768-9 and was disturnpiked in 1874, and ran from "Bishop's Gate, Norwich, via Blofield, Burlingham, Acle and Filby, and ended at Caister Causeway, two and half miles from Great Yarmouth". This milestone has *Norfolk County Council* written on the spine, indicating that it was set up by that authority. "Pertwee and Back, Gt Yarmouth" is cast at the base of this post, which was formed in 1901, indicating that the current milestone dates from the early-20th century.
- 3.9 The site of a Post-medieval tower mill that was in use until 1875 when it was wrecked in a gale lies to the northwest of the church (NHER 14225). The record states that in 1979, a circular pit was all that remained of the mill. It was called *Old Burgh Mill* in 1866 and said to have been converted to a house, demolished in about 1914.
- 3.10 The Fleggburgh Church of England School lies to the southeast of the church (NHER 55563). It was built in 1866 and has since been significantly enlarged with a north-eastern wing.
- 3.11 An archaeological evaluation to the northwest of the church in March 2007 identified several phases of activity including a prehistoric pit and ditch, a probable structure of medieval date and evidence for the extraction of sand in the 16th to 20th centuries (NHER 49898). Subsequent excavation in the southeast part of the site recorded two additional prehistoric pits, a possible prehistoric ditch, a possible Late Saxon pit and 22 additional sand extraction pits ranging in date from the 12th to the 20th century. The remains of a 19th century farm building and associated rubbish pits were also identified. Further multi-period finds include four Roman coins and a

medieval coin recovered from an area to the southeast of the church by a metal detectorist in 2005 (NHER 41888).

- 3.12 Immediately to the east of the church at Durham House, archaeological monitoring during the construction of a new barn in 2005 recorded no archaeological finds or features (NHER 41235).

4.0 Geology and Topography

- 4.1 The parish of Burgh St Margaret lies upon a solid geology of Norwich Crag with overlying Norwich Brickearth deposits (Funnell 2005).
- 4.2 The soil landscape of Burgh St Margaret is characterised as that of Rich Loams, the most widespread being a brown earth overlying glacial till or outwash and these soils are amongst the most agriculturally productive in the country (Williamson 2005).
- 4.3 The church is located to the north of Main Road and east of Town Road towards the southwest of Fleggburgh village. It lies on land gently sloping down from south to north and east to west at an elevation of c. 6m OD.

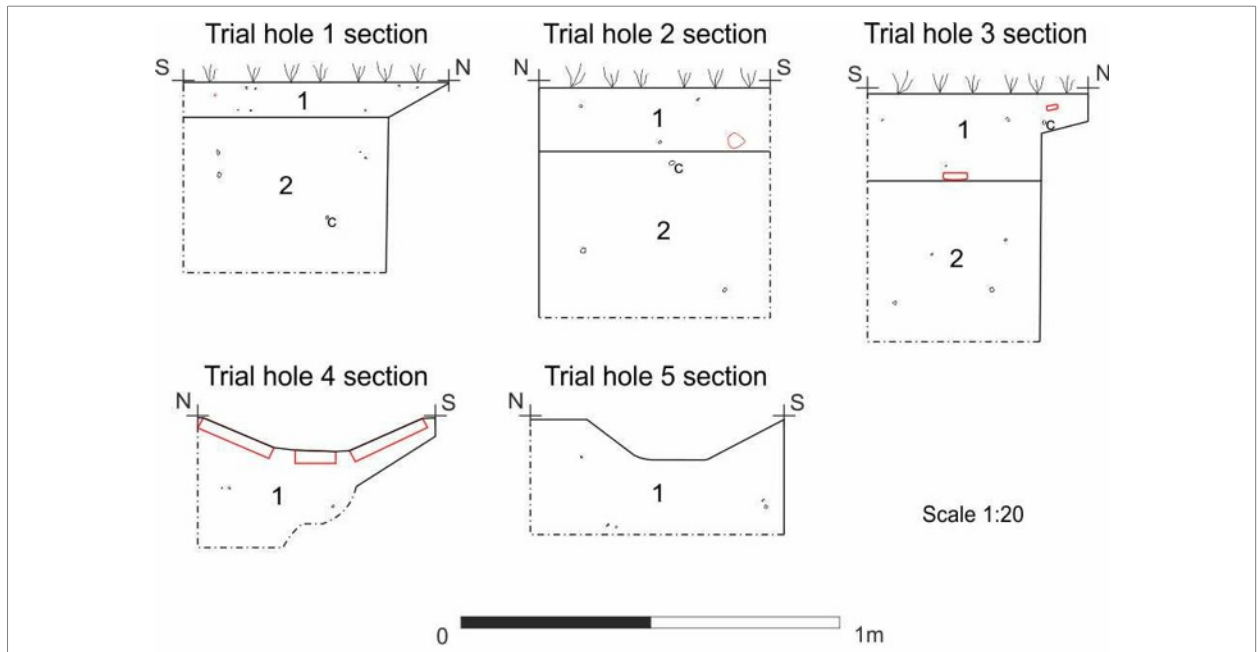
5.0 Results

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Exploratory trial holes were excavated on the north and south sides of the church on 24 May 2016 and excavations associated with the new surface water drainage system were carried out on 14 and 15 February 2017 (*Fig. 2*).

- 5.1.2 Site conditions were good and access was gained from Main Road to the south of the church. The weather remained sunny and dry. Context numbers were allocated during fieldwork and are summarised in *Appendix 1*.

Observations			
<i>Figure 2</i>			
Context	Type	Context description	Thickness
1	Deposit	Mid to dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil with moderate small-sized subangular flints and rare small- to medium-sized brick fragments – trial holes	c. 0.1m - 0.3m
2	Deposit	Mid brown silty sand subsoil with occasional small-sized subangular flints and rare small-sized chalk pieces – trial holes	c. 0.41m+
3	Deposit	Dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil with frequent small-sized subangular flints	c. 0.16m to 0.19m
4	Deposit	Mid brown silty sand subsoil with occasional small-sized subangular flints	c. 0.73m to 0.98m
5	Deposit	Yellow and brown laminated sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits	c. 0.89m+ to 1.17m+
6	Cut	Possible grave cut	Min 0.13m
7	Deposit	Mid brown silty sand subsoil with occasional small-sized subangular flints	Unclear
Summary and discussion			
<p>Trial hole 1 was excavated to a depth of c. 0.5m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.1m of mid to dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil (1) with moderate small-sized subangular flints and rare small- to medium-sized brick fragments and mid brown silty sand subsoil (2) with occasional small-sized subangular flints and rare small-sized chalk pieces. Trial hole 2 was excavated to a depth of c. 0.6m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.17m of topsoil (1) and subsoil (2). Trial hole 3 was excavated to a depth of c. 0.65m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.23m of topsoil (1) and subsoil (2). Trial hole 4 was excavated to a depth of c. 0.34m beneath present ground level removing ceramic tiles that formed a gully and topsoil (1). Trial hole 5 was excavated to a depth of c. 0.3m beneath present ground level removing topsoil (1). Where foundations of the church were observed, they extended c. 0.6m beneath present ground level.</p>			

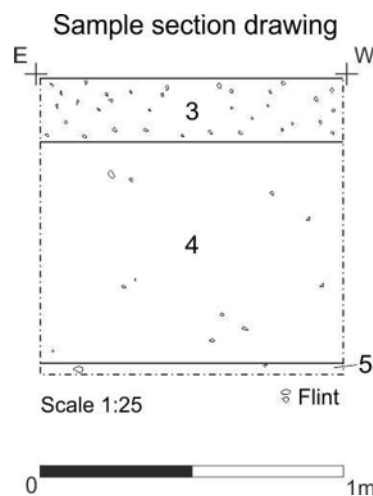


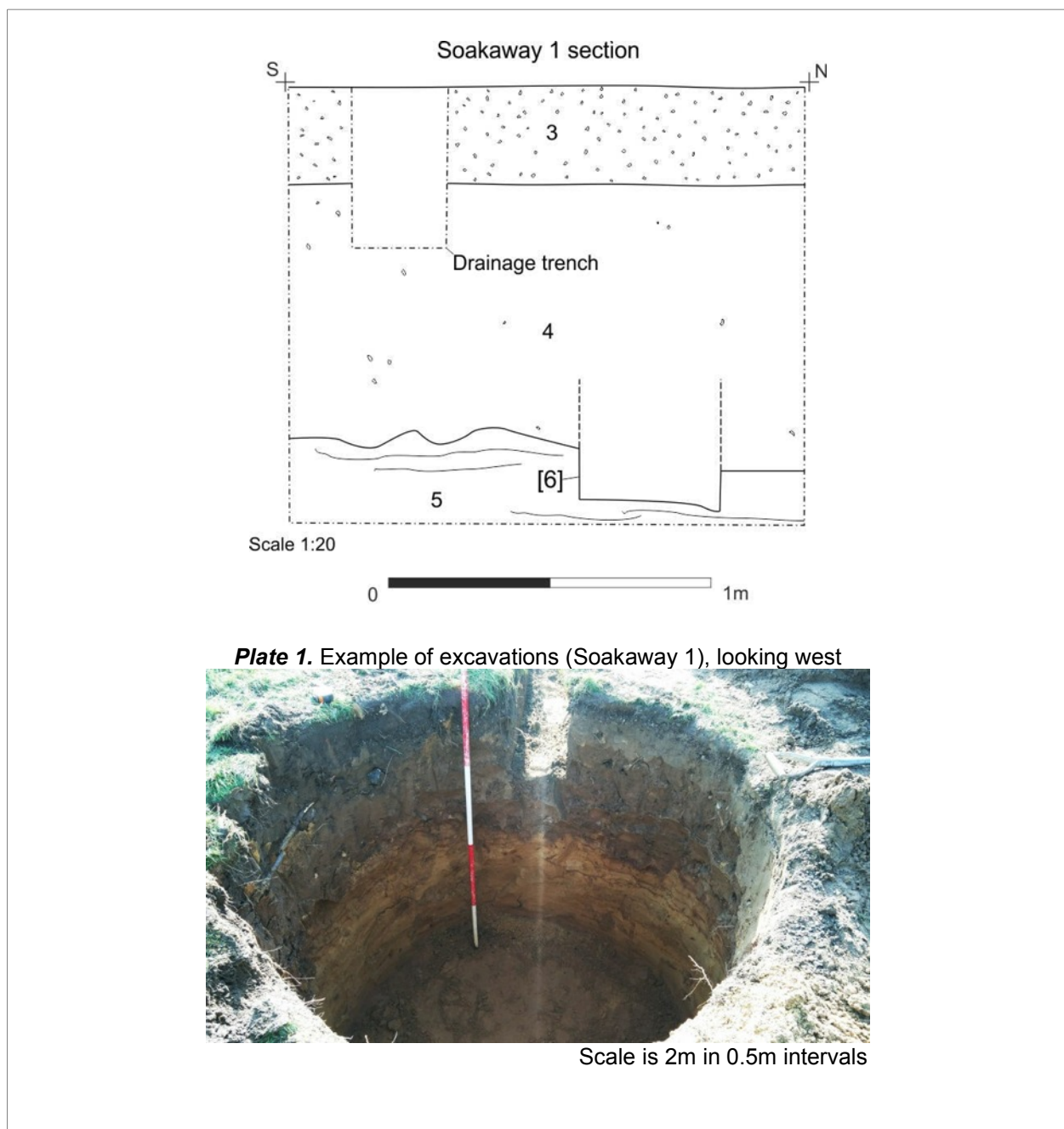
Excavations for French drains measured c. 1m wide and graded from surface level adjacent to the church to a maximum depth of 0.51m beneath present ground level. Initially, 0.16m to 0.19m of dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil (3) with frequent small-sized subangular flints was removed that overlay mid brown silty sand subsoil (4) with occasional small-sized subangular flints. To the south of the church, subsoil (4) contained frequent fragments of ceramic building material, frequent small-sized lime mortar fragments and moderate medium-sized flints.

Excavations for surface water drains measured c. 0.3m wide to a maximum depth of 0.5m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.3m of topsoil (3) and subsoil (4).

Excavations for surface water soakaways measured c. 1.8m in diameter to a maximum depth of c. 1.9m beneath present ground level. Initially, 0.21m to 0.32m of topsoil (3) was removed and 0.73m to 0.98m of subsoil (4). Subsoil (4) overlay yellow and brown laminated sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits (5). Twenty-seven disarticulated fragments of human bone were recovered from subsoil (4) in Soakaway 1 and 42 fragments from subsoil (4) in Soakaway 2. The remains of possible grave cut [6] were recorded in Soakaway 1 to a depth of c. 1.3m beneath present ground level and measured c. 0.44m wide. It was not observed in plan and no human bone was present. A distinction between the mid brown silty sand fill (7) with occasional small-sized subangular flints of [6] and subsoil (4) was not clear.

No significant archaeological remains were encountered within the extents of the groundworks.





6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Monitoring during groundworks associated with the construction of the new surface water drainage system did not reveal any finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance within the limits of the excavations. Excavations for Soakaway 1 appeared to have truncated the extreme east end of a grave cut, no human bone remains were present.
- 6.2 No specific information was gained from the human bone recovered during the excavations due to the fragmentary nature of the remains. They are typically found in such locations and are the result of the disturbance of earlier graves through successive grave digging over centuries of use of the churchyard.

Acknowledgments

The project was undertaken by Chris Birks for St Margaret's Church Parochial Church Council who also funded the work. Monitoring was undertaken by Chris Birks and John Simmons.

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The report was written by Chris Birks with contributions by John Simmons.

Thanks also to Anj Beckham and Peter Watkins at the Norfolk Historic Environment Record office and to James Albone, Steve Hickling, Charlotte Jarvis, Xenia Paula Kyriakou, John Percival, David Robertson and Andrew Rogerson at the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

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Appendix 1. Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Date
1	D	Mid to dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil with moderate small-sized subangular flints and rare small-to medium-sized brick fragments – trial holes	CB/24 May 16
2	D	Mid brown silty sand subsoil with occasional small-sized subangular flints and rare small-sized chalk pieces – trial holes	CB/24 May 16
3	D	Dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil with frequent small-sized subangular flints	JS/15 Feb 17
4	D	Mid brown silty sand subsoil with occasional small-sized subangular flints	JS/15 Feb 17
5	D	Yellow and brown laminated sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits	JS/15 Feb 17
6	C	Possible grave cut	JS/15 Feb 17
7	D	Mid brown silty sand subsoil with occasional small-sized subangular flints	JS/15 Feb 17

Appendix 2. OASIS Record

OASIS ID: [chrisbir1-291397](#)

Project details

Project name	WUASC at St Margaret's Church, Burgh St Margaret (Fleggburgh), Norfolk
Short description of the project	Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control were carried out at 'St Margaret's Church, Burgh St Margaret (Fleggburgh), Norfolk' during improvements to the surface water drainage system. The possible eastern extents of a grave cut were recorded. No significant archaeological remains were observed within the limits of the excavations.
Project dates	Start: 24-05-2016 End: 15-02-2017
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF141178 - 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
Monument type	CHURCHYARD Post Medieval
Monument type	CHURCHYARD Modern
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE Uncertain
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK GREAT YARMOUTH FLEGGBURGH St Margaret's Church, Burgh St Margaret (Fleggburgh), Norfolk
Study area	250 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 4450 1402 52.668081736356 1.61658928271 52 40 05 N 001 36 59 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Chris Birks
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Birks
Project director/manager	Chris Birks
Project supervisor	John Simmons
Type of	Diocese

sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	ENF141178
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"
Paper Archive notes	Report includes a colour digital image

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Report on Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control at 'St Margaret's Church, Burgh St Margaret (Fleggburgh), Norfolk'
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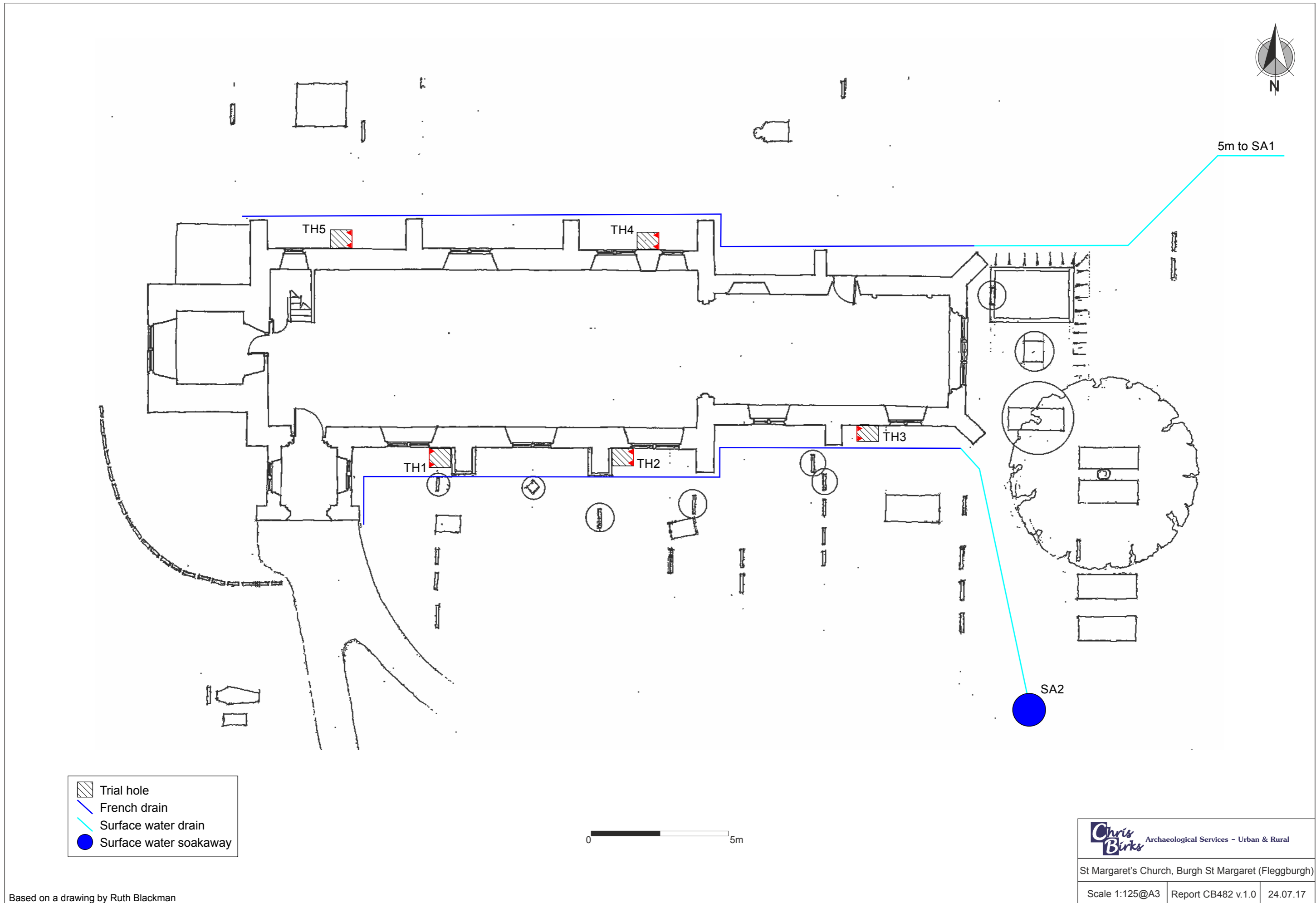
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Based on a drawing by Ruth Blackman

Figure 2. Site plan