

# **The Results of a Community Archaeological Project at St Margaret's Old Church, Hopton on Sea, Norfolk.**

## **Summer 2014**



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Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust

Giles Emery  
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## **A Community Archaeological Project at St Margaret's Old Church, Hopton on Sea, Norfolk.**

<b>Location:</b>	Hopton-on-Sea
<b>Grid Ref:</b>	TM 5301 9997
<b>NHES Event No:</b>	ENF 134994
<b>Date of fieldwork:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> August to 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2014

### **1.0 Introduction**

St Margaret's Old Church on Coast Road (also known as Hopton Ruined Church) is a medieval building which burned down in 1865 and was replaced by the existing church of the same name, on Lowestoft Road. The ruins are grade II-listed and are situated at the centre of the village, where they act as the sole physical connection to its medieval origins.

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust to provide a three day community archaeology dig as part of a wider community engagement initiative for the Old St Margaret's Ruins Restoration Project. This restoration project aims to repair and consolidate the crumbling structure alongside a programme of training and community engagement activities. The overall aim of the restoration project is to stabilise the walls, to allow the building to be taken off Historic England's Heritage at risk Register, and to remove the security fence to open up the area for public use. The restoration project is supported by grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic England and the Parish Council.

The archaeological project was undertaken in accordance with a formal Research Agenda produced by Norvic Archaeology (Emery 2014). The aims of the archaeological project were to make use of local volunteers to carry out investigative work at the church, while engaging with the local community in order to increase understanding of Hopton's past and to promote a greater awareness of the historic value of Hopton Old Church. The primary objective of the targeted investigation trenches was to investigate any below ground evidence which could assist in understanding the original form and layout of the church and its various phases of development.

This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed and an archaeological interpretation of the results.

### **2.0 Summary of Results**

The community dig successfully promoted the historic value of the church with plenty of visitors and local volunteers of all ages taking part, with news stories run in the local press and on radio.

Four targeted trenches investigated the original form and development of the church. The work defined the modular sequence of growth of the church from an early medieval single celled building to its unusual double nave plan, with the differing footings and joints of the build identified and recorded.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century brick burial vault of the Sayers' family was successfully relocated and uncovered in the north-east corner of the church and a previously unrecorded blocked medieval doorway was identified in the south wall of the nave.

A variety of finds were collected, which included medieval glazed roof and floor tiles, 1940s coinage and molten window lead from the 1865 fire.



Figure 1: Site Location Plan

### 3.0 Geology and Topography (Figure 1)

The church is located on Coast Road, adjacent to Hopton C of E Primary School in Hopton on Sea, which is a village, civil parish and well-known seaside resort on the east coast of Norfolk. Hopton is located c. 8km south of Great Yarmouth, c. 2km south of Gorleston and c. 6km north of Lowestoft. Until 1974, the civil parish was within the county of East Suffolk and now falls within the district of Great Yarmouth. The church is situated at c. 8m OD and Hopton's sandy beach is located c. 500m to the east.

The underlying geology is recorded as quaternary sand and gravels (Crag group) - Geology of Britain Viewer at a scale of 1:50 000 (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).



Plate 2: General view of the church (looking north)

### 4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background

#### 4.1 St Margaret's Old Church

St Margaret's Old Church is located at Hopton-on-Sea, situated on the coast at the extreme southeast corner of Norfolk, just south of Great Yarmouth. The church is a Grade II listed building constructed of flint and ashlar dressings, with some early brick, which was generally thought to be of early 14th century date with an early 15th century tower and later 15th century porch. The church has been the subject of a recent building survey carried out by A. Phelps in 2011, his summary description and background information on the building is presented below:

*St Margaret's old church presently stands as a ruin near the centre of the south Norfolk village of Hopton on Sea and appears to be a fine example of Christian architecture from the 14th century onwards, albeit with an unusual double nave plan which makes no attempt to differentiate between nave and chancel. At the western end stands a well preserved square tower which has been built to sit almost entirely within the double nave plan while to the north a small porch covers the north western opening. The building is presently without a roof and this has been the case since a fire destroyed its thatched cover and the interior of the church in 1865. Despite this absence of roofing, most of the walls have survived remarkably well given the length of their*



*exposure to the elements and many survive to nearly their original full height however there are areas that have collapsed or appear to be on the verge of doing so. The walls are composed of flint and lime mortar to their greater extent, with the use of limestone ashlar at the quoins and in some of the window jambs. Brick has also been employed extensively in the jambs and heads of some windows and also within the fabric of the southern wall.*

*No mention is made of a church at Hopton in the Domesday survey of 1086 however previous research (Chapman, 1984) has indicated that from 1087 to 1100 a Monk served the village in some capacity, a position essentially granted by King William Rufus himself and this may indicate the existence of a church. There is nothing to directly link the present church to this time however and the earliest datable features place its erection to around the late 13th or early 14th centuries. Early maps of the area from the latter half of the 16th and early 17th centuries depict a single celled building with a western tower however these are likely to be representative rather than faithful representations of the church. Perhaps the earliest detailed drawing of the church dates from 1818 (Isaac Johnson – Plate 3) and here the view from the south clearly indicates a double nave with western tower as with the modern ground plan. Additionally, this sketch shows 7 windows along the southern wall, suggesting that two have been lost at the east end. Later 19th century depictions from the south and west confirm the presence of the porch to the north and the use of a thatched roof. In 1847 the Reverend Suckling produced an invaluable plan of St Margaret's in which the location of the pulpit and font are indicated as well as demonstrating the number and form of the arches within the central arcade. His accompanying description reveals the arcade piers to be octangular and that many of the piers were in a poor condition with a considerable lean to the north. The tithe map of 1844 shows St Margaret's within its present day boundary but at this time it lies within the north western corner of a large field, part of a sparsely populated village.*

*The events of the morning of Sunday the 8th of January 1865 signalled the end of St Margaret's long tenure as the parish church for Hopton on Sea. An eye witness account from Mrs James Orde, a resident of Hopton Hall, records that the church stove became over heated, with the subsequent fire no doubt taking hold of the thatched roofs and that despite the alarm being raised there was no way to prevent the building being entirely gutted with the loss of all the churches contents (reproduced in Bleak and Lonely, 1984). For some reason, perhaps to bring the parish church closer to the 19th century hall, a new church was erected the following year and St Margaret's was left as a ruin save for the erection of a small mortuary chapel in the south western corner of the building accessed from the southern doorway and abutting the tower to the west. This small lean-to structure remained in use well into the 20th century presumably to facilitate the continued use of the grave yard before being abandoned with the rest of the church.*

Phelps (2011) has suggested a broad phasing to the church structure which may have begun as a simple single-celled building sometime before 1300. A chancel may have been the next major addition, added to the east end before the addition of a large northern aisle at the beginning of the 14th century. The aisle may have been extended to the east around

the mid-14th century to produce the distinctive double nave plan. The present tower was constructed c. 1400 or later. The porch may have been appended later in the 15th century to complete the major construction works but smaller alterations followed – including the cutting of a new doorway at the east end of the northern wall.

Two key descriptive sources for the former layout of the church include Reverend Suckling's description and plan (Plate 4) of 1847 mentioned above and given below in full:

*The church is dedicated to St Margaret, and comprises of a nave and chancel of the same width, having a north aisle running the entire length of the fabric. Both roofs are covered in thatch. At the west end stands a square tower containing one bell, and on the north side of the aisle is a good porch of stone. The interior is divided throughout by arcades of pointed arches, which rest on octagonal pillars having plain banded capitals. Many of these lean fearfully to the north. The walls are pierced with narrow lancet windows, and those on the north side are cusped. The Chancel window is of three lights in the early English style, and a window of decorated period occupies the east wall of the aisle, on which side is a large and deep niche. This portion of the aisle seems to have been originally a Chancel Chapel, having an altar under the east window, a piscina and a double closet, or aumbry, still remains unclosed with masonry. The font is octangular, of a very old pattern. On shields on some of its panels are the emblems of the passion of the trinity. There are several old floor stones without memorials in various parts of the church, and near the north entrance is the foot of an ancient cross.*

A sketch plan of the internal layout of the ruined church made in 1952 by D.G.Martin (Plate 5) depicts nothing of any extant mortuary area or internal lean-tos or any remaining pier bases other than the base of one attached to the tower base. The internal area is labelled as turf with a paved area across the western end between the south door and the north porch. The north-west corner of the church (the chantry chapel) is shown as paved with an altar, labelled as being a 'roofed area' and some steps are marked which have been presumed to be those of the Sayer's family vault. The now lost medieval font is shown as stored in the tower base and a yew tree had established itself in the west end.

In 1966, the churchyard was officially declared closed, grave stones were re-sited and the majority of the cemetery area turned to manageable grass. In 1981, the area was cleaned of accumulated rubbish and scrub and the church interior re-gravelled, at this time the entrance to the Sayers family vault was uncovered by volunteers on the Training for Life Scheme who worked alongside the Vicar to locate the entrance and gain access to the vault. The vault was opened on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October and was photographed for an article in the Eastern Daily Press before being resealed (Howard 2008), although by 2010 no visible sign of its location was evident.

By 1985, the ruinous nature of the walls meant that the church was threatened with partial demolition. Since then the site has become increasingly weathered and subject to vandalism and theft, with the font falling victim to organised thieves. The church has been fenced off for public safety for many years, although the churchyard has become a continued focus for community use following its designation as Hopton's Millennium Green Project.

The gardens surrounding the ruins are today maintained by a group of local volunteers. Awards have been received as part of the Borough's In Bloom competitions as a testament to the hard work and dedication of these volunteers (the Hopton in Bloom Team followed by the Friends of St. Margaret's). The gardens currently provide a quiet peaceful place to sit and relax. In 2008, Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council agreed to purchase the Ruins from the Church of England for £1 with a view to protecting this heritage site for generations to come. From this time a local group of volunteers organised by local resident Brian Howard

began clearing the inside of the church of overgrowth, dead trees and debris and, much to their credit, continued to progress and promote plans to reverse the decline of the building and open the structure up as a community space.

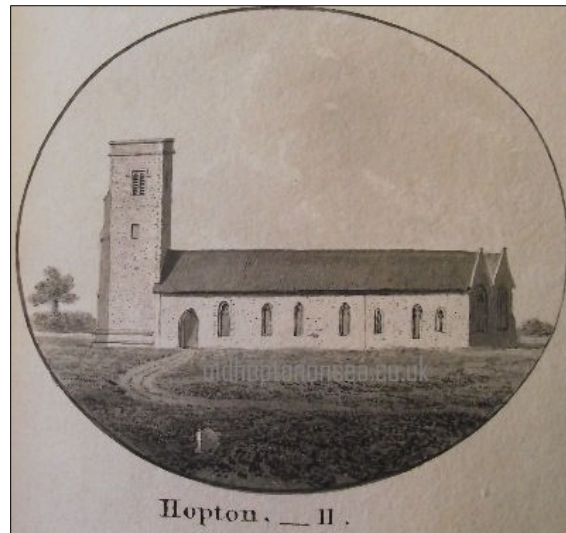


Plate 3. Isaac Johnson's drawing of 1818 shows the view of the church from the south.

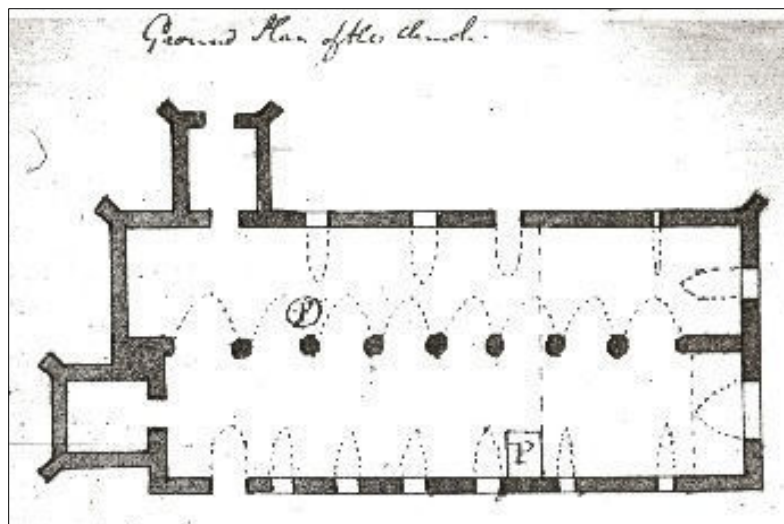


Plate 4. Reverend Suckling's Plan of 1847



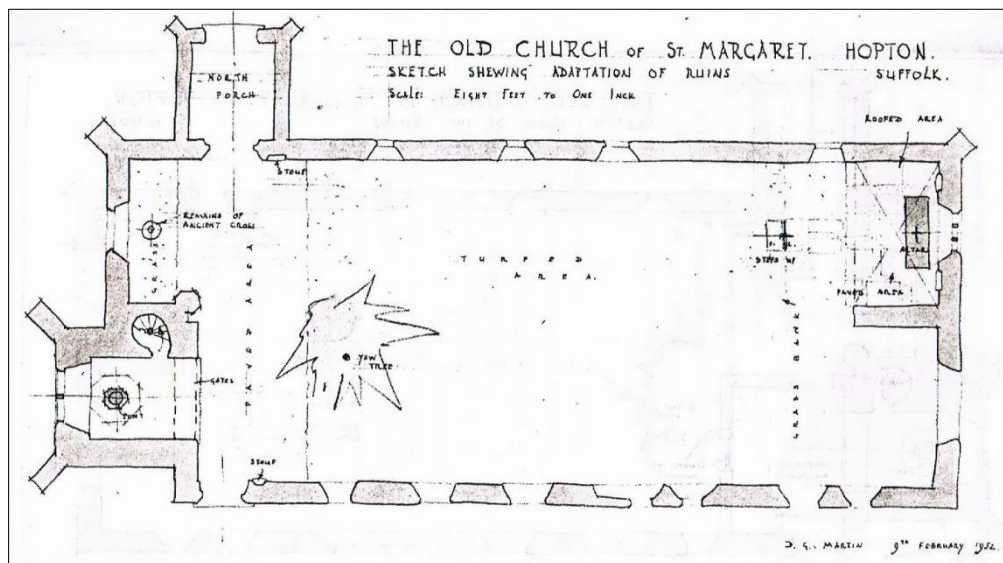


Plate 5. D.G.Martin's Sketch Plan of 1952



Plate 6: General view of the church interior (looking east)

## 4.2 The development of St Margaret's Old Church and its wider archaeological context

'Hopton' may derive from Old English for something approximating 'farmstead in a small enclosed valley' (Mills, 1988). Although a medieval settlement is believed to have existed at Hopton from as early as the 11th century, no physical remains for such a settlement have yet come to light. The church is the oldest surviving building within the parish (NHER 10760) and consists of a nave and north aisle with a chancel, north porch and west tower, the majority of which was well established by the 14th to 15th century.

The church site is located amongst a wider landscape of prehistoric land use with numerous fragmentary cropmarks indicating the former presence of prehistoric to Roman field systems, whilst the presence of possible ring ditches indicate a potential Bronze Age cemetery to the southwest of the village. Neolithic to Early Bronze Age activity is known in the locale of the site, as evidenced by the presence of a collection of flint tools collected from the site of the Hopton Holiday Village to the east of the village. Evidence which may indicate Roman settlement or land use is best demonstrated by cropmarks identified in many of the open fields surrounding the village and by surface finds in fields to the southwest of the village collected by metal detector. A single 2nd century Roman coin was found adjacent to the church at the site of the village school in 1971. An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the school in 2004, ahead of extension work, which recorded post holes and linear features of uncertain date on the north side of the school.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century development of Hopton on Sea has effectively masked the area from recent archaeological study. Despite the large area of mid- to late-20th century urbanisation associated with the rapid growth of the village, no archaeological evidence has come to light for a medieval settlement or its antecedent. Neither has any evidence for prehistoric activity been reported from the core of the village, and aside from the single Roman coin found at the school, no evidence for Roman activity either. Much of the development of the village was undertaken prior to modern planning controls relating to archaeological potential and it may be that this lack of evidence could be overturned at any time through chance discovery or archaeological mitigation of any future expansion into open areas contiguous with the current settlement. A case in point is the site of a recent development for new housing on land opposite the playing field on the north-west edge of the village where cropmarks of multi-period land use have been subject to excavation. This work has identified nationally significant evidence for Early Neolithic occupation along with one of the largest prehistoric ring ditches in the country and an early Romano-British farmstead.

Overall, this emphasises the significance of St Margaret's Old Church as the only surviving monument of Hopton's medieval past. It also highlights the potential significance of any new archaeological discoveries within the core of the village to contribute to our understanding of past human activity here.

A 1km search of the Historic Environment Record monument database lists over 70 records relating to past human activity from the prehistoric to 20th century, in the form of find scatters, cropmarks, listed buildings and excavated sites. More specifically the church is located in relatively close proximity to the following monuments which help to place the pre-medieval potential of the site in context:

*The following information has been sourced from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER)*

**NHER 22928: Roman Coin.** A second century AD Sestertius of Trajan was found close to the adjacent school in 1971 [c. 75m S of the Church]

**NHER 39861: Archaeological Intervention.** An evaluation in 2004 ahead of an extension to Hopton on Sea Church of England First School recorded post holes and linear features of uncertain date on the north side of the school (Penn 2004), they were suggested to be post-medieval. The natural sandy-clay geology was shown to be sealed by c. 0.85m of soils. [c. 45m S]

**NHER 49190: Cropmarks of ?Ring Ditches.** The cropmarks of a pair of possible ring ditches of unknown date are visible on aerial photographs within the grounds of Hopton Holiday village. The origin of these ring ditches is

not certain. It is possible that they represent the remains of Bronze Age round barrows, although perhaps a more recent agricultural or military origin is a more likely. [c. 300m E]

**NHER 10759: Neolithic & Early Bronze Age Flint Working Site.** A Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flint-working site was discovered in 1953 within the grounds of what is now the Hopton Holiday village. Finds included spearheads, barbed and tanged arrowheads, leaf arrowheads, polished axeheads, axe hammers, fabricators, knives, scrapers and borers. [c. 390m E]

**NHER 49187: Cropmarks of ?Ring Ditches.** The cropmarks of a pair of possible ring ditches, potentially the remains of a Bronze Age round barrows, are visible on aerial photographs to the northeast of Oak View Farm. These possible ring ditches are located within the wider area of a possible barrow cemetery which includes several groups of ring ditches (NHER 43527). [c. 330m SW]

**NHER 51271: Multi-period finds scatter.** Metal detecting of fields on the south-west margins of Hopton-on-Sea off Lowestoft Road in 2007 and 2009-2010 recovered Roman, medieval and post medieval coins plus post medieval jettons, coin weight and a token. [c. 400m SW]

**NHER 10575: Neolithic Flints.** Two Neolithic chipped flint axeheads and a large quantity of Neolithic flint scrapers were found in 1950 on land which is now part of the Hopton Holiday village. [c. 390m ENE]

**NHER 10758: Bronze Age Metalwork.** Part of a Bronze Age copper alloy palstave was found after a cliff fall in 1952, north of League Hole. [c. 590m ESE]

**NHER 52834: Medieval find.** Metal detecting at the shoreline in 2009 recovered a medieval gold finger ring. [c. 545m E]

**NHER 43511: Cropmarks- ?Late Prehistoric land use.** The cropmarks of a possible late prehistoric farmstead or dwelling and field system are visible on aerial photographs in Hopton-on-Sea. The cropmarks are located to the immediate south of a late prehistoric field system and possible settlement (NHER 43496). These northern features would appear to represent a different phase of activity as some of the cropmarks either overlie or cut by these ditches and also follow a different alignment. [c. 260m N]

**NHER 16167: Cropmarks - ?Prehistoric land use & post-medieval mill site-** Cropmarks of the site revealed a ring ditch and linear features. A field survey and trial trenching in 2000 noted scatters of Neolithic and Bronze Age flints, ditches, pits and a post hole. An examination of the ring ditch produced Iron Age pottery fragments. An excavation of the ring ditch in 2002 pointed to a relatively late date, with post medieval clay pipes and pottery from the ditch fill. It has been suggested that the ring ditch was the stand for a post medieval windmill. [c. 340m WSW]

**NHER 50981: Cropmarks.** The cropmarks of a dispersed and fragmentary group of rectilinear enclosures and field boundaries are visible on aerial photographs within the southern part of Hopton-on-Sea parish. Although undated, it is possible that some or all of these fragmentary cropmarks date to enclosures and fields of late prehistoric to Roman date. However the presence of rectilinear geological cropmarks visible as cropmarks on the aerial photographs covering this site could suggest that some of linear features mapped as 'ditches' are in fact natural gullies and channels. Further archaeological evaluation would be required before a manmade origin is assigned for large parts of this site. [c. 485m SW]

**NHER 50980: Cropmarks.** A large and dispersed group of undated and multi-phase cropmarks are visible on aerial photographs to the east of the A12 road at Hopton. The cropmark includes fragmentary enclosures and field boundaries of unknown date and possibly features relating to the military defences in this area. The archaeological significance and origin of some of the remaining cropmarks is uncertain due to the presence of geological cropmarks within the area of the site. [c. 485m SSE]

**NHER 43525 & 45049: Multi-period Cropmarks/large Prehistoric Barrow/Prehistoric to Roman land use.** An archaeological evaluation by NPS Archaeology through trial trenching of land bordered by the A12. Lowestoft Road and Hall Road (opposite the playing field) in 2013 took place on an area of dense cropmarks. The work found evidence for human activity from the Mesolithic to the early Roman Period. A large ring ditch feature identified previously through cropmarks comprising inner and outer circuits with an apparently discontinuous intermediate circuit is interpreted as a barrow of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date. Its diameter of c.80m marks it as among the largest example of this monument type known from the county and likely to be of regional; if not national, significance. Comparison with smaller, excavated examples of similar form suggests it might be the remains of a disc barrow. Cremated human remains of a type concordant with an Early Bronze Age date appeared to have been redeposited, perhaps at a considerably later date, within the inner circuit ditch.

Though undated, two circular structures were considered to be roundhouses of Iron Age or Romano British date, the largest of these was contained within a trapezoidal enclosure. Other ditches probably spanning several periods of activity at the site would seem to define fields, enclosures and possibly track or droveways. Roman activity, most noticeably at the south of the site, was associated with secondary metal working and possible cereal processing. The pottery suggested 1st and 2nd century activity, and had similarities to assemblages from military sites. A substantial ditch with evidence for a large internal bank is tentatively interpreted as a Roman



earthwork, perhaps part of a beacon or signal station and may have been reused or modified from an earlier 'Thornham' style enclosure.

A large scale excavation of the southern area of the site away from the large ring ditch monument in 2014 in advance of 30 new dwellings by Pre-Construct Archaeology identified two principle phases of archaeology; Early Neolithic and Early Roman.

The Early Neolithic activity was represented by groups of pits, many of which contained significant finds assemblages. The finds comprised 2,200 sherds of Mildenhall Ware pottery (date range approximately 3,700-3,200 BC) and 1,491 worked flints, including two flint axeheads and several finely worked flint tools. Evidence for barley, wheat and oats were also found in the pits, along with hazelnut shells and an apple pip and indicate a diet of cultivated and gathered foodstuffs. The pits are considered to represent the seasonal occupation of the area during the mid fourth millennium BC and represent one of only a handful of such sites in the county.

The Early Roman activity was characterised by a mid-1st century rural farmstead comprising a large posthole-built dwelling associated with several enclosures representing agricultural fields, livestock paddocks and areas for crop processing activities. During the early 2nd century, the farmstead was modified to include an area of metalworking, likely involving the melting down and recycling of metalwork on a small-scale. Soon after this, the farmstead was seemingly abandoned and the inhabitants likely relocated to a larger settlement nearby. The area remained the focus of agricultural activity, however, with a series of large outfield linked by narrow trackways established across the area. Much of this activity can be traced in the extensive cropmark survey of the surrounding landscape, but the site is one of the few examples of a relatively 'complete' rural farmstead to have been fully excavated in the region. [c. 700m WNW]

## 5.0 Methodology (Figure 2)

The objective of the archaeological trenches was to target areas of the church which had the potential to provide sub-surface information on its structure, historic development, past-form and layout. A total of four targeted trenches were excavated by hand, with soils test-sieved to maximise the recovery of any small finds. A handful of highly fragmentary human remains were collected from upper soil deposits during the course of the work, all of which were kept from public view and reburied together in the backfill of Trench 1.



Plate 7 (left): T1 – excavation of the Sayer's family vault (looking SE)

Plate 8 (right): T2 – excavation at the base of Window A3 (looking W)

- **Trench 1** was located primarily to relocate the Sayer's family vault, which despite being uncovered by volunteers on the Training for Life Scheme in 1980s could not now be located with any certainty. A photograph shows the group huddled around the broken open brick barrel vaulted tomb. Despite this the exact location and dimensions was difficult to determine and it was hoped that this investigation could relocate the vault's

entrance and its overall position and record the external form of the vault under archaeologically controlled conditions. In addition, the dimensions of this trench could be extended to investigate the potential for any buried floor levels along with the footings for the north wall of the chancel (which, if present, would predate the extension of the chancel to the north).

- **Trench 2** was located against the north wall to search for subsurface evidence for a blocked medieval doorway at 'Window A3', which is a much wider and lower window than others along the north wall, and appears to have been altered into a window, possibly as late as the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Trench 3** was positioned to investigate and reveal any evidence for subsurface internal floor levels and search for any extant remains of pier bases relating to the former octagonal arcade piers. No clear remains for the arcade can currently be identified and the position and form of the pier bases would add to our existing knowledge of the original form of the double aisled church. From the Reverend Suckling's sketch of the church, dated 1847, the arcade took the form of a series of eight pointed arches resting upon seven octagonal piers. None of these piers remain with the possible exception of a portion of what might be a brick pier base at the western end just to the north of the tower (Phelps 7, 2011). In addition, if any footings which predate the arcade could be found, they could assist in interpreting the expansion of the church from a single to double nave plan.
- **Trench 4** was located against the south wall with the objective of examining any subsurface evidence associated with a possible construction joint, most notable along the south wall, which could indicate an extension to the church. Currently no conclusive evidence exists that this is anything other than a single build, although the flints used to the east were noted by Phelps (2011) to be generally larger in size. A drawing of this elevation from the early 19th century does indicate what might be a break in construction at the same point (Isaac Johnson, 1818). If real, this could indicate the extension to the church marked by the addition of the chancel, or possibly a later expansion of the entire structure.



Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned by an experienced metal detectorist. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

Plate 9: T4 – excavation below the joint between nave & chancel (looking south)

Following three-days of investigation work and a fourth day of recording, all four trenches were subsequently backfilled by hand, aided by a heavy tamper. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Norvic Archaeology *pro forma* sheets. The trench location, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and digital images were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

All levels were taken using a temporary benchmark of 8.18m OD inside the church, located in front of the tower. This was tied to an OS Spot Height of 6.7m OD located at the junction of Coast Road with Warren Road.



## 6.0 Results *(Figures 2 to 6, Appendix 1a)*

### • Trench 1

The earliest stratigraphic deposit encountered was a make-up deposit of firm, yellowish-brown silty-sand with occasional flints (120). This predates both the construction of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Sayer's vault and also the medieval footings for an east-west wall ([119]). This may indicate that the footprint for the eastern part of the church was well prepared with a levelling layer of redeposited subsoil prior to construction.

The east-west footing construction trench [119] aligned with the expected line of a former north wall to the Chancel, which would have been robbed out prior to any northern extension and certainly prior to the construction of the arcading separating the Nave and Chancel from the new north aisle/twin nave. The footings consisted of well compacted banded deposits of crushed yellow mortar and fine sandy-silt (118), with no surviving remnants of the robbed out masonry footings above. The use of such banded footings formed from locally available materials and building waste is a typical medieval construction method present in numerous ecclesiastical buildings across Norfolk.

Cut into the footings deposits was a single posthole ([126]) backfilled with a deposit of clean clay (125), which most likely served as a short lived scaffold hole to assist in the construction of the new aisle.

The brick steps (121) to the 18<sup>th</sup> century Sayers family vault were rediscovered below the topsoil and partly uncovered below the 1981 backfill. Adjacent to the location of the steps was a broken heavy marker stone with a late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century style of lettering which read simply 'THE GRAVE OF THE SAYERS FAMILY' and may well have been a former closing stone moved in 1981 to gain access to the vault. The side walls to the stepped entrance (123) were painted with several coats of whitewash, perhaps coinciding with the various episodes of interment. The brick barrel vault (122) had suffered some minor damage when the brick blocked opening had been enthusiastically removed in 1981, although the entrance had been neatly resealed using modern cement mortar. From the dimensions of the exposed elements of the vault, its full width and estimated length were able to be calculated, which show the vault to be c. 2.6m wide by c. 4.6m long and therefore occupying the majority of the Chancel Chapel area. Aside from the entrance, the remainder of the barrel vaulting appeared to be well constructed and intact.

Immediately adjacent to the southern edge of the steps down to the vault was the eastern end of a small tomb constructed of Victorian red brick (127). A large fragment of a ledger stone above it read 'IN LOVING MEMORY OF BENJAMIN PARKER WHO DIED OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 1910 AGED 51 YEARS. THERE IS SWEET REST IN HEAVEN. ALSO OF



Plate 10: T1 - Post-investigation of the Sayer's Family vault (looking E) [2x2m scales]

ELIZABETH PARKER WIFE OF THE ABOVE WHO DIED MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> 1937 AGED 81 YEARS. AT REST'. Although relocated from its original setting, it is possible that the marker may relate to this particular tomb.

The make-up (112) above the Sayer's tomb comprised of redeposited material similar to (120) although riddled by modern animal burrows which had certainly introduced modern fragments of plastic and other small artefacts into the deposit. Above the area of the vault and sealing the 1981 backfill was a spread of gravel buried below a thin topsoil. The gravel was therefore likely laid during 1980s efforts to tidy the inside of the church and to curtail further plant growth, although the area is known to have been laid with gravel on previous occasions.

The lowest remnants of the dividing wall separating Chancel from Chancel Chapel were cleaned and recorded which showed that no convincing in situ material remained of the most easterly pier base. However, this work did demonstrate that the fabric incorporated pieces of reused limestone and that, although it could still be a remnant of the original north wall of the chancel, it would have been much modified.

- **Trench 2**

Below c. 150mm of thin modern soils, which include a gravel rich soil (108) above a sandy-loam (109) was a very shallow rubble rich pit ([140]) which mimicked the width of the window opening above, this may indicate that its purpose was to rob out any original threshold stone. The pit contained large quantities of flint building waste (up to 250mm in size) and crushed yellowish sandy-mortar debris and occasional amorphous scraps of limestone, brick and tile (113). Two larger pieces of stone were collected and have been identified as Caen stone, one of which may be a jamb fragment. Seven fragments of ceramic building material were collected for identification, which include pieces of medieval roof and floor tiles, late medieval Flemish floor tile and both medieval and late post-medieval brick of 19<sup>th</sup> century type.

This disturbance appeared to truncate a possible trace of mortar flooring, which could also have served as a bed for a tiled surface (142). The south-east corner of the trench caught part of a sub-circular pit or scaffold-posthole ([135]) which contained a mottled mix of sandy-silt mixed with fragments of late medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material (136).



Plate 11: T2 - Post-investigation (looking N)  
[1x1m, 1x0.5m & 1x0.5m scales]

The western part of the trench exposed the edge of an unexpected masonry build of flint and mortar on a north-south alignment and the trench was quickly expanded to investigate further. The additional work uncovered the full width of these masonry footings (115). They measured 0.9m in width and were finely constructed of moderately well-sorted flints bonded in regular courses with a hard white sandy-mortar. The depth of these footings remains unknown, although exceeds 0.3m. The fabric was robbed to just below the expected level



of any former floor surface matching the threshold of the blocked doorway. Feature [141] may represent the base of a shallow scaffold hole which caught this masonry.

A dense clay-silt deposit predated all the features identified and may be either a subsoil or more likely a medieval make-up deposit (114 = 143). A single fragment of medieval roof tile was collected from this deposit of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date.

No original threshold was present at the base of the blocked doorway 'A3' and the blocking material comprised of post-medieval brick bonded with a friable and bleeding white mortar. Filling the void created by this blocking, was a loose mix of mortar debris and building rubble, which included a large fragment of worked lime-stone.

A below ground construction joint between the N-S wall footing (115) and the western stone work of the blocked doorway instigated a review of the flint fabric on the north facing elevation on the external side of the wall. A fairly subtle but convincing change in fabric can be discerned which matches the vertical projection of the joint. The nave wall is of generally larger flints used in more regular and even courses, as noted by Phelps who also commented on a differentiation between the relative heights and forms of the putlogs in both walls as well as the windows (3, 2011). This combined evidence shows that the north aisle and Chancel Chapel were indeed constructed in two distinct phases, the Chancel Chapel representing an extension to the 'new' north nave.



Plate 12: T2 – Masonry footings 115 (looking W)  
[1x0.5m scales]

### • **Trench 3**

A thin layer of topsoil masked an ad hoc surface of broken pavement tiles which formed part of a rough path running east to west (102), below which a very stony layer of soil was uncovered (111). Buried below this, and running east-west, was a wall-foundation of c. 1m width constructed of well-packed flint cobbles set within a dense sandy-silt (128). This footing material was trench-built and comprised of well sorted flints of c. 80mm on average with some up to 150mm. The base of this earth packed stone footing was not reached but was demonstrated to exceed 0.4m in depth.

Either side of this footing were two pits containing demolition waste ([131] & [134]). Pit [131] on the north side of the footings contained pale yellow mortar debris with occasional small pieces of medieval brick and late medieval floor tile (132). Pit [134] on the south side of the wall was c. 0.4m in depth and contained a mottled mix of sandy-silt and pale sand flecked by mortar with occasional tile fragments (134).

### • **Trench 4**

A modern gravel rich soil was excavated of c. 100mm thickness (106), below which was a dark brown sandy-loam of between 10mm to c. 250mm deep (107). It contained a mixture of late medieval to post-medieval brick and floor tile fragments. A single residual sherd of

medieval pottery was collected from this soil, which was the only piece collected during the project.

Revealed directly below the soils was a stone and earth packed foundation of the same type as discovered by T3 (137). These footings were even more substantial and included a corner return. Most significantly this has identified the presence of a former 'end wall' which must predate the creation of the Chancel and, along with the wall footings in T3, indicates the presence of an early phase of building. This aligns well with the suspected joint in the above ground masonry between the existing Nave and what can now be proven to be the extension of the Chancel. The trench containing this footing material was dug into a clean deposit of greyish-brown sandy-silt (138) with very rare flecks of charcoal. In light of this below ground evidence, a fresh examination of the internal and external faces of the walls shows that the tree growth responsible for pushing out the walls here appears to have exploited an existing construction joint between the earlier fabric of what is now the south nave and the extension of the Chancel, as depicted in Isaacs illustration of 1818 (Plate 4).

Incidental recording of the surviving pulpit steps (139) showed that they were constructed of post-medieval sandy-red brick with pavement tiles, although a trace of glazed late medieval floor tile was noted on the inside corner of the steps, possibly a surviving remnant of an area of tiled flooring. The render on the curved wall here was scorched pink by the 1865 fire.



Plate 13: T3 – Earth and stone packed footings 128 (looking N) [1x2m & 1x1m scales]



Plate 14: T4 – Earth and stone packed footings 137 (looking E) [1x2m scale]

## 7.0 Finds Analysis *(Appendix 2a)*

### • Pottery

Three sherds of modern refined white wares were collected from the upper soil/gravel deposits of T2, one of which is from a 1960s or later tableware dish/plate with a trace of a transfer printed floral pattern.

A single residual sherd of medieval pottery was found during the excavation, from the upper soil of T4 (107). The body sherd weighs 6g and the fabric is of a fairly sandy medieval course ware of late 12th to 14<sup>th</sup> century date, likely to have been used a storage jar or cooking vessel. The sherd is moderately abraded and has traces of soot internally.

### • Lava stone – quern fragment

A single abraded fragment of vesicular lava stone was collected from the post-medieval soil (109) in T2. The piece weighs 148g and is from the outer curved edge of a hand quern with a maximum thickness of 28mm and retains one flat surface. Such pieces are commonly found in Late Saxon and medieval deposits across East Anglia, where they are usually classified as Rhenish lava stone. This fragment may indicate domestic scale grain processing in the vicinity of the site, although it is not unknown within Norfolk for larger fragments of lava quern stone to be reused within the fabric of medieval churches.

### • Ceramic building material

By Sue Anderson

#### Introduction

Eighty-four fragments of CBM weighing 19,270g were collected from sixteen contexts. A summary is included in Appendix 1. Quantities of CBM were distributed across the trenches as shown in Table 1.

Trench	No	Wt (g)
T1	16	3292
T2	42	6302
T3	10	873
T4	10	1156
Unstratified	6	7647

Table 1. CBM quantities by trench.

#### Methodology

The assemblage was quantified (count and weight) by fabric and form. Fabrics were identified on the basis of macroscopic appearance and main inclusions. The width, length and thickness of bricks and floor tiles were measured, but roof tile thicknesses were only measured when another dimension was available.

#### The assemblage

Table 2 shows the quantification by type and form. The majority of fragments fell into the 'roofing' category.



Type	Form	Code	No	Wt (g)
<b>Roofing</b>	Plain roof tile: medieval	RTM	26	1046
	Plain roof tile: post-med	RTP	1	41
	Ridge tile	RID	5	203
	Pantile	PAN	5	582
<b>Walling</b>	Early brick	EB	10	7815
	Late brick	LB	8	3505
<b>Flooring</b>	Flemish floor tile	FFT	17	2432
	?Medieval floor tile	FT	6	570
	Quarry floor tile	QFT	4	2764
	Floor brick/tile	FB/FT	2	312
<b>Totals</b>			<b>84</b>	<b>19270</b>

Table 2. CBM by type and form.

## Fabrics

The CBM was divided into basic fabric groups based on major inclusions. Twelve different groups of fabrics were identified in this assemblage. The descriptions are as follows:

### *Estuarine (medieval)*

These fabrics are extremely variable in colour, density and degree of firing/hardness; medieval bricks made from estuarine clays are common throughout the south-east of England and have been described in detail by Drury (1993).

**est** Variable colour (pink, purple, yellow, white) estuarine fabrics, tempered with coarse organic (voids), clay pellet and flint inclusions, some fine shell. Brick. 10 pieces, 7815g.

### *Red sandy (medieval to post-medieval)*

These fabrics generally have a similar range of coarse, naturally occurring, local inclusions (ferrous oxide, flint, chalk), often as a background scatter, and have been divided on the basis of quartz sand grain size or abundance. Fabrics 'ms' and 'fs' ('medium' and 'fine') were generally allocated unless pieces showed some clear difference in size or abundance of other inclusions.

**fs** Fine sandy red fabric with few coarse inclusions. Includes roof tile, brick and floor tile. 46 pieces, 3453g.  
**ms** Medium sandy red fabric with few other inclusions. Roof tile. 1 piece, 59g.  
**fsm/msm** Fine/medium sandy micaceous. Post-medieval. Brick and floor tile. 2 pieces, 340g.  
**fscq** Fine/medium sandy matrix with occasional large rounded quartz up to gravel/pebble size. Roof tile and brick. 3 pieces, 2915g.  
**fsf/msf** Fine/medium sandy red fabric with sparse coarse flint. Brick and roof tile. 8 pieces, 621g.

### *Red sandy with 'grog', ferrous or clay pellets (Medieval and post-medieval)*

Fine and medium sandy fabrics containing combinations of rounded grog, or ferrous inclusions.

**fsg** Fine/medium sandy, sparse fine to coarse rounded grog. Floor tile. 5 pieces, 688g.  
**fsfe** Fine sandy with moderate to common small red ferrous inclusions. Floor tile and brick. 3 pieces, 447g.  
**fsgfe** Fine sandy with common fine to coarse red grog and sparse ferrous inclusions. Brick. 1 piece, 94g.

### *White fabrics (post-medieval)*

White-firing gault clays.

**wfs** White-firing fine sandy with few other inclusions. Brick and floor tile. 4 pieces, 2838g.

## Forms

### Roofing

Thirty-seven roofing fragments (1872g) were collected. These comprised plain roof tiles (27 fragments), ridge tiles (5 fragments), and pantiles (5 fragments). Table 3 shows the quantities of roofing material by fabric and form.

Fabric	RTM	RID	RTP	PAN
fs	18	5	1	5
fscq	1			
fsf/msf	6			
ms	1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

Table 3. Roofing material by fabric and form.

Plain roof tiles were all in red-firing sandy fabrics, most of which were probably of high medieval to late medieval date. Only one fragment of plain tile was identified as late/post-medieval, mainly due to full oxidation and a lack of glaze, so an earlier date is possible. Twelve fragments were glazed. Most fragments had reduced cores and oxidised surfaces. Only one fragment had the remains of a circular peg hole, and no nib tiles were identified.

All five fragments of ridge tile were medieval. None was complete but thicknesses varied between 16–17mm. They were all glazed with green or brown lead glaze. One fragment may have had incised decoration, although the surface area was small and the mark may simply have been accidental.

Pantile fragments comprised pieces in fine sandy red-firing fabrics with dark brown glaze. All were recovered from the 1981 backfill (103 and 104).

Several pieces of roof tile were covered in mortar and are likely to have been reused as hardcore following breakage. However, most pieces were recovered from redeposited layers and only two fragments came from pit fills.

### Walling

Table 4 shows the fabrics and forms of walling material present.

Fabric	EB	LB
est	10	
fs		2
fscq		2
fsfe		1
fsgfe		1
msm		1
wfs		1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>

Table 4. Walling by fabric and form.

Ten fragments or near-complete samples of 'early bricks' (13th–15th c.; Drury 1993) were present. Only one was complete, an unstratified find (101), and measured 238 x 118 x 49mm. The rest varied in size between 102–128mm wide by 38–70mm thick. This is within the normal range for similar bricks found in Norwich, which usually reach a maximum of 135mm wide, although the widest in this group was relatively thick at 70mm and is presumably an outlier in Drury's EB1 range. All were typical of the medieval bricks found elsewhere in the region. Most had sanded bases with some straw impressions, although two unstratified examples had abundant straw impressions on the bases.

Three bricks had been moulded or, more likely, sawn to shape. Two were unstratified (101): one had a diagonal cut-back to form a half-header at the end and the other had a substantial part of the corner removed in a slightly concave cut-back. A brick from 1981 backfill (104) was largely complete but had been sawn at one end to make it only 171mm long, and two corners had been removed by diagonal sawing. Between the two chamfered corners, a small and fairly crude concave notch had been cut. These bricks were probably shaped for use in moulded door/window jambs or possibly to form vaulting or other structural details such as string coursing.

Late bricks were generally in fine sandy red-firing fabrics, although one was white. The bricks were generally handmade. Five were measurable in at least one dimension. Thicknesses ranged between 45–67mm, and two widths were both 110mm. The thickest four, including the white brick, were 57–67mm thick and probably of later 18th/19th-century date. The thinnest brick, at 45mm, was within the range for a 'Tudor' brick of broadly 15th–17th-century date.

### *Flooring*

Table 5 shows the quantities of floor tile by fabric.

Seventeen fragments of typical Flemish-type floor tiles of 14th–15th-century date were collected. They were decorated with dark brown or green lead glaze, or yellow glaze over a white slip. Most were probably in the small and medium sizes, with thicknesses of 23–28mm, although some were worn. One unstratified fragment was 112mm wide and had been cut to a narrow fragment, presumably to infill a gap at the edge of the floor. A complete tile from the 1981 Backfill (104) was overfired and warped; it measured 112 x 106 x 23mm and was covered in dark brown glaze.

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>FFT</b>	<b>FT</b>	<b>QFT</b>	<b>FB/FT</b>
fs	12	3		
fsf/msf		3		
fsfe	2			
fsg	2		3	
fsm	1			
wfs			1	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

Table 5. Flooring by fabric and form.

Six fragments of possible medieval floor tile were recovered. All were very worn, although one example appeared to have traces of relief decoration on the surface. They were identified by their reduced cores and edges which were more acutely chamfered than the Flemish tiles. Relief-decorated tiles were most commonly manufactured in the 13th/14th centuries.

Four fragments were identified as quarry tiles, one in a white fabric and three in a pale orange fabric. There were also two basal fragments in white-firing clay which may be floor tiles or floor bricks; both had a slightly chamfered base edge. These tiles are likely to be no earlier than the 18th century.

### **Discussion**

The majority of this assemblage was recovered from stony/gravel/soil and make-up layers (49 fragments), with fifteen fragments coming from the 1981 backfill and six being unstratified. Two fragments were recovered from a ?post-hole fill and twelve from pit fills. Although probably comprising material which was originally used in the fabric of the church and other related structures (such as tombs and monuments), it represents broken and discarded fragments of construction or demolition waste which were accidentally or intentionally incorporated into fills of open features or left lying on exposed surfaces.

Ceramic building materials appear to have been used on the site since the medieval period, with early bricks, roof tiles and possibly floor tiles of broadly 13th–15th-century date all present. Early bricks with chamfered corners are still in situ in at least one window in the south wall, and other brick fragments have been incorporated into the flint walls (Phelps 2011, 6–8). Some of the late bricks, present in a number of fabrics, may have been used in 19<sup>th</sup> century walling for the mortuary chapel or within post-medieval tombs within the graveyard.

Although the structure is now unroofed, and is known to have had a thatched roof in the 19th century, in the medieval period it seems that it was at least partially tiled with glazed plain tiles and ridge tiles. Other Norfolk churches with thatched naves often have tiled porches and/or chancels. There is also evidence for a glazed pantile roof of 17th/18th-century date, although such tiles were often used for outhouses or extensions in this period.

Medieval and late medieval floor tile fragments suggest that the building may have had a ceramic floor from its inception which became well-worn. The presence of later floor tile fragments suggests repair work and replacement of at least part of the floor with quarry floor tiles in the 18th/19th centuries.

- **Roofing slate**

Six pieces of slate roof tile were collected, with a combined total of 371g. The largest piece retains part of its nail hole along a reworked edge which shows that it has been modified. The pieces were all collected from the uppermost soil/gravel deposits and the backfill of the 1981 dig. The slate may have been used selectively when areas inside of the church were used as a mortuary chapel from 1866 or possibly to cover the chantry chapel area, which is depicted as roofed in Martins 1952 sketch plan.

- **Worked stone**

By Neil Moss

A total six contexts containing nine objects were examined, of which eight were confirmed as architectural fragments. One object [WS:03] comprised an amorphous fragment of a shelly conglomerate.

The shelly conglomerate [WS:03] has no evidence of working or alteration of any type, however stone of this type is regarded for its decorative properties and may be a fragment or residue from a monument or similar feature. Similar fragments have been noted on the site previously during the initial clearance work on site by the conservation team.

### *The architectural fragments*

The architectural fragments predominantly come from later, post-medieval landscaping deposits. There were identifiable or diagnostic mouldings present on four pieces (WS: [01], [02], [06] and [07]). Each of these four pieces showed pink discolouration consistent with a building fire and three of them had layers of limewash applied subsequent to this thermal event. All of the architectural pieces are fragmentary and none survive in a complete enough form to deduce overall dimensions.

The architectural fragments consist almost entirely of Caen type limestone aside from the following:

WS:[05] is an exception being of Purbeck marble. Purbeck is a fossiliferous limestone which has been in common use for monuments since Roman times. Its presence in an assemblage from a church is no surprise as it has been recorded in monumental and other decorative uses throughout the medieval period.

WS:[03] is a fragment of an unknown type of shell conglomerate with a dense, grey mudstone matrix.

### *Tooling*

A single piece (WS:[08]) has a cavity that may be a mortice and two pieces of probable ashlar (WS:[04]+[09]) have tooling to their surfaces. Tool-marks as a means of dating architectural stonework is more refined in certain geographical areas than others and must be seen as a developing technique. (*Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists – Guidance Note 3, John Schofield & Mark Samuel 2010*). There were three identifiable types of tool-marks: Adze marks, booster or wide chisel marks and claw-chisel marks.

### *Heat discolouration*

Four pieces (WS:[01], [02], [06]+[07]) have been subject to varying degrees of pink discolouration caused by thermal altering. The thermal alteration of limestone in this way requires high temperature and an extended time period. It is not possible to conclude that all these pieces were discoloured by the same event, but it cannot be discounted.

### *Mortar*

The mortar is a sandy lime mortar and is of a type common throughout the medieval period. A single piece (WS:[01]) has lime mortar over limewash, and is a clear indication of re-use.

### *Limewash*

Three pieces (WS:[01], [06]+[07]) have limewash on their surfaces. Each of these pieces are moulded and each shows heat discolouration with limewash applied to the surface after the event that produced the heat discolouration.

## **Conclusion**

As an assemblage, there seems to be a marked consistency of stone type and moulding form, which are all diagnostic of the English Decorated style and indicate a later C13th or early C14th date. The single piece with mortar adhering would indicate reuse of stone within later phases of construction and modification to the church.

The scorching of many of the fragments most likely indicates a building fire and the presence of limewash over the scorched areas on some of the pieces suggests either refurbishment or reuse. The stratigraphic data suggests that this could be due to the fire of 1865 as no fire scorched pieces are from deposits which predate the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

WS No.	Test Pit	Context	Dimensions (mm)	Stone Type	Form	Period	Comments	Weight (g)
01	T1	100	82*37*28	Caen	scroll moulding	1250-1350	scorched limewash, re-used	87
02	T1	104	40*35*18	Caen	roll moulding	early gothic	scorched	21
03	T1	105	55*30*20	Conglomerate		-		33
04	T2	108	92*45*30	Caen	ashlar	-	tooling	102
05	T1	112	70*52*25 53*40*10	Purbeck marble		-	In two pieces	145
06	T1	112	102*79*42	Caen	plinth	early gothic	scorched limewash	162
07	T1	112	100*32*29	Caen	scroll moulding	1250-1350	scorched limewash	154
08	T2	113	100*70*50	Caen	jamb?	-	mortice	346
09	T2	113	145*95*53	Caen	ashlar	-	tooling	526



## • Mortar

A small quantity of mortar was retained for descriptive analysis, amounting to eight fragments with a combined weight of 634g. All eight pieces are examples of wall render applied with lime-wash, one small piece of which has been subjected to burning before a clean layer of lime-wash was applied. Aside from the burnt example, the fragments are all from T2, collected from the upper soils (108 & 109) and also the flint and crushed mortar fill (113) of pit [140].

Test Pit	Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments
T1	110	1	10	Friable, highly calcareous fabric more similar to a daub than true mortar, oxidise dark orange outer surface, wiped smooth and white-washed (lime-wash clean and not heat affected – i.e. post burning)
T2	108	2	173	Off-white, fairly coarse gritty, hard with occ. chalk an freq. flint stones up to 40mm. Max. 350mm thick. Smooth wiped surface painted thinly with a smooth lime-wash (clear brush strokes).
T2	109	3	216	Off-white, fairly coarse gritty, hard with occ. chalk an freq. flint stones up to 40mm. similar to wall render from (108)
T2	109	1	53	14mm thick wall render of fairly porous, hard off-white mortar with occ. grit upto 8m max. wiped smooth on outer surface and applied with a smooth white lime-wash c. 1mm thick with fine brush marks visible
T2	113	1	182	c. 20mm thick wall render of fairly porous, hard yellowish-white mod. calcareous mortar with occ. grit wiped smooth on outer surface(impressions of wall stones on reverse) and applied with a thin and now flaking white lime-wash
<b>Total</b>		8	634	

## • Window Glass

Eight pieces of Victorian Cylinder manufactured window glass weighing a combined total of 83g were collected from the upper soils and 1981 backfill within T1 (contexts (105), (110) & (112)). The glass is c. 3mm in thickness, of which six pieces are in a light amberish-brown, two are green and one is clear. Another piece of glass was recovered still set into the lead (see lead).

One small narrow piece of medieval window glass was collected from the 1981 backfill deposit (104) which is has two grozed parallel edges. The piece is in fairly poor condition and no traces of paint are present.

## • Lead

A total of thirteen pieces of lead were retained from the site, with a combined weight of 184g, all of which was collected from late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century deposits. Eight pieces were of melted and puddled lead, presumably a direct result of the conflagration of 1865. A strip of lead, maybe from masonry work, and three pieces of milled window came of late post-medieval date were also collected, one of which retains a fragment of clear window glass and is very similar to surviving remnants set within the lights of the tower. A single light piece of early milled lead made with a hand turned vice was collected from the upper soil (105) in T1. It has the characteristic reeding along the central web, such plain light-weight leads became widespread in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and some may date from the 1400s (Egan et al. 52, 2010).

- **Iron Nails**

A total of twenty-nine nails were collected, the majority of which are post-medieval structural nails collected from upper soil deposits and which can be sourced to the internal fixtures and fittings of the church. Most are fragmentary and have square shanks and square heads and are in a fairly poor condition. A complete nail of 110mm length collected from a medieval make-up deposit (120) in T1 has a small square head with a tapering point and may have served as a holdfast to fix timber to masonry. An oval headed iron stud from context (109) in T2 may have been used to help decorate a timber box or coffin or as a door stud.

- **Clay tobacco pipe**

Two small snapped pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem of late post-medieval date were collected as residual finds, one from the 1981 backfill in T1 (103) and the other from make-up deposits of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century in the same area (112).

- **Burnt flint**

Two fragments of well-calcined and fire-cracked burnt flint were collected from late-post-medieval soils ((105) & (107)).

- **Drinks bottles, cans and a 1980s Monster Munch crisp packet**

Fifty-one example fragments of modern beer, lager, wine, spirits, pop and milk bottles were collected from the upper soil deposits of T1, T2 and T4 (contexts (107), (108), (109), & (105)) and also the 1981 backfill in front of the Sayer's vault ((103) & (104)). A fragment from a thick walled glass jar of modern date was also found. A single piece of clear glass and a piece of brown 'beer' bottle glass were collected from the make-up deposit (122) close to the vault. Within the assemblage of bottle glass of the 1981 backfill deposit (104) were necks from both modern beer and alcohol bottles as well as the necks and bases (one embossed with 'Gt Yarmouth') from a minimum of two soda or mineral water bottles, one of which retains its vulcanised hard-rubber stopper marked 'Hunts Ltd - GT YARMOUTH 1925'. The Yarmouth Aerated Beverage (YABC) was in business on Fullers Hill from 1897 and in May 1900 was taken over by Hunts Ltd. Hunts Ltd were a major producer of soda water, ginger beer and similar products in Yarmouth based on Howards Street until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Refuse which may relate directly to the 1981 excavation and subsequent backfilling around the Sayers vault was retained from context (104) in the form of a crisp packet and a corroded lager can. The crisp packet is a Monster Munch Roast Beef flavour produced by Smiths (which later became a Walker's product from 1995) and the can is a Diat-Pils-Lager, from the Holsten-Brauerei of Hamburg-West-Germany.

The chromed metal back-plate for a mid to late 20th century bicycle bell was found with the upper soil (105) of T1 and during the excavation numerous pieces of plastic rubbish and the odd modern coin are all testament to the ongoing attractiveness of the site as both a playground and dumping ground.

Overall this material provides useful confirmation of the date of the upper soil deposits and also confirms a long history of people using the ruins as a 'haunt' throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## • 20<sup>th</sup> century Coinage

Metal detection discovered occasional modern coins in the upper soils (these ranged in issue from 1976 to 1987) and also four pre-decimal pennies, all of which are in fair to moderate condition:

- A 1964 penny was collected from the 1981 backfill (104) of T1
- A 1913 penny of George V and a 1939 penny of George VI from the upper soil and tile path remnant in T3
- A 1939 penny of George VI from the upper gravel/soils of T4

## • 'Vintage' Charm Pendant

A 7-pointed star shaped good luck charm pendant in copper-alloy of early to mid-20th century date was found in the topsoil (105) in T1 with the use of a metal detector. The pendant measures 25mm across and is missing its small suspension loop and gilding but retains its decoration. It has a central left-facing swastika set within a horseshoe within a 7-pointed star on the obverse and the words 'CONTENT, LOVE, HEALTH, PROSPERITY, COURAGE, HOPE, PATIENCE, FRIENDS radiating out to each point on the reverse.

## • Red deer antler

Five Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) antler pieces (weighing a total of 161g) were collected from both the 1981 backfill deposit and the make-up deposit (112) around area of the Sayers vault in the north-east corner of the church. These include one near complete example c. 34cm in length with no signs of saw marks at the base which may indicate that the antler was shed naturally from a mature male. The majority of pieces are in a poor condition and may have been partly decayed even prior to burial. Overall the pieces appear to represent antler from a minimum of two Roe deer bucks. Roe deer are a native species to the UK and, despite their near extinction in the 1800s from major forest clearance and over-hunting, they are now abundant, in part due to their reintroduction to woodland in the Victorian period aided by an increase in forest planting from the First World War onwards. The antler was retrieved from areas of soft ground and in one case appeared to have been pushed down an existing void in the form of a burrow, therefore it can be considered to be intrusive and may have been buried either within the last few years or sometime after the 1980s.

The motive behind this activity is unclear, but the church site has been promoted for some time on a regional and national level by dowisers as the north-eastern limit of a ley line of some notoriety known as the St Michael's line or Serpent line, which was defined as having a 350 mile course from Cornwall to Norfolk by New Age author John Mitchell in the 1960s. It is possible that the deer antler has been deposited within the church by a well-meaning visitor or visitors to the ruin with some personal belief tied to such lore, where the appearance of other modern votive offerings of candles, small mirrors and flowers have also been noted before. It is also possible that the charm pendant described above may also be linked to a similar motivation.

## 8.0 Summary Discussion of the Church Layout and its Development

Overall the results of the targeted test pitting, combined with some fortuitous discoveries, have provided physical evidence that in the main supports and refines phasing of the structures development as suggested by A.Phelps (see Figure 6).

Phelps suggested a broad phasing to the church structure which may have begun as a simple single-celled building sometime prior to 1300. The flint and earth packed footings identified in Trenches 3 and 4 define the eastern end of just such an original cell, a construction method which is by itself hard to date, but which appears to represent a relatively early medieval construction method and a footprint of which, only elements of the south wall of the nave can claim to date to. As previously noted by Rose (1985) and re-postulated by Phelps, much of the brick work on the internal face of the south wall has the appearance of a skin which could have been added to an existing face, presumably to renovate the older part of the church and tie in the walls and window lights to the expanded 14<sup>th</sup> century building. This may also go some way to explaining the variation in form and number of the windows (both existing and lost) when comparing the southern wall to the north wall.

During the project, a previously unnoticed blocked doorway was identified within the southern wall pierced by a later window. The west side of the ashlar blocks forming the jambs for the doorway were exposed by recent erosion of the masking flint face work on the external face of the wall, where fine, relatively small and limestone blocks were brought to light below the sill of the later window (N7). Once identified, the eastern side of the blocked door could also be discerned by the presence of a blocking joint and traces of highly abraded Caen limestone c. 2.3m above the ground level, which mark the remains of the blocked arch for the doorway. The original portal measured c. 1.4m in width and although the form of the arch is difficult to assess it appeared to be c. 2.5m high and of a relatively simple form, such as a lancet or equilateral formed arch, which would be consistent with a pre-1300s construction date for Norfolk (Fawcett 7, 1974). This lost door must have served



Plate 15 (left): Blocked medieval doorway (looking N) [1x2m scale]

Plate 16 (right): Blocked medieval doorway defined by coloured line

the original nave and possibly also the initial single celled church. Just how early this initial stone structure was constructed still remains uncertain, although both the suggested phasing and this discovery suggest that an early medieval phase should be considered for this initial build.

As luck would have it, during consolidation work of the church tower in 2015, two carved stone heads of between c. 200mm to 300mm in size were discovered by the conservation team on two separate occasions. They were both found as reused fragments of masonry set within the tower fabric. At present they are awaiting further analysis, but they can both be classified as grotesques of probable Romanesque style which would date them to the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century and although it has been suggested that they could have served as water spouts they also appear to be of the correct proportions to have served as corbels or capitals (Neil Moss *pers comm*). It is very possible that the actions of the medieval masons responsible for the construction of the tower sometime around the turn of the 14<sup>th</sup> century have preserved some of the only surviving decorative worked stone that may be attributed to the early form of the church prior to its later expansion and significant remodelling.



Plates 17 & 18: Early medieval carved stone heads recovered from the fabric of the tower by the conservation team in 2015

The excavation has confirmed that the Chancel was added to the east end of the nave where the footings provided for it made use of the more familiar medieval construction method of banded footings. The large northern aisle/nave was the next major addition, constructed sometime around the early 14<sup>th</sup> century based upon the window styles and use of early brick. This significant and costly expansion project utilised solid masonry footings, with the east wall soon taken down and the north nave extended to the east by the early to mid-14<sup>th</sup> century to create a possible Chapel, which left the church with its now distinctive double nave plan. A probable aumbry with lost ogee head and twin niches for lost statues either side of the reticulated window are recorded in this Chapel area, which may have been dedicated to a particular saint under the patronage of a specific individual or high status family. The window in the east wall of the Chancel appears to have also benefited from a 'new' window of very similar style in this same period.

Although any single satisfactory explanation for the development of the church into a double nave plan may be elusive, the result provided additional space within the church while maintaining the old layout. It has been suggested that as with examples at Pakefield near Lowestoft and Wisbech on the border with Cambridgeshire that this twin nave was necessary to serve two adjacent but separate parishes (Phelps 10, 2011). The most obvious being the neighbouring parish of Newton, a medieval village which may have lost its earlier medieval church to erosion by the sea and was itself claimed entirely by the late 1500s. If this encouraged new patrons to the church to rival pre-established ones, this may also go some way to explaining the rapid changes to the layout and fabric of the church.

Like many parish churches in the local area, St Margaret's Old Church seems to have had a significant period of investment around the 14<sup>th</sup> century, with considerable money and



effort spent on both its expansion and the installation and modification of window lights; the use of expensive early brickwork at Hopton on such a scale is particularly noteworthy. Usually, only the chancel of a parish church was the financial responsibility of the rector of the parish or their overseer whilst the remainder was the responsibility of the laity (Fawcett 5, 1974), in this case by wealthy but as yet unidentified patrons. Therefore the fairly rapid addition of a possible Chapel space may indicate that the same patrons also sponsored this additional build to elevate their own status and create a private space dedicated to their own family needs. It would seem likely that the positioning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Sayers family vault followed this medieval tradition and the area may have been previously occupied by high status internments.

The present tower was constructed c. 1400 and the porch sometime in the 15<sup>th</sup> century which completed the main works that we can recognise today. The window at A3 in the north wall has been proven beyond any doubt to have been formed from a blocked doorway, which may have had its threshold removed as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This door is suggested to have replaced a lancet window (Phelps 3, 2011). A later medieval northern bias to the church layout is perhaps reflected by the position of the 15<sup>th</sup> century porch and it may be that the focus of the church changed to a northern aspect following the addition of the northern nave and chancel chapel.

## **9.0 Conclusions**

The excavation of four targeted trenches of modest scale has provided valuable information which assists greatly in the creation of a narrative for the development of the church. The work has defined a modular sequence of growth, from a single celled building of probable pre-1300s date (now much modified and surviving as the south nave) to its unusual double nave plan via rapid expansion by the early to mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. A previously unrecorded blocked medieval doorway was identified in the south wall of the nave which may relate to the early church structure and the recent discovery of two Romanesque-style carved stone heads reused within the fabric of the tower appears to confirm the presence of an early stone church here.

Ceramic building materials appear to have been used on the site since the medieval period, with early bricks, roof tiles and floor tiles of broadly 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>-century date present. The use of brick here as a high status embellishment to the church may coincide with the various late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century phases of expansion made possible by an as yet unidentified wealthy individual or family.

Both residual finds of ceramic building material and ephemeral traces of flooring in Trench 2 and by Trench 4 suggest that the medieval church was formerly provided with a glazed tiled floor, with both medieval tiles and late medieval Flemish floor tiles present. The floor tiles were well-worn and by the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century the flooring may have been all but replaced by quarry tiles and floor brick.

Intriguingly, although the structure is known to have had a thatched roof into the 19<sup>th</sup> century the collection of a convincing number of glazed medieval roof tiles demonstrates that in the medieval period that some part of the structure had a tiled roof. There is also some evidence for a glazed pantile roof of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>-century date, although such tiles were often used for outhouses or extensions in this period.

Molten lead from the fire damaged windows and fragments of glass were collected, of which the majority of pieces were Victorian in date. A single piece of probable medieval window came was identified along with a single small fragment of medieval glass.

Some of the worked stone fragments collected as residual finds appear have been fire scorched prior to the application of a fresh limewash, this may relate in part to a post 1865 beautification of the internal layout following its conversion from a burnt out shell to a

mortuary chapel. Brick and tile relating to this phase of use was collected across the site and the 1952 sketch plan by Martin shows that a roofed chapel was maintained in the north-east corner of the church into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The internal layout of the church was mostly robbed out and the area levelled with soil below turf and gravelled areas over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century brick burial vault of the Sayers' family was successfully relocated and uncovered in the north-east corner of the church, with the full dimensions of the brick barrel vault able to be estimated from the results. The 1981 uncovering of the entrance steps and enthusiastic opening of the tomb appears to have done minimal damage to the monument, with the entrance having been neatly resealed.

A single sherd of medieval pottery was found mixed within the topsoil, which is from a basic storage jar or cooking vessel broadly dated from the late 12<sup>th</sup> century to 14<sup>th</sup> century. A single piece of well abraded lava stone from a hand quern was also found, objects usually associated with household activity throughout the Late Saxon to medieval periods.

A large assemblage of 20<sup>th</sup> century finds were collected from the upper soils of each Trench which relate to the final use of the church and its abandon to ruin. This assemblage of modern 'rubbish' includes numerous drinks bottle fragments (the earliest of which was from a locally produced soda or mineral water bottle of 1925), 1940s and later coinage and even a 1980s monster munch packet. Overall, this material confirms a long history of children and adults frequenting the ruins as a 'haunt' throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The discovery of a vintage charm pendant and also red deer antler pieces within the soils at Trench 1 at the eastern end of the church may be linked to the churches modern association with New Age beliefs surrounding ley lines, having been placed here as possible votive objects by relatively recent but well-meaning visitors to the site.

The modular development of the church is not entirely surprising, but to find new physical evidence supporting the growth of the church has been a revelation. Tentative evidence for construction joints and subtle changes of build in the above ground construction have now been confirmed through excavation of below ground footings. It is recommended that any future study or synthesis which makes use of the results of this work refers jointly to the Historic Building Report produced in 2011 which illustrates and discusses many of the masonry features and details throughout the church.

## **10.0 Acknowledgements**

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## Appendix 1a: Context Summary

SSD	Context	Type	Fill of?	Brief physical description	Interpretation	Period
T1	100	Deposit		Loose, greyish-brown sandy-loam. Freq. flints, mod. cbm, occ. plastic debris, freq. modern animal burrow disturbance noted	1981 Backfill	1981
U/S	101	-		Selected unstratified brick sample from rubble clearance within the church ruins	-	-
T3	102	Deposit		Thin sandy top-soil and late post-med. pavement tile fragments	Rough path	Modern
T1	103	Deposit		Same as 100 but gravel rich above indicating patching/relaying of a gravel surface	1981 Backfill	1981
T1	104	Deposit		Same as 100		1981
T1	105			Recent thin dark brownish-grey sandy topsoil development (post 1980s)	Soil	Modern
T4	106	Deposit		Soft, dark-greyish-brown sandy-loam with freq. gravel	Gravel/soil spread	Modern
T4	107	Deposit		Soft, dark-greyish brown sandy-loam, occ. stones	Soil	Modern
T2	108	Deposit		Soft, dark-greyish-brown sandy-loam with freq. gravel	Gravel/soil spread	Modern
T2	109	Deposit		Soft, dark-greyish brown sandy-loam, occ. stones	Soil	Modern.
T1	110	Deposit		Same as 100		1981
T3	111	Deposit		Friable, mid-brown silty-sand, c. 50% sub-rounded flint stones (medium size)	Stony Layer	Modern
T1	112	Deposit		Firm, yellowish-brown silty-sand. Mod. flints + cbm, freq. modern animal burrow disturbance noted	Makeup	L19-20th
T2	113	Deposit	[140]	V.friable, yellowish-brown silty-sand, 20% sandy yellow mortar debris, 25% large flints, mod. fractured flints, rare scraps of limestone	Pit fill	C19th+
T2	114	Deposit		Firm/dense, homogenous mid-greyish-brown clay-silt	Makeup/subsoil	Medieval
T2	115	Masonry		Well-made flint & mortar fabric, regular course bonded with hard white, v. sandy mortar. Flints up to 120mm.	N-S Wall of north nave	Medieval (?E14th)
T2	116			Same as 142		
T2	117	Masonry		Post-med. Bricks set a stretchers bonded with a friable white, bleeding mortar on thin mortar bed above soil spread	Brick blocking	P.medieval+
T1	118	Deposit	[119]	Compact, mid-brown banded layers of crushed mortar and dense fine sandy-silt	Banded footings of Chancel	Medieval (?114th)
T1	119	Cut		Linear construction cut for banded deposits to provide footings for original north wall of the Chancel	Const. cut for E-W wall	Medieval
T1	120	Deposit		Firm, yellowish-brown silty-sand. Mod. flints	Makeup	Medieval
T1	121	Masonry		Post-medieval brick steps and entrance way to Sayers Family Vault (blocked with re-used bricks and modern cement).	Vault - steps	C18th
T1	122	Masonry		Post-medieval brick barrel vault, hard lime-rich coarse white mortar bond	Vault	C18th
T1	122	Masonry		Post-medieval brick, hard lime-rich coarse white mortar bond	Barrel Vault	C18th
T1	123	Masonry		Post-medieval brick, hard lime-rich coarse white mortar bond	Vault side wall	C18th
T1	124	Cut		Rectangular construction cut within which the vault was tightly constructed	Vault const. cut	C18th
T1	125	Deposit	[126]	Firm 'sticky', dark-grey clay, freq. chalk flecks.	PH Fill	L.med/p.med
T1	126	Cut		Sub-oval, c. 0.4m deep steep sided, blunt base.	PH	L.med/p.med
T1	127	Masonry		East end retaining wall of a Victorian brick lined tomb of Norfolk Reds bonded with soft, fine white lime-mortar	Victorian Tomb	C19th
T3	128	Masonry		Well-sorted sub-rounded cobbles up to 150mm (av. 80mm) bonded in irregular layers of dense earth packing: dark-yellowish-brown fine sandy-silt	E-W stone footings	Medieval



SSD	Context	Type	Fill of?	Brief physical description	Interpretation	Period
T3	129	Cut		Near vertical sided trench cut containing earth packed stone footings (E-W aligned)	Const. trench	Medieval
T3	130	Deposit		Friable/dense, Mid to dark brown sandy-silt, homogenous	Makeup/subsoil	Medieval
T3	131	Cut	[132]	Concave sided pit of unknown depth (>0.2m)	Demolition pit	Late med/P.med
T3	132	Deposit		Soft/loose, pale-yellowish-white mortar debris, mod. small medieval brick fragments	Pit fill	Late med/P.med
T3	133	Cut		Vertical sided with a concave base, c. 0.4m deep	Demolition pit	Late med/P.med
T3	134	Deposit	[133]	Friable, mottled yellowish/brown sandy-silt + fine pale yellow sand patches, occ. mortar flecks, occ. cbm frags.	Pit fill	Late med/P.med
T2	135	Cut		Sub-circular, est. diameter of c.0.5m	?PH	P.med
T2	136	Deposit	[135]	Friable, mottled mix of mid-brown sandy-silt and cbm (medieval and post-medieval fabrics)	?PH fill	P.med
T4	137	Masonry		Well-sorted sub-rounded cobbles up to 150mm (av. 80mm) bonded in irregular layers of dense earth packing: dark-yellowish-brown fine sandy-silt. Forms the south-east corner footing for a structure.	Nave footings	Medieval
T4	138	Deposit		Friable/dense, Mid to dark brown sandy-silt, homogenous	Makeup/subsoil	Medieval
T4	139	Masonry		constructed of post-medieval sandy-red brick with pamment tiles	Pulpit steps	L.P.med
T2	140	Cut		Very shallow 'pit' with uneven base and edges that match a blocked opening for a door/light	Pit	L.P.med
T2	141	Cut		Poss. scaffold post base set upon masonry 115	Dist./PH	P.med
T2	142	Deposit		V.friable, yellowish sandy-mortar	?Mortar surface	Med/p.med
T2	143	Deposit		Same as 114		P.med
T2	144	Masonry		Base of 115		Medieval+

## Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Church	1
	Posthole	1
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Pit	3
	Posthole	2
	Family Vault	1

***Appendix 2a: Finds by Context***

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comment
100	Iron - Nail	7	76	
100	Stone - worked	1	88	NB: scorched and whitewashed
100	CBM - Roof Tile	1	11	
101	CBM - Brick	4	5088	
101	CBM - Floor tile	2	2559	
102	Copper-Alloy - coin	1	8.78	Coin - 1913 George V Penny
102	Copper-Alloy - coin	1	9.44	Coin - 1939 George VI Penny
103	Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	2	
103	Glass - bottle	2	10	
103	CBM - Roof Tile	1	28	
104	Copper-Alloy - coin	1	9.16	Coin - 1964 Elizabeth II Penny
104	Slate – Roof tile	1	167	
104	Lead - came	1	17	
104	Iron - Nail	3	26	
104	Glass - bottle	19	333	
104	Stone - worked	1	24	
104	Stone - worked	1	104	
104	CBM - Roof Tile	5	603	
104	CBM - Floor tile	2	631	
104	CBM - Brick	2	1622	
104	Plastic	1	2	crisp packet - smiths monster munch (pre-1995 walkers)
104	Lager can	1	122	
105	Cu Alloy	1	2.92	Charm pendant
105	Flint – Burnt	1	6	
105	Metal	1	17	?Back plate for a bike bell
105	Lead alloy	1	3	Mount/vessel frag - decorated plus silver tinning
105	Slate - Rooftile	3	48	
105	Lead - came	2	18	one frag. has glass in place, x2 melted
105	Lead	7	120	melted and puddled lead
105	Iron - Nail	4	33	
105	Glass - bottle	20	150	
105	Glass - window	1	34	
105	Stone - worked	1	34	
106	Copper-Alloy - coin	1	9.29	Coin - 1939 George VI Penny
106	CBM - Floor tile	4	533	
106	CBM - Brick	1	31	
107	Pottery	1	6	Medieval
107	Flint – Burnt	1	15	
107	Iron - Nail	6	38	
107	Glass - bottle	2	40	
107	CBM - Floor tile	2	262	
107	CBM - Brick	3	330	
108	Pottery	2	21	Modern

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comment
108	Slate - Rooftile	1	19	
108	Mortar	2	173	White washed surfaces
108	Iron - Nail	1	17	Carpentry nail
108	Glass - bottle	5	62	
108	CBM – Roof tile	5	239	
108	CBM - Floor tile	4	678	
109	Pottery	1	3	Modern
109	Lava stone	1	148	Quern fragment (abraded)
109	Slate - Rooftile	1	137	
109	Mortar	3	216	
109	Mortar	1	53	?Render, whitewashed
109	Iron - Nail	1	2	
109	Glass - bottle	1	10	
109	CBM - Roof tile	19	734	
109	CBM - Floor tile	2	149	
109	CBM - Brick	1	22	
110	Antler	3	115	
110	Glass - window	1	4	Medieval
110	Mortar	1	10	Scorched then whitewashed
110	Glass - window	5	40	
110	CBM – Roof tile	2	57	
110	CBM - Floor tile	2	197	
111	CBM - Brick	3	406	
111	CBM - Floor tile	3	420	
112	Antler	2	46	27 plus 19. ?Red deer
112	Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	2	
112	Glass - bottle	2	26	
112	Stone - worked	3	468	Scorched and whitewashed
112	CBM - Floor tile	1	143	
112	Glass - window	3	9	
113	Mortar	1	182	Mortar - whitewashed
113	Stone - worked	2	894	
113	CBM - Roof tile	2	127	
113	CBM - Floor tile	2	148	
113	CBM - Brick	3	3933	
114	CBM - Roof tile	1	23	
120	Iron - Nail	3	43	
132	CBM - Floor tile	3	117	
132	CBM - Brick	1	23	
134	CBM - Roof tile	1	50	
136	CBM - Brick	1	155	
136	CBM - Floor tile	1	72	

**Appendix 2b: Finds summary table**

Period	Material	Quantity
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Ceramic building material	64
	Lava Quern	1
	Lead - came	1
	Mortar	8
	Pottery	1
	Window glass	1
	Worked stone	9
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Ceramic building material	20
	Clay tobacco pipe	2
	Lead - came	3
	Lead	9
	Nails	29
	Window glass	8
Modern (1900 to 2015AD)	Antler	5
	Bottle glass	51
	Coins	3
	Copper alloy object – charm pendant	1
	Crisp packet	1
	Drinks can	1
	Pottery	3
	Slate – tile	6

**Appendix 3: Ceramic Building Material**

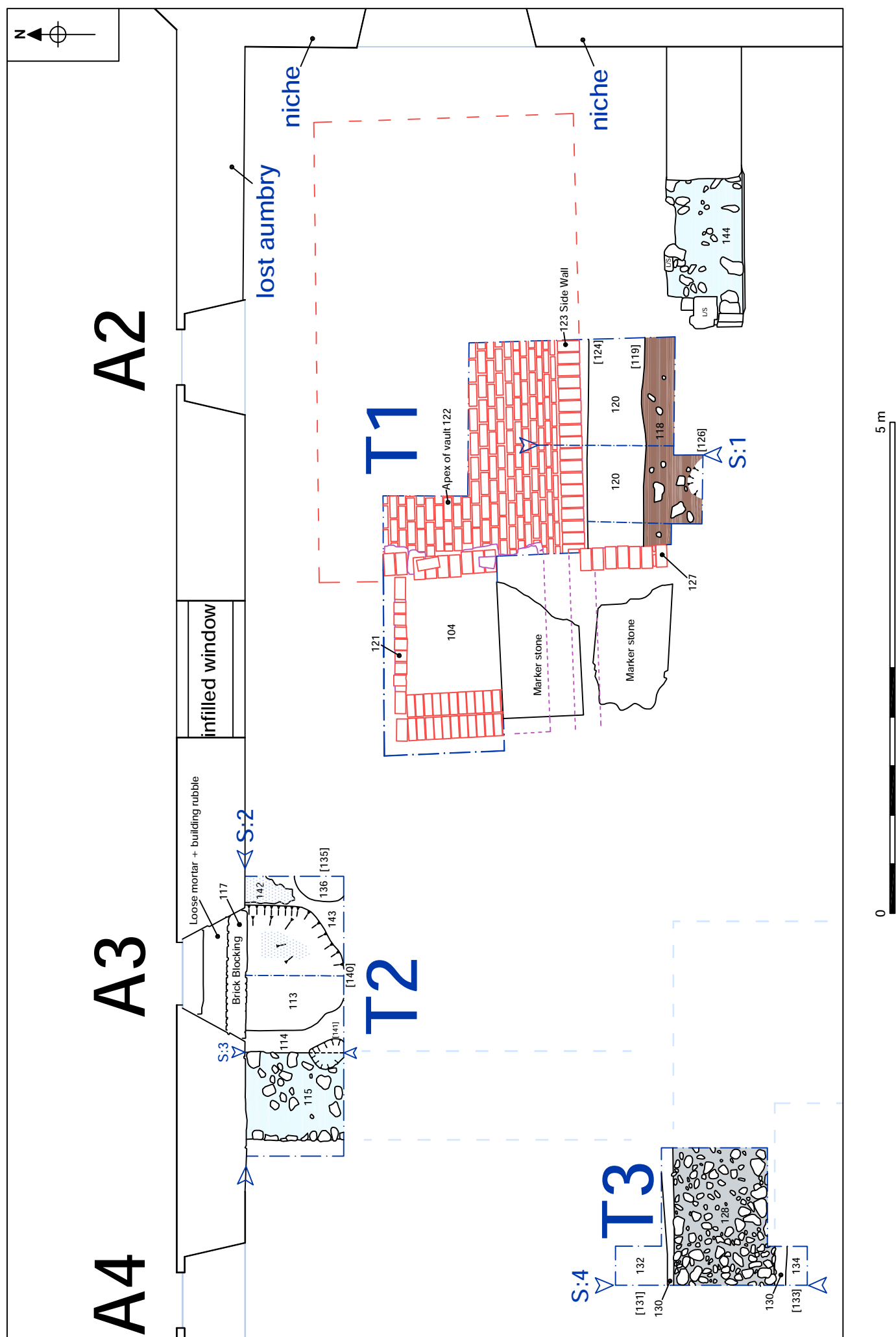
Context	fabric	form	no	wt/g	abr	L	W	T	mortar	EB base	glaze	comments	date
100	fscq	RTM	1	11							SG	reduced core	med
101	fs	FFT	1	153			112	28	thin on surface		G	base has been scored and partly cut/broken to shape	lmed
101	est	EB	1	1061			105	47		straw			13-15
101	est	EB	1	2201		238	118	49	ms white on surface	straw			13-15
101	est	EB	1	1064			102	51	ms buff	straw/sand		chamfered corner before firing	13-15
101	est	EB	1	762			110	41		straw/sand		sawn or poss moulded, slightly concave, across corner	13-15
101	wfs	QFT	1	2406			226	46					pmed
103	fs	PAN	1	28					patchy ms		DB		pmed
104	fs	PAN	4	554					patchy ms, incl on breaks		DB		pmed
104	fs	RTM	1	49					patchy ms, incl on breaks				med
104	fs	FFT	1	530		112	105	23	patchy ms, incl on surface		DB	overfired, warped	lmed
104	fs	FFT	1	101				25			DB	worn corner frag, no pinhole	lmed
104	est	EB	1	697			100	42		sand/occ			13-15



Context	fabric	form	no	wt/g	abr	L	W	T	mortar	EB base	glaze	comments	date
										straw			
104	est	EB	1	925		171	108	38		sand/ occ straw		sawn to shape, two corners chamfered with small notch between	13-15
106	est	EB	1	31	+				patchy on break				13-15
106	fsm	FFT	1	175	+			28			WSY		lmed
106	fsg	QFT	3	358				>45				1 frag worn, poss all 1 tile	pmed
107	fs	FFT	1	133	+			25	patchy ms on base		DG		lmed
107	fs	FFT	1	129	+			26	thick white ms		WSY		lmed
107	wfs	LB	1	120				60	white ms both surfaces				19+
107	msm	LB	1	165				45					15-17
107	fs	LB	1	45	+								pmed
108	fsfe	FFT	1	248	+			25	ms white on base		DG	slight wear	lmed
108	fsfe	FFT	1	177				26+			C	v worn, glaze on edge only	lmed
108	fs	FT	1	70				24				v worn, reduced core, more heavily chamfered than FFTs	med/lmed
108	fsg	FFT	1	183				24			WSY		lmed
108	fs	RTM	1	89					patch buff ms			reduced core. Rounded Peg hole present	med/lmed
108	fs	RTM	1	47					patch buff ms		SDB	sandwich core - brown, orange, grey	med
108	fs	RTM	1	42				16			B	poss RID, flat, reduced except base	med
108	fs	RID	2	61				16			B	=1 tile, curving	med
109	est	EB	1	22	+				ms buff all over				13-15
109	fsfe	LB	1	22	++							soft	lmed/pmed
109	fs	FFT	1	71				25	ms buff on surface, ms cream on base		WSY		lmed
109	fs	FT	1	78					cream fs on base			v worn, reduced core, more heavily chamfered than FFTs	med/lmed
109	fs	RTM	6	207					thin on some			reduced cores	med/lmed
109	ms	RTM	1	59								reduced core	med
109	msf	RTM	3	68	+								med/lmed
109	fs	RTP	1	41					thick ms white				lmed/pmed
109	fs	RTM	3	105							G	reduced cores	med
109	fs	RTM	3	76	+						B		med
109	msf	RTM	1	147							B	small area of glaze at lower end, reduced core	med
109	fs	RID	1	31				17			B	same as 108?	med
110	fs	RTM	1	42	+				patchy ms			reduced core	med
110	fsf	FT	1	108				23			B	worn, reduced core	med
110	fs	FT	1	89				24+			O	worn, reduced core, traces of ?relief dec	med
110	fs	RID	1	15							G	incised dec?	med
111	fsgfe	LB	1	94									pmed
111	wfs	FB/FT	2	312								base frags, slightly chamfered edge at base	18/19
111	fsg	FFT	1	147	+			24+	thin		SC	v worn	lmed
111	msf	FT	1	130				22+				v worn, reduced core,	med/lmed

Context	fabric	form	no	wt/g	abr	L	W	T	mortar	EB base	glaze	comments	date
												more heavily chamfered than FFTs	
112	fs	FFT	1	143				27			?	worn, partial reduced core	lmed
113	est	EB	1	1029	+		128	70		sanded			13-14
113	fscq	LB	1	2072			110	67	fs white on base			attempt to chamfer after firing, cut on surface and broken below	19
113	fscq	LB	1	832	+		110	65				large rounded gravel inclusions, occ Fe	19
113	fs	FFT	1	53				25			WSY		lmed
113	fsf	FT	1	95				23			DG	v worn, reduced core, more heavily chamfered than FFTs	med
113	fs	RTM	1	31								reduced core	med
113	fs	RID	1	96				16			C/G		med
114	fsf	RTM	1	23							C		med
132	fs	FFT	3	117	+			24+	thick ms cream, incl surface of 1			v worn	lmed
132	est	EB	1	23					thin			flake	13-15
134	msf	RTM	1	50	+						?		med
136	fs	FFT	1	72				25+	ms cream on base, white on surface			mortar on surface looks like plaster infilling large pockmark?	lmed
136	fs	LB	1	155				57					pmed







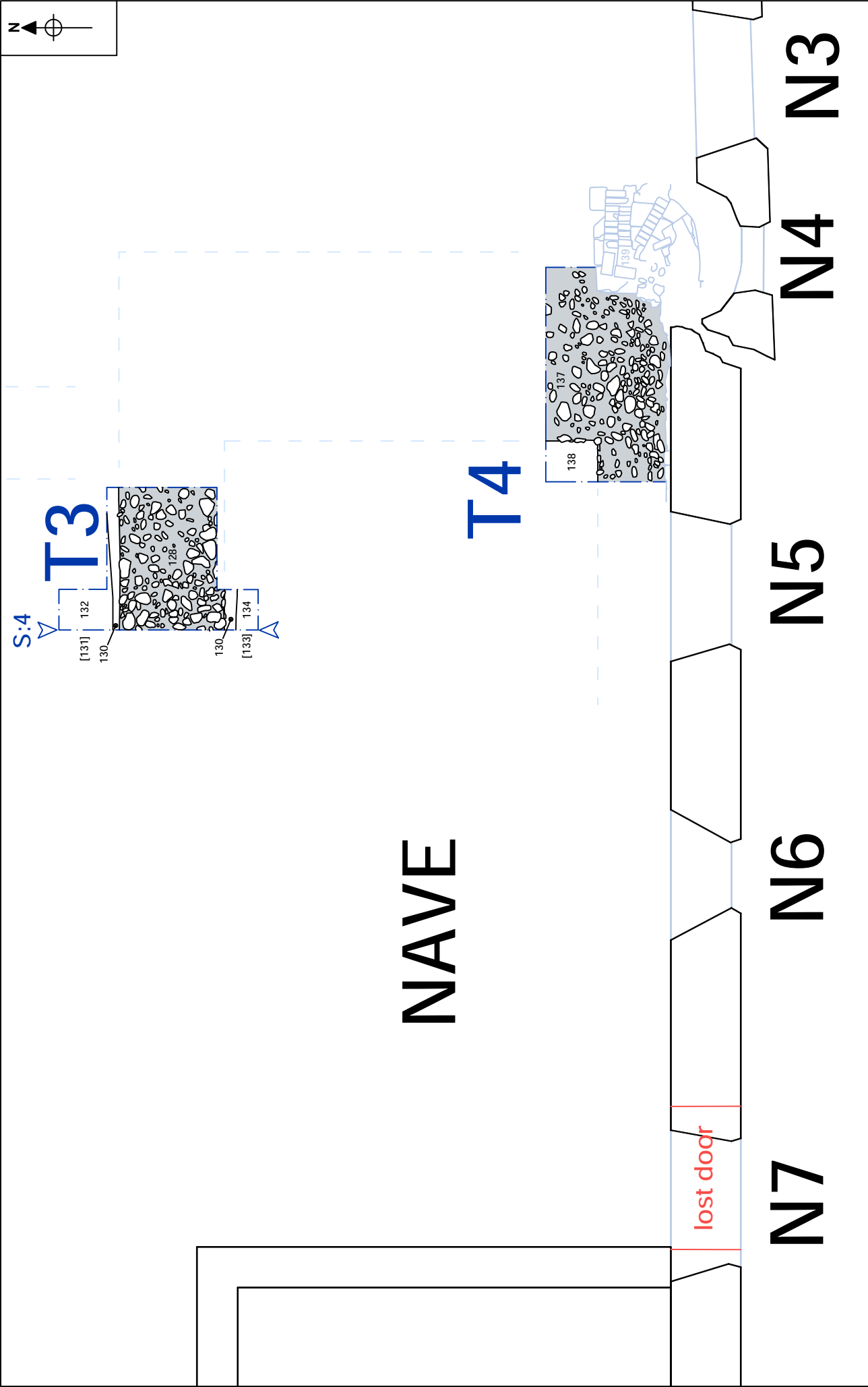


Figure 4. T3 & T4. Scale 1:50

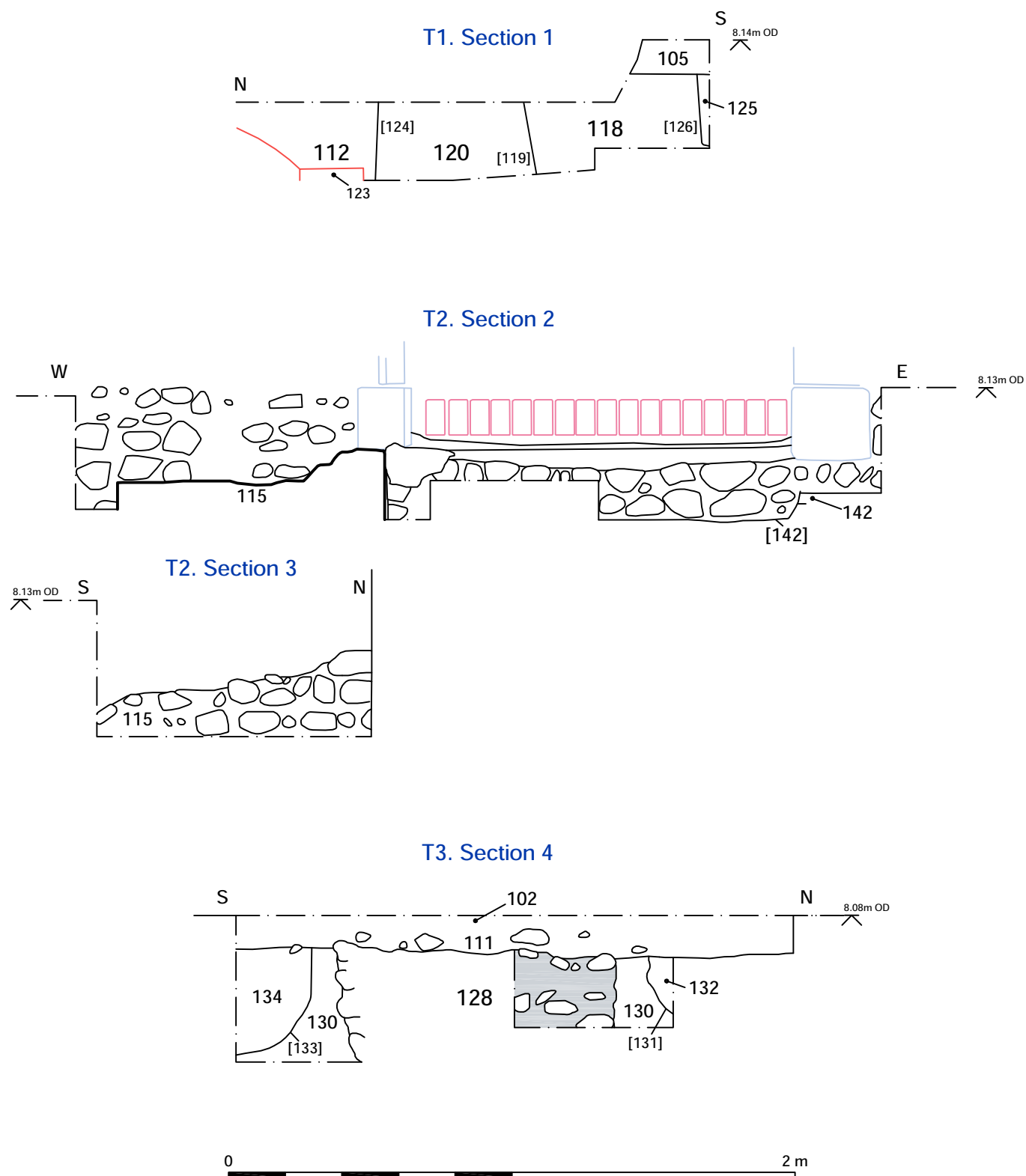


Figure 5. Recorded Sections. Scale 1:20

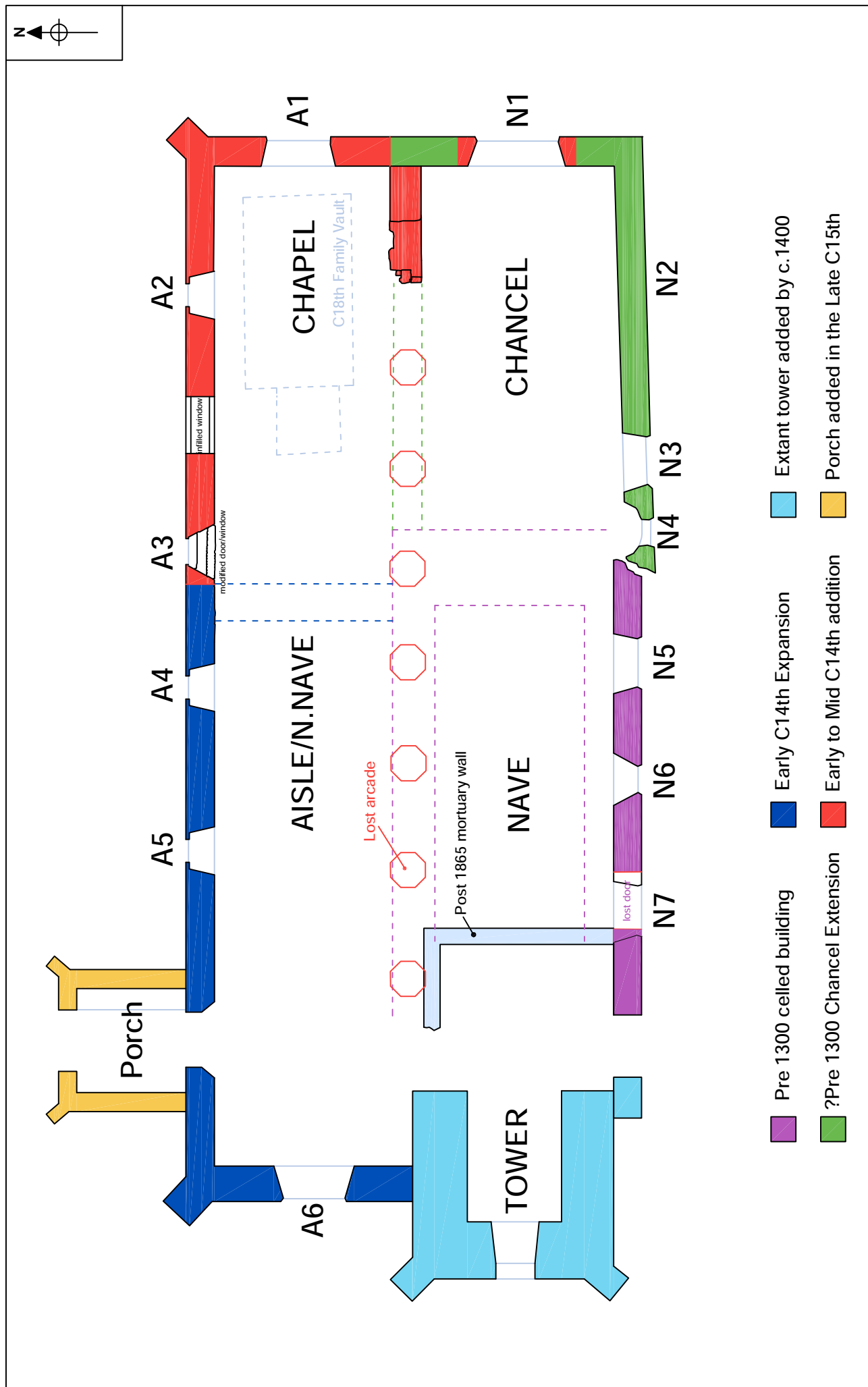


Figure 6. Revised phase plan (after A.Phelps)

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: norvicar1-218799

Project details

Project name	A Community Archaeological Project at St Margaret's Old Church, Hopton on Sea, Norfolk		
Short description of the project	The results of a three day community archaeology dig as part of a wider community engagement initiative for the Old St Margaret's Ruins Restoration Project. This restoration project aims to repair and consolidate the crumbling structure alongside a programme of training and community engagement activities. The overall aim of the restoration project is to stabilise the walls, to allow the building to be taken off Historic England's Heritage at risk Register, and to remove the security fence to open up the area for public use. The restoration project is supported by grant funding from the Heritage Lottery, Historic England and the Parish Council. Four targeted trenches investigated the original form and development of the church. The work defined the modular sequence of growth of the church from an early medieval single celled building to its unusual double nave plan, with the differing footings and joints of the build identified and recorded. The 18th century brick burial vault of the Sayers' family was successfully relocated and uncovered in the north-east corner of the church and a previously unrecorded blocked medieval doorway was identified in the south wall of the nave. A variety of finds were collected, which included medieval glazed roof and floor tiles, 1940s coinage and molten window lead from the 1865 fire.		
Project dates	Start: 31-08-2014	End: 03-09-2014	
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known		
Any associated project reference codes	ENF134994 - HER event no.		
Any associated project reference codes	NVC/214/GE145 - Contracting Unit No.		
Type of project	Recording project		
Site status	None		
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings		
Monument type	CHURCH Medieval		
Monument type	POST HOLE Medieval		
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval		
Monument type	POSTHOLE Post Medieval		

Monument type	FAMILY VAULT Post Medieval		
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Medieval		
Significant Finds	LAVA QUERN Medieval		
Significant Finds	LEAD Medieval		
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval		
Significant Finds	WINDOW GLASS Medieval		
Significant Finds	WORKED STONE Medieval		
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval		
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval		
Significant Finds	LEAD Post Medieval		
Significant Finds	WINDOW GLASS Post Medieval		
Significant Finds	ANTLER Modern		
Significant Finds	BOTTLE GLASS Modern		
Significant Finds	COINS Modern		
Significant Finds	CRISP PACKET Modern		
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"		
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest		
Project location			
Country	England		
Site location	NORFOLK GREAT YARMOUTH HOPTON ON SEA St Margaret's Old Church, Hopton on Sea, Norfolk		
Postcode	NR31 9BT		
Study area	0 Square metres		
Site coordinates	TM 5301 9997 52.5380980588 1.73143826567 52 32 17 N 001 43 53 E Point		
Project creators			
Name of Organisation	Norvic Archaeology		
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)		
Project design originator	Norvic Archaeology		
Project director/manager	Giles Emery		
Project supervisor	Giles Emery		
Name of sponsor/funding body	Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust		
Project bibliography 1			
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)		
Title	The Results of a Community Archaeological Project at St Margaret's Old Church, Hopton on Sea, Norfolk		

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