

**THE CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ST LAWRENCE  
FEWSTON  
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**



JB Archaeological Services

On behalf of

**WASHBURN HERITAGE GROUP**

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John Buglass Archaeological Services  
Rosebank  
Newby Wiske  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL7 9EX

01609 773764

[johnnybmail@tisclai.co.uk](mailto:johnnybmail@tisclai.co.uk)

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Front Cover: One of the more unusual shapes of grave marker which oak leaf motif. The two dropped acorns could be seen as representative of the two inhumations in the grave.

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**THE CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ST LAWRENCE  
FEWSTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

*Summary*

*An area of land to the north-west of the Church of St Michael and St Lawrence, Fewston is the proposed site for the construction of a Heritage Centre for the Washburn Heritage Group. The site is immediately adjacent to the north-west corner of the church tower (SE 1947 5411) within the churchyard. Part of the process to develop this site is to assess the archaeological potential of the location and its immediate vicinity. This is to allow a better understanding of the site in order to assist in the determination of the next stage of mitigation and the construction design for the building. It will also accompany any planning application and thus help reduce the potential for delays in the planning process.*

*Fewston is an historic settlement with recorded origins from at least the 11<sup>th</sup> century and probably earlier. It saw its size and importance increase in the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century only to decline in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the small, somewhat dispersed settlement that is seen today. The tower of the church dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> century with the main body of the building being a 17<sup>th</sup> century, rebuild as a result of a fire.*

*There are seventeen known 19<sup>th</sup> century graves lying within the proposed development area, though there is a potential for further, unmarked burials to be present which may date back to the medieval origins of the church. There is also a potential for other buried remains to be present but this is considered to be low. Any surviving features would probably relate to the medieval phase of the church in the form of ancillary buildings.*

*Development on the site will have a major impact upon a number of the known burials and possibly upon a currently unknown number of further burials. Should there be other buried archaeological remains within the proposed area they too would be impacted upon. The extent of the impact depends upon the depth and nature of the foundations and the related service trenches for the Heritage Centre. To this end an initial series of small trial trenches/test pits is proposed. These would be located between the known graves and along the line of the proposed foundations in order to determine the potential for the condition, type and extent of any archaeological survival. Depending upon the results of the trial trenches, a further programme of mitigation would be agreed upon in consultation with the Diocese, the planning authorities and the Heritage Section of North Yorkshire County Council.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In advance of the submission of a planning application for the construction of a Heritage Centre attached to the church of St Michael and St Lawrence at Fewston (hereafter St Lawrence) (SE 1947 5411), a desk based assessment (DBA) has been undertaken into the historic and archaeological potential of the site. This is in order to try to establish the potential for, and significance of, any buried archaeological remains, including the known burials that may lie within the proposed site. This is the first part of a staged approach in order to develop an appropriate mitigation strategy that can be carried out as part of the planning process and to comply with Diocesan requirements. This document represents that desk-based assessment which is the first stage of the procedure as recommended in the *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (English Heritage, 2005), specifically Annexe S2.
- 1.2 Research into the site was undertaken in September/October 2008 and a site visit was undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The site visit was to establish the current nature of the proposed site, the number of marked inhumations and the potential for other buried features to be present. The visit also carried out a rapid assessment of the surrounding area with a view to the possibility of the survival of other archaeological features, particularly along the proposed line of a new footpath to the north-west.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Location

- 2.1 The proposed development site is immediately adjacent to the north-western corner of the church tower of St Lawrence's Church which itself is towards the south-eastern end of the main part of the settlement of Fewston (SE 1947 5411). Fewston lies in its own civil parish in Harrogate District and is located c.11km to the west of Harrogate and c.8.5km to the north of Otley in North Yorkshire.

### Geology and soils

- 2.2 The underlying geology of Fewston and the surrounding area is Namurian millstone grit of the Upper Carboniferous (British Geological Survey, 2001). Overlying this the quaternary geology has not been classified by the British Geological Survey (British Geological Survey, 1977). The soils, which have developed from these deposits, are the Rivington 1 Association which are well drained coarse loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

### Topography and land-use

- 2.3 The site is at an average height of 172mOD with a steep slope running north-south and a less steep one running west to east. The north-south slope has a drop of c.3m over the 20m (approx. 1 in 6), whilst the west-east slope is shallower at just under 1m over 14m.
- 2.4 The site lies in the church yard which in the past has been extensively used for inhumation burials, with the last occurring some 112 years ago when the

graveyard was closed in 1896 (Plate 1). In association with the burials there are a wide range of size and style of grave markers, mostly dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Plate 2).

- 2.5 To the north and east of the site lies the minor road which runs through this part of the dispersed settlement. To the west there is a small area of trees and a gravel car park where the vicarage once stood, whilst to the south the ground slopes down to the northern shore of Swinsty Reservoir.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY AND INFORMATION SOURCES**

- 3.1 The principal aims of the desk-based assessment were to:

- identify known archaeological and historic sites within or immediately adjacent to the proposed development site
- identify areas with the potential to contain any unrecorded archaeological remains
- assess the effects of any proposed development upon known and potential archaeological sites
- propose archaeological measures which could be built into the development proposals to avoid, reduce or remedy any potential adverse effects identified.

- 3.2 This report is based upon the review of readily available documentation relating to the site and its environs. The study gathered data on an area around the site of up to 1km in order to set the site within its wider landscape and then looked in more detail at an area of *c.*250m radius around the church. In order to produce these reports, research was undertaken at the North Yorkshire Heritage Unit, West Yorkshire Archives and English Heritage National Monuments Record

- 3.3 The following data sources were researched for the assessments:

- North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record
- West Yorkshire Archives
- published and unpublished historical and archaeological studies
- cartographic sources (including historic Ordnance Survey maps)
- National Monuments Record: Listed Buildings

- 3.4 A site inspection of the site was carried out on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The inspection was carried out with two objectives; firstly to confirm the nature and extent of the church and its graveyard and secondly to identify possible areas for the survival of archaeological remains.

### **4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Archaeological and historic sites recorded within the 250m radius study area of the site are summarised in Table 1 below. The sites are identified by a site number, which is correlated with the North Yorkshire Historic Environment

Record (HER) entries (ENY and MNY) where relevant. A central grid reference, suggested classification and a date are provided for each site, which are graded in archaeological significance as of 1 (national), 2 (regional) and 3 (local) importance. This is based upon professional judgement and the criteria in Annex 6 of PPG16. The location of the sites is shown on Figure 1.

**Table 1: Archaeological sites within a c.250m radius of the site**

<i>Site Number</i>	<i>Reference Number</i>	<i>Grid Reference</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Period/Date</i>	<i>Grade</i>
1	--	SE 19230 54230	Ruined building	Post-Medieval	3
2	--	SE 19410 54320	Oval enclosure	?Iron Age/Medieval	3
3	--	SE 19338 54198	Building platform	Post-medieval	3
4	--	SE 19528 54258	Pond	Post-medieval	3
5	--	SE 19530 54271	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	3
6	--	SE 19530 54220	Water trough	Post-medieval	3
7	--	SE 19535 54050	Well	Post-medieval	3
8	--	SE 19532 54055	Spring	Post-medieval	3
9	--	SE 19475 54020	Quarry scoop	Post-medieval	3
10	--	SE 19465 54000	Quarry scoop	Post-Medieval	3
11	--	SE 19480 54000	Carved rock	Unknown	3
12	--	SE 19413 54087	Building	Post-Medieval	3
13	--	SE 19450 54050	Lynchet	Medieval	3
14	--	SE 19410 54115	Water tank	Post-medieval	3
15	--	SE 19340 54050	Pond	Post-Medieval	3
16	--	SE 19340 54130	Quarry scoop	Post-medieval	3
17	--	SE 19320 54170	Building platform	Post-medieval	3
18	--	SE 19441 54090	Water trough	Post-medieval	3
19	--	SE 19450 54100	Water trough	Post-medieval	3
20	--	SE 19500 54110	Churchyard	?AS/Medieval	3
21	--	SE 19490 54229	Parochial Hall	Post-Medieval	3
22	LB II	SE 19460 54171	Ivy Cottage	Post-Medieval	2
23	ENY775	SE 19460 54171	Medieval pottery	Medieval	3
24	--	SE 19440 54110	The Old Vicarage	Post-medieval	3
25	--	SE 19493 54143	Smiths Arms PH	Post-medieval	3
26	--	SE 19510 54139	Smithy	Post-Medieval	3
27	--	SE 19580 54300	Outgang	Post-medieval	3
28	--	SE 19230 54230	Ruined building	Post-medieval	3
29	LB II*	SE 19482 54102	St Lawrence's Church	Medieval/Post-medieval	1
30	LB II	SE 19514 54102	Chest tomb	Post-medieval	2
31	LB II	SE 19469 54081	Sundial	Post-medieval	2

4.2 A total of 31 archaeological and historic sites were recorded within the study area, of which one is considered of national significance (Site 29) and three of regional significance (Sites 22, 30 and 31).

### **Prehistoric**

4.3 Although no prehistoric sites were identified during the assessment, it is known that Mesolithic flints and Neolithic hand axes were recovered during the construction of the reservoir to the south.

### **Iron Age and Romano-British**

4.4 A single potential Iron Age/Romano-British site was recorded (Site 2) in the form of an oval enclosure identified from aerial photographs. This form of enclosure is seen during the Bronze Age but more commonly in the subsequent

Iron Age and is often the remains of an enclosing ditch around a small settlement or farmstead.

- 4.5 Although no Roman period discoveries have been made within the study area, a major Roman road from Ilkley to Aldborough runs to the north of the study area and may have had an influence in an earlier settlement pattern in the area.

#### **Anglo-Scandinavian and Medieval**

- 4.6 The place name for Fewston is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Fostune* from the Old Scandinavian personal name and the Old English *tun* and means 'farmstead of a man called Fotr' (Mills, 1998, 138) or 'Foot's Farmstead' (Smith, 1961, 122).

- 4.7 The occurrence of Old Scandinavian in the place name for Fewston suggests a possible pre-Conquest origin for the settlement as Old Scandinavian was in use during the 8-12<sup>th</sup> centuries. The early origin is further supported by the recording of Fewston as being one of the holdings of Edward the Confessor (Claro Community Archaeology Group, 2008, 19). However, it should be noted that to date no physical evidence for this early origin has so far been recorded.

- 4.8 During the medieval period the settlement and surrounding area was part of the Forest of Knaresborough, a royal hunting forest, and as such was subject to only gradual and small scale changes which do not appear to have left much evidence on the current landscape. However it is known that Fewston gradually became a nucleated settlement around the church between 1300-1350. One strand of evidence that can still be seen is the use of ridge and furrow cultivation (Site 5) with its associated lynchets (Site 13) used for terracing slopes. The only other physical evidence relating to the medieval period is in the form of two fragments of pottery recovered during a watching brief on development work at the former Post Office (Site 23) to the west of the church and the church itself (Site 29).

- 4.9 The church of St Lawrence is known to have its origins in at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Claro Community Archaeology Group, 2008, 22) of which the current tower is the only part surviving a fire of 1696. There is documentary evidence suggesting the presence of a church prior to this in the form of lists of rectors from the 13 and mid 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (*ibid*). Such a time span would seem to tie in well with the nucleation of the settlement mentioned above and may well have precipitated the construction of a more substantial church. However whether the earlier church stood on the same site is currently uncertain, though it should be considered a strong possibility that it stood on or near the site of the current building.

#### **Post-medieval**

- 4.10 The village seems to have continued as a simple rural community until the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the construction of West House Mill (outside the study area) led to an increase in the population of the area. The mill survived with various changes in fortune and role until it finally closed in 1870. With this closure the settlement that had steadily built up and developed its own infrastructure stretching out both east and west from the church started to decline. This was not only due to the loss of the mill but as the location lacked both a railway and a navigable

river it did not possess either of the two important facilities that allowed many other West Yorkshire towns to develop and thrive at this time.

- 4.11 The settlement that grew up can be seen from the remains of various buildings now ruinous (Sites 1 & 28), as platforms (Sites 3 & 17), cartographically (Sites 12, 25 & 26) or still standing – Ivy Cottage (Site 22). In terms of the infrastructure within the study area there was the church itself (Site 29), the Parochial Hall (Site 21) and the Smith's Arms PH (Site 25) with the smithy next to it (Site 26) along with several other commercial locations now gone.
- 4.12 With the construction of both residential and commercial premises there is a demand for building materials which seems to have been met, at least partially, locally in the form of a series of small quarries (Sites 9, 10 & 16).
- 4.13 Although the main employment sustaining the larger settlement was the mill, the surrounding landscape was still dominated by agriculture for example the funnel shaped outgang (Site 27) for handling livestock.
- 4.14 The presence of a well (Site 7) and a spring (Site 8) close to the church is worthy of mention as some early religious sites are often located close to a source of water, possibly for baptism, or in the case of prehistoric beliefs as a place of offerings. However there is currently no physical evidence for a link between these two sites and the location of the church.
- 4.15 In tandem with the gradual decline of the settlement in the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century, there is the development of the reservoir from 1870 onwards. This is seen in a series of compulsory purchases of land by Leeds Corporation and the demolition of several buildings to provide materials for the reservoir construction. This construction activity slowed the decline of Fewston and allowed it to survive as a significant community until the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.16 The graveyard of the church contains two Listed Buildings, a chest tomb of 17<sup>th</sup> century date (Site 30, Plate 3) and an 18<sup>th</sup> century sundial (Site 31, Plate 4) (see Appendix I for details). The 17<sup>th</sup> century tomb appears to be the only survival from that era and shows that the cemetery has been heavily reused over at least 300 years and almost undoubtedly since its first inception. This means that there is a high likelihood of encountering earlier graves which have been re-cut by later burials across most if not all of the graveyard. Work in other cemeteries has shown that the density of burials in long established graveyards can be between 100 and 700 graves per 100m<sup>2</sup> (English Heritage, 2005, 37), and potentially here these could date back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century church or earlier.
- 4.17 In addition to the Listed chest tomb, there is at least one other unusual grave marker. This is the gravestone for Joseph Ridsdale who apparently died on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 1823, even though this was not a leap year. The inscription for his son is for 30<sup>th</sup> February 1802 ([www.stockdill.freemove.co.uk/fewston](http://www.stockdill.freemove.co.uk/fewston)). This is probably due to a simple mistake though there could be other examples within the graveyard.

## **5.0 SITE VISIT**

- 5.1 A site visit was undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008 with the aim of confirming the number and nature of burials present along with the potential for further unmarked burials and possible survival of other archaeological remains.
- 5.2 An examination of the location of the church showed that it had been built on a terrace which had been cut into the slope of the hillside (Plate 5). Its location probably took advantage of a naturally slightly more level area of ground which was then enhanced to create the platform seen today. The effort involved in both levelling the site and then building the church would seem to indicate that the structure was of some significance and importance to the community and that once the site had been created it would have been reused as the need arose – for instance the rebuilding after the 1696 fire – rather than starting again at a new location.
- 5.3 Several features survive on the church tower which show the presence of at least part of the earlier medieval building. On the southern side of the tower some of the earlier, less well dressed stone work could be seen where it had been joined to the 17<sup>th</sup> century rebuild (Plate 6). Also on the tower but this time on its eastern side, the scar of the line of the earlier thatch roof could be clearly seen (Plates 7 & 8).
- 5.4 A further possible survival of the earlier church could be the less well dressed stone work visible below the sills of the windows on the northern side of the building (Plate 9). It is possible that any surviving stone work from the fire was reused with the later building erected on top. It is equally possible though that as the northern side was less visible, rougher cheaper stone was used.
- 5.5 Whilst both of these features may well relate to the earlier, medieval, phase of the church they could equally well relate to various other stages of repair and rebuild. The fact that further work had to be carried out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, presumably on the 17<sup>th</sup> century rebuild, is attested to in surviving documentary sources (Appendix II).
- 5.6 The site visit confirmed the presence of 17 marked graves lying within the general area of the proposed development, with further graves located along its periphery. The grave markers appear to be laid out in an approximate grid pattern which implies that there could well be further, now unmarked, burials lying between the visible ones. Assuming that there was a grid pattern there could be an additional 23 burial plots, giving a total of 41.
- 5.7 A rapid survey of the graves within the area showed that the graves often contained multiple burials (see Table 2 below for details). However, at least three of the dates were from after the closure of the cemetery. They are probably memorial markers rather than burial indicators. Assuming the post 1896 dates do not indicate an additional inhumation, there is an average of just under two inhumations per grave and if this figure were extrapolated to include the possible grid pattern then there could be a potential for *c.*82 inhumations. It must be emphasised that this is only an estimate based on the information on the

grave markers and not on any recorded physical remains so this figure could be higher or lower.

**Table 2: Number of inhumations per grave**

<i>Number of names</i>	<i>Number of graves</i>	<i>Number of bodies</i>
1	4	4
2	7	14
3	3	9
4	1	4
5	1	5
<i>Unknown</i>	1	?
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>36+</b>

- 5.8 Observation of the topography of the site noted that towards the northern end of the site there was a small area of more level ground with no obvious grave markers (Plate 10). Given that there were burials on the more sloping ground but not here there are three possible explanations for the lack of grave stones. Firstly that there are burials here and the gravestones have been removed and the more level ground is due to the settling of the graves. Secondly that there are burials here but in a vault of some form, a situation which is alluded to by the memorial located to the north of this area (Plate 11). Thirdly that there was some form of structure or feature here (a building for example) that meant that the area was not available for burials.
- 5.9 The proposed line of the new footpath running from the Heritage Centre to the car park will lie close to at least one known burial (which potentially contains three inhumations) and is then projected to cross part of the area where the vicarage once stood. Although the former vicarage stood to the south of the proposed footpath the area can be seen to contain a number of marked changes in ground level along with several sections of stone walling. Both of these would seem to indicate the possible survival of some ancillary buildings or the remains of earlier structures or even garden features which are likely to be encountered during any construction works.
- 5.10 On a small single storey extension to the northern side of the tower a re-used stone with a Y shaped design was noted (Plate 12). The origin and meaning/significance of this is uncertain but it suggests that there are other possible buried remains around which have been subject to some reuse.

## 6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 From the descriptions above it can be seen that there has been some form of settlement at Fewston from at least the 11<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The evidence for this can be seen both from historical sources (e.g. Domesday Book) and from the physical remains of the church tower and, to a lesser extent, pottery from archaeological investigations. The etymology of the place name and other historical sources strongly suggest some form of pre-Conquest settlement which then continued to develop slowly through the medieval period.

- 6.2 The post-medieval period sees a steady rise in the size of the settlement until the enclosure awards of 1785 which show two clusters of buildings, the first around the church with the other to the west. From the late 18<sup>th</sup> century through to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the nearby mill sees the fortunes of the town reach a peak with a steady decline from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the more dispersed rural community that is seen today.
- 6.3 The apparent lack of evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity could be for three main reasons. Firstly there is no evidence for human activity in these periods of time because there is none to discover – the area was never settled or exploited in the past. Secondly it could be that the area was exploited and that the evidence has not survived. Thirdly the area was exploited and that the evidence has not yet been recorded. Further investigations into the area would help resolve which of these alternatives is most likely but it should be noted that what ever attracted the early medieval population to settle here may well have attracted earlier communities to do the same.
- 6.4 One of the reasons for the settling of this location could be the suitable natural terraces; with their spring line of freshwater and their position overlooks the valley. The floor of the valley would be both fertile for early farming and rich in wildlife for hunter-gatherer communities.
- 6.5 The proposed location of the development is within what was once an active graveyard and there at least 17 marked graves dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century *in situ* within the overall proposed area. The potential for further burials within this area is high due to the factors discussed above. The actual number would only be known once any excavation works had been completed.
- 6.6 The graves and their contents are representative of the community from which they came. This can be seen on many levels, for example remains may exhibit palaeo-pathological traits indicative of diet, working conditions, age, sex etc. whilst the grave markers carry evidence of age, sex, family names, relationships and possibly occupation. The evidence from grave markers when the inhumations are undisturbed are particularly valuable to the scientific study of human remains as it allows for the refining of the various analytical techniques used in assessing human remains, not just from archaeological sites but within forensic investigations as well.
- 6.7 The potential to encounter buried remains other than of inhumations and related structures such as brick vaults is uncertain. The use of the area as a graveyard, probably from the medieval period onwards would seem to preclude there being other features present, as would the generally steep nature of the slope within the proposed development area. However as noted above, there is an area of more level ground within the proposed area which could indicate the presence of other features. Therefore, based on the current evidence, the possibility would seem to be low to moderate.

## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND IMPACTS**

- 7.1 From the evidence and discussions above it can be seen that there has been human activity from at least the early medieval period onwards within the proposed development site and any ground works will definitely encounter a number of inhumations. The number and date of the burials will be dependent upon the nature and extent of the building and the density and age of the burials – both of which are currently not fully known, though they are from at least the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century and potentially much earlier.
- 7.2 The current guidelines for development within graveyards start with the premise that the preferred option is for the avoidance of disturbance where possible. Failing this the strategy should be to keep disturbance to a minimum (English Heritage, 2005, 12). To this end given the current knowledge of known burials is limited to those that have grave markers it is therefore not possible to provide an optimum design for the proposed development to avoid the maximum number of burials.
- 7.3 In order to more fully assess the potential for additional burials and other remains and to determine the nature of the ground conditions for the foundations, limited exploratory excavation should be considered. This would allow the number and condition of any burials to be assessed and inform the design of the building in order to avoid disturbance wherever possible.
- 7.4 Once any exploratory excavations have been completed, then a suitable building design can be developed alongside an excavation and reporting strategy which is agreed as part of the planning process.

## **8.0 MITIGATION**

The following is proposed as the first stage of archaeological mitigation for the development of the site:

- 8.1 Archaeological trial trenching/test pitting targeting the areas between known graves where on the current draft design there will be the need for foundations, services or ground reduction.
- 8.2 The trial trenching/test pitting would be to a written scheme of investigation agreed by all involved parties and in outline would cover the following main points:
- Only be in areas where there are currently no known graves;
  - Only be in areas where the current proposal shows the need for excavation;
  - Would stop once stratified archaeological remains were encountered or a safe working depth was reached;
  - Any remains or features would be recorded (written, photographic and if necessary draw records) and then the trenches backfilled;
  - A suitably detailed report on the results would produced and circulated to all concerned parties;
  - Would cover all relevant health and safety issues.

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## Maps

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## APPENDIX I – LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

### *Church of St Lawrence Listed Building Grade II\**

Church. Tower medieval with restoration c1800, remainder dated 1697 with C19<sup>th</sup> alterations. Coursed squared gritstone, graduated stone slate roof. 3-stage tower, 5-bay nave with north aisle and gabled open south porch, bay 2; 3-bay chancel. Rusticated quoins. The tower has c1800 round-arched belfry windows with impost band, coved cornice, battlemented parapet with corner pinnacles, offset diagonal buttresses and the roofline of an earlier steeply-pitched roof on the east face. South porch: 5 steps up to outer entrance - shallow segmental arch flanked by pilasters and projecting band over the arch with keystone dated 1697, pulvinated frieze and cornice; shaped kneelers, gable coping, cross at apex. Massive inner door of 3 panels, probably original. Nave: 4 cross windows in eared architraves with projecting sills supported on consoles and pulvinated friezes above. Continuous drip mould stepped out over windows, cavetto-moulded cornice above, stone gutter brackets to higher eaves line, shaped kneelers, gable coping. Chancel: south face - central 4-panel door in eared architrave with projecting keystone supporting sill of 2-light recessed chamfered window with flat-faced mullion; similar 2-light window to right and single light to left; window surrounds, drip mould, eaves cornice, gutter brackets as nave. Shaped kneeler and gable coping to right. East window: 3-light Perpendicular reusing medieval tracery; hoodmould. North side: 5 aisle windows to nave, 2-light with plain raised surrounds. Interior: Tuscan arcade of 4 round arches with cushion capitals to columns; similar chancel arch. Trefoil arch to piscina in chancel north wall. c1697 octagonal stone font with oak cover carved with scrolls and foliage; suspended from cast-iron brackets. The church is also referred to as dedicated to St Michael and St Lawrence.

Listing NGR: SE1948254102

### *Sundial approximately 10m south of Church of St Lawrence Listed Building Grade II*

Sundial. Probably C18<sup>th</sup>. Gritstone. Circular base, shaft approximately one metre high, gnomon missing. Inscription "J.E." on south side. Included for group value.

Listing NGR: SE1946954081

### *Memorial to John Brerey approximately 10m east of north-east corner of Church of St Lawrence Listed Building Grade II*

Chest tomb. Dated 1613. Gritstone. A massive slab with cavetto moulded edges supported by 4 blocks set on edge. The centre of each supporting block has a large inscribed equal-armed cross. An inscription along the south edge of the top slab: "IHON BREREY DIED 1613", the N reversed.

Listing NGR: SE1951454102

### *Ivy Cottage Listed Building Grade II*

House. Mid C18<sup>th</sup>, restored mid C20<sup>th</sup>. Coursed squared gritstone, graduated stone slate roof. 2 storeys, 2 bays with rear outshut. Quoins. Central half-glazed 4-panel door, quoined jambs. Flanking windows, ground and first floor: 3 light, with flat-faced mullions, the mullions slightly recessed. Shaped kneelers, gable copings, end stacks. Interior not inspected.

Listing NGR: SE1945154178

## APPENDIX II – DOCUMENTARY ACCOUNTS FOR REPAIRS

4/9/1806 - **Estimate by Thomas Driffield (Architect) for the taking down of part of Fewston Church and Steeple and rebuilding the same.** (Wakefield Archives: Knaresborough Court Sessions Ref. QSI/145/8).

*"Taking the slates and roof off the church and taking down the bell frames, lead, roof, floor and walls of the steeple 32/-/-.*

*Making new stone abbutments to the steeple 44/2/-.*

*Rebuilding the steeple and making new windows 190/3/-.*

*Taking (down) the parapet wall and raising the north and south wall of the church and making 4 new windows 60/-/-.*

*Slating the roof with addition of new grey slates 58/-/-.*

*Plastering the walls and ceiling of the church 32/-/-.*

*Removing the earth and making a drain on the north side of the church 34/-10/-.*

*New roof and ceiling joists 59/-/-*

*New floor and roof for the steeple and new bell frames and bell hanging 80/-/-.*

*New lead to cover the steeple, new glass and lead for the windows for the church 59/15/-.* Total £750"

Following a petition to the Court soon after this quote some work had been carried out. A second petition (2/10/1810 - below) states the case of rebuilding the church and the costs already incurred in so doing and then asks the Court and the Chancellor to settle the debts.

**Knaresborough Sessions 2nd October 1810** (Ref. QSI/149/8). This mentions the condition of Fewston Church: *"The walls of the steeple were much lately cracked and out of perpendicular...the floors of the Belfry and roof were in such a state of decayed and shattered state that it was in danger of falling down.. That the body of the church was too small for the congregation and could not be enlarged without taking off the roof and raising the north wall of the church about 10 feet so as to be the same height as the south wall in order to give room to erect a gallery over the north aisle. And that the beams of the roof of the church were so decayed .... a new roof was needed.*

*That a survey of the church was lately taken by Thomas Driffield an architect who made estimate of the charges of taking down and rebuilding the steeple and of raising the north wall and making a new roof which upon moderate compensation amounted to £750, which sum the Inhabitants were not able to raise amongst themselves.*

Mention is then made of a petition to Knaresborough Sessions 7/10/1806 which granted the sum of £118/13/7 for the renovation works.

*The Minister and Church Wardens of the said parish have caused the steeple of that Church to be taken down and rebuilt and the north wall of the said church hath been raised as perpendicular and a new roof put on the body of the said church hath been raised as proposed and a new roof put on the body thereof, in doing which they have expended the said sum of £118/13/7 which hath been collected under the said letters Patent, and also the further sum of £390 which hath been borrowed at interest and they still owe to the workmen £141 and upwards making together £491, a sum which the said inhabitants are not able to raise amongst themselves.*

The petition then urges the Court to settle the outstanding monies by a payment from the Lord Chancellor and the spending of the money will be overseen by Mr Thomas Driffield (Architect) and Mr Samuel Stubbs (Churchwarden).

## ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, FEWSTON

### ILLUSTRATIONS

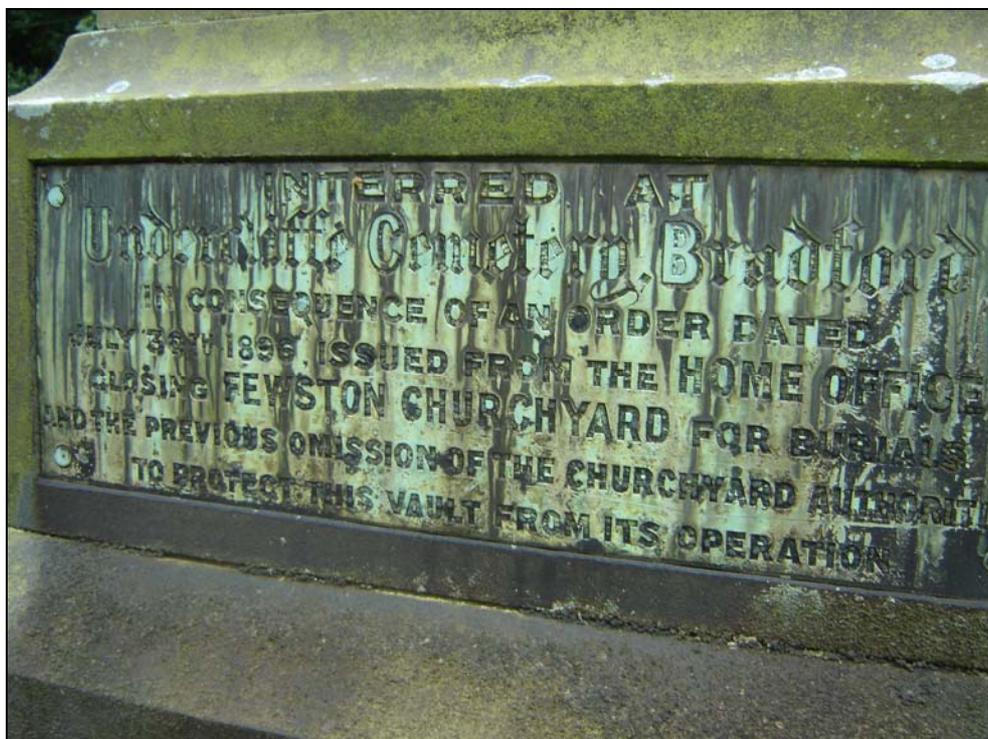


Plate 1. Plaque noting closure of graveyard.

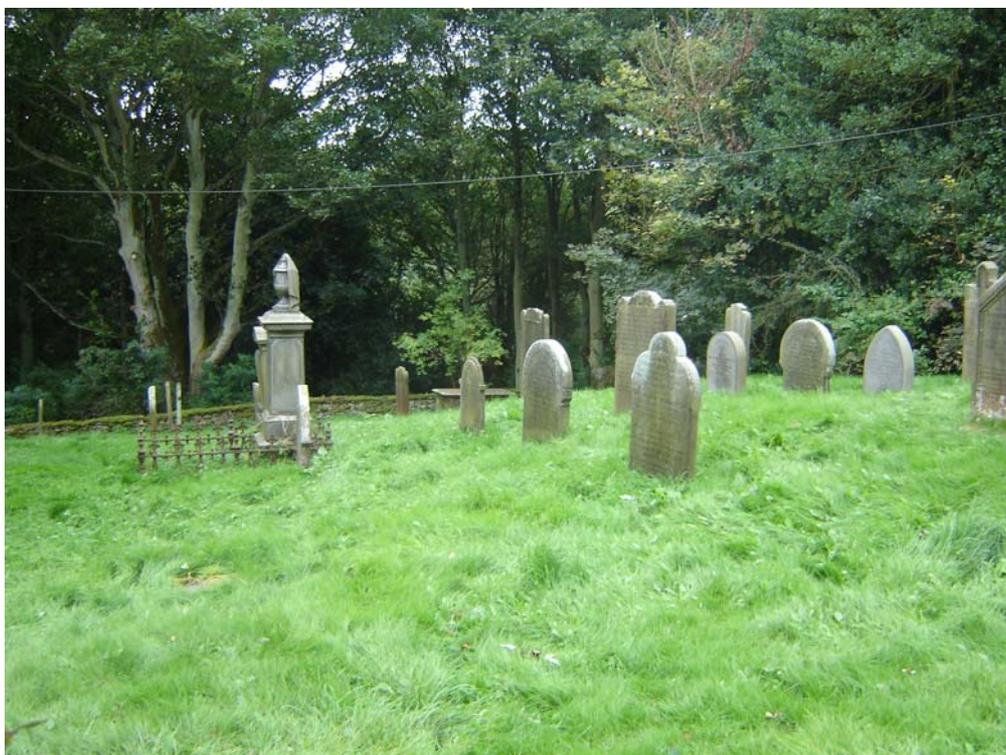


Plate 2. Proposed area showing range of grave markers. Looking south-west.



Plate 3. 17<sup>th</sup> Century chest tomb (Grade II Listed Building), Looking west.



Plate 4. 17<sup>th</sup> Sundial (Grade II Listed Building). Looking north-west



Plate 5. Church cut into hillside on its terrace. Looking south-west.

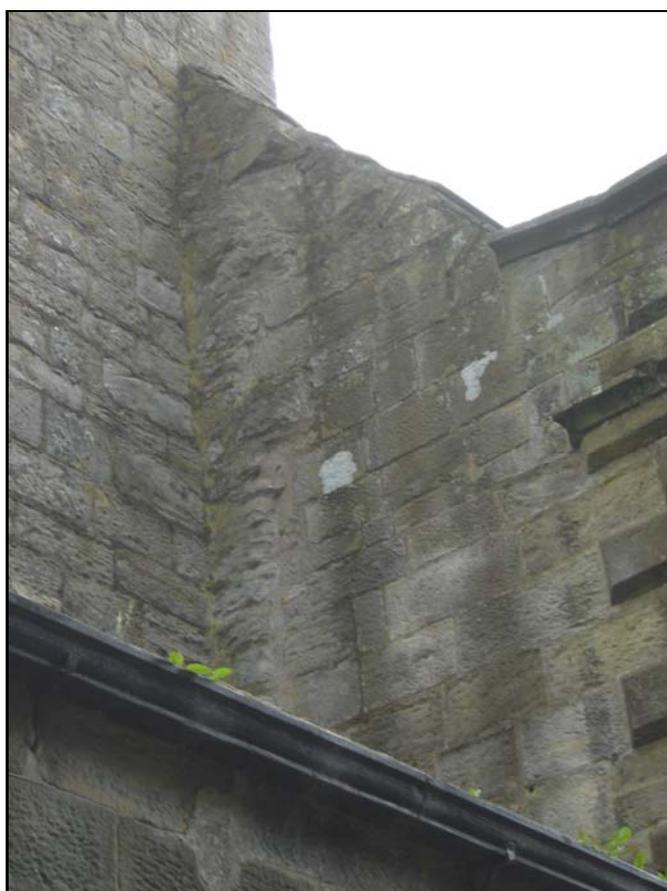


Plate 6. South side of tower showing join between 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century stonework.



Plate 7. Earlier roofline on east side of the tower and C17<sup>th</sup> addition to top of tower.

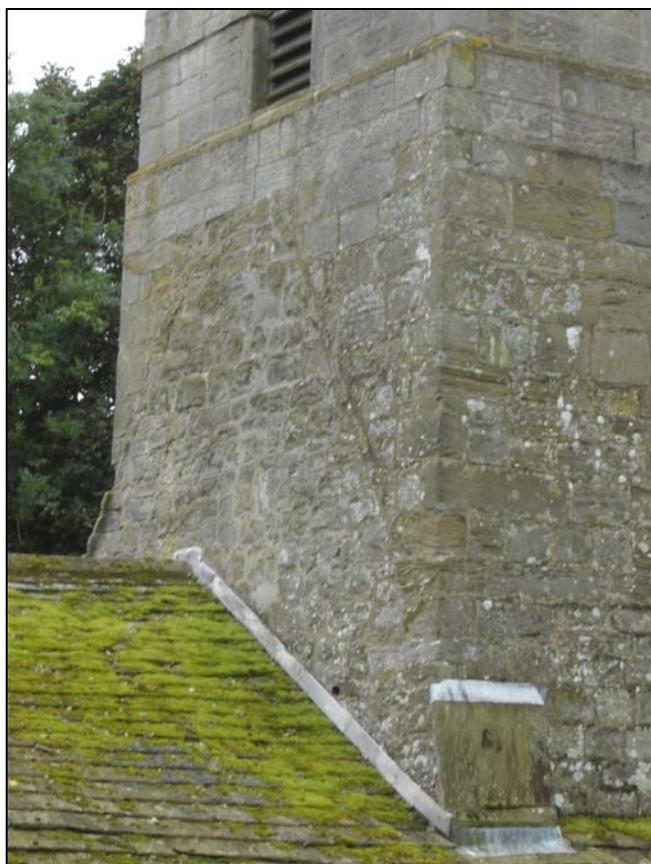


Plate 8. Scar from earlier thatch roof on side of tower.



Plate 9. North side of the church showing possible earlier stonework below windows.

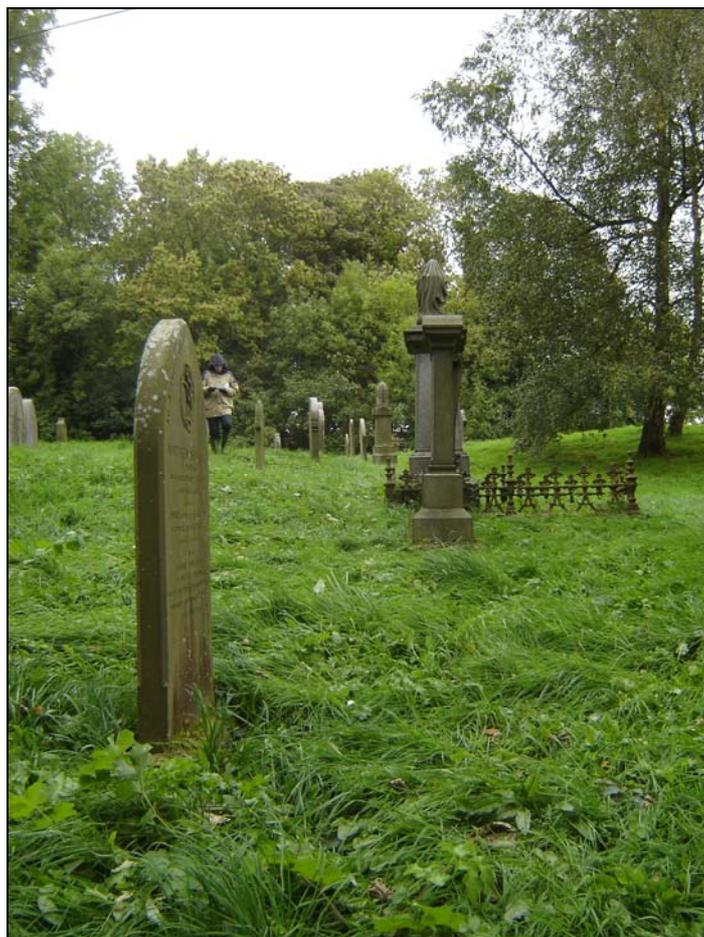


Plate 10. Area of level ground between iron railings and tree in distance.

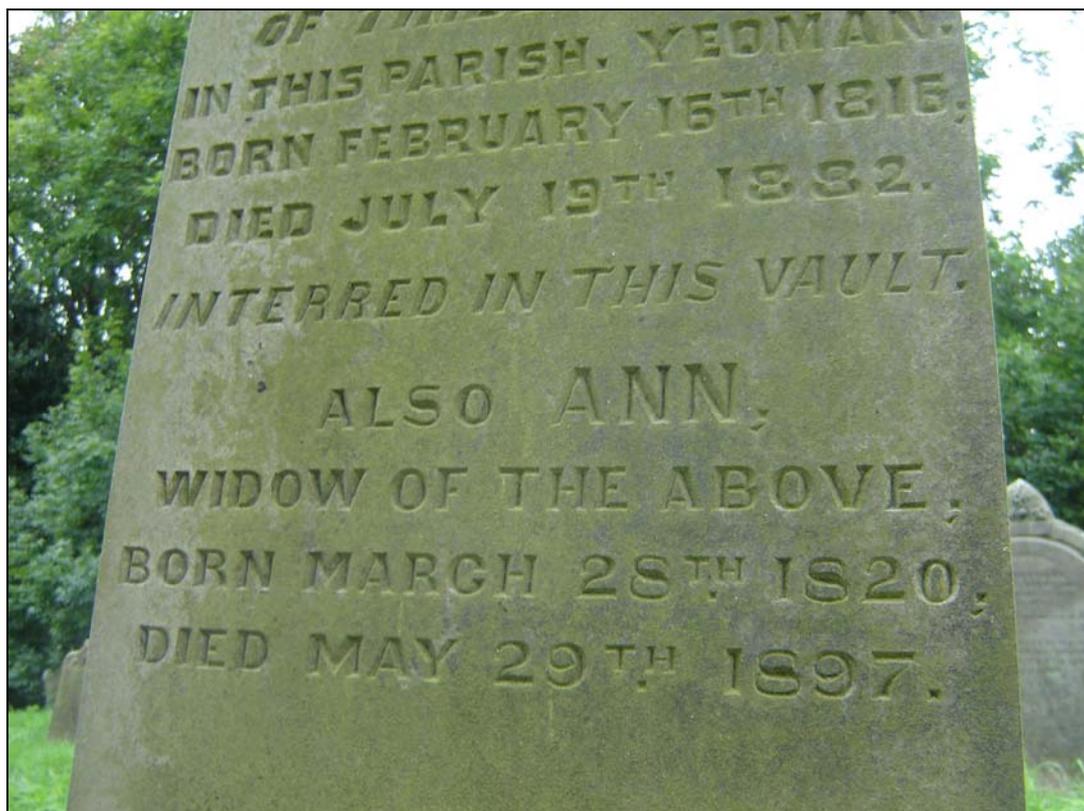


Plate 11. Reference to possible vault in area of level ground.



Plate 12. Y shaped marking on reused stone on small extension north side of tower.