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A PHASE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
ST. GENEWYS CHURCH, NORTHORPE ROAD,
SCOTTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

National Grid Reference: SK 8902 9909
Site Code: ACSC14
Accession No: LCNCC: 2014.168

PREPARED FOR MR. DAVID STERRY ON BEHALF OF HIS CLIENTS - THE VICAR &
CHURCHWARDENS OF ST. GENEWYS CHURCH

By

Neville Hall MIFA

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief on the groundworks pertaining to the part removal and reinstatement of a second section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall at St. Genewys Church, Northorpe Road, Scotton, Lincolnshire was carried out by Neville Hall MIFA on the 3rd of November 2014.

All of the groundworks pertaining to this project, which comprised the hand removal and dismantling of a second section of the stone walling of the eastern churchyard boundary wall were continually monitored and recorded. This second section adjoined the reconstructed first section, which had been monitored earlier in 2014.

The dismantling by hand of the second section of the dry stone wall fabric of the post-medieval eastern churchyard boundary wall involved the removal of the outer wall face which consisted of uncoursed and unmortared very roughly faced, shaped and worked angular limestone fragments, an inner rubble core composed of further angular limestone fragments within matrices of redeposited graveyard soils and redeposited natural and the very partial removal of the inner wall face to the south-east, composed of the same material as the corresponding outer wall face. The partial removal of this inner face exposed in turn a small area of graveyard soils.

However, because most of the inner face of the wall and the basal foundation stones were left in situ, no further graveyard soils or that of the underlying natural subsoil horizon were exposed. There were no finds from this archaeological watching brief and no further fragments of disarticulated human bone were found.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Neville Hall MIFA was commissioned by Mr. David Sterry on behalf of his clients - the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Genewys Church - to undertake a second Phase 2 archaeological watching brief on the groundworks pertaining to the part removal and reinstatement of a second section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall at St. Genewys Church, Northorpe Road, Scotton, Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference SK 8902 9909. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the site on the 3rd of November 2014.
- 1.2 The archaeological site work was carried out according to the requirements of a Faculty (Ref No.: 3758), which was issued by the Diocese of Lincoln. This report documents the results of this second phase archaeological site works at this site.
- 1.3 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, Ms Louise Jennings, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, the Diocese of Lincoln, the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and The Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The site is situated at the eastern boundary wall of the churchyard of the parish church of St. Genewys, which is in turn situated within the historic core of the village of Scotton. The village of Scotton is located approximately 11.5km to the south of Scunthorpe and 4.5km to the west of Kirton in Lindsey. The site is situated at National Grid Reference SK 8902 9909, and at a height of approximately 17mAOD. Scotton is situated within the parish of the same name, and in the administrative district of West Lindsey, county of Lincolnshire [Figures 1 and 2].
- 2.2 The site is located within a slightly undulating upland area on the western edges of the scarp slope of the Jurassic limestone escarpment which traverses the county from south-north. The site is situated on reddish loamy and clayey soils of the Salop Series, which overlie deposits of blown sand and on Lower Lias mudstones of the Lower Jurassic [BGS, 1982; Soil Survey, 1983].

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Following the granting of a Faculty (Ref No.: 3758), issued by the Diocese of Lincoln, a second Phase 2 archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks comprising the removal and replacement of a second section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall at St. Genewys Church, Northorpe Road, Scotton, Lincolnshire.
- 3.2 A specification or a written scheme of works for this Phase 2 archaeological watching brief was submitted to and approved by Ms. Louise Jennings, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor prior to the commencement of the archaeological site works.
- 3.3 This report documents the results of the Phase 2 archaeological watching brief and will be submitted to the Diocese of Lincoln and to Ms. Louise Jennings, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor.



Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Watching Brief

4.1 The aims of the project were the continual archaeological monitoring of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which comprised the repair of a second section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall.

4.2 The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

4.3 The churchyard and parish church of St Genewys are situated within the historic core of the village and within one of the polyfocal historic centres of the medieval settlement. To the immediate south is the site of a former medieval manorial complex. It was considered very likely that finds associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Scotton may be encountered within this site. A prior archaeological watching brief on the repair of an adjoining section of the eastern churchyard wall in 2014 had revealed that the wall consisted of inner and outer stone faces with an internal rubble core and behind the wall was a simple deposit sequence which consisted of a graveyard soil overlying an undisturbed natural subsoil horizon. Two fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered from the graveyard soil for eventual reburial. This section of the churchyard boundary wall probably dated to the late 19th century. The specific objectives of the project were to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with these medieval and post-medieval settlements.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 5.1 Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 1km radius centred on the site.

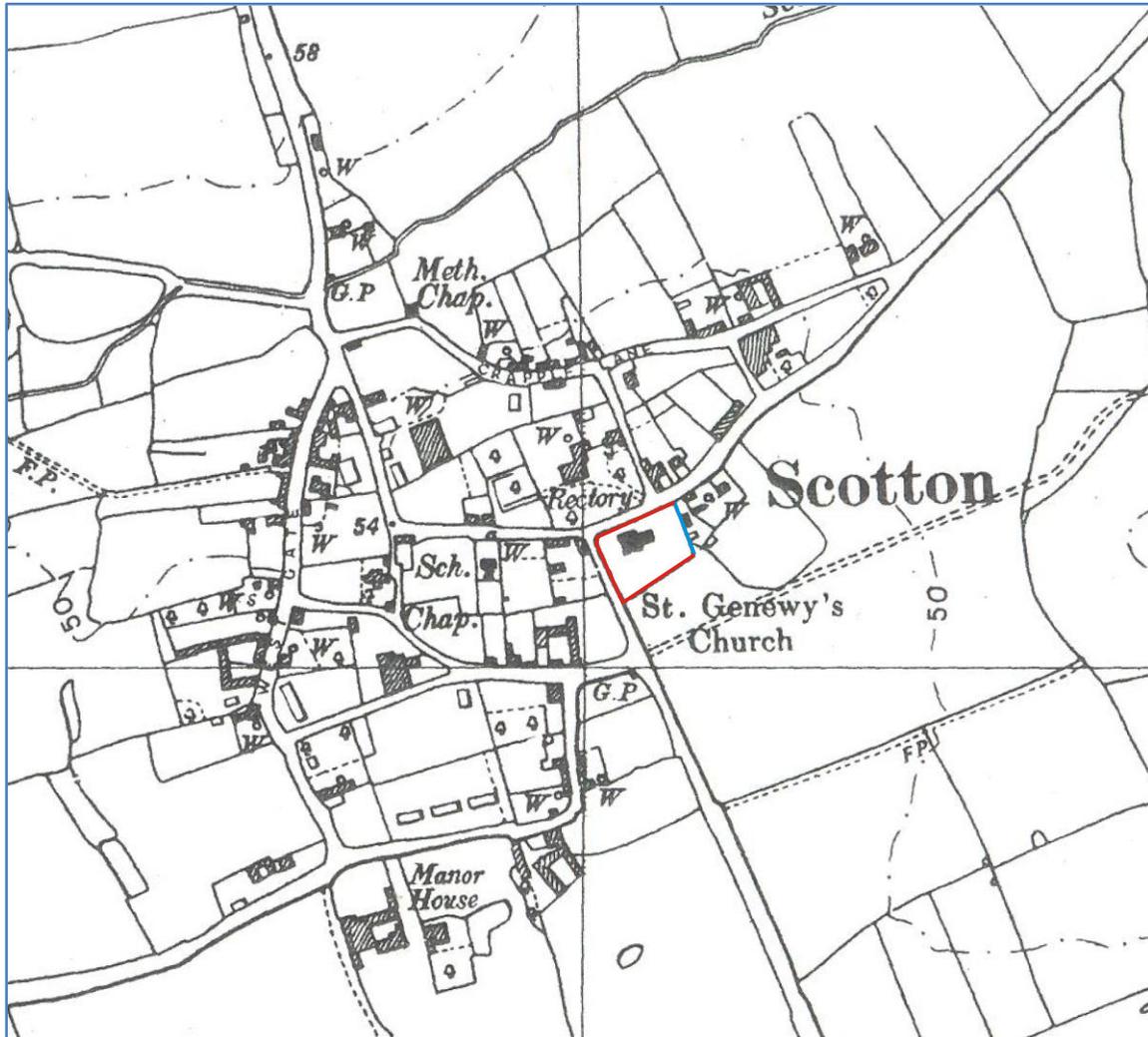


Figure 2: Extract from the 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey map of 1956, map sheet no. SK 89 NE, showing the location of the eastern churchyard boundary wall (in blue)

- 5.2 A silver denarius of Trajan was found in the garden of the former Vicarage in 1973 and to the west of the site (HER 51271).
- 5.3 It is clear that the settlement of Scotton has late Anglo-Saxon origins from place name evidence. The earliest documentary reference to this settlement dates to AD1061-6 as *Scoltun*. The place name itself is derived from the Old English *Scot* and the Old English *tun*, hence 'the farmstead/village of the Scots'. Later medieval documentary sources variously refer to this settlement as *Scottluna* (AD1157); *Scottun* (AD1167) and as *Scottona* (c.AD1180) [Cameron, 1998; Ekwall, 1991].

- 5.4 At the Domesday Survey of AD1086, lands in the parish of Scotton or *Scotune* or *Scotone* in the Wapentake of Corringham were variously held by the Abbot of Peterborough Abbey, Ivo Tallboys, Roger of Poitou and by Guy of Craon. This Domesday entry also makes reference to a mill site [Morris, 1986].
- 5.5 At the Lindsey Survey of c.AD1115, the land holdings in the parish of Scotton or *Scotluna* comprised four bovates held by Alan of Craon; four bovates held by the Count of Mortain; six carucates held by the Abbot of Peterborough Abbey and two carucates held by Ralf Mischin [Foster & Longley, 1976].
- 5.6 Scotton was documented as a larger than average medieval settlement from the late 11th century onwards. This settlement showed no signs of subsequent decline and little of growth (HER 51283). The principal manorial site here belonged to the Abbots of Peterborough Abbey. This site stood next to and at the south side of St Genewys Church and fell into disuse and disrepair in the 17th century (HER 51281). This site is identified as 'the Manor House' with Hall Close nearby on a map of Scotton of 1682 [Everson, Dunn & Taylor, 1991].
- 5.7 The present manor house in the village may stand on the second main manorial site. Despite levelling and landscaping here, there are traces of a moat around the manor house and medieval pottery has been found nearby. This second site is located around the present Manor House Farm (HER 51282) [Everson, Dunn & Taylor, 1991].
- 5.8 The settlement of Scotton is an example of a polyfocal village and has a complex morphology based upon two principal elements. The first was on an east-west axis parallel to the Scotton Beck, formed by Eastgate and Crapple Lane and including the parish church and the nearby old manorial site. The second was on a north-south axis which was formed by Westgate with perhaps a widening to a green at its southern end (HER 51283) [Everson, Dunn & Taylor, 1991].
- 5.9 The Grade I listed parish church, which is dedicated to St Genewys or Genevieve is mostly of late 13th century date (HER 51279). The church consists of a west tower, nave, chancel and north and south aisles. On the southern side of the west tower is a large blocked pointed arch, which would have opened into the south aisle. The church was restored in 1866 by G. E. Street [Pevsner & Harris, 2002].
- 5.10 Substantial parts of the parish were enclosed at the beginning of the 17th century with remnant open fields persisting into the 19th century and remaining unenclosed before 1839. Scotton Common was not enclosed until 1885 [Everson, Dunn & Taylor, 1991].
- 5.11 The site of a former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was situated on Crapple Lane (HER 55026). This was constructed at sometime between 1851-1856 and possibly survived until the 1960s, but is no longer present. A former Primitive Methodist Chapel was located on Middle Street and was built in 1819 (HER 55027). It no longer survives.
- 5.10 Acacia Cottage on Eastgate in Scotton is a Grade II listed cottage dating from the early 19th century (HER 55850).
- 5.11 There have been several previous archaeological investigations within the search area. An archaeological watching brief was carried out at the Hollytree Nursing Home in 2004 approximately 100m to the north-west of the site (HER 55003-4, ELI5530, Site code: SHN03). This monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches for a new extension. The watching brief identified a series of undated pits, rubble spreads and wall remnants. These findings remained undated to the lack of any dateable finds being made here. A dumped deposit and a pit which could be dated to the post-medieval period were also found here [Cope-Faulkner, 2004].

- 5.12 An earthwork survey was undertaken in 1998 on land off Laughton Road on the south-western outskirts of the village (HER ELI3484, Site code: SLR98). This site contained two earthworks which had been identified from previous aerial photographic analysis undertaken by the RCHME. The surveyed features were interpreted as the possible remnants of medieval settlement activity comprising a pair of raised platforms with surrounding ditches and what may have been a pond also of possible medieval date. A broad ditch was also identified to the north-west and was thought to be part of a medieval water management systems connecting to the adjoining pond [Trimble, 1998].
- 5.13 This earthwork survey was followed by a second stage archaeological evaluation involving the excavation of five trial trenches carried out in 1999 (HER ELI3470, Site code: LSC99). The trenches were targeted and were designed to investigate the possible earthwork platforms and their surrounding ditches. No evidence for any settlement activity was identified within the platform areas, suggesting that they represented earlier enclosures. Other finds included several undated ditches and an undated pit. The ditches defined the edges of the earthwork platforms which were enclosures which had been used for arable cultivation and are shown on the tithe map of 1839 and so were interpreted as being of post-medieval date. The pit was thought to have been used for clay extraction and truncated one of the post-medieval ditches. A small quantity of 14th - 15th century pottery and a single sherd of 10th - 11th century pottery were also found (HER 54478-9). The pond was assigned a modern date and was also probably associated with clay extraction [Albone, 1999].
- 5.14 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Laughton Road in 2005 during the groundworks for a new housing development which comprised the excavation of foundations and associated services (HER ELI7701). This watching brief did not identify any archaeological remains on this site [WYAS, 2007].
- 5.15 A prior archaeological watching brief on the repair of an adjoining section of the eastern churchyard wall at St Genewys Church in 2014 had revealed that the wall consisted of inner and outer stone faces with an internal rubble core and behind the wall was a simple deposit sequence which consisted of a graveyard soil overlying an undisturbed natural subsoil horizon. Two fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered from the graveyard soil for eventual reburial. This section of the churchyard boundary wall probably dated to the late 19th century [Hall, 2014].
- 5.16 A map regression exercise was undertaken using published Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps from the Lincolnshire Archives and the local studies collections of the Lincoln Central Library. The earliest map consulted comprised an extract from the tithe map for the parish of Scotton of 1839 (Archive ref: E156). This shows the site at St Genewys Church as a roughly rectangular shaped churchyard with the church set within it as a rectangular shaped building. The site is located at a crossroads. The field to the immediate site is detailed in the accompanying tithe apportionment as 'Hall Close', denoting the site of a former manorial complex.
- 5.17 The extract from the First Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1891 shows the churchyard bounded by trees. The parish church itself is shown in greater detail with the west tower, nave, chancel and north and south aisles featured.
- 5.18 The extract from the Second Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1907 shows the same layout to the area of the site, except that the bounding trees have been removed.
- 5.19 The extract from the 10:560 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1956 shows the same layout to the area of the site as that shown on the earlier map of 1907.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 The Phase 2 archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA at the site on the 3rd of November 2014. This comprised the continual archaeological monitoring and recording of the removal of a second section of the existing dry stone wall of the eastern churchyard boundary wall.
- 6.2 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording and the deposit sequence and the structure of the dry stone wall revealed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. An existing Architects plan at a scale of 1:100 was used to indicate which section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall was monitored on this occasion and shows its position relative to the adjoining reconstructed first section of this wall, the repair of which was monitored earlier in 2014 and the position from which the site photographs were taken from. This plan is reproduced at this scale as **Figure 3** in this report. A complimentary digital colour photographic record was also maintained, which is reproduced as **Plates 1-8, Appendix 1**. A list of contexts recorded is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.
- 6.3 All work was carried out according to the approved Specification and to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

7. Results [Figure 3; Appendix 1, Plates 1-8]

- 7.1 This second section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall, which was the subject of this Phase 2 archaeological watching brief measured 4.0m in length. Prior to the start of this watching brief, this second section of churchyard wall had been covered with a dense growth of ivy which was removed by hand. This revealed this second section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall (**101**) constructed of uncoursed and unmortared angular limestone blocks (dry stone) of 1.20m in height above the level of the adjacent tarmac yard surface. The limestone blocks had been very roughly worked, shaped and faced.
- 7.2 This second section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall was then gradually dismantled by hand. This process began at the south-eastern end of this section. The hand removal of the outer face of this wall revealed an inner rubble core infill (**102**). To the south-east, this inner core was composed of further loose angular limestone fragments within a matrix of redeposited graveyard soil. To the north-west, there was a slight change to the composition of this inner rubble core, which matched that exposed during the reconstruction of the adjoining first section of this churchyard wall. To the north-east, the same loose angular limestone fragments were contained within a matrix of redeposited natural, which comprised a friable, light orange brown sandy silt [**Plates 1-5 and 7**].
- 7.3 To the south-east, the hand removal of the internal rubble core and the upper levels of the inner face of this wall revealed a graveyard soil (**103**). There was also substantial tree root disturbance on this section of the wall. To the north-east and within the remaining sections of this wall, the inner face of the wall was left *in situ*, such that this graveyard soil remained unexposed. This process also revealed that the width of this second section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall measured 0.60m. The boundary wall was removed by hand down to ground levels with the basal wall foundations also remaining intact and *in situ* [**Plates 6 and 8**].

8. Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 All of the groundworks pertaining to this project, which comprised the hand removal and dismantling of a second section of the stone walling of the eastern churchyard boundary wall were continually monitored and recorded. This second section adjoined the reconstructed first section, which had been monitored earlier in 2014.
- 8.2 The dismantling by hand of the second section of the dry stone wall fabric of the post-medieval eastern churchyard boundary wall involved the removal of the outer wall face which consisted of uncoursed and unmortared very roughly faced, shaped and worked angular limestone fragments, an inner rubble core composed of further angular limestone fragments within matrices of redeposited graveyard soils and redeposited natural and the very partial removal of the inner wall face to the south-east, composed of the same material as the corresponding outer wall face. The partial removal of this inner face exposed in turn a small area of graveyard soils.
- 8.3 However, because most of the inner face of the wall and the basal foundation stones were left *in situ*, no further graveyard soils or that of the underlying natural subsoil horizon were exposed. There were no finds from this archaeological watching brief and no further fragments of disarticulated human bone were found.

9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating

- 9.1 The methodology chosen clearly demonstrated the absence of archaeological activity and finds, of the nature of the deposit sequence on this site and of the structure of the eastern churchyard boundary wall; while providing sufficient time to record the deposit sequence and the wall structure observed. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to confirm the absence of archaeological activity and finds, the nature of the deposit sequence and of the structure of the eastern churchyard boundary wall present within the area of the site with a high degree of confidence.

10. Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. David Sterry and his clients – the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Genewys Church for commissioning this work. Thanks are also extended to Ms. Louise Jennings, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, to Mark Bennet of the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record and to the staff of the Lincolnshire Archives and of the Lincoln Central Library for their kind assistance.

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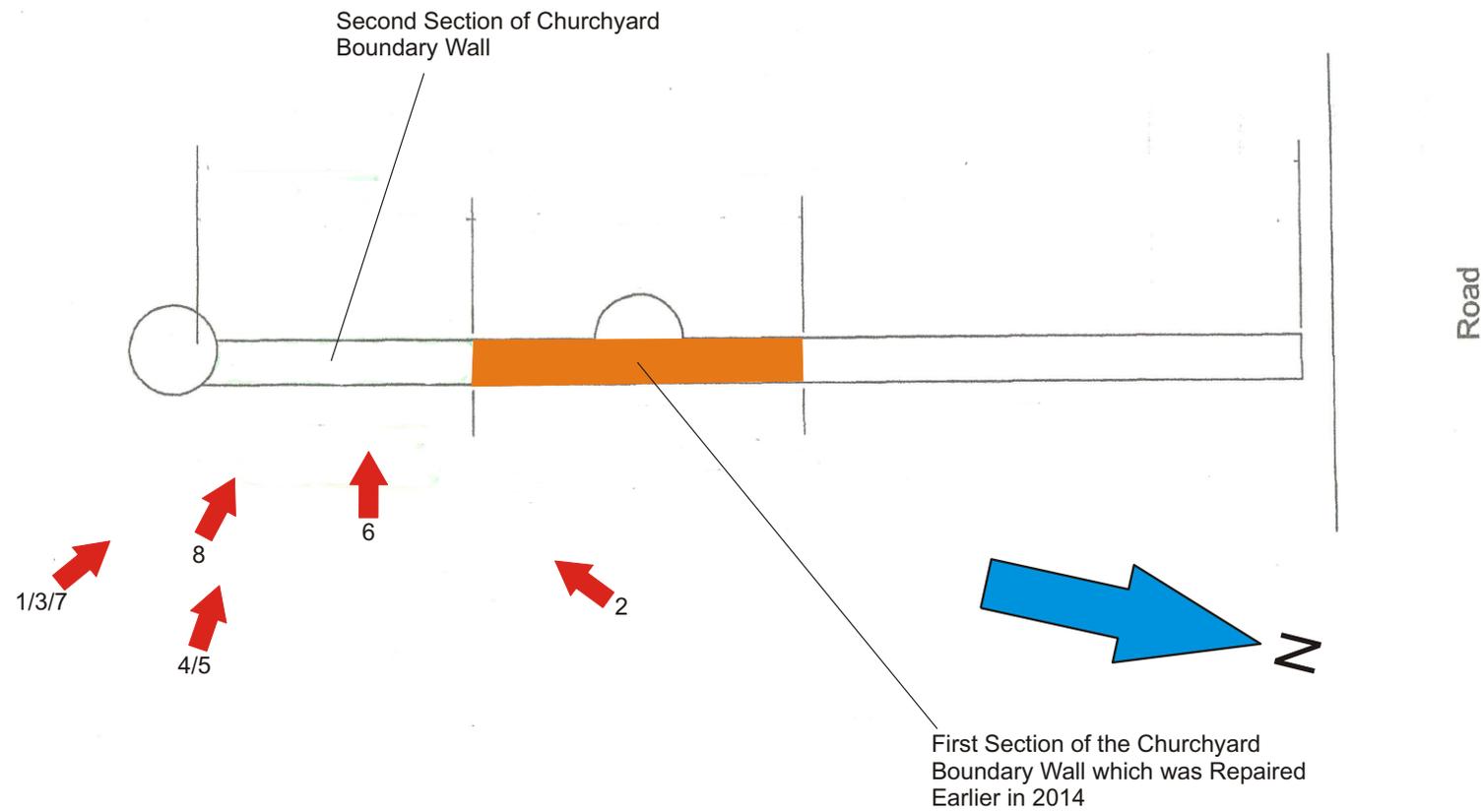


Figure 3: Plan Showing the Second Section of Monitored Eastern Churchyard Boundary and the Directions from which **Plates 1-8** were taken from at a scale of 1:100 (based on Architects plan).

Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: Removal of the existing dry stone from the eastern churchyard boundary wall, from the south-east



Plate 2: As Plate 1, from the north-east



Plate 3: As Plate 1, from the south-east



Plate 4: As Plate 1, from the east



Plate 5: As Plate 1, from the south-east



Plate 6: View of the completed removal of the north-eastern portion of the outer face of the dry stone wall, from the south-east



Plate 7: As **Plate 1**, from the south-east



Plate 8: View of the completed removal of the outer face & rubble core of the dry stone wall, from the south-east

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

- 101** Eastern churchyard boundary wall of which some 4.00m in length was the subject of this archaeological watching brief. Constructed of uncoursed and unmortared very roughly shaped, worked and faced angular limestone blocks in front of (**102**). The opposing inner face of the wall was composed of the same material. Height - 1.20m, width - 0.20m.
- 102** Rubble infill core of the eastern churchyard boundary wall revealed by the removal of the outer face of the wall. Composed of further angular limestone fragments within matrices of redeposited graveyard soils to the south-east and within redeposited natural to the north-west. Width - 0.40m.
- 103** Graveyard soil revealed by the very partial removal of the inner face of the wall. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt.. Depth - >0.34m

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary Sheet

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Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
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