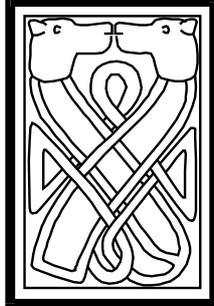


BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT



ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, HEBRON, NORTHUMBERLAND

REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Compiled for PCC and Churchwardens, St Cuthbert's Church, by The Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

BRP 09/01

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Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Location of new build

Plate 1 Excavation within the path of the churchyard

Plate 2: Excavation of new drain

SUMMARY

This report has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project for PCC and Churchwardens, St Cuthbert's Church and sets out the results of the archaeological monitoring undertaken between May and June 2009, during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new drain and septic tank at St Cuthbert's Church, Hebron, Northumberland (NGR NZ 19428984) (Figures 1 and 2).

The construction trench for the new drain was 0.4m wide at the top and the depth of cut varied between 0.3 and 0.7, below ground level. A topsoil that comprised a dark grey-brown sandy silt was present to a depth of 0.25m to 0.35m over a subsoil comprising red-brown clay silt. The trench extended from the north side of the church and along the path within the churchyard leading to the eastern boundary. A septic tank was inserted, within a pit 1.5m square and 1.2m deep, adjacent to the hedge line along this boundary and a soakaway laid within the adjacent field. No features of archaeological interest were identified and no finds recovered during this process.

The location of the trench adjacent to the church building and along the path successfully avoided encountering burials or archaeological features.

**ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH,
HEBRON,
NORTHUMBERLAND**

REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This report has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project, Commercial Section for PCC and Churchwardens, St Cuthbert's Church. The document sets out the results of the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the excavation of the construction trench for a new drain at St Cuthbert's Church, Hebron, Northumberland, undertaken during May and June 2009.
- 1.0.2 The work was undertaken in compliance with a Written Schedule of Investigation compiled by the Bamburgh Research Project in January 2009 in response to a brief issued by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team. The NCCCT reference number is: CM7/1: 9018 and the OASIS record number is: bamburgh1-64267.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The site is located on the northern edge of the small hamlet of Hebron, Northumberland, which lies 1km to the east of the A1 and some 3.5km to the north of the town of Morpeth (NGR NZ 19428984) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological background to the site

- 2.2.1 The church of St Cuthbert, Hebron, may contain fabric from the 12th century. Certainly fabric of 14th and 15th century date is present in the chancel, although the building was substantially reconstructed in 1793. It is a Grade II listed building.
- 2.2.2 After the Norman Conquest the parish of Hebron was within the barony of Bothal which contained a number of recorded settlements. These include the manor of Cockle Park and settlements at West Benridge and Benridge.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Monitoring during excavation

3.1.1 A suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background to the site, was present to record any items of interest that were revealed. All work was carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and followed the IFA Standards for Watching Briefs. The work undertaken conformed to the methodology listed below.

3.2 General standards

3.2.1 All archaeological features identified during the monitoring, would be sample excavated according to their type and form:

50% of all discrete features.

50% of waterlogged deposits.

25% of stratified deposits.

25% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill

10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill

3.2.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample would be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.

3.2.3 Secure contexts would be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples.

3.2.4 Pottery and Animal Bone would be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts would be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds would be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies were in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and IFA Guidelines for Finds Work). Had artefacts of gold or silver been recovered they would be treated in accordance with the 1996 Treasure Act and appropriate procedures would be followed.

3.2.5 In the event of Human burials being revealed they would be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. Consultation with the County Archaeological Officer would be sought to determine further action.

3.2.6 Any archaeological features encountered would be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:

1. A photographic record of the site was taken using black and white print, colour slide film at 35mm format. In addition a digital photographic record was compiled.

2. A written description of features was compiled using the BRP *pro forma*

context recording system.

- 3.2.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Monitoring during excavation

- 4.1.1 The construction trench for the new drain was 0.4m wide at the top and the depth of cut varied between 0.3 and 0.7, below ground level. A topsoil that comprised a dark grey-brown sandy silt was present to a depth of 0.25m to 0.35m over a subsoil comprising red-brown clay silt. The trench extended from the north side of the church and along the path within the churchyard leading to the eastern boundary. A septic tank was inserted, within a pit 1.5m square and 1.2m deep, adjacent to the hedge line along this boundary and a soakaway laid within the adjacent field. No features of archaeological interest were identified and no finds recovered during this process.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.0.1 The location of the trench adjacent to the church building and along the path successfully avoided encountering burials or archaeological features.

REFERENCES

Published and unpublished sources

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BRP | Finds Manual, 2000 |
| BRP | Health and Safety Document |
| English Heritage | <i>Management of Archaeological Projects 2</i> , 1991. |
| English Heritage | <i>A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds</i> . Ancient Monuments Laboratory, 1995. |
| IFA 2000 | Code of Conduct |
| IFA 2001 | Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs. |

APPENDIX I

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, HEBRON, NORTHUMBERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF WRITTEN SCHEDULE OF INVESTIGATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This Written Schedule of Investigation has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project for Spence and Dower, Architect, on behalf of Hebron Community Association regarding the installation of a new toilet with associated foul water pipe to a septic tank at St Cuthbert's Church, Hebron, Northumberland, during January 2009. The document sets out the project design for an archaeological watching brief to be conducted during groundworks associated with the new waste scheme.
- 1.02 The Written Schedule of Investigation details the proposed scheme of works for the watching brief and has been prepared in order to fulfil a requirement for the planning application, as laid out in the brief issued by The Northumberland County Council Conservation Team. The NCCCT reference number is: CM7/1: 9018.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The site is located on the northern edge of the small hamlet of Hebron, Northumberland, which lies 1km to the east of the A1 and some 3.5km to the north of the town of Morpeth (NGR NZ 19428984) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological background to the site

- 2.2.1 The church of St Cuthbert, Hebron, may contain fabric from the 12th century. Certainly fabric of 14th and 15th century date is present in the chancel, although the building was substantially reconstructed in 1793. It is a Grade II listed building.
- 2.2.2 After the Norman Conquest the parish of Hebron was contained within the barony of Bothal which contained a number of recorded settlements. These include the manor of Cockle Park and settlements at West Benridge and Benridge.

2.2 Impact of the development

- 2.2.3 The development involves the excavation of a trench for a waste pipe from the new w/c within the church out to a new septic tank and soakaway within a field immediately beyond the churchyard to the north-east. The trench is to be excavated along an existing pathway in an effort to avoid, as far as possible, the expected archaeology within the churchyard. It will be of sufficient width (c 0.3m – 0.4m) to allow for the installation of the pipe and cut to a depth to allow for the required fall in the pipe (Figure 2).
- 2.2.4 Although the new trench is to follow the line of an existing path it is still possible that burials or medieval features could be encountered.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- 3.0.1 In the light of the potential for the construction work to impact, in places, upon preserved archaeological remains it is proposed that a continuous watching brief be conducted during the ground work in

accordance with the specification laid out in the brief issued by the County Council Conservation Team.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Watching brief during excavation

4.1.1 During the groundworks associated with the installation of the new w/c and associated waste pipe and septic tank a suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background to the site, will be present to record any items of interest that are revealed. Where appropriate all excavation will be carried out by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and should follow the IFA Standards for Watching Briefs. This watching brief will conform to the following methodology.

4.2 Contingency

4.2.1 In the event of the discovery of unexpected archaeological remains over and above those predicted by previous archaeological work on the adjoining site, work will cease and the County Archaeological Officer/representative of the developer will be notified in order that an assessment of the importance of the remains and any provision for their recording may be made.

4.2.2 A contingency for excavation comprising up to 10 person days can be invoked following consultation with the County Archaeologist.

4.3 General standards

4.3.1 All archaeological features identified during the monitoring, or following the implementation of the contingency will be sample excavated according to their type and form:

50% of all discrete features.

50% of waterlogged deposits.

25% of stratified deposits.

25% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill

10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill

4.3.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.

4.3.3 Secure contexts will be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples. Any concentrations of charcoal or other carbonised material recovered on site will usually be retained.

4.3.4 Pottery and Animal Bone will be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds will be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies will be in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and IFA Guidelines for Finds Work). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.

- 4.3.5 In the event of Human burials being revealed they will be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner if possible. Any burial requiring excavation will be exposed, recorded and lifted in total. After consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, if excavation is required, work will comply with the relevant home Office regulations.
- 4.3.6 Any archaeological features encountered will be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:
1. A photographic record of the site will be taken using black and white print, colour slide film at 35mm format. In addition a digital photographic record will be compiled.
 2. A written description of features will be recorded using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.
 3. All features will be drawn at an appropriate scale using pre-printed permatrace. Plans will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 4.3.7 All archaeological features and horizons will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.3.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

5.0 MONITORING

- 5.0.1 Access will be made available at all reasonable times to the archaeological representatives of the Northumberland County council Conservation Team to inspect the excavation site.
- 5.0.2 Access to the site will be on the basis of prior notification and subject to any relevant health and safety considerations.

6.0 POST-EXCAVATION WORK, ARCHIVE AND REPORT COMPILATION

- 6.0.1 On completion of the excavation an assessment of the site records and finds will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (1991) guidelines. This will include:
- collation of all site records
 - compilation of a report
 - production of context, photographic, finds and illustration databases
 - analysis of the finds assemblage by relevant specialists
 - environmental assessment of selected bulk samples
- 6.0.2 The assessment report, with each page and paragraph numbered and with cross referenced illustrations, will include:
- summary of the project background
 - site location
 - methodology
 - results of the watching brief
 - site location plans and illustrations of results at appropriate scales
 - interpretation of the results in an appropriate context
 - post-excavation assessment of the site archive
 - catalogue and assessment of the artefactual archive
 - catalogue and assessment of the faunal remains
 - catalogue and assessment of the palaeoenvironmental samples recovered

- appendix containing a list and summary of each recorded context

- 6.0.3 A copy of the report should be submitted by the archaeologist to the commissioning client, and two copies, one bound and one unbound, to the County SMR within 2 months of completion of the work. A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and an article will be submitted to a local or national journal if appropriate.
- 6.0.4 The site archive will be prepared to the standard specified in the Management of Archaeological Projects, appendix 3 (HBMC 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). A summary account of the context record will be included and written by the supervising archaeologist. The archive will be deposited at the specified museum within 6 months of completion of the work on site.
- 6.0.4 An online OASIS form will be completed for the project as part of the post-excavation assessment process.

7.0 PERSONNEL

- 7.0.1 The designated project manager Graeme Young, is one of the five directors of the Bamburgh Research Project. A graduate of Newcastle University, with 18 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham. He is an Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 7.0.2 Additional field staff, with appropriate archaeological experience, will be engaged as required.

8.0 SUB-CONTRACTED SPECIALISTS

- 8.0.1 Although it is not possible to predict the range of artefacts that may be recovered provision has been made for the analysis of the most common artefacts.

Material	Specialist
Medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Post-medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Prehistoric pottery	Blaise Vyner
Roman Pottery	Blaise Vyner
Animal bone	Durham University Archaeological Services
Palaeoenvironmental	Durham University Archaeological Services
Conservation	Karen Barker

9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.0.1 The Bamburgh Research Project complies with the 1974 Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments in all its operations. The SCAUM manual and the Bamburgh Research Project Health and Safety Policy Document is followed for all site works. A designated and appropriately trained first aider is present at all times during working hours. A First Aid kit, Accident Book and telephone are provided for each project. Safety footwear is mandatory on all excavation sites. Where required safety helmets and reflective jackets are provided. It is policy for a vehicle to be present at an excavation and staff must be appropriately equipped for bad weather.
- 9.0.2 All staff undergo a safety induction prior to commencing work on site. A written risk assessment is undertaken specific for each site. The safety assessment is reviewed on a daily basis and changes to the working conditions monitored continually during adverse weather conditions.

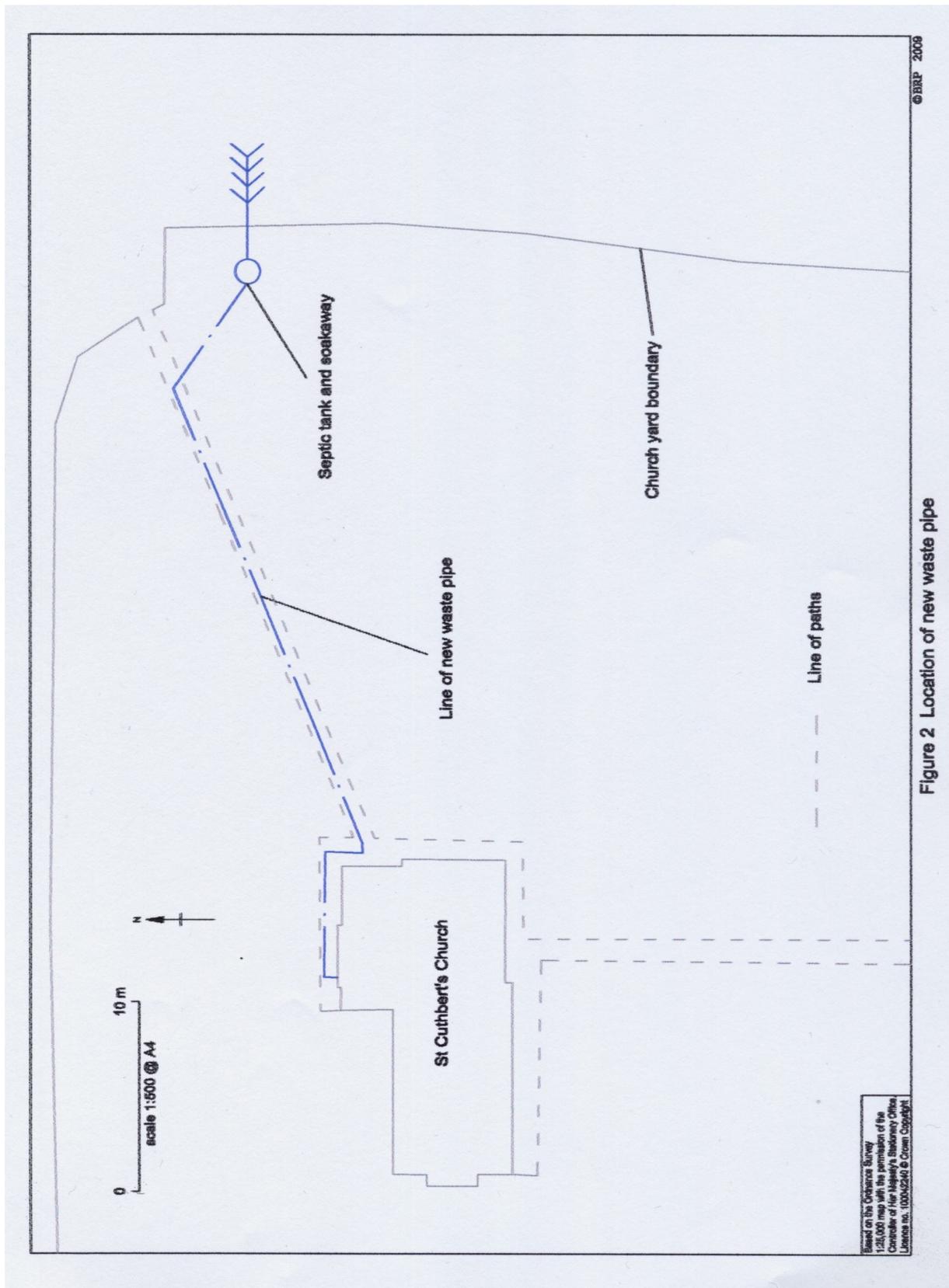


Figure 2 Location of new waste pipe



Plate 1: Excavation within the path of the churchyard



Plate 2: Excavation of new drain