

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH,
CHURCH LANE, BEIGHTON,
SOUTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd
18 Springdale Way
Beverley
East Yorkshire
HU17 8NU

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH,
CHURCH LANE, BEIGHTON, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Report no: 2007/321.R01
Version: Final
Date: March 2009
Author: Shaun Richardson & Ed Dennison

Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd
18 Springdale Way
Beverley
East Yorkshire
HU17 8NU

On behalf of

St Mary the Virgin PCC
c/o Revd M Healey
The Vicarage
27 Tynker Avenue
Beighton
South Yorkshire S10 2PT

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF,
ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, BEIGHTON, SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	1
4	METHODOLOGY	2
5	RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF	3
6	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS.....	9
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	9
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	10

Appendices

- 1 List of Identified Contexts
- 2 Listed Building Description
- 3 SYAS Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 2006, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by St Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council (PCC), through their architects Elden Minns & Co. Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the internal refurbishment of St Mary the Virgin Church, Beighton, South Yorkshire (NGR SK44278334). Observations were also made during the replacement of the external drainage system through the churchyard. The archaeological work was made a condition of a Diocesan faculty, granted on 20th April 2006 (number 4275).

The watching brief uncovered little or no evidence for features associated with the medieval church, and no *in situ* burials were uncovered either internally or externally. The pattern of sleeper walls exposed in the interior of the church, the barren nature of the fill between them, and the documentary evidence for the significant floor reduction as part of the 1867-68 works, all strongly suggest that any surviving medieval remains, including burials, were largely removed during the later extensive 19th century restoration. Parts of six grave stones, all reused for floor slabs and likely to date to the late 17th or 18th centuries, were also recorded.

The most significant feature uncovered by the present phase of works was the early floor stone. This was last recorded in 1816, and was presumably disturbed and then buried as part of the 1867-68 restoration. The inscribed stone commemorates Richard Bosville and his wife Johanna, and comparison with other examples suggests that it almost certainly dates to the early 16th century. The inscription is of a common form, and the crosses at the corners of the stone and in the centre replicate the positions of those carved on medieval altars. A single chamfered edge on the underside suggests that it might have been once raised up off the floor, either as a small table tomb, or perhaps it was set into a niche in an aisle wall.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2006, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by St Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council (PCC), through their architects Elden Minns & Co. Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the internal refurbishment of St Mary the Virgin Church, Beighton, South Yorkshire (NGR SK44278334). Observations were also made during the replacement of the external drainage system through the churchyard.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was made a condition of a Diocesan faculty, granted on 20th April 2006 (number 4275). The extent of the proposed works, and the archaeological response, was discussed between the PCC and the local archaeological curator, the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Beighton village lies on the west side of the River Rother, some 4km to the south-east of Sheffield city centre (see figure 1). The church of St Mary the Virgin lies on the west side of the historic core of the village at an elevation of 56m AOD (NGR SK44278334), and is accessed via a lane leading west from High Street (see figures 1 and 2).
- 2.2 The church comprises a west tower, a two-bay nave with north and south aisles, a south porch, a two-bay chancel and a former chantry chapel/vestry at the east end of the north aisle. It is listed as being of Special Architectural or Historic Importance, Grade II* (see Appendix 2).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The church has been the subject of a fairly comprehensive written history (Richards 1991), and further information on the building was provided by the project architects (Shepherd 2005). These two sources have been used to provide the majority of the following text.
- 3.2 There is no record of a church at Beighton in the Domesday Book, and the earliest surviving fabric was a decayed late Norman semi-circular chancel arch dating to c.1150, which was discovered during late 19th century repair works (see below) (Cox 1875, 84). The first documentary reference to the church comes in an undated charter made during the reign of Edward I (1272-1307). At this time, it was known as St Radegunds, and it is not known when the dedication was changed to St Mary, although as late as 1557 references were still being made to "the churche yard of V(ir)gyn Radegond at Beghton" (Richards 1991, 7-8).
- 3.3 Prior to the late 19th century works, the oldest surviving part of the church was probably the chancel, which was built of rubble, and was perhaps contemporary with the mid 12th century chancel arch. There was formerly a priest's door in the south wall and the existing windows incorporate some re-used tracery (Richards 1991, 11). The tower arch may date to the 13th century, the capitals being decorated with human heads with mouths held wide open with their hands (Richards 1991, 15); the presence of the tower arch indicates that a tower was present at this date, and it may have been the earliest such structure to have been added to the church.

- 3.4 There appears to have been a campaign of rebuilding or alteration in the late 14th century, as the later pointed chancel arch and the nave arcades were probably of this date. Prior to 1867-68, the south aisle only had a single window in the south wall. The east window of the chancel may also have been changed or enlarged during the 14th century, and a chapel may have been located at the east end of south aisle during the medieval period (Richards 1991, 10-11 & 13-15; Cox 1875, 86). There was also a rood loft and screen formerly in the church, and the steps to the rood survive in the north wall of the nave (Richards 1991, 12).
- 3.5 The north aisle dates from the 15th century and there was probably also once a chantry chapel at its east end. This was formerly linked to the chancel by a medieval arch, which was blocked up in 1815 and later demolished during the 1867-68 works, together with much of the north-east area of the church (Richards 1991, 14-15). In 1875, Cox described the pre-refurbishment nave and chancel roofs as being “flat and of the Perpendicular period”, one boss apparently bearing the date 1500; others were carved with the shields of the Diocese and of local families, and also an “image” of the Virgin Mary (Cox 1875, 85-86). The existing tower was also described by Cox as Perpendicular (Cox 1875, 86).
- 3.6 By the 1860s, the church was in a poor state of repair and a substantial programme of rebuilding and repair took place between October 1867 and December 1868 under the direction of Samuel Rollinson (1827-1891), a stone mason turned architect from Chesterfield. The works appear to have been initiated by the newly appointed Vicar, the Revd George Antrobus, who was said to have been appalled at the state of the building, in particular the chancel. It seems that the new works were part of a general revival in religious fervour which sought to restore churches to their previous plans, when the medieval congregation and their priest were more intimately involved (Shepherd 2005, 2).
- 3.7 According to the records of the works which survive, the chancel walls and those of the south aisle were taken down and rebuilt on the original footprint, the clerestory windows to the nave were removed, and a gallery at the west end of the church was taken out; the extent of these works is shown on a plan produced by Rollinson in 1867 (see plate 1). The pitch of the nave and chancel roofs was also altered, and an area in the north-east corner formerly housing a chantry chapel was demolished and rebuilt. Cox noted that the floor had been substantially raised so that it was half way up the arcade piers, and as part of the works “hundreds of loads of gravel” were carted out to restore it to its proper, lower, level (Cox 1875, 86). Bench pews replaced the former box pews, allowing for the accommodation of 291 people. The scale of the works attracted some criticism in the local press, but the church was reopened in December 1868 (Richards 1991, 8-9).

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 As noted above, the extent of the proposed works and the archaeological response was discussed between the PCC and the local archaeological curator, the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, and a general “Brief for Archaeological Monitoring” was supplied (see Appendix 3). No formal methods statement or written scheme of investigation was therefore prepared by EDAS for the watching brief, although the general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999) was followed. The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks, either by being present when they were being excavated or, where appropriate, by examining them as soon as they had been finished, to recover information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed.

- 4.2 The watching brief took place on the 4th January, 23rd January, 13th February and 11th March 2008, and recording was divided between the interior of the church and the surrounding churchyard.
- 4.3 Outside the church, the groundworks comprised the hand excavation of a single trench for a new external drain (see figure 3). The trench ran north-east from the north-east corner of the north aisle, along an area of concrete, before angling sharply to the south. The trench then continued north-east, running along the north side of a footpath and eventually leaving the churchyard via a gateway in the east boundary wall. It should be noted that the excavation of the western half of the trench was not undertaken under archaeological supervision, and the majority was viewed only after gravel and pipes had been laid in the base. However, a close examination of the sections and the spoil revealed no evidence that any burials had been disturbed, and indeed very little *ex situ* human bone was recovered in any part of the external works. The excavation of the eastern half of the trench was monitored, and two exploratory test pits were excavated by hand, one at the east end of the eastern half and one towards the centre. The results of these test pits again indicated that any burials which may have been present lay below the maximum depth of the drainage trench, and so the watching brief was discontinued with the agreement of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.
- 4.4 Inside the church, the floor levels were reduced on average by c.0.45m, apart from in the area of the chancel and tower. Once this was complete, the exposed bases of the internal walls, responds and arcade piers were examined, and any structural information recorded as appropriate, usually in the form of drawn profiles and/or photographic records.
- 4.5 Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual context number and detailed information was recorded on pro forma context sheets. A total of five archaeological contexts were recorded; these are all described in the following descriptive text as three digit numbers (e.g. 005). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of all the monitored groundworks were indicated on a site plan, and more detailed drawings were made of each area as necessary. A photographic record was also maintained using 35mm colour prints.
- 4.6 With the agreement of the PCC, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, will be deposited with the Sheffield City Museum (site code SMB 08). No artefacts were retained from the watching brief.

5 RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

External Groundworks (see figure 3)

- 5.1 As noted above, the external drainage trench was excavated by hand in several different stages, and some of the sections were not subject to archaeological monitoring. The westernmost c.2m of the trench was excavated before the 4th January 2008; it was on average 0.35m wide and dug to a maximum depth of 0.65m below ground level (BGL) (55.68m AOD). The alignment ran past the buttress at the north-east corner of the north aisle, along the side of an area of concrete, and then returned to the south for c.5.0m; at the point of the southward return, a small inspection chamber was installed, although this did not require any excavation below the maximum 0.65m depth of the trench here.

- 5.2 At the south end of the southward return, a second small inspection chamber was installed, and then the trench resumed its approximate north-east/south-west alignment for a further c.25m, with the ground surface through this part of the churchyard sloping gently downwards from west to east. The trench ran along the north side of an existing tarmaced footpath, with an average width of 0.40m. At the western end of this section, the trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m BGL (55.30m AOD). Two small test pits were archaeologically-excavated towards the centre and east end of this section (see plate 2). The central test pit (Pit A) was 1.00m long (east-west) by 0.40m wide (north-south), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m BGL (55.05m AOD). The eastern test pit (Pit B) was 2.30m long (east-west) by 0.40m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m BGL (54.20m AOD).
- 5.3 In all parts of the drainage trench, a similar sequence of deposits was observed. The turf and brown/black sandy silt topsoil (001) averaged between 0.10m to 0.50m deep which, in the western part of the trench, overlay a compacted dark brown/black sandy silt (002) with frequent pieces of angular stone rubble up to 0.15m in length. This subsoil deposit was up to 0.55m deep and continued below the base of this part of the trench. It faded out at the point where the trench made its second return to run parallel to a footpath, perhaps because its surface had dipped here, following the general downward slope of the ground. In the eastern section of the trench, the brown/black sandy silt (002) was apparently replaced by a thin layer of compacted brown sand (003), only 0.05m deep, which may have been associated with the installation of an old electric cable contained within a pipe, running the whole length of the trench's eastern section. The upper surface of the pipe was set on average 0.40m BGL and was covered by a line of special bricks marking its alignment. The pipe appeared to be set into a 0.40m deep layer of compacted mid-brown sandy silt (004) which contained frequent inclusions of angular sandstone/mudstone rubble up to 0.20m long, although no clear cut was visible. The mid-brown sandy silt (004) continued below the base of the trench - it may have been a layer of levelling material associated with the 19th century rebuilding phase.
- 5.4 No archaeological features of interest were observed within the trench, and neither was any disarticulated human bone recovered, even in the carefully hand excavated test pits. Given this, and the fact that the eastern section of the trench followed the line of an earlier service pipe which would have disturbed any *in situ* features that might have once been present, it was decided after the excavation of the two test pits to discontinue the watching brief during the external works.
- 5.5 The trench also exposed little in the way of new structural information relating to the church. At its extreme west end, the lower part of the east end of the north aisle's north wall was exposed. Dressed stone was observed to continue for a further 0.34m below the level of the chamfered plinth at the base of the north wall. At this point, the dressed stone was replaced by square course sandstone, including some blocks up to 1.0m long; these continued below the base of the trench. Generally, the latter remained flush with the base of the chamfered plinth above, but beneath the north-east angle buttress of the north aisle they projected by up to 0.13m.

Internal Groundworks

Sleeper walls

- 5.6 Prior to the start of the groundworks, the interior of the church was floored with a variety of different surfaces. The floor within the nave and aisles was set at an average height of 56.35m AOD, rising to 56.73m AOD within the chancel adjacent to the altar. The flooring included an area of re-used gravestones in the north-east corner, in the area of the former chantry chapel at the east end of the north aisle; these were set at a height of 56.70m AOD. With the exception of the chancel, which was unaffected by the works, the ground level throughout the church was reduced by c.045m to a new height of 55.90m AOD. The removal of the existing floor surface and the corresponding reduction in ground level revealed the pattern of sleeper walls created during the 19th century alterations (see below); the tops of these walls were set at an average height of 56.30m AOD.
- 5.7 The majority of the 19th century sleeper walls ran parallel to the long axis of the nave and aisles, linked by a lesser number of substantial cross-walls (see figure 4 and plate 4). All of the sleeper walls were built of a mixture of stone rubble with some brick and, despite careful examination, no re-used architectural fragments or other materials of historic interest were noted. The ground between the walls was formed by a dry loose orange-brown silty sand (005), up to 0.95m thick and containing frequent stone rubble. Again, a careful examination revealed no earlier material incorporated within this deposit, and only a very few pieces of *ex situ* human bone were recovered during the ground reduction works.

Re-used gravestones

- 5.8 Before the ground level in the former organ area at the east end of the north aisle could be reduced, several re-used gravestones forming the floor in this general area had to be removed. Their positions are shown on figure 5; to aid description, they have each been assigned a letter identifier (A to G).
- 5.9 The first gravestone (A), a floor stone, was located in the north-east corner of the nave. It measured 1.80m long (east-west) by 1.11m wide (north-south), and survived virtually complete, with a hollow chamfered moulding to the head and foot, and moulded edges. The inscription was partly in Latin and partly in English:

4:2 integra (?) omni
oc unum de sedu (-) reliqui
docenda monen daqun pleb
Ingenium, mores, Uath droneth
praeconem, An, erudienda im (-)
ins ituendaqs rara Faelicitas
utiliorum praestiterint Givem.

Also Mary Wife of the above
Marmaduke Drake died Sep
the 14th 1757

- 5.10 The remaining four gravestones (B to E) were all located in the former chantry chapel area at the east end of the north aisle. Gravestone B measured 1.40m long (east-west) by 0.92m wide (north-south) and appeared only part complete, although the inscription was very worn and no longer legible. Gravestone C measured 1.70m long (east-west) by 0.95m wide (north-south), and the inscription

was again very worn, the only line that could be clearly made out being "... of John ...". Gravestone D measured 1.80m long (north-south) by 1.00m wide (east-west) and had a shallow recess with a semi-circular profile around the edges; this once framed the inscription, which was unfortunately illegible.

- 5.11 The fourth gravestone in this area (Gravestone E) was better preserved than the other three (see plate 3). It measured 2.05m long (east-west) by 1.00m wide (north-south), the edges being moulded, with quarter circle insets containing flower (or sun?) motifs in low relief at both corners of the head. The inscription (now only partly legible) read:

“ lieth Interrd the Body
James Jo (?)
of Beighton who departed
this life APRIL the (-)
in the (-)

Also here lies Buried
ELIZABETH (-)
JAMES (-)
Aforesaid who departed
Life December (-)
Aged (-) Years

Also is Interrd the
JONATHAN (-)
Aforesaid”

- 5.12 In addition to the four stones described above, two further fragments of stones had been found face down and re-used as flooring when ground reduction works were undertaken in the south-west corner of the former chantry chapel area. The larger piece (Gravestone F) retained a partly legible inscription “HERE LYETH THE BODY OF ROBERT WARD OF SO(?) HALLSKINNER”. This inscription was framed by an incised semi-circle within an incised rectangular frame and the overall style of the stone suggest a late 17th or early 18th century date. The smaller piece (Gravestone G) was badly worn, the only legible part of the inscription being “ .. December 1740 Aged 35 years ..”; a worn recess in the upper surface indicated that there had once been a brass set into the stone.

The early grave floor stone

- 5.13 Following the recording of the re-used gravestones, the ground level within the former chantry chapel area was reduced by c.0.95m to bring it down to the same level as that throughout the rest of the church. The ground level reduction exposed more of the 19th century sleeper walls, which were of the same construction and form as noted elsewhere, and had the same dry orange-brown silty sand (005) as noted elsewhere. However, after a 0.26m depth of the fill between two of the north-south aligned sleeper walls had been removed, the surface of a grave floor stone was exposed, of significantly earlier date than those described above.
- 5.14 The floor stone was of limestone and had broken into several pieces (see plate 5). It was aligned approximately north-west/south-east and measured a maximum of 1.88m long by a maximum of 0.56m wide; following excavation (see below), it was found to be 0.12m thick. In contrast to the smooth upper surface, the underside of the stone was rough and apparently unworked; only the west edge of the

underside was chamfered. The marginal inscription of the stone was in Latin and carved in a shallowly incised Gothic script (see plate 6 and figure 6). The inscription was set within a border formed by two parallel incised lines; the outer line on the east side was apparently never carved, although its position was marked out using a dark paint or other substance. At three of the four corners of the margin, the inscription was punctuated by incised crosses. The cross at the north-west corner more closely resembles a saltire, carved in shallow relief within a sunken circle. There was a fourth cross in the approximate centre of the stone, formed by intersecting curves contained within a shallowly-incised circle, vaguely reminiscent of some of the cross paté examples recorded on 12th century cross slab grave covers in West Yorkshire (Ryder 1991, 50-51), although the floor stone itself is much later (see below).

- 5.15 It should be noted that the floor stone uncovered during the watching brief is only one of a number of such features that still exist or are known to have once existed within the church. The cross slab grave cover of John Tynker, vicar of Beighton, who died in 1480, now lies beneath the high altar, although documentary references indicate that it has been moved several times since the late 15th century (Richards 1991, 12-13; Cox 1875, 87-88). A fragment of a grave cover decorated with shears, and thought to date to between c.1250-1350, has been re-used as the sill of the west window of the north aisle (Richards 1991, 15). According to Cox, several other examples of similar stones decorated with incised foliated crosses and re-used throughout the church were once visible (Cox 1875, 84).
- 5.16 Most relevant to the floor stone exposed during the watching brief are the references made by Cox in 1875, and these are reproduced in full below:

“There is another old monumental slab just under the arch that divides the chancel from the vestry. When removed at the time of the alterations it was found to be in several pieces and much dilapidated. It is a rude stone with shears engraven on it. The inscription cannot now be traced but Glover tells us that it is to the memory of Richard Boswette (or Dowcette) and Johanna his wife, and that it bears the date of 1501. Lysons says that there ‘is in the parish church an ancient monument without date for Richard Bosville’ and then adds that ‘Bassano’s volume of church notes mentions the monument of Edward Dowcett Esq., 1501’. This surely is a strange confusion of one and the same monument.

On referring to Bassano’s notes, taken about 1710, it appears that the vicar’s monument (to John Tynker) was even then in the chancel, and the inscription on the other old slab, which then stood against the south wall was: ‘Hic jacet Edwardus Dowcett armiger et Johanna uxor ejus, Mill: quingentesimo primo. Quorum animatum propicietur Deus. Amen.’ Lysons’ MSS, on the contrary, (1816) gives the name as ‘Ricardus Boswell’, but explains that the inscription was much hidden by a pew, so that it will be safer to accept the earlier reading.” (Cox 1875, 88).

- 5.17 Starting at the foot (south) end of the floor stone exposed during the current works, the marginal inscription appears to read:

HIC IACET / RECARDUS (B)OSVIL(LE) A(RMINGER?) (E)T IOIANNA UXOR
EIUS / (MILL?) (CNINO?) / QUINGENTESIMO CUIUS ANIME PROPITIETUR
DEUS AMEN

Here lies / Richard Bosville (knight?) and his wife Johanna / one thousand / 500th
may God offer propitiation for his soul Amen

- 5.18 It therefore seems very likely that this is the “ancient monument to Richard Bosville” that Lysons (quoted by Cox) referred to in 1816, and that there was once also another one existing to Edward Dowcette (or Dowcett), so that Cox was mistaken in thinking that both were references to the same feature. The confusion may have arisen from the similar inscriptions on both floor stones and the similar dates, Bosville’s apparently dating to the early 16th century. Both stones were clearly also no longer visible when Cox wrote his description, presumably disturbed by the 1867-68 works (and may indeed have been moved several times before). It would appear from its position between the adjacent sleeper walls that Bosville’s monument had been moved as part of the 1867-68 works (see below), but it is not known if it was originally discovered in this position and then re-buried in approximately the same spot, or why it was not left on display.
- 5.19 In order to investigate whether or not a burial remained *in situ* beneath the floor stone, a small broken piece of the stone was removed from the central area, and the fill beneath it removed by hand to a depth of c.0.25m (56.33m AOD). The fill was found to be the same as that noted between the sleeper walls elsewhere within the church (i.e. a dry orange-brown silty sand - 005), and here it contained several fragments of 19th century glass and roofing slate. If the monument had remained *in situ* until the late 19th century, then the associated burials were presumably disturbed during the 1867-68 works. When the ground level beneath the stone was reduced to the same as that throughout the rest of the church as part of the current works, no other evidence for an associated burial or tomb was uncovered.

Other structural information

- 5.20 Following the reduction of the church’s internal ground level, the bases of the internal walls were carefully examined for any new structural information pertinent to the history and development of the church. Unfortunately, very little new information was exposed. The north wall of the north aisle was noted to step out by 0.08m at 0.55m (55.80m AOD) below the former floor level here; however, when a hole was cut through the wall to connect with the new external drain, no further information was revealed.
- 5.21 The removal of the screen formerly positioned towards the east of centre of the north aisle involved limited plaster stripping to either wall. On the south wall of the aisle, an apparent ragged joint was revealed in the masonry, running from the lowest exposed part of the wall upwards to the west side of the steps formerly leading to the rood.
- 5.22 The reduction in ground level allowed the bases of the piers and responds of the north and south arcades to be examined in more detail than had previously been possible (see figure 7). The pier bases were both of similar form, octagonal in plan with stepped footings. The bases of the east and west responds were stepped and double-chamfered; the upper chamfer was set 1.56m below the base of the respond corbel. In contrast, the respond bases of the south arcade incorporated only a single chamfer, the tops of which were set 1.33m below the bases of the respond corbels. The chamfer to the east respond appeared to be a 19th century replacement of the original.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.18 The watching brief undertaken at St Mary the Virgin church uncovered little or no evidence for features associated with the medieval church, and no *in situ* burials were uncovered either internally or externally. The pattern of sleeper walls exposed in the interior of the church, the barren nature of the fill between them, and the documentary evidence for the significant floor reduction as part of the 1867-68 works, all strongly suggest that any surviving medieval remains, including burials, were largely removed during the later extensive 19th century restoration. Parts of six grave stones, all reused for floor slabs and likely to date to the late 17th or 18th centuries, were also recorded.
- 6.19 The most significant feature uncovered by the present phase of works was the early floor stone. This was last recorded in 1816, and was presumably disturbed and then buried as part of the 1867-68 restoration. The stone commemorates Richard Bosville and his wife Johanna, and almost certainly dates to the early 16th century. The form of the floor stone bears many similarities to other floor stones recorded by Ryder in West Yorkshire (Ryder 1991). These generally dated from the late 15th or early 16th centuries, the earliest recorded example being that to John Gascoigne in Barwick-in-Elmet church, which is dated to 1445. The floor stones are almost always rectangular in plan rather than tapered, and most had incised marginal inscriptions. Where they were provided with crosses, these were usually very simple, and several examples had crosses which were of a much earlier design than the floor stone itself; these may have been copied from earlier monuments (Ryder 1991, 55 & 58-60).
- 6.20 The slender rectangular form of the stone found in St Mary the Virgin's church is also commonly seen in the late medieval period in South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, although far less so in County Durham. The inscription is also of a common form, especially the ending, which is near universal on such stones of the 15th and early 16th centuries (Peter Ryder, *pers comm.*). The crosses at the corners of the stone and in the centre replicate the positions of those carved on medieval altars, and worn examples of such stones are sometimes mistaken for re-used medieval altars. The chamfered edge along only one side of the stone's underside suggests that it was once raised up off the floor, either as a small table tomb or perhaps set into a niche in an aisle wall (Peter Ryder, *pers comm.*).

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cox, C 1875 "Beighton" in *Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire Vol 1: The Hundred of Scarsdale*, 83-89

IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (and subsequent revisions)

Richards, R 1991 "The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Beighton" (unpublished mss)

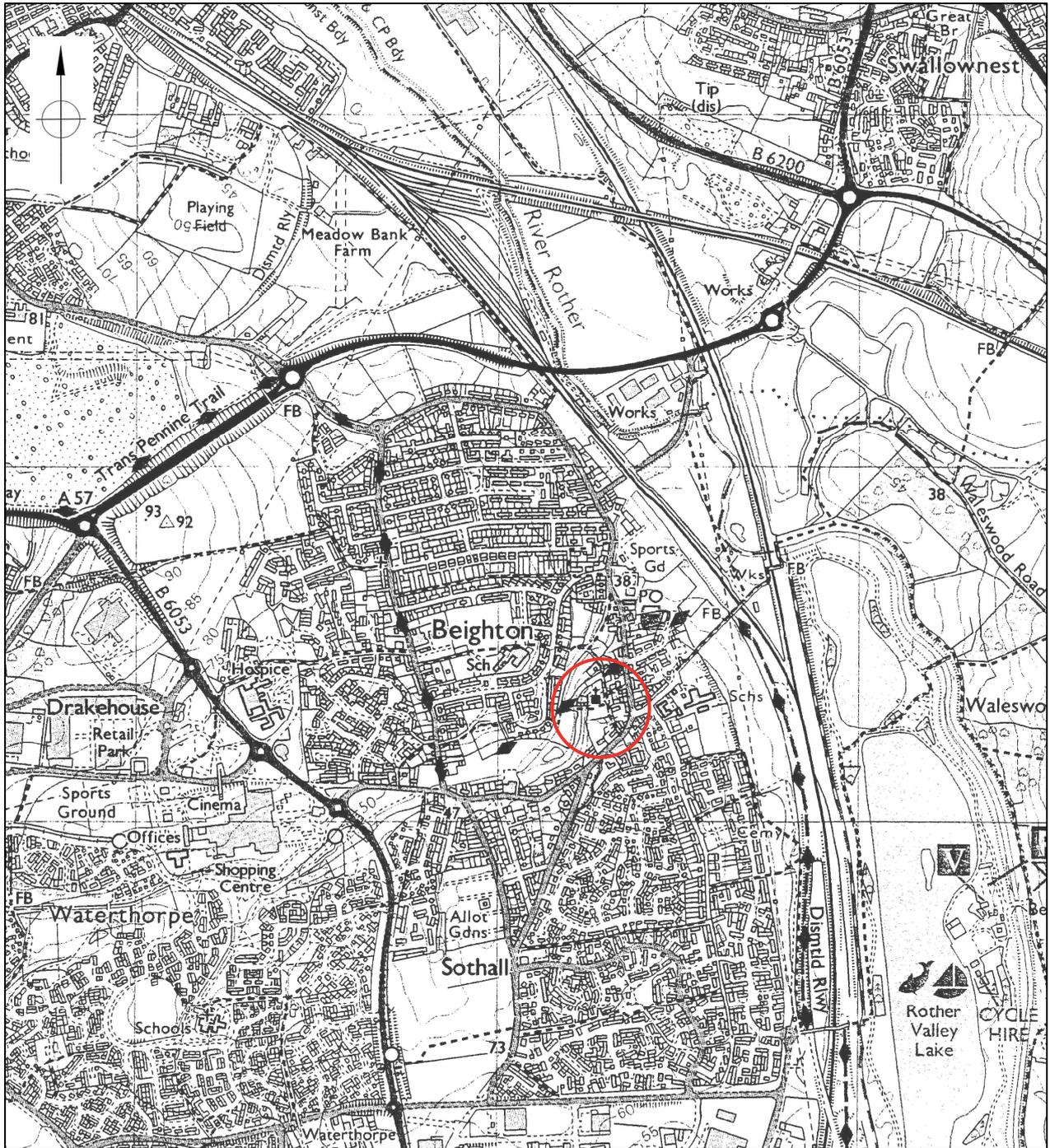
Ryder, P 1991 *Medieval Cross Slab Grave Covers in West Yorkshire*

Shepherd, A D W 2005 "Description of the Church and Proposals" (unpublished mss)

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.18 The archaeological watching brief at St Mary the Virgin Church was commissioned by the PCC, through their architects Elden Minns & Co. Ltd. EDAS would like to thank Andrew Shepherd and the PCC for their co-operation during the on-site works. Especial thanks are due to Peter Ryder for his specialist advice on the form of the early floor stone and for the translation of its inscription.

8.19 The on-site recording was undertaken by Shaun Richardson of EDAS, who also produced the site archive. The final report was produced by Ed Dennison, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.



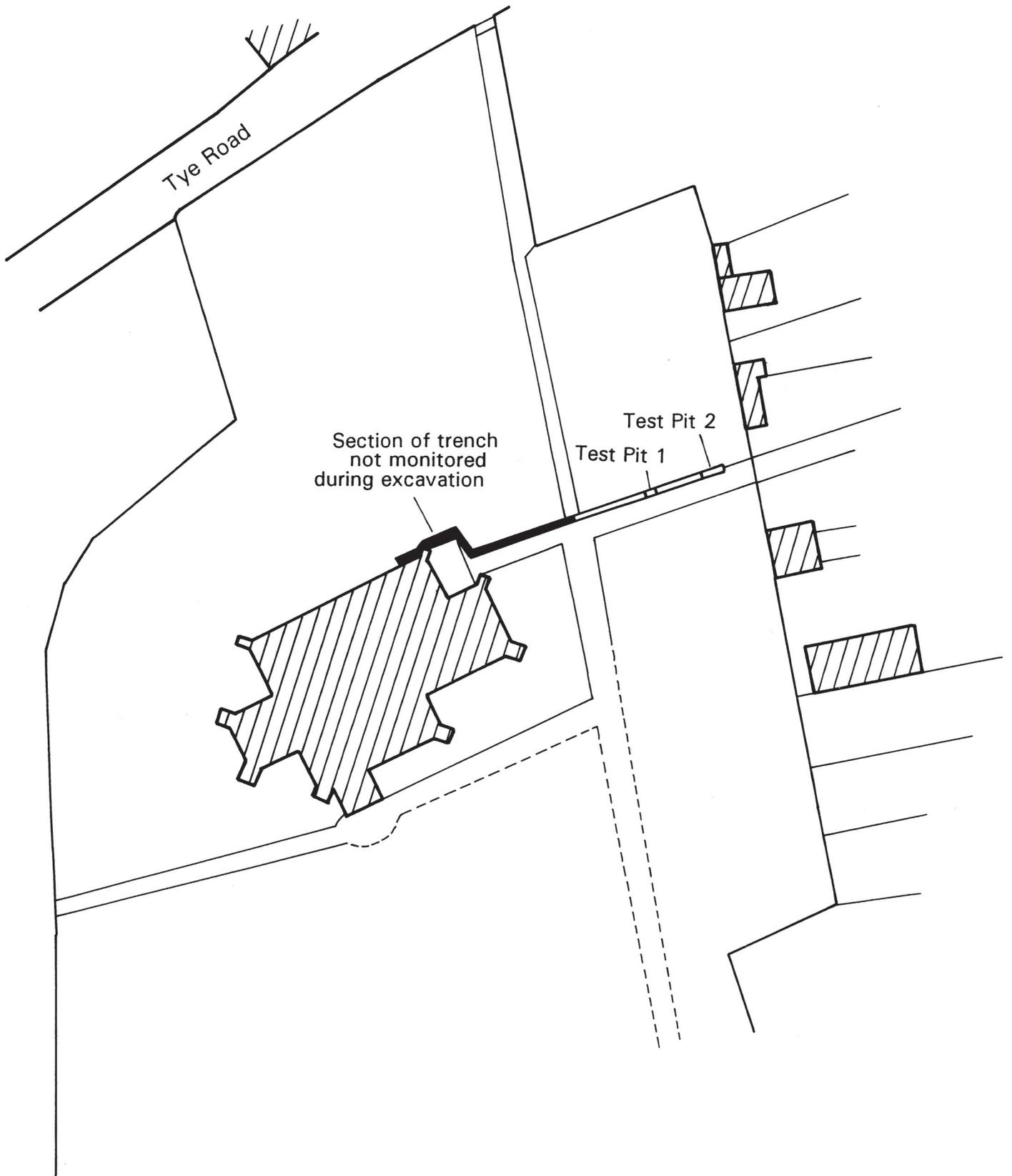
Reproduced from the 1:25,000 scale map by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Licence AL100013825

PROJECT		ST MARY'S CHURCH, BEIGHTON	
TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	MAR 2009
EDAS		FIGURE	1



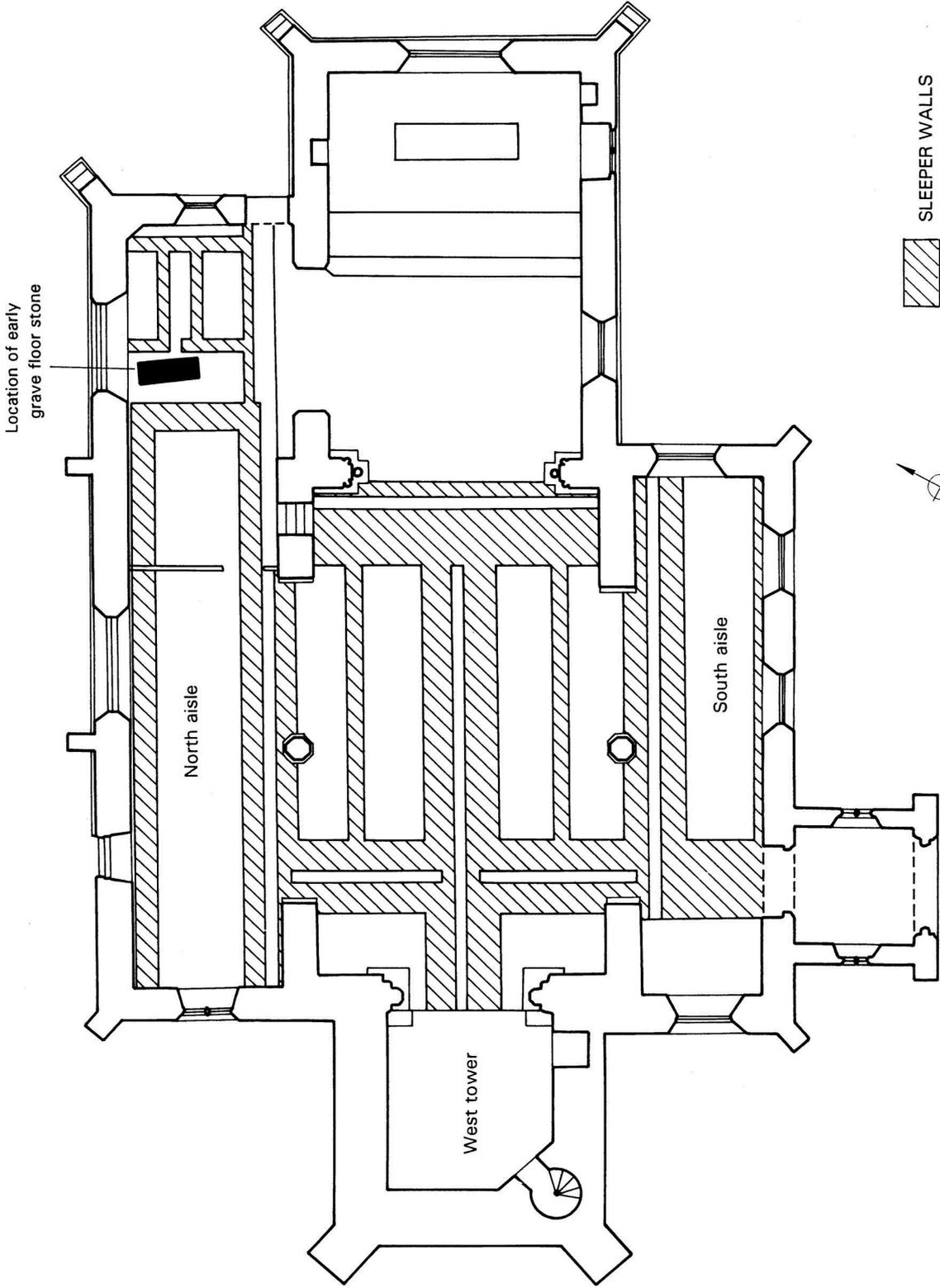
Plan supplied by Elden Minns & Co. Ltd.
 Reproduced from the 1:1,250 scale map by permission
 of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her
 Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright 2004.
 All rights reserved. Licence AL100013825

PROJECT		ST MARY'S CHURCH, BEIGHTON	
TITLE		DETAILED LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	MAR 2009
	EDAS	FIGURE	2

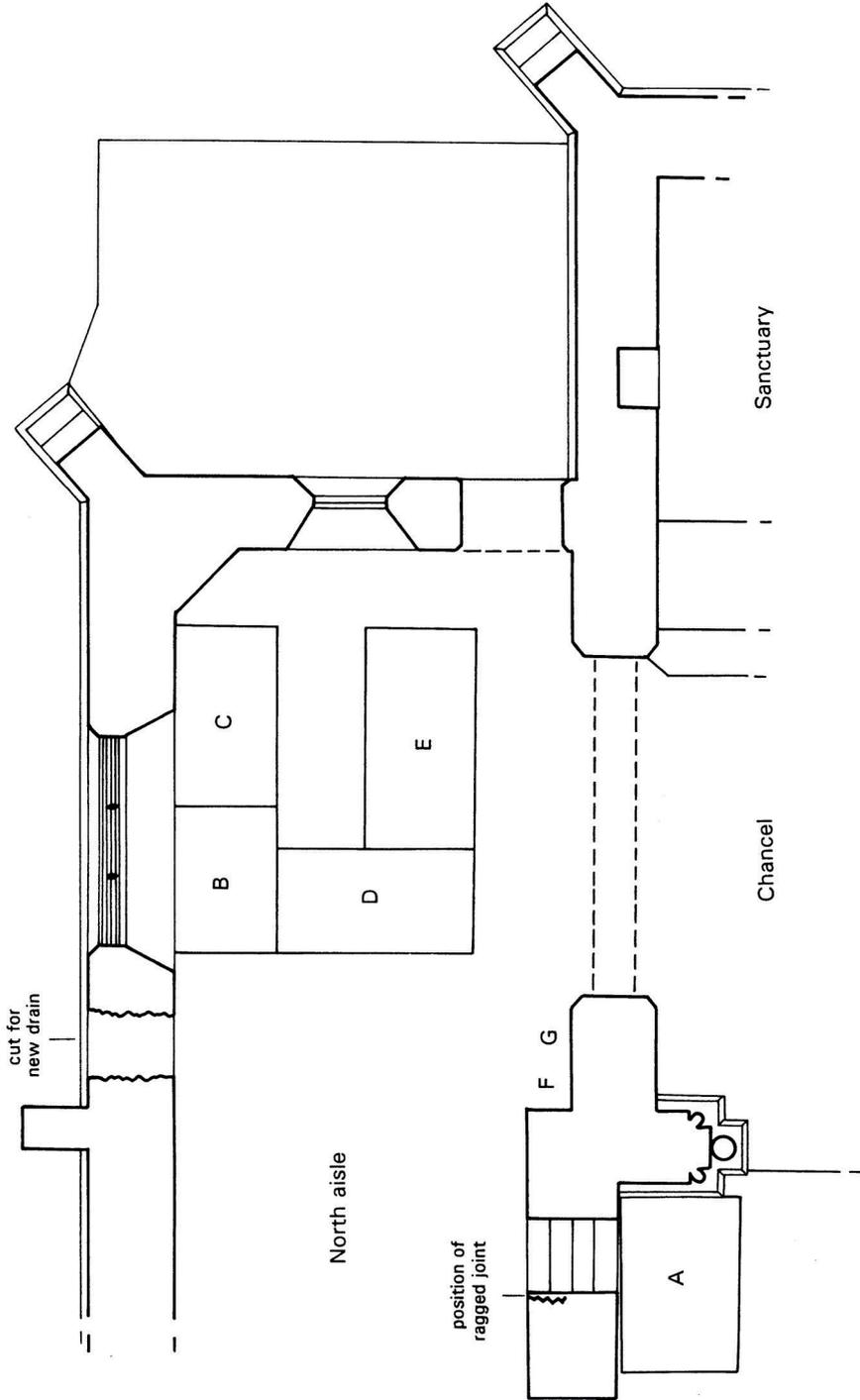


0 30m

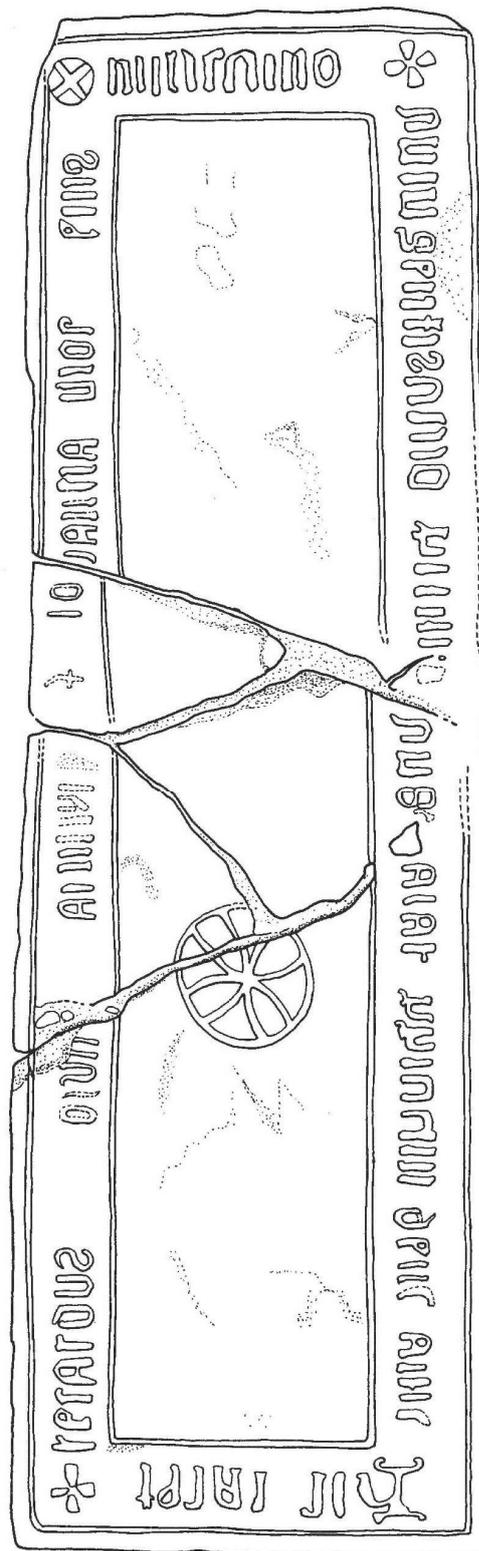
PROJECT		ST MARY'S CHURCH, BEIGHTON	
TITLE		EXTERNAL DRAINAGE TRENCH	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	MAR 2009
EDAS		FIGURE	3



PROJECT	ST MARY'S CHURCH, BEIGHTON		
TITLE	LOCATION OF SLEEPER WALLS		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	MAR 2009
	EDAS	FIGURE	4

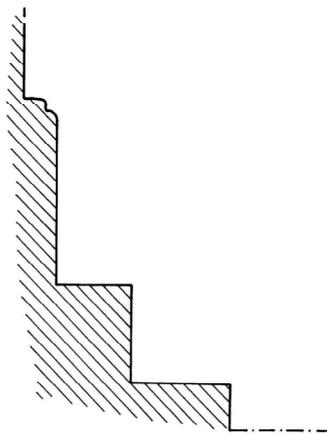


PROJECT	ST MARY'S CHURCH, BEIGHTON		
TITLE	RECORDED GRAVE STONES		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	MAR 2009
	EDAS	FIGURE	5

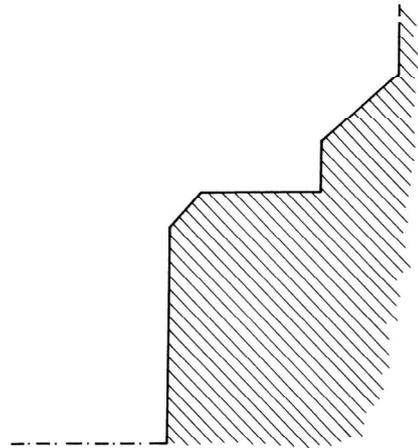


Dimensions:
 Maximum length 1.88m
 Maximum width 0.56m

PROJECT		ST MARY'S CHURCH, BEIGHTON	
TITLE		SKETCH OF EARLY FLOOR STONE	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	MAR 2009
EDAS		FIGURE	6



Typical profile of base of north and south arcade piers



Typical profile of base of east and west responds of north arcade

0 300m

PROJECT ST MARY'S CHURCH, BEIGHTON	
TITLE PROFILES	
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE MAR 2009
EDAS	FIGURE 7

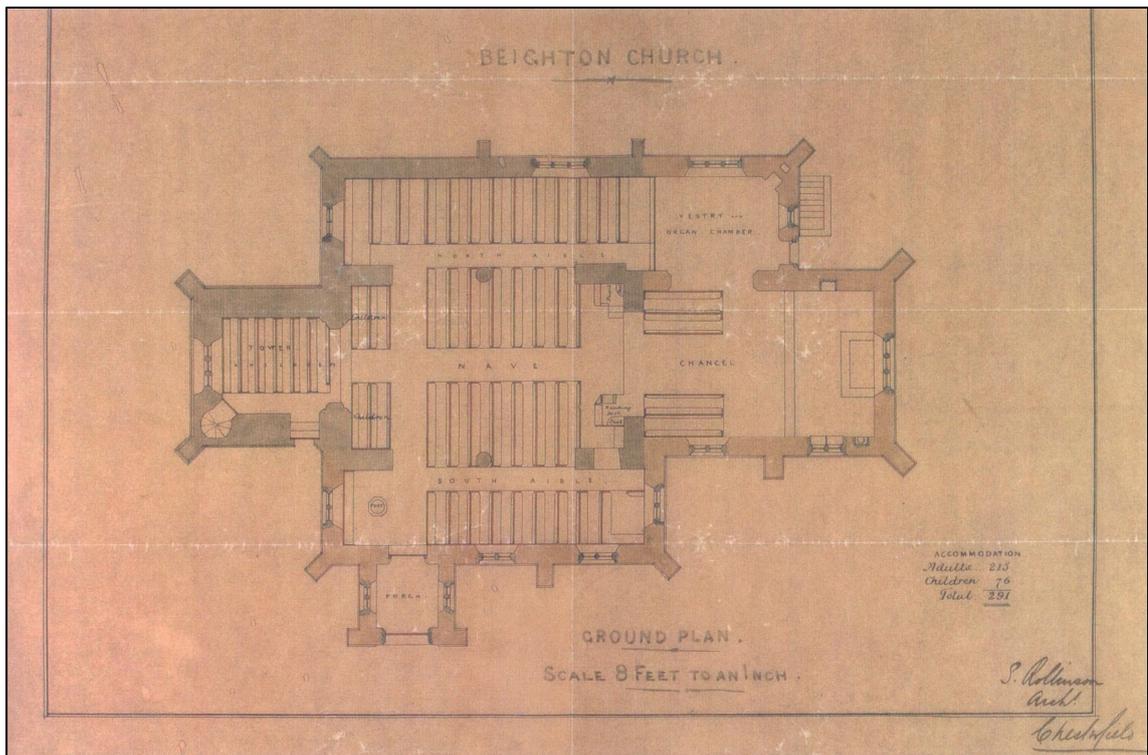


Plate 1: Rollinson's plan of 1867 showing the extent of Victorian rebuilding (supplied by Eiden Minns & Co Ltd).



Plate 2: External drainage trench under excavation, showing the two test pits, looking east.



Plate 3: Gravestone E, looking west.



Plate 4: Exposed 19th century sleeper walls in nave of church, looking south-west.



Plate 5: Early floor stone in situ, looking north.



Plate 6: Detail of north end of early floor stone.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF RECORDED CONTEXTS

Context Description

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 001 | Compact brown/black sandy silt, between 0.10m-0.50m thick, containing frequent angular stone and occasional modern handmade brick fragments - topsoil. |
| 002 | Compact dark brown/black sandy silt, up to 0.55m thick, containing common angular stone - subsoil. |
| 003 | Compact brown sand, 0.05m thick - protection for C20th electric cable. |
| 004 | Compact mid brown sandy silt, up to 0.4m thick with frequent sandstone/mudstone - subsoil or perhaps levelling material during C19th works. |
| 005 | Loose orange-brown silty sand, up to 0.95m thick, containing frequent stone rubble - backfill between C19th sleeper walls. |

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

IoE Number: 458679

Location: Church of St Mary the Virgin, High Street (west side, off), Beighton, Sheffield

Date listed: 28 June 1973

Date of last amendment: 28 June 1973

Grade: II*

Parish church. C12, C14 and C15. Restored 1773. Chancel, south aisle and nave rebuilt during restoration of 1867-68. Coursed squared stone with ashlar dressings and slate roofs. Chamfered plinth, coped gables with crosses. PLAN: chancel, nave with aisles, south porch, west tower. EXTERIOR: chancel has string course and diagonally buttressed east gable with a C19 Decorated 3-light pointed arch window with hoodmould. South side has a central buttress flanked by 2-light windows with ogee heads and flat-headed surrounds with label moulds. Nave has a low clerestory with moulded eaves and 3 quatrefoils on each side. Buttressed 3 bay south aisle has 2 restored Decorated 2-light windows with flat-headed surrounds, and in either end, a similar window with label mould. Buttressed 3 bay north aisle includes vestry at east end with a square corner stack. 2 cusped ogee 2-light windows, possibly C18, and to west, a chamfered door with hoodmould. West end has an early C15 2-light window with label mould. East end has a C19 shouldered doorway and a single lancet. C19 south porch has coped gable and flanking buttresses, moulded doorway and hoodmould. In each side, an ogee double lancet. Scissor braced roof and wrought-iron screen. 2 stage west tower has diagonal buttresses, 4 setoffs, string courses, gargoyles and crenellated parapet with 8 crocketed pinnacles. First stage has to west a Perpendicular transomed 3-light pointed arch window with hoodmould. To south, a blocked shouldered doorway. Second stage has on each side a cusped 2-light pointed arch bell opening with hoodmould. Under them, a clock face to north, south and west. Under the south opening, a small single lancet. INTERIOR: chancel has a large Norman style arch, 1867, with zigzag bands and triple shafts. To left, a chamfered doorway to former rood loft. To right, a large squint. Scissor braced roof. North side has double chamfered organ arch and to east, a shouldered aumbry. South-east side has a restored early C14 piscina. Nave has C14 2 bay arcades with octagonal piers and double chamfered moulded arches, and scissor braced roof. Double chamfered early C14 tower arch with mask capitals and nailhead band and C19 Perpendicular wooden screen. Aisles have C19 roofs. North aisle has C19 Perpendicular wooden screen. South aisle has, to east, a chamfered ogee piscina. Fittings include stained glass windows, 1872 and 1888 and c1870, and C15 fragments in the aisle windows. C19 benches, wooden pulpit and stone font with marble shafts. Early C19 benefactions board. C19 Italian alabaster reredos. Rood by Ninian Comper. Memorials include incised slab, 1480, to John Tynker, and brasses 1667 and 1753. (Historical notes on the Church of St Mary: Rosemary Richards: Beighton Vicarage: 1989-).

Source: Images of England website (www.imagesofengland.org.uk)

APPENDIX 3



BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING (Watching Brief)

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The accompanying planning report outlines the known or suspected archaeological implications of development on the development site.

1.2 There is reason to believe that archaeological remains may be disturbed in the course of the proposed development, though little is known of their nature or state of preservation.

1.3 Archaeological monitoring (often referred to as a 'Watching Brief') is required to ensure that remains that are affected can be recorded and/or retrieved.

1.4 All archaeological work will be monitored by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS).

2 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

2.1 The work shall be carried out by appropriately qualified and experienced staff. Details of staff numbers, their relative experience and their responsibilities in carrying out the work should be submitted to SYAS in advance of work starting. Staff c.v.'s should be included, unless already supplied to SYAS in previous project specifications.

2.2 Reasonable prior notice (at least 14 days) of the commencement of the development is to be given to the archaeological contractor. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork must be given by the archaeological contractor to SYAS, to arrange monitoring visits.

2.3 Access to the site must be afforded to the developer's nominated archaeological contractor at all reasonable times.

2.4 All groundworks associated with the construction of foundations, service trenches, etc., must be undertaken under archaeological supervision, to allow for the identification and recording of any archaeological material that might be uncovered.

2.5 Where structures, features or finds of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the archaeological contractor must be given the opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate, hand excavate, sample and record these features and finds.

2.6 Any human remains which are revealed must initially be left *in situ* and, if removal is necessary, this must comply with the relevant Department of Constitutional Affairs (formerly Home Office), Diocesan and other regulations, as appropriate.

2.7 All finds that are 'treasure' (in terms of the Treasure Act 1997) will be reported to the Coroner and appropriate procedures then followed.

2.8 Heavy plant or excavators must not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded and the archaeological contractor on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

2.9 Where archaeological remains are observed by contractors or plant operators, they must immediately notify the archaeological contractor.

2.10 If it becomes clear during the monitoring that little of archaeological interest is likely to survive on the site, the contractor should discuss their work with the monitor. A joint decision will be made on reducing the work to an intermittent watching brief or ceasing observation of groundworks.

3 ARCHIVE

3.1 Upon completion of fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and all finds will be cleaned, identified, assessed, spot-dated and properly stored.

3.2 A field archive will be compiled, comprising all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs.

3.3 The field archive should be deposited with the appropriate museum or other archive (specified in the accompanying planning report). The archaeological contractor must contact the archive at the beginning of the project to arrange this and then to discuss conservation issues identified during the project.

4 REPORT & PUBLICITY

4.1 A report will be produced to include the following:

- background information
- a summary of the works carried out
- a description and interpretation the findings
- an assessment of the importance of the archaeology found

4.2 All excavated areas must be accurately mapped with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads, and all archaeological features should be illustrated with appropriately scaled plans and sections. The report should be appropriately illustrated, including all of the following (unless agreed otherwise):

- a detailed location map
- a site plan showing all identified features of archaeological interest
- if possible, phase plans should be produced
- detailed plans and sections of features
- a selection of scanned photographs of work in progress
- select artefact illustrations

4.3 A printed and bound copy of the report must be supplied to SYAS for incorporation into the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record. A digital copy of the report must also be supplied.

4.4 Acceptable digital formats are:

- text (Word and ASCII);
- images (.JPG at no less than 300 dpi. resolution).

4.5 A summary report of an appropriate length, accompanied by illustrations, must be prepared and submitted in digital format, for publication in the appropriate volume of *Archaeology in South Yorkshire*.

4.6 Provision must be made for publicising the results of the work locally, e.g. by presenting a paper at South Yorkshire Archaeology Day and talking to local societies.

4.7 The archaeological contractor must complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.