

# ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, BAMPTON, CUMBRIA

## Archaeological Watching Brief



Client: Parochial Church  
Council of St Patrick's  
Church, Bampton

NGR: 352152 518041

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July 2014



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## **Non-Technical Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the installation of a replacement water main at St Patrick's Church, Bampton. The watching brief was carried out on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

St Patrick's Church is known to have at least medieval origins, although little is known about these, and it was rebuilt and modified a number of times. In the wider area there is evidence for activity from the end of the last Ice Age onwards, but Bampton village is primarily an early medieval and medieval creation, split into two manors at an early date on account of different land owners.

The watching brief monitored excavation of the entire pipeline route, but other than a very small amount of human bone, which was reburied on site rather than retained, no significant archaeological finds or features were observed. This is at least in part due to the very limited depth and extent of trenching, which probably avoided any underlying archaeological deposits, but also recent disturbance caused by the original pipe and previous excavation within the graveyard.

## **Acknowledgements**

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank the Parochial Church Council of St Patrick's Church, Bampton for commissioning the project, in particular Kathleen Jenkins and Andrew Yates. Further thanks are due Phil Newport and colleagues, who carried out the excavation, and Tony Hall, churchwarden at the church.

The watching brief was carried out by Ric Buckle, who also wrote this report. The illustrations were produced by Tom Mace. The report was edited by Jo Dawson and the project was managed by Dan Elsworth.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 As part of a programme of maintenance at St Patrick's Church, Bampton, Cumbria (NGR 352152 518041) requiring the installation of a replacement water main, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during any groundwork on the advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee. In response to this Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design for this work (*Appendix 1*) and the watching brief was carried out on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

1.1.2 St Patrick's Church is situated in Bampton Grange, to the east of Bampton itself. The church may have surviving Norman elements, although it is clear that it was substantially modified in the 1720s and again in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Salter 1988, 19).

## 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The village of Bampton is approximately 4.75km north-west of Shap at the north-east end of the Lake District National Park (Ordnance Survey 2002). St Patrick's Church is located c600m to the east of Bampton on the east side of the River Lowther at approximately 180m above sea level (see Figure 1).

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the area comprises Dinantian Carboniferous limestone covered by glacial till (Moseley 1978, plate 1). The landscape is characterised by large expanses of moorland and rolling upland farmland with limestone outcrops (Countryside Commission 1998, 56).

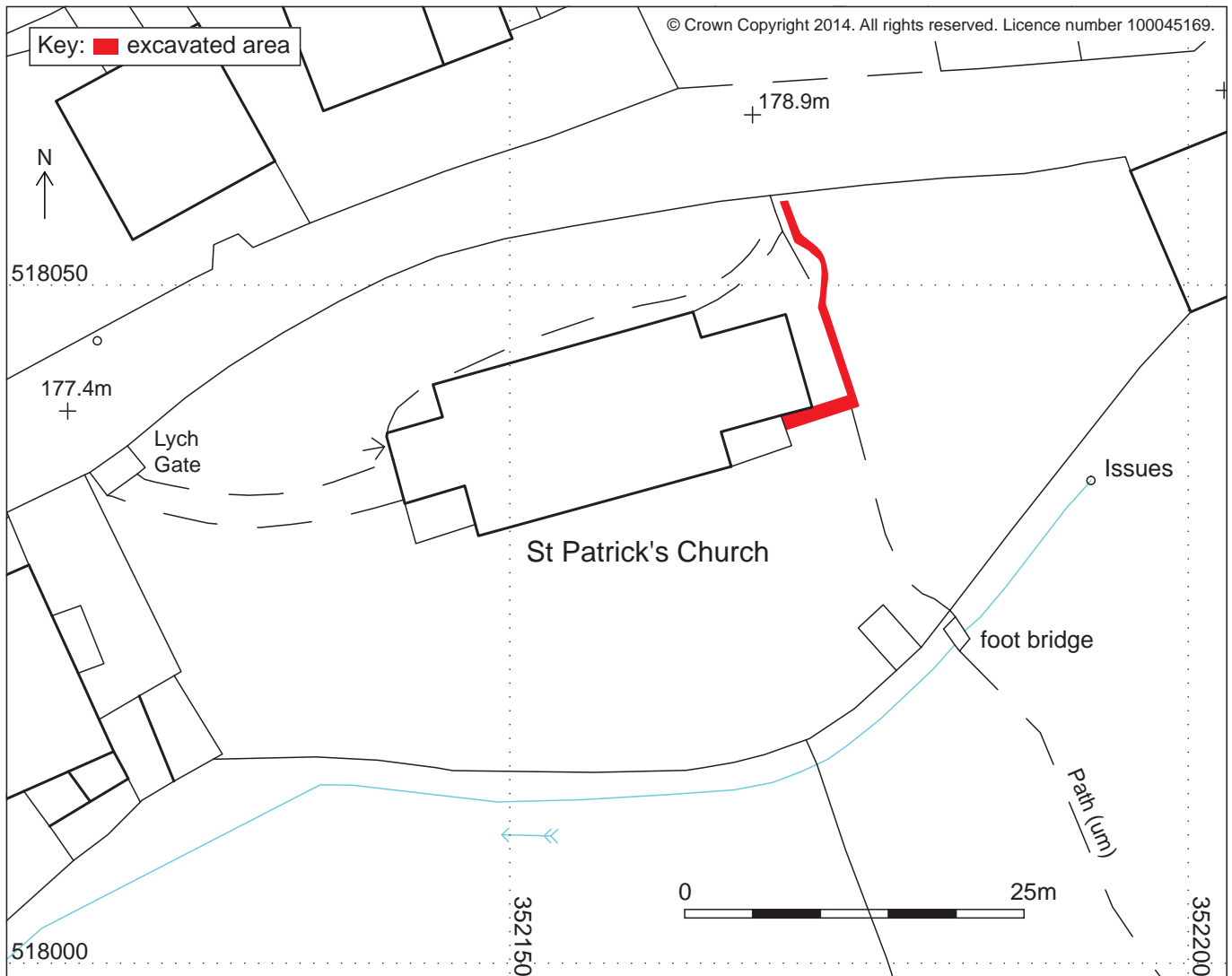
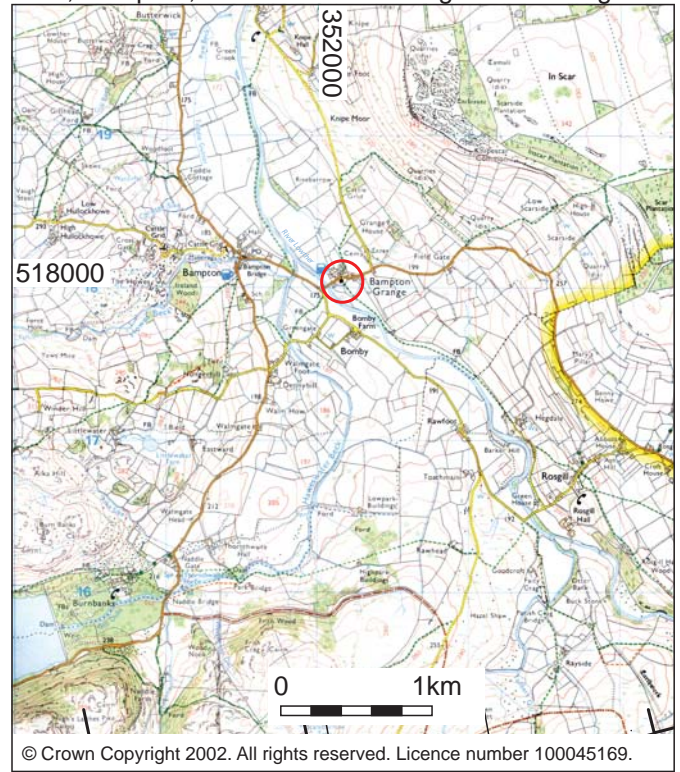
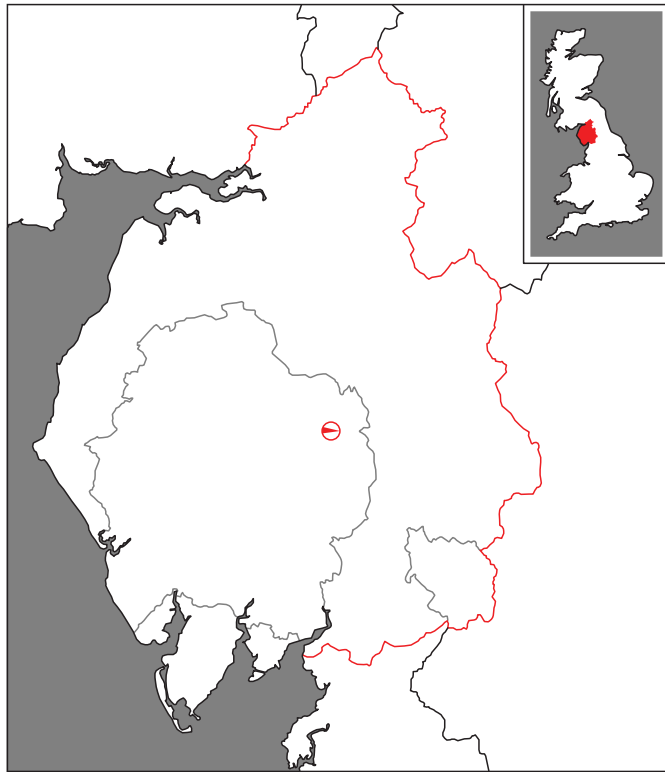


Figure 1: Site location

Client: Parochial Church Council of St Patrick's Church, Bampton

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## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Watching Brief

2.1.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of a single trench running from the south side of the east end of the church to the north side of the churchyard (Plate 1). The excavation, totalling an area of approximately 15m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 1), was carried out using a small tracked mechanical excavator and the spoil was placed in a dumper bucket before being removed from site.



Plate 1 (left): Pre-excitation view at the east end of the church, looking north south

2.1.2 All aspects of the archaeological recording were carried out according to the standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008b) and Greenlane Archaeology's own excavation manual (2007). The underlying deposits and features were recorded in the following manner:

- **Written record:** descriptive records were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs:** photographs in both 35mm colour print and colour digital format were taken of all archaeological features uncovered during the groundworks, as well as general views of the site and working shots. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report. A written record of all of the photographs was also made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Drawings:** a location plan showing the area of excavation was produced at a scale of 1:200.

2.1.3 In addition, spoil was checked for artefacts wherever possible, both visually and with a metal detector.

### 2.2 Environmental Samples

2.2.1 No environmental samples were taken as no appropriate deposits were encountered.

### 2.3 Finds

2.3.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief as none of archaeological interest were encountered. Human bone was uncovered but this was not retained and was re-buried on site.

### 2.4 Archive

2.4.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*) and current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007). The archive, which comprises the drawn, written, and photographic record, will be deposited with the Cumbria Archive Centre in Kendal (CAC(K)). A copy of the report will be provided to the client,

Greenlane Archaeology will retain a copy, a copy will also be provided for the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER), and a digital copy will form part of the OASIS scheme.



### 3. Site History and Archaeology

#### 3.1 Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1st century AD)

3.1.1 While there is some limited evidence for activity in the county in the period immediately following the last Ice Age, this is typically found in the southernmost part on the north side of Morecambe Bay. Excavations of a small number of cave sites have found the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country and artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type (Young 2002). Again, the county was also clearly inhabited during the following period, the Mesolithic (c8,000 – 4,000 BC), as large numbers of artefacts of this date have been discovered during field walking and eroding from sand dunes along the coast, but these are typically concentrated in the west coast area and on the uplands around the Eden Valley (Cherry and Cherry 2002). These discoveries conform to the notion that river valleys, lakesides, and coastal areas are a common place for such remains to be discovered (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152).

3.1.2 In the following period, the Neolithic (c4,000 – 2,500 BC), large scale monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles begin to appear in the region and one of the most recognisable tool types of this period, the polished stone axe, is found in large numbers across the county, having been manufactured at Langdale to the south-west of the site (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). Neolithic remains closer to the site include Moor Divock stone avenue, which is located on Askham Fell, and the Shap Avenue (OA North 2005, 10-11). A 274m long mound which is thought to date from this period was recorded at Lowther, approximately 3km east of Askham village (Higham 1986, 67). During the Bronze Age (c2,500 – 600 BC), monuments, particularly those thought to be ceremonial in nature, become more common still, and it is likely that many settlement sites thought to have been extant in the Iron Age or even Romano-British have their origins in this period. A comparatively dense scatter of enclosed settlement sites normally assigned to the later prehistoric period has been identified close to the junction of the River Lowther with Eamont, including the occupation site and *tumulus* of Yanwath Wood and the settlement site at Castlesteads, near Penrith, which forms part of a wider group of settlements making use of the various resources of the river and woodland in addition to the available agricultural and grazing land within the Lowther valley (Higham 1983, 49-50).

3.1.3 Stray finds of Bronze Age date are found throughout the county and activity from this period is suggested by a burnt mound, a pair of round cairns to the south of Lowther Castle, and a pair of standing stones and associated round cairns at Crooklands to the south (OA North 2005, 11). Sites that can be specifically dated to the Iron Age (c600 BC – 1<sup>st</sup> century AD) in the region are very rare; there are large enclosures around the county that might represent hillforts, a typical site of this period, but none have been dated in any detail and most are small and unspectacular (see Higham 1986, 130-131). At Levens, in the south of the county, burials radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age have been discovered (OA North 2004), but these remain a rarity both regionally and nationally. There is, however, likely to have been a considerable overlap between the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Romano-British period; it is evident that in this part of the country, initially at least, the Roman invasion had a minimal impact on the native population in rural areas (Philpott 2006, 73-74).

#### 3.2 Romano-British to Early Medieval Period (1<sup>st</sup> century AD – 11<sup>th</sup> century AD)

3.2.1 The Roman military presence in the North West is apparent from the existence of forts, which in many cases led to the formation of nearby towns or *vici* and the supply network of roads and coastal trade, as well as the incidence of Roman artefacts such as coins (Philpott 2006, 71). The Lune and Eden valley provided a route of access to Carlisle for the Roman advance (*ibid.*, 63) and the route northwards is still apparent along the modern A6 between Carlisle and Penrith (Shotter 2004, 31). A large proportion of the identified Romano-British settlement sites in Cumbria are located to the south and east of Penrith (Philpott 2006, 75) and it is likely that many of the rural settlements in the Eamont and Lowther river valleys that appear to have prehistoric origins continued to be used into and throughout the Roman period.

3.2.2 Following the cessation of Roman administration in the early fifth century the region fragmented into smaller kingdoms but by the mid-7<sup>th</sup> century the area was securely under Northumbrian rule (Kirkby 1962, 80-81). Firmly dated archaeological evidence for the immediate post-Roman period in the county is sparse due in part to poor site visibility, which often consists of exiguous traces of rural settlements which have been heavily truncated (see discussion in Philpott 2006, 59). Furthermore, there is inevitably a great deal of uncertainty with dating settlement sites on stylistic grounds alone given the persistence of traditional styles from the Roman to the early medieval period. However, a rectangular building with earth-fast timber posts excavated at Shap, has tentatively been attributed to the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century on the basis of loom weight fragments found nearby (Heawood and Howard-Davis 2002, 157-8). In the wider context of possible Anglo-Saxon settlement at Fremington and Brougham (although again the evidence for this classification is slight), a settled rural hinterland around the foci at Dacre and Penrith is suggested for the early medieval period (*ibid*, 168).

3.2.3 The arrival of Norse settlers between perhaps the late ninth and early 10<sup>th</sup> century had a considerable effect on the area, in particular on the local place-names (Edwards 1998, 7-8). Bampton, however, shows an Anglian influence, the apparently meaning a farmstead made of beams or by a tree (Smith 1967, 189).

### 3.3 Medieval Period (11<sup>th</sup> century AD – 16<sup>th</sup> century AD)

3.3.1 The present distinction between Bampton and Bampton Grange owes its origins to the period and refers to the ownership of two feudal landowners. During the medieval period they were referred to as Bampton Patric and Bampton Cundale, the former named after Patric de Culwen who possessed it in the reign of Henry II, from whom it descended to the Curwens of Workington (Whellan 1860, 776). Little is known about St Patricks church prior to the several periods of rebuilding it has undergone although was appropriated by Shap Abbey in 1170 (Parson and White 1829, 576).

### 3.4 Post-medieval Period (16<sup>th</sup> century AD – present)

3.4.1 The two separate manors of Bampton had both passed to Earl of Lonsdale by the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Whellan 1860, 776). Bampton village was endowed with a remarkable number of schools, with a grammar school established in 1623 by the Rev Thomas Sutton DD, and also schools at Roughill established in 1662 and Measand School established in 1711 (*op cit*, 777), with a combined library of over 800 books (Parson and White 1829, 576). Agriculture remained the major form of employment in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Whellan 1860, 776) while the inhabitants numbered only 614 by 1829 (Parson and White 1829, 575). St Patrick's was rebuilt between 1726-1728 although remnants of the earlier church are still evident for example a square font dated to 1662, although this may actually be Norman in origin (Salter 1998, 19).

### 3.5 Conclusion

3.5.1 While there is some evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the local area, Bampton is primarily a medieval and post-medieval development, with early medieval origins, although it clearly had a remarkable number of schools by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. St Patrick's Church clearly has at least medieval origins, although little is known about these, and it has undergone a considerable amount of alteration and rebuilding leaving relatively little evidence of its early history.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Watching Brief

4.1.1 The trench measured 24 metres in length and 0.60 metres in width whilst the depth was approximately 0.6m. The excavation began adjacent to a small outbuilding on the south side of the east end of the church (Plate 2), before turning north towards the northern perimeter wall of the churchyard (Plate 3 and Plate 4) to meet the water main, although it made a slight deviation from the original pipeline route in order to avoid damaging a large cherry tree (Plate 5). The deposit in this area did not differ in any way to the rest of the excavated trench suggesting that the trench for the pre-existing pipe was wider than the new one. Only a single deposit was encountered during the watching brief which was a homogenous mid brown very dry sandy silt with the occasional river rounded cobble, although the extremely dry conditions meant that identifying any variation in the soil was extremely difficult (Plate 6). No archaeological features were encountered. Four fragments of human bone were discovered and reburied. The only artefacts encountered during the excavation comprised late 20<sup>th</sup> century plastic confectionary containers.



**Plate 2 (right) View of out house on the south elevation of the church, looking west**



**Plate 3 (right): Excavated area to the east, looking north**



**Plate 4 (left): Excavated area by perimeter wall to the north of the church, looking north**



**Plate 5 (right) Diverted route around the cherry tree, looking south**



**Plate 6 (left): Typical west-facing section**

## 4.2 Finds

4.2.1 **Introduction:** no artefacts were recovered during the watching brief, although evidently modern material such as plastic was found but not retained.

4.2.2 **Human remains:** four human bones were discovered within the excavated area and are likely to have been interred with the backfill of the original water pipe excavation. It is highly likely that when the original pipe was laid there would have been some disturbance of graves, and it would seem that the bones could have been placed there as an oversight during the reinstatement of the trench. The bones were reburied within the vicinity of their discovery once there was no danger of the area being disturbed by the current work being undertaken.

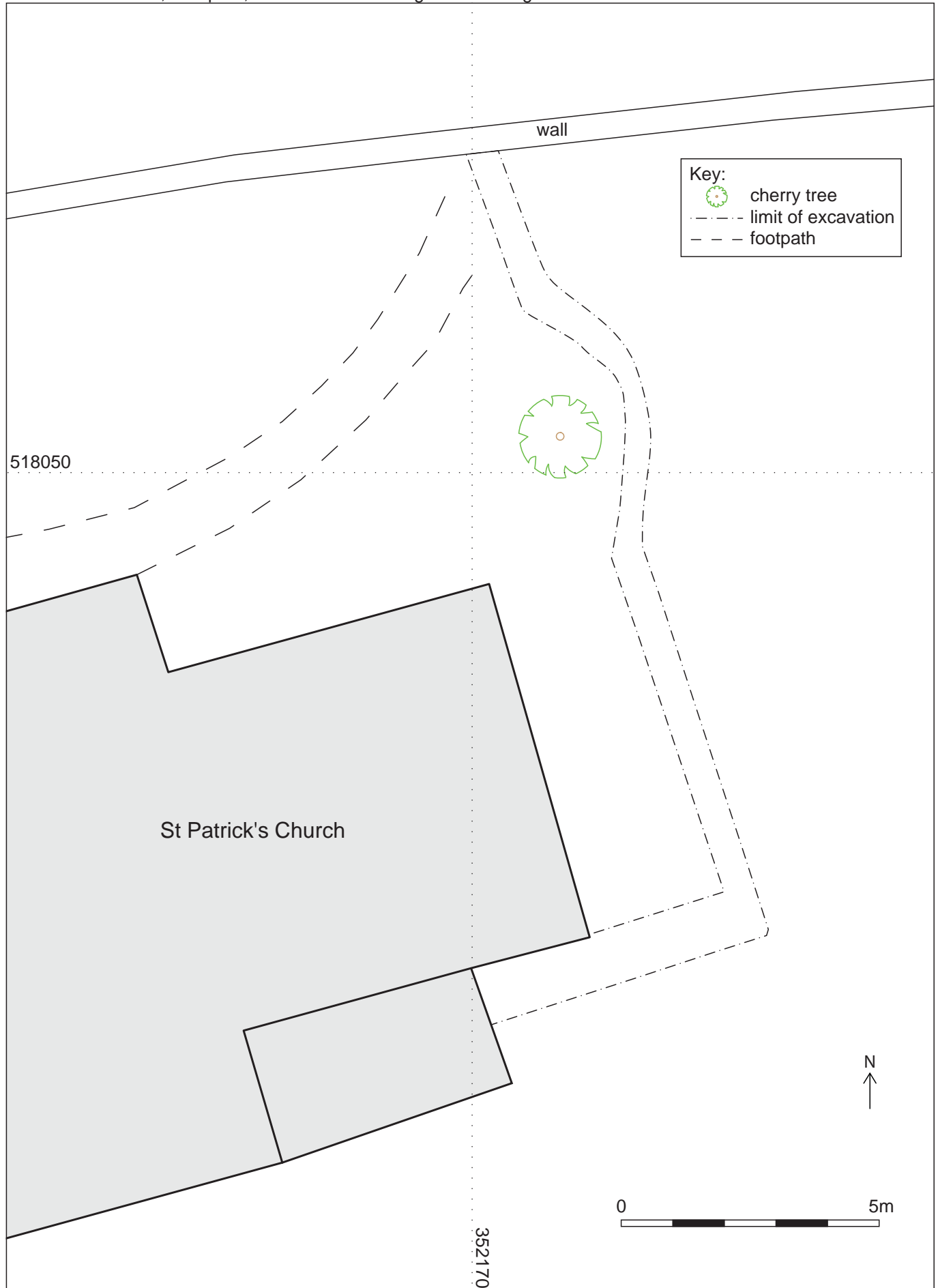


Figure 2: Trench plan

## **5. Discussion and Conclusion**

### **5.1 Discussion**

5.1.1 The earlier pipe appeared to be relatively new, possibly having been laid in the last 50 years meaning that the deposit encountered within the excavated strip had been redeposited. The finds encountered perhaps relating to work undertaken to lay the pre-existing pipe and demonstrated the relatively recent date at which this was done.

### **5.2 Conclusion**

5.2.1 The watching brief at St Patrick's Church involved observing an area of the churchyard that had already been excavated relatively recently, thus limiting the potential for finding any significant archaeological features or artefacts. However, there is no reason to assume that remains of archaeological interest could not be present elsewhere in the churchyard. The history of the church remains relatively poorly understood, and further archaeological work elsewhere could perhaps elucidate it at a future date.

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## Appendix 1: Project Design

# ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, BAMPTON, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Watching Brief Project Design



Client: Parochial Church Council of St Patrick's Church, Bampton

May 2014

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 As part of a programme of maintenance at St Patrick's Church, Bampton, Cumbria (NGR 352152 518041) requiring the installation of new drainage, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during any groundwork following advice from Diocesan Advisory Committee. This project design has been produced in response and outlines the methodology that would be used to carry out the archaeological work.

1.1.2 St Patrick's Church is situated in Bampton Grange, to the east of Bampton itself. The church may have surviving Norman elements, although it is clear that it was substantially modified in the 1720s and again in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Salter 1988, 19).

### 1.2 Greenlane Archaeology

1.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology is a private limited company based in Ulverston, Cumbria, and was established in 2005 (Company No. 05580819). Its directors, Jo Dawson and Daniel Elsworth, have a combined total of over 18 years continuous professional experience working in commercial archaeology, principally in the north of England and Scotland. Greenlane Archaeology is committed to a high standard of work, and abides by the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Code of Conduct. The watching brief will be carried out according to the Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

### 1.3 Project Staffing

1.3.1 The project will be managed by **Dan Elsworth (MA (Hons), AIfA)**. Daniel graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1998 with an honours degree in Archaeology, and began working for the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, which became Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in 2001. Daniel ultimately became a project officer, and for over six and a half years worked on excavations and surveys, building investigations, desk-based assessments, and conservation and management plans. These have principally taken place in the North West, and Daniel has a particular interest in the archaeology of the area. He has recently managed a wide variety of projects including building recordings of various sizes, watching briefs, and excavations in the region, including an excavation and evaluation in the centre of medieval Kendal (Greenlane Archaeology 2009a; 2010a), evaluation in the Roman *vicus* at Stanwix (Greenlane Archaeology 2010b), evaluation of a Scheduled post-medieval gunpowder works (Greenlane Archaeology 2010c), and watching briefs in Preston (Greenlane Archaeology 2009b; 2010d).

1.3.2 The watching brief will be carried out by **Tom Mace (BA (Hons), MA, MIfA)** or another suitably qualified member of staff, depending on scheduling constraints. Tom has extensive experience of working on a variety of archaeological projects, especially watching briefs, but also excavations, evaluations, and building recordings, as well as report writing and illustration production. He joined Greenlane Archaeology in 2008 having worked for several previous companies including Archaeological Solutions and Oxford Archaeology North.

1.3.3 All artefacts will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology, and it is envisaged that they will initially be assessed by Jo Dawson, who will fully assess any of post-medieval date. Medieval pottery will be assessed by Tom Mace, and other finds will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate. The client will be notified of any other specialists, other than those named, whom Greenlane Archaeology wishes to engage.

1.3.4 Environmental samples and faunal remains, should significant deposits of these be recovered, will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology. It is envisaged that charred plant remains will be assessed by staff at Headland Archaeology Ltd, and faunal remains by Jane Richardson at ASWYAS. Should any human remains be recovered for assessment it is envisaged that these will be examined by Malin Horst at York Osteoarchaeology, following appropriate advice on initial processing.

## 2. Objectives

### 2.1 Watching Brief

2.1.1 To identify any surviving archaeological remains and to investigate and record any revealed archaeological remains or deposits.

### 2.2 Report

2.2.1 To produce a report detailing the results of the watching brief, which will outline the nature, form, extent, and date of any archaeological remains discovered.

## 2.3 Archive

2.3.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the watching brief.

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1 Watching Brief

3.1.1 The groundworks are to be monitored, with one archaeologist on site. If there are multiple machines operating on site it may be considered necessary to have more than one archaeologist on site.

3.1.2 The watching brief methodology will be as follows:

- Foundation trenches and/or trenches for services and any areas of ground reduction will be excavated under supervision by staff from Greenlane Archaeology;
- All deposits of archaeological significance will be examined by hand if possible in a stratigraphic manner, using shovels, mattocks, or trowels as appropriate for the scale;
- The position of any features, such as ditches, pits, or walls, will be recorded and where necessary these will be investigated in order to establish their full extent, date, and relationship to any other features. If possible, negative features such as ditches or pits will be examined by sample excavation, typically half of a pit or similar feature and approximately 10% of a linear feature;
- All recording of features will include detailed plans and sections at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 where practicable or sketches where it is not, and photographs in both colour print and colour digital format;
- All deposits, drawings and photographs will be recorded on Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- All finds will be recovered during the watching brief for further assessment as far as is practically and safely possible. Should significant amounts of finds be encountered an appropriate sampling strategy will be devised;
- All faunal remains will also be recovered by hand during the watching brief as far as is practically and safely possible, but where it is considered likely that there is potential for the bones of fish or small mammals to be present appropriate volumes of samples will be taken for sieving;
- Deposits that are considered likely to have, for example, preserved environmental remains, industrial residues, and/or material suitable for scientific dating will be sampled. Bulk samples of between 20 and 60 litres in volume (or 100% of smaller features) where possible, depending on the size and potential of the deposit, will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (e.g. gullies, pits and ditches) and occupation deposits such as hearths and floors. An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of samples of suitable deposits by specialist sub-contractors (see *Section 1.3.4* above), who will examine the potential for further analysis. All samples will be processed using methods appropriate to the preservation conditions and the remains present;
- Any articulated human remains discovered during the watching brief will be left *in situ*, and, if possible, covered. The client will be immediately informed as will the local coroner. Should it be considered necessary to remove the remains this will require a Home Office licence, under Section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857, which will be applied for should the need arise;
- Any objects defined as 'treasure' by the Treasure Act of 1996 (HMSO 1996) will be immediately reported to the local coroner and secured stored off-site, or covered and protected on site if immediate removal is not possible;
- Should any significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the watching brief these will immediately be brought to the attention of the Cumbria County Historic Environment Service (CCHES) and ground works in that area halted so that the need for further work can be determined. Any additional work and ensuing costs will be agreed with the client, and subject to a variation to this project design.

### 3.2 Report

3.2.1 The results of the watching brief will be compiled into a report, which will contain the following sections as necessary:

- A front cover including the appropriate national grid reference (NGR);
- A concise non-technical summary of results, including the date the project was undertaken and by whom;
- Acknowledgements;
- Project Background;
- Methodology, including a description of the work undertaken;
- Results of the watching brief including descriptions of any deposits identified, their extent, form and potential date, and an assessment of any finds or environmental remains recovered during the watching brief;
- Discussion of the results;
- Illustrations at appropriate scales including:
  - a plan showing the location of the ground works;
  - plans and sections of the watching brief ground works, as appropriate, showing any features of archaeological interest;
  - photographs of the watching brief, including both detailed and general shots of features of archaeological interest and the trenches;
  - photographs of individual artefacts as appropriate.

### 3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the watching brief, formed during the project, will be stored by Greenlane Archaeology until it is completed. Upon completion it will be deposited with the Cumbria Record Office in Kendal. The archive will be compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the IFA (Brown 2007), and in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). In addition details of the project will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public.

3.3.2 A copy of the report will be supplied to the client and within six months of the completion of fieldwork one copy will be provided for the Lake District National Park Authority's Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition, Greenlane Archaeology Ltd will retain one copy, and a digital copy will be deposited with the OASIS scheme as required.

3.3.3 The client will be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to a suitable museum, most likely Penrith Museum. If no suitable repository can be found the finds may have to be discarded, and in this case as full a record as possible and necessary would be made of them beforehand.

## 4. Work timetable

4.1 Greenlane Archaeology will be available to commence the project from **27<sup>th</sup> May 2014**, or at another date convenient to the client. It is envisaged that the project will involve tasks in the following order:

- **Task 1:** watching brief;
- **Task 2:** post-excavation work on archaeological watching brief, including processing of finds and production of draft report and illustrations;
- **Task 3:** feedback, editing and production of final report, completion of archive.

## 5. Other matters

### 5.1 Access

5.1.1 Access to the site will be organised through co-ordination with the client and/or their agent(s).

### 5.2 Health and Safety

5.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology carries out risk assessments for all of its projects and abides by its internal health and safety policy and relevant legislation. Health and safety is always the foremost consideration in any decision-making process.

## 5.3 Insurance

5.3.1 Greenlane Archaeology has professional indemnity insurance to the value of **£1,000,000**. Details of this can be supplied if requested.

## 5.4 Environmental and Ethical Policy

5.4.1 Greenlane Archaeology has a strong commitment to environmentally- and ethically-sound working practices. Its office is supplied with 100% renewable energy by Good Energy, uses ethical telephone and internet services supplied by the Phone Co-op, is even decorated with organic paint, and has floors finished with recycled vinyl tiles. In addition, the company uses the services of The Co-operative Bank for ethical banking, Naturesave for environmentally-conscious insurance, and utilises public transport wherever possible. Greenlane Archaeology is also committed to using local businesses for services and materials, thus benefiting the local economy, reducing unnecessary transportation, and improving the sustainability of small and rural businesses.

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