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# ST MARY'S CHURCH, CARLTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

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

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# ST MARY'S CHURCH, CARLTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF), ST MARY'S CHURCH, CARLTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In April 2004, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by the Parochial Church Council to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks carried out within the churchyard at St Mary's Church, Carlton, North Yorkshire (NGR SE64702405). These groundworks, which were associated with the provision of new toilet facilities and a kitchenette in the south-west corner of the nave, involved the excavation of a drainage trench from the west end of the nave through the southern part of the churchyard.

The archaeological recording work was made a condition of a Diocesan Faculty issued on 10th September 2003 (number 262/03).

The watching brief did not reveal any significant archaeological information, as the drainage trench through the churchyard was relatively narrow. Another trench dug along the outside of the west wall of the nave might have revealed some information relating to the building of the 1861 church, but these excavations were not able to be monitored. There was a higher percentage of pottery artefacts than might normally have been expected in the topsoil and subsoil, but it was mostly of 18th-19th century date and was not retained. However, two interesting finds, a broken clay pipe bowl and a broken bone knife handle were kept and deposited with the site archive - the pipe bowl exhibited Masonic symbols and was dated to between 1795 and 1830, and may have been locally made. No articulated human burials were disturbed by the works, and a few fragments of disarticulated bone were replaced in the drainage trench.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- In April 2004, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Revd Jonas Mdumulla to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks carried out within the churchyard at St Mary's Church, Carlton, North Yorkshire (NGR SE64702405). These groundworks were associated with the installation of new toilet facilities and a kitchenette in the vestry in the south-west corner of the nave. A drainage trench was excavated from the west end of the nave through the southern part of the churchyard, to provide a connection with an existing manhole.
- 1.2 The archaeological recording work, which was made a condition of a Diocesan Faculty issued on 10th September 2003 (number 262/03), was defined by a methods statement produced by EDAS (see Appendix 3).

### 2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 St Mary's church lies in the village of Carlton, on the north bank of the River Aire, some 9km to the south-east of Selby, in North Yorkshire. The church lies on the west side of High Street (the A1041) at NGR SE64702405 (see figure 1).

# 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The church was built in 1861 and is a fine example of Victorian Gothic architecture. This replaced a previous church dated 1688, which in turn replaced another church, the exact age of which is unknown although it was recorded as being in existence in 1553. The present church, which was designed by the architect J B Atkinson, is listed as being of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, Grade II (see Appendix 2).
- 3.2 The church is of sandstone construction with ashlar dressings and a Welsh slate roof. It comprises a two stage south-west tower with an octagonal splay-footed spire, a 6-bay nave with south porch and north vestry, and a 3-bay chancel. The tower has offset angle buttresses, a stair turret with a plank door in the north-west corner, and a 3-light window in the south side. The nave and vestry have offset buttresses while the chancel has diagonal buttresses and a pointed priest's door on the south side. The east window is of four lights. Internally, the nave has a hammer beam roof on corbel shafts with foliate capitals, and there are a number of fine mid 18th century marble monuments. A number of architectural fragments, including a 15th century octagonal font and possible stoup, lie adjacent to the church (Pace 2002).

# 4 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The scope of the watching brief was defined by a methods statement prepared by EDAS (see Appendix 3). This statement takes account of general guidance produced by the local archaeological curators, the Heritage Section of North Yorkshire County Council, the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists (ADCA 2004), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999), in relation to watching briefs. The methods statement was approved by the local archaeological curators and the church architect in advance of the watching brief.
- 4.2 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks associated with the installation of the new drainage system and to record and recover any information

relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed by the works. Care had been taken by the church architect to avoid known graves within the churchyard, but it was possible that other, unmarked, graves would be disturbed by the excavations.

- 4.3 Unfortunately, the cut for the drainage outfall through the west wall of the nave had already been completed, and the initial pipework installed and surrounding foundation made good, before the archaeologist was in attendance. A further trench at least 7m long, c.0.22m wide and c.0.4m deep had also been dug for an electricity cable along the base of the west wall of the nave, and had been backfilled, prior to an archaeological presence on site.
- 4.4 The excavations for the main drainage trench were continuously monitored, on 5th July 2004. The trench, which was dug by hand, ran for a distance of c.25m from the south-west corner of the nave in a general south-east direction through the southern part of the churchyard. The trench was 0.8m wide and 0.55m deep adjacent to the nave but it was only 0.33m wide across the majority of the churchyard and it extended down to a maximum of 0.9m deep where it linked with an existing manhole located on the edge of the graveyard. Some paving slabs on the alignment were temporarily removed and then replaced, and further south the trench was dug beneath a horizontal headstone partially covered by turf; the stone itself was not disturbed.
- 4.5 Each discrete stratigraphic entity (eg. a cut, fill, or layer) was assigned an individual context number and detailed information was recorded on pro forma context sheets. A total of 12 archaeological contexts were recorded, and these are described in the following text as three digit numbers (e.g. 005) (see also Appendix 1). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of the excavations were marked on a general site plan at 1:100 scale, and one section was drawn at 1:10 scale (see figure 2). A photographic record was also maintained using 35mm colour transparencies.
- 4.6 In accordance with the methods statement (see Appendix 3), and with the agreement of the church authorities, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum (site code SMC 04).

# 5 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

- Only a very small part of the foundation of the west wall of the nave (012) was exposed by the works which were observed. Unfortunately, due to the pipe and service cables being already installed and the stonework made good, it was not possible to distinguish any details of the foundations. However, an area of brickwork, 0.45m in width and 0.12m in height, was visible in section in the north side of the drainage trench; this appeared to represent a repaired or infilled part of the plinth which was otherwise built of sandstone ashlar. Smaller traces of a similar area of brickwork in poor condition were evident c.4m to the north. More of this brickwork, and its relationship to the rest of the fabric of the church, would probably have been visible had excavations for the service trench (003) been monitored before being backfilled; the trench was filled with a loose brown sandy loam (004).
- 5.2 It was noted that the subsoil (002) in the area around the church tower was a dirty brown sandy loam containing many stones, fragments of limestone, post-medieval pottery fragments and some slate. Within this material, a thin horizon of small

limestone fragments and mortar, c.0.05m thick, was noted 0.36m below the turf, near the south-west corner of the tower; this material may possibly relate to the building of the present church in the 1860s. Adjacent to this area, and within the same context (002), part of a decorated bowl of a clay pipe was recovered, together with four pieces of pipe stem. The turf and topsoil (001) above the subsoil was less than 0.17m thick in this area, and across the rest of the churchyard.

- 5.3 An illustration of the clay pipe bowl appears as figure 3. The broken thin walled clay pipe bowl is from a Masonic pipe, dating between 1795 and 1830, and was probably made in Selby (pers. comm. Peter Rayner). It has a spur, flattened to a point, and the stem would have been about 255mm in length. Various Masonic symbols decorate the bowl, including a pillar, two of probably three castles, part of a pair of compasses, a square and circles of dots; the latter are thought to represent mulberry pips.
- 5.4 In the base of the wider part of the trench, at a depth of 0.56m and close to the wall of the nave, a spread of hard grey mortar (010) only 0.01m thick was noted. Beneath this was a dark brown silty loam (011) of unknown depth. In both cases, these deposits were not investigated further as the excavations were not required to go any deeper. The mortar (010) may be associated with the building of the church, and the silty loam (011) may be the old land surface from which the foundations were dug. Part of a small, broken bone knife handle, tapered but measuring 76mm long and a maximum 23mm wide, and containing five copper pins aligned down the centre, was recovered from the silty loam (011).
- 5.5 Further to the south, within the main area of the graveyard, the light orange-brown, very sandy loam subsoil (007) was at least 0.9m thick, and it was a cleaner, more consistent layer which contained a range of post-medieval pottery fragments and some disturbed human bone fragments. No articulated or partially disturbed skeletons were encountered.
- 5.6 At a depth of 0.56m in the main trench, c.5.5m from the south-east corner of the church, a north-south alignment of eight re-used bricks was noted (005), their long sides all butted together (see plate 1). This structure is likely to be the base or foundation for a former headstone. Further to the south, beyond the flagstone path and a cable, the trench was dug beneath a horizontally-laid headstone partially covered by turf (see plate 2). The 19th century stone (009), which measured c.2.3m long by 0.85m wide, commemorated the Hutton family, but it was not disturbed and no human remains were encountered
- 5.7 The drainage trench connected with an existing manhole located just within the boundary of the churchyard. A firm orange/brown material (006) partially covering the concrete-encased manhole (008) was an imported builder's sand and was not part of the natural subsoil (007).
- 5.8 The bone handle and clay pipe bowl were retained from the watching brief, and were deposited with the site archive. All other 18th-19th century and later artefacts were discarded. All fragments of disarticulated human bone recovered from the topsoil and subsoil were reburied in the drainage trench, as close to their original locations as possible.

### 6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The watching brief did not reveal any significant archaeological information, as the drainage trench through the churchyard was relatively narrow. Another trench dug along the outside of the west wall of the nave might have revealed some information relating to the building of the 1861 church, but these excavations were not able to be monitored. There was a higher percentage of pottery artefacts than might normally have been expected in the topsoil and subsoil, but most was of 18th-19th century date and was not retained. However, two interesting finds, a broken clay pipe bowl and a broken bone knife handle were kept and deposited with the site archive - the pipe bowl exhibited Masonic symbols and was dated to between 1795 and 1830, and may have been locally made. No articulated human burials were disturbed by the works.

# 7 REFERENCES

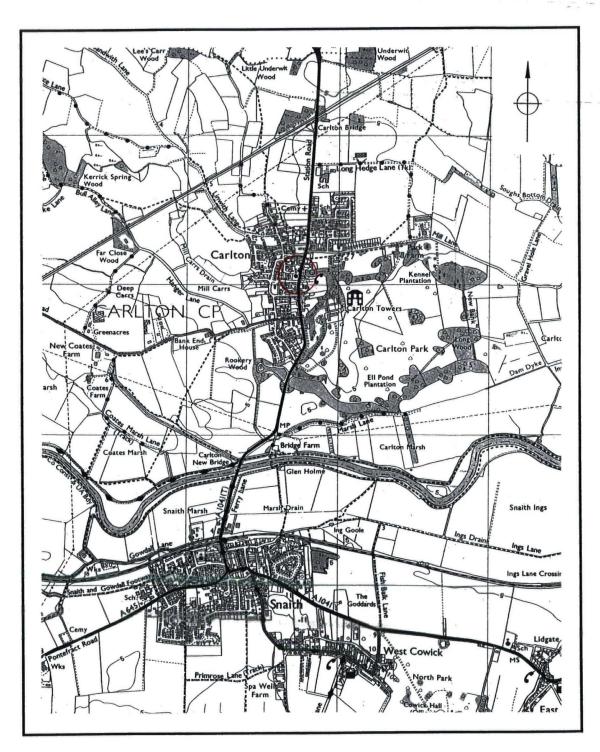
ADCA (Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists) 2004 Guidance Note 1: Archaeological Requirements for Works on Churches and Churchyards

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

Pace, P G 2002 St Mary's Church, Carlton juxta Snaith: Quinquennial Inspection

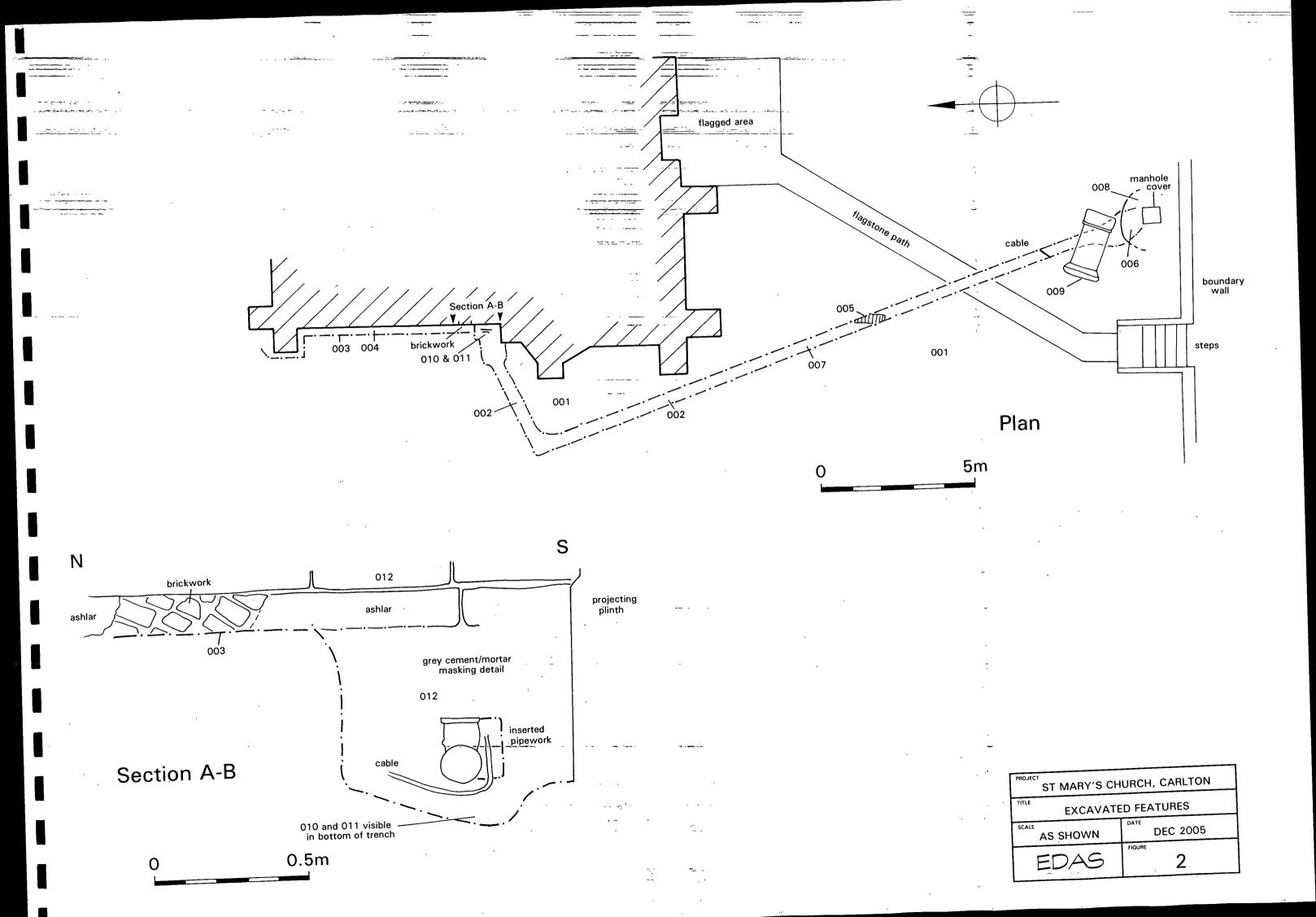
## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

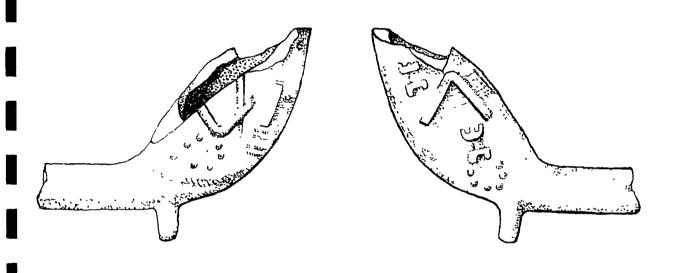
- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief at St Mary's Church was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council. EDAS would like to thank the Revd Jonas Mdumulla and the church architect Peter Pace for their co-operation in carrying out the archaeological watching brief.
- 8.2 The watching brief was undertaken by Kate Dennett, on behalf of EDAS, and she produced a draft archive and took the site photographs. The final report and other drawings were produced by Ed Dennison, who retains responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies. Figure 3 was drawn by Kate Dennett.



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ST MARY'S C	HURCH, CARLTON
GENERA	L LOCATION
AS SHOWN	DEC 2005
EDAS	FIGURE 1





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PROJECT		
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TITLE		
CLAY PIPE BOWL (1795-1830)		
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	FIGURE	
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Plate 1: Brick feature (005), probable base for former headstone, looking SE.



Plate 2: Excavated trench beneath headstone (009), also showing junction with concrete encased manhole (008), looking NW.

**APPENDIX 1** 

# **APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS**

001	Topsoil/turf, brown sandy loam 0 17m deep
002	Light brown, dirty sandy loam subsoil below 001 in proximity of church, containing
	fragments of stone, limestone, slate etc
003	Recent cut for new electricity cable
004	Backfill of 003 – loose brown sandy loam
005	Linear brick feature, 8 conjoined re-used bricks, base 0 56m down from turf level
006	Clean orange sand covening concrete encased manhole (builder's sand)
007	Subsoil beneath 001 in majority of churchyard – clean light brown sandy loam
800	Concrete-encased manhole
009	Honzontal grave headstone
010	Spread of mortar, 0 01m thick beneath 002, adjacent to nave wall
011	Dark brown silty loam beneath 010, depth unknown
012	West wall of church nave, containing areas of brick infill / repair

# **APPENDIX 2**

# APPENDIX 2: LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Location CARLTO**N**, SELBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE loE number 326461 Date listed 17 NOV 1986 Date of last amendment 17 NOV 1986

SE62SW

9/11 17 11 86 HIGH STREET (west side)

Church of St Mary

Church 1861-6 AD 1862 on tower buttress By J B Atkinson Sandstone with ashlar dressings and Welsh slate roof 2-stage south-west tower with spire, 6-bay nave with south porch and north vestry. Gothic Revival with Geometrical tracery throughout 3-bay chancel Tower has offset angle buttresses, stair turret with plank door in shouldered surround and 3-light window to south side under hoodmould and with nook-shafts Second stage has twin-light bell openings Octagonal splay-footed Entrance to south porch a plank door within trefoiled surround with foliate decoration on spandrels 2 orders of nook-shafts support roll moulding under hoodmould Nave and vestry have offset buttresses Pointed north door under hoodmould 2- and 3-light pointed windows throughout under hoodmoulds Chancel has diagonal buttresses Pointed pnest's door to south side Singlelight windows under hoodmoulds and with continuous sill band. 4-light window to east end under hoodmould, quatrefoil to gable. Interior. Nave has hammer beam roof on corbel shafts with foliate capitals Pointed chancel arch with traceried screen Trefoiled piscina Wall monuments to Miles Thomas Stapleton, 8th Baron Beaumont, d1854, by P Macdowell RA, Baroque wall monument to Nicholas and Mary Stapleton, erected 1738 N Pevsner, Yorkshire, The West Riding, 1979, p157

Source Images of England website (www imagesofengland org uk)

**APPENDIX 3** 

### APPENDIX 3: EDAS METHODS STATEMENT

PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF), ST MARY'S CHURCH, CARLTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1 1 A Church Faculty (number 262/03) was issued on 10 September 2003 for the installation of a WC and kitchenette in the south-west corner of the nave, and the introduction of a glazed screen and door between the porch and under-tower room at St Mary's Church, Carlton, North Yorkshire As part of this work, it was stipulated that an archaeologist should be engaged to monitor all below-ground works, so that any archaeological finds could be recorded and reported upon. This work can be accommodated by a programme of archaeological observation and recording, also known as a watching brief
- 1 2 Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) have been appointed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to undertake the watching brief, and this methods statement has been prepared by Ed Dennison of EDAS to outline what work will be carried out

### 2 SITE LOCATION

2 1 St Mary's Church lies in village of Carlton, on the north bank of the River Aire, some 9km to the south-east of Selby, in North Yorkshire The church lies on the west side of High Street (the A1041 through the village), at NGR SE64702405

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3 1 The church is a fine example of Victorian Gothic, and was built in 1861. This replaced a previous church dated 1688, which in turn replaced another church, the exact age of which is unknown although it was recorded as being in existence in 1553. The present church, which was designed by the architect J B Atkinson, is listed as being of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, Grade II.
- 3 2 The church is of sandstone construction with ashlar dressings and a Welsh slate roof. It comprises a two stage south-west tower with an octagonal splay-footed spire, a 6-bay nave with south porch and north vestry, and a 3-bay chancel. The tower has offset angle buttresses, a stair turret with a plank door in the north-west corner, and a 3-light window in the south side. The nave and vestry have offset buttresses while the chancel has diagonal buttresses and a pointed pnest's door on the south side. The east window is of four lights. Internally, the nave has a hammer beam roof on corbel shafts with foliate capitals, and there are a number of mid 18th century marble monuments. A number of architectural fragments, including a 15th century octagonal font and possible stoup, lie adjacent to the church.

# 4 PROPOSED WORKS

- 4.1 In order to construct the new facilities in the south-west corner of the nave, a drainage trench will need to be excavated through the west wall close to the turret stair tower. This drain will then travel west and then south and south-east around the tower and through the churchyard for a distance of c 25m to link with an existing sewer in an adjacent unclassified road. The drainage trench will be c 0.5m wide and will be dug to an estimated 1.5m deep, although the latter will depend on ground conditions. A manhole will also need to be dug at the point where the drain meets the existing services.
- 4.2 Care has been taken by the church architect to avoid all marked graves within the churchyard, but it is quite possible that other, unmarked, graves will be disturbed by the excavation of the drainage trench. The excavation of the trench through the west wall of the nave may also uncover structural and archaeological evidence relating to the architectural development of the building.

## 5 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- The aim of the archaeological watching brief is to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might be present on the site and which will be affected by the current proposals
- The watching bnef should not unduly delay the overall programme of site works, and much can be achieved through liaison and co-operation with the building contractor However, the PCC and church architect should ensure that EDAS have sufficient time and resources to ensure compliance with all elements of this specification
- 5 3 It is likely that the watching brief will be accomplished through a number of separate site visits. The number and duration of the visits will be determined by the speed of the development works. At present, it is envisaged that all the excavation works can be completed within one or two days.
- All archaeological work will be earned out in accordance with the building contractor's proposed timetable, unless agreed otherwise. Reasonable prior notice (minimum two weeks) of the commencement of development will be given EDAS, who will then inform the relevant authorities.
- 5.5 EDAS will be afforded access to the development site at all reasonable times to view the excavation of the drainage works, or other operations resulting in ground disturbance
- 5 6 EDAS will closely monitor all development works which involve ground disturbance. The groundworks will be viewed as they are being excavated, and all excavations will be done under direct archaeological supervision, in accordance with the contractor's specification EDAS will also be allowed time to clean, assess, and quickly hand excavate, sample and record any features and finds where appropriate
- 5 7 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of archaeological interest identified within these areas, will be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings and written descriptions as judged adequate by EDAS, using appropriate proforma record sheets and standard archaeological recording systems
- As some of the works will involve excavation within the churchyard, it is likely that human remains will be encountered during the course of the watching brief, although the position of the new drainage works appear to avoid the extent of known graves, medieval internments may be found throughout the area. Any human remains that are uncovered will be treated with due dignity
- The following course of action will be taken should burials be uncovered, unless otherwise directed by the PCC. Small disarticulated and/or disturbed bones will be reinterred as soon as possible in a place near to where they were exposed. Complete or partial skeletons will, if at all possible, be left in situ but if this is not possible they will be recorded and lifted in their entirety, and removed for storage until such time as reburial can be arranged in an alternative location within the churchyard. The church authorities will be informed if any complete or partial skeletons are noticed, and they will arrange for the appropriate re-committal of the remains into the ground. Previous experience has determined that a Home Office licence for the removal of human remains is not required.
- 5 10 All archaeological work on site will be earned out with due regard for all Health and Safety considerations. As the watching bnef will be earned out at the same time as the building contractor's work, regard will also be made for any constraints or restrictions imposed by the building contractor.

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### 6 UNEXPECTED SIGNIFICANT OR COMPLEX DISCOVERIES

- If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discovenes are made that warrant more recording than is covered by this specification, immediate contact will be made with the church architect and the PCC. This will allow appropriate amendments to be made to the scope of the watching bnef, in agreement with all parties concerned. The possibility of temporarily halting work for unexpected discoveries has already been allowed for in the main Contractor's specification.
- 6 2 The terms of the Treasure Act (1996) will be followed with regard to any finds which might fall within its purview. Any finds will be removed to a safe place, and recorded to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

#### 7 POST EXCAVATION WORK

- 7 1 EDAS will obtained the consent of the church authorities for the deposition of any finds resulting from the project in an appropriate local registered museum EDAS will contact the museum at the start of the project to determine their requirements for the transfer and deposition of the project archive EDAS will also adhere to any specific transfer and deposition requirements which the museum might impose, these are likely to include charges for the storage and long-term curation of the site archive
- 7 2 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and all finds cleaned, identified, assessed, spot dated, marked (if appropriate) and properly packaged and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. The level of post-excavation analysis will be appropriate to the quality and quantity of the finds recovered, and specialists will be consulted as necessary, no detailed analysis of any human bones is expected, unless the finds are of particular merit.
- A fully indexed field archive will be prepared, following the guidance produced by English Heritage. The archive will consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive will also be prepared. Subject to the agreement of the church authorities, the site archive will be deposited with any finds in the appropriate registered museum. A copy of the archive index and the name of the recipient museum will be included in the project report.

## 8 REPORT PRODUCTION

- 8 1 Within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork (unless otherwise agreed), a report detailing the watching bnef will be produced
- 8 2 It is expected that the report will include the following
  - a summary of the works earned out,
  - background information including site code/project number and dates of fieldwork visits,
  - location of the site (including grid reference and location plan),
  - a written description and analysis of the methods and results of the watching brief, in the context of the known archaeology of the area,
  - a plan showing the areas monitored, indicating the location of any archaeological features.
  - section and plan drawings (where archaeological deposits are exposed), with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and honzontal scales,
  - photographs (a minimum 35mm format) where significant archaeological deposits are found,
  - a catalogue of finds, features and primary records,
  - specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary,

- a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, and a copy of this specification
- Four copies of the report will be supplied, to be distributed to the church architect, the PCC, the Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee, and the North Yorkshire County Sites and Monuments Record

E Dennison, EDAS 20 April 2004