



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
HUNMANBY
NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF

REPORT
DECEMBER 2005

EXCAVATION AND EVALUATION SECTION



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

ALL SAINT S' CHURCH

HUNMANBY

NORTHYO RKSHIRE

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REPORT

December 2005



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Summary

A watching brief was undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) in the churchyard of All Saints' Church, Hunmanby, North Yorkshire (NGR SE958 07470). The work was carried out on behalf of Hunmanby Parish Church Council and involved the archaeological monitoring of two hand-dug excavated soak-away trenches and associated drainage gullies designed to improve drainage around the church.

The two soak-away trenches (Interventions 1 and 2) were repositioned in areas where no marked graves were visible or otherwise known to be located. Intervention 1, located to the south of the chancel, encountered a deep layer of mixed soil with frequent disarticulated human remains, which sealed a burial horizon consisting of three inhumations. Intervention 2, positioned to the north of the chancel, encountered remnants of a chalk constructed wall on the same alignment as the north wall of the church, sealed by a layer of mixed soil containing disarticulated human bone, and cut by a land drain aligned NW-SE crossing the base of the trench. The drainage gullies (Intervention 3) were relatively shallow and no archaeological remains were identified.

Acknowledgements

Field Archaeology Specialists would like to thank The Reverend Hattan of All Saints' Church and Mr Bown, churchwarden, for their assistance during the project.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document reports on an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) within the churchyard of All Saints' Church, Hunmanby, North Yorkshire. The work was undertaken on behalf of Hunmanby Parish Church Council and involved the archaeological monitoring of hand-excavated drainage services, which were being installed to improve surface water drainage around the exterior of the church. Fieldwork took place on the 1st and 2nd of November 2004.

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The area of investigation was located within the lawned churchyard of All Saints' Church, Hunmanby (NGR SE95807470). The church lies at the foot of the village of Hunmanby; the churchyard fronts onto Castle Hill to the west and is bounded by residential property to the north, east and south (Figure 1, Plate 1).



Plate 1 All Saints' Church looking north

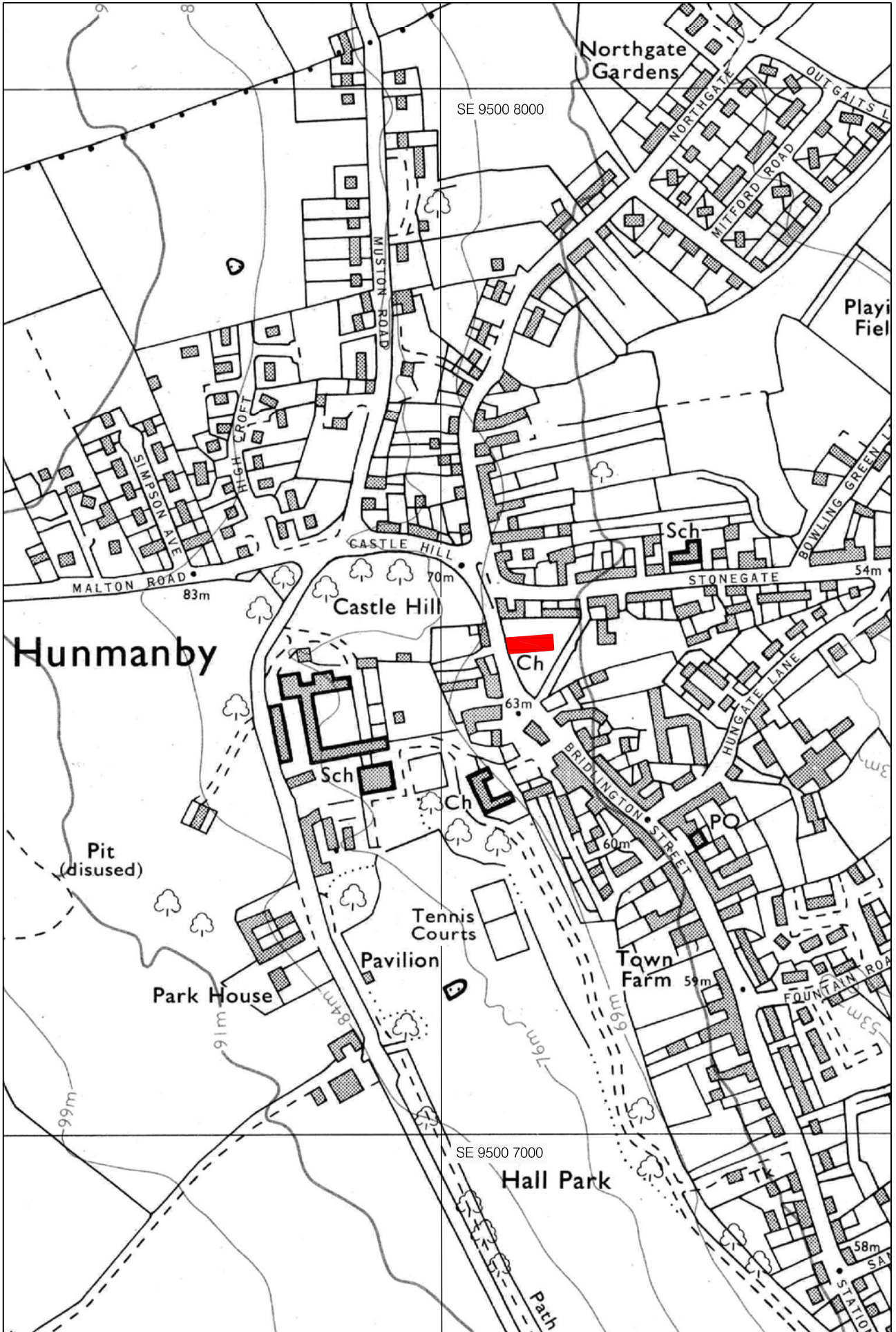
1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The watching brief aimed to monitor the excavation of drainage trenches and to define, record and characterise any archaeological remains encountered during groundworks. More specifically, the potential for disturbing burials was high and the principal aim was to minimise the impact of the groundworks upon any *in-situ* remains. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the specification for work provided by the Diocese Advisory Committee (Appendix A) following planning permission granted under the Diocese of York's 'Petition for Faculty'.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

All Saints' Church occupies a commanding position on a raised ground within the core of the village of Hunmanby, and is documented as early as 1086, when the Domesday Book records the presence of a church and a priest in these tithes. Archaeological and historical evidence indicates that settlement in the area may have been much earlier.

During the excavation of clay for brick-making, for example, 'close to Hunmanby station', a bronze bridle bit and fragments of bronze plate were revealed (Sheppard 1907, 482). Further investigation revealed the iron hoop of a chariot wheel, with traces of wood adhering, identified as the remains of a 'British' chariot burial,



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Location of watching brief

Scale 1:5000



Figure 1



presumably of iron Age date (Sheppard 1907). A stone sarcophagus deposited within the church porch may date to the Roman period (Plate 2).

Much of the church itself dates to the Norman period, although it is frequently assumed that the foundation could have been Saxon (Bulmer 1892). A number of pieces of carved stone, including fragments of crosses and an Anglian cross-head, were rebuilt into the north wall of the north aisle during 19th-century alterations (Plate 3), providing an indication of early medieval ecclesiastical activity (Pevsner and Neave 1972, 569; Allison 1974, 243). The place-name *Hunmanby* may also reflect early medieval activity, as it contains the Scandinavian element *-by*, generally translated as homestead: the name is variously translated as homestead of the huntsmen, houndsmen, or hundredsmen.

In 1066, the estate of Hunmanby was held by Carle; in 1086 it passed to Gilbert de Gant, a relative of William the Conqueror (Allison 1974, 231), and eventually became the estate of the local honor. Gilbert is credited with the initial construction of the church, which is thought to have been continued by his son, Walter (Anon, n.d.). It was Walter who, in 1115, granted the patronage of the church to the Abbey of Bardney, refounded by his father in 1086/7 (*BMCott.MS.Vesp. E.xx.f.55b*; Allison 1974, 241). The abbey retained patronage until 1538, when it was annexed by the Crown during the Dissolution (Anon, n.d.). In 1623, the church was obtained by Richard Osbaldston, and it remained in the family until the 1920s, when the Martyr's Memorial Trust took over, and the estate of Hunmanby was broken up (Anon, n.d.).

The earliest surviving fabric of the church is represented in the nave and the chancel, which belong to the 11th or 12th century (Pevsner and Neave 1972, 569). The tower is thought to have been added in the 12th century, and the north aisle in the 13th or 14th century (Allison 1974, 242). The church is recorded to have been in a state of disrepair in the 16th and 17th centuries, and the north wall was rebuilt during the 18th century (Allison 1974, 243). A nextensive rebuilding occurred in 1844-5, leading to alteration of the east window; windows in the south wall of the chancel and nave, and the north porch (Allison 1974, 243).

The location of the church reflects something of the social divisions within the settlement. Following the Norman seizure of the land, the Lords of the manor occupied his herland within the village, on top of the wooded escarpment of the folds, representing 'both as a symbolic and a physical indication of their elevated status in relation to the agrarian community occupying the humbler dwellings clustered to the base of the hill' (Allison 1974, 228; Dore 1983, 478). It might be expected, therefore, that any medieval occupation in the immediate vicinity of the church would be associated with the more elite members of Hunmanby society.



Plate 2 Roman sarcophagus at All Saints'



Plate 3 Reused carved stone in north aisle

Avicaragew asgrantedinthev illagein1269,an datordination,thev icarwasgranted atoftandathirdof tithes fromHunm anby(Allison197 4,241). Thevicarreceiv edtheprofitsofahouse in1535;in1596 andin1623 thevicaragew assaidtobeing reatdecay(BI HRChurchesI ndex;Allison 1974,24 1).The vicarage stoodnext tothechurhyard, andisrecordedwithits dovecotfrom 1685onwards (E179/205/521;Allison 1974,241).A descriptionprovided in1785 apparentlystatedthat thevicarage was‘builtofbrick andtileandascontaining 2rooms,2ch ambers,and4 closets,with abackkitche nandoutbuildings ofstone(presum ablychalk)an dthatch’(BHIR,TER J.Hunm anby 1764;inAlliso n1974 ,241). Thevi carage,‘e videntlyamid -18thcentury building’wask nownasWrangham Housein1970.

2.0 FIELDWORKPROCEDURE

Fieldworkconsisted ofasinglephase ofwatchingbrie f,whichcom prisedthemonitoring ofhand-ex cavation of two soak- away trenches, a llocated Interv entions 1 and 2, and associated drainag e gullies alloca ted Intervention3(F igure 2).

BothInterven tion1and2m easured2.50m x1.20m, andwere locatedapproximately 3.50mtoth esouthand 3.00mtothenorth ofthechan celrespectively. Eachintervention wasexcavated byhandtoa depthof approximately0.90m,at whichlevelafoo tingwastob eexca vatedaroundtheinternaledge ofeachtrench measuringapproximately 0.40minw idthtoanoverall depthofapproxim ately1.10m belowpresent ground level.Thesefooting swereintendedtoacco mmodate thebrick- builtsoakaway s.

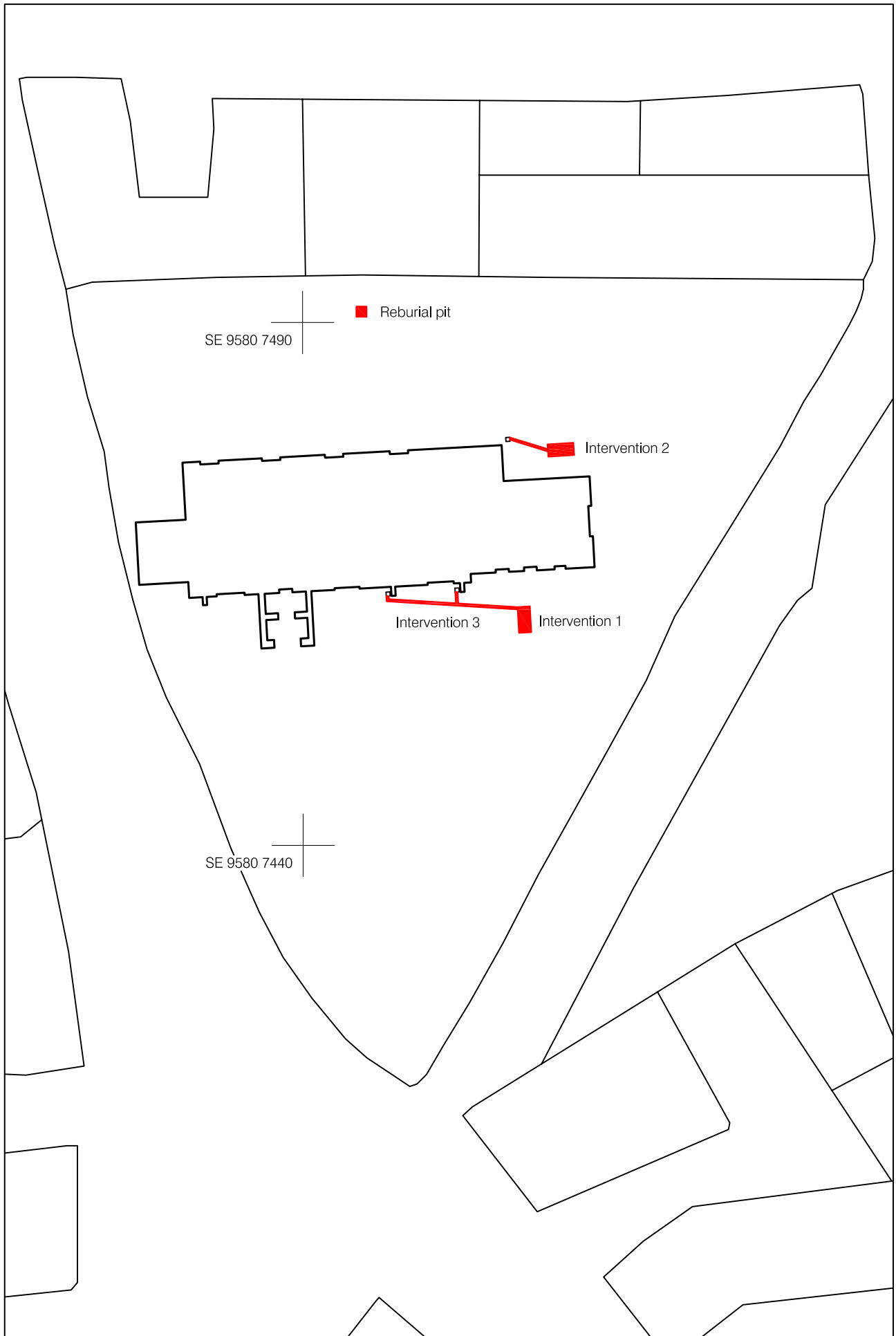
Intervention3consistedoftheasso ciateddrainagefeeds fromthreeexistingdrains locatedatpointsaroundth e baseofthenaveand vestryexteriorsofwhichranintothe soakaways.Tothesouthofthena ve,thedrainag efeed measured12.50mx 0.30mandreachedadepth of0.30m.Itwas alignedeast- westandfollowedthecou rseof thefootpathtothe pointw hereitj oinedthe Interven tion1soakaw ay.The drainag efeedtothenorthof the chancelranfro man existingdrain atthebaseoftheno rtheasterncornerof thevestryfo radistanceof3.80m whereitjoinedtheInterv ention2soakaway .Aligned NW-SE, thissegme ntmeasured0. 25minwidth andwas excavatedtoa dept hof0 .40m.

The recording sy stem followed *Field Research Proc edure* (Carver 1999), the standard opera ting system employedbyFA S.As ingleindex forcontextsstarting atC1000andforfeatu resstartingfrom F1wascreated duringfieldw ork.

3.0 FIELDWORKRESULTS

3.1 INTERVENTION1

Intervention1waslocated tothesouthofthechan celandmeasu red2.50mx 1.20m.Thes equenceencountered consistedofalayerofturf andtopsoilmeasu ringupto0. 14mindepth, allocatedC1000. Thisoverlayede p layerofcoarse,brownc layeysilt(C 1001),contain ingm ixedg ravel andpeb bles,measuringupt o0.80 min depth.C1001contained asubstantialquantityo fdisarticulatedhum anremains andlessfrequentanim albone



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Location of interventions

Scale 1:500



Figure 2



fragments. The human bone was in a good state of preservation, though highly disordered, and would appear to be the product of a period of disturbance to a previously intact burial horizon.

C1001 overlies three *in-situ* inhumations, all located F1, F3 and F5 (Figure 3). F1 was encountered in the northeastern corner of Intervention 1 at a depth of 1.00m below present ground level. The burial consisted of the partially visible, well-preserved articulated remains of an adult (C1002). The shoulders and head of skeleton C1002 were visible; the remainder of the skeleton lay outside the limit of excavation though the lower leg was seen to suggest the individual was in an extended supine position aligned west-east.

F3 and F5 were recontacted simultaneously at a depth of 1.10m below present ground level, and although F3 preceded F5 their respective grave cuts could not be defined. F3 was represented by C1004 being the lower legs of an adult individual truncated by an unseen agent to the west; the southern side of the grave cut was defined against underlying C1013. F5 was represented by C1005, being the partially visible lower upper limb and upper lower limb section of an adult inhumation; the northern side of the grave cut was visible against C1013. Following full recording the remains threatened by the reconstruction of the soakaway were lifted and reburied as close to their original position as possible in accordance with the specification.

F1, F3 and F5 cut a dark greyish-brown clay sand with moderate inclusions of gravel and pebble and occasional disarticulated human bone (C1013). Natural subsoil was not encountered during groundworks.

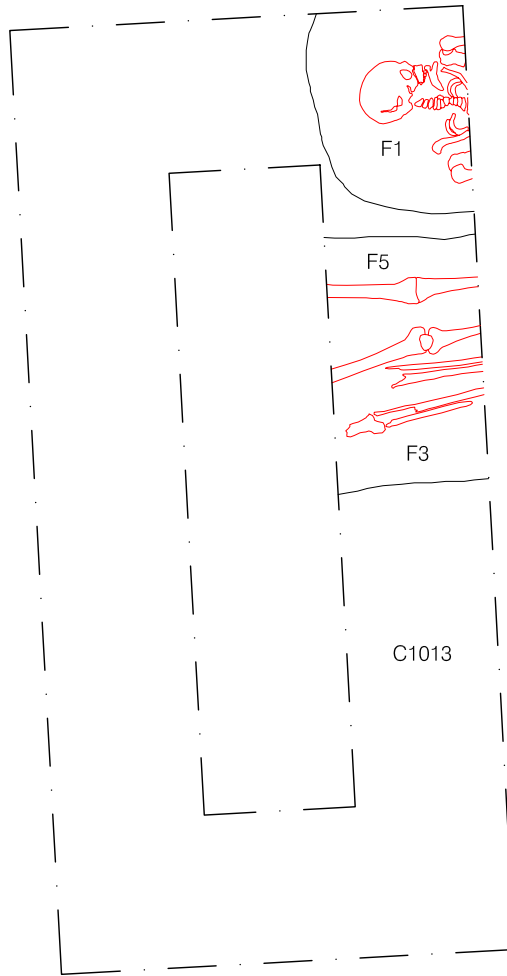
Table 1 Intervention 1- Summary of contexts

Context	Identity	Feature	Munsell	Description
1000	layer	-	10YR3 /2	turf over a very dark greyish-brown silt top soil
1001	layer	-	10YR4 /3	brown clayey silt with inclusions of frequent disarticulated human remains and some animal bone, coarse with gravel and pebbles
1002	skeleton	1	-	partially visible adult skeleton
1004	skeleton	3	-	partially visible adult skeleton
1005	skeleton	5	-	partially visible adult skeleton
1006	backfill	1	10YR4 /4	dark yellowish-brown clay sand, coarse with gravel
1007	backfill	3 and 5	10YR4 /4	dark yellowish-brown clay sand, coarse with gravel
1013	layer	-	10YR4 /2	dark greyish-brown clay sand with moderate inclusions of gravel and pebble, some disarticulated human remains recovered

Table 2 Intervention 1- Summary of features

Feature	Identity	Contexts	Dimensions	Profile
1	grave	1002/1006	not seen	not seen
3	grave	1004/1007	not seen	not seen
5	grave	1005/1007	not seen	not seen

SE 9600 7463



SE 9600 7460

Intervention 1, F1, F3 and F5

Scale 1:20



Figure 3

3.2 INTERVENTION2

Intervention2 was located to the north of the chancel and measured 2.50m x 1.20m. Thesequence encountered consisted of turf and topsoil, which measured a pproximately 0.30m in depth, allocated C1008. This deposit overlies a layer of greyish-brown clayey silt (C1009), which reached a depth of 0.56m below present ground level and was mixed with brick and stone fragments. C1009 sealed the construction cut for a land-drain (F4).

F4 consisted of a horse shoe-shaped ceramic drain (C1011) (each segment measured 0.34m in length by 0.13m width by 0.14m height), back filled with C1012 yellowish-brown sand with frequent inclusions of mortar, brick and stone (Figure 4). F4 cut a layer of flight brownish-grey clayey sand (C1010) which contained fragments of ceramic building material, chalk and a small quantity of disarticulated human remains. C1010 sealed the chalk-built wall (F2, C1003) which was exposed in the north-facing section of Intervention2 at a depth of 0.60m below present ground level. Although truncated by F4 and not entirely visible, the walls survived to a minimum length of 2.50m and a height of 0.50m and shared the alignment of the north wall of the church (approximately east-west).

Table 3 Intervention2- Summary of contexts

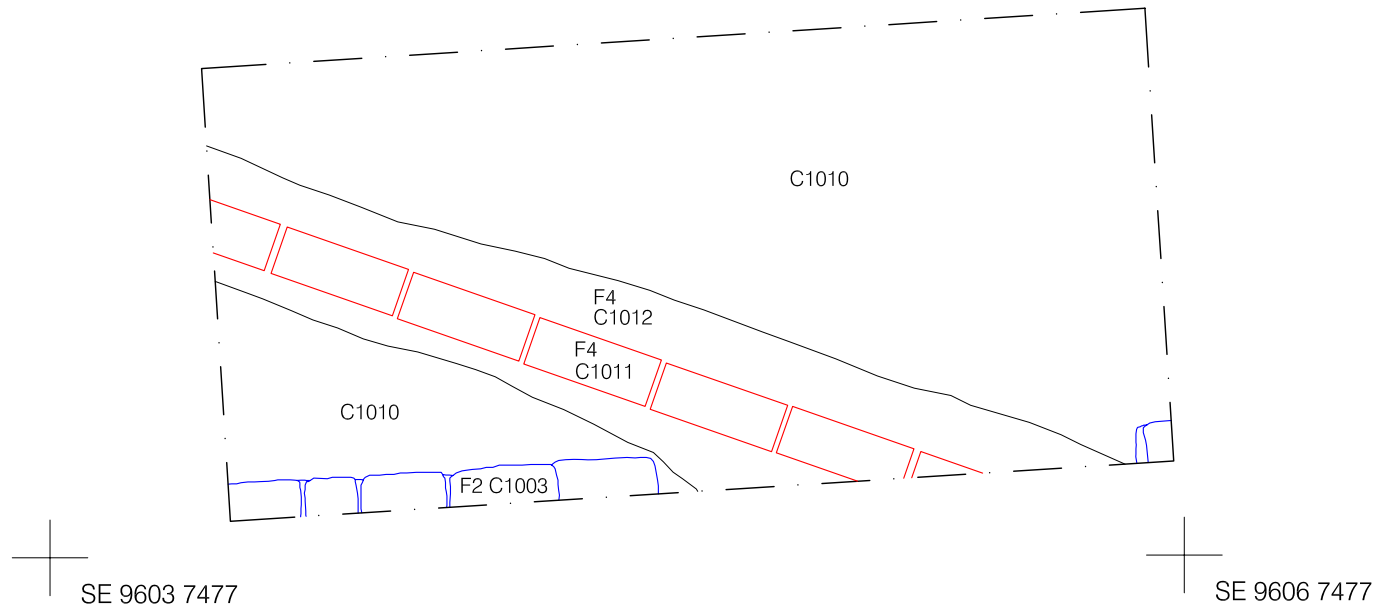
Context	Identity	Feature	Munsell	Description
1003	make-up	2	-	make-up of wall comprising roughly worked chalk blocks of variable size
1008	layer	-	10YR2 /1	turf over lying a black silt top soil with frequent inclusions of crushed clinker, brick and ash
1009	layer	-	10YR5 /2	mixed greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent brick and stone fragments throughout
1010	layer	-	10YR6 /2	light brownish grey clay sand with inclusions of brick and chalk fragments, some disarticulated human bone recovered
1011	make-up	4	-	make-up of land-drain comprising a ceramic pipe with horseshoe shaped profile, each drain segment measured 0.34m in length x 0.13m width x 0.14m height
1012	backfill	4	10YR5 /6	yellowish-brown sand with heavy mix of mortar, brick and stone

Table 4 Intervention2- Summary of features

Feature	Identity	Contexts	Dimensions	Profile
2	wall	1003	not seen	not seen
4	land-drain	1011 1012	not seen	not seen

3.3 INTERVENTION3

Intervention3 was allocated to the hand-excavation of two gullies which ran from existing drains around the exterior of the nave and vestry, feeding the two soakaway s (Intervention 1 and 2) at their western edges. The



Intervention 2, F2 and F4

Scale 1:20



Figure 4

gully to the south of the nave and chancel measured 12.50m in length by 0.30m in width and reached a depth of 0.30m below present ground level and followed the course of the existing footpath around the church. Upon excavation, the sequence encountered consisted of a gravel surface belonging to the path which measured up to 0.10m in depth. This overlay a deposit of brown clayey silt top soil equivalent to C1001 with inclusions of gravel and infrequent fragments of animal bone.

The gully to the north of the chancel measured 3.80m in length by 0.25m in width and reached a depth of 0.40m. The deposit encountered during excavation was equivalent to C1008 in Intervention 2. No further archaeological remains were identified within Intervention 3.

4.0 DISCUSSION

The watchtomb feature encountered a burial horizon encountered within Intervention 1 at approximately 1.00m below present ground level. No dating material was recovered from any of the deposits either sealing or backfilling the graves or from the layer into which the burials were cut. Unsurprisingly, the graves appeared regimented and uniform being unfurnished, supine and extended.

This section of chalk-built wall (F2) encountered within Intervention 2 is untypical of much of the surrounding materials used for building in Hunmanby. Though tentative, a reference from the late 18th century to building in chalk is made in regard to former outbuildings which belonged to the vicarage, located to the east of the church. Given its location it seems unlikely that F2 forms part of this complex. Nonetheless the reference suggests a date and tradition of chalk building within the village and possibly that this material was utilised in the construction of ancillary buildings. F2 may be identified as forming part of an outbuilding associated with the function of the church, though no material was recovered to clarify a date for its construction or use.

All articulated human remains from graves F1, F3 and F5 were re-interred to their original location during the backfilling of the soakaway construction cut within Intervention 1. All articulated human remains were removed from each trench and concealed from public view prior to being re-interred immediately at the end of fieldwork within a purpose-excavated pit in the churchyard (see Figure 2).

5.0 ARCHIVE

Paper copies of this report will be sent to the Parish Church Council and the Diocese Advisory Committee of All Saints' Church. A paper copy and an electronic (PDF) version will also be deposited with the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section.

References

Cartographic sources

Ordnance Survey 1854 First edition

Secondary sources

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APPENDIX A PETITION FOR FACULTY
Diocese Advisory Committee

In the Consistory Court of York

Diocese of York

Re: The Church of All Saints, Hunmanby

Petition for Faculty issued by the Revd JW RHattan, MrG WBrown and Mrs JOssai-sur face water drainage

On considering the Petition for Faculty and other papers in this matter I THIS HEREBY DIRECTED:-

1. Let the public notice be displayed (if not previously displayed in accordance with the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2000).
2. Rule 13(3) does not apply as the character of the Church will not alter and the archaeological factors are minor.
3. Subject to the receipt of the Public Notice with complete Certificate of Publication and if no objection has been received, let a faculty be issued, until further Order, on condition that:
 - (a) The petitioners and PCC must engage a archaeologist to be present when the ground is opened for the soakaways and connecting pipes. He shall work in accordance with the DAC's archaeological brief. He shall supply a report to the PCC, the DAC and the Sites and Monuments Records Office.
 - (b) If any human remains are encountered they shall be kept under cover and speedily re-interred in a nearby place under the supervision of the Minister.
 - (c) A percolation test shall be carried out in each soakaway pit to ensure that the soakaways will drain sufficiently.
4. The works shall be completed within four months of the issue of the Faculty or within such extended time as may be allowed.

Dated this 17 May 2004

TAC Coningsby
Chancellor

To: The Revd JW RHattan for the Petitioners
Mr P Thomas, DAC Secretary



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