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**St Edward's Church
Brotherton
North Yorkshire**

*Archaeological Watching Brief and
Rectified Photographic Record*

October 2010

Report No. 2097

CLIENT

Selby District Council

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**St Edward's Church
Brotherton
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief and
Rectified Photographic Record**

Summary

A rectified photographic record was made prior to the dismantling and re-building of three sections of the churchyard wall at St Edward's Church, Brotherton. An archaeological watching brief was also maintained during the dismantling of the churchyard wall. Seven grave cuts were identified in the exposed sections behind the wall and fragments of human bones and coffin furniture were recovered during the course of the monitoring.



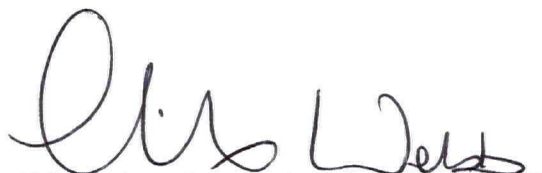
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Report Information

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Address: Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, YO8 4SB
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Date of fieldwork: June 2010
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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Selby District Council to compile a rectified photographic record of parts of the churchyard wall at St Edward's Church, Brotherton (see Fig. 1), prior to dismantling and rebuilding. An archaeological watching brief was also maintained during these works in order to record the exposed sections behind the wall and recover any human or archaeological remains that may have been revealed during the repair works. The work was being undertaken in order to make safe three sections of wall and was carried out between June 14th and June 25th 2010.

Site location and topography

Saint Edward's Church is located in the centre of Brotherton, at SE 4820 2575 (see Fig. 2), and is situated at approximately 22m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Domestic residences border the churchyard to the north, south and west with Church Street to the east. The river Aire is about 100m west of the church. The churchyard itself is elevated between 1m and 2m above the height of Church Street (see Plate 1 and Plate 2) and the retaining wall has been repaired and rebuilt numerous times over the years. More recently it has been rendered but in places the wall is bowing out towards the road, a situation made worse by the presence of trees close to the wall.

Soils, geology and land-use

The solid geology comprises Upper Magnesian Limestone of the Permian age (British Geological Survey 1978) overlain by calcareous fine loamy soils of the Aberford Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Brotherton probably has medieval origins (Fletcher 1997) but appears to have been a small hamlet until the mid-19th century when it grew in size with the development of limestone extraction. By 1845 the area around Brotherton had been extensively affected by the extractive industry with several large limestone quarries to the north and east of the village and many limestone kilns. The Aire-Calder Navigation had been effectively extended to the western edge of Brotherton by the construction of two short canals from the river Aire; the northernmost being 'Baxby's Canal' and the southernmost being 'Stanilands Canal'.

The present church was built during 1842 by G R Pritchett & Son during this industrial expansion. The church is constructed of millstone grit ashlar with a Welsh slate roof in a Gothic revival style and is Grade II Listed (Pollington 2008).

3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of this project was to monitor the dismantling by hand of three sections of the churchyard wall that required rebuilding. The rectified photography was required to ensure an accurate record of the wall prior to dismantling and a watching brief was carried out in order to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and recover any human remains that were disturbed. The watching brief would also assess the significance of any archaeology uncovered and report on the findings.

4 Methodology

A rectified photographic record of the outer wall surface was carried out on June 11th 2010 in advance of the dismantling of the three sections of wall (see Fig. 2 – 100, 103 and 106). The photographs were taken using a Mamiya 645 Pro fitted with an 80mm lens. A temporary datum line was established using a Nikon optical level and chalk marks were placed onto the rendered wall surface to indicate the height of this datum. The camera was positioned, using offset tape measurements, on a levelled tripod and located planar to each of the areas of wall surface to be rectified. The photographic film used was Ilford FP4 Plus 120 medium format which was later processed and printed in-house. Before the wall was dismantled the temporary datum points were tied into Ordnance Survey datum heights.

An archaeologist was present during the dismantling of the wall to inspect and record all material being exposed. The exposed sections were hand cleaned and appropriate written, drawn and photographic records were made in accordance with ASWYAS watching brief guidelines and site recording manual (ASWYAS 2003, 2006) and IfA standards and guidance (IfA 2008). The contents of the primary archive are listed in Appendix I. All identified human remains were archaeologically excavated and removed from the sections to accommodate the concrete retainer and footing for the repair. These have been bagged and returned to the church for re-burial.

5 Results

Wall Section 103 (see Fig. 3 – S1; Plate 1 and Plate 5)

In this section the dismantling of the wall (103) revealed a 0.40m deep dark brown clayey silt topsoil (100), overlaying a 0.60m deep yellow brown sandy silt subsoil (101). Two different natural deposits (a 0.20m deep deposit of light orangey brown silty sand, 104, and a 0.70m deep deposit of reddish brown silty sand, 102), were identified beneath the subsoil. These deposits were all cut by the roots of a tree. No grave cuts were present in this section although some disarticulated human bone fragments were recovered from around the material upcast by the heavy root activity.

Wall Section 106 (Fig. 3 – S2; Plates 2, 3 and 6)

In this section, three graves (107, 110 and 112) were identified cutting the subsoil (101) and natural deposits (121, 114, 115 and 116). The dimensions of the grave cuts varied from between 0.80m and 1m in width and between 0.60m and 1.70m in depth. In grave cut 112 only the south-east edge is clearly visible. Tarsal, metatarsal and phalanges were identified *in situ* with coffin furniture in all three graves.

Wall Section 109 (Fig. 3 – S3; Plate 3 and Plate 7)

The hand cleaning of S3 revealed four graves (117, 119, 123, 125) cutting the subsoil (101) and natural deposits (121, 129, 130, 131 and 132). In this section there are two phases as Grave 119 cuts Grave 123. The grave cuts varied between 0.20m and 0.40m in width and from between 0.40m and to 0.90m deep. Tarsal, meta-tarsal phalanges and a tibia were identified *in situ* in Grave 117 and Grave 119. No skeletal remains were identified in Grave 123 or Grave 125.

All the grave cuts in S2 and S3 do not cut the topsoil, indicating a later re-landscaping of the eastern side of the churchyard.

6 Discussion and Conclusions

Seven unmarked graves were exposed in the sections behind the dismantled churchyard wall. Residual human bones (mainly ankle joints, tarsal bones and phalanges) with fragments of coffin furniture were identified *in situ* and recovered. The archaeological evidence indicates the presence of graves butting up against the churchyard wall.

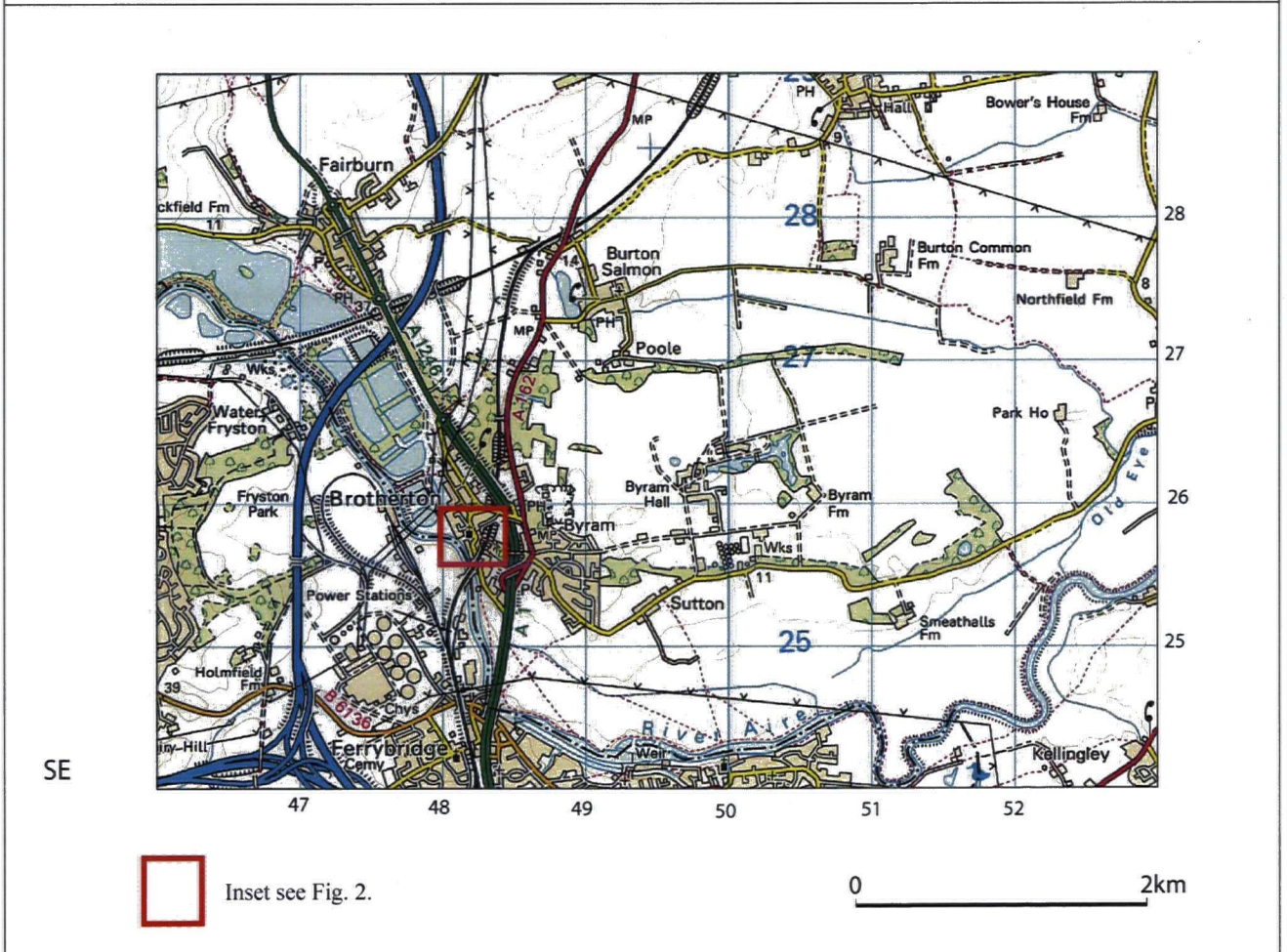
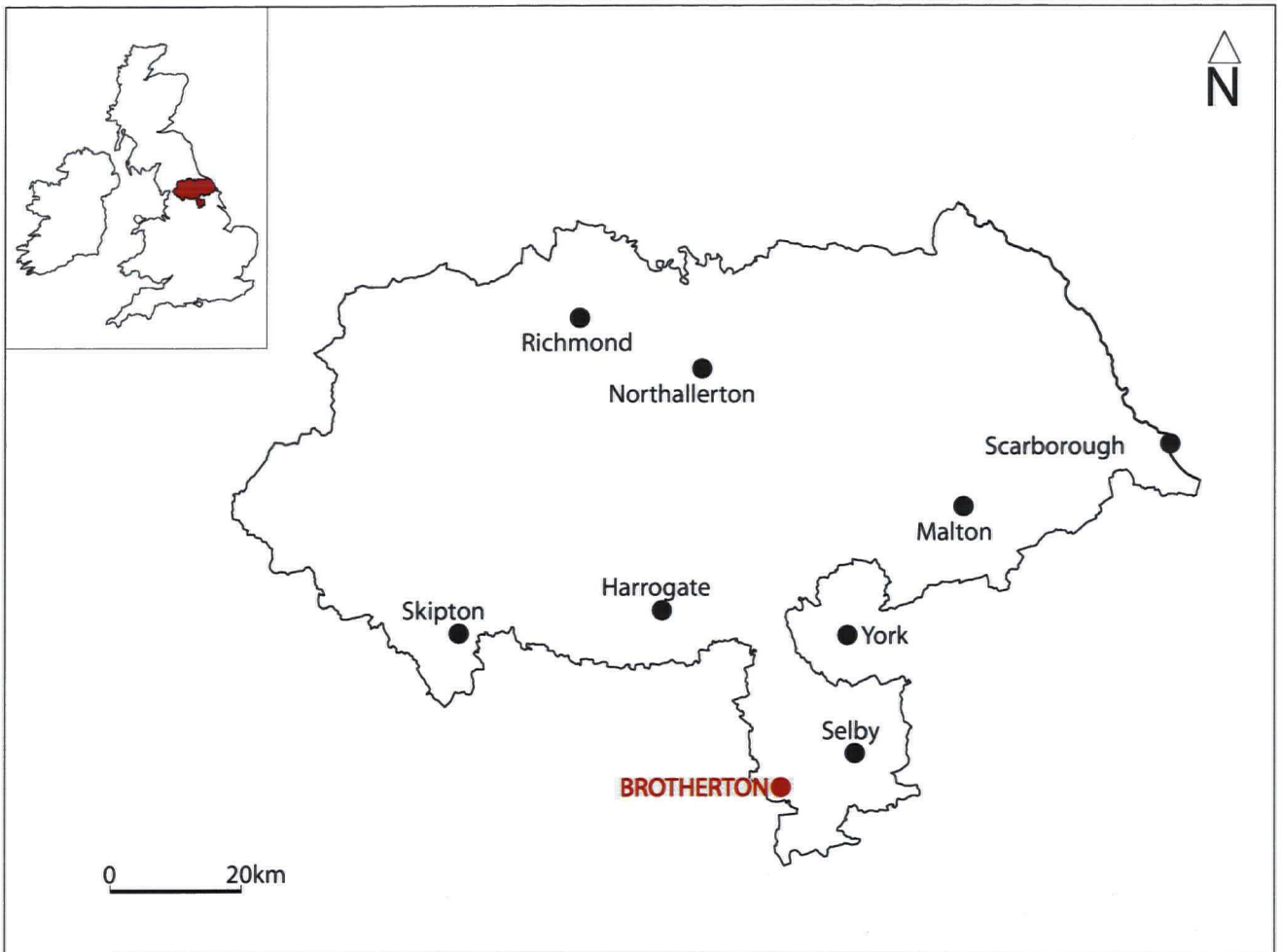


Fig. 1. Site location

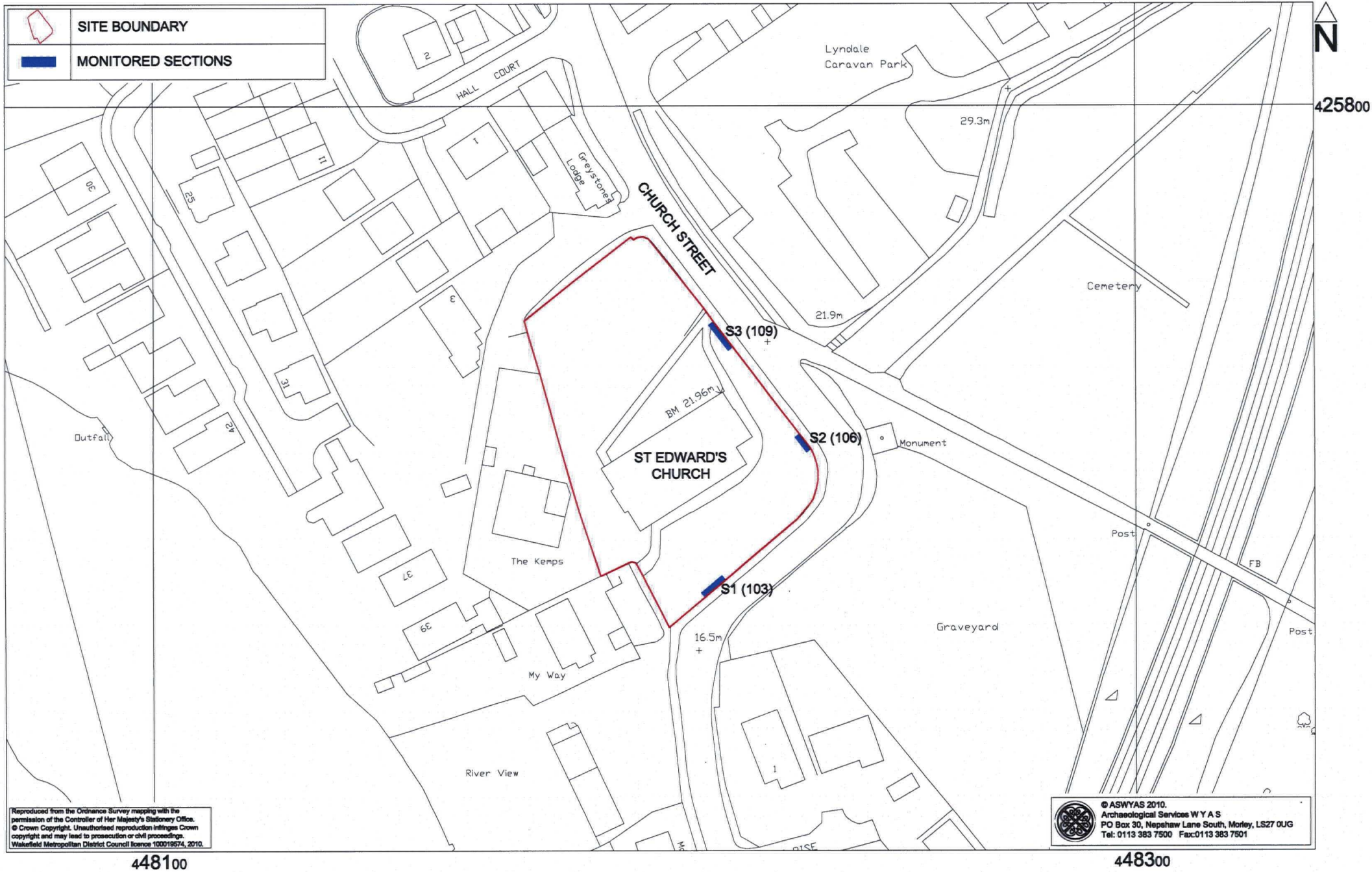
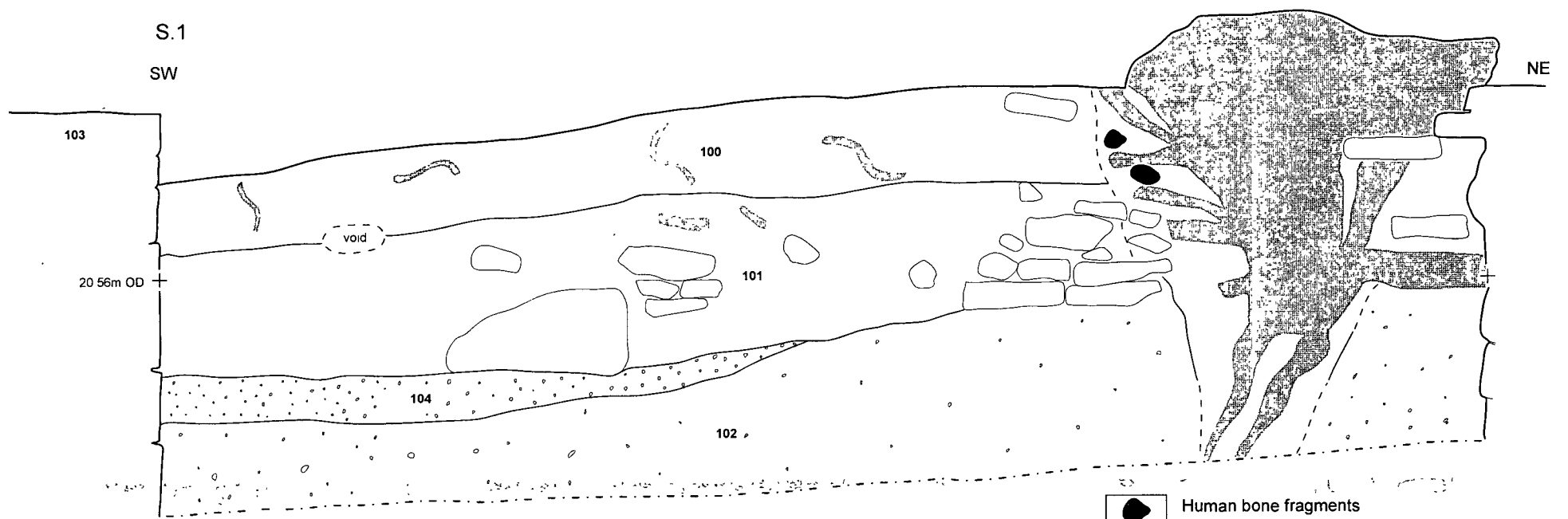
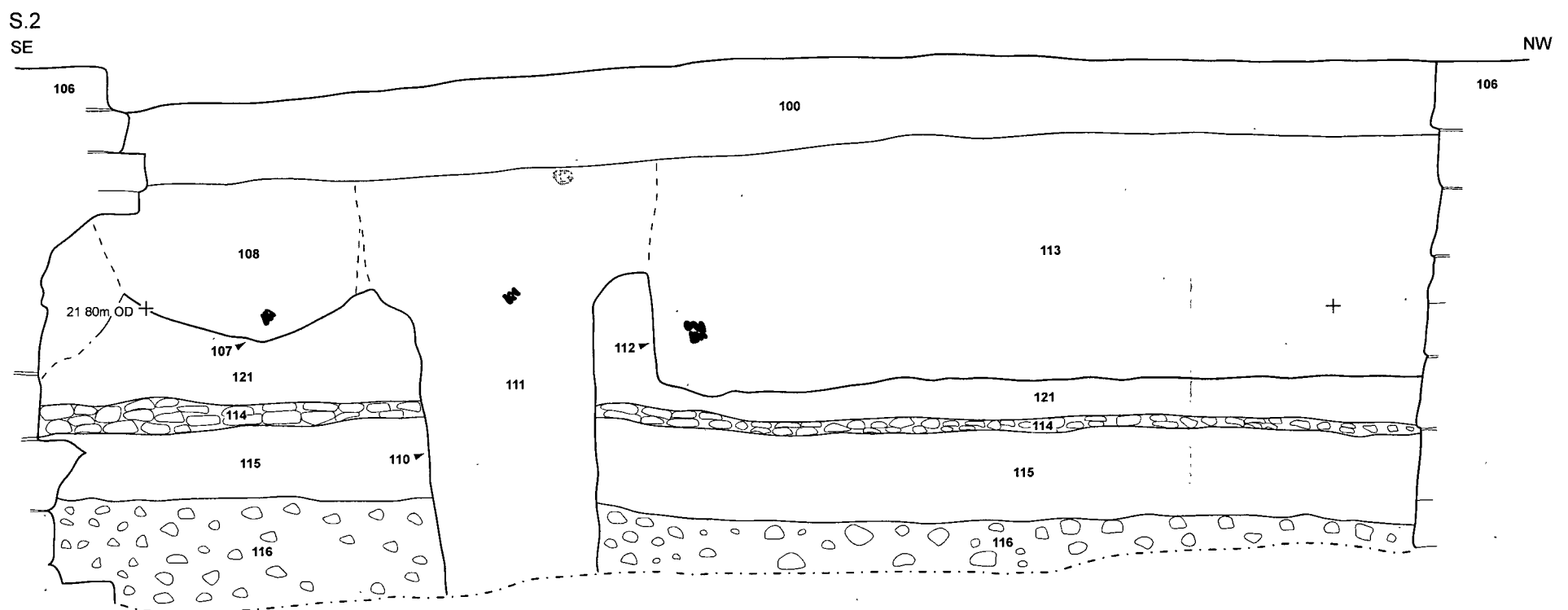


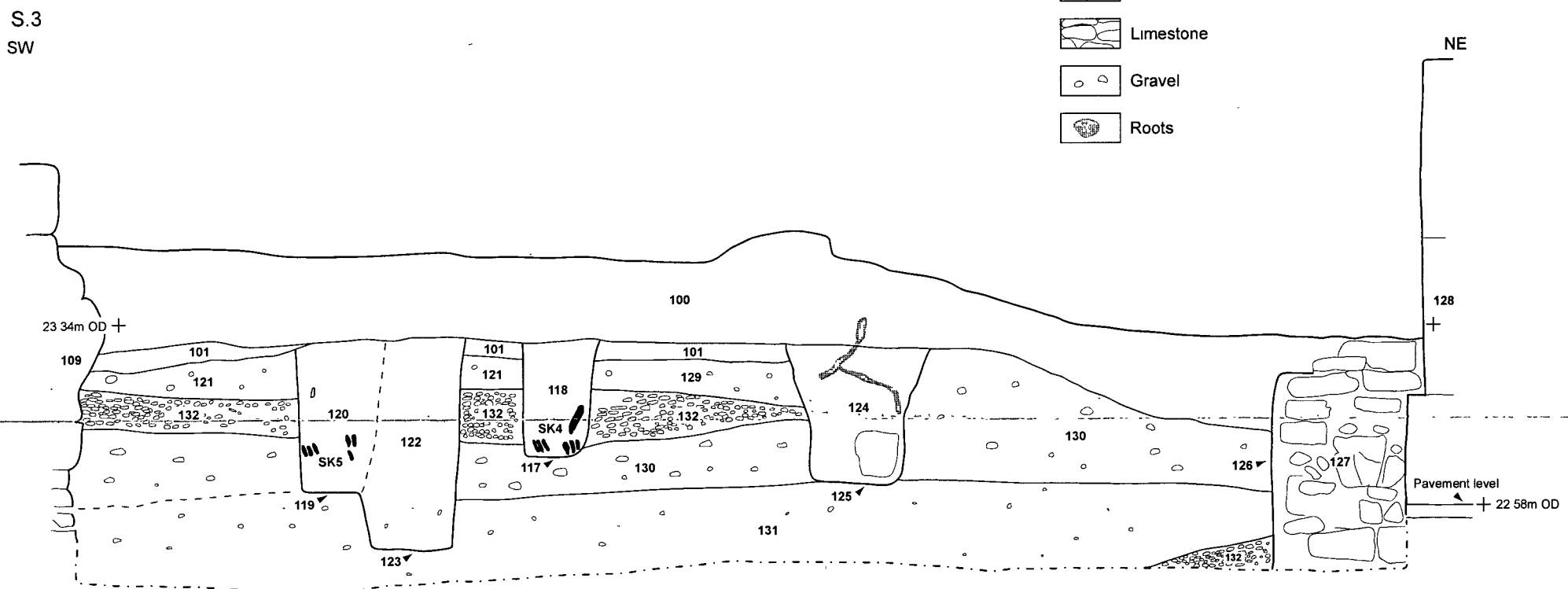
Fig. 2. Site location showing areas of archaeological monitoring (1:1000 @ A4)



- Human bone fragments
- Stone residual from 103
- Gravel
- Tree/tree roots



- Human bone fragments
- Limestone
- Gravel
- Roots



- Human remains
- Gravel
- Roots

Fig. 3. Sections

0 1m(1:25)



Plate 1. Section 1, looking north-east



Plate 2. Section 2, looking north-west



Plate 3. Section 2, Grave 107 and Grave 110, looking south-west



Plate 4. Section 3, Graves 117, 119, 123 and 125, looking south-west



Plate 5. Wall section 103 facing north-west. Arrow indicates height aOD of 20.59m



Plate 6. Wall section 106 facing west. Arrow indicates height aOD of 21.55m



Plate 7. Wall section 109 facing south-west. Arrow indicates height aOD of 23.66m

Appendix 1: Inventory of primary archive

Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Watching Brief	File no.1	Risk assessment	1
		Site location plan	1
		Site Plan	1
		Watching brief daily monitoring form	7
		Context register sheets	2
		Drawing register sheets	2
		Small permatrace	3
		Levels sheets	1
		Skeleton register sheet	1
		Skeleton Sheets	5
		Form B	1
		Digital photo record sheet	2
		Colour negative strips (Film 8812)	
		Black and white strips (Film 8811)	
Context sheets (nos. 100-133)	34		
Rectified Photography	File no.1	B&W 120 negatives x 10 frames, 10 x 12 inch B&W prints	

Appendix 2: Concordance of contexts yielding artefacts or environmental remains

Context	Wall	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
100		Topsoil	Human bone fragments
101		Subsoil	
102		Natural	
103		First section of dismantled wall	
104	103	Natural backfill of three bole 105	
105	103	Three bole	
106		Second section of dismantled wall	
107	106	Cut of grave	
108	106	Single fill of grave 107	Human bone and coffin furniture fragments
109		Third section of dismantled wall	
110	106	Cut of grave	
111	106	Single fill of grave	Human bone fragments
112	106	Cut of disturbed grave	
113	106	Single fill of disturbed grave 112	Human bone and coffin furniture fragments, pottery fragments
114	106	Natural shale deposit	
115	106	Natural sandy deposit	
116	106	Natural gravel deposit	
117	109	Cut of grave	
118	109	Single fill of grave 117	Human bone fragments
119	109	Cut of grave	
120	109	Single fill of grave 119	Human bones fragments
121	106	Natural sandy deposit	
122	109	Single fill of grave 123	
123	109	Cut of grave	
124	109	Single fill of grave 125	
125	109	Cut of grave	
126	127	Cut of wall 127	
127		Continuation of dismantled wall 109	
128	127	Pillar of gateway	
129	127	Natural stony gravel deposit	
130	127	Natural stony gravel deposit	
131	127	Natural sandy deposit	
132	127	Band of natural small gravel	
133	127	Natural same as 132	

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