

## EXTERNAL DRAINAGE WORKS, ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, CRAYKE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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## **CONTENTS**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
3	METHODOLOGY	1
4	OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
5	RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF	5
6	CONCLUSIONS	8
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY	9
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	Ç

## Appendices

- List of Contexts and Details of Artefacts
- 2 EDAS Written Scheme of Investigation

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In November 2010, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by St Cuthbert's Parochial Church Council (PCC), through the church architect, Peter Pace, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with external drainage works at St Cuthbert's Church, Crayke, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 56036 70655 centred). The archaeological work was made a condition of a Diocesan Faculty, issued by the Diocese of York on 1st November 2010.

The archaeological work took place in January 2012. Little of interest was observed in Trench 1, which ran around the west side of the north aisle and west tower, although three sherds of late 13th-mid 15th century Hambleton ware, all from one vessel, were recovered from the subsoil.

Six human burials were identified in Trench 2, four having to be excavated as they lay within the ground required for the new 'Trench Arch' drainage system. Two of the burials were adult males and two were adult females. Unfortunately, none were associated with any coffins or grave goods, and so it was not possible to date them accurately. Neither was it possible to establish any direct stratigraphic relationships between them. Nevertheless, the fact that they all lay at approximately the same depth, were aligned east-west with the heads at the west, and there was no or very little intercutting of graves, probably implies that they are all of the same date. The burials lie at a different angle to other Anglo-Saxon burials uncovered to the east of the churchyard, and so it is thought that they are late medieval in date and associated with the existing 15th century church.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

In November 2010, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by St Cuthbert's Parochial Church Council (PCC), through the church architect, Peter Pace, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with external drainage works at St Cuthbert's Church, Crayke, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 56036 70655 centred). The archaeological work was made a condition of a Diocesan Faculty, issued by the Diocese of York on 1st November 2010.

#### 2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1 St Cuthbert's Church lies on the northern edge of the village of Crayke, adjacent to Crake Castle, a motte and bailey and later stone castle of the Bishops of Durham (see figure 2). Crayke village itself lies c.3km to the east of Easingwold and c.15km north of York. The site lies at c.115m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) (see figure 1).

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological recording was defined by a 'Written Scheme of Investigation' produced by EDAS prior to the start of works (see Appendix 2). Other general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999), by English Heritage/Church of England in relation to the treatment of human remains (EH/CoE 2005), and by the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists in relation to work in churchyards (ADCA 2004) was also followed.
- 3.2 The aim of the work was to monitor the groundworks (topsoil stripping and excavation of drainage trenches), in order to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth and significance of any archaeological features which might be present and which might be damaged by the development. All excavated material was also visually inspected for any finds.
- 3.3 The watching brief was carried out over three days, from 30th January 2012 to 1st February 2012. The groundworks comprised two trenches (see figure 4). Trench 1 measured 16.25m long, 0.40m wide and up to 0.50m deep, and was excavated around the north aisle and west tower to take a new water pipe and electricity cable. Trench 2 measured 11.0m long, 1.6m wide and 0.82m deep (113.24m AOD) and was excavated 1.2m to the north of, and parallel to, the north aisle; this was for a new 'Trench Arch' drainage system. Trench 1 was excavated by hand by the contractors. For Trench 2, a mechanical JCB excavator with a toothless bucket was used to strip off the grass and topsoil, and the removal of subsoil was halted when human burials were revealed. Subsequent excavation of the burials was carried out by the archaeologists, and once these had been recorded, lifted and bagged (individual burials kept separate), and the surrounding area cleared of archaeology, mechanical excavation was resumed until the required depth was reached or further archaeology was encountered. In all, four human burials were disturbed by the works, and the bones were returned to the church authorities for subsequent reburial.
- 3.4 Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual three digit context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of 21

archaeological contexts were recorded (see Appendix 1), which are referred to in the following text as three figure numbers (e.g. 102). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of the monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plan at 1:50 scale, with more detailed plans and a section drawing produced at scales of 1:20 and 1:10. A photographic record was maintained using a digital camera. Levels were taken from an Ordnance Survey bench mark on the church tower (115.37m AOD).

In accordance with standard archaeological practice, a project archive was prepared and deposited with the Yorkshire Museum in York (EDAS site code SCC 12; Museum Accession no. YORYM:2012:147).

#### 4 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## The Village

- 4.1 In c.AD 685 the villa called Crayke and three miles of land around it were given to Saint Cuthbert by King Egfrid of Northumbria and Archbishop Theodore after he became Bishop of Lindsfarne. It is assumed that Cuthbert founded a monastery at Crayke and his body rested there for four months following Norse incursions onto Lindisfarne (I'Anson 1913, 343). The final documentary reference to the monastery occurs in AD 882/883, although there is no reason to suspect that it did not survive until at least the 10th century. The Domesday Book reports that Crayke had been held by Bishop Alwine as part of the See of Durham, and it mentions a church and a priest, and an estate roughly the size of the existing parish (Adams 1990, 33-35). The village remained part of the Bishop of Durham's lands until c.1830, and as late as 1844 it was still considered to be an outlying part of the County of Durham (I'Anson 1913, 343).
- 4.2 During the late 11th or early 12th century, the monastic complex was replaced by a motte and bailey castle built by the Bishops of Durham. The bailey formerly occupied the majority of the top of the hill above the 100m contour line, being c.210m long (east-west) by 90m wide (north-south). It is now divided into two halves by a modern reservoir which occupies the central area. The motte survives as a 2.5m high earthwork to the north of the main castle block. The castle is first documented in 1195 when Bishop Hugh Pudsey stopped there whilst travelling down from Durham. King John also stayed at the castle three times during the early 13th century, and it was visited by all three Edwards in the first half of the 14th century (Douglas-Irvine 1923, 120). Several phases of building and rebuilding are known to have occurred, and it is assumed that the initial timber buildings were later replaced in stone; l'Anson suggests that this may not have taken place until the late 13th or early 14th century (l'Anson 1913, 343).
- 4.3 As a result of its elevated position, Crayke acts as a natural vantage point and both the village and surrounding area have a long history of occupation. Excavations carried out during the late 1950s revealed evidence of Romano-British occupation to the north of the village (Hayes 1959, 90-100), whilst other earlier investigations south-east of Crayke Hall in 1937 uncovered Roman pottery, various early medieval finds including a bronze pin or pendant, a hoard of ironwork, and two fragments of an Anglian stone cross, and a medieval kiln (Sheppard 1939) (see figure 2).
- 4.4 Three small trenches were also dug in 1956 just outside the churchyard, with the aim of uncovering Roman material. Little of this material was found, but Trench I,

excavated immediately to the east of the present churchyard, uncovered a number of east-west aligned human skeletons (see figure 3). The skeletons were overlain by a 'humus' layer containing considerable quantities of later medieval pottery. This suggested to the excavator a *terminus ante quem* of the 14th century, but he did not attempt to assess the skeleton's significance, other than to suggest that they might be part of a formerly more extensive churchyard, part of a monastic cemetery, or the bodies of plague victims (Hildyard 1959).

- In an attempt to provide more information on the potential cemetery, a further archaeological trench was excavated in 1983 just to the east of the 1956 trench, to the north-east of the church (Adams 1990, 36-39) (see figure 3). This uncovered further burials and established that the cemetery was earlier than the mid 13th-mid 14th century; radiocarbon dating of one of the skeletons provided a date range of AD 770-1020. The cemetery, which is named Castle Garth cemetery and which is likely to represent just one phase of burial (as indicated by the spacing and unity of alignment), probably extends into the eastern part of the present churchyard (see figure 3). It is suggested that the Castle Garth cemetery was associated with an earlier church, perhaps on the site of the present St Cuthbert's church or more likely one located on the natural slope to the south-east nearer Crayke Hall. It was also suggested that the cemetery had its origins with St Cuthbert's monastery and that it went out of use soon after 1020 (Adams 1990, 42-44).
- 4.6 The 1983 excavations, together with a collation of all the other archaeological and documentary evidence, have been able to provide a suggested settlement sequence for the village as a whole and has examined the topography of the early medieval monastery (Adams 1990, 39-50). In summary, the monastery lay on the south-east slope of Crayke Hill with the cemetery on the hilltop and the church slightly downslope. Sometime after AD 883 the monastery was abandoned, and the landscape was subsequently reorganised. A village with a triangular green was laid out, with an open field system; the former monastic cemetery lay within part of the North Field. In the pre-Conquest period a church (the present St Cuthbert's) and hall were inserted into the North Field, and the rest of the field was divided into two. Further subdivision of the field followed, together with the extension of the churchyard to the north and south, the infilling of the triangular green, and the subsequent planned expansion of the village along Brandsby Street.

#### The Church

- 4.7 Adams suggests that a post-monastic church was inserted into the former North Field in the period 'before 1086 to before 1250-1350' (Adams 1990, 41). However, the present church dates to the 15th century. This implies that there was an earlier church on the same site, and this is probably the church that is mentioned in the Domesday Book. No above ground evidence for this church survives, apart from a medieval kingpost bellframe which has been reused in the present structure; this implies that the earlier church had a tower and the remains of semi-circular stonework under the chancel floor suggests it had an apsidal east end (Haslam 2007).
- 4.8 St Cuthbert's church comprises a nave, chancel and west tower, north aisle and south porch. Information in the church says that it was built in 1436, but this refers to a will which records 20d being left for the 'new work to the church'. The chancel, nave and west tower are all of 15th century date (Douglas-Irvine 1923). The exterior of the church is faced in ashlar and is finished throughout with embattled parapets and pinnacles at the angles of the building.

- 4.9 The chancel is lit by a three-light east window with cusped heads under a depressed arch, and there are three two-light windows of similar character in the side walls, one in the north and two in the south wall. Between the latter is a small doorway. The chancel is covered with a 15th century tie-beam roof in three bays with curved supports against the walls, springing from moulded wood corbels. The chancel arch, of the same date, is formed of two chamfered orders dying into plain square responds. Across the arch is a 15th century rood screen of oak having a doorway with cusped and carved head and the sides divided by mullions into five compartments with traceried heads. The beam has a plain hollow on each side, but the screen is generally more enriched on the eastern face.
- 4.10 The nave is similar in character and date to the chancel, and is lit by two-light windows with depressed heads. The three bay north aisle is an addition of 1865 but a considerable quantity of the old materials, including some of the windows, were apparently reinserted in the new wall. The nave roof of five bays is contemporary with the building, and it is also of the low pitched tie-beam type with curved supports. The font is also 15th century in date, and it has an octagonal bowl and stem with a moulded base and a 17th century wooden cover. The oak pewing probably dates from the 17th century the pews are plainly panelled with moulded knobs to the bench ends and the heptagonal pulpit is dated 1637. At the east end of the nave against the south wall are two mutilated recumbent stone figures, male and female, dating from the later part of the 16th century; they probably represent Sir John Gibson and his first wife Mary (or Margaret) Woodhall who both died between 1584 and 1590.
- 4.11 The 15th century west tower is three stages high, with diagonal buttresses and an embattled parapet with pinnacles at the angles. The lowest stage is pierced by a three-light traceried west window. The belfry is lit by a two-light square-headed window in each face, and is approached by a vice in the north-east angle. Beneath the tower are three old chests, one of which has a 17th century carved and panelled front. The south porch has a depressed arch to the outer doorway, dating from the late 15th century, with an impost moulding carried along on either side as a string. The south porch roof is original and the embattled parapet has a sundial dated 1732 inserted in the centre.
- 4.12 The church is a Grade I Listed Building, first listed on 17th May 1960. The Listed Building description reads: Church. C15 on earlier site. North aisle 1865. Ashlar. Roof concealed. Perpendicular. West tower, 3-bay single-aisled nave, 2-bay chancel and south porch. Two-stage tower has 3-light window and 2-stage bell opening. Nave and chancel: 2-light elliptical windows with hood moulds, partly restored. Battlements and pinnacles throughout, C19 gargoyles. Plinth and buttresses with off-sets. Interior: tower and chancel arches double chamfered. Three-light east window with glass by W Waites, pre 1852. Good low-pitch oak roofs with moulded tie beams on corbels, some replaced timbers. Chancel screen, incorporated some C15 work. C15 font. Pulpit dated 1637. C17 pews with straight tops and knobs at each end. Late C16 monument to Sir John Gibson and his wife with recumbent stone effigies. Pevsner, N., Yorkshire, N Riding, 1966, p 130-1 (www.imagesofengland.org.uk).

#### 5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF

## **Trench 1** (see figure 4)

5.1 Within Trench 1, a very dark brown silty loam topsoil with occasional stone pebbles (100) varied in depth from 0.30m to 0.50m below ground level (BGL) (see plates 1 and 2). In places, this topsoil extended beneath the base of the trench, but in a few places it was seen to overlie a dark brown-grey clay subsoil (101) of indeterminate depth. Just to the south of the north-west angled buttress of the church tower, three sherds of Hambleton ware, all from one vessel, were recovered from this subsoil (101). The sherds had an external rich even green glaze, with vertical incised wavy lines and a hand applied thin strip decoration they were dated to the late 13th to mid 15th century (B McCluskey, OSA, pers. comm.).

## **Trench 2** (see figure 5)

- 5.2 In Trench 2, the same very dark brown silty loam topsoil (100) varied in depth from 0.25m to 0.30m BGL and sealed all other deposits. This topsoil overlay a varying depth of dark brown-grey silty clay subsoil (101) in some areas, while in others the topsoil lay directly over the natural (102), which was a mid creamy orange sandy clay with abundant gravel and shale inclusions. The subsoil (101), which in this trench most likely relates to the disturbance of the natural from the excavation of graves, was more obvious in the areas surrounding the burials. The upper surface of the natural (102) varied in depth; in places it was apparent at as little as 0.24m BGL, while in others it lay at a depth of 0.70m BGL. The level at which natural occurred appeared to be dependant on the concentration of burials where no burials were recorded, in the west end of the trench, the natural was higher.
- 5.3 In a small extension to Trench 2, which ran 1.20m north from the external wall of the north aisle to the west end of Trench 2, a linear cut was observed (103). The cut was 1.06m wide and appeared to run parallel to the aisle wall, but its length and depth could not be determined. The wall of the north aisle defined the feature's southern side, and the straight sloping north edge cut through the natural (102). Its proximity to the church may suggest it is related to its construction, possibly being a foundation trench, although it could also be related to earlier attempts to improve the drainage. The fill of the cut was a dark brown-grey silt clay containing frequent pieces of rubble (104).
- 5.4 A total of four articulated east-west aligned supine inhumations were present (SK1, SK2, SK3 and SK4) in the trench, along with a small quantity of fragmentary, disarticulated, human bone. While a degree of truncation was apparent in three of the burials (109, 112 and 115), this did not obviously appear to be due to the excavation of later graves. Although the burials all lay at the same general depth, it was not possible to discern a direct stratigraphic relationship between them.
- 5.5 The westernmost burial (SK1 106) was located towards the west end of the trench, 0.2m north of the southern edge. This burial lay at a average depth of 0.46m BGL, at 113.59m AOD. The grave appeared to have been cut into the natural (102), although the east and west limits of the cut (105) were difficult to define; it was c.1.20m long by 0.37m wide. The burial was a simple, extended, supine inhumation, orientated east-west, with the head to the west; this had been largely truncated and only a small piece of the left maxilla survived (see plate 3). The individual's right arm was extended along the right side of their body but later disturbance, perhaps due to the oil and electricity services running along the length

of the southern edge of the trench, had disturbed the right radius and ulna, which were no longer articulated. The left arm was extended along the left side of the body and loosely flexed at the elbow, with the hand placed on the pelvis. Both legs appeared to be extended, but were truncated at the proximal end of the right tibia and the proximal end of the left femur. The skeletal remains represented c.75% of the original and were moderately well preserved, which was surprising considering the shallow nature of the burial, which was encountered at a depth of 0.15m below the topsoil (100). The long bones appeared to be the best preserved, with the bones of the axial skeleton surviving in a poorer and less complete condition, with only partial preservation of the ribs and vertebrae. The grave was backfilled with mid brown-grey silty clay (107) containing a moderate amount of stone fragments. No evidence for a coffin was found, suggesting that the individual may have been buried in a shroud.

- 5.6 To the east of grave 105 was a second burial (SK4 - 115), located 2.6m west of the eastern end of the trench and 0.35m north of the southern edge. The grave appeared to cut the subsoil (101), although again the east and west limits of the cut (114) were difficult to define; it measured c.0.82m long by 0.35m wide. This burial also lay at a depth of 0.50m BGL, at 113.60m AOD. The burial was a simple, extended, supine inhumation, orientated east-west, with the head to the west although this had been truncated (see plate 4). The individual's right arm had been entirely truncated, again most likely due to the oil and electricity services running the length of the southern edge of the trench. The left arm was extended along the left side of the body and loosely flexed at the elbow, with the hand placed on the pelvis. Both legs appeared to be extended, but were truncated at the knees. The skeletal remains were less well preserved than those of SK1, but were found at a greater depth, 0.25m below the topsoil (100). The in situ remains comprised c.50% of the original, and consisted of the left humerus (which was damaged at the proximal end), the left radius and ulna, both clavicles, the majority of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, the lower left and right ribs, fragments of both the left and right pelvis, namely the illiae, the right femur and the shaft and proximal end of the left femur. Again, the long bones were the best preserved with the small bones of the hands, the ribs and vertebrae surviving in a poorer and less complete state. It is not clear what truncated the east and west limits of the grave - it is possible that this was done by later grave cuts, although none were identified during excavation. The grave was backfilled with a mid brown-grey silty clay (116) containing a moderate amount of stone fragments. No evidence for a coffin was found, again suggesting that the individual may have been buried in a shroud.
- 5.7 To the northeast of grave 114 was a third burial (SK3 - 112), which was located 2m west of the eastern end of the trench and almost in the centre. The grave appeared to cut into the subsoil (101) and the limits of the cut (111) were only slightly easier to define; it measured a maximum of 1.48m long by 0.45m wide. This lay at a minimum depth of 0.55m BGL, at 113.54m AOD. The burial was a simple, extended, supine inhumation, orientated east-west, with the head to the west, although this had been truncated (see plate 5). The individual's upper right arm had been truncated, possibly by the grave cut (114) for the adjacent burial, although both cuts were difficult to define precisely and it is not possible to say with any certainty that a stratigraphic relationship existed between the two; however, the spatial positioning of the two burials suggests that they were unlikely to have been intercutting. The right forearm was loosely flexed at the elbow with the hand on the pelvis, although the small bones of the hands were not recovered. The left arm was extended along the left side of the body and flexed at the elbow, with the forearm placed over the abdomen, the forearm had been slightly disturbed, and as a result the radius was no longer fully articulated with the rest of the arm. Both

legs were extended, with all of the bones of the lower limbs surviving except for the right tibia shaft and distal end which were removed by the mechanical excavator. The skeletal remains that were present represented c.60% of the individual, and they survived in a moderately well preserved state. The long bones were the best preserved, while the small bones of the hands and feet, the ribs, vertebrae and the skull were entirely absent. The grave was backfilled with mid brown-grey silty clay (113) with a moderate amount of stone fragments. No evidence for a coffin or any coffin furniture was found, suggesting that the individual may have been buried in only a shroud.

- 5.8 To the north-east of grave 111 was the fourth burial (SK2 - 109), located at the eastern end of the trench and 0.1m in from the northern edge. This burial lay at a depth of 0.60m BGL, at 113.49m AOD. The grave appeared to cut the subsoil (101) but once again the precise limits of the cut (108) were difficult to define; it measured c.1.10m long by 0.45m wide. The burial was a simple, extended, supine inhumation, orientated east-west, with the head to the west and looking north (see plate 6). The individual's upper right arm was extended along the right side of the body, but little of the right forearm remained, with only the proximal ulna surviving; what was left suggested the forearm would have also been extended along the side of the body. The left arm was extended along the left side of the body and loosely flexed at the elbow, with the forearm placed over the abdomen, the distal ends of both the radius and ulna had not survived, nor had the left hand. Both legs were extended; however, the lower legs and feet extended beyond the initial limits of the excavation and remained *in situ* beneath the sloping east end of the trench. The skeletal remains survived in a moderately well preserved state. preservation of bone was consistent throughout the burial, with only the right ribs and forearms suffering a greater degree of decay. The grave was backfilled with mid brown-grey silty clay (110). No evidence for a coffin was found, suggesting that the individual had been buried in only a shroud.
- 5.9 Two other grave cuts were identified in the base of the trench, towards the eastern end and against the north side of the excavation. The western cut (117) measured 1.45m long by at least 0.3m wide while the eastern one (118) was 1.50m long by 0.3m wide; both were filled with mid brown-grey silty clay (119 and 120). Both grave cuts extended beyond the north side of the trench, and there was no need to excavate them as the drainage trench had reached its maximum required depth (c.113.09m AOD).
- 5.10 The skeletal remains were rapidly assessed, *in situ*, in order to determine the age and sex of the individuals where possible. Techniques used to assess the sex of the individuals conformed to those laid out by Mays and Cox (2000). In order to assess the sex of an individual, the bones of the skull and the pelvis must be present and they can only be used to determine the individual's sex once secondary sexual characteristics have developed; these occur during late puberty and early adulthood. Where such elements were not available, less reliable methods of assessment were used, such as bone robusticity, although such techniques have a far greater margin of error as they may also be affected by other factors, such as genetic inheritance and activity. Age was determined by techniques set out in Scheuer and Black (2000a; 2000b) and Cox (2000). For subadult individuals, these rely on the fusion of bones at specific intervals, while age estimation in adults is based on the degeneration of particular regions of the pelvic bones.
- 5.11 Skeleton 1 (106) appeared to be an adult male probably over 45 years old. Moderate to advanced stages of tooth wear were also observed, suggesting the

individual consumed a relatively coarse diet, which resulted in the wearing away of the tooth enamel. Skeleton 2 (109) appeared to be an adult female, but ageing techniques could not be any more specific due to the poor preservation of the auricular surface and the pubic symphysis. However, all of the long bones were fused, suggesting that the individual was at least 17 years of age when she died. She also had a very small dental arcade which had caused overcrowding of the anterior dentition. None of the individual's third molars were present; this may be an indication of their young age or that the teeth were congenitally absent. Considering the diminutive size of the individual's jaw, the latter is more likely. Skeleton 3 (112) appeared to be an adult male. Poor preservation of the necessary skeletal elements prevented a more accurate age estimation. Skeleton 4 (114) appeared to be an adult female. Again poor preservation of the necessary skeletal elements prevented a more accurate age estimation. The assessment of the individual's sex was based on bone robusticity alone, and as a result may not be accurate.

#### 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Little of archaeological interest was observed in Trench 1, which ran around the west side of the north aisle and west tower, although three sherds of late 13th-mid 15th century Hambleton ware, all from one vessel, were recovered from the subsoil.
- 6.2 Six human burials were identified in Trench 2, four of them having to be excavated as they lay within the ground required for the new 'Trench Arch' drainage system. Two of the excavated burials were adult males and two were adult females. Unfortunately, none were associated with any coffins or grave goods, and so it was not possible to date them accurately. Neither was it possible to establish any direct stratigraphic relationships between them. However, some general points can be made. They all lay at approximately the same depth (between 113.49m-113.60m AOD), all were aligned east-west with the heads at the west, and there was no or very little intercutting of graves. This probably implies that they are all of the same date.
- 6.3 It is very noticeable that the burials in Trench 2 are aligned parallel to the church, in contrast to those burials found in 1956 and 1983 to the east which had a more north-east/south-west alignment. One of the 1983 skeletons was radiocarbon dated to AD 770-1020, and it was believed that these burials formed part of the Castle Garth cemetery, which was associated with St Cuthbert's pre-Conquest monastery and/or church. Adams (1990, 40) also suggested that the Castle Garth cemetery extended into the eastern part of the existing churchyard (see figure 3).
- 6.4 It seems clear from the excavated evidence that the burials identified in Trench 2 do not form part of the Castle Garth cemetery, but are instead associated with either the 15th century church or its precursor, which was recorded in the 12th century and which is believed to have been on the same site. The burials lie within the earliest, pre-1868, churchyard boundary (see figure 3), only 1.2m from the north wall of the north aisle which was constructed in 1865; if the aisle is removed, they would lie c.7.5m from the north wall of the nave. All the evidence suggests that the burials are late medieval in date, and so may well be associated with the 15th century church. It might be possible to provide a more accurate date through radiocarbon and other analysis, but such work is beyond the parameters of the watching brief.

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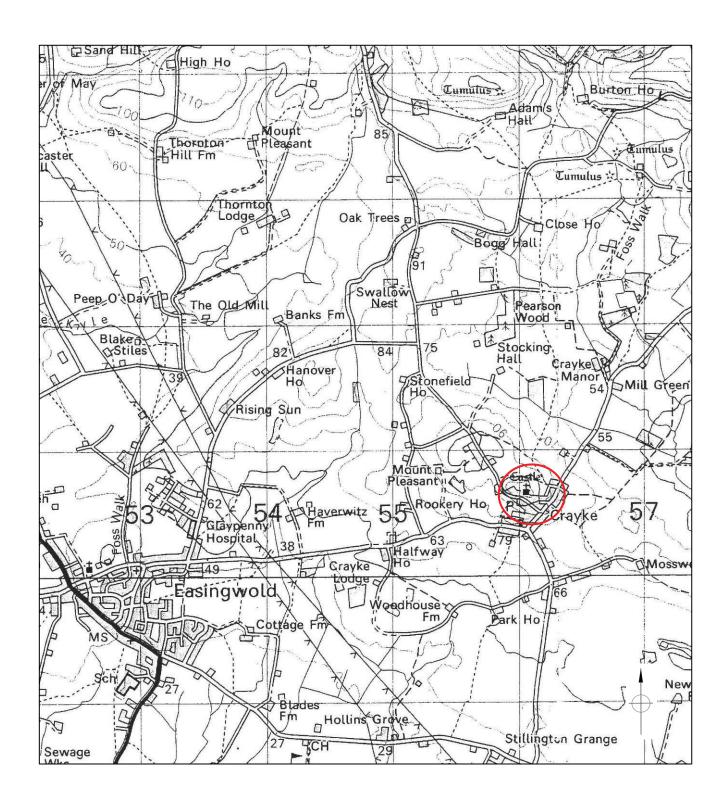
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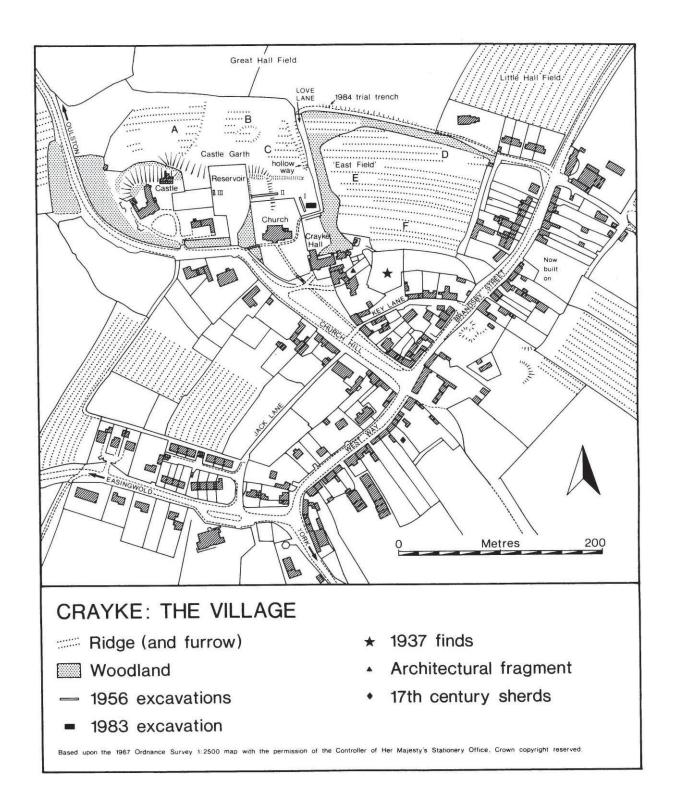
### 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief was commissioned and funded by St Cuthbert's Church Parochial Church Council, and EDAS would like them and the Revd Ian Kitchen for their co-operation in carrying out the work.
- 8.2 The site recording was undertaken by Katie Keefe and Dave Pinnock of On Site Archaeology on behalf of EDAS, and they produced the fieldwork records. Ed Dennison produced the final report and drawings, and the responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies remains with him.



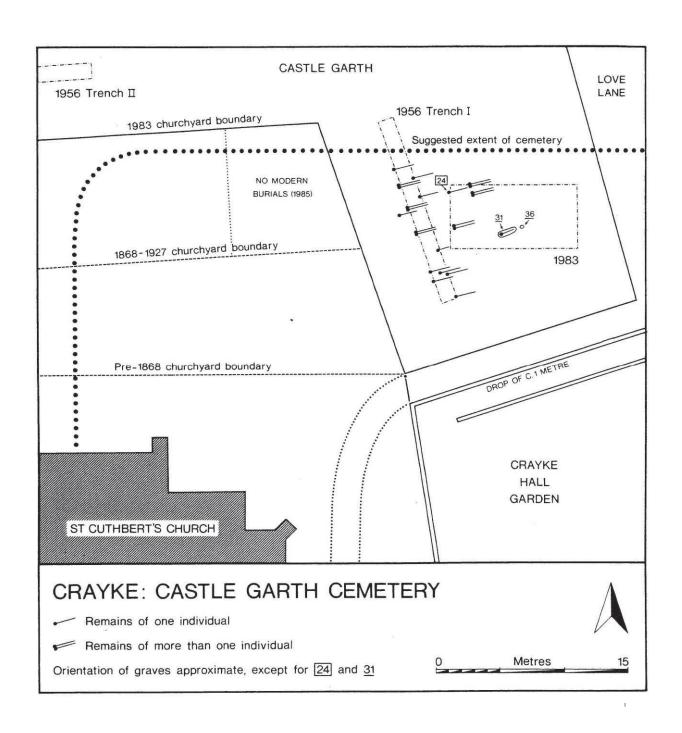
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ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, CRAYKE				
GENERAL LOCATION				
SCALE NTS	APR 2012			
EDAS	FIGURE 1			



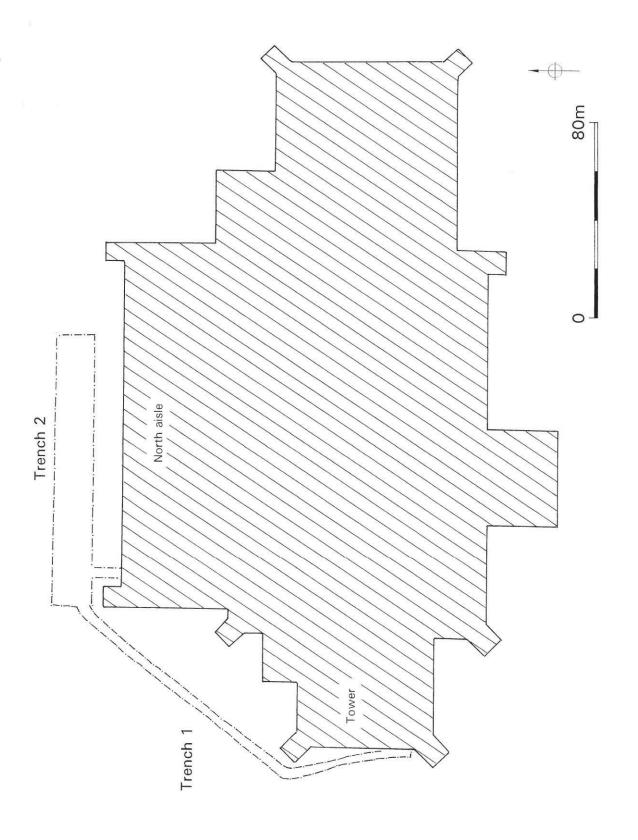
Source: Adams 1990, figure 3.

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, CRAYKE				
VILLAGE INVESTIGATIONS				
NTS	APR 2012			
EDAS	FIGURE 2			



Source: Adams 1990, figure 5.

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, CRAYKE				
CASTLE GARTH CEMETERY				
NTS	APR 2012			
EDAS	FIGURE 3			



ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, CRAYKE				
PLAN OF TRENCHES				
NTS NTS	APR 2012			
EDAS	FIGURE 4			

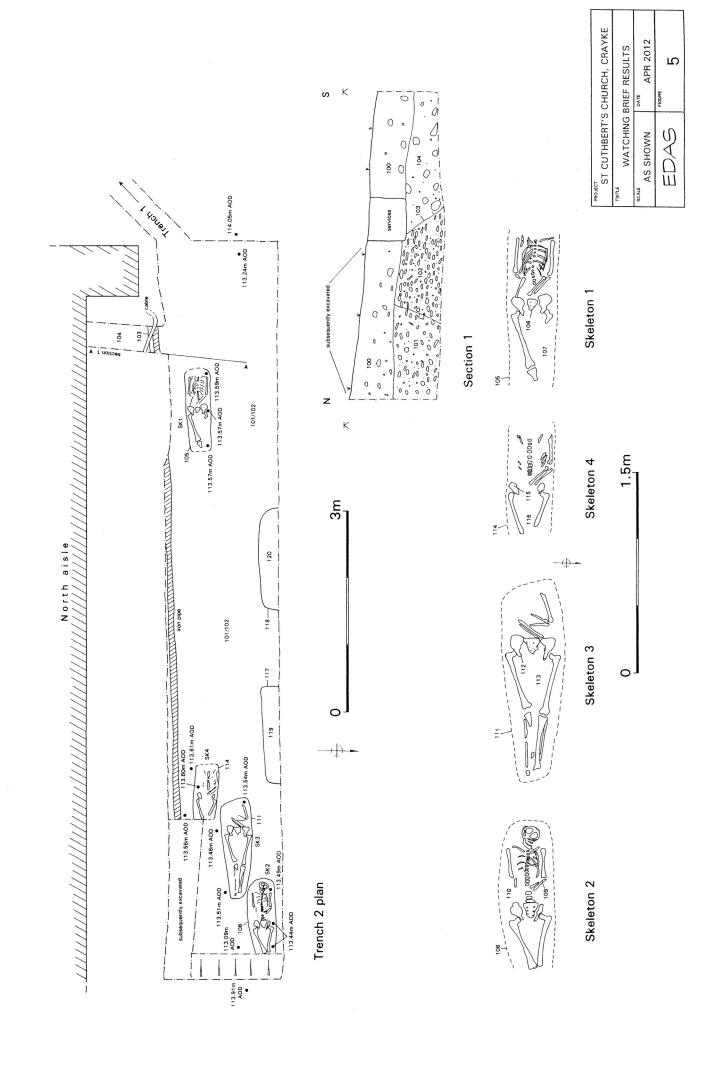




Plate 1: Trench 1, looking S.



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking SW.



Plate 3: Skeleton 1 (106), looking W.



Plate 4: Skeleton 4 (115), looking W.



Plate 5: Skeleton 3 (112), looking W.



Plate 6: Skeleton 2 (109), looking W.

## **APPENDIX 1**

## **APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS AND DETAILS OF ARTEFACTS**

## **List of Contexts**

Context	Description
100	Very dark brown silty loam with occasional stone pebbles, 0.25-0.30m thick - topsoil.
101	Dark brown grey silty clay with occasional stone fragments, 0.25-0.65m thick - subsoil.
102	Mid creamy orange sandy clay with abundant gravel/shale - natural.
103	Linear cut with straight sloping south side, 1.06m wide but depth uncertain.
104	Dark brown-grey silty clay with frequent rubble inclusions - fill of 103.
105	Grave cut for SK1, east-west, c.1.20m long by 0.37m wide.
106	SK1 - mature adult, male.
107	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate stone fragments - fill of grave 105.
108	Grave cut for SK2, east-west, 1.10m long by 0.45m wide.
109	SK2 - female adult.
110	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate stone fragments - fill of grave 108.
111	Grave cut for SK3, east-west, c.1.48m long by 0.45m wide.
112	SK3 - adult male.
113	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate stone fragments - fill of grave 111.
114	Grave cut for SK4, east-west, c.0.82m long by 0.35m wide.
115	SK4 - adult female.
116	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate stone fragments - fill of grave 114.
117	Grave cut, east-west, 1.45m long by at least 0.3m wide.
118	Grave cut, east-west, 1.50m long by 0.3m wide.
119	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate stone fragments - fill of grave 117.
120	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate stone fragments - fill of grave 118.

## **Details of Artefacts: Pottery**

Context	Common name	No. of sherds	No. of vessels	Weight	Comments	Date range
101 T1	Hambleton ware	3	1	380g	External rich even green glaze, vertical incised wavy lines and hand applied thin strip decoration	Late 13th to mid- 15th centuries

## **APPENDIX 2**

EXTERNAL DRAINAGE WORKS, ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, CRAYKE, NORTH YORKSHIRE: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) that will be carried out during groundworks associated with external drainage works at St Cuthbert's Church, Crayke, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 56038 70655). This WSI has been produced by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS), at the request of the project architect, Peter Gaze Pace.

## 2 SITE LOCATION AND DESIGNATIONS

- 2.1 St Cuthbert's Church lies on the northern edge of the village of Crayke, adjacent to Crake Castle, a motte and bailey and later stone castle of the Bishops of Durham (see figure 1). Crayke village itself lies c.3km to the east of Easingwold and c.15km north of York.
- 2.2 The 15th century St Cuthbert's church is a Grade I Listed Building, first listed on 17th May 1960. The Listed Building description reads:

  Church. C15 on earlier site. North aisle 1865. Ashlar. Roof concealed. Perpendicular. West tower, 3-bay single-aisled nave, 2-bay chancel and south porch. Two-stage tower has 3-light window and 2-stage bell opening. Nave and chancel: 2-light elliptical windows with hood moulds, partly restored. Battlements and pinnacles throughout, C19 gargoyles. Plinth and buttresses with off-sets. Interior: tower and chancel arches double chamfered. Three-light east window with glass by W Waites, pre 1852. Good low-pitch oak roofs with moulded tie beams on corbels, some replaced timbers. Chancel screen, incorporated some C15 work. C15 font. Pulpit dated 1637. C17 pews with straight tops and knobs at each end. Late C16 monument to Sir John Gibson and his wife with recumbent stone effigies. Pevsner, N., Yorkshire, N Riding, 1966, p 130-1 (www.imagesofengland.org.uk).
- 2.3 The area to the north and west of the church is also a Scheduled Monument (number 12602), first added to the schedule on 19th October 1989. The area to the west of the church covers the remains of the Crake Castle, represented by earthworks, buried archaeological remains and two distinct upstanding buildings. One of these is an imposing four storey residential block (the 'Great Chamber') built by the Bishop of Durham in the mid 15th century and subsequently modified, which is still occupied. The other, now ruined, L-shaped structure to the north-east is of comparable date but incorporates an earlier building and was formerly the kitchen range with chambers above. The area to the north of the church forms part of the site of an Anglo-Saxon monastery and cemetery, the remains of which survive below ground (www.heritagegateway.org.uk).
- 2.4 St Cuthbert's Church and Crayke Castle both lie within Crayke Conservation Area, designed by Hambleton District Council in October 1976.

#### 3 DIOCESAN FACULTY

- 3.1 A Diocesan Faculty was granted for this development on 1st November 2010. One of the conditions (A) relates to archaeology, and states that:
  - (1) Notice shall be given to an archaeologist within 14 days that s/he is required to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the excavations;

- (2) The archaeologist shall be notified of the date for commencement of work no less than 3 weeks before the date of any commencement of any excavations on the site:
- (3) The Petitioners and their contractors shall cooperate with the archaeologist to enable him/her to do his/her work. This will include examination, recording and photographing.
- (4) Copies of the Archaeologist's final report shall be sent by him/her within 14 days of completion of the report to the following bodies:-
  - (i) the Parochial Church Council (for keeping with the church log book)
  - (ii) the Diocesan Advisory Committee (for its records)
  - (iii) The Diocesan Registry (for placing with the faculty papers)
  - (iv) The local Sites and Monuments Records office (if the address is not know, the archaeologist should obtain it from the local planning department).

#### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

- 4.1 As a result of its elevated position, Crayke acts as a natural vantage point and both the village and surrounding area have a long history of occupation. Excavations carried out during the late 1950s revealed evidence of Romano-British occupation to the north of the village (Hayes 1962, 90-100), whilst other earlier investigations east of Crayke Hall in 1937 uncovered Roman pottery, various early medieval finds including a bronze pin or pendant, a hoard of ironwork, and two fragments of an Anglian stone cross, and a medieval kiln (Sheppard 1939). Three small trenches dug in 1956 just outside the churchyard uncovered a number of east-west aligned human skeletons thought to be medieval in date (Hildyard 1959) (trenches I and II on figure 2). A further trench was excavated just to the north-east of the church in 1983, which uncovered other burials and established that the cemetery was earlier than the mid 13th-mid 14th century (see figure 2). This cemetery, which is named Castle Garth cemetery and which is likely to represent just one phase of burial, probably extends into the eastern part of the present churchyard (see figure 3).
- 4.2 More importantly, the recent work has been able to provide a suggested settlement sequence for the village as a whole and has examined the topography of the early medieval monastery. In summary, the monastery lay on the south-east slope of Crayke Hill with the cemetery on the hilltop and the church slightly downslope. Sometime after AD 883 the monastery was abandoned, and the landscape was subsequently reorganised. A village with a triangular green was laid out, with an open field system; the former monastic cemetery lay within part of the North Field. In the pre-Conquest period a church and hall were inserted into the north field, and the rest of the field was divided into two. Further subdivision of the field followed, together with the extension of the churchyard to the north and south, the infilling of the triangular green, and the subsequent planned expansion of the village along Brandsby Street (Adams 1990).
- 4.3 The vill and "tria in circuito ipsius villae miliaria" were given by King Egfrid to St Cuthbert in c.685 AD after he became Bishop of Lindsfarne. It is assumed that Cuthbert founded the monastery at Crayke and his body rested there for four months following Norse incursions onto Lindisfarne (l'Anson 1913, 343). The Anglo-Saxon Bishops of Durham maintained a manor house at Crayke and the village was listed as a possession of the See of Durham in 1086 (DCMS 1995); indeed it remained so until c.1830 and as late as 1844 it was still considered to be an outlying part of the County of Durham (l'Anson 1913, 343).

- During the late 11th or early 12th century, the monastic complex was replaced by a motte and bailey castle built by the Bishops of Durham. The bailey formerly occupied the majority of the top of the hill above the 100m contour line, being approximately 210m long (east-west) by 90m wide (north-south). It is now divided into two halves by a modern reservoir which occupies the central area. The DCMS description suggest that the motte survives as a 2.5m high earthwork to the north of the main castle block (DCMS 1995). The castle is first documented in 1195 when Bishop Hugh Pudsey stopped there whilst travelling down from Durham. King John also stayed at the castle three times during the early 13th century, and it was visited by all three Edwards in the first half of the 14th century (Douglas-Irvine 1968, 120). Several phases of building and re-building are known to have occurred, and it is assumed that the initial timber buildings were later replaced in stone (DCMS 1995); l'Anson suggests that this may not have taken place until the late 13th or early 14th century (l'Anson 1913, 343).
- 4.5 The remains of Crake Castle occupy two distinct and self-contained buildings (see figure 3). The existing residential block, representing the southern building, is traditionally ascribed to Robert Neville. Bishop of Durham from 1438 to 1457 and fourth son of Ralph Neville (d.1426), 1st Earl of Westmoreland and co-builder with his father, John, of Sheriff Hutton castle. The structure is of four storeys rising to a crenellated parapet; each storey steps back with a chamfered set-back, as at Raby Castle in County Durham, another Neville residence. It is built of well coursed and squared sandstone and has a low pitched roof, rebuilt during the 19th century using earlier timbers and covered with stone slates. The south-facing elevation is sparsely fenestrated, with tall but narrow square-headed windows which become smaller as one rises up the building. There are three existing entrances to the ground floor of the main block, all inserted during the 18th-19th centuries. The first and second floor chambers were originally reached by a possible timber-framed staircase positioned at the north-east angle (Emery 1996, 327). The northern of the two detached structures is now ruined and has been the subject of a previous report (Richardson & Dennison 2007). The building described as the "New Tower" in an Elizabethan survey and it may have been occupied by the Bishop's Steward, dating from approximately the same period as the main residential block i.e. the mid 15th century (Emery 1996, 329).

## 5 NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 Full details of the proposed drainage works are contained within a specification of works produced by the project architect, Peter Pace (Pace 2010).
- In summary, the external drainage works will involve the construction of a new 'Trench Arch' drainage system on the north side of the north aisle of the church (see figure 4). This will require the excavation of a trench c.15m long (east-west) by c.1m wide (north-south) by 0.5m deep. As noted above, the east end of the trench will impinge on the likely extent of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery, and will probably fall within the boundary of the pre 1868 churchyard (see figure 3). However, there are no marked graves in the area of the proposed trench, and the amount of disturbance to any unmarked burials will depend on the final depth of the groundworks.
- 5.3 Additionally, two new inspection chambers will be dug, one close to the north-west corner of the north aisle and one on the west side of the tower. Connecting trenches will then be dug to connect these chambers to the new drainage trench.

5.4 Other internal works will also take place as part of the scheme, but these are not subject to the archaeological watching brief.

## 6 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

## Aims of the Project

6.1 The aim of the archaeological recording is to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might be affected by the proposed development.

#### **On-site Fieldwork**

6.2 The scale and scope of the archaeological fieldwork will be determined by this methods statement. Additional guidance is published by the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists (ADCA 2004), English Heritage and the Church of England (EH/CoE 2005), and the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 1999).

Trench arch system

- 6.3 The turf and topsoil over the area of the new trench arch system will be stripped using an appropriate mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, in level spits, under direct and constant archaeological supervision. Stripping will be undertaken to either the top of the first archaeological horizon or to the required depth, depending on whichever is encountered first. Stripping will take place in a logical manner, from one end to the other, to avoid the excavator moving over the stripped surface. Spoil will be stockpiled and dealt with according the project architect's instructions.
- 6.4 The resulting stripped surfaces will then be inspected for archaeological remains; some hand cleaning by archaeologists may be required to clarify or assist with the identification of specific features or deposits. This should fully reveal any existing graves and should provide an indication of any unmarked graves or other items of interest (wall footings etc).
- 6.5 Any archaeological remains which lie within the 0.5m depth of excavation required for the construction of the trench arch system will be archaeologically excavated by hand, in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to meet the aims outlined above. A sufficient sample of the exposed features will be investigated in order to understand the complete stratigraphic sequence, down to the naturally occurring deposits. It is to be expected that the following strategy will be adopted:
  - Linear features: a minimum of 20% along their length (each sample section to be not less than 1m) for features up to 5m in length, or a minimum of 10% along their length for features over 5m in length, of the deposits within linear features such as boundary or drainage ditches associated with domestic, agricultural, industrial, funerary or ritual enclosures, or fields, or trackways, will be excavated to their full depth. Where possible one section will be located and recorded adjacent to the edge of the trench.
  - Intersections of linear features: the deposits at the junctions of, or interruptions
    in, linear features will be totally removed over a sufficient length to determine
    the nature of the relationship between the components. Excavation of an 'L'shaped section will be undertaken in the first instance to demonstrate and

record relationships, and then expanded to the full widths if necessary, planned and recorded.

- Discrete features: pits, post—holes and other isolated features of less than 1.5m diameter will normally be half-sectioned to determine and record their form with a minimum sample of 50% of discrete features. Features of greater than 1.5m diameter will be subject to a minimum sample of 25%. Stake-holes will be 100% excavated. Potential sunken-floored buildings, wall-settings, working hollows, floor levels, hearths, kilns, storage pits or other identifiable domestic, agricultural, industrial, funerary or ritual structures or buildings will be excavated to a sufficient degree whereby their extent and location are defined, and if possible the nature, form, date, function and relationship to other features and deposits may also be established. The complete excavation of such features may also be undertaken, if it is deemed necessary.
- Built structures, such as walls, will be examined and sampled to a degree whereby their extent, nature, form, date, function and relationship to other features and deposits can be established.
- Human burials: it is to be expected that any human burials will lie beneath the 0.5m depth of excavation. If this is the case, only the upper levels or grave cuts will need to be recorded in plan, and the burials will remain undisturbed. However, if shallow articulated burials are encountered, these will screened from view and be carefully excavated, lifted, bagged (individual burials kept separate) and removed for safe storage until such time as reburial can be arranged by the church authorities in an alternative location within the churchyard. In accordance with current advice (EH/CoE 2005, 23), articulated burials should not be 'chased' beyond the limits of the excavation. Burials that are clearly pre-medieval date (i.e. associated with the Anglo-Saxon cemetery) may need to be removed and studied further. Small disarticulated and/or disturbed bones will be re-interred as soon as possible in a place near to where they were exposed. All human remains that are uncovered will be treated with due dignity.

Drainage trenches and inspection chambers

- 6.6 Any other trenches and inspection chambers excavated for the scheme will be subject to direct archaeological monitoring as they are being dug, so that any archaeological deposits that might be uncovered can be immediately identified and recorded. If mechanical excavators are used, these should be fitted with toothless buckets.
- 6.7 If it becomes clear during the monitoring work that little of archaeological interest is likely to survive in specific areas, the recording work may be halted in that part of the site. However, if structures, features or finds of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed, time will be allowed for the archaeologist to clean, assess, and quickly hand excavate, sample and record the archaeological remains, as necessary and appropriate to allow the archaeological material to be sufficiently characterised. Work will not be allowed to continue in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until those remains have been recorded.

## Recording of archaeological remains

- A full written, drawn and photographic record of all material revealed during the course of the investigations will be made. Larger scale hand-drawn plans of archaeological features at 1:50 or 1:20 scale will be produced, as appropriate, while sections of linear and discrete features will be drawn at 1:10 scale. All sections, plans and elevations will include spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres as correct to two decimal places.
- 6.9 Small finds will be recorded three dimensionally. Bulk finds will be collected by context. All non-modern artefacts recovered will be retained and removed from the site for processing and analysis. Non-modern artefacts will be collected from the excavated topsoil and subsoil, where practicable. Finds material will be stored in controlled environments. All artefacts recovered by the investigations will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines laid out in the IFA Guidelines for Finds Work. Conservation, if required, will be undertaken by approved conservators and UKIC guidelines will apply (UKIC 1990).
- 6.10 All excavated archaeological contexts will be recorded by detailed written records giving details of location, composition, shape, dimensions, relationships, finds, samples, and cross-references to other elements of the record and other relevant contexts, in accordance with best industry practice and in accordance with current recording guidelines. All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them, will be given unique identifying numbers. A full digital photographic record will be kept.
- 6.11 The scale and nature of the proposed investigations suggest that a soil-sampling programme for the recovery of carbonised and waterlogged remains, vertebrate remains, molluscs and small artefactual material will not be necessary for this project. However, such a programme will be initiated should the need be identified.
- 6.12 The archaeological contractor will also make provision for the recovery of samples suitable for scientific dating, as necessary. Any finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to H M Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act.

## Reporting

## Project archive

- 6.13 On completion of the archaeological fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and any finds will be 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 would be consulted as necessary.
- 6.14 A fully indexed and ordered field archive will be prepared, in accordance with published guidance (e.g. MGC 1994) and the requirements of the recipient museum. The archive will comprise primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive. With the exception of human remains and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act) (see above), all finds are the property of the landowner. However, it is generally expected that the finds will also be deposited with the site archive. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will be agreed in advance of the project

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commencing, and this will include contingency arrangements for artefacts of special significance. Any recording, marking and storage materials will be of archival quality, and recording systems will be compatible with the recipient museum.

6.15 Subject to the agreement of the church authorities, the site archive will be deposited with any finds with the Yorkshire Museum in York. A copy of the Archive Index and the name of the recipient museum will also be sent to the North Yorkshire HER.

## Reporting

- 6.16 All of the artefacts, ecofacts and stratigraphic information recovered from the site investigations will be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis. If necessary, a post-excavation assessment will be undertaken, which will conform to the requirements defined by English Heritage (1991); if further post-excavation work is recommended, an outline research design will be prepared and costed.
- 6.17 Within ten weeks of the completion of the site work, a report on the site investigations will be produced. This report will include the following (as appropriate):
  - A non-technical summary;
  - Site code/project number;
  - Planning reference number and SMR casework number;
  - Dates for fieldwork visits;
  - National grid reference;
  - A location plan, with scale;
  - A copy of the developer's plan showing the areas monitored;
  - Sections and plan drawings with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and horizontal scales:
  - General site photographs, as well as photographs of any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts that are encountered;
  - A written description and analysis of the methods and results of the archaeological investigations, in the context of the known archaeology of the area:
  - Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary.
- 6.18 Four copies of the final report will be supplied, for distribution to the PCC (client), the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the Diocesan Registry and the North Yorkshire HER. A copy of the final report will also be included within the site archive.

## **Other Considerations**

## Health and Safety

6.19 The archaeological contractor will comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 while undertaking the work. A full copy of their Health and Safety Policy will be made available on request. All archaeological work on site will be carried out with due regard for all Health and Safety considerations, and Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters. Due regard will be made for any constraints or restrictions imposed by the Main Contractor.

- 6.20 The archaeologists undertaking the investigations will be equipped with a mobile phone that will be switched on at all times during fieldwork operations to enable contact to be made between the site and other interested bodies.
- 6.21 A Risk Assessment detailing project-specific Health and Safety requirements will be produced prior to the start of any site work. This will take into account the location of the nearest Accident and Emergency Unit Department to the site, take precautionary measures for overhead and below-ground services, dangers to/from the public and the identification of potential dangers and risks to the archaeologists and approved visitors to the site during fieldwork and when the site is not in operation (e.g. evenings and weekends).

Insurance

6.22 The site is privately owned and the archaeological contractor would indemnify the landowner in respect of their legal liability for physical injury to persons or damage to property arising on site in connection with the recording brief, to the extent of their Public Liability Insurance Cover (expected to be £5,000,000).

#### 7 REFERENCES

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Ed Dennison, EDAS January 2012

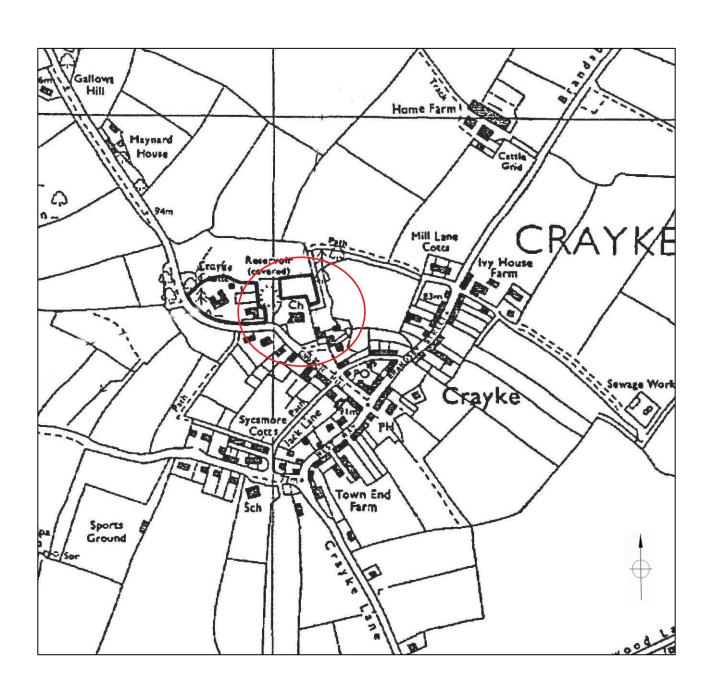


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

(not to scale)

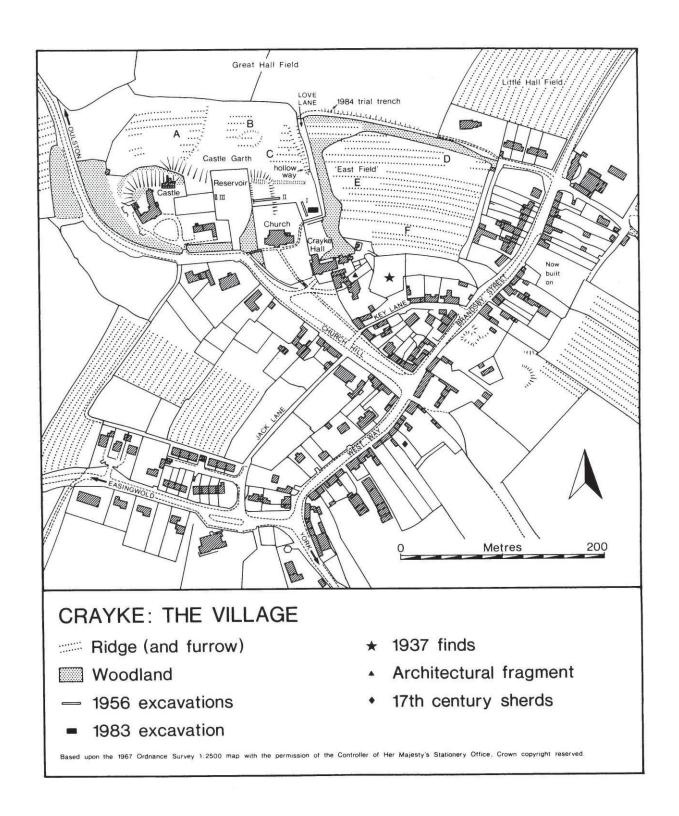
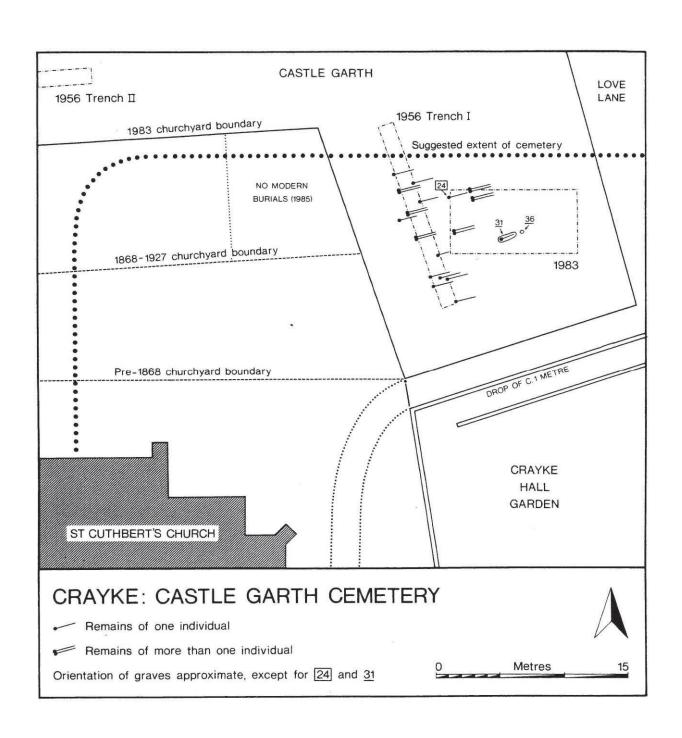


FIGURE 2: CRAYKE VILLAGE AND INVESTIGATIONS (source: Adams 1990, figure 3)



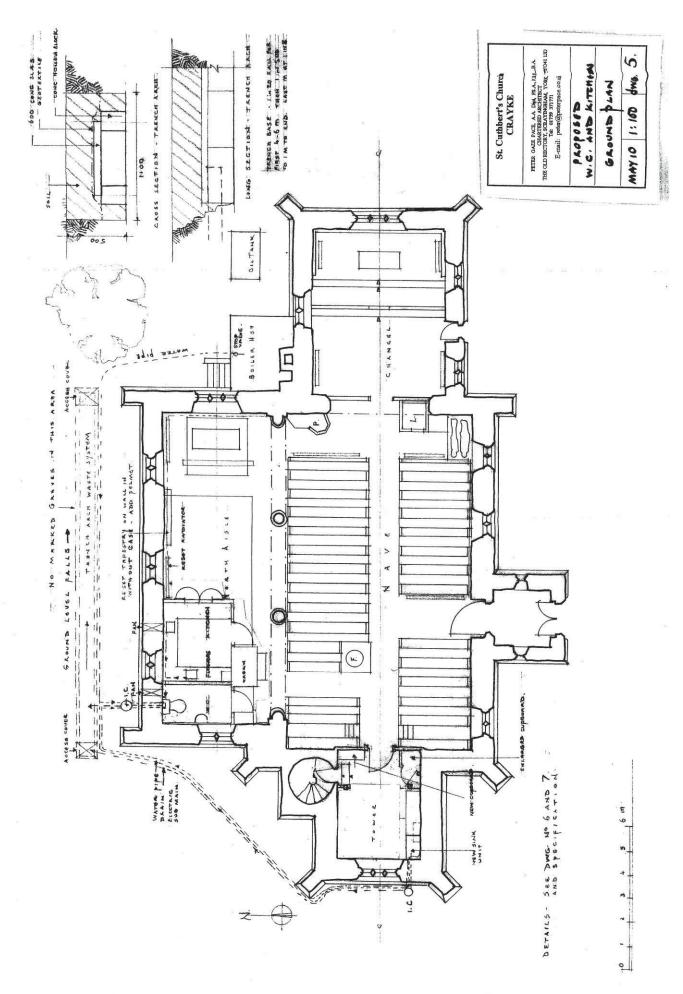


FIGURE 4: DRAINAGE PROPOSALS (plan provided by Peter Pace Architects)