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Parish 6064

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John Baily,
Architect,
The Mill House,
Topcliffe,
Thirsk,
North Yorkshire.

Page 1.2

Recd.	08 MAR 2001
Pass to	Joe
Asst.	
Amtd.	6 th March 01

Dear Mr. Baily,

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHUMATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE GROUNDWORKS AT THE
VILLAGE INSTITUTE, ALDBOROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE.**

I write to confirm that further to gaining the necessary approval from Simon Grenfell, Designated Civil Judge Leeds, I have completed the exhumation and reburial of the single burial identified during recent building works.

Details concerning the exhumation will be included within my final report on the project, which will be written on the conclusion of all groundwork's. The following statement outlines the nature of my findings

On Friday 23rd February 01 during the removal of 150mm of leaf litter and modern overburden to the rear of the party wall the kerb stone monument of a previously unidentified grave was identified. The monumental inscription confirmed it to be the grave of Josephine Elizabeth Scott, died 1894. The size of the grave plot, 1.10m x 0.80m suggested an infant burial. The grave was situated to the immediate west of a well-defined monument marking the double grave of Ellen and William Scott (the presumed parents of the above).

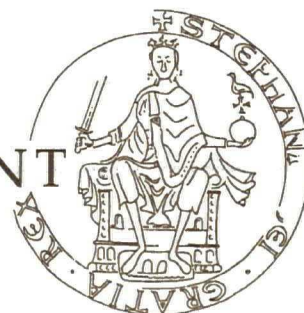
As the location of the child's grave was immediately adjacent to the recently demolished party wall it conflicted with the design proposals. In order to realise same it would be necessary to relocate the burial. J. Baily, Architect made the necessary arrangements for the exhumation and reburial of same. On the 27th February 01 Simon Grenfell, Designated Civil Judge Leeds and Chancellor of the Diocese issued the necessary consent for the exhumation and reburial.

On Friday 2nd March 01 in my capacity as Principal Archaeologist for Aldborough Church Institute I arrived on site to undertake the exhumation.

The monument was carefully dismantled and the kerbstones were stored awaiting reconstruction.

The area selected for excavation was slightly larger than the footprint of the monument, measuring 1.4m x 1.8m, allowing for any slight variation in grave location.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT



The remaining overburden was removed exposing a homogenous deposit of top soil, measuring 0.40 metres in depth. This layer of dark brown loam was dry, friable and contained a low quantity of inclusions, these were dominated by root.

The topsoil sealed a layer of disturbed ground. This layer of pink brown loamy sand was consistent with a similar deposit identified across the remaining development area and interpreted as a spread of rubble associated with the late 19th century demolition of the buildings within the schoolyard. The layer was dry and well compacted and contained a moderate to high quantity of inclusions, namely lime mortar, red sandstone fragments, brick, welsh slate and water worn pebble, together with window glass and root. The surface of this layer was identified at a similar level to that identified within the remainder of the development area. The layer confirmed the change of land use suggested by the map regression studies, namely that by the mid 19th century the Institute then a School had an adjoining complex of yards and ancillary buildings that extended beyond the present party wall, to the east. By the late 19th century, the ancillary buildings had been demolished and the eastern half of this yard had been amalgamated into the churchyard.

At 0.95m below the existing ground level of the churchyard, small fragments of softwood were identified. The wood was water saturated and in an advanced state of decay. It was noted that the wood had been planed to form panels, one side of which had been coated with a bitchumen like resin. It is suspected that this coating has attributed to its preservation. A number of fragments had applied metal fittings, the ironwork was heavily corroded. The coffin lid was identified, bedded level, at 1.10m below the existing ground level. The coffin measured 0.76m x 0.30m. The lid was relatively well intact, the underside of which was coated in black resin confirming that this had been applied to the inside of the casket. Within the internal area of the coffin a concentration of wood shavings were noted, these were found to be in an excellent state of preservation. The shavings were carefully removed exposing the overall layer of loamy sand, together with fragments side panel. Subsequent investigation of the immediate area, failed to identify the burial. In total one small fragment of human bone was recovered. This humerus measured 45mm in length and had been fractured, removing its extremities. The bone was found to be in a poor state of preservation. It would seem likely that the gracile nature of the skeleton together with the high quantity of root action in the area has contributed to absence of bone.

The bone and coffin fragments were carefully placed in a container and were immediately reburied within a vacant plot, situated to the immediate south of the grave of William and Ellen Scott. The principal contractors W.A.Hare have kindly agreed to re-instate the kerbstones round the new grave site and supply gravel to spread within same.

May Josephine Elizabeth Scott now rest in peace.

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during these excavations.

As instructed a copy of this letter is being forwarded to Simon Grenfall, I would be grateful if you notify Philip Smith, Aiden Foster and David Vose of these recent developments.

Yours Sincerely,



Kevin John Cale

c.c.Simon Grenfell, Chancellor of the Diocese
✓Gail Falkingham, Heritage Unit, NYCC
K.Wilson, English Heritage