



NAA

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING
OF DRAINAGE WORKS**

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH
HUTTON RUDBY
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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on behalf of

Hutton Rudby Parochial Church Council

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Summary

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Background	1
3.0	Monitoring results	2
4.0	Discussion	6
	References	7

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF DRAINAGE WORKS

Summary

This document presents the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken during drainage works within the churchyard of All Saints' Church, Hutton Rudby, North Yorkshire (NZ 4719 0666) during November 2014. The church is a Grade 1 listed building (No.1150240). The drainage works formed part of a wider programme of re-ordering of the church, and were carried out under a Faculty issued by the Chancellor of the Diocese of York. The archaeological monitoring works were undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd for Hutton Rudby Parochial Church Council.

The archaeological monitoring did not identify significant archaeological remains or artefacts. Most of the drain-run around the north-west corner and immediately to the west of the church had previously been disturbed by construction of earlier drains and other services. Elsewhere, the trench was mainly cut through a homogeneous soil deposit some 0.9m thick, probably created as a result of a millennium of grave-digging in the churchyard. Some disarticulated human bones were observed within the soil deposit, demonstrating that the areas below the affected churchyard paths were formerly used for interments, perhaps during the medieval period. An abrupt cessation of such remains some 9m inside the existing western churchyard boundary suggests that the churchyard may have been expanded westwards at some point.

Monitoring of a connection hole cut through the western church wall showed that the external ashlar does not to continue below modern ground level, but rests directly onto a mortared cobble footing. Internally the wall appears to be of coursed rubble construction. The interior floor level of the church appears to have been raised, perhaps during the 19th or early 20th century renovations, with a thick layer of rubble overlain by a sequence of modern surfacing layers.

At the north-eastern end of the drainage run, where a second connection into the church is to be constructed as part of the second phase of works, there is abundant evidence for previous extensive ground disturbance for earlier schemes of storm-water drainage. The part of the building into which the connection is to be made is clearly a later (presumably 19th or early 20th century) addition to the church structure, and its construction is likely to have destroyed any earlier archaeological deposits. It is therefore considered that no archaeological monitoring is required during the limited excavation required to complete this connection.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document presents the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken during drainage works within the churchyard of All Saints' Church, Hutton Rudby, North Yorkshire (Grid Reference NZ 4719 0666). All Saints' is the parish church of Rudby-in-Cleveland ecclesiastical parish, and lies within Rudby civil parish in Hambleton District (Figure 1). The drainage works formed part of a wider programme of re-ordering of the church, and were preparatory to a later second phase of work to include an accessible WC within the building. They were carried out under a Faculty issued by the Chancellor of the Diocese of York. The archaeological monitoring works were undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd for Hutton Rudby Parochial Church Council, and were carried out between 3-5 November 2014.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with relevant published standards and guidance (IfA 2008).

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 All Saints' Church is Listed Grade 1 (No.1150240). The English Heritage listing reports that the existing building has an early 14th century nave and south aisle, the aisle having been extended westward and the south tower porch added in the 15th century. The chancel also dates from the 14th century but was partially re-built in the 18th century, and the church was extensively restored in 1892 and again in 1923-4. However, a church is recorded at Rudby, presumed to be on the site of the present chancel, in 1150 (Lickess 2003, 4). Some fabric of the Norman church probably survives within the north chancel wall (*ibid*, 26).
- 2.2 All Saints' Church is located on a terrace on the north bank of the River Leven adjacent to Hutton Bridge (Figure 1). Beyond the churchyard the land rises steeply out of the river valley to the east and north. The western part of the churchyard is fairly level but slightly undulating. Near the churchyard boundary the path followed by the trench descended a short flight of low steps. The road passing the churchyard is some 1m lower, with the edge of the churchyard retained by a low stone wall. Several mature trees run in a rough line several metres inside the churchyard wall; however, these were not present in a photograph taken in 1878 (Lickess 2003, 20) and hence they do not represent an earlier churchyard boundary.
- 2.3 The current excavation works were undertaken across the part of the churchyard lying between the church and the road to the west (Figure 2). They consisted of a trench excavated from near the external north-western corner of the nave, running a short distance westwards within a pathway, then turning south following a second path past the western end of the church. Where it met another path adjacent to the south-western corner of the nave the trench

then turned west, following the line of the path to a gate through the churchyard wall immediately to the south of Rose Cottage. Another short length of trench was excavated in order to connect the western part of the new trench to an existing water supply through the churchyard wall a short distance to the south of the gate. The new water supply then shares the drain trench to the church. In addition to the main drain run, a short spur was excavated to the southern end of the western nave wall, with a small hole cut through the wall to an internal reception pit within the south-western corner of the nave.

- 2.4 The solid geology of the area consists of Triassic mudstones of the New Red Sandstone series (Institute of Geological Sciences 1979). The drift geology along this part of the River Leven is mapped as alluvium (IGS 1977), seen to consist of sand in the area of the churchyard.

3.0 MONITORING RESULTS

- 3.1 The trenches were excavated by a tracked mini-digger using a 20cm straight-edged drainage bucket. All excavation works were continuously monitored, with opportunity afforded to the archaeologist to examine the trenches and screen the arisings for artefacts. The small size of the excavator bucket, and hence the narrowness of the resulting trench, restricted the resulting disturbance to any archaeological deposits; however, combined with the depth of the trenches (up to 1.05m), it also severely restricted both trench-access and the opportunity to identify any archaeological features. Disarticulated human bones were noted but not retained, and have been re-buried within the trench.
- 3.2 The leg of the trench running to the north of the church (Figure 2) was 0.3m wide and 0.6m deep. It ran alongside an existing ceramic drain (exposed in the southern trench side), so that all of the excavated material appeared to be backfill of the earlier trench. This consisted of homogeneous mid brown clayey sand below the modern gravel path.



Plate 1 drain trench showing existing draining and services

3.3 At the north-western corner of the new trench, it crossed the line of existing services including another drain (Plate 1). This meant that as the new trench ran to the south, past the western end of the church, these lay immediately adjacent to its eastern side (Plate 2). As a result, most of the material excavated along this leg of the trench was again the back-fill over the earlier services, although the soil sequence exposed in the western trench edge appeared to be undisturbed. This consisted mainly of homogeneous, relatively stone-free mid brown silty sand. At the base of the trench, at c.0.9m below the modern ground level (bgl), there was a lighter brown slightly grittier sand deposit. Some disarticulated human bones were noted within the old service-trench backfill in this area. The trench was broadened to 1m wide at the point where a manhole was installed to accept the new drain running from the south-western corner of the church. The shallow (0.35m deep) trench running from the church wall was excavated entirely through disturbed ground, partly backfill over the services noted above, and also a drain running at the foot of the church wall below the new level of excavation (a drain cover for this was located immediately adjacent to the new trench).



Plate 2 drain trench excavated past west end of church



Plate 3 overall view of drain trench passing the west end of the church (to right) and turning down path to gate (left), facing north-west

- 3.4 From the manhole, the new trench curved around the corner westwards (Plate 3). At this point the base was at 0.9m bgl, and it was consistently 0.9-1.05m deep as it continued along the gravel path to the top of the steps. The soil profile observed was consistent throughout this part of the excavation, with homogeneous mid brown silty sand soil overlying the lighter sand at the base of the trench, below c.0.9m bgl (Plate 4). More disarticulated human bone was noted throughout these deposits. Some better-preserved bones within spoil derived from the base of the trench at several locations may possibly have been disturbed from *in situ* burials, although these could not be identified or accurately located given the narrowness and depth of the excavation. There was a sharp cessation of such remains approximately 9m inside the churchyard boundary, no bones being observed to the west of this point.



Plate 4 typical churchyard soil profile, at bend in drain trench

- 3.5 Where the trench ran down to the west through the area of the steps (which were temporarily removed during the works), it gradually shallowed relative to the descending surface level, so that it was only 0.4m deep nearest the gate. Here a 1.05m deep pit c.1m square was excavated immediately inside the gate to accept a manhole. At this point, 0.2m of modern gravel path overlay heavily root-disturbed mid brown silty sand extending to the base of the pit (Plate 5). Passing back upslope to the east, the light brown sand observed elsewhere in the trench base was first encountered 4m inside the churchyard wall, suggesting that the natural slope lies further back from the wall than the modern topography suggests, and that some material may have been dumped against the slope around the periphery of the churchyard perhaps during old road-



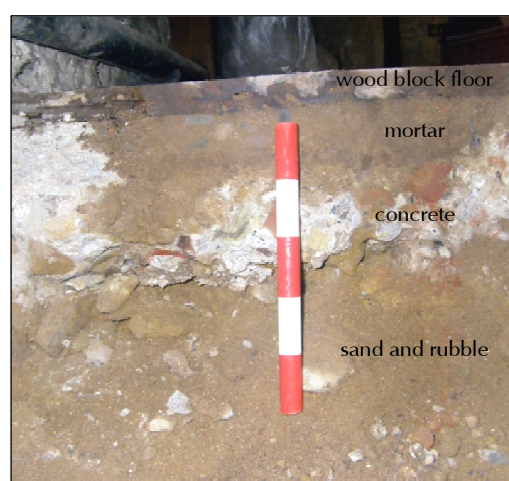
Plate 5 manhole excavation soil profile

improvement works. The water-pipe connection excavated just to the south of this supports this surmise. The trench, which was 0.75m deep, was cut entirely through heavily disturbed soil containing brick and mortar rubble.



Plate 6 hole cut through west nave wall

3.6 Monitoring was undertaken during cutting of a hole through the western nave wall adjacent to the south-western corner buttress (Plate 6). At this location, a section of the external concrete gutter abutting the foot of the wall was cut out. This revealed that the visible chamfered off-set course at the base of the wall continued down vertically for only a further 0.06m, and rested immediately on top of a rubble footing. This consisted mainly of large rounded cobbles up to 0.36m in size, bonded with light brown, very coarse sandy mortar. The hole cut through the wall angled sharply up into the church, where the floor level is approximately 0.5m higher than the external ground level. It proved impossible to measure the thickness of the footing through this hole; however, extrapolating the wall-thickness down from the window above the site suggested that the footing is approximately 0.80m wide at this point.



Plates 7 and 8, reception pit excavated through floor in south west corner of nave and flooring sequence exposed in its north side

- 3.7 The reception pit excavated within the church measured 0.65m from north to south and 0.55m wide, and was 0.32m deep (Plate 7). The existing wood-block floor, 0.03m thick, was bedded onto white mortar typically 0.07m thick. This in turn had been laid over a layer of concrete also typically 0.07m thick. This overlay a fairly loose deposit of sand, mortar and stone rubble more than 0.15m thick (Plate 8). The exposed interior face of the church wall was constructed of roughly coursed mortared rubble, concealed above floor level by plaster.

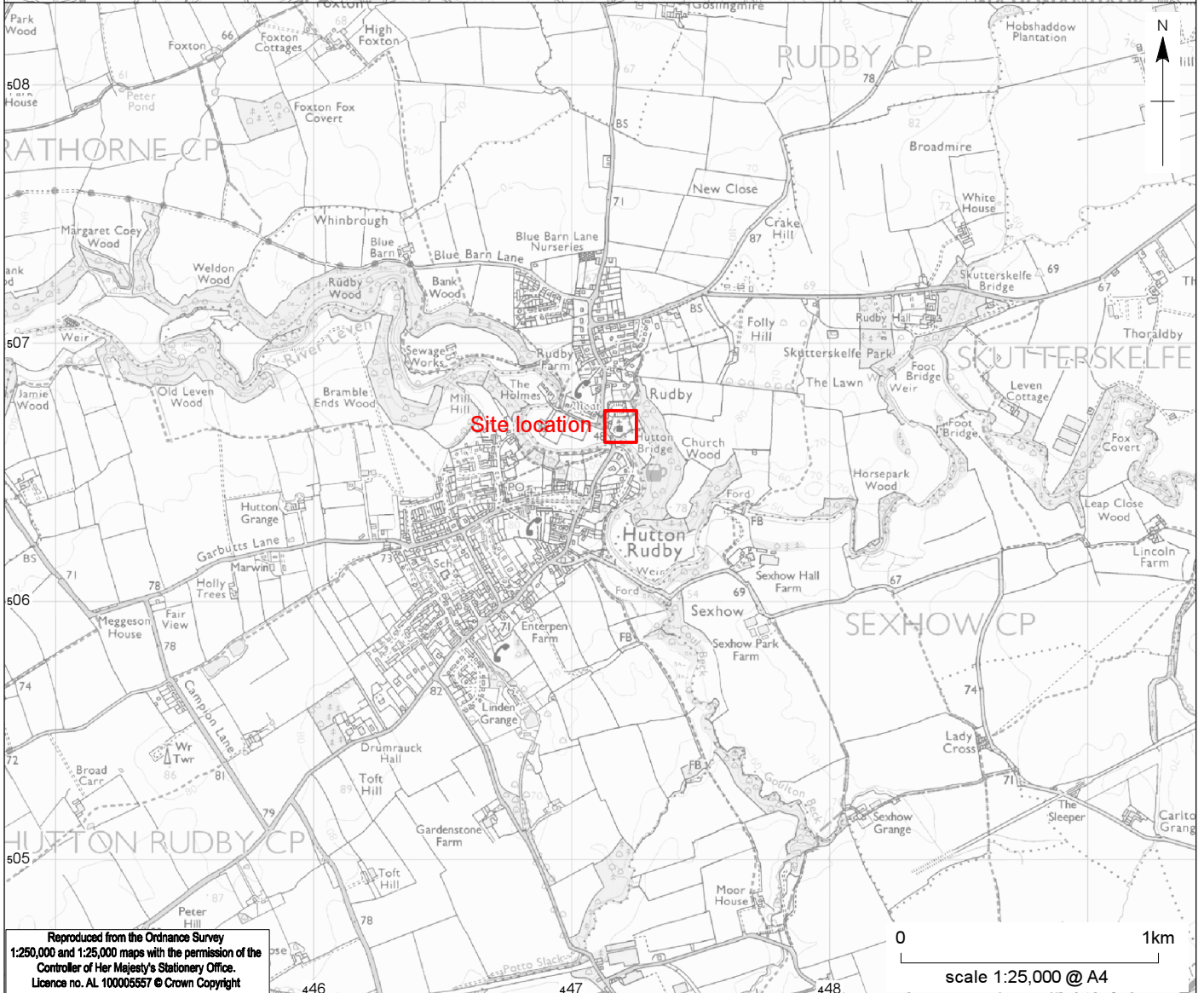
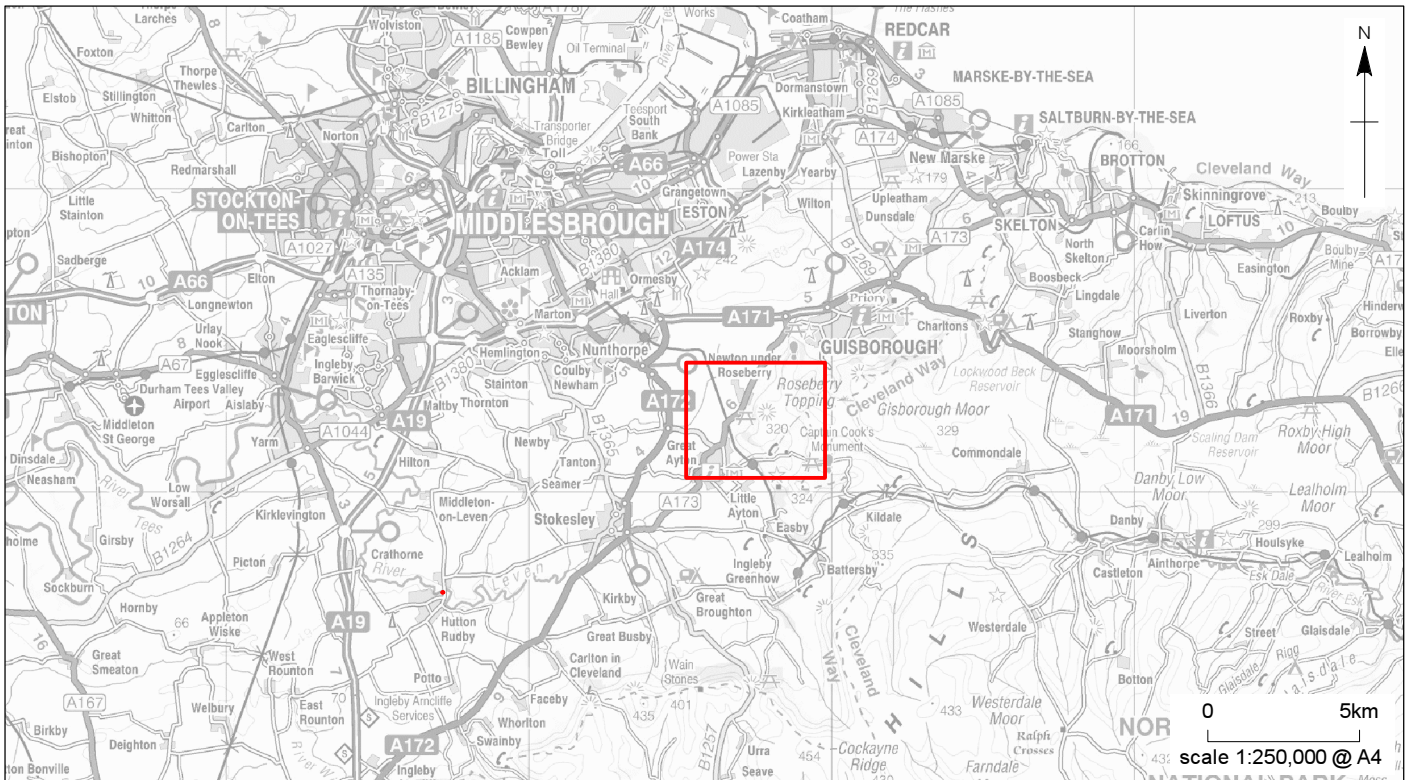
4.0 DISCUSSION

- 4.1 Monitoring of the recent drainage works at All Saints' Church did not identify any significant archaeological remains or artefacts. Most of the excavated material around the north-west corner and immediately to the west of the church had previously been disturbed by construction of earlier drains and other services. Elsewhere, the trench was mainly cut through a rather 'blank' homogeneous soil deposit. The presence of disarticulated human bones within this material suggests that its homogeneous character may be the result of repeated re-deposition during excavation of numerous graves during a millennium of use as a churchyard.
- 4.2 Two points can be drawn from the distribution of the human bones observed. Firstly, they make it clear that the area below the path running westwards towards the churchyard gate adjacent to Rose Cottage was formerly used for burials not reflected in the surviving headstones. The complete absence of any metal coffin furniture (such as handles, brackets etc.) or nails accompanying the disarticulated human remains suggests that the latter may represent primarily part of the the medieval burial population. The second significant observation was the abrupt cessation of remains some 9m inside the existing churchyard boundary, which suggests that the medieval churchyard may originally have been rather more limited in extent, or that its footprint expanded westwards when the church was greatly extended in that direction in the 14th century.
- 4.3 Monitoring of the hole cut through the church wall recorded some limited information regarding the structure. The external ashlar facing has been shown not to continue below modern ground level which, by inference, must therefore be similar to that when the building was erected. From the very limited section observed, the interior of the wall appears to be of coursed rubble construction, although this is mostly concealed by plaster. The wall is founded, immediately below external ground level, on a mortared cobble footing of similar width (externally) to the wall. Finally, the interior floor level of the church appears to have been raised, perhaps during the 19th or early 20th century renovations, with a thick layer of rubble overlain by a sequence of modern surfacing layers (concrete then mortar and wood block).

- 4.4 At the north-eastern end of the drainage run, a second connection into the church is to be constructed as part of the second phase of works. There is abundant evidence for previous extensive ground disturbance for earlier schemes of storm-water drainage. Moreover, the part of the building into which the connection is to be made is clearly a later (presumably 19th or early 20th century) addition to the church structure, and its construction is likely to have destroyed any earlier archaeological deposits within its immediate vicinity. It is therefore considered that no archaeological monitoring is required during the limited excavation required to complete this connection.

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All Saints Church, Hutton Ruddy: site location

Figure 1

