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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,
CHURCH LANE,
KIRKBY GREEN, LINCOLNSHIRE.

National Grid Reference: TF 0850 5778
Site Code: HCKG19
Accession No: LCNCC: 2019.201
Faculty Reference: 2019-043314

PREPARED FOR MR. PAUL MENDHAM OF PAUL MENDHAM STONEMASONS LTD.

By

Neville Hall

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Summary

The archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks pertaining to repairs to the existing churchyard boundary wall at the Church of the Holy Cross, Church Lane, Kirkby Green, Lincolnshire was undertaken by Neville Hall on the 14th of October 2019.

The groundworks for this project comprised the repair of a south-western portion of the existing churchyard boundary wall, which is of brick and of possible early-mid 20th century origin. This south-western part of the present boundary wall had lapsed into a state of disrepair with gaps opening up and occurring within its brickwork wall fabric.

This portion of the churchyard boundary wall was subsequently demolished. This demolition work revealed and exposed an earlier churchyard boundary wall, which occurred behind the present one. This earlier wall was probably contemporaneous with the rebuilding of the present church, which was carried out in the mid 19th century. This earlier wall was of a rougher construction composed of both coursed and uncoursed and random, roughly, worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks. There was also some evidence of later repair and infilling of this wall fabric in brick along with the remains of at least four brick buttresses, which were bonded to this earlier wall, both suggesting attempts at earlier repair works to this mid 19th century boundary wall.

The earlier churchyard boundary wall was also subsequently removed along with associated ground reduction to facilitate the construction of a new replacement section of churchyard boundary wall. This process revealed a site deposit sequence behind and below the earlier and removed churchyard boundary wall that was composed of a topsoil horizon, a graveyard soil horizon, a natural horizon and a base horizon of limestone bedrock.

Several fragments of disarticulated human bone were collected for eventual reburial. No other finds were made.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Neville Hall was commissioned by Mr. Paul Mendham of Paul Mendham Stonemasons Ltd. to undertake the archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks pertaining to repairs to the existing churchyard boundary wall at the Church of the Holy Cross, Church Lane, Kirkby Green, Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference TF 0850 5778. The archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at the site on the 14th of October 2019.
- 1.2 The archaeological site work was carried out according to the requirements of a Faculty (Ref No.: 2019-043314), which was issued by the Diocese of Lincoln. This report documents the results of this archaeological site work.
- 1.3 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, Ms Naomi Field, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, the Diocese of Lincoln, the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and The Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The parish church of the Holy Cross is situated on the southern outskirts of the village of Kirkby Green and off the eastern frontage of Church Lane at National Grid Reference TF 0850 5778 and at a height of approximately 15mAOD. The village of Kirkby Green is located within the modern civil parish of Scopwick, administrative district of North Kesteven, county of Lincolnshire **[Figures 1 and 2]**.
- 2.2 The settlement of Kirkby Green lies within an undulating upland area of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The site is located on calcareous fine loamy soils of the Aswarby Series. These in turn overlie Great Oolite limestones of the Middle Jurassic [BGS, 1973; Soil Survey, 1983].

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Following the granting of a Faculty (Ref No.: 2019-043314), issued by the Diocese of Lincoln, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during repairs that were made to a portion of the existing churchyard boundary wall at the Church of the Holy Cross, Church Lane, Kirkby Green, Lincolnshire.
- 3.2 A specification or a written scheme of works for this archaeological watching brief was subsequently submitted to and approved by Ms. Naomi Field, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor prior to the commencement of the archaeological site works.
- 3.3 This report documents the results of the archaeological site monitoring and recording and will be submitted to the Diocese of Lincoln and to Ms. Naomi Field, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor.

4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Watching Brief

- 4.1 The aims of the project were the continual archaeological monitoring and recording of the site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which comprised repairs to the existing churchyard boundary wall.

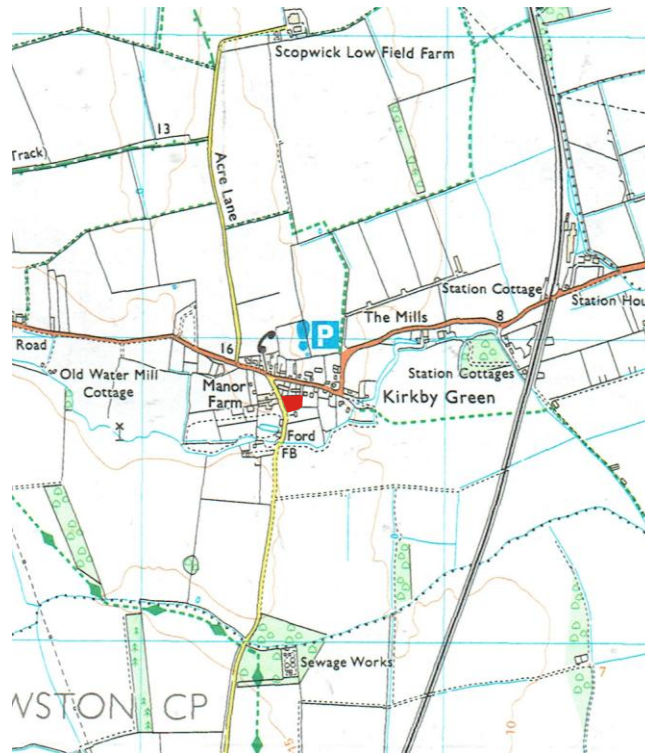


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

4.2 The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

4.3 The church of the Holy Cross was largely rebuilt in 1848, though incorporates 13th century material within its build fabric. There is also evidence for an earlier late Saxon church on the site from place name evidence. The groundworks within the churchyard will probably reveal graveyard soils along with fragments of disarticulated human bone and probably also *in situ* inhumation burials pertaining to the churchyard cemetery. The specific objectives of the project were to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with the remains of an earlier church and also to record and collect any possible *in situ* inhumation burials or fragments of disarticulated human bones for eventual reburial.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within the immediate vicinity of the site.



Figure 2: Plan showing the site location and the area of the proposed site groundworks, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan)

- 5.2 The place name of 'Kirkby' is derived from the Old Danish meaning 'the village with a church'. This is normally a name given to villages in which the Danes found an existing church on their arrival or was possibly founded by them. This earlier church may have been of some importance. Both Kirkby Green and Scopwick were returned together for the purposes of the Domesday Survey. A church and a priest are documented in the Survey and this may have been the church that is suggested by the place name. A fragment of mid 10th-early 11th century sculpture was found in the garden of the Old Vicarage. It may have come from the previous church at Kirkby Green, which was rebuilt in 1848 (HER 63381).
- 5.3 The present Grade II listed church of the Holy Cross has some 13th century material within its fabric, but was largely rebuilt in 1848. The church comprises a nave and chancel under a single roof with a western porch and a bellcote (NHL 1359365).
- 5.4 During the course of an archaeological watching brief in 1999 on land off South Street and on the groundworks for a new residential development, archaeological features dating from the 9th-11th centuries AD were recorded within Plot 3 (HER 62297, Site code: CLKG97). This plot was close to the church of the Holy Cross, indicating previously unknown Anglo-Saxon archaeological activity here. Three sherds of 13th-14th century pottery were also recovered from a gully in Plot 3. Two or three sherds of probable 16th century pottery were recovered from Plot 2.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Neville Hall at the site at the 14th of October 2019. This comprised the archaeological monitoring and recording of repairs that were made to a portion of the existing churchyard boundary wall. This included a detailed digital photographic record of the demolished section of churchyard wall, which had exposed an earlier 19th century churchyard boundary wall and the subsequent archaeological monitoring and recording of the demolition of this secondary 19th century churchyard boundary wall. These groundworks were carried out by a 1.5-ton 360° mechanical excavator that was fitted with a 0.40m wide toothless bucket.
- 6.2 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording and the deposits observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. A detailed digital photographic record was maintained during the course of this archaeological monitoring, which is reproduced as **Plates 1-38, Appendix 1**. A list of contexts recorded is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.
- 6.3 All work was carried out according to the approved Specification and to the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CHIfA) standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

7. Results [Appendix 1, [Plates 1-38]

- 7.1 **Plates 1-5** provide detailed views of the pre-groundworks state of the south-western portion of the existing churchyard boundary wall prior to the proposed repairs. Large cracks and gaps may be observed within the existing brickwork wall fabric of this south-western portion of the churchyard boundary wall, which is of probable early-mid 20th century origin. **Plates 1-5** also show that the brickwork wall fabric of this south-western portion of the churchyard boundary wall is composed of a mix of mostly courses of brick stretchers with occasional courses of brick headers and of courses of mixed brick headers and brick stretchers. The wall is topped with a single course of plinth bricks.

- 7.2 **Plates 6-15** present general views from different perspectives of the demolished section of the churchyard boundary wall. This has exposed an earlier churchyard wall of rougher construction behind the current 20th century walling. It is likely that this earlier churchyard boundary wall is of mid 19th century origin and was thus probably contemporaneous with the rebuilding of the church in the mid 19th century. Of note are the series and line of modern concrete kerb stones at the foot of the current walling. The length of the exposed section of mid 19th century boundary wall was 14.60m. The width of the demolished section of early-mid 20th century modern churchyard boundary wall was of the same length with a width of 0.25m.
- 7.3 **Plates 16-18** provide detailed views of the northern demolished section of the current churchyard boundary wall from various western viewpoints. **Plate 16** features the northernmost section of the newly exposed mid 19th century former churchyard boundary wall. This portion of the wall is composed of random and uncoursed, roughly worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks. There is also some evidence of later brick infilling and/or repair composed of short courses of brick stretchers and of brick headers. **Plate 17** provides a further view of the northern section of the newly exposed mid 19th century former churchyard boundary wall. The central feature here are the remains of a former west facing brick buttress, which is composed of courses of brick headers along with some rough stone infilling. To the either side of this buttress, there is the same random and uncoursed, roughly worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks with the same brick infilling and/or repair of brick headers and brick stretchers. **Plate 18** features a further detailed view of the northern section of the newly exposed mid 19th century former churchyard boundary wall. This portion of the wall is composed of both coursed and random and uncoursed, roughly worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks with limited evidence for late brick infilling and/or repair, that is composed of brick stretchers.
- 7.4 **Plates 19 and 20** provide detailed views of the central demolished section of the current churchyard boundary wall from various western viewpoints. **Plate 19** features a portion of the newly exposed mid 19th century former churchyard boundary wall. This portion of the wall is by contrast composed of coursed, roughly worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks. The central feature in this image are the remains of the second west facing brick buttress, which is composed of courses of brick headers. **Plate 20** presents a further view of this central demolished section of the current churchyard boundary wall. This image shows further wall fabric composed of coursed, roughly worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks. To the right (south), is a third former west facing buttress composed of courses of brick headers. To the left and at the lower levels of this portion of the exposed 19th century churchyard wall, is a rectangular shaped gap, which may have been a former churchyard outlet drainage feature.
- 7.4 **Plate 21** provides a detailed view of the southern demolished section of the current churchyard boundary wall. This shows little detail of the newly exposed former mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall here, but does feature a fourth and final former south-west facing brick buttress that is composed of courses of brick headers.
- 7.5 **Plates 22-38** detail the mechanical removal and demolition of the exposed section of the mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, along with associated ground reduction. It may be observed from these images that this earlier boundary wall extended in height of between 1.10m-1.20m up to the ground levels of the present churchyard. The mechanical removal of this earlier wall revealed a thin topsoil horizon (**001**), a graveyard soil horizon (**002**) and toward the base of the demolition and ground reduction works, a natural horizon (**003**) and a final horizon of angular limestone bedrock (**004**) at the base of these works. The mechanical demolition and ground reduction works extended to a width of 0.80m beyond the edge of the line of the modern concrete kerb stones and up to the full recorded height of the former mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall.

8. Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 The groundworks for this project comprised the repair of a south-western portion of the existing churchyard boundary wall, which is of brick and of possible early-mid 20th century origin. This south-western part of the present boundary wall had lapsed into a state of disrepair with gaps opening up and occurring within its brickwork wall fabric.
- 8.2 This portion of the churchyard boundary wall was subsequently demolished. This demolition work revealed and exposed an earlier churchyard boundary wall, which occurred behind the present one. This earlier wall was probably contemporaneous with the rebuilding of the present church, which was carried out in the mid 19th century. This earlier wall was of a rougher construction composed of both coursed and uncoursed and random, roughly, worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks. There was also some evidence of later repair and infilling of this wall fabric in brick along with the remains of at least four brick buttresses, which were bonded to this earlier wall, both suggesting attempts at earlier repair works to this mid 19th century boundary wall.
- 8.3 The earlier churchyard boundary wall was also subsequently removed along with associated ground reduction to facilitate the construction of a new replacement section of churchyard boundary wall. This process revealed a site deposit sequence behind and below the earlier and removed churchyard boundary wall that was composed of a topsoil horizon, a graveyard soil horizon, a natural horizon and a base horizon of limestone bedrock.
- 8.4 Several fragments of disarticulated human bone were collected for eventual reburial. No other finds were made.

9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating

- 9.1 The methodology chosen clearly demonstrated both the nature of the archaeological activity and finds and of the nature of the deposit sequence present on this site; while providing sufficient time to record the archaeological activity and deposit sequence observed. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to confirm both the nature of the archaeological activity and finds and of the nature of the deposit sequence present within the area of the site with a high degree of confidence.

10. Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. Paul Mendham of Paul Mendham Stonemasons Ltd for commissioning this work. Thanks are also extended to Ms Naomi Field, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor for her kind assistance.

11. Bibliography

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Ordnance Survey, (2016), 1:25,000 scale Explorer Map Sheet No. 272, *Lincoln, Sleaford, Metheringham & Navenby*.

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Soil Survey of England & Wales, (1983), Soils of Eastern England, Sheet 4, 1:250,000 scale.

Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: View of the churchyard boundary wall, pre-groundworks, from the north



Plate 2: View of the churchyard boundary wall, pre-groundworks, from the south



Plate 3: View of the churchyard boundary wall, pre-groundworks, from the south-west



Plate 4: View of the churchyard boundary wall, pre-groundworks, from the west



Plate 5: View of the churchyard boundary wall, pre-groundworks, from the west



Plate 6: View of the demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 7: View of the demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the south-west



Plate 8: View of the demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the south-west



Plate 9: View of the demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 10: View of the demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the south-west



Plate 11: View of the demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the north-west



Plate 12: View of the demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the north-west



Plate 13: View of the demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the south-west



Plate 14: View of the demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the south-west



Plate 15: View of the demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the south-west



Plate 16: Detailed view of the northern demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 17: Detailed view of the northern demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 18: Detailed view of the northern demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 19: Detailed view of the central demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 20: Detailed view of the central demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 21: Detailed view of the southern demolished section of current churchyard boundary wall, from the south-west



Plate 22: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 23: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 24: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 25: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the north



Plate 26: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the north



Plate 27: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 28: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the south-west



Plate 29: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 30: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the north-west



Plate 31: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the north-west



Plate 32: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the north-west



Plate 33: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the north-west



Plate 34: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the north-west



Plate 35: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the north-west



Plate 36: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the west



Plate 37: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the north-west



Plate 38: View of the mechanical removal of the earlier mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall, from the north-west

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

- 001** Modern topsoil horizon exposed by the removal of a secondary mid 19th century churchyard boundary wall. Soft, dark orange brown silt with occasional small angular stones. Heavily root sorted. Above **(002)**.
- 002** Graveyard soil horizon. Soft, mid orange brown clayey silt with occasional small angular stones and small undiagnostic brick/tile fragments. Below **(001)** and above **(003)**.
- 003** Natural horizon. Soft, light orange brown silty clay with no inclusions. Below **(002)** and above **(004)**.
- 004** Natural horizon of bedrock composed of small-large angular limestone fragments. Below **(003)**.

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary Sheet

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