Church of Our Lady, Seaton Delaval

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief

Borehole survey at the Church of Our Lady, Seaton Delaval

ARS Ltd Report No. 2013/55
February 2014

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Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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Executive Summary

In September 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by DTA to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at the Church of Our Lady, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland. The church dates from the early 12th century, but probably retains elements of earlier masonry. It is a Grade I Listed Building and lies within the Grade II Registered Seaton Delaval Park. The evaluation and watching brief were carried out in order to facilitate investigations into the cause of structural movement within the church. This included investigations of the church's drainage system and foundations, as well as investigations of ground conditions, with particular reference to possible undermining.*

The evaluation trenches revealed limited archaeological features in the vicinity of the church, the most significant of which is the articulated skeleton, at shallow depth, in Trench 1. The features uncovered in Trenches 2 and 4 are predominantly associated with the Victorian drainage system around the church; the stone-built feature in Trench 4 is most likely a sump or a soak away for the drain. No archaeological features were encountered in Trench 3.

The watching brief has characterised the foundations of the church. The earliest part of the church is thought to be the nave, which was constructed in the early 12th century. Short sections of the foundations of the north and south sides of the nave were exposed during the watching brief and showed construction of a straight wall face upon a base of cobbles / rubble. The cobble / rubble foundation was in some places wider than the wall of the nave and in some places was flush with it. The second phase of work is thought to be the chancel and sanctuary, built in the 1330s. Short sections of the foundations of the north, east and south sides of the chancel and sanctuary were exposed during the watching brief and again showed construction of a straight wall face upon a base of cobbles / rubble. The cobble / rubble foundation was wider than the wall of the chancel. The final addition to the church is the porch on the west end, built in the 1890s. One short section of the foundation of the porch was visible during the watching brief and showed a stepped foundation of coursed masonry, built upon a bed of cobbles / rubble. No foundation cuts were revealed within the watching brief area.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In September 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by DTA to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on land adjacent to the Church of Our Lady, Seaton Delaval. The church dates from the early 12th century, but probably retains elements of earlier fabric. It is a Grade I Listed Building (No: 236043) and lies within the Grade II* Registered Seaton Delaval Park (No: 2054).

1.2 The evaluation and watching brief were carried out in order to facilitate investigations into the cause of structural movement within the church. This included investigations of the church's drainage system and foundations, as well as investigations of the ground conditions, with particular reference to possible undermining.

2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

2.1. The solid geology of the area consists of Pennine Middle Coal Measures Foundation: Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone, overlying a superficial geology of Devensian Diamicton Till (BGS 2013). The site is centred at NZ 32188 76416 (Figure 1).

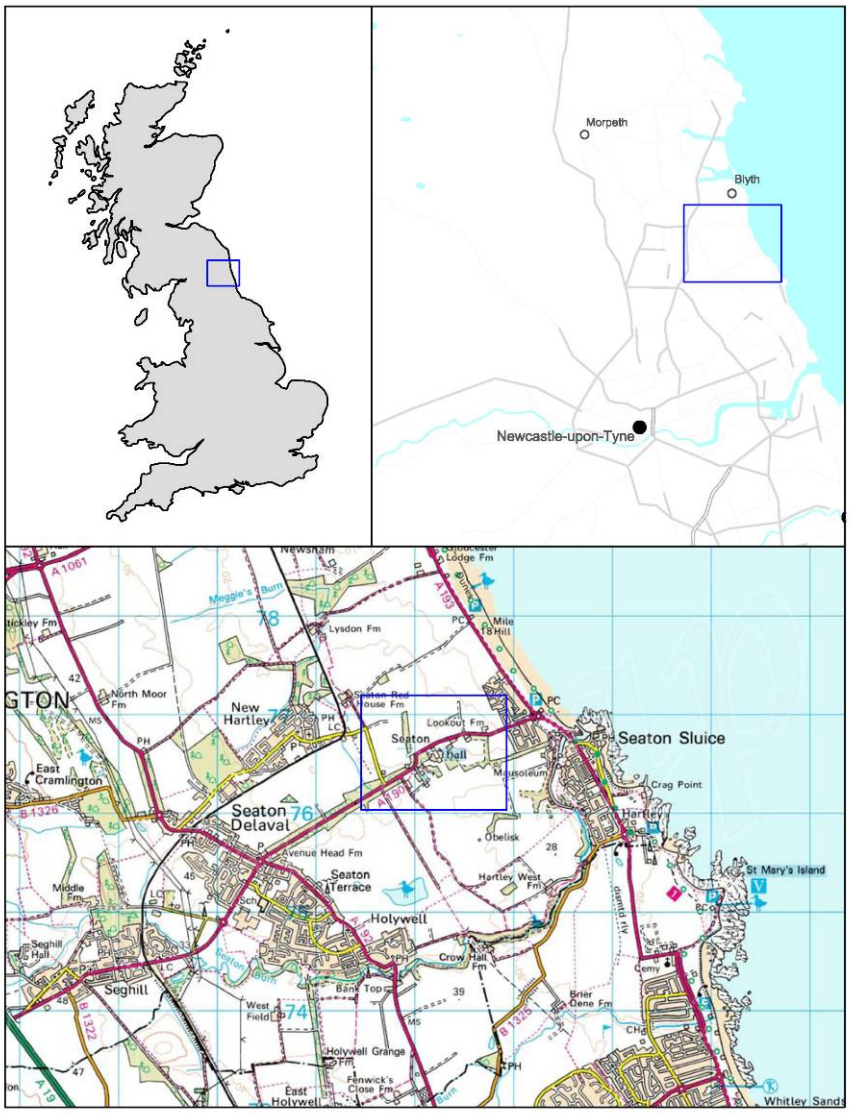


Figure 1: Site location Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

3. METHODOLOGY

3.2. Archaeological Evaluation

3.2.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised four evaluation trenches (Fig. 2). Two trenches were dug on the eastern side of the church (TR1 and TR2) and two were located to the northern side of the church (TR3 and TR4). The test pit locations were positioned in order to investigate the survival of archaeological deposits in advance of boreholes being drilled in these locations.

3.2.2. Four evaluation trenches, each measuring 1m x 1m, were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m below ground level. This depth was determined by the level of the underlying natural geology which was encountered in all four trenches. Each trench was excavated by hand using trowels and hand shovels to remove the contents.

3.2.3 The deposits were recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. Each context was recorded on pro-forma record sheets which included the following: character and contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers.

3.2.4 A single plan and a single section of each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All deposits and the base of each test pit were levelled and heights were expressed in metres above Ordnance Datum.

3.2.5 A photographic record was maintained including photographs of each trench. All images were taken in digital format, and contained a graduated photographic scale.

3.3. Archaeological Watching Brief

3.3.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Gillian Eadie of ARS Ltd in September 2013 during groundworks associated with investigations of the church's drainage system and foundations and in advance of, and during, borehole drilling in the vicinity of the church.

3.3.2 All trenches were excavated by hand. The agreed method of excavation and examination entailed excavation to the depth required for the investigations, under archaeological supervision. This was followed by an archaeological inspection of the resulting surface, and hand cleaning of any areas of interest. All investigation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the IfA *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).

3.3.3 The photographic record includes photographs of all identified features together with general shots of the groundwork. The photographic archive consists of 35mm full frame sensor (36x24mm) digital SLR colour photography at a minimum of 12 megapixels. A variety of lenses of different focal lengths were used as well as perspective control or 'shift lenses' where appropriate. All detailed photographs contain a graduated photographic scale. A photographic register detailing (as a minimum) location and direction of each shot was compiled.

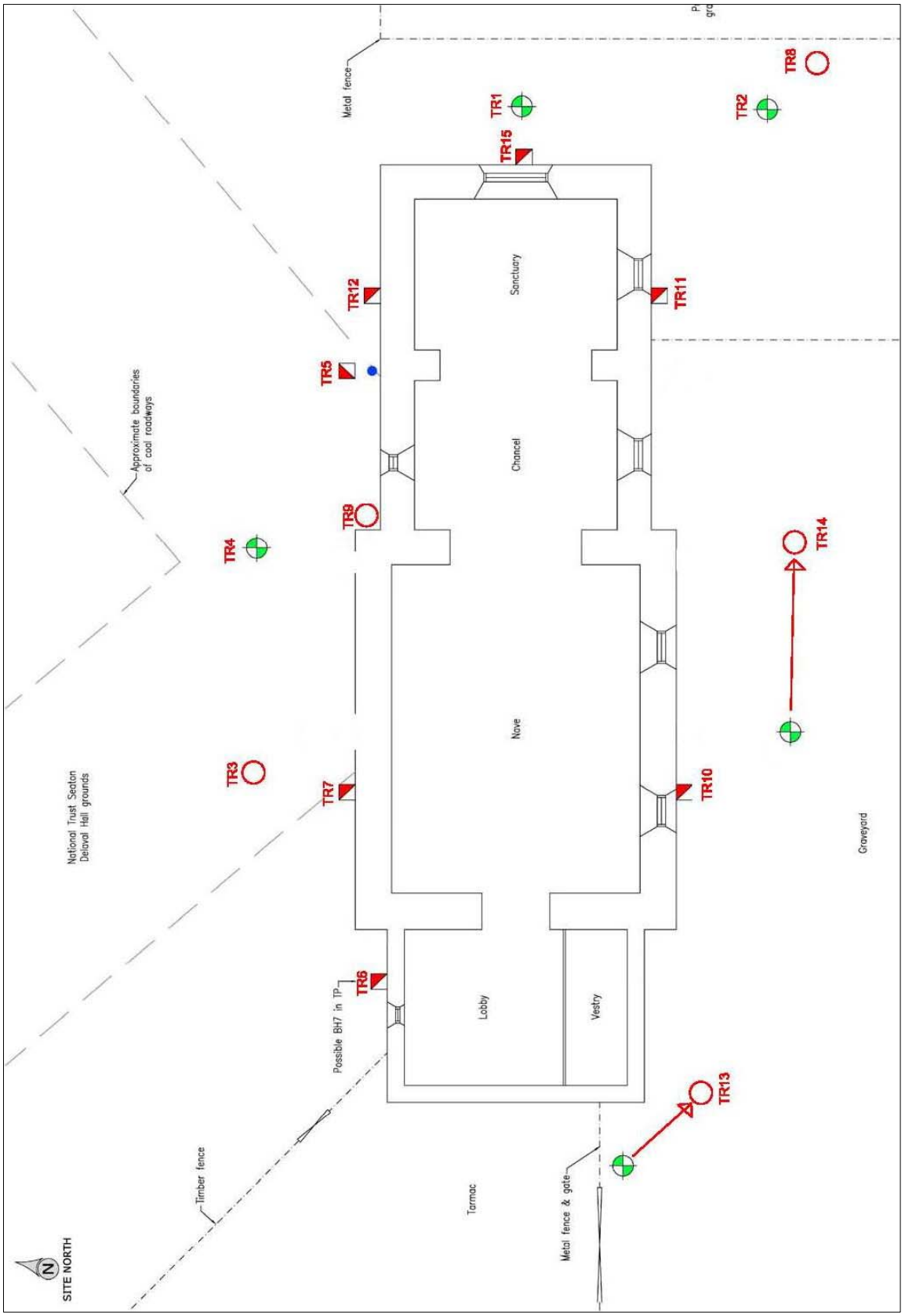


Figure 2: Detailed location of the areas subjected to an archaeological evaluation and watching brief. Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1. Prehistoric

4.1.1. A cropmark of an oval-shaped enclosure containing a number of circular buildings is recorded *c.*1km north of The Church of Our Lady. This was thought to be the remains of a late-prehistoric farmstead. A number of flint artefacts were also discovered at Wheatbridge Park to the west of Seaton Delaval Hall in 2002 dating to the Neolithic and later prehistoric period.

4.2. Romano-British

4.2.1. Suspected Romano-British settlement is noted in Seaton Delaval village consisting of cropmark enclosures, however these have now been built-over with housing.

4.3. Medieval

4.3.1. The De La Vals were loyal supporters of William the Conqueror and were gifted land in Northumberland in the 1080s as a reward for helping him at the Battle of Hastings. This grant included the manor of Seaton. The Parish Church of Our Lady was founded in the late 12th century as the manorial chapel and the medieval village of Seaton was most likely located in association with this ecclesiastical site. Ridge and furrow earthworks are present around the estate, testifying to the medieval occupation of this area. The church was subject to an archaeological assessment in 2006 which identified key areas of phasing in its construction (Ryder 2006). The nave is the earliest part of the building, being constructed in the early 12th century, although it retains a round-headed loop on the north wall which may be evidence of an earlier structure (Pevsner and Richmond 2002, 560). The chancel and sanctuary on the east end date to the 1330s presumably replacing an earlier east end, the form of which is unknown.

4.3.2 A list of Northumberland castles and owners in 1415 refers to a castle at Seaton Delaval as 'Turris de Seton de la uale' owned by Willimi Wychester Chlr (Anon 1415). It is also referred to in John Leland's itinerary of 1535-1543 as Delawele Castle (Toulmin-Smith 1910, 63). The castle is first depicted on maps dating to 1600 (Phillips *pers. comm.*) and is marked on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map dating to the 1860s. This shows the 'supposed site of castle' to the west of the Church of Our Lady. Geophysical survey by Durham University in May 2012 identified structural remains to the north of this location (Villis and Hale 2012). These could potentially be the remains of the documented castle site. The castle may have evolved into the first hall at Seaton Delaval, which was extensively improved in 1628, creating a mansion house (Villis and Hale 2012, 4).

4.4. Post-medieval- Modern

4.4.1 The majority of recorded sites in the vicinity of the Church of Lady date to the post-medieval occupation of the site. Construction of the present Seaton Delaval Hall began in 1718 following designs produced by Sir John Vanbrugh for Admiral George Delaval. This development included the demolition of an earlier mansion house and old castle (Villis and Hale 2012, 4). The Grade I Listed Hall (236050) was completed in 1729, after the deaths of both Admiral Delaval and Sir John Vanburgh. It sits within a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden (2054) which also contains several Listed Buildings of various grades including the Orangery, Icehouse, ha-ha, statues and gate piers.

4.4.2 With the erection of the hall, or perhaps before, the Church of Our Lady became the private chapel of the Delaval family and was enclosed within the estate's pleasure grounds. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 shows something of this arrangement and evidence of the continuation of the original ha-ha ditch was uncovered beneath the modern track leading to the church during a watching brief carried out in 2012/3 (Eadie and Cockburn 2013, 45). In 2010 the Delaval crypt, beneath the sanctuary, was opened and recorded (Ryder 2010). This is thought to have been constructed in the 18th century and contained 18th century lead coffins bearing the names of the Delaval family.

4.4.3 The church was eventually handed back to the community as a Parish Church and the ha-ha ditch was infilled with rubble to create the modern access track (Eadie and Cockburn 2013, 45). In 2009 Seaton Delaval Hall was bought by the National Trust and their property extends to the north and east side of the church, the south side is a graveyard and the church's access track lies to the west.

5. EVALUATION TRENCH RESULTS

5.1. Trench 1 (BH2) (see also Figure 9)

5.2.1. Trench 1 was located in a grassed area directly to the east of the church; between the church and the modern burial ground (Figure 2). It measured 1m x 1m and was dug to a depth of 0.7m. The turf and topsoil (101), was removed to reveal a dark-brown silty clay (102) containing frequent sandstone chips and some larger sandstone slabs. Context (101) contained 1 small fragment of modern glass, a corroded nail and a corroded metal object. One of these slabs was found to have mortar adhering to the surface, perhaps indicating that this layer contains building rubble used as a levelling deposit or backfill. Also uncovered within Context (102) were several corroded nails and small shards of broken clear glass. Context (102) had a maximum depth of 0.13m and was removed to reveal a mid-brown silty clay (103) with infrequent fractured sandstone chips. Within this deposit (103) an articulated, supine, human burial (burial 1) was encountered, aligned east-west along the northern side of the trench. No evidence of an associated cut was identified during evaluation. Only the skull, vertebrae and the ribs, arm, pelvis and top of the femur on the right hand side were exposed within the trench (Figure 3). These human remains were removed for reburial, at or near their original location, following the ground investigation works. An osteoarchaeological assessment was carried out on the remains prior to reburial, revealing that the individual was approximately 15 years old at the time of death. The sex was indeterminate, but more likely to be female than male (see Section 7.1). The Context (103) had a maximum depth of 0.3m and was removed to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (104). This was excavated to a depth of 0.1m to ascertain its character.

Figure 3: Skeletal remains in Trench 1, looking west (scale = 1m)

5.3. Trench 2 (BH3) (see also Figure 9)

5.3.1. Trench 2 was located in a grassed area to the northeast of the church; between the church and the modern burial ground (Figure 2). It measured 1m x 1m and was dug to a depth of 0.89m. The turf and topsoil (201), was removed to reveal a dark-brown silty clay (202) containing infrequent sandstone chips. Within this deposit (202) a series of disarticulated human remains were uncovered. One femur had a clear post-mortem break likely to have resulted from previous disturbance to a grave site. An osteoarchaeological assessment was carried out on the remains prior to reburial, revealing that they consisted of disarticulated adult remains, including the pelvis of a 35-50 year old male. Two neonatal (40 weeks) bones were also included in the assemblage (see Section 7.1). The human remains were concentrated in the northern side of the trench suggesting that they were re-buried in a pile at this location following disturbance. Also uncovered were several corroded nails, flecks of mortar, a broken terracotta tile, several snail shells and two small shards of glass. Also within Context (202), at a depth of 0.62 beneath the surface, a linear cut aligned northeast-southwest [206] was noted in the northwest side of the trench. This consisted of a straight-sided cut [206] with a width of 0.28m, filled by a mottled yellow fill of sand and sandstone chips with frequent coal flecks (205). Context (205) was removed to reveal a glazed Victorian drainage pipe with a diameter of 0.15m (204). The pipe was retained *in-situ*. Context (202) had a maximum depth of 0.61m and was removed to reveal a light orange-brown sandy clay (203). This had a maximum depth of 0.13m and was removed to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (207).

Figure 4: East facing section of Trench 2 (scale = 1m).

5.4. Trench 3 (BH1) (see also Figure 10)

5.4.1. Trench 3 was located in a grassed area to the north of the nave of the Church of Our Lady (Figure 2). It measured 1m x 1m and was dug to a depth of 0.68m. The turf and topsoil (301), was removed to reveal a dark-brown silty clay (302) containing infrequent sandstone chips. Context (302) had a depth of 0.54m and was removed to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (303). This was excavated to a depth of 0.07m to ascertain its character. There were no archaeological finds or features identified within this trench.

5.5. Trench 4 (BH6) (see also Figure 10)

5.5.1. Trench 4 was located in a grassed area to the north of the east end of the nave of the Church of Our Lady (Figure 2). It measured 1m x 1m and was dug to a depth of 0.89m. The turf and topsoil (401), was removed to reveal a dark-brown silty clay (402) containing frequent sandstone chips and coal flecks. Context (402) had a maximum depth of 0.22m, thinning to 0.1m towards the north side of the trench. Within Context (402) were several broken modern ceramic pipe fragments. Context (402) was removed to reveal a sandstone structure (403), within a linear cut [404], aligned east-west across the northern 0.4m of the trench. Within Context (403) were several fragments of broken brick. In the southern half of the trench Context (402) was removed to reveal a light brown fine silty clay with sandstone chips (408) in the west side of the trench, this was cut by a linear feature [409] running north-south along the east side of the trench up to Context (403). This was filled by a mottled deposit of sand, sandstone chips, brick fragments and coal flecks (406). These features are discussed further below.

Context (403) consisted of a sandstone structure of rubble and loose, sandy, mortar construction. It also contained a large dressed stone with margin (405) which was predominantly located beyond the limit of excavation, but protruded into the south facing section of the trench. Beneath this stone (405) a notable void was evident, with a depth of *c.*0.03m. It was not possible to investigate the contents of the void; however a photograph taken into the void revealed that it was constructed of brick internally with an approximate width of 1m. The whole was contained within a linear cut [404]. This feature (403, 404 and 405) was retained *in-situ* and excavation continued to the south of it.

Context (406) was located in the southeast side of the trench and consisted of a linear cut [409] aligned north-south filled by a mottled deposit of sand, sandstone chips, brick fragments and coal flecks (406). A 0.2m section was dug through the southern end of Context (406) which revealed a fairly straight-sided cut with a rounded base. The lower 0.23m of this feature was cut into the natural sand and sandstone substrate (410). Context (406) had a depth of 0.5m and was removed to reveal a glazed Victorian drainage pipe (407) in the base of the cut [409]. This pipe (407) was retained *in-situ*. It is likely that the drainage pipe and the sandstone structure (403) are related; the sandstone structure (403) possibly acting as a sump or soak away chamber.

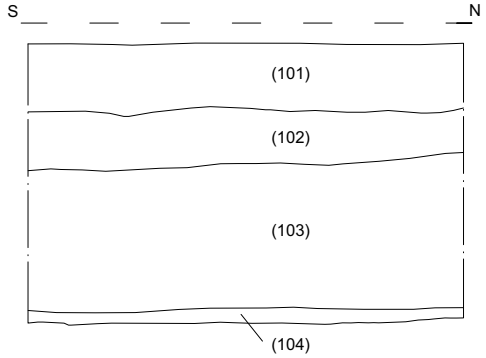
Context (408) consisted of a light brown fine silty clay with sandstone chips. Context (408) had a depth of 0.32m and was removed to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (410) at a depth of 0.54m below the surface.

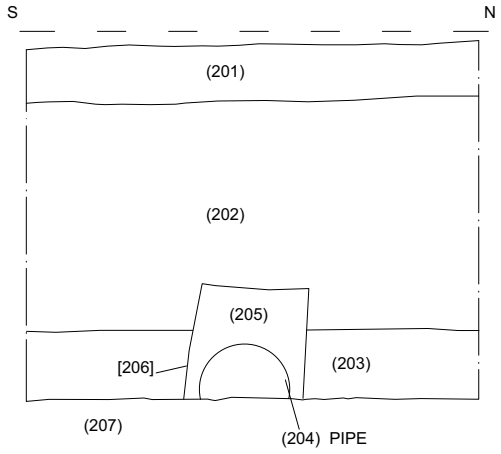
Figure 5: North facing section of Trench 3 (scale = 1m).

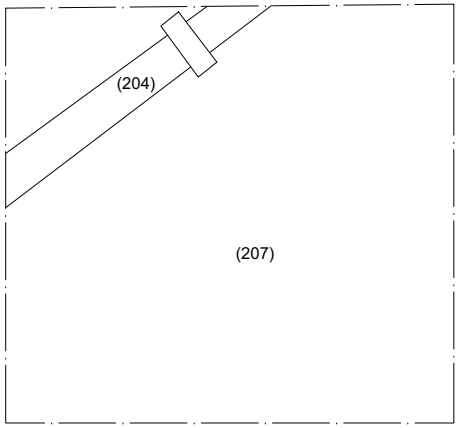
Figure 6: South facing section of Trench 4 showing contexts (403), (406) and (402) pre-excavation (scale = 1m).

Figure 7: View into the void space within (403) showing brick-built construction, looking north.

Figure 8: West facing section of Trench 4 (403) and (406) post-excavation (scale = 1m).







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Drawing Ref:
Date: 02-10-2013
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Scale: 1:20 @ A4

Figure 9: Plans and East Facing Sections of Trench 1 and Trench 2

Key:

Notes:

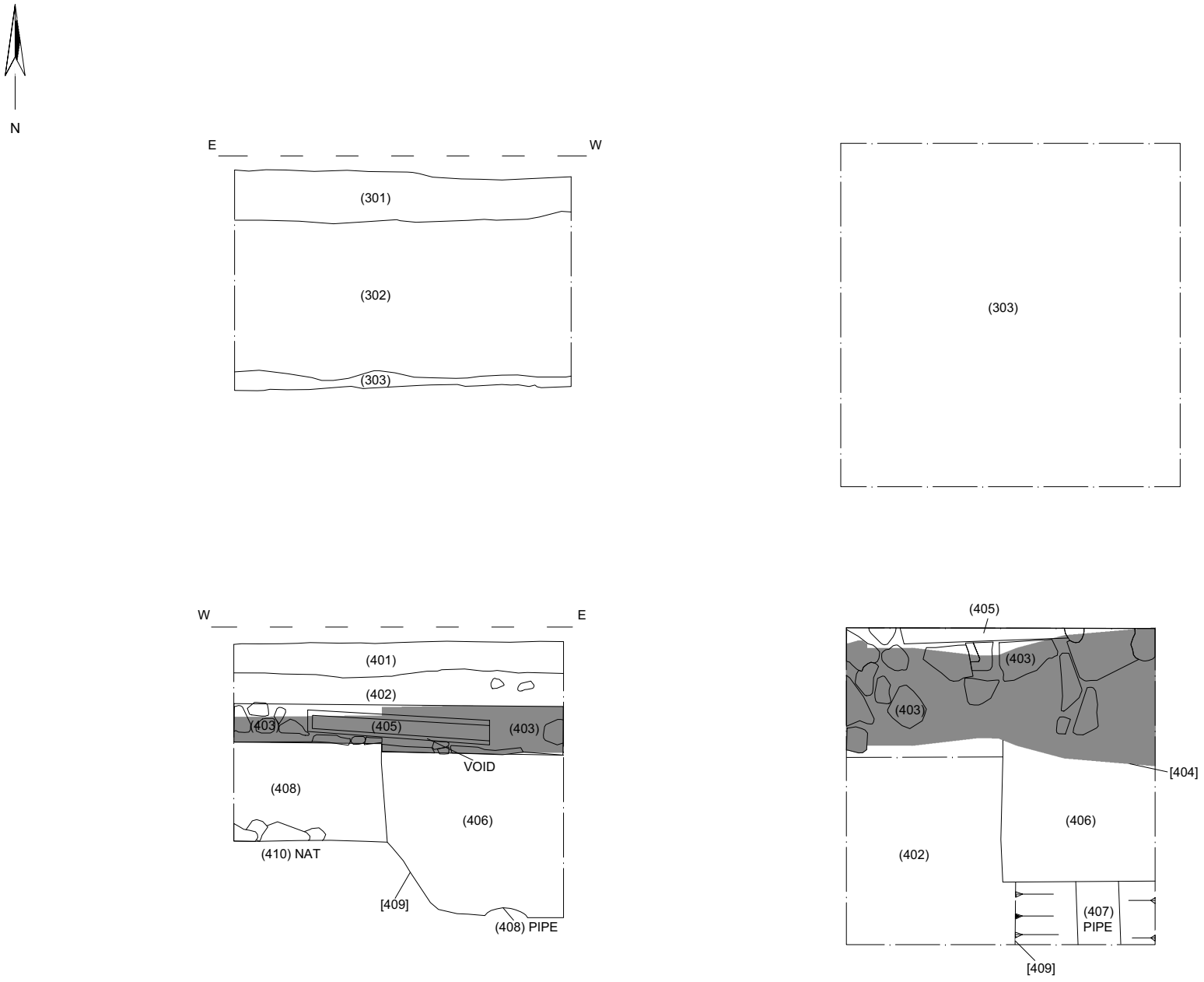

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Figure 10: Plans and Sections of Trench 3 and Trench 4

Key:

Notes:

6. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

6.1 Trench 5 (TPRWP6)

6.1.1 Trench 5 was located adjacent to the north wall of the chancel, immediately beyond the concrete drainage channel surrounding the church (Figure 2). It measured 0.87m x 0.58m and was dug to a depth of 0.36m. The trench was dug through turf and topsoil (501), with a depth of 0.1m, subsoil (502), with a depth of 0.2m, and a mottled deposit of sand and sandstone chips (503), with a depth of 0.06m. This revealed a glazed Victorian drainage pipe aligned east-west with a 'T' off towards a downcomer on the north side of the building. A cut, hexagonal sandstone block, possibly a paving stone, and a metal object, possibly a fixing for securing a headstone onto the church, were recovered from Context (502).

6.2 Trench 6 (TP7)

6.2.1 Trench 6 was located against the north wall of the porch, which was added to the church in the 1890s (Figure 2). It measured 0.45m x 0.45m and was dug to a depth of 0.73m. The trench was dug through turf and topsoil (601), with a depth of 0.1m, and subsoil (602), with a depth of 0.43m to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (604). This context (604) was excavated to a depth of 0.2m. The trench revealed the stepped foundation of the porch (603) which consisted of sandstone blocks protruding from the north face of the wall by 0.07m at a depth of 0.14m. These blocks were well-coursed and mortared and extended for a depth of 0.39m. The blocks (603) were bedded on a base of non-mortared rounded sandstone cobbles/rubble (605), which extended to a depth of 0.17m. No foundation cut was visible in the trench.

Figure 11: Trench 5, looking east (scale = 1m)

Figure 12: Trench 7, looking south (scale = 0.25m)

Figure 13: Hexagonal cut sandstone block recovered from Context (502).

6.3 Trench 7 (TP8)

6.3.1 Trench 7 was located against the north wall of the nave, which has been dated to the early 12th century (Figure 2). It measured 0.4m x 0.4m and was dug to a depth of 0.81m. The trench was dug through a sloping concrete drainage skirt (701), with a depth of 0.04m, a levelling layer of sandstone chips (702), with a maximum depth of 0.26m, a deposit of dark brown/black silty sand (703), with a depth of 0.13m and a second layer of sandstone chips (704), with a depth of 0.35m, to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (706). This context (706) was excavated to a depth of 0.1m. The trench revealed the non-stepped foundation of the nave (705) which consisted of continuation of the wall line down to a depth of 0.65m. The foundation was constructed of mortared sandstone blocks consistent with the construction of the north face of the church. The foundation (705) sat on, and was surrounded by, the layer of sandstone chips (704). No foundation cut was visible within the trench.

6.4 Trench 8 (additional)

6.4.1 Trench 8 was an additional trench excavated by Aimrange, located to the northwest of the church, to investigate the drainage system. It measured 0.8m x 0.8m and was dug to a depth of 0.7m. The trench was dug through turf and topsoil (801), with a depth of 0.1m, and subsoil with a depth of 0.6m to reveal an existing Victorian pipe (803). Context (802) contained one fragment of human bone, assessed as an adult temporal bone (see Section 7.1), one large fragment of animal bone, a large corroded nail and a small glass fragment.

Figure 14: Trench 7, looking south (scale = 0.25m).

Figure 15: Trench 7, looking west (scale = 0.25m).

6.5 Trench 9 (TP1)

6.5.1 Trench 9 was moved from its proposed location into the corner junction between the north wall of the nave, built in the early 12th century, and the north wall of the chancel, built in the early 14th century. It was an L-shaped trench measuring 0.8m on its long axis. Along the north side of the nave, the trench was dug through a sloping concrete drainage skirt (901), with a depth of 0.04m, a levelling layer of sandstone chips (902), with a depth of 0.13m, a deposit of dark brown/black silty sand (903), with a depth of 0.2m, and a second layer of sandstone chips (908), with a depth of 0.31m, to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (909). Within Context (903) was one small pottery shard and human bone, assessed as the left humerus of an individual aged 2-2.5 years at the time of death (see Section 7.1). In the corner between the nave and the chancel a modern concrete (905, 907) support for a drainage grate (now removed) has been inserted masking any evidence of the foundation of the chancel. The concrete support (905, 907) creates a square-shaped void to collect water which would drain into a Victorian pipe (904) aligned north-south and exposed in the southwest corner of the trench. This arrangement most likely went with a rainwater downcomer on the church which has been removed. Some truncated remains of a stepped foundation on the nave (906) were evident in the trench consisting of two blocks of roughly squared sandstone that projected from the wall face by 0.04m. No foundation cut was visible in the trench

Figure 16: Trench 9, looking west (scale = 0.25m).

Figure 17: Trench 9, looking south (scale = 1m)

Figure 18: Trench 10, looking north (scale = 0.25m)

6.6 Trench 10 (TP6)

6.6.1 Trench 10 was located against the south wall of the nave, which has been dated to the early 12th century (Figure 2). It measured 0.48m x 0.58m and was dug to a depth of 0.73m. The trench was dug through a sloping concrete drainage skirt (1001), with a depth of 0.1m, a layer of dark brown silty clay with infrequent sandstone chips (1002), with a depth of 0.3m and a layer of sandstone chips (1003), with a depth of 0.3m to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (1006). The trench revealed the non-stepped foundation of the nave (1005) which consisted of continuation of the wall line down to a depth of 0.4m. The foundation was constructed of mortared sandstone blocks consistent with the construction of the south face of the church. The foundation (1005) sat on a bed of large sandstone cobbles/rubble (1004) with a depth of 0.2m, which protruded from the wall face by 0.22m. The cobbles/rubble (1004) sat on, and were surrounded by, the layer of sandstone chips (1003). No foundation cut was visible within the trench.

6.7 Trench 11 (TP4)

6.7.1 Trench 11 was located against the south wall of the sanctuary, which has been dated to the early 14th century (Figure 2). It measured 0.53m x 0.5m and was dug to a depth of 0.74m. The trench was dug through a sloping concrete drainage skirt (1101), with a depth of 0.04m, a layer of dark brown silty clay with infrequent sandstone chips (1102), with a depth of 0.33m and a layer of sandstone chips (1103), with a depth of 0.25m to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (1106). This (1106) was dug to a depth of 0.12m. The trench revealed the stepped foundation of the nave (1104) which consisted of well-coursed mortared sandstone blocks with a depth of 0.32m. The blocks (1104) protruded from the wall face by 0.14m at a depth of 0.3m and sat on, and were surrounded by the layer of sandstone chips (1103). No foundation cut was visible in the trench.

Figure 19: Trench 11, looking north (scale = 1m).

6.8 Trench 12 (TP2)

6.8.1 Trench 12 was located against the north wall of the sanctuary, which has been dated to the early 14th century (Figure 2). It measured 0.4m x 0.67m and was dug to a depth of 0.79m. The trench was dug through a sloping concrete drainage skirt (1201), with a depth of 0.05m, a levelling deposit of sandstone chips (1202), with a maximum depth of 0.13m, a layer of dark brown/black silty sand (1203), with a depth of 0.18m and a second layer of sandstone chips (1205) which was dug to a depth of 0.43 and extended beyond the limit of excavation. The trench revealed the stepped foundation of the nave (1204) which consisted of roughly-coursed sandstone blocks with a depth of 0.47m. The blocks (1204) protruded from the wall face by 0.12m at a depth of 0.23m and sat on, and were surrounded by the layer of sandstone chips (1205). No foundation cut was visible in the trench.

6.9 Trench 13 (BH5)

6.9.1 Trench 13 was located to the southwest of the church within the area demarcated as a graveyard. It measured 0.24m x 0.3m and was hand dug to a depth of 0.82m. The trench was dug through turf and topsoil (1301), with a depth of 0.06m and subsoil (1302), with a depth of 0.56m to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (1303). This (1303) was dug to depth of 0.2m. No archaeological features were observed.

Figure 20: Trench 12, looking south (scale = 0.25m).

Figure 21: Trench 12, looking west (scale = 0.25m).

Figure 22: Trench 13, looking east (scale = 0.25m).

6.10 Trench 14 (BH4)

6.10.1 Trench 14 was located to the south of the church, opposite the junction between the nave and chancel. It measured 0.29m x 0.32m and was dug to a depth of 0.93m. The trench was dug through turf and topsoil (1401), with a depth of 0.06m and subsoil (1402), with a depth of 0.67m, to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (1403). This (1403) was dug to a depth of 0.2m.Within the subsoil (1402) corroded nails, a shard of glass and disarticulated human remains were uncovered, these included a skull and cervical vertebrae of an individual assessed to have been over the age of 35 at the time death (see Section 7.1). Also within (1402) was one large piece of corroded a cast iron scroll, likely to be the remains of a railing enclosing a grave site.

6.11 Trench 15 (TP3)

6.11.1 Trench 15 was located against the east wall of the sanctuary, which has been dated to the early 14th century (Figure 2). It measured 0.5m x 0.59m and was dug to a depth of 0.85m. The trench was dug through a sloping concrete drainage skirt (1501), with a depth of 0.05m, a levelling deposit of sandstone chips (1502), with a maximum depth of 0.16m, a layer of dark brown/black silty sand (1503), with a depth of 0.2m and a second layer of sandstone chips (1505), with a depth of 0.25m, to reveal the natural sand and sandstone substrate (1506). This (1506) was dug to a depth of 0.09. The trench revealed the slightly stepped foundation of the sanctuary (1504) which consisted of well-coursed sandstone blocks with a depth of 0.62m. The blocks (1504) protruded from the wall face by 0.05m and sat on, and were surrounded by the layer of sandstone chips (1505). No foundation cut was visible in the trench.

Figure 23: Trench 14, looking east (scale = 0.25m).

Figure 24: Trench 15, looking east (scale = 0.25m).

Figure 25: Trench 15, looking north (scale = 0.25m).

7. SPECIALIST REPORTS

7.1 Human Bone Assessment

By Kate Mapplethorpe (ARS Ltd)

7.1.1 Introduction

These remains were recovered during an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at land adjacent to the Church of Our Lady, Seaton Delaval. Human remains were recovered from a total of five contexts, with several also containing non-human bone. One articulated individual was found within context (103), and one partially articulated individual was recovered from context (1402). The rest of the remains were disarticulated and had probably been disturbed during later excavations for the insertion of new graves and site drainage.

Following excavation the remains were removed to the ARS Ltd offices and were examined by an osteoarchaeologist.

7.1.2 Methods

The remains were carefully washed with a soft brush and allowed to air dry. The disarticulated remains were then identified, quantified and age and sex assessed where possible (see Table 1). The articulated remains were laid out in anatomical position and each bone examined for completeness, non-metric traits and pathological lesions. Age and sex was determined where possible.

The methods used in the analysis of the remains are based on the recommendations of Brickley and McKinley (2004) and Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). Subadult age estimation

was based on stages of epiphyseal fusion (Schaefer *et al.* 2009), along with the stage of dental development (Ubelaker 1999) and dental attrition (Lovejoy 1985). Adult age estimation was based on the Suchey-Brooks pubic symphysis scoring system (1990) and the Meindl and Lovejoy auricular surface method (1989), along with dental attrition (Lovejoy 1985). Sex estimation of adult remains was undertaken using the sexually dimorphic traits of the skull and *os coxae* (pelvis). Sex estimation of subadult remains is notoriously inaccurate due to the fact that these traits are not fully developed until the late teens.

7.1.3 Articulated Remains

Articulated human remains were found within contexts (103) and (1402).

(103)

The remains from (103) consisted of a mostly complete (>75%) subadult individual which was found in a supine position oriented east-west. The assemblage also included an extra right proximal femur which is likely to have been disarticulated within the context.

The individual was found to have a skeletal age of approximately 15 years. This is based on assessment of the auricular surface morphology, fusion of the humeral head and medial epiphysis, fusion of the radial head, dental development and eruption and dental attrition. Due to this conclusion that the individual was a subadult it is not possible to reliably assess sex. However, the morphology of both the skull and *os coxae* suggests that the individual is more likely to be female.

There is no visible pathology on the bones, however there is an irregular carious lesion on the anterior surface of the lower right first molar, along with a small circular carious lesion on the lingual surface of the same tooth and a similar lesion on the buccal surface of the lower left second molar. This is an indicator of poor dental hygiene.

(1402)

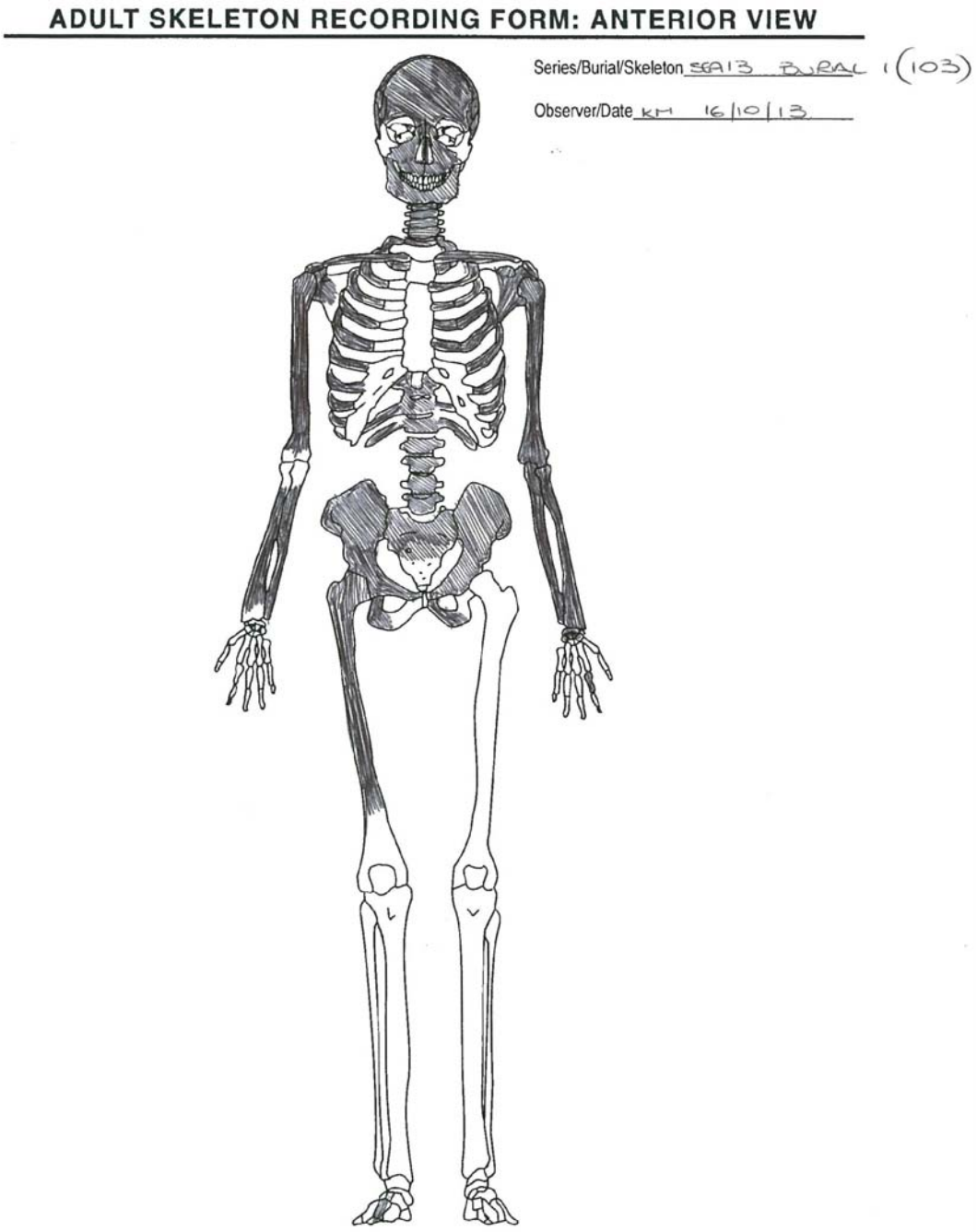
The remains from (1401) consisted of an incomplete (<20%) adult individual which was found at the base of a narrow pit and therefore could not be fully exposed. The remains included the skull, six cervical (neck) vertebrae, several fragments of rib and a fragment of clavicle. The assemblage also included several disarticulated bones not thought to be a part of the articulated individual due to its positioning.

The individual was determined to be a probable female based on the sexually dimorphic traits of the skull, and it was concluded that she was older than 35years when she died. This is based on dental attrition however, which can vary due to diet. Therefore, this assessment is tentative.

No pathology was visible on the bones, however the teeth showed a high degree of calculus formation along the gingival line of the maxillary and mandibular lingual tooth surfaces. As with the calculus on the individual's teeth from (103), this is the result of poor dental hygiene and may indicate a diet rich in sugars. A non-metric trait in the form of a small accessory root was present on the medial surface of the posterior root.

7.1.4 Discussion

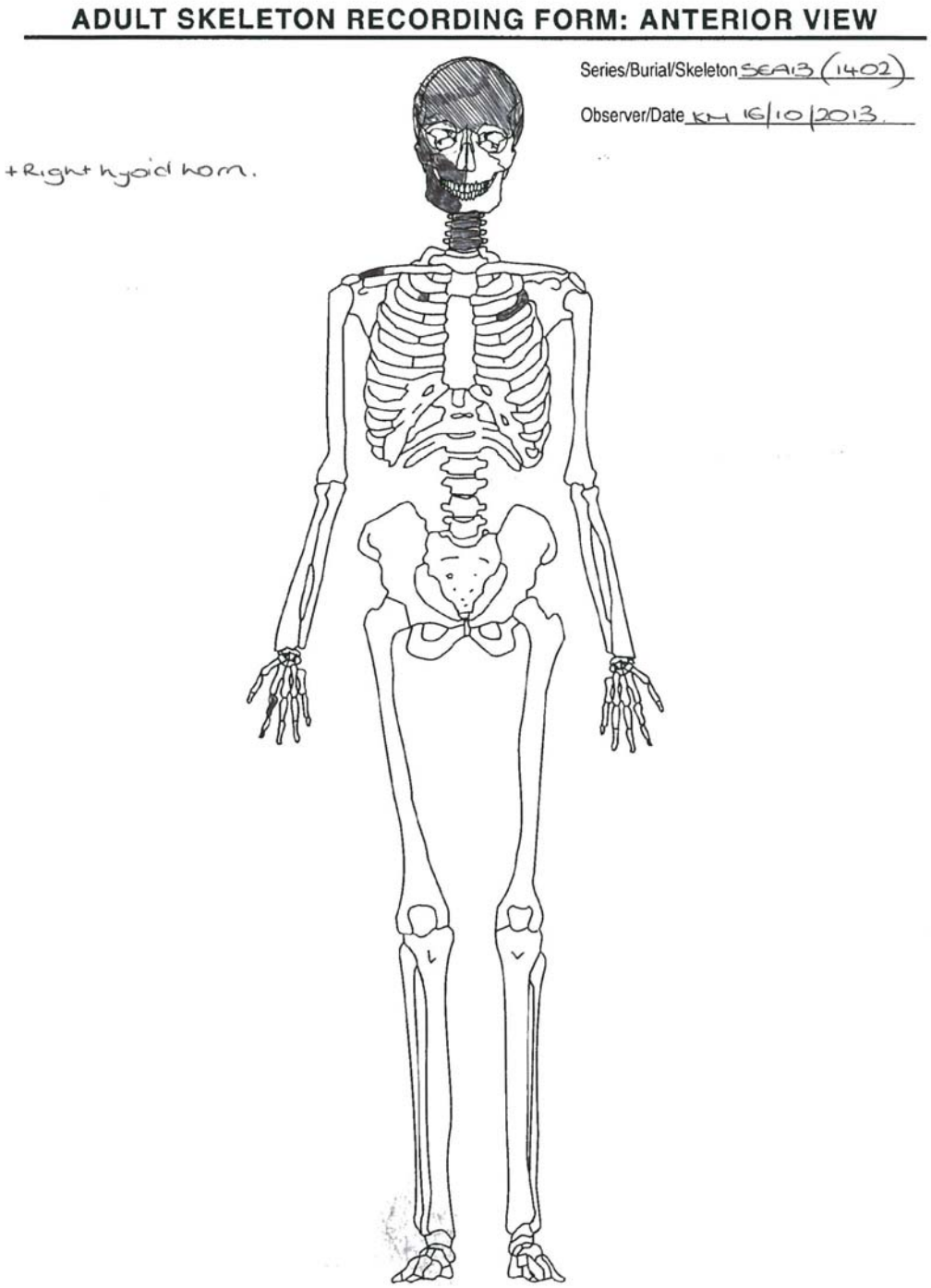
The articulated remains recovered from the excavations at the Church of Our Lady are likely to be the remains of burials related to the churchyard. As the remains within (103) are from outside the churchyard boundary, this may suggest that the boundary has been moved since this individual was interred.



Dental Inventory

Right														Left
8	7	6	np	np	---	---	---	---	---	np	np	np	np	np	np
np	7	6	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	6	7	8e

np = tooth not present
--- = jaw and tooth missing
e = erupting



Dental Inventory

Right											Left
~~8~~	7	6	5	4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
8	7	6	5	4	np	---	---	---	---	---	---

np = tooth not present
--- = jaw and tooth missing
All teeth have calculus

Context	Element	Side	Age	Sex	Pathology	Comments
103	Femur	Right	Adult			Proximal end only
202	1st metatarsal	Left	Adult			
202	1st metatarsal	Left	Adult			
202	1st metatarsal	Right	Adult			
202	1st metatarsal	Right	Adult			
202	2nd metacarpal	Right	Adult			
202	2nd metatarsal	Left	Adult			Proximal end only
202	2nd metatarsal	Left	Adult			
202	2nd metatarsal	Right	Adult			
202	3rd metatarsal	Left	Adult			
202	3rd metatarsal	Right	Adult			
202	4th metatarsal	Left	Adult			
202	4th metatarsal	Right	Adult			
202	5th metatarsal	Right	Adult			
202	Calcaneous	Right	Adult			
202	Cuboid	Left	Adult			
202	Femur	Right	Adult			Proximal end and diaphysis only. Historic spade damage to anterior humeral head and neck
202	Fibula	Right	Adult			Diaphysis only
202	Fibula	Right	Adult			Distal epiphysis
202	Humerus	Left	Adult			Diaphysis only
202	Humerus	Right	Adult			Diaphysis only
202	Intermediate cuneiform	Right	Adult			
202	Lumbar vertebra		Adult			
202	Mandible	Left	Adult			Left canine and second molar present. Premolars and first molar lost pre-mortem, gum has fully resorbed.
202	Pelvis	Left	35-44	Male		
202	Pelvis	Right	35-50			Historic spade damage to medial surface of ilium
202	Proximal 1st foot phalanx	Left	Adult			
202	Proximal 1st foot phalanx	Right	Adult			
202	Proximal 1st foot phalanx	Right	Adult			
202	Proximal foot phalanx		Adult			
202	Proximal foot phalanx		Adult			
202	Proximal hand phalanx		Adult			
202	Rib	Right	Adult			
202	Rib	Right	Adult			
202	Rib	Right	Neonate/40 *weeks in utero*			
202	Rib		Adult			Sternal rib end only
202	Tibia	Left	Neonate/40 *weeks in utero*			
202	Tibia	Left	Adult			
202	Tibia	Right	Adult			Diaphysis only

202	Vertrbral lamina		Adult			
802	Temporal	Right	Adult	Male		
903	Humerus	Left	2-2.5			Age from dry bone measurements. (Moresh, M. M. 1970)

Table 1: Disarticulated human remains assessment

7.2 Animal Bone Assessment

Kate Mapplethorpe (ARS Ltd)

7.2.1 Introduction

The animal bone assemblage from SEA13 consisted of a total of three bags of remains from contexts (202), (802) and (1003) (see Table 1). The bone is all in good condition, although several pieces show evidence of fresh breaks.

7.2.2 Description

The remains from context (202) consisted of two fragments of metatarsus from an adult domestic sheep weighing a total of 24.76g. No evidence of butchery or trauma was present.

The remains from context (802) consisted of a single fragment of adult sheep metatarsus and the distal end of an adult bovine humerus weighing a total of 151.36g. The bovine humerus had been recently broken, damaging the distal epiphysis, but no evidence of butchery or trauma was present.

The remains from (1003) consist of the distal portion of a single horse tibia with a weight of 161.77g. It is clear that the bone was snapped form the main portion of the shaft before or during burial, but was not butchered with a tool.

All of the bones are well-preserved, with little evidence of root etching or weathering.

7.2.3 Assessment

As contexts (202) and (802) appear to be disturbed subsoil deposits and (1003) is likely to be backfill, the faunal remains recovered on this site are likely to be the result of disturbance and secondary deposition. The remains are all low-utility bones with regards to food or hide production and therefore may represent waste from these industries.

7.2.4 Further Work

No further analysis is recommended for the recovered bones. If additional work is undertaken at the site the results of this assessment should be added to any further relevant assessment produced. It is not recommended that the remains should be retained for deposition within a museum due to the fact that they are not archaeologically significant. However, they could be retained as part of a teaching collection.

Context	**Element**	**Species**	**Age**	**Comments**
202	Metatarsus	Sheep	Adult	Proximal end
202	Metatarsus	Sheep	Adult	Distal end
802	Humerus	Horse	Adult	Distal end, recently broken
802	Metatarsus	Sheep	Adult	Proximal end
1003	Tibia	Horse	Adult	Distal end

Table 2 – Quantification of faunal remains

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The evaluation trenches revealed limited archaeological features in the vicinity of the church, the most significant of which is the articulated skeleton, at shallow depth, in Trench 1. The features uncovered in Trenches 2 and 4 are predominantly associated with the Victorian drainage system around the church; the stone-built feature in Trench 4 is most likely a sump or a soak away for the drain. No archaeological features were encountered in Trench 3.

8.2 The absence of burials in Trenches 3 and 4, on the north side of the church, may be an indication that burials did not take place in this location during the church's history. The north side would be the least favourable position for a grave site, and the excavated evidence suggests that it was not widely used, if it was used at all.

8.3 There have been suggestions that the church would originally have had an apsidal east end; however, no evidence of this feature, or significant quantities of building debris, were discovered in Trench 1 which was located off the east end of the church. Whilst this cannot be taken as conclusive evidence to dispute the theory of an apsidal east end, it does prove that the remains of such a feature do not survive in this location.

8.4 The watching brief has characterised the foundations of the church. The earliest part of the church is thought to be the nave, which was constructed in the early 12th century. Short sections of the foundations of the north and south sides of the nave were exposed during the watching brief and showed construction of a straight wall face upon a base of cobbles / rubble. The cobble / rubble foundation was in some places wider than the wall of the nave and in some places was flush with it. The second phase of work is thought to be the chancel and sanctuary, built in the 1330s. Short sections of the foundations of the north, east and south sides of the chancel and sanctuary were exposed during the watching brief and again showed construction of a straight wall face upon a base of cobbles / rubble. The cobble / rubble foundation was wider than the wall of the chancel. The final addition to the church is the porch on the west end, built in the 1890s. One short section of the foundation of the porch was visible during the watching brief and showed a stepped foundation of coursed masonry, built upon a bed of cobbles / rubble. No foundation cuts were revealed within the watching brief area. Other features uncovered during the watching brief included disarticulated human remains and Victorian drainage pipes.

9. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

9.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client.

9.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

10. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

10.1. All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or

opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with this work, in particular Mark Newman from the National Trust, Michael Thompson from DTA and Bob Kermode, the church warden.

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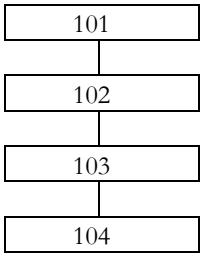
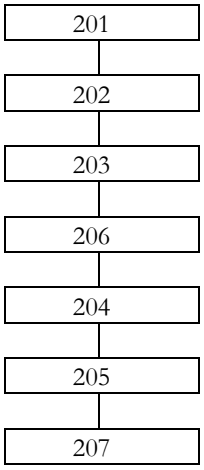
Websites:
British Geological Survey http://www.bgs.ac.uk/

APPENDIX I: HARRIS MATRICES

TRENCH 1



TRENCH 2



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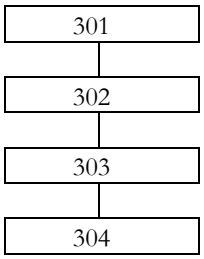
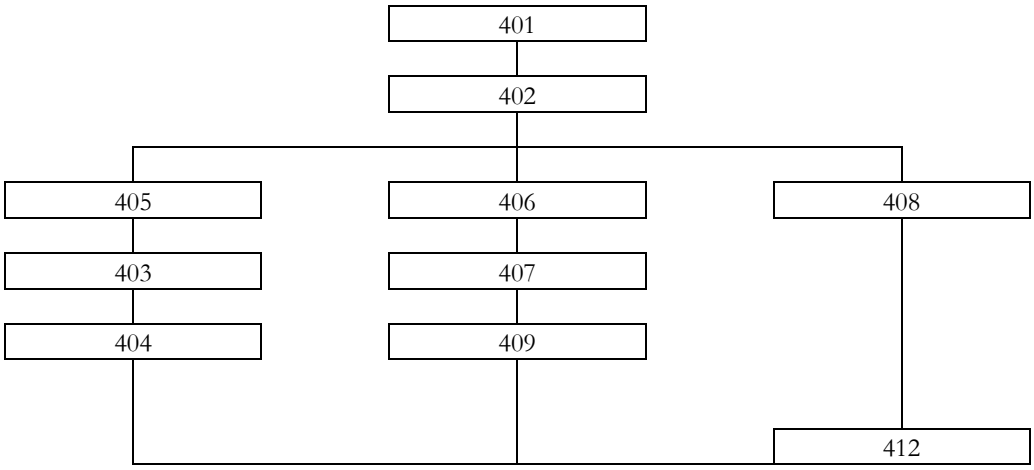


TRENCH 4



APPENDIX II- REGISTERS

CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Description
101, 201, 301, 401, 501, 601, 801, 1301, 1401	Turf and topsoil
102	Brown earth with sandstone chips
103	Brown earth
104, 207, 303, 410, 604, 706, 1106, 1303, 1403, 1506	Natural sand and sandstone substrate
202, 302, 402, 502, 602, 802, 1302, 1402	Subsoil
203	Light orange-brown sandy clay
204	Pipe
205	Fill of pipe trench [206]
206	Cut of pipe trench
403	Stone-built feature – probable drainage sump
404	Cut for stone-built feature (403)
405	Dressed stone cap on stone-built feature (403)
406	Fill of pipe trench [409]
407	Pipe
408	Light brown silty clay with sandstone chips
409	Cut of pipe trench
503	Pipe
504	Mottled sand and sandstone chips – bedding material for pipe
603	Stepped sandstone foundation on porch
605	Cobble / rubble base to foundation on porch
701, 901, 1001, 1101, 1201, 1501	Concrete drainage skirt
702, 902, 1202, 1502	Sandstone chips
703, 903, 1002, 1102, 1203, 1503	Dark brown / black silty clay
704, 908, 1003, 1103, 1205	Sandstone chips
705	Foundation on north side of the nave – non stepped
803	Pipe
904	Pipe
905	Concrete
906	Foundation on north side of the nave – stepped
907	Concrete drain – remains of an old downcomer drain
1004	Cobble / rubble base to foundation on south side of nave
1005	Foundation on south side of nave
1104	Sandstone block foundation on south side of nave – stepped
1105	Foundation on south side of nave
1204	Sandstone foundation on north side of chancel – stepped
1506	Sandstone foundation on east end of chancel – slight step

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH REGISTER

Shot No.	Direction	Scale	Context No.	Description
1	South			South facing view of Trench 6
2	East	1 x 1m		East facing view of Trench 5
3				Hexagonal cut stone – Trench 5
4				Hexagonal cut stone – Trench 5
5	South	1 x 1m		South facing view of Trench 7
6	South			South facing view of Trench 7
7	West			West facing view of Trench 7
8	South	1 x 1m		South facing view of Trench 7
9	South	1 x 1m		South facing view of Trench 7
10	West			West facing view of Trench 7
11	West			West facing view of Trench 7
12	South			South facing view of Trench 7
13	North	1 x 1m		North facing view of Trench 10
14	North			North facing view of Trench 10
15	West	1 x 1m		West facing view of Trench 1 – Articulated juvenile remains evident
16	West	1 x 1m		West facing view of Trench 1 – Articulated juvenile remains evident
17	North	1 x 1m		North facing view of Trench 11
18	North	1 x 1m		North facing view of Trench 11
19	West	1 x 1m		West facing view of Trench 2
20	South	1 x 1m		South facing view of Trench 3
21	North	1 x 1m		North facing view of Trench 4
22	North			North facing view of Trench 4
23	North			North facing view of Trench 4
24				View inside void – Trench 4
25	North			North facing view of Trench 4
26	North	1 x 1m		North facing view of Trench 4
27	West	1 x 1m		West facing view of Trench 1
28	East	1 x 1m		East facing view of Trench 4
29	East			East facing view of Trench 4
30	North	1 x 1m		North facing view of Trench 4
31	North	1 x 1m		North facing view of Trench 4
32				View of drilling
33				View of drilling
34				View of extracted material from drilling
35	East			East facing view of Trench 13
36	South			South facing view of Trench 12
37	West			West facing view of Trench 12
38	East	0.25m		East facing view of Trench 14
39	West	0.25m		West facing view of Trench 15
40	West	0.25m		West facing view of Trench 15
41	North			North facing view of Trench 15
42	East	0.25m		East facing view of Trench 1

National Trust

Archaeology
Brief and Invitation to Tender

Prepared by: Mark Newman
Archaeological Consultant, YNE
Date: 9th August 2013
Subject: **Archaeological mitigation, geotechnical test trenches around the church of Our Lady, Seaton Delaval**

The following text constitutes a brief for the purposes of inviting tenders to provide specified archaeological fieldwork from a professional contractor. Attention is drawn to the section specifying the minimum information required for the Tender to be considered.

If further information is required please contact:

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Tenders to be submitted by 23rd August 2013.

Introduction

As part of ongoing investigation into the causes of subsidence at the eleventh century Church of Our Lady, at Seaton Delaval Hall, a series of geotechnical test pits and boreholes are due to be excavated. Given the understood context of the site, these should either be commenced by archaeological means, or conducted under archaeological supervision. This is required in order to fulfil the stipulations of the Diocesan Faculty granted to cover the work, as well as the conservation principles of the National Trust, on whose land some of the investigations will need to take place.

At this phase of investigation a series of small trenches will be mechanically excavated to reveal the extent of the building's foundations, together with a set of five bore holes to test the underlying geology. Four of the five bore holes will be commenced from surface excavations 1m square.

Predicted impacts

It is likely that small excavations against the walls of the church will primarily encounter the backfilling of previous disturbances.

The borehole sites will be located further from the building. These are more likely to encounter archaeological deposits of the type described below.

Archaeological Sensitivity

a) The first Seaton Delaval
The most obvious sensitivity in this area is the suspected proximity of the first Seaton Delaval Hall. There is little precise information about the building, its location or form, but it is commonly held that it lay in the area to the north of the church. It is also occasionally referred to as a "castle", and therefore may have been formed of masonry with defensible characteristics.

The ground to the south, now in the pleasure grounds of the present mansion, undulates considerably, which might relate to this earlier history. The area underwent geophysical survey in 2012 (ASUD, 2012), though the findings were inconclusive and certainly did not clearly identify the outlines of specific buildings.

The manorial complex survived the medieval period and went on to be significantly developed in the post-medieval. A complex of 14 buildings and associated gardens is described in an account of 1623. Remains, possibly of one of these buildings, were found during trenching works (to install a replacement electrical supply) in the courtyard of the mansion in December 2012. Another building appears to have been retained, as a decorative "ruin" in the C18 landscaping scheme, this lying in the line of an avenue of trees set just outside the south side of the bastioned ha-ha (as shown on the 1809 estate map).

Any archaeological remains relating to the manorial complex would be of **regional** if not **national** significance.

In addition to the manorial complex, there was a village at Seaton Delaval, whose community worshipped at the church. The form and location of this village is again entirely unknown; it appears to have been replanned and rebuilt, probably in the second half of the seventeenth century, as the row of cottages that stood at Seaton Village Farm until the late 1960s.

Remains from the village would be of **regional** significance.

b) Interrals
Excavations so close to the church are very likely to encounter human remains, potentially at quite shallow depths. The present (closed) graveyard lies off the north-west quadrant of the church. However, as a formal landscape division this is relatively new in the landscape. Burials seem likely to have taken place to the east of the church (the most sanctified area), and also to the north (although this direction tended to be the least favoured, often the burying place of the illegitimate or of suicides).

The intrinsic significance of the burials is likely to be **local**. However, the discovery of burials has the potential to be a sensitive issue and must be handled appropriately. The Faculty in hand includes permission to exhumate, and it believed that this authority may be delegated to the archaeological contractors, negating any requirement to obtain a separate exhumation licence.

continued

c) Earlier forms of the church
It has been suggested that the church once boasted an apsidal chancel. The planned evaluations should not encounter the remains of this, but the suggestion underlines the potential for unforeseen remains of earlier designs of the church.

While the likelihood of such remains is not high, given the building's Grade I Listing, they would be of **national** significance.

Designation

The church of Our Lady is a Grade I listed building, of outstanding national importance.

Seaton Delaval Hall is also a Grade I listed building and its environs are a Grade II Registered Historic Park.

No other designations are known to apply to relevant historic environment assets.

Regulatory requirements

The scope of the presently planned works have been reviewed by the Local Authority, and deemed not to require grant of Listed Buildings Consent. However, with regard to archaeology –

"*The church dates from the 14th century and retains Norman features. It is likely that significant archaeological features survive within the application site, including burials associated with the earlier church.*

The structural engineer's proposals include some excavations around the church walls to undertake underpinning works. Since excavation in this ,area has potential to disturb both historic foundations associated with the earlier church buildings on the site and human remains it will be important that i) excavation is limited to the minimum necessary to allow underpinning, and ii) ,the works are subject to archaeological monitoring and recording. It is reassuring, that a contingency sum has been allocated to fund archaeological monitoring but until the final detail of work proposed, is resolved it is unclear if the allocated funds are sufficient.

Dependant upon the detail of the final proposals,, it may also be necessary to require the Applicant to undertake some trial trenching pre-determination to establish the presence /absence and significance of the archaeology present. If the works are undertaken via the ecclesiastical consent process I recommend that the church authorities contact the Conservation Team in advance to ensure that provision is made for archaeological monitoring the works". (Northumberland County Council 21st November 2012).

There are also exhumation and archaeological conditions in the Ecclesiastical facility, not currently to hand. This includes securing local authority approval for the scheme of works.

Mitigation

At this investigative stage, the following archaeological mitigation is proposed. This constitutes the work to be commissioned from professional archaeological contractors:

continued

a) Excavation and recording, by usual archaeological techniques suitable to the archaeological potential of the site (i.e. likely to be by hand tools only), of 4no. trenches measuring 1m square by up to 1.20m deep, on the locations of boreholes BH1-3 and 5 as shown on the attached drawing (DTA 613-C-001 May 2013). Excavation to progress to the base or the archaeological sequence or 1.20m below present ground surface, whichever is the shallower.

N.B. BH5 is within the vehicular approach to the church. It is believed that the surface may be tarmaced, in which case the surface will need to be sawn prior to excavation. Full reinstatement will be the responsibility of the site works contractor and not the archaeological contractor.

BH 4 has been excluded from this programme on the assumption that the area will have been completely disturbed by relatively recent burials. Here a borehole alone will cause less disturbance.

Excavation of these trenches will, obviously, need to immediately precede the site investigation works.

b) Watching brief, and recording, during excavation of the eight small test pits sited against the walls of the church.

c) Watching brief and recording during borehole works.

d) Production, within 12 weeks of the completion of the site works, of a full report on the excavations and observations made.

These works will be completed subject to the following requirements/conditions:

i) The archaeological contractor will operate under the direction of the NT Archaeological Consultant, who will be the primary conduit of communication with the team at Seaton Delaval and the Parish Council.

ii) The archaeological contractor will, as required, inform and communicate with the Local Authority curatorial archaeologists

iii) Seaton Delaval will be open to the public at the time of excavation. The conduct of those involve in the excavation must respect this, at all times, working quietly and professionally in all regards. The contractor should be prepared to answer visitors' questions about the work and engage positively, but will not, on this occasion, be required to provide specific interpretative material.

iv) All archaeological works will be completed to the standards set by IfA Standards and Guidance.

v) At the conclusion of the project the full site archive will be provided to the National Trust for storage contained in suitable archival materials.

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vi) Copies (paper and digital) of the resulting reports will be supplied to the Parish Council, Northumberland County Council SMR, the National Trust, Blyth District Council's archaeological advisers. The contractor should allow for the production of 9 copies of the reports.

Tender

Submitted tenders should clearly include the follow information:

Costs for fulfilling the scheme of works described above.

Availability for undertaking this work between late August and early October 2013.

Evaluation of tenders is most easily undertaken when proposed costs are fully explained. This works to the advantage of both client and consultant, if the cause of any higher costs is explained (and justified). The National Trust subscribes to IfA Standards and Guidelines with regard to commercial confidentiality and the assessment of Tenders.

Notes

The National Trust will retain full copyright over any and all report materials arising from this project. The appointed contractor shall surrender such copyright on receipt of final payment.

The National Trust fully recognises the moral rights of the originators to full recognition in the event of publication of any information arising from this project.

While the National Trust will support and advise the contractor with regard to understanding the site, full responsibility for Health and Safety with regard to their activities and how these have bearing on their staff, National Trust staff/volunteers and the general public, will reside with the archaeological contractor.

Feedback on the form and content of this Invitation to Tender is welcomed. If there are ways in which it could be improved to make the process of tendering easier, please let us know.

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