

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



Archaeological Observation
Investigation and Recording

at

St. Martin's Church
Womersley

Site Code: WB2015.006

National Grid Reference: SE 5323 1901

National Heritage List Entry: 1174486

Faculty Reference: Faculty Book No. 26 – Fo:14/70

for

Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC

Watching Brief Report Number: 1444

July 2015

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Douglas Jobling (BA Hons), July 2015

Summary

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the installation of new electricity cable at St Martin's Church, Womersley.

Monitoring of the excavations revealed areas of general stratigraphic change along the length of the cable trench route. In areas leading towards the church, there appeared to be two main zones of limestone rubble and occasional ceramic building material present underlying the topsoil. Towards the northern boundary, there was an area of a mortar spread below the topsoil and a harder mortar 'surface' containing large brick fragments almost adjacent to the church wall.

No artefacts were identified or retained during this programme of recording and no known, or unknown, inhumations were disturbed during the excavations.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA), on behalf of Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc and St Martin's PCC, during groundwork associated with the installation of new electricity cable following the removal of the existing poles in the memorial garden and churchyard adjacent to St Martin's Church, Park Lane, Womersley (Figure 1, Plate 1).

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2. Archaeological Background

The site of the cable trench lies within the churchyard to the east of the church, a Grade I Listed Building (National Heritage List for England no. 1174486). The following information has been extracted from the Pastscape description (http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=56057)

Church. 12th century origins with 13th century nave and north aisle, early 14th century south aisle, porch, transepts, tower and spire, and 15th century, 18th and 19th century additions and alterations including alterations to chancel and addition of north vestry. Restored by Bodley 1895. Magnesian limestone rubble and ashlar with red plain tile, grey slate and stone slate roof. Cruciform on plan. 3-bay nave with clerestory to north side, 2-bay south aisle, 4-narrow bay north aisle, crossing tower and single-bay transepts, 2-bay chancel with north vestry.

3. Methodology

The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology, in accordance with the methodology set out in a site specific written scheme of investigation (Atkinson, D. February 2015) and the terms of the Faculty in Unopposed Proceedings in the Consistory Court, The Diocese of Leeds using standard HFA recording practices which). It takes into account the recommendations issued by the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists, *Guidance Note 1 Archaeological requirements for works on churches and churchyards* (ADCA 2004) and with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA revised 2008, updated November 2013).

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of the excavation of the cable trench along the east side of the memorial garden and churchyard. The fieldwork was undertaken over three days, the 11, 12 and 13th May 2015.

Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits. The excavated dimensions of the trench were recorded, as were the depth sequences of the exposed stratigraphy. Context numbers were assigned and detailed descriptions were made, plans and sections were drawn, where appropriate, and a photographic record was maintained.

The resulting paper-only archive will remain with HFA.

4. Results

Figs 2, Plates 2 to 8

The trench for the electricity service began at the north-eastern end of the vestry. The width of the trench remained constant at around 0.40m and the depth varied between 0.60m and 0.70m below the churchyard and memorial garden ground level.

The basal deposit seen throughout the majority of the trench was dark purple brown clay 102. This deposit was seen up to 0.2m thick and continued below the level of the excavation. The uppermost deposit, the topsoil, was a mid to dark grey brown clay silt with turf cover 101, up to 0.25m thick. The deposits seen within the trench were set between the two layers within the sections (A to E) identified.

Section A

The first 14.50m stretch of the trench saw a layer, 0.25m thick, consisting of frequent pieces of limestone rubble and occasional fragments of non-diagnostic ceramic building material 103 lying between deposits 101 and 102. On average, the limestone pieces were 170mm x 100mm x 80mm and did not present any evidence of being worked, whole pieces.

Section B

Following a gap of 17.60 where only deposits 101 and 102 were seen, there was a section of the trench, 9.80m long, which presented a further layer of limestone rubble, albeit consisting of larger pieces (640mm x 220mm x 180mm, 230mm x 230mm x 200mm, 400mm x 230mm x 120mm for example) together with occasional fragments of non-diagnostic ceramic building material fragments (104). This layer was up to 0.40m thick and lay between deposits 101 and 102.

Section C

After a shorter gap of 2.65m, there was a 5.71m wide spread of cream/white lime mortar 105, up to 0.20m thick lying between deposits 101 and 102. 105 appears to represent a dump rather than a consolidated surface horizon.

Section D

6.75m further north, there was evidence of a surface horizon 106, up to 1.69m wide and 0.10m thick which consisted of consolidated pale cream/white lime mortar

combined with non-diagnostic brick fragments lying below the topsoil 101. This may represent a path or similar surface.

Section E

Immediately to the north of surface 106, and butting it, was a localised deposit of limestone rubble 107 (average size 200mm x 150mm x 80mm) up to 1.72m wide and 0.25m thick lying below deposit 101. The proximity of 106 and 107 may indicate an element of contemporaneity.

There were no further deposits or stratigraphic change seen between the presence of 107 and the northern churchyard boundary.

At this point the programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was concluded.

5. Discussion

The programme of work at St Martin's, Womersley has revealed a sequence of deposits relating most likely to elements of redeposited church building material, probably associated with the last restoration at the very end of the 19th century by Bodley. The restoration probably accounts for the areas of rubble seen in sections A, B and E and probably also the mortar spread in section C. The hardened mortar 'surface' in section D may have been in existence prior to the restoration and could represent an earlier path or route within the confines of the churchyard.

Interestingly, at the point where the cable trench met the church itself, there was no real exposure of the foundations for the church structure other than a handful of unworked limestone fragments set under coped ashlar at ground level, so no meaningful interpretation of the building at that point can be given.

No known, or unknown, inhumations were seen to be disturbed during this course of excavation and no artefacts were identified or collected.

6. Acknowledgements

Thanks are accorded to Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc and St Martin's PCC for their co-operation during the course of this project. Thanks are also due to the contractors who undertook the excavations at the church.

The work was carried out in accordance with standard HFA recording practices which adhere to the standards set out by the IFA.

Project Manager:	Dave Atkinson
Fieldwork:	David P. Rawson
Report:	Doug Jobling
Administration:	Georgina Richardson

7. References

Literary sources

- Allen, J L and St John Holt, A. 2007
SCAUM Manual: Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 2007, Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers
- Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologist 2004
Guidance Note 1; Archaeological requirements for works on Churches and Churchyards.
- Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity 2011
Guides to Good Practice, <http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>.
- Atkinson, D., 2015
Installation of low voltage underground electricity cable, St. Martin's Church, Womersley: Written scheme of investigation for archaeological observation, investigation and recording
- Brickley and McKinley (eds) 2004
Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains, IFA Paper No. 7
- Brown, D.H., 2007
Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation, published by IFA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum
- Church of England & English Heritage 2005
Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England
<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/human-remains-excavated-from-christian-burial-grounds-in-england/>
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2008
Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief, October 1994, revised October 2008 (updated November 2013)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2009
Standard and Guidance for an for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (updated November 2013)
- Litten, J. 1991. *The English Way of Death* (London)
- Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), English Heritage, 1991.
- Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992 *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections.*

Online (WWW) sources:

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=1174486&resourceID=5

Accessed 8th July 2015

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 **Context list**

- (101) – Topsoil
- (102) – Natural clays
- (103) – Rubble layer
- (104) – Rubble layer
- (105) – Mortar spread
- (106) – Surface horizon
- (107) – Rubble layer

Appendix 2
Faculty

Form 6 – Rule 6.4

Faculty Book No. **26** – Fo: **14/70**

Faculty

In the Consistory Court of the Diocese of LEEDS

Parish of Womersley

Church of St Martin

**JOHN WALLACE MACGREGOR BULLIMORE Acting Chancellor of the Diocese and
Official Principal of the Right Reverend Nicholas Baines, the Bishop of Leeds**

**To: The Reverend A C Martlew – Vicar
Mrs C Evans - Churchwarden
Mrs J Woodall - Churchwarden**

A petition presented by you has been submitted to the Registry of this Court together with designs, plans, photographs or other documents, requesting a Faculty authorizing the works or other proposals specified in the petition.

And a public notice was duly displayed giving an opportunity to all persons interested to object and give reasons why a Faculty should not be granted.

The proceedings were unopposed and did not give rise to a question of law or of doctrine, ritual or ceremonial or relate to proposals that affect the legal rights of any person or body.


This Court now grants a Faculty authorising you to carry out the works or other proposals in accordance with the designs, plans or other documents accompanying the petition and subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule below.

The works should be completed within **six** months from the date below or such further period as this Court may allow and the certificate of practical completion is to be sent to the Registry within the period allowed.

A copy of this Faculty is to be supplied by you to the architect or surveyor and contractors to be employed in respect of the authorised work before any work is commenced.

This Faculty is duly authenticated by the seal of this Court.

Dated 28 August 2014


(Signature of Registrar)

Schedule

Description of Works or Proposals and any conditions attached to the Faculty

Removal of the overhead low voltage electricity supply to the Church and replacement with underground cable (work to be carried out by Northern Powergrid) in accordance with the attached drawing of Northern Powergrid dated 15 April 2014.

CONDITIONS:

- 1 Prior to commencement of work a written Scheme of Investigation must be provided by the archaeologist for prior approval of the DAC's archaeological adviser.**
- 2 The archaeologist engaged is to maintain a watching brief during the trenching operation**
- 3 Prior to commencement of work the DAC's archaeological adviser must be provided with details of the trench size and type of plant that is proposed (and how it will access the site)**
- 4 Prior to the neighbour carrying out any repair works to the boundary wall, the Petitioner's inspecting architect is to approve any proposed works, mortar mix, etc. If anything other than like for like repairs are to be carried out to the boundary wall, a separate Petition for Faculty must be submitted prior to commencement of work**
- 5 In the event any human remains are disturbed during work to the churchyard, work is to cease, the Incumbent notified and his directions followed (after any consultation he considers necessary with the Registrar and/or Archdeacon. This condition must be made known to the trenching contractor in writing).**

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Appendix 3

Archive

Project Details:

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording at St. Martin's Church, Womersley, East Riding of Yorkshire

Site Code: WB2015.006

National Grid Reference: SE 5323 1901

Listed Building Entry: 1174486

Author: Doug Jobling (BA Hons) **Date of fieldwork** 11th, 12th and 13th May 2015

Report Number. Humber Field Archaeology Report Number: 1444, July 2015

Quantity

5 x A4 plastic wallets contain the paper archive

Summary of work

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the installation of new electricity cable at St Martin's Church, Womersley.

Monitoring of the excavations revealed areas of general stratigraphic change along the length of the cable trench route. In areas leading towards the church, there appeared to be two main zones of limestone rubble and occasional ceramic building material present underlying the topsoil. Towards the northern boundary, there was an area of a mortar spread below the topsoil and a harder mortar 'surface' containing large brick fragments almost adjacent to the church wall.

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- 1.1 Faculty
- 1.2 Correspondence

2 Site Data:

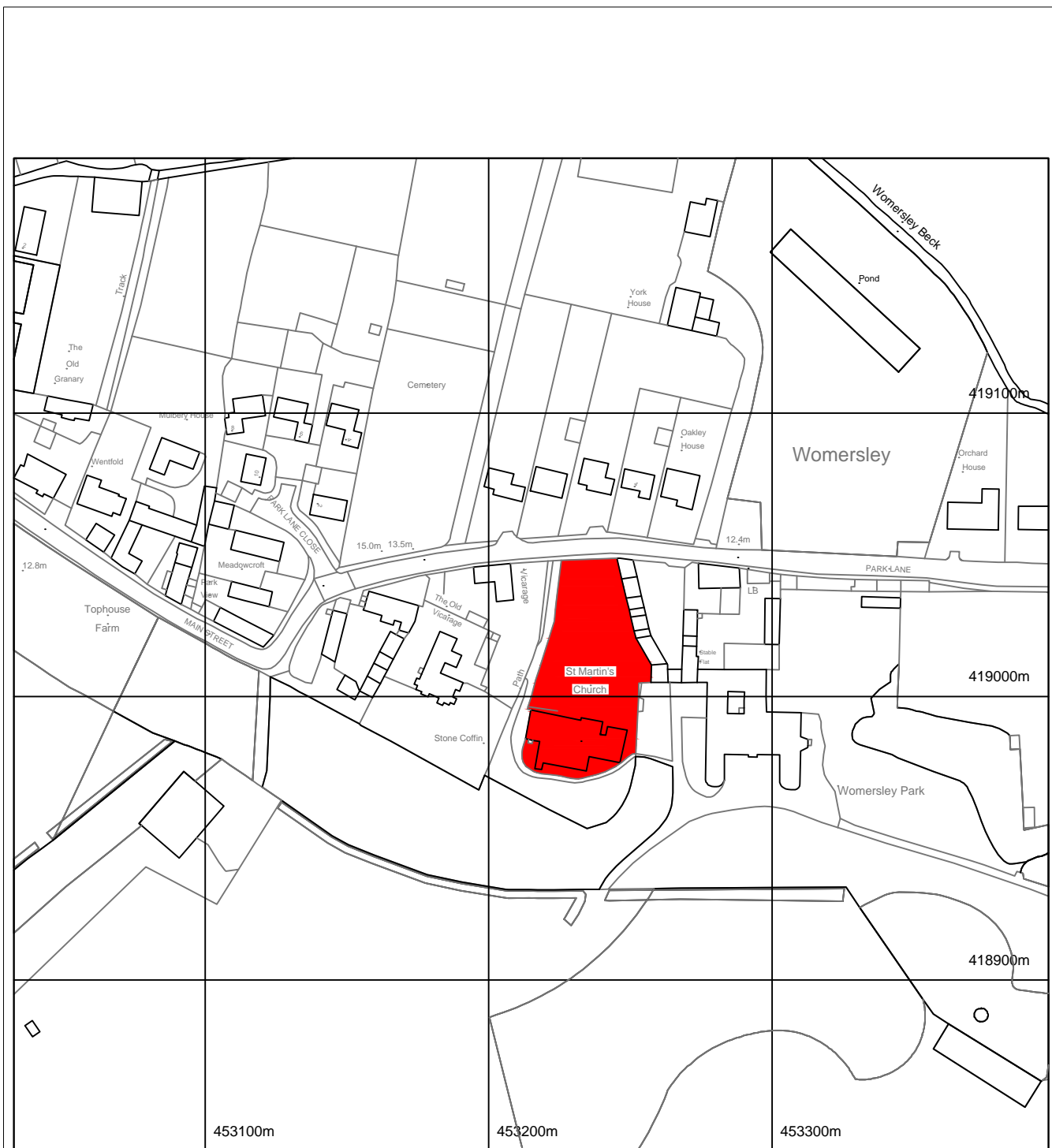
- 2.1 Site notes
- 2.2 Staff site visit log
- 2.3 Site plans

3 The Photographic Record:

- 3.1 Photographic Catalogue
- 3.2 Contact Sheets
- 3.3 Reference Prints

4. Final Report:

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording at St. Martin's Church, Womersley, Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 1444, July 2015



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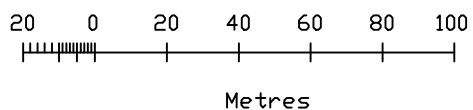


Figure 1 Location plan (in red)

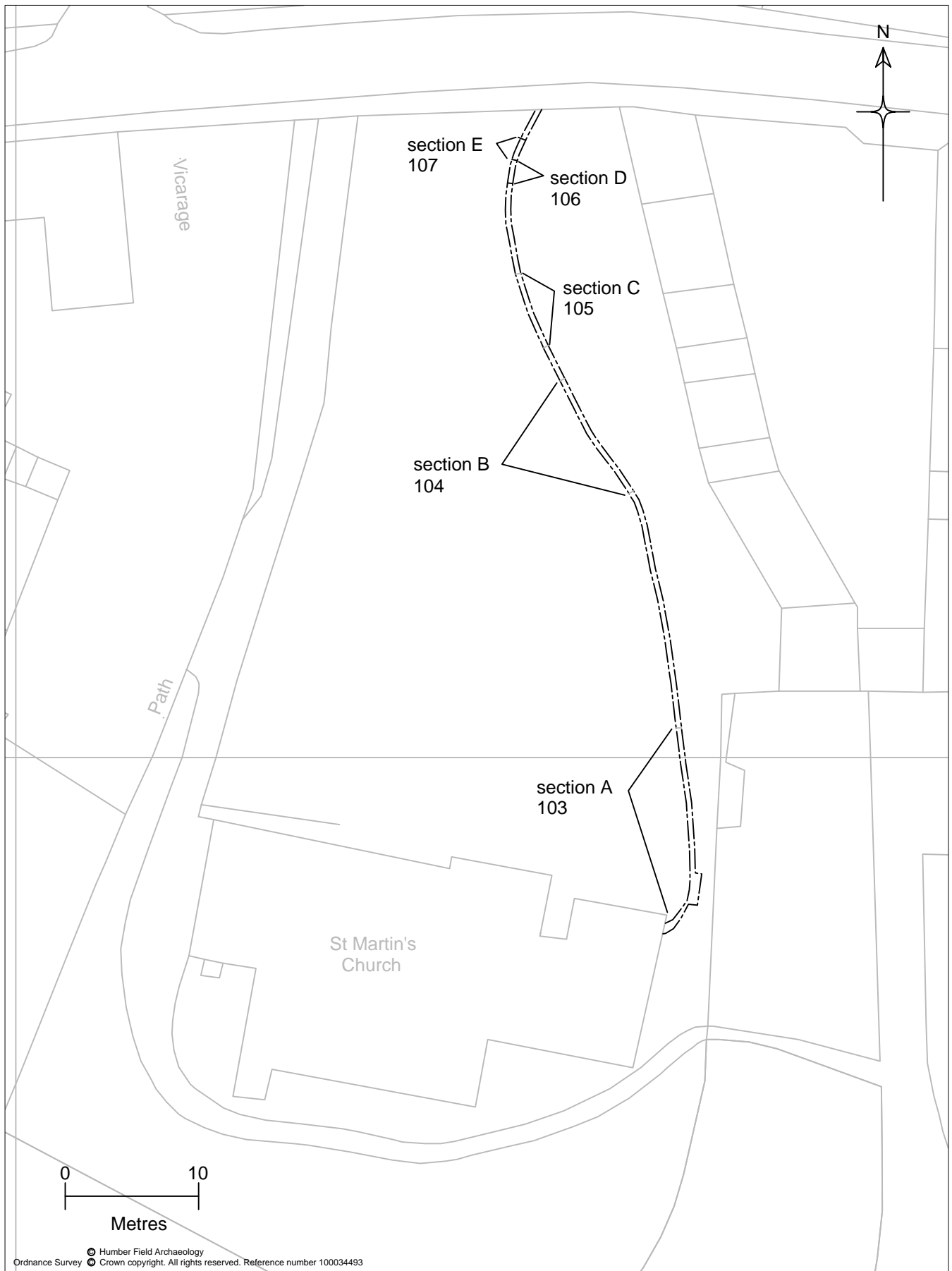


Figure 2 Site plan showing the position of the cable trench and principal areas of stratigraphic change

Plate 1 St Martin's Church,
viewed from the SE



Plate 2 Section A under
excavation, looking north



Plate 3 View of the rubble layer 103 set between topsoil 101 and clays 103 within section A, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 4 View of the rubble 104 in section B, looking east (1m scale)



Plate 5 An example of the limestone blocks arising from deposit 104 (0.2m and 0.5m scales)



Plate 6 Mortar spread 105 in section C, looking east (1m scale)



Plate 7 Hardened surface horizon 106 (section D), looking east (1m scale)



Plate 8 Showing excavation work at the northern end of the trench route (sections D and E), looking north

Humber Field Archaeology

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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Fieldwork • Finds Research
• Post-excavation Analysis • Inter-tidal Work

Humber Field Archaeology is an independently-funded part of the Humber Archaeology Partnership, a partnership serving The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council