

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING WORKS

AT

ST. SWITHINS CHURCH

SPROATLEY

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

September 2021

Humber Field Archaeology Report no. 2183

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING WORKS
AT
ST. SWITHIN'S CHURCH
SPROATLEY
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
September 2021**

*Work carried out for Quadra Claims Services Ltd
(on behalf of St. Swithin's Parochial Church Council)*

National Grid Reference: TA 19481 34400
HFA Site Code: WB2021.021

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September 2021

Humber Field Archaeology Report no. 2183

REPORT DETAILS	
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1 SUMMARY

In September 2021 a programme of archaeological monitoring works was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during the excavation of test pits at the north porch at the Church of Saint Swithin, Church Lane, Sproatley, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU11 4PR.

The two test pits revealed that the current north porch (a circa 1866, or later, addition) rests poorly above the slighted remains of a likely late medieval/post-medieval section of a probable former north porch which would have been demolished in the early part of the 19th century i.e. prior to the white brick build between 1814 and 1820. It is the poor positioning of the above ground build on the lower, re-used foundation which appears to have contributed significantly to the current state of the north porch.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Circumstances of the fieldwork

The report presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring works was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during the excavation of test pits at the north porch at the Church of Saint Swithin, Church Lane, Sproatley, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU11 4PR. This work was undertaken on the 8th September 2021.

Archaeological monitoring works had been requested by Quadra Claims Services Limited on behalf of St Swithin's Parochial Church Council via Ferry and Mennim architects, as part of a 'good practice' measure during the excavation of investigatory test pits around the north porch of the above church.

Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) were appointed to undertake the archaeological work and produced a site-specific written scheme of investigation (Jobling 2021) which forms the methodology of the archaeological monitoring.

2.2 Site topography and geology

The site is occupied by the Church of St. Swithin and its grounds. It is bordered to the north by Balk Lane leading to Church Lane, to the east by The Old Rectory, to the south by an open field, and to the west by further domestic, and similar, properties and a school sports field.

The site lies at around 25m to 26m OD; an Ordnance Survey Benchmark on the north-western side of the church is at 25.743mOD. The superficial deposits consist of Devensian Till (Diamicton) which were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. The deposits overlie the bedrock of the Flamborough Chalk Formation - sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 72 to 86 million years ago. Overlying soils are described as slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage

2.3 Archaeological background

The site of the archaeological monitoring lies in an important archaeological landscape. The following description of the archaeological background to the site is, in part, a transcription of the Listed Building description from Historic England.

The site of the archaeological monitoring lies within the grounds of St. Swithin's Church.

An original medieval church is recorded as being at the site from the early- to mid-11th century which was eventually demolished in the early part of the 19th century. The church was given to the priory of Bridlington as early as the reign of Henry I (i.e. pre 1135) by Ralph de Gousle (conjointly with Walter De Ver). Between 1814 and 1820, a replacement 'white-brick' church was constructed, which was rebuilt again in 1866 by Smith and Brodrick (Hull). Built in a Gothic Revival style, it is of grey brick with stone dressings and a graduated slate roof. The church boasts a 3-stage west tower, a 3-bay aisled nave with north porch, a 2-bay chancel and a north vestry. In addition, the church retains two 14th century bells in the church tower, and in 1866, an organ was gifted to the church by Mr. D.B. Kendall; the organ

itself possibly having originally been built in 1710 for a putative original installation at Temple Newsam (near Leeds).

The Church of Saint Swithin was designated as a Grade II listed building on 6th July 1987 (list entry number 1366258).

The church itself, serves and lies within the village of Sproatley. As a village, Sproatley was documented in Domesday (1086) as belonging to the Middle Hundred of Holderness; at the time it is recorded as having 11.2 households under 3 owners with 42 villagers, 6 freemen and 5 smallholders. The land itself was owned by Drogo de la Beuvrière.

By 1377, Sproatley had 129 poll tax payers, and in 1672, 29 houses in the village were assessed for the hearth tax (8 were discharged). Slightly later, in 1743 and 1760, the village was recorded as having over 30 families living there. It was also around this time (1763) that the lands surrounding Sproatley underwent inclosure.

During the 19th century up to the 1970s, the population ranged between just under 300 to just under 500 people at any one time, with a population boom (fuelled by increased house building and the promotion of Sproatley as a commuter town for Kingston upon Hull) leading to numbers over 1000. The current 2011 census puts Sproatley's population at 1350.

3 THE EXCAVATIONS

3.1 Methodology

The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from HFA, in accordance with the written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitoring works produced by HFA, (*ibid.*) and with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 (d) Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching brief.

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring and recording of deposits and features following the excavation of two test pits.

Standard Humber Field Archaeology recording procedures were used throughout; each identified feature was allocated a context number, with written descriptions recorded on pro forma sheets. Plans and sections were drawn to scale on pre-printed permatrace sheets. A digital photographic record was maintained. The locations of the test pits and the level of the features were surveyed relative to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Datum respectively.

3.2 Results

Analysis of the stratigraphic sequence has enabled two broad chronological phases to be assigned to the site, as follows:

- Phase 1** Late Medieval/Post-Medieval (16th – 18th centuries)
- Phase 2** Modern (19th century)

Context numbers allocated to archaeological deposits and features are referred to in the text below and Figures 3 and 4 show them as recorded in plan and in section. A selection of photographs has also been included (Plates 1-4).

Intervention 1

Figs 3 and 4; Plate 2

A hand cut intervention measuring 0.5m south-west to north-east and 0.3m north-west to south-east and up to 0.5m deep (24.54mOD) was positioned approximately halfway along the north-eastern side of the north porch.

The basal deposit encountered was what appeared to be the upper element of the Devensian Till superficial deposit 104. This layer was up to 0.1m thick and continued below the level of the intervention.

Phase 1

Above this lay 103, a partially visible section of orange-red brick (120mm x 80mm, two visible dimensions present only) set as headers. These were bonded with a light cream brown lime mortar. This structural element was set back (recessed almost) from the overlying current north porch foundation (see 101 below).

Phase 2

Above 103 lay 102, a layer of compacted mid grey brown silt clay, possibly part of a packing or levelling layer up to 0.13m thick.

Above 102 was the current stepped foundation for the current north porch 104. This element consisted of white brick (230mm x 100mm x 70mm) bonded with a much harder mortar, possibly containing a lime element, but also present was Portland-cement type mortar in part of the bonding. It was built in offset courses of headers and stretchers on bed.

Intervention 2

Figs 3 and 4; Plate 3

This second intervention was located on the south-western face of the north porch, again, positioned approximately halfway along. The intervention measured 0.4m north-east to south-west and 0.2m north-west to south-east and was up to 0.4m deep 24.53mOD).

The basal deposit encountered was the same as in Intervention 1; the upper element of the superficial Devensian Till, 104, was recorded, being greater than 0.15m thick.

Phase 1

Above 104, were three courses of the red brick foundation 103 (featuring similar brick dimensions), up to 0.2m high, with a stepped out basal course.

Phase 2

Sat atop this was the south-western wall of the north porch 101, again with similar brick dimensions and constructed in the same fashion as the north-eastern wall.

4 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Discussion of the results

Phase 1 – Late Medieval/Post-Medieval

The red brick foundation 103, which appeared on both sides of the north porch appears to be the slighted remnants of the foundations for the church which was demolished during the early part of the 19th century prior to the newer build occurring between 1814 and 1820.

The bricks were bonded with an era-appropriate lime mortar and stepped out and sat directly atop the natural Devensian Till.

It appears that the demolition of the earlier church did not include (in the areas seen during the site work) the ‘grubbing out’ of the foundations and was perhaps just demolished to ground level. Further evidence of this can be seen at the external western corner of the nave, where the remains of another red brick and lime mortar foundation was seen to run to the south-west i.e., outside the current space occupied by the church (Plate 4).

Phase 2 – Modern

The current white brick north porch is a likely circa 1866 addition. Certainly, the north porch was not constructed during the 1814 – 1820 build as it does not appear on contemporary photographs held at the church itself. The evidence suggests that the later north porch addition was oriented and laid on top of the existing, denuded foundations of the earlier church.

The south-western side of the north porch appears to sit neatly on top of the earlier red brick foundation, running in line with it. However, the north-eastern wall of the north porch does not. Instead, the north-eastern wall overshoots the earlier foundation by approximately 0.1m and appears to rest solely on a thin layer of rammed or compacted earth (silt clay deposit 102). Clearly, this has not had a desirable outcome for the north porch, as the weaker support on the north-eastern side has probably had a significant impact upon the structural integrity of the porch, contributing heavily to its current state. Exacerbating this is the fact that the north porch was never tied into the main structure of the nave, and is bonded with a straight joint, leaving it susceptible to separating from the main fabric of the church.

4.2 Recommendations

The following is solely the opinion of HFA.

It is recommended that should a Faculty be issued for further investigative and corrective works at the church, that a programme of archaeological monitoring works be implemented. The reasons for this suggestion are as follows:

To determine if the evidence-based theory of the demolition of the earlier church left significant sections of its foundation in the ground in places other than the north porch area. If present elsewhere, it could possibly help to explain why several areas of the church are suffering structurally; their non-removal could contribute to the church walls ‘breaking their

backs' in several areas, much like at the north porch. Certainly, the tower appears to be pulling away from the nave (there is a large, now filled, gap at roof height between the nave and the tower).

To determine if the foundations of the demolished church are as similar as the ones recorded at the north porch. The small sections recorded during this current programme of work suggest very shallow foundations, perhaps as little as 3 courses of stepped out brick.

To identify and record any further below ground structural, or otherwise, evidence of the earlier church in general.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are accorded Quadra Claims Services Limited *on behalf of* St Swithin's Parochial Church Council via Ferry and Mennim architects for their help and co-operation during the course of this project. Thanks in particular are due to Ian Hayton (Ferry and Mennim) for facilitating our engagement in this part of site works at the church.

The site recording was undertaken by Doug Jobling

Report text, figure and plates by Doug Jobling

Administrative support was provided by Georgina Richardson.

REFERENCES

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

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a

Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation, December 2014

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b

Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation, December 2014

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014c

Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives December 2014

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014d

Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief, December 2014

Jobling, D., 2021

Archaeological monitoring works at St. Swithin's Church, Sproatley, East Riding of Yorkshire: Written scheme of investigation for archaeological observation, investigation and recording (watching brief)

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019

National Planning Policy Framework

Online

Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute

<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

The British Geological Survey

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> – geology of Britain viewer).

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Context list

Context	Phase	Trench/Area	ContextType	Interpretation	Plan No	Section No	Sample	Photo	ProvDate
101	2	Interventions 1 and 2	STR	Current north porch structure		1, 2	No	Yes	MOD
102	2	Intervention 1	DEP	Levelling layer		1	No	Yes	MOD
103	1	Interventions 1 and 2	STR	Demolished late med/post-med church foundations		1, 2	No	Yes	PMED
104		Interventions 1 and 2	NAT			1, 2	No	Yes	

Appendix 2

Archive

Project Details: Archaeological monitoring works at St. Swithin's Church, Sproatley, East Riding of Yorkshire

Site Code: WB2021.021

National Grid Reference: TA 19481 34400

Museum Reference or Accession Number: pending from ERYMS

Author: D. Jobling **Date of fieldwork:** 08/09/2021

Report Number: Humber Field Archaeology Report Number 2183

Quantity:

4 x clear A4 plastic wallets contain the paper archive.

The digital archive is stored on Hull City Council Servers

Summary of work:

In September 2021 a programme of archaeological monitoring works was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during the excavation of test pits at the north porch at the Church of Saint Swithin, Church Lane, Sproatley, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU11 4PR.

The two test pits revealed that the current north porch (a circa 1866, or later, addition) rests poorly above the slighted remains of a likely late medieval/post-medieval section of a probable former north porch which would have been demolished in the early part of the 19th century i.e. prior to the white brick build between 1814 and 1820. It is the poor positioning of the above ground build on the lower, re-used foundation which appears to have contributed significantly to the current state of the north porch.

Index to Archive

Documentary Archive Record			
1. Project summary			
Archive component	Hard Copy	Digital Copy	Notes
1.1 Site Summary/ Abstract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1.2 Archive Index	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1.3 Guide to Elements of the Archaeological Archive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Project Planning			
2.1 Planning Documentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.2 Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design/ Project Specification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.3 Risk Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.4 Correspondence (date order)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.5 Miscellaneous documentation (flow charts, bills, receipts, administration, staffing etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Initial Survey and Documentary Research			
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3.2 Historic Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.3 Documentary Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.4 Desk-Based Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.5 Geophysical Survey Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.6 Aerial Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.7 Other Survey material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4 Site Fieldwork Data			
4.1 Site notes and diaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.2 Context Index and Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.3 Level Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.4 Plan Index and Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.5 Section Index and Section Drawings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.6 Survey and Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5 Photographic Record:			
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5.2 Photographic Concordance Table (database printout)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5.3 Contact Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.4 Negatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.5 Colour Transparencies (slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.6 Prints	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.7 Digital Images (computer printout)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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6 Post-excavation Fieldwork Data:			
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6.2 AutoCAD Site Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.3 Site Structural Report Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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7.1 Digital Archive Storage Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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7.3 CD / DVDs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.4 Other Discs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.5 Metadata for Digital Record (data about data, eg what the codes mean)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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8 Material Archive Record			
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8.2 Recorded Finds Index and Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.3 Context Finds Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.4 Bulk Finds Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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8.6 Recorded Finds Database Copy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.7 Recorded Finds Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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8.9 Bulk finds Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.10 Pottery Database Copy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.11 Spot Dating Record	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.12 Pottery Assessment Report Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.13 Pottery Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.14 Ceramic Building Materials Assessment Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.15 Industrial Residues Assessment Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.16 Scientific Analysis and Dating Reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.17 Finds Digital Photographs Index	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.18 Finds Digital Images (computer printout)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.19 Box Index	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.20 Material Archive Rationalisation Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.21 Finds Archive Contents Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9 Conservation Record			
9.1 Conservation Assessment Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.2 X-rays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.3 Conservation Record Sheets for Individual Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.4 Further conservation Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10 Biological Material Record			
10.1 Sample Index and Sample Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.2 Biological Material Data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.3 Biological Material Assessment Report Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.4 Animal Bone Assessment (if a separate report)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.5 Shell Assessment (if a separate report)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.6 Human Bone Data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.7 Human Bone Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11-13 Dissemination			
11. Publicity: Press releases, paper cuttings, recordings of interviews both on the radio and T.V.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Final Assessment Report: The complete Assessment Report. Including illustrations and plates, as sent to the client and Historic Environment Record	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Additional Reports: Interim Statements, watching brief report copy, papers and articles written for journals or other publications.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14 Watching Brief Archive			
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Publication Archive		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Did this site proceed to publication after assessment?	

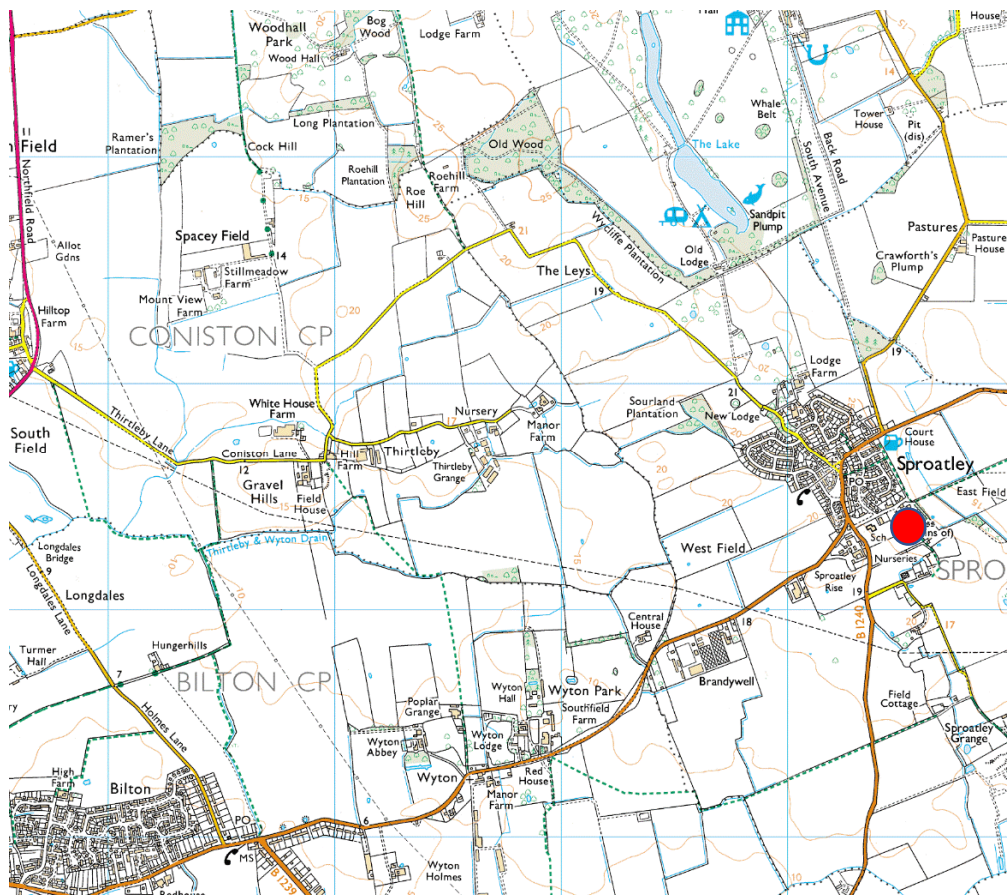


Figure 1 Site location (in red) © Crown copyright, licence number 100034493

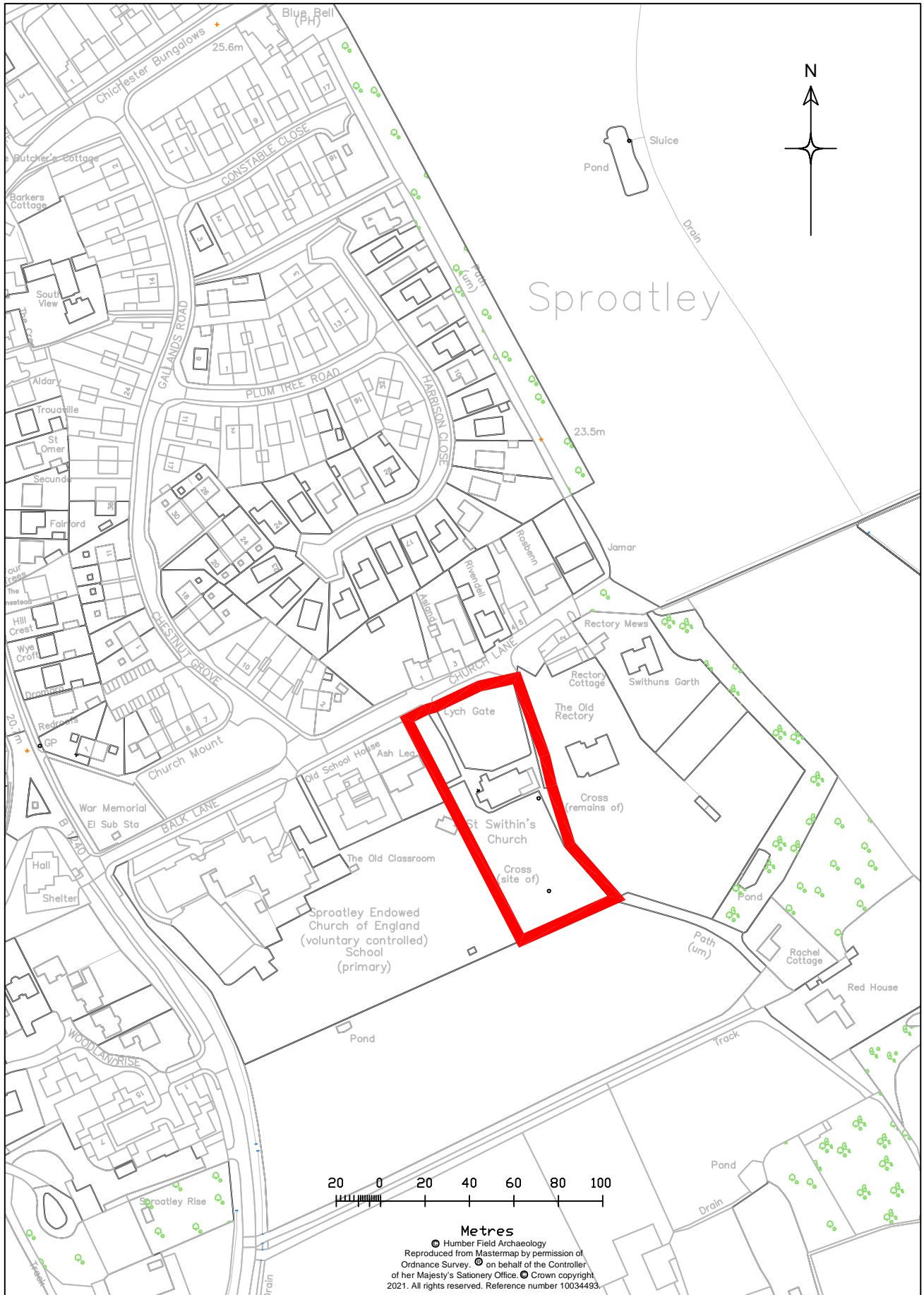
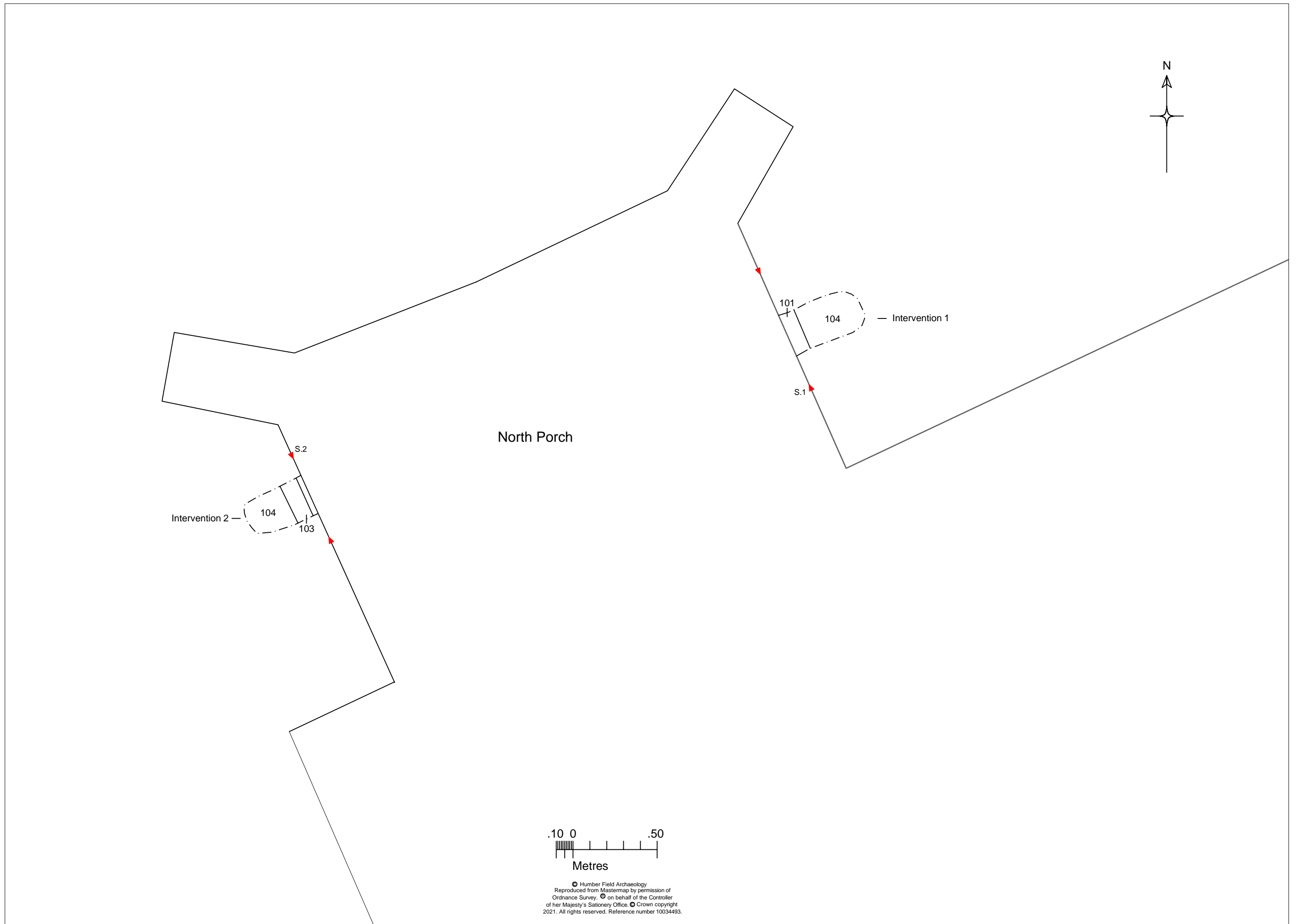
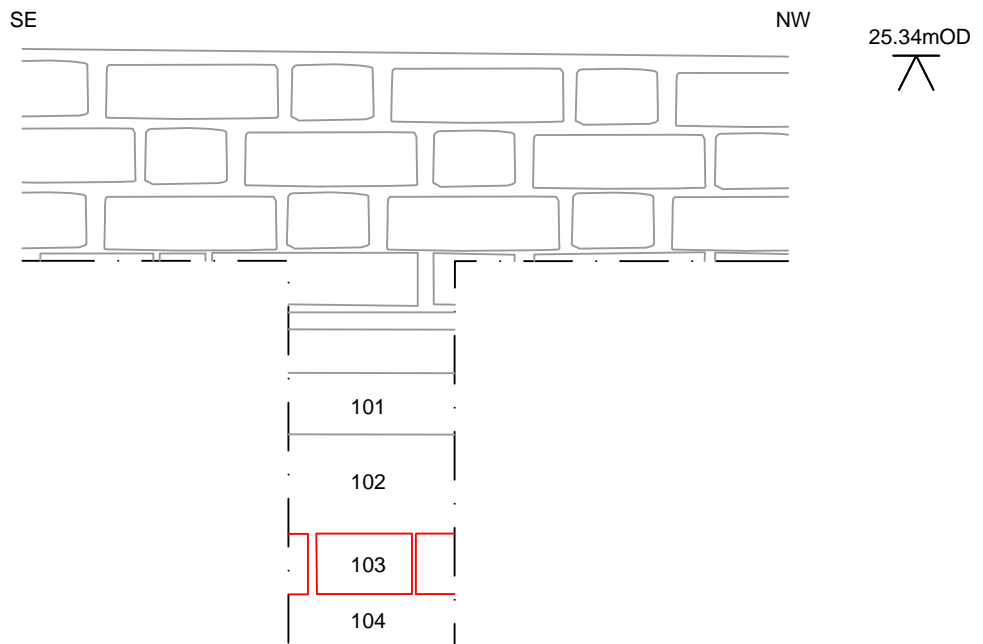


Figure 2 Location of St. Swithun within the village of Sproatley (red outline, scaled to fit)



S.1



S.2

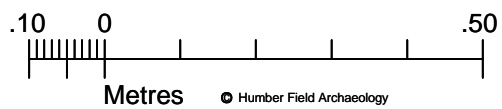
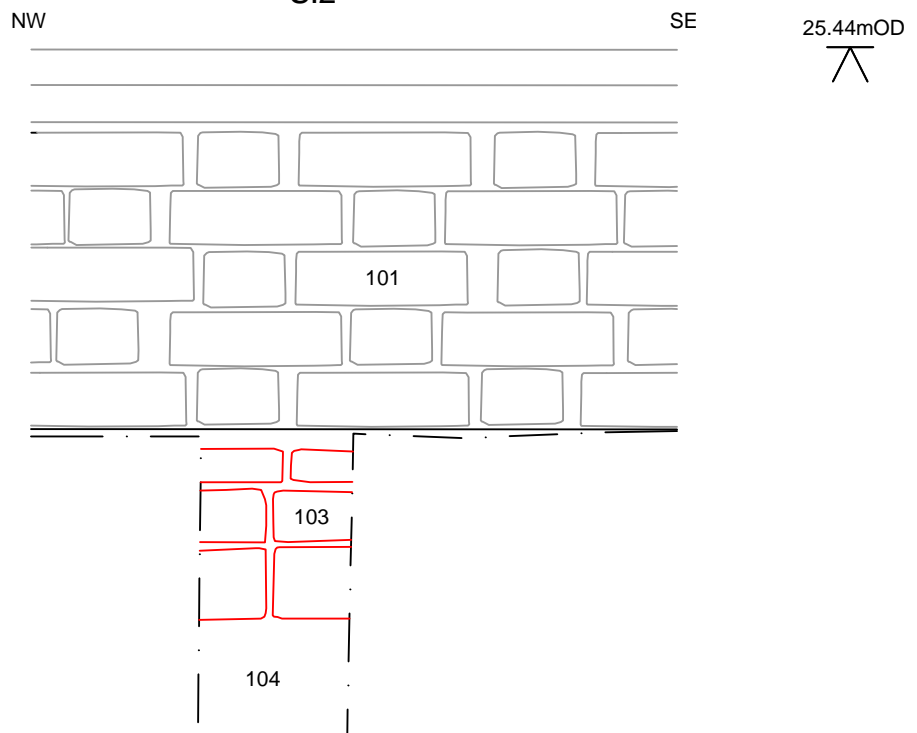




Plate 1 View of the north porch from the north-east.



Plate 2 Intervention pit #1 on the eastern side of the north porch, showing likely post-medieval brick footing 103 (red brick, pre-1814) set back and underneath the current north porch foundations 101 (white brick) which was built around 1866. Looking west, 0.5m scale.



Plate 3 Intervention pit #2 on the western side of the north porch, showing a similar sequence of events as on the eastern side of the porch; post-medieval red brick stepped foundation 103, with the 1866 white brick north porch 101 sitting directly atop. Looking east, 0.5m scale.



Plate 4 A further example of the likely post-medieval red brick foundation remains of the church demolished pre-1814 surviving at the current ground level. This example lies to the south-west of the north porch and north of the tower.



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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