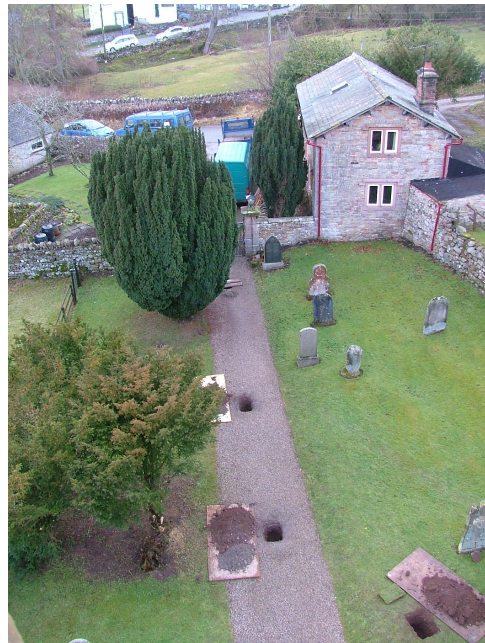


**ST ANDREW'S
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CUMBRIA**



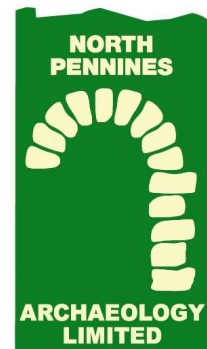
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CP. No: 1360/10

09/02/2011

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by The Parochial Church Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks relating to the insertion of service pipes for a new toilet and kitchen block to be constructed within St Andrew's Church, Dacre (NY 3460 5266), in order to broaden the use of the church to its wider community.

The current church is largely 12th century in date, with additions made in the 15th and 19th centuries, but is built on the site of a much earlier church, which itself was likely to have been constructed on the site of a 7th century Saxon monastery. Archaeological evidence from excavations in 1929, and between 1982 and 1985 supported the view that the church is built on the site of the monastery mentioned by Bede.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over seven days between the 5th and the 24th January 2011. The watching brief monitored groundworks located to the west side of the church for a service trench, as well the excavation of a separate trench to allow for standing water to drain away from the main church entrance, at the south-west corner of the church tower. The external and internal sides of part of a church wall were also recorded prior to the insertion of water and sewerage pipes for the new kitchen and toilet block located within the north-west corner of the church.

Phase 1 of the groundworks involved the excavation by hand of 10 test pits along the proposed route of a service trench to serve a new toilet and kitchen block within the church. Initial excavations close to the main west door revealed an *in-situ* burial at a fairly shallow depth of c.0.40m below present ground level. The presence of this burial, within the present gravel path leading from the church gates to the main entrance, may suggest that at an earlier period this was not the main entrance into the building, and that the door in the south aisle may have been utilised.

The service trench was then excavated by machine and was monitored at all times by the attendant archaeologist. Features of note revealed during these groundworks was the discovery of a stone culvert or wall located at the point where the present turf of the graveyard and the north side of the gravel path meet. This feature was noted to have truncated a burial. A further *in-situ* burial was revealed mid-way along the length of the gravel path, again possibly suggesting that this burial may have pre-dated the creation of the main entrance into the church from the west.

The excavation of the drainage trench, located running from the south-west corner of the church tower, provided the most significant evidence for earlier buildings or structures on the site of St Andrew's Church. A c.1.40m wide section of wall was revealed at a depth of only 0.35m below present ground level. No finds were retrieved to allow for an approximate date for this wall; it has been considered that it may have belonged to an earlier phase of the church, or possibly part of an earlier boundary wall which ran much closer to the church at the south side. It is also possible that it may

represent a pre-Norman structure, possibly even part of the monastery buildings believed to have occupied the locality.

Also of significance was the shallow depth of an *in-situ* burial revealed during the excavation of the drainage trench, being only 0.10m below present ground surface. This should be considered during any future ground works within the churchyard.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Sue and Steve Huddart of St Andrew's Church, Dacre Parochial Church Council for all assistance throughout the work.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to John Watson and staff of Jos Watson Builders, for their assistance during this project, and to Alan James for undertaking metal detecting during the course of the watching brief.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Fiona Wooler, Tony Liddell and Kevin Mounsey. The report was written by Fiona Wooler. The project was managed by Frank Giocco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd, who also edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by The Parochial Church Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the insertion of a pumping chamber, and service pipes for a new kitchen and toilet block to be constructed within St Andrew's Church, Dacre, Penrith, Cumbria (NY 3460 5266), in order to broaden the use of the church to the wider community.
- 1.2 The current church is largely 12th century in date, with additions made in the 15th and 19th centuries, but is located on the site of a much earlier 10th century church, which was itself likely to have been constructed on the site of a 7th century Saxon monastery. Archaeological evidence from excavations in 1929, and between 1982 and 1985, support the view that the church is built on the site of the monastery mentioned by Bede. The excavations carried out by the former Cumbria and Lancashire Archaeological Unit between 1982 and 1985 revealed a complex unbroken sequence of archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric period through to the medieval period. A mitigation assessment was undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in 2007¹, the scope of this current fieldwork is based on the recommendations issued in the 2007 report.
- 1.3 Although the actual monastic church was not identified during previous archaeological fieldwork it is highly probable that the location lies beneath the present church. Due to the high significance of the site, the groundworks associated with the new service pipes have the potential to impact on remains of national importance. The aim of this archaeological work is to ensure that any impact on the archaeological record will be kept to an absolute minimum.
- 1.4 All groundworks associated with the insertion of the new service pipes had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines², and were consistent with the specification provided by NPA Ltd³ and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.5 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

¹ Giocco, F and Wooller, F, 2007

² IfA 2008

³ Giocco, F, 2010

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by The Parochial Church Council, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area⁴. Following acceptance of the project design by Andrew Davison of English Heritage, NPA Ltd were commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2008).

2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
- to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital and monochrome formats as applicable, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;

2.2.3 Archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the stripping commenced on the 5th January 2011 and continued

⁴ Giocco, F, 2010

intermittently for seven days, finishing on the 24th January 2011. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the Project Design, and according to the *Archaeological Archives Forum* recommendations⁵. The archive will be deposited within an appropriate repository, with copies of the report sent to the Lake District National Park Authority Historic Environment Record, where viewing will be made available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA10, DAC-B, CP 1360/10.
- 2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology Limited and the Lake District National Park Authority Historic Environment Record, support the **Online AccesS** to the **Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project (Ref: northpen-92289).

⁵ Brown, D.H, 2007

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 The village of Dacre is located approximately 6km to the west of the market town of Penrith at a height of *c.*180m above sea level. The Dacre Beck flows in an easterly direction to the south of the village, and approximately 1km to the north is the main A66 trunk road (Figure 1).
- 3.2 St Andrew's Church is situated to the north-eastern side of the village, immediately to the north of Dacre Castle. The land to the east and north of the church is undeveloped.
- 3.3 The groundworks were concentrated to the western side of the church, with the location of the pumping chamber being immediately to the north of the north-west corner, and the route of the service trench leading from the pumping chamber and heading in a south-westerly direction towards the present main pathway into the church, then continuing along the pathway and exiting the churchyard through the gates before continuing to join the main services under the road to the west of the church. A short trench to allow for better drainage was also excavated from the south-west corner of the church tower for a length of *c.*5.5m (Figure 2).

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The earliest recorded reference to Dacre is believed to have been made by Bede writing in the early 8th century when he refers in the fourth book of his Ecclesiastical History to *'Est autem factum in monesterio quod juxta amnem Dacore constructum ab eo Suidberct abbatis jure praefuit'*, which is believed to translate as *'a monastery built by the Dacre Beck which received its name from that stream, presided over at that time as abbot by a religious named Suidberct'*⁶. Following his death in 687, some of St Cuthbert's relics are believed to have been kept at the monastery at Dacre. Sometime around the year 728, it is recorded that a portion of the saints hair had been applied to the diseased eye of a young monk, resulting in the lump on the eye disappearing. This 'miracle' helped to maintain veneration for St Cuthbert in Cumbria⁷.
- 4.3.2 In the 10th century, Dacre is said to have been the location of a meeting between Athelstan, King of England, Constantine, King of the Scots, and Eugenius, King of Cumberland. The Worcester Manuscript of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, dating to the year 926, records this meeting as having taken place *'aet Ea motum'*, which is believed to have been Eamont Bridge where the confluences of the rivers Eamont and Lowther meet⁸, however William of Malmesbury writing in the early 12th century, suggests that this meeting was at Dacre⁹.
- 4.3.3 Writing at the end of the 17th century, Thomas Denton described Dacre parish: *'Dacre or D'Acre is so called either from a French man of that name, who came over with William the Conquerour, of from an old Saxon name 'Dacor' as appear in Bede's Ecclesiasticall Hystory, who tells you that in his time there was a monastery here, called by the name of the River Dacor, which run hard by it; and that Suidbertus was then abbot thereof, who cured a young man of that abbay, of a tumor or excrescence in his eye with a relick of St Cuthbert's hair'*. He goes on to note that *'the castle stands a little above the church, which is but an old square tower, nothing remaining thereof but the walls. The town, church and castle stand on the northside of the beck and the park riseth up from thence with a graduall ascent, above halfe a mile high and a mile in breadth, facing the south sun; which being nourished with the heat and moysturd of a bed of limestone (lying under the park) doth much increase its fertility'*¹⁰.

⁶ McIntire, W.T, 1934, Page 16

⁷ Tudor, V, 1984, Page 69

⁸ Swanton, M (Ed), 2000, Page 107

⁹ McIntire, W.T, 1934, Page 16

¹⁰ Winchester, A.J.L, 2003, Pages 310 and 313

- 4.3.4 Writing in 1794-1797, Hutchinson remarked how the castle at Dacre had by that date been converted into a farmhouse, the moat had been filled in and the out works had been destroyed, with the main part still standing being *'four towers of excellent workmanship, and built of durable stone, calculated merely for defence, with narrow grated windows and other dark remains of the feudal ages. It is supposed this was the original mansion of the illustrious family of Dacre'*. Describing St Andrew's Church at Dacre he noted that *'some have supposed it was appropriated to the old monastery, which religious house was perhaps, destroyed on some incursion of the Scots. It is a neat edifice, and if we credit tradition, was built out of the ruins of the monastery, and in lieu of a mean erection which stood at about the distance of half a mile'*. Hutchinson then goes on to describe the Dacre Bears as *'four remarkable monuments, being the figures of bears, about five feet in height, sitting on their haunches, and clasping a rude pillar, or ragged staff, on which two of the figures rest their heads; the other two carry on their backs the figure of a lynx, one is in the attitude of attempting to rid himself of the animal on his shoulders, with his head twisted, and paw cast behind him. They are placed on a square, two to the east of the church and two to the west'*. The first vicar of Dacre Church mentioned in this document was Henry de Harcla of Appleby, incumbent in 1296¹¹.
- 4.3.5 In 1829 Parson and White effectively repeat Hutchinson in their description of Dacre Castle and the church, although they did note that in 1810 the church tower had been rebuilt. They also noted that at *Fluskew* [presumably Flusco to the north of Dacre] *'several stone coffins, urns and other remains were dug up about the year 1785'*¹².
- 4.3.6 Within the local studies collection at Carlisle Library is an unpublished report by Cory and Ferguson Architects, for the 'proposed restoration' of St Andrew's Church dated September 1873. The report listed the large amount of works that would have been required, which included re-slating of the roof, the excavation of small cellars beneath the floors to allow for the insertion of heating stoves and necessary flues, and it noted that if any interments were encountered, the architects intended to cover the surface of the floors with a thin layer of concrete. It should be noted that this was a report produced prior to any works being carried out, and not a list of works that was actually undertaken.
- 4.3.7 Some works must have been undertaken at Dacre Church in the 1870s, as it was reported in the *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society* in 1890-91, that a carved stone had been found in 1875 during the restoration of the church. The stone had been

¹¹ Hutchinson, W, 1794-1797, Pages 468 and 473

¹² Parson, W and White, W, 1829, Page 469

discovered embedded in the east wall of the church, when a new window was being inserted. Rev. Canon Mathews described the stone as having being carved from pink, grey sandstone, very similar to local quarries. He notes how it was obviously part of a much larger piece of work. The symbolism on this piece of cross shaft, as suggested by Rev. W.S. Calverley, is believed to be Christian, rather than pagan, and he believed it was carved to commemorate the meeting of the three kings in AD926 at Dacre¹³.

- 4.3.8 In the same addition of Transactions (1890-91), is an article about the Dacre Bears, four stone carvings located in *'each corner of the churchyard'*. In this article Chancellor Ferguson suggested that each bear formed part of a story: Bear No.1 in the north-west corner, is asleep with his head on the top of a pillar; Bear No.2 in the south-west corner has a small animal on its back, the astonished bear has awoken, lifted its head and turned to one side in surprise; Bear No.3 in the south-east corner is now fully awake and has his right forepaw flexed over his right shoulder; Bear No.4 in the north-east corner is in repose, the smaller beast has disappeared down the throat of the bear, *'who rests his chin on the top of the pillar, while his face presents every sign of intense gratification'*. Chancellor Ferguson noted that the bears had certainly been in their present position since 1704, when they were observed by Bishop Nicholson¹⁴.
- 4.3.9 In c.1900, a piece of carved stone was discovered buried in clay during the excavation of a trench for water pipes close to the church. The stone was recovered, and was cemented into the rockery at the door of Dacre Castle. The stone is carved from red sandstone, and is believed to have been part of a cross shaft. Collingwood suggested that the stone dated to the second half of the 8th century¹⁵.
- 4.3.10 Richard Bailey's article *'The Meaning of the Viking-age shaft at Dacre'* suggests that the 'Dacre Stone' dates to the Viking period (10th century). He, however, disagrees with Rev. Calverley's interpretation that the stone commemorated the meeting of the kings in AD926, and that instead the carving depicts well-known Christian scenes. The bottom scene of two figures either side of a tree, is described as the Fall of Man; this was described by Bailey as unusual, as there are only two other examples of this scene illustrated on pre-Norman sculpture, and these are at Newent in Gloucestershire and Breedon in Leicestershire. The central scene is of the hart and the hound and examples of the theme are known from not just Dacre, but also Lancaster and Heysham. The upper scene shows two figures either side of a rectangular object; Bailey

¹³ Mathews, Rev. Canon, 1890-91, Pages 226-229

¹⁴ Ferguson, Chancellor, 1890-91, Pages 323-328

¹⁵ Collingwood, W.G, 1912, Page 157

suggested that this represented the sacrifice of Isaac, a popular theme in early Christian art. It would appear to have been this scene which Rev. Calverley suggested commemorated the meeting of the kings, therefore it would have been a site-specific piece of work, however the piece of cross shaft from Breedon, also contains a similar scene above the Fall of Man¹⁶.

- 4.3.11 The known pieces of sculpture from Dacre are included within the *Corpus of Angle-Saxon Stone Sculpture, Volume II – Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire North-of-the-Sands*. The part of the cross shaft discovered c.1900 is listed as being early 9th century in date and the Dacre Stone is listed as being 10th to 11th century in date. A part of a cross-arm discovered during excavations in 1982 in the churchyard is listed as being late 8th to early 9th century in date¹⁷.
- 4.3.12 In Cumbria, there are only three Anglo-Scandinavian monastic communities known from documentary sources: Heversham, Carlisle, and Dacre. There may, according to Higham, have been other important sites at Irton, Urswick, Addingham, and inscriptions have been found at Knells (near Carlisle), Workington and Beckermeth¹⁸.
- 4.3.13 In the medieval period, Dacre was located in an area which was vulnerable to invasions from Scotland, consequently there are several fortified towers within the vicinity of St Andrew's Church. Just to the south is Dacre Castle which Pevsner believed was an early 14th century pele tower¹⁹. In 1354 a licence for a chapel in the castle was granted to Margaret Dacre²⁰. Dalemmain, a country house located to the east of Dacre, incorporates a 15th or early 16th century tower, and to the west is Hutton John, which contains within its fabric a 14th or 15th century tower²¹.
- 4.3.14 The west tower of St Andrew's Church was rebuilt in 1810, but the building still retains Norman elements of 12th century date such as the chancel which has long round-arched lancets and a doorway with shafts having waterleaf and crocket capitals²². Various additions were made to the church in the 13th and 14th centuries, and then it was relatively unaltered until several restorations during the 19th century²³.

¹⁶ Bailey, R.N, 1977, Pages 61-74

¹⁷ Bailey, R.N and Cramp, R, 1988, Pages 90-93

¹⁸ Higham, N, 1986, Page 301

¹⁹ Pevsner, N, 2002, Page 117

²⁰ Perriam, D.R and Robinson, J, 1998, 182

²¹ *Ibid*, Page 190

²² Salter, M, 1998, Page 46

²³ Smith, P.J.F and Newman, R.M, Undated (Post-1995)

- 4.3.15 The name *Dacore* was a British river name, meaning 'trickling stream'. The hamlet of Dacre is named after the river²⁴.
- 4.3.16 Due to the work of Professor Thomas, there is a widespread belief that churchyards with curvilinear boundaries are of an early date, i.e. Anglo-Saxon²⁵. The southern boundary of the churchyard at Dacre is curvilinear.

4.5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 4.5.1 There have been two recorded archaeological investigations within the vicinity of the development area, in 1929 and between 1982 and 1984.
- 4.5.2 In 1929, to the south of the church, but within the graveyard, a stone-lined Y-shaped drain was discovered constructed of what appeared to be reused blocks of sandstone (Plate 1). This drain was interpreted as being part of a primitive sanitary arrangement for a monastery on the site, with the two channels at the northern end serving two privies, the drains from which then converged and discharged southwards into a stream located on the south side of the church wall. Excavations on the south side of the churchyard wall did not reveal anymore of the stone-lining, however an open ditch was revealed which ran down the hillside into the stream between the church and the castle²⁶.
- 4.5.3 The opportunity arose in 1982 to investigate the site of St Andrew's Church when a house was to be constructed immediately to the west of the church, and it was also recognised that a churchyard extension that had started in 1950 to the north of the church was destroying archaeological evidence²⁷ (Plate 2); these excavations took place between 1982 and 1984. To the north of the church, excavations revealed a Christian cemetery containing at least 70 graves. Although bone preservation was minimal, enough survived in two graves to show that the bodies were laid out flat on their backs (supine), with their heads to the west, and with no grave goods. Also revealed to the north of the church were traces of timber buildings, set into the floor of one was a millstone that had been reused as a hearth. Early enclosure banks and ditches were revealed to the north and west of the church, the fill of which contained material dating from the 8th to the 12th century. At some point between AD1200 and 1250, a boundary wall was constructed immediately to the north of the church, aligned east-west, which overlay these earlier boundary features (Plate 3). During these excavations 58 copper-alloy objects were recovered, 19 of which were of pre-Conquest date. These finds are

²⁴ Lee, J, 1998, Page 25

²⁵ O'Sullivan, D, 1985, Page 31

²⁶ Hudleston, F, 1932, Pages 75-77

²⁷ Leech, R.H and Newman, R, 1985, Pages 87-93

regarded as being important as they are one of the largest groups of pre-Conquest metalwork found in the north-west of England, and also because of their high quality which suggests occupation of a fairly high status. The discovery of a single stylus could tentatively suggest the former existence at Dacre of a scriptorium²⁸. Two *stycas* of AD848-55, and at least two fragments of Viking-age stone crosses were also recovered during the course of these excavations²⁹, adding to the evidence of the site having been utilised in the pre-Conquest period.

- 4.5.4 During the excavations between 1982 and 1984, the stone-lined drain to the south of the church was reopened (Plates 4 and 5). The stones which made up the drains are believed to have been reused and may possibly have been Roman in date, although no such site is known from within the vicinity. In the back fill of the earlier excavation, which must originally have come from within the drain, were a pre-Norman gold ring, a possible book decoration and an Anglo-Saxon stylus³⁰. These suggest that the drain formed part of a pre-conquest monastic site.
- 4.5.5 In December 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook a small evaluation to the north-west corner of the church to help inform the positioning of a proposed manhole in the graveyard. The trench measured 1m by 1m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m. The earliest recorded deposit was an *in-situ* burial aligned east to west. The burial was only partially exposed to confirm that it was indeed an undisturbed burial and was left *in-situ*. The skeletal remains were in a moderate state of preservation and from the shape of the skull the burial appeared to have been an adult female. Due to the confines of the test pit no traces of a grave cut were recorded. There was no evidence for a coffin associated with this burial. The area surrounding the burial was scanned with a metal detector and no metallic signals were recorded suggesting that the burial was not within a coffin and more likely to have been buried in a shroud. This may suggest that the burial was more likely to have been medieval than post-medieval in date³¹.
- 4.5.6 The skeleton revealed in the evaluation trench was sealed beneath 0.40m of grave backfill, which was then cut by the construction of a stone-lined drain. This drain was running parallel with the north wall of the church and measured 0.60m in width (Plate 5). The backfill of the drain trench produced

²⁸ Tweddle, R, Undated

²⁹ Leech, R.H and Newman, R, 1985, Page 89

³⁰ Smith, P.J.F and Newman, R, Undated

³¹ Giocco, F and Wooler, F, 2007, Page 26

a small quantity of post medieval pottery, clinker and window glass, indicating a likely 19th century date for this drain³².

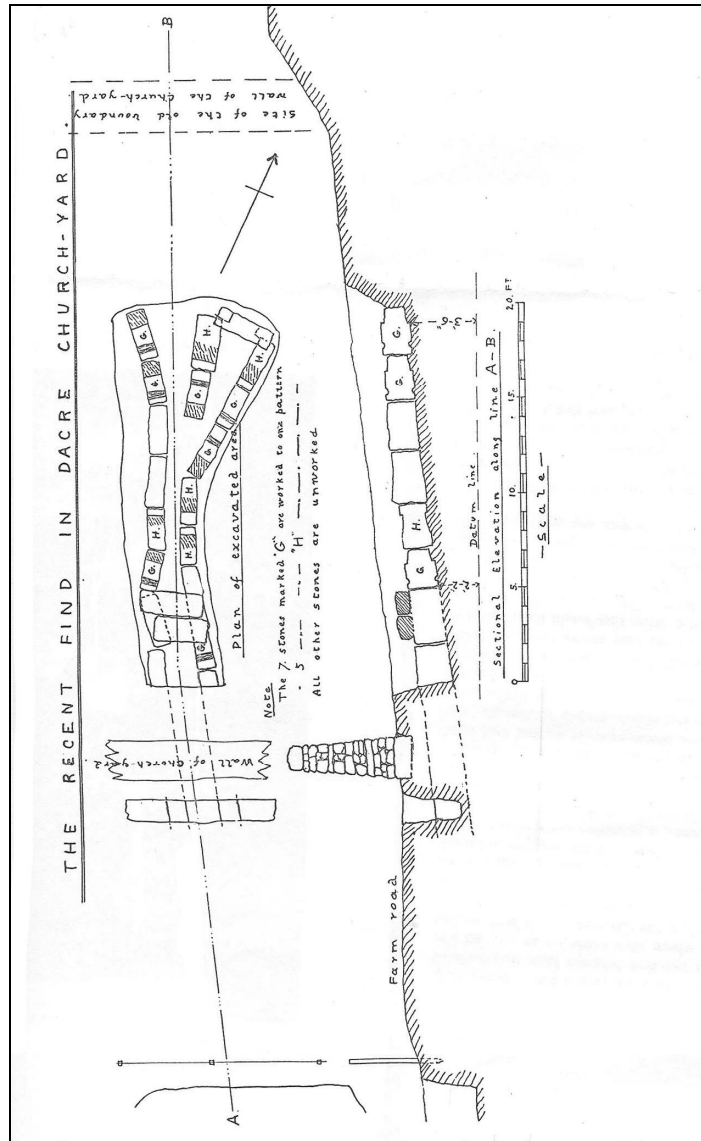


Plate 1: Plan and cross-section of the stone-lined drain discovered in 1929 (Source: Hudleston, 1932)

³² *Ibid*

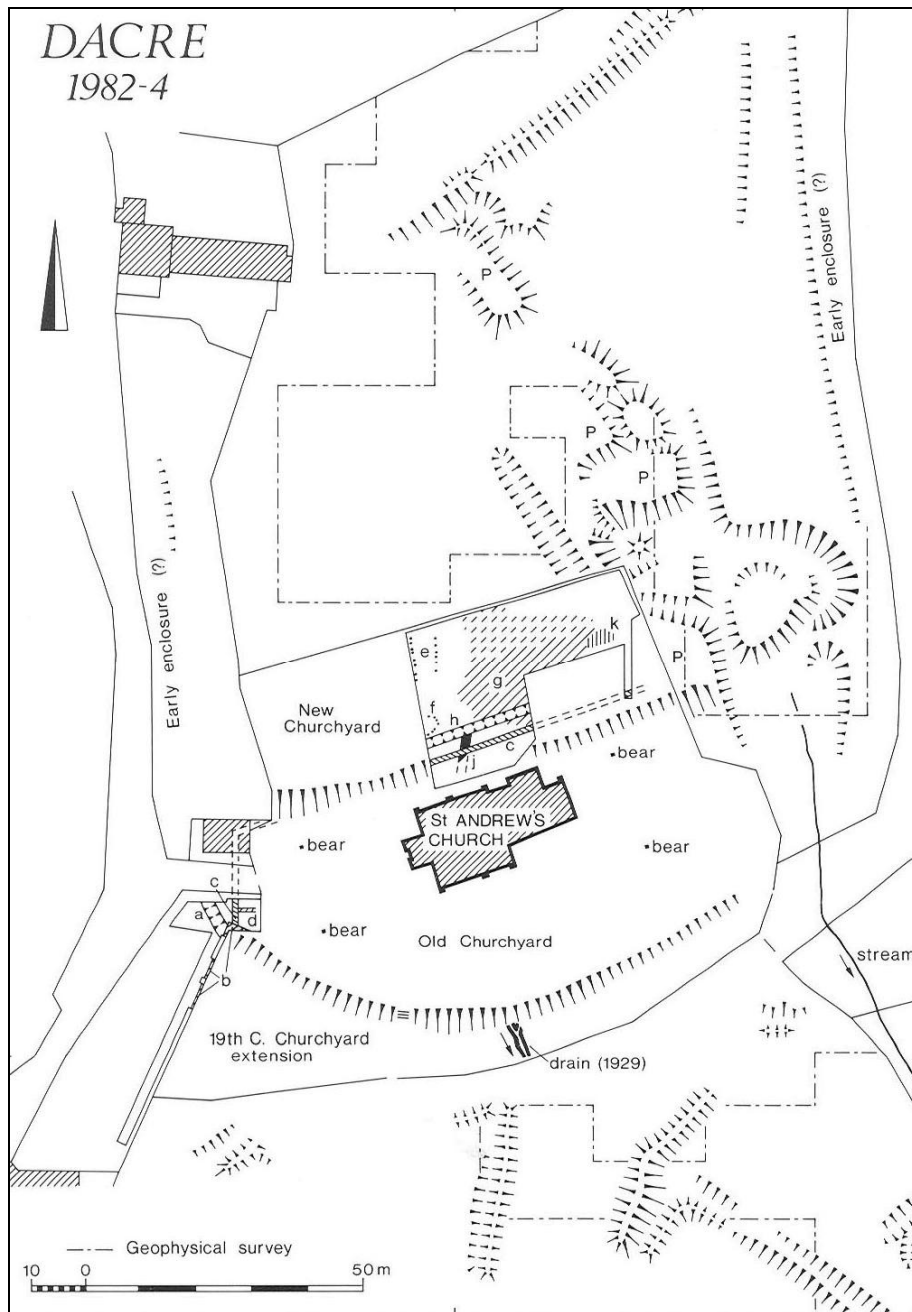


Plate 2: Plan of the excavations 1982-84 (a=silted-up ditch, b= stone-built structure, c=boundary wall constructed between AD1200 and 1250, d=medieval occupation area, e=structure on upper terrace, f=timber building, g=cemetery, h=boundary ditch, j=well-built wall, k=occupation area, p=building platforms noted in the field to the north and east)



Plate 3: View looking west of north side of church showing the original medieval churchyard wall revealed during the excavations (Source: Smith and Newman, undated)



Plate 4: View looking south of the re-excavated drain in the 1980s (Courtesy of Alan James)



Plate 4: View looking south of the re-excavated drain in the 1980s (Courtesy of Alan James)



Plate 5: View looking south showing the evaluation trench. The skull of the burial is visible with the stone drain to the rear

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken in two key phases. The first phase involved the excavation by hand of test pits along the proposed service trench route from the north-east corner of the church, to establish the depth and preservation of any archaeological remains, and locations of any *in-situ* burials. Once a suitable route had been established, which had the least impact on burials, the second phase involved the excavation by machine of the service trench from the north-east corner of the church in a westerly direction along the present churchyard path, exiting through the church gates and on to meet the main sewerage and water pipes in the road to the west of the church (Figure 2).
- 5.1.2 A further trench was excavated by machine from the south-west corner of the church tower for a length of approximately 5.5m to allow for the drainage of standing water.
- 5.1.3 At the point where the service pipes were to exit the interior of the church from the new kitchen and toilet area, the interior and exterior areas of church wall were recorded prior to a hole being cut through the small area of masonry in the north-west corner.

5.2 PHASE 1: HAND DUG TEST PITS

- 5.2.1 The Phase 1 watching brief covered the hand excavation of 10 test pits along a proposed route from the location of the pump chamber. The test pits were measured approximately 0.70m in length by 0.50m wide, and were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m, which was the desired depth for the service trench.
- 5.2.2 The first test pit to be excavated was located approximately 4.25m to the west of the main door to the church, in the west tower (Figure 2). Test Pit No. 1 was noted to contain an *in-situ* burial, exposed as two leg bones aligned east to west, at a depth of 0.40m below the present level of the gravel path (Plates 6 and 7). Due to the presence of this burial, it was decided to alter the route of the service trench, consequently further test pits were excavated to the north of the path, and west from the location of the pump chamber. Test Pit No's 3, 4 and 5 were all excavated along the line of the present gravel path to the west of the church (Plates 8 and 9). The excavated material consisted of 0.10m of gravel and sub-base (**101**), below which was red, loose sandy gravel (**102**). Some disarticulated human bone was noted

from within Pit No's 3 and 4; however Pit No.5, located close to the churchyard gates, was devoid of any bone fragments or other finds.

- 5.2.3 Although Test Pit No's 6 – 10 were all located within the present churchyard, no further *in-situ* burials were noted during these excavations, although there were fragments of disarticulated human bone found (Plates 10 and 11). These fragments were bagged and reburied within the test pit from which they were retrieved.
- 5.2.4 The hole for the pump chamber (Test Pit 11) was located just to the west of the point where the evaluation had been undertaken in 2007 (see 4.5.5 above and Plate 5), and just to the north of the north-west corner of the church, and immediately to the north of a brick retaining wall (Plate 12). This was the deepest of the hand excavated holes, taken to a depth of 1.00m, although ultimately it would accommodate a 2m high plastic pump chamber. An *in-situ* burial in the form of an adult skull was revealed in the east facing section of this hole at a depth of c.1.0m below present ground level, consequently the test pit was excavated in an easterly direction to allow the burial to remain undisturbed (Plate 13). It is interesting to consider the presence of a burial immediately north of the church itself, as historically the unconsecrated north side of the churchyard was generally reserved for the '*mortal remains of transgressors*', usually those who had taken their own life or the life of another³³. It is not known how long this practice continued at Dacre. A water pipe was revealed running across the trench, aligned north to south, indicating that this area had already been partially disturbed (Plate 14).
- 5.2.5 The excavation by hand of the 10 test pits provided a suitable route for the service trench to follow from the location of the pump chamber.

³³ Friar, S, 1996, Page 71



Plate 6: An in-situ burial noted with Test Pit No. 1, aligned east to west below the present gravel path



Plate 7: View looking east towards the church door showing the exposed section of in-situ burial within Test Pit No. 1 (Scale = 1m)



Plate 8: View looking west showing the locations of Test Pit No's 1, 3, 4 and 5

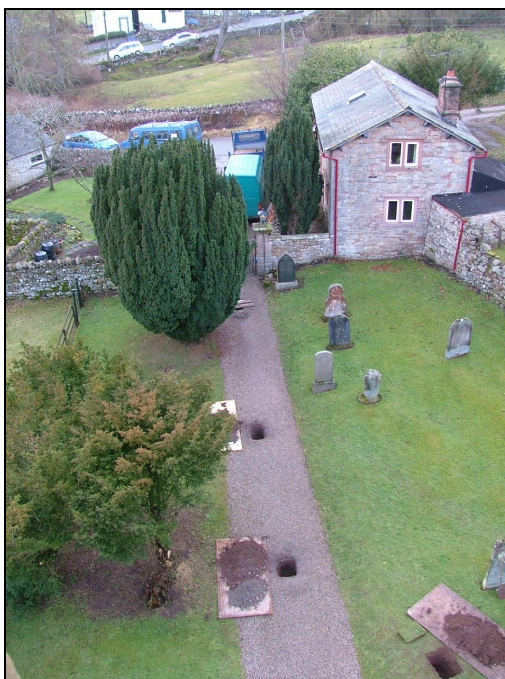


Plate 9: View from the church tower looking west showing the locations of the test pits along the churchyard path



Plate 10: View looking west showing the locations of Test Pit No's 6, 7 and 8 (Scale = 1m)



Plate 11: View from the top of the church tower showing the locations of Test Pit No's 7-10



Plate 12: View looking south showing the location for the pump chamber (Scale = 1m)



Plate 13: View looking west in the hole for the pump chamber showing the skull of a burial at the base of the trench (Scale =1m)



*Plate 14: View looking south showing a water pipe within the pump chamber hole
(Scale = 1m)*

5.3 PHASE 2: MACHINE EXCAVATED SERVICE TRENCH

- 5.3.1 Phase 2 of the watching brief aimed to monitor all subsequent groundworks associated with the excavation of the service trench from the location of the pump chamber to the main sewerage and water pipes located under the road to the west of the church, following the route established by the test pits. This phase commenced on the 10th January 2011, and consisted of the excavation by machine with a toothless bucket, 0.50m wide, from the eastern end at the location for the pump chamber (Plate 15). Figure 2 shows the route of the service trench, following the line of test pits previously excavated.
- 5.3.2 The service trench was excavated to a depth of 0.60m, and was 0.50m wide. At its eastern end, the excavated material from the trench consisted of a layer of gravel (111) beneath the topsoil, presumably part of a former pathway. Below this gravel, the excavated material consisted of the red, gravelly soil already noted during the excavation of the test pits (102).
- 5.3.3 During the excavation of the service trench, fragments of human bone were retrieved from the spoil, although these were not seemingly from *in-situ* burials due to the isolated nature of different bone types. At a point close to the north-east corner of a separate defined burial area (Plate 16), located just

to the west of the church, a cluster of skull and other bone fragments were all found together along with two silver shroud pins (**SF No.2**), and the remains of wood still attached to iron coffin nails. This mixture of finds was clearly a redeposited feature due to the different bone types and other finds found in a small area. The human bone fragments were retained together for deposition back into the trench prior to the insertion of the service pipes and backfill.

- 5.3.4 As the trench progressed in a south-westerly direction, at least two *in-situ* burials were noted within the trench sections; these burials were left untouched. Plate 17 shows the route of the trench prior to it reaching the north side of the gravel churchyard path.
- 5.3.5 At the point where the trench reached the north edge of the present gravel path, which leads from the churchyard gates to the main door of the church, large masonry blocks were noted, possibly the remains of a wall or culvert (**103**) (Plate 18). An modern electricity cable was noted to run along the edge of the path towards the church gates. The remains of an *in-situ* burial were noted to have been partially truncated by this wall or culvert, with a section of a pelvis and spine clearly visible right up against the north facing side of the masonry (Plate 19). Two service pipes aligned east to west were noted within the trench indicating that this area has already been partially disturbed.
- 5.3.6 Located approximately 13m from the churchyard gates, an *in-situ* burial (**104**) aligned roughly east to west was noted within the line of the present gravel path into the church (Plate 20). This burial was believed to have been that of an adult female based on pelvis fragments. As this burial lay at a level higher than the require depth for the trench, the remains were recorded, lifted and then redeposited within this section of the trench following the excavation of the ground to a depth of 0.60m.
- 5.3.7 As the trench progressed in a westerly direction towards the church gates, no further *in-situ* burials were noted.
- 5.3.8 From the church gates leading in a westerly direction, the excavated material consisted of cobbles, large rounded boulders and sandstone fragments, possibly brought onto site to level up the ground for a cobbled surface (Plates 21 and 22). No other features were noted in the section between the church gates and the asphalt road to the west.
- 5.3.9 At the point where the service trench reached the road to the west of the church, the trench was split into two, one to join up with the water mains, and the other to join the sewerage system. These two trenches measured 0.30m wide and 0.80m deep, and were excavated through 0.07m of asphalt (**105**) which sealed 0.73m of silty clay (**106**) and contained occasional

irregular shaped stones. It was possible to note a line of cobbles, possibly part of a former road surface, in section (Plates 23 and 24).

- 5.3.10 The final stage of groundworks associated with the service trench and pump chamber was to take the trench for the pump chamber down to a depth of 2m. This excavation was undertaken by a combination of machine with a toothless bucket and by hand. Excavation revealed the remains of a burial at a depth of c.1m below present ground level, which had seemingly already been disturbed, possibly by the insertion of the present water pipe.
- 5.3.11 Also revealed in this trench was a stone-lined culvert, aligned east to west parallel with the north wall of the church. This culvert was located at a depth of 1.1m below the present ground level, and was presumably the same 19th century culvert which had been revealed during excavations in 2007 (see Plate 5). From a depth of c.1m below present ground level, the excavated material consisted of red, sandy gravel which was devoid of any human bone or finds

5.4 DRAINAGE TRENCH

- 5.4.1 To allow for standing water to drain away from the paving stones outside the main entrance to the church, a short section of trench was excavated by mini digger with toothless bucket from the south-west corner of the church tower in a southerly direction, for a length of approximately 5.50m. An *in-situ burial* was noted within the section of this trench at a very shallow depth below present ground surface of only 0.10m (from top of skull to top of gravel path) (Plate 27).
- 5.4.2 Of particular interest within this trench was the exposure of the remains of a substantial masonry wall located at a depth of only 0.35m below the present ground surface. This wall measured c.1.40m in width and consisted of masonry facing stones to the north and south sides, and was infilled with rubble. The wall was noted to be aligned east to west (Plates 28-30). As this trench was only being filled with gravel to allow water to soak away, the wall exposed in this trench was left untouched.
- 5.4.3 There was no dating evidence retrieved from this trench to provide any indication of what period the wall may have belonged to, or indeed its function. It has been considered that it may have formed part of the church prior to restoration in the early 19th century, when the tower was rebuilt in 1810; however it seems likely that the present tower is on the same site as the earlier version. It is possible that it may have formed part of a medieval boundary wall, part of which was exposed to the north side of the church in the 1980s (see Plate 3). If this was the case, then the church that would have existed at the time must have been much smaller, and, certainly did not have

a southern extension, as the alignment of this wall (if it continued in an easterly direction) would have run through the location of the south aisle. In his publication *'The Old Parish Churches of Cumbria'*, Mike Salter suggests that the south aisle of Dacre Church is 15th century³⁴, but it is not known if it replaced an earlier version. Other sections of wall were revealed during the excavations in the 1980s. One was a well-built wall of angular masonry with a core of small rounded river cobbles, aligned north to south beneath the c.1200 boundary wall to the north of the church (labelled 'j' on Plate 2). The second was a stone-built structure noted to the west of the present churchyard, but believed to have been within the bounds of the c.1200 churchyard, located to the north end of the garden on the modern property known as The Orchard (labelled as 'b' on Plate 2), although a section of the c.1200 boundary wall was also noted in this location aligned north to south (labelled as 'c' on Plate 2).

5.5 RECORDING OF EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR WALLS

- 5.5.1 Prior to the insertion of service pipes through the north wall of the church, to serve the kitchen and toilet, and the insertion of an extractor fan in the blocked doorway, photographs were taken of the exterior and interior areas of wall that were to be affected (Plates 31-34).

³⁴ Salter, M, 1998, Page 46



Plate 15: View looking west showing the excavation of the service trench from the north-west corner of the church in a westerly direction (Scale = 1m)



Plate 16: View looking east showing the excavated service trench from the north-west corner of the church and the square stone burial plot set to right of photograph



Plate 17: View looking south-west showing the route of the service trench up to the pathway to the west of the church



Plate 18: View looking west showing the point where the trench reaches the gravel path. The remains of a stone wall or culvert were noted in the trench



Plate 19: Part of a stone wall or culvert with the remains of an in-situ burial to its right-hand side



Plate 20: An in-situ burial revealed during the course of excavations within the gravel path to the west of the church



Plate 21: View looking west showing the excavation of the trench from the church gates towards the road (Scale = 1m)



Plate 22: View looking west showing the excavated material from the section between the church gates and the road (Scale = 1m)



Plate 23: View looking east showing the excavation of trenches to the west of the church



Plate 24: Detailed of possible cobbled surface located beneath the modern road to the west of the church



Plate 25: View looking east showing the trench for the pump chamber. The collapsed remains of a stone culvert are visible to right of photograph (Scale = 1m)



Plate 26: View looking south showing the trench for the 2m high pump chamber (Scale = 1m)



Plate 27: West facing section of drainage trench showing a partially exposed skull at a shallow depth of only 0.10m below present ground surface



Plate 28: View looking north showing the drainage trench leading off from the south-west corner of the church tower, with the remains of a wall visible within the trench (Scale = 1m)



Plate 29: View looking south showing the remains of a wall (112) within the drainage trench (Scale = 1m)



Plate 30: Detail of the stone wall (112) within the drainage trench (Scale = 1m)



Plate 31: Blocked doorway in the north wall of the church



Plate 32: Detail of the area to be affected by the insertion of service pipes, north wall of the church



Plate 33: Interior of the north wall where the toilet is to be located (Scale = 2m)



Plate 34: Internal side of the blocked

5 FINDS

- 5.1 The finds retrieved during the course of the watching brief were mainly derived through metal detecting of the excavated material. Unsurprisingly, the bulk of the finds were iron coffin nails of carrying sizes and condition (Plate 35).
- 5.2 As already noted above, a cluster of human bone was revealed during the excavation of the service trench close to the point where the trench passed the defined stone burial area close to the west side of the church. These bones were found in association with fragments of wood which had survived due to them surrounding iron nails (Plate 36).
- 5.3 Two silver shroud pins were also found associated with this bone and wood/iron fragments (Plate 37). Before the mid-17th century not all bodies were buried in coffins, but they did have shrouds. First the shroud was folded over the left-hand side of the corpse; the remainder was then drawn over its right side, with the arms folded across the body in line with the rib cage. Finally the shroud was pinned or sewn along the centre³⁵.
- 5.4 During the excavation of the test pits along the line of the gravel path leading towards the main church door in the west tower, a copper (cu) alloy token or 'jeton' was found by metal detector. The inscription on this jeton appears to read 'AVE MARIA GRACIA PLENA' meaning 'HAIL MARY TRUE GRACE'. Similar examples of this style of jeton are listed on the UK Finds Database³⁶ as being French and dating from the late 14th or early 15th century. The front of the jeton displays the royal crown with central *fleur-de-lis* and two lateral *lis* and three rosettes across the body. The reverse has a triple stranded straight cross fleuretty within 4-arched tressure (Plate 38).

³⁵ Friar, S, 1996, Page 418

³⁶ <http://www.ukdfd.co.uk/ukdfddata/showrecords.php?product=6737> – Accessed 2/2/2011



Plate 35: Detail of some of the iron coffin nails retrieved during the watching brief



Plate 36: Detail of some of the wooden fragments attached to iron nails found during the watching brief

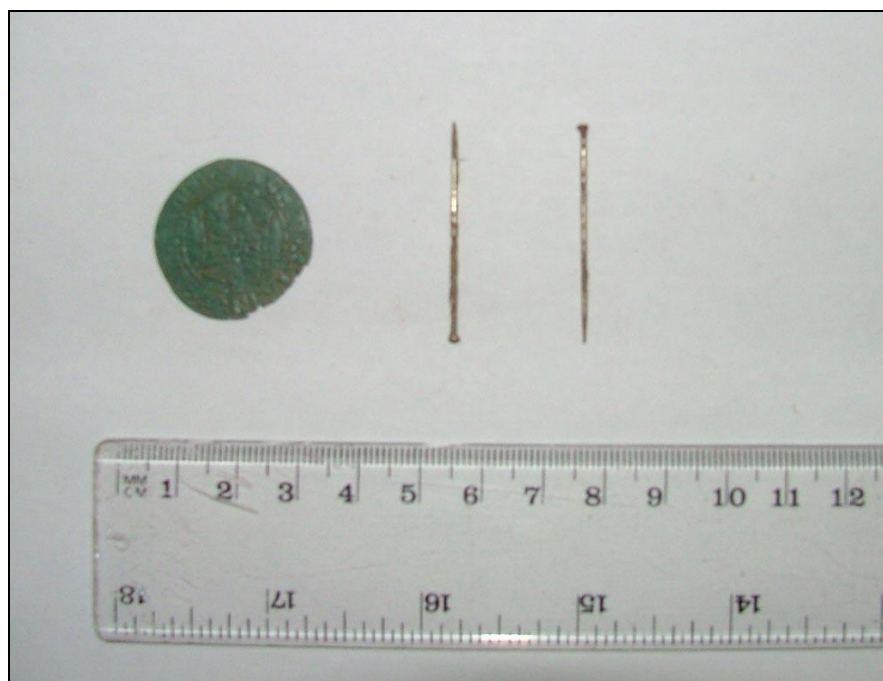


Plate 37: Detail of two silver shroud pins and a possible French 'jeton' or token found during the watching brief



Plate 38: Front and reverse of the possible French jeton

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>US</i>	<i>3 x Silver pins</i>
<i>US</i>	<i>1 x Cu ally jeton</i>
<i>US</i>	<i>2 x sherds post medieval pot</i>
<i>US</i>	<i>1 x Piece post-medieval glass</i>
<i>US</i>	<i>23 x Iron (fe) nails</i>
<i>US</i>	<i>Lead fragments</i>
<i>US</i>	<i>2 slag fragments</i>
<i>US</i>	<i>8 x wood fragments</i>
<i>US</i>	<i>1 x ?iron coffin fitting</i>

Finds retrieved during the watching brief

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 **Phase 1:** Phase 1 of the groundworks in the churchyard of St Andrew's Church, Dacre, involved the excavation by hand of 10 test pits along the proposed route of a service trench to serve a new toilet and kitchen block within the church. Initial excavations close to the main west door revealed an *in-situ* burial at a fairly shallow depth of c.0.40m below present ground level. The presence of this burial, within the present gravel path leading from the church gates to the main entrance, may suggest that at an earlier period this was not the main entrance into the building, and that the door in the south aisle may have been utilised.
- 6.2 The remainder of the test pits did not reveal any further *in-situ* burials apart from the trench for the pump chamber, where a burial was noted at c.1.0m below present ground surface. The route of the test pits therefore provided a suitable route for the excavation by machine of the service trench.
- 6.3 **Phase 2:** the service trench was excavated by machine and was monitored at all times by the attendant archaeologist. Features of note revealed during these groundworks was the discovery of a stone culvert or wall located at the point where the present turf of the graveyard and the north side of the gravel path meet. This feature was noted to have truncated a burial.
- 6.4 A further *in-situ* burial was revealed mid-way along the length of the gravel path, again possibly suggesting that this burial may have pre-dated the creation of the main entrance into the church from the west. First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of c.1865 shows the main entrance as it is presently, and the earliest readily available map prior that date, the Enclosure map of 1808, also appears to show the entrance in from the west. Interestingly, this map also seems to show that the north side of the church was defined by the medieval wall, or a wall on the same alignment, revealed in the excavations in the 1980s, although the south side was curvilinear at this date; this form for the churchyard continued until at least 1900 (Plates 39-41).
- 6.5 **Drainage Trench:** this trench provided the most significant evidence for earlier buildings or structures on the site of St Andrew's Church. A c.1.40m wide section of wall was revealed at a depth of only 0.35m below present ground level. No finds were retrieved to allow for an approximate date for this wall; it has been considered that it may have belonged to an earlier phase of the church, or possibly part of an earlier boundary wall which ran much closer to the church at the south side. It is also possible that it may represent a pre-Norman structure, possibly even part of the monastery buildings believed to have occupied the locality. When considering this

section of wall, which frustratingly was only revealed for a width of 0.50m, along with other features noted during the excavations in the 1980s, it is clear that the church site at Dacre is incredibly complex.

- 6.6 Also of significance was the shallow depth of an *in-situ* burial revealed during the excavation of this drainage trench, being only 0.10m below present ground surface. This should be considered during any future ground works within the churchyard.

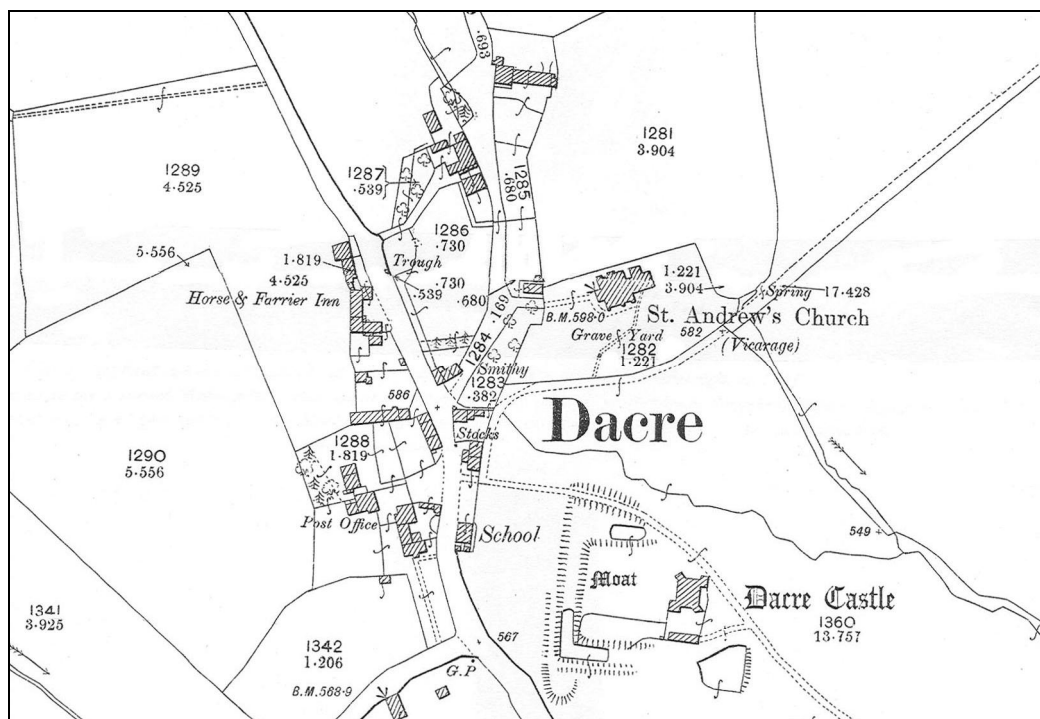


Plate 41: Extract from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (25" to 1 mile scale)

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
101	Deposit	Modern Gravel Path
102	Deposit	Red, loose sandy gravel
103	Deposit	Natural
104	Skelton	Skeleton 1
105	Deposit	Asphalt Road Surface
106	Deposit	Orange/Brown Silt/Clay
107	Structure	Cobbled Surface
108	Deposit	Dark Topsoil
109	Deposit	Subsoil
110	Deposit/?Structure	?Cobbled Surface
111	Deposit	Gravel Path
112	Structure	Wall

List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES
