
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A SERVICE TRENCH AT
ST ANDREWS' CHURCH,
KIRK ELLA,
YORKSHIRE
(KESA 09)**

**Work Undertaken For
Kirk Ella PCC**

February 2010

Report Compiled by
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
 St Andrew's Church,
 Kirk Ella
 KESA 09

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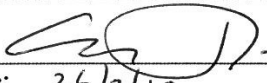

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 26/2/10	Date: 26.02.10

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF A WATCHING BRIEF.....	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	1
2.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING	1
3.	AIMS	2
4.	METHODS	2
5.	RESULTS	2
6.	DISCUSSION	3
7.	CONCLUSION	3
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
9.	PERSONNEL	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	4

Appendices

1. Context descriptions
2. The Finds *by Alex Beeby with Anne Boyle and Gary Taylor*
3. Glossary
4. The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Plan showing the route of the cable trench and section locations
- Figure 4 Sections 1 to 6

List of Plates

- Plate 1 St Andrew's church showing works in progress
- Plate 2 Section 1
- Plate 3 Section 3
- Plate 4 Section 4
- Plate 5 Section 5 showing brick burial vault (005)
- Plate 6 Section 6 showing possible path feature (010)

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at St. Andrews' church, Kirk Ella, Yorkshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a service trench.

The church is of the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) with the earliest portion being the 13th century chancel with the west tower dating to the mid 15th century. This church presumably replaced an earlier church that is referred to in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086.

The watching brief identified a sequence of graveyard soils as well as a brick built burial vault. No other remains were identified, particularly any associated with the construction of the church.

Finds from the investigation comprised three fragments of post-medieval tile.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed.*” (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Kirk Ella PCC to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a new telephone line at St Andrews' church, Kirk Ella, Yorkshire. A Faculty was granted for this work. The watching brief was carried out

intermittently between the 8th and 12th of February 2010.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Kirk Ella is located about 8km west of Kingston upon Hull within the parish of Kirk Ella and West Ella, in the East Riding of Yorkshire (Fig. 1).

St. Andrew's Church is located in the western part of the village at National Grid Reference TA 019 297 (Fig. 2). The church lies east of Packman Lane on a slight slope down to the east at about 40m OD, though the churchyard rises up to the north.

As an urban area, soils at the site have not been mapped but are likely to be Burlingham 2 Association loams on chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984). These soils are developed on a drift geology of glacially derived till which in turn seals a solid geology of Cretaceous Burnham Chalk (GSGB 1983).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Kirk Ella is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Alvengi*, the name is derived from the Old English *Ælfinglēah* or *Ælfanlēah* meaning ‘the glade (*lēah*) of *Ælfa* or his people’ (Ekwall 1989, 163) with the element *Kirk*, referring to a church. At the time of Domesday, the settlement comprised several manors of which one, that of Gilbert Tison, contained a church and a priest (Williams and Martin 1992, 843).

The church was originally affiliated to the priory at Selby, although Thomas Wake negotiated for its incorporation into Haltemprice Priory and this was completed by 1331. By 1535, as itemised in *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, the church provided Haltemprice with tithes to the value of £46 13s and 4d forming the second largest single portion of its annual income (Hall

1975). It is probable that the present St. Andrew's Church, built in the 13th century and almost entirely demolished and rebuilt in 1859-60, is on the site of the Domesday foundation.

The churchyard has also been considerably altered. It was levelled in 1859, at which time many of the grave slabs were removed to be used as floor paving in nearby cottages. It was closed to new burials in 1882 (Bickford and Bickford 1991).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks were recorded and, if present, their date, function and origin determined.

4. METHODS

A service trench associated with the installation of a new telephone cable was excavated using a mini-digger. The service trench entered the church through the northern face near the north-eastern corner of the church, it then curved around the back (eastern end) of the church and ran west across the southern façade and then parallel to the east-west running path that leads from the church's south-east porch to Packman Lane. The trench was cleaned and rendered vertical in a number of locations in order to identify deposits. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological

Project Services practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered during the investigation was a firm mid brown silty clay (003), measuring at least 0.14m thick (Fig. 4, Sections 1 and 2). Disarticulated human bone was observed in this deposit.

Deposit (003) was overlain by a mid brown silty clay (002), at least 0.16m thick, containing limestone and brick/tile fragments and occasional black cinders (Fig. 4, Sections 1-5). A mid brown silty clay (006) recorded in Sections 5 and 6 is probably the same deposit as (002) extending to the east. Tile of 18th – 19th century date was retrieved from this deposit. Disarticulated human bone was noted in both (002) and (006).

At the western end of the service trench, in Section 6, was a 2m wide by 0.20m deep feature (010) which was cut into the graveyard soil (006) (Fig 4, Section 6; Plate 6). This cut was steep on one side and gentle on the other, with a flattish undulating base. It was filled by a dark greyish brown to black deposit (009), consisting mostly of cinders and containing frequent fragments of tile and a moderate amount of mortar flecks, perhaps forming a path. Tile collected from this deposit was of 16th – 18th century and 18th – 19th century date.

Further to the east, a 0.3m deep cut (005) with irregular sides was recorded in Section 5 (Fig 4, Section 5; Plate 5). The primary fill of this feature consisted of a 60mm thick bed of indurated light grey mortar. A stone and handmade brick structure (005) was constructed atop deposit (004) and measured 0.2m in height with an irregular width. The stones were finished with flat faces and the structure was bonded with grey mortar. Also within this cut and overlying stone and brick structure (005) was a 70mm thick by 0.3m long x 0.14m wide flat faced grave slab.

Sealing all deposits was the current topsoil comprising a 0.18m thick friable dark greyish brown silty sand (001), with roots and occasional small pebbles (Fig 4, Sections 1-6).

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits appear to be graveyard soils formed through constant interment at the site. Also associated with the graveyard was a brick-built burial vault with the remnants of a grave slab overlying it, which is of post-medieval date. A broad cut feature may be the remnants of a former cinder path encircling the church.

Finds retrieved from the investigation comprise fragments of post-medieval roof and floor tile.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at St Andrew's church, Kirk Ella, as the works may have impacted into significant archaeology associated with the building.

However, only a brick-built burial chamber, a possible path and graveyard soils were encountered and recorded. Finds from the investigation consisted of

three fragments of tile of 16th – 19th century date.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr G Brookes for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Kirk Ella PCC. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisors: Andrew Failes, Gary Taylor
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Andrew Failes
 Post-excavation analysis: Andrew Failes

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

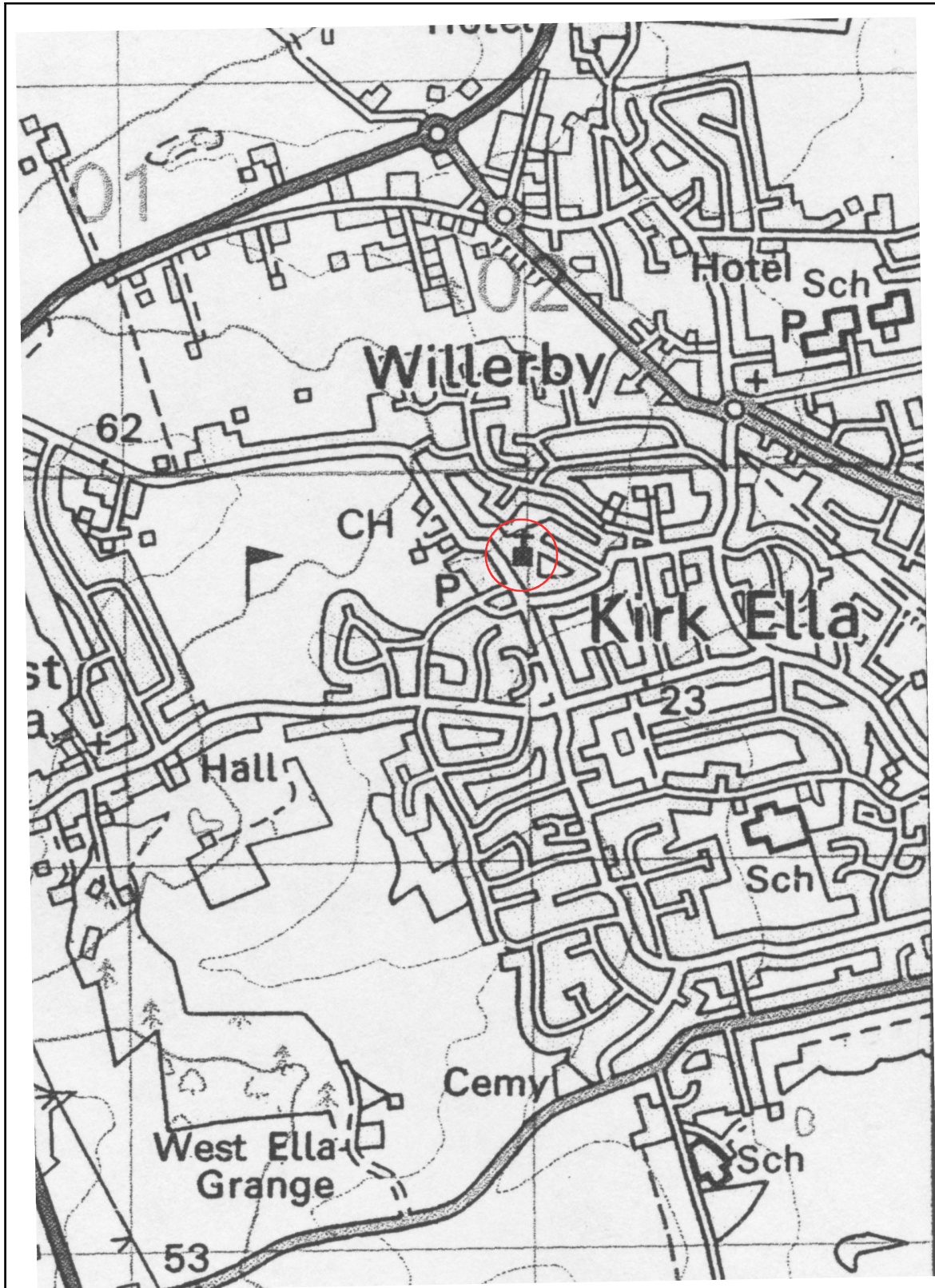
APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General Location Plan



TA

01

02

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St Andrew's Church



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Project Name: St Andrew's Church, Kirk Ella KESA09

Scale 1:15000

Drawn by: PCF

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Figure 2 - Site location plan

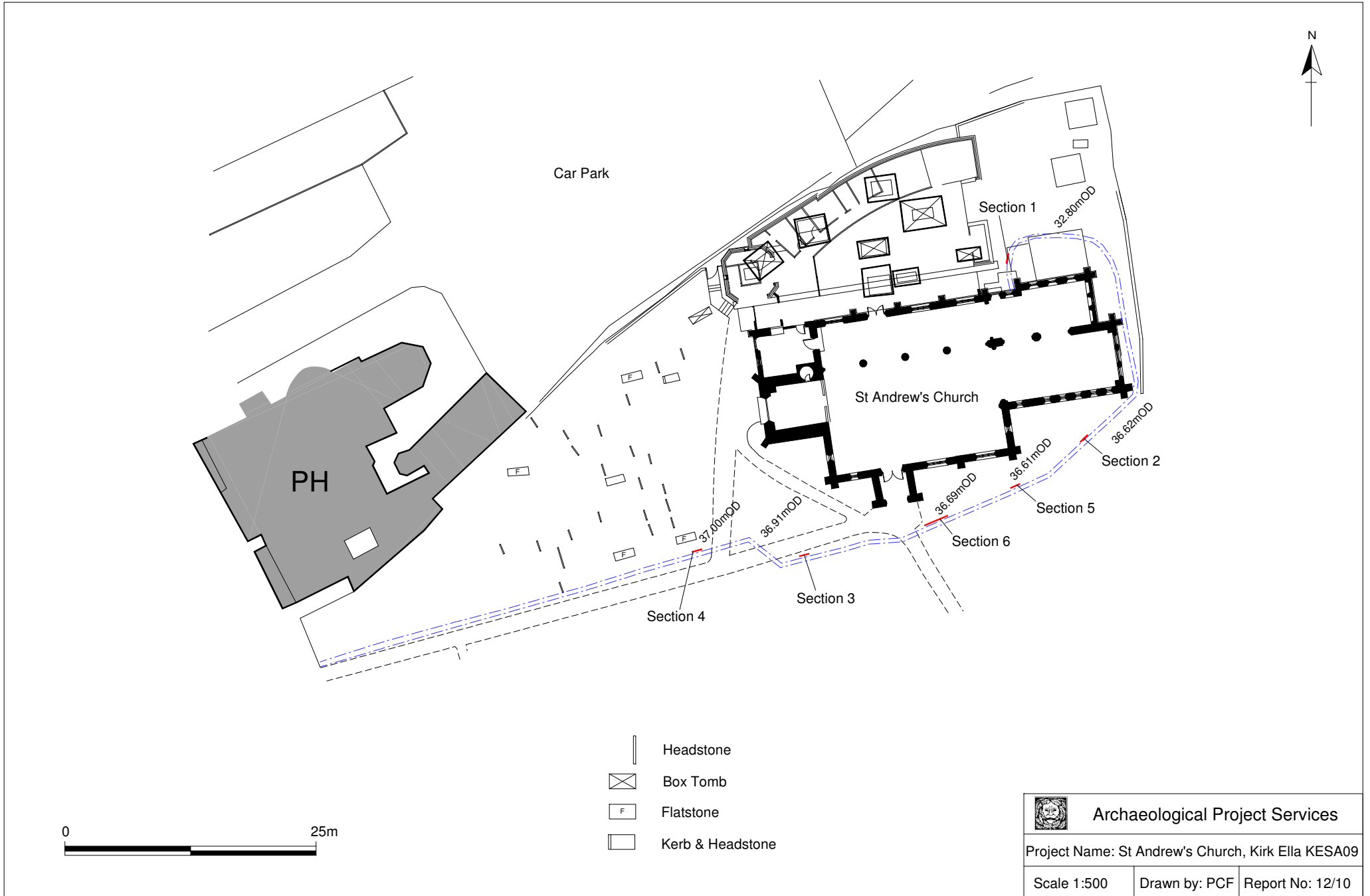
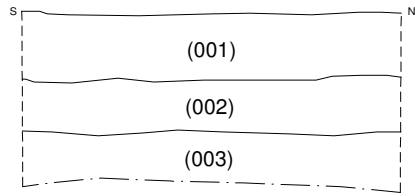
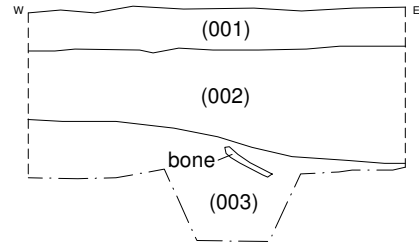


Figure 3 - Plan showing the route of the cable trench and section locations

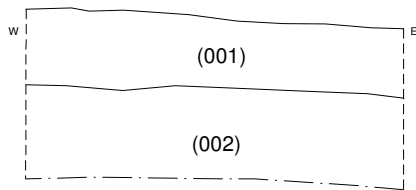
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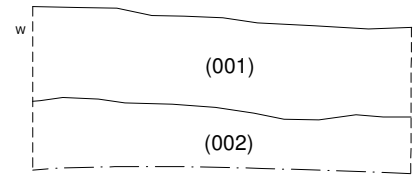
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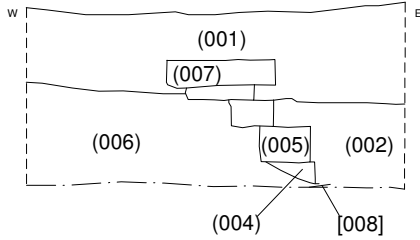
Section 3



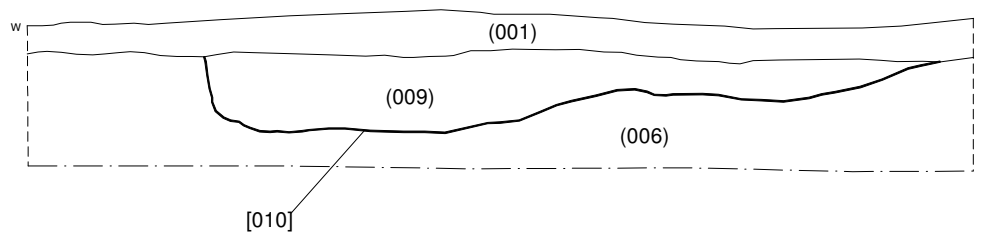
Section 4



Section 5



Section 6



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Drawn by:AF

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Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 6



Plate 1 – St Andrew's church showing works in progress, looking east



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking west



Plate 3 – Section 3, looking north



Plate 4 – Section 4,
looking north



Plate 5 – Section 5
showing brick burial
vault (005), looking
north



Plate 6 – Section 6
showing possible path
feature (010), looking
north

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent roots and occasional small pebbles, 0.18m thick	Topsoil
002	Soft mid brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments, brick/tile fragments and occasional black clinker	Dumped deposit
003	Firm mid brown silty clay at least 0.14m thick	Subsoil
004	Indurated light grey mortar pieces, 60mm thick	Mortar bedding?
005	Stone and brick wall facing north-south and east-west, 0.2m high with an irregular width	Vault structure
006	Firm mid brown silty clay with moderately small pieces of limestone and chalk, 0.25m thick	Subsoil/Graveyard soil
007	Stone measuring 0.3m long x 0.14m wide x 70mm thick, with cut edges and flat faces. Probably a grave slab	Grave slab overlying vault
008	0.3m deep cut, with irregular stepped sides	Cut for (005)
009	Loose dark greyish brown to black deposit consisting mostly of cinders and containing frequent fragments of brick/tile, a moderate amount of flecks of mortar, up to 0.2m thick	Fill of (010)
010	2m wide x 0.2m deep cut with very steep sides to the west and very shallow sides to the east, with a flattish base, possibly oriented east-west	Possible path

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby with Anne Boyle and Gary Taylor

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of 3 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 805 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 1 below.

Condition

All of the material is in a fresh condition. A single piece has a heavy soot deposit probably due to post deposition burning. This piece also has mortar adhered to one side.

Results

Table 1, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	W (g)
006	MODTIL	Modern Tile		Modern moulded floor tile; very fresh	18th-19th	1	276
009	MODTIL	Modern tile		Modern moulded floor tile; very fresh; high fired	18th-19th	1	478
	PNR	Pegged, Nibbed or Ridge Tile	Oxid; sparse to mod subrounded q; sparse sparry calcite; sparse mica; lateral voids	Slight curve - Ridge?; soot on upper surface and over break; mortar on base	16th-18th	1	51
Total						3	805

Provenance

A single piece was recovered from subsoil/disturbed graveyard soil layer (006) and two further fragments came from possible construction/demolition fill (009).

Range

There are two pieces of modern floor tile, one from context (006) and a second from (009) both probably dating to the 18th - 19th century. Both of these tiles are in very fresh condition with no sign of wear or use. They may represent unused and/or damaged pieces brought to the site during the refurbishment of the church or a nearby building. There is also a single piece of roofing material, a pegged, nibbed or ridge tile. This piece, from context (009) has a slight curve and may be part of a ridge tile. The fabric is a slightly micaceous, fine oxidised type with sparse calcite inclusions. It is similar to other fabrics produced in the region (Dunham *et al.* 1987, 241).

Potential

The material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

Three pieces of ceramic building material dated to the post medieval period were recovered during the watching brief.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
006	18th-19th	Based on a single piece of CBM
009	18th-19th	

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- ACBMG, 2001 *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, 3rd [internet]. Available from <http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm>
- Dunham, AC, Fraser, AG, Middleton, R and Wilkinson, FCF, 1987 Petrological examination of Hull tile types, in P Armstrong, and B Ayers, *Excavations in High Street and Blackfriargate*. East Riding Archaeologist **8**, Hull Old Town report series **5**

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

10	Context descriptions
2	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Section record sheet
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Hull and East Riding Museum
High Street
Hull
HU1 1NQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Guidelines for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives*, produced by the Hull and East Riding Museum.

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

KESA 09

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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