



# **St Mary and All Saints Church, Whalley, Lancashire**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**



**Oxford Archaeology North**

December 2009

### **Whalley Parish Church**

Issue No: 2009-10/996

OA North Job No: L10176

NGR: SD 73250 36179

**Document Title:** ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH, WHALLEY,  
LANCASHIRE

**Document Type:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Client Name:** Whalley Parish Church

**Issue Number:** 2009-10/996


**OA Job Number:** L10176

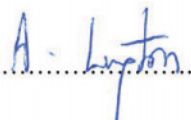
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## SUMMARY

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Whalley Parish Church commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake an archaeological watching brief within the grounds of St Mary and All Saints Church, Whalley, Lancashire (NGR centred SD 73250 36179). The church is a Grade I Listed Building (NMR No 44507). The proposals were to insert a kitchen to the rear of the north aisle, to insert a lavatory in an extension to the north porch, and to move the 'Warden's Pew' to a position to the east of the north porch, together with a number of Victorian pews. Due to the high archaeological potential Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) produced a project brief requesting that prior to any works a photographic record was to be undertaken of the interior, showing the pews and elements of the church which would be affected. The brief also requested that the groundworks were to be carried out under permanent archaeological supervision. The work was undertaken between August and October 2009, in accordance with an OA North project design.

Whalley is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in 798 (Farrer and Brownbill 1911) and sculptured crosses in the churchyard are thought to date from the ninth to eleventh centuries (LHER 185). Furthermore, the present church of St Mary is said to have been built on the site of an eighth century church (LHER 724) and a later Norman structure. According to the Victoria County History, prior to 1818 the churchyard was unenclosed and possibly surrounded by cottages (*op cit*). Fell also notes that "...in the churchyard for centuries, stalls were set up and fairs held" (Fell 1979, 20).

The photographic survey of the existing layout of the north aisle and internal door of the north porch was undertaken in August 2009. The photographs showed the general layout of the pews to be moved, including the 'Wardens' Pew' and the exterior and interior elevations of the north porch before the proposed extension. No features of archaeological interest were exposed during work within the interior of the church.

The watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of the foundations and service trenches for the new extension which, after alterations to the initial proposals due to unfavourable soil conditions, consisted of a U-shaped strip footing extending 100mm either side of the east and west plinths of the north porch door. The limit of excavation was the existing church wall was approximately flush with the present extent of the cantilevered roof of the porch.

The watching brief revealed disarticulated bone from five separate contexts (**012**, **015**, **019**, **024** and **028**), one fully exposed skeleton (**SK025**), and two partially exposed burials (**SK21** and **SK23**). Two *in situ* burials were left undisturbed and covered with sand and terram for protection (**SK027** and **SK016**). Following analysis it was concluded that the minimum number of individuals for this material was 14, with every context containing more than one individual.

The intact burials were contained within a sandy-silt deposit **019**, interpreted as a general burial horizon, that extended across the excavated area. The results of the watching brief showed the graveyard to have been used extensively, potentially since the early medieval period for multiple graves, and that, in spite of recent disturbance, there is potential for undisturbed burials at a shallower depth within the graveyard than previously thought, in particular those areas closest to the existing church walls.

Therefore, any further groundworks within the graveyard are likely to impact upon the below ground archaeological remains, and should be carried out under archaeological supervision.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Cliff Ball, on behalf of Whalley Parish Church, for commissioning the project Steve Burke, the architect of SCBA Ltd for his logistical help, Geoff Lawson and Steve Clarkson of Ribble Valley Borough Council Building Control Services for their advice, and Peter Iles, Specialist Advisor (Archaeology), Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) for his help and advice. Thanks are also due to Russell Smith Joinery and Stone Edge Masonry, the on-site contractors, for their assistance during the project.

Vicky Bullock and Jeremy Bradley undertook the site work and compiled the report. The human remains were assessed by John Griffiths, who also compiled the skeletal assessment, and Christine Howard-Davis wrote the finds assessment. The drawings were produced by Anne Stewardson. Emily Mercer, who managed the project, also edited the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Whalley Parish Church commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake an archaeological watching brief within the grounds of the Grade I Listed St Mary and All Saints Church, Whalley (NMR No 44507; Fig 1) for the purposes of a north porch extension and internal re-order of the north aisle. A small galley kitchen area was to be inserted at the west end of the north aisle and the north porch was to be extended to the extent of the existing cantilevered roof to form an accessible lavatory. The external doors would be re-hung and the flag stone floor retained. As part of the works the 'Warden's Pew' was to be moved to a new position east of the north porch in the north aisle, and a number of Victorian pews removed to make way for the new kitchen (Fig 2). Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, the Church having though to have been in existence since the eighth century, and listed status of the site, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) requested that any groundworks be carried out under permanent archaeological supervision. A photographic record was required prior to commencement of the works showing the general location and layout of the pews that were to be moved and other general elements (Plates 6-8). An archaeological watching brief was required during removal of existing flooring, such as floorboards or stone flags, and all excavation work required to prepare the site for the extension of the north porch and the insertion of the kitchen, lavatory and services. The work was undertaken between August and October 2009.

1.1.2 The following report sets out the results of the watching brief in the form of a short document, outlining the findings, and includes an assessment of the impact of the development.

### 1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 St Mary and All Saints Church, Whalley, is situated on the south side of Church Lane in the centre of the village, with the remains of Whalley Abbey to the west and south-west (NGR centred SD 73250 36179; Fig 1). Whalley is situated on the north side of the river Calder and its historic centre lies approximately 6.4km from Clitheroe. Originally, the village was centred on the parish church, King Street and Church Street. The village ranges from 44m aOD at Whalley Bridge and gradually rises northwards to 68m aOD at Bramley Meade on the outskirts of the village towards Clitheroe. To the south, Whalley is overshadowed by Whalley Nab (178m aOD), to the north-east by Pendle Hill (532m aOD) and to the west by the Longridge and Bowland Fells (Egerton Lea Consultancy 2006, 5).





Plate 1: Current aerial image of site location

- 1.2.2 Whalley lies on an outcrop of the junction of the Upper Bowland Shale and Millstone Grit. The rock dips at some 45 degrees to the south-east to form the north-west rim of the Burnley Coalfield. This line of junction separates two very different types of country; to the north-west the agricultural land around Clitheroe, whilst to the south-east, the high moorlands of the Pendle and Black Hill ranges overlook the Burnley coal measures (*ibid*). The soil consists of the Rivington Series of brown earths, gleyed brown earths and podzols, and the area around Whalley is predominantly pastoral (*ibid*).

### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 An in depth history of Whalley or St Mary and All Saints Church is beyond the scope of this project, but a brief outline is presented to provide an archaeological and historical context for the results of the watching brief. The background was compiled primarily using secondary sources, in particular the Historic Town Assessment Report for Whalley produced as part of the Lancashire Historic Town Survey Programme compiled by Egerton Lea Consultancy in May 2006, to which reference is made throughout.
- 1.3.2 Whalley is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in 798, when a battle was fought (Farrer and Brownbill 1966, 349). Sculptured crosses in the churchyard are thought to date from the ninth to eleventh centuries (LHER 185) and, furthermore, the present church of St Mary is said to have been built on the site of an eighth century church (LHER 724) and a later Norman structure. The Parish Church originally had thirteen chapels belonging to it, including Blackburn and Clitheroe, and the medieval parish of Whalley was the second largest in the whole of England containing forty-five townships (Crosby 1998, 31).

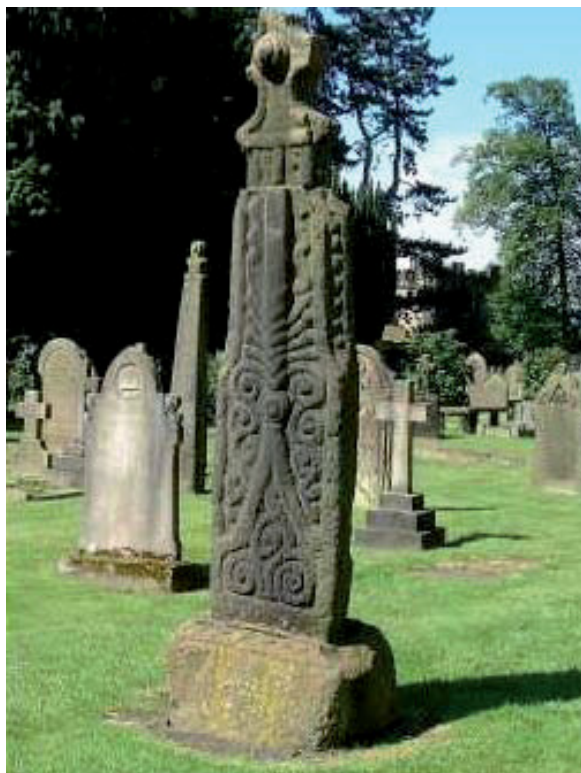


Plate 2: Anglo-Saxon cross shaft in churchyard

- 1.3.3 In 1296 monks from a small abbey at Stanlaw in Cheshire applied for Papal and Royal permission to move to Whalley to lands that they had been granted, which originally belonged to the Parish Church. In 1308 the foundation stone was laid, but building works were slow and it took 127 years until the buildings were completed (Fell 1979, 27). At the time of Dissolution the lands belonging to Whalley Abbey were taken back into the hands of the crown. The lands were leased in 1553 by Henry VIII to John Braddyll of Bradyll and Brockholes, and in 1567 the lessee was able to purchase, together with Richard Assheton of Downham, “*all the demesne lands of Whalley and the lands called Whalley Park, and all the capital house and site of the said monastery of Whalley*” (LRO DP/355). Shortly after Assheton and Braddyll divided the lands with Assheton taking the house and Braddyll keeping a large portion of the land (Egerton Lea Consultancy 2006). In 1661 Assheton destroyed most of what was left of the Abbey. The Abbey descended by marriage to the Curzon family in the late eighteenth century, then passing to John Taylor and John Hargreaves. It is now owned by the Diocese of Blackburn (*ibid*).
- 1.3.4 There is little evidence to suggest Whalley had any urban characteristics in the medieval period and there is no known market charter in existence. As late as 1848, there was still almost no industry in Whalley; only a ropewalk and a corn mill, and the form of the village is very much the same as earlier maps (Plate 3). Pigot describes Whalley in 1829 as “*chiefly celebrated for its Cistercian Abbey.....manufacture is not extensive and trade attached to it is chiefly of a local nature*” (Pigot 1829).



Plate 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey First Edition map, 1848

- 1.3.5 In addition to a grammar school established in 1549, by the nineteenth century there was also a seminary, a Charity School and a National School in Whalley, suggesting a population of some considerable size (Mannex 1855, 388). There were four public houses situated at a junction of the Accrington Road with King Street (Pigot 1829, 465). Occupations included butchers, grocers, joiners, boot and shoemakers, tailors, wheelwrights, as well as a bobbin turner (Mannex 1855, 388-9).
- 1.3.6 The construction of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway; Bolton, Blackburn and Hellifield line in the second half of the nineteenth century provided access to other areas for employment, which resulted in Whalley's residential expansion and increase in population although between 1801 and 1921 the population increased from 1,058 to 1,500, still a relatively modest increase (Egerton Lea 2006).
- 1.3.7 ***Church of St Mary and All Saints, Whalley:*** a full description of the interior of the church can be found in the Listed Building Description (LHER 724) and, therefore, is not repeated in this report. However, a number of features pertinent to the development area are described.
- 1.3.8 The church is built on the site of an eighth century predecessor and is listed at Grade I. It retains much of its medieval character and is, in substance and plan, that as constructed in the thirteenth century (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 349-360). It comprises a west tower, a nave with clerestory and north and south aisles, a lower chancel, a south porch and a north vestry. A tower was added in 1440, and has been restored and rebuilt at various times since. The vestry had been enlarged at the end of the eighteenth century and a south porch was then added in 1844. The chancel was restored in 1866, and in 1868 the old timber roof, thought to be original, was laid open and repaired (*ibid*). A great deal of alteration had taken place, however, in the interior of the church during the

seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when the galleries were erected and new seating introduced. A timber north porch was added in 1909, when the north and south galleries were removed, the west gallery reconstructed and the seating rearranged. An inscribed stone was built into the archway of the north door, which is dated to the Roman period. Internally, it contains beautiful woodwork including the choir stall dating to *c* 1430, removed from the conventual church at the Dissolution. The misericords are also richly carved (*ibid*).

- 1.3.9 The ‘Wardens’ Pew’ formerly stood near the south door, but was removed to its present position in *c* 1898. It contains eight sittings assigned to the churchwardens who represented the eight townships chargeable with repairs to the fabric. The pew is dated 1690 and on the panel behind each seat inside are the names of the townships and the initials of the churchwardens at the time the pew was constructed (*ibid*).
- 1.3.10 At the west end of the north aisle, but at one time close to the ‘Wardens’ Pew’, is the Constables Seat dated 1714. It was removed to its present position in 1909 from the west side of the south doorway, where it had stood since a previous removal (*ibid*).



Plate 4: St Mary's and All Saints Church looking north-east

- 1.3.11 According to the Victoria County History, prior to 1818 the churchyard was unenclosed and was possibly surrounded by cottages (Farrer and Brownbill 1911). Fell also notes that “...*in the churchyard, for centuries, stalls were set up and fairs held*” (Fell 1979, 20). The churchyard had not extended as far south as at present. The extension is first shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25” map of 1892 (Plate 5).



Plate 5: Ordnance Survey First Edition 25" to one mile map, 1892

## 1.4 DESIGNATIONS

- 1.4.1 **Scheduled Monuments:** there are three scheduled monuments listed for the defined urban area of Whalley. The oldest of these are the three pre-Norman high cross shafts in Whalley Churchyard (SM 23741). The scheduling for Whalley Abbey (SM 23691) also included the Northwest Gateway. Whalley Bridge (SM LA/81), a post-medieval bridge with medieval origins, is also scheduled (Egerton Lea Consultancy 2006).
- 1.4.2 **Listed Buildings:** there are two grade I listed buildings within the defined urban area for Whalley. These are Whalley Abbey (LB 725) and St Mary and All Saints Church (LB 724). In addition, there are twenty grade II listed structures within the defined urban area for Whalley, mostly individual or groups of housing but also including a corn mill, railway viaduct, school and sundial (*ibid*).
- 1.4.3 **Conservation Areas:** there is one conservation area within the defined urban area for Whalley that includes Whalley Abbey, the town centre and Church Lane covering most of the surviving fabric associated with pre-1848 Whalley (*ibid*).

## 1.5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

- 1.5.1 In total, twenty-six archaeological interventions and building surveys recorded on the Lancashire HER relate to Whalley Abbey, the first taking place in 1798. There has been speculation that Whalley Abbey was built on the site of a Roman camp (Whitaker 1884, 21) based on a number of Roman coin finds in the churchyard. Although there is little further to substantiate this, Roman finds

were recorded during a watching brief on the site of the Whalley Abbey Conference Centre in 1999 (Egerton Lea Consultancy 2006, 9).

- 1.5.2 In November 1990 a watching brief was undertaken during excavations for drain laying along the line of the north pathway of the churchyard. The excavations revealed evidence for several disturbed burials at a depth of *c* 1.2m. These remains were re-interred within the churchyard. No other features of archaeological importance were noted, and no other finds recovered during the fieldwork (LHER No 724; LCAS 2009).

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by OA North (*Appendix 2*) in response to a planning request by Whalley Parish Church, and in accordance with a brief issued by LCAS (*Appendix 1*). This was adhered to in full, and work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008), and generally accepted best practice.

### 2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 Prior to the commencement of work the LCAS brief (*Appendix 1*) required that a series of record photographs should be taken and archived. This was completed on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2009 (Plates 6-8). The photographs showed the general layout of the pews outlined for re-siting, including the 'Wardens' Pew', and the exterior and interior elevations of the north porch, before the proposed extension.

2.2.2 A programme of field observation recorded accurately the location, extent and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits exposed during the course of the excavation. This comprised the systematic examination of the topsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observations. Excavated soil was searched as practicable for finds. The presence and nature of nineteenth and twentieth century material was noted but finds of this date were not retained for processing. As the work was taking place in an historic church and graveyard, it was deemed probable that significant quantities of disarticulated or disturbed human remains may be encountered. All human remains encountered were recorded, recovered and retained for assessment and reporting purposes according to English Heritage and The Church of England guidelines (English Heritage and The Church of England 2005).

2.2.3 ***Exterior of the north porch:*** the groundworks outside the north porch (Fig 2) comprised the removal of the large stone flags that formed part of the pathway along the north side of the church, conducted under constant archaeological supervision. The mortar between the stones was chipped away and the stones lifted by hand. The stones were numbered for relaying on completion of the porch.

2.2.4 Initially, two trenches were excavated, one on the west side of the north porch (Trench A) and one on the east side of the north porch (Trench B). Trench A was initially excavated to a depth of 0.25m, a width of 0.9m and a length of 1m. Trench B was initially excavated to a depth of 0.25m, a width of 1m and a length of 1m. The trench was extended northwards 0.4m by 0.4m to a depth of 0.5m to locate a modern drain.

- 2.2.5 An additional trench (Trench C) was excavated initially as a test pit, in order to locate the course of a drain and to assess the ground conditions for the footings. This was excavated to a depth of 0.8m, 0.7m in width and 0.9m in length.
- 2.2.6 Following the discovery of *in situ* human remains, the location of services and an assessment of ground conditions, the Ribble Valley Borough Council Building Inspector initiated a reassessment of the construction plans. Following discussions on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009 between the Local Authority Building Control, the architect and a structural engineer, the main contractors, and the County Archaeology (LCAS), plans for the foundation trenches were amended in order to accommodate the previously unknown service trenches, the poor ground conditions and to allow for preservation of *in situ* human remains.
- 2.2.7 **Trench D:** the amended plans included the excavation of a strip footing, 3.4m in width, joining the extension of Trench A to Trench C (Fig 2) that would be excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. The side arms of the U-shaped footings trench were 0.6m wide and northern extent of the trench was flush with the present cantilevered roof. The extension would also be supported by a concrete pad foundation to the north of the present threshold of the porch, infilling the space within the U-shaped strip footing to a depth of 0.35m.
- 2.2.8 **Interior of church:** the work comprised the removal of pews and floorboards in an area of approximately 6.5m by 1.6m, on the north side of the north aisle, which revealed a concrete/clinker floor surface sealed with bitumen. This surface was then removed in sections with a small breaker, lump hammer and by hand, conducted under archaeological supervision. The floor surface was cleaned in preparation for the laying of new stone flags and the reinstatement of the pews. The area was extended eastwards to accommodate storage of pews and relaying of floor in sections.
- 2.2.9 A daily record of the nature, extent and depths of groundworks was maintained throughout the duration of the project. All archaeological contexts were recorded on OA North's *pro-forma* sheets, using a system based on that of the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A monochrome and digital photographic record was maintained throughout and properly scaled. The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of archaeological concern were accurately located on a site plan, recorded by photographs and scale drawings and a written description.

### 2.3 HUMAN REMAINS

- 2.3.1 Where intact burials or other articulated human remains were encountered they were dealt with in accordance with current guidelines (English Heritage and The Church of England 2005). Remains were removed only if it was not practicable to leave them *in situ*, that is where they were directly impacted. Human remains left *in situ* were covered and protected with sand and a geotextile membrane.
- 2.3.2 Those removed consisted of one fully and two partially exposed burials, as well as disarticulated bone from five separate contexts. These remains were assessed



in order to discover their potential for more detailed analysis. The aims of the assessment were as follows:

- to explore the potential of the material to yield biological information (for example, age, sex and stature);
- to explore the potential of the material to yield palaeopathological information;
- to establish the potential of the collection to contribute to archaeological knowledge at local and national levels;
- to explore the potential for further specialist analysis, including the application of biomolecular techniques (for example, stable isotope analysis) and other analytical approaches (for example, radiography);

2.3.3 All skeletons were examined in accordance with national guidelines for producing assessment reports (Mays *et al* 2004). This involved assessing the completeness and condition of the skeletons with particular reference to certain landmarks that may be used to establish biological parameters and explore health status.

2.3.4 Completeness was estimated by recording, as a percentage, how much of the skeleton had survived and assigning it to one of the following categories:

1 = <25% complete

2 = 25-50% complete

3 = >50-75% complete

4 = >75% complete

2.3.5 The condition of the bone was assessed according to the degree of erosion of the bone surface and how much of the epiphyses (the ends of the bones) and cancellous bone (the spongy bone that is beneath the outer layer) had survived. Based on these factors, skeletons were assigned to one of the following categories put forward by Brickley and McKinley (2004):

*Grade 0:* surface morphology clearly visible with fresh appearance to bone and no modifications;

*Grade 1:* slight and patchy surface erosion;

*Grade 2:* more extensive surface erosion than grade 1 with deeper surface penetration;

*Grade 3:* most of bone surface affected by some degree of erosion; general morphology maintained but detail of parts of surface masked by erosive action;

*Grade 4:* all of bone surface affected by erosive action; general profile maintained and depth of modification not uniform across whole surface;

*Grade 5:* heavy erosion across whole surface, completely masking normal surface morphology, with some modification of profile;

*Grade 5+:* as grade 5 but with extensive penetrating erosion resulting in modification of profile;

- 2.3.6 All observations were made by rapidly scanning each skeleton. While these observations provide adequate guidance to the potential of the material for further work they are, by their very nature, preliminary and subject to change as a result of any future high resolution examination.
- 2.3.7 The potential of the skeletons to yield information relating to age and sex was estimated by determining if the appropriate skeletal elements were present to employ standard methods (*ibid*).
- 2.3.8 The skeletons were also assessed for their potential to yield metrical data, in particular that which will allow stature estimation and that which will facilitate age estimation for sub-adults and sex estimation for adults. Stature may be estimated from human skeletal remains by applying the maximum length of complete long limb bones to the regression equations set out by Trotter and Gleser (1958 and revised by Trotter (Trotter 1970). Potential for metrical assessment was scored on a scale of 1-5, where '1' denotes skeletons that showed no potential (i.e. no elements could be measured owing to fragmentation/poor preservation) and '5' denotes skeletons that showed high potential (i.e. the full range of standard cranial and post-cranial measurements could be taken).
- 2.3.9 Other observations pertaining to metrical assessment involved noting which skeletons had sufficiently preserved bones, in particular crania, that will facilitate comparisons between individuals and groups. This may indicate factors such as ethnic affinities, regional micro-evolution and biological distance, particularly when combined with the chemical analysis of the bones and teeth. An assessment of the potential for the skeleton to yield non-metrical data was scored on a scale of 1-5, where '1' denotes skeletons that showed no potential for non-metrical analysis (i.e. preservation prevented the observation of all standard cranial and post-cranial sites) and '5' denotes skeletons that showed high potential for non-metrical analysis (i.e. all standard cranial and post-cranial sites could be scored).
- 2.3.10 More readily observable traits were noted (but not formally scored) to give an indication of the level and range of traits present in the population. This will inform a data collection strategy for full analysis. Non-metric traits are morphological variations in the skeleton. They are influenced by both the environment and genetics, but to variable and unpredictable degrees (Saunders 1989).

## 2.4 ARCHIVE

2.4.6 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the County Record Office in Preston, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with the Museum of Lancashire. OA North will also complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Following the appropriate assessment, any human remains removed from the churchyard will be reinterred in the graveyard of St Mary and All Saints, Whalley.

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### 3. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

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#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify any potential archaeological features or deposits during the groundworks for the north porch extension, and record their presence or absence, character and extent, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality. The area of the watching brief is plotted in Figures 2 and 3. A list of contexts used has been provided in *Appendix 3*, those relevant to skeletal remains will be prefixed by ‘*SK*’. A description of the finds has been incorporated into the report (*Section 3.4*).

#### 3.2 FOUNDATION TRENCHES

3.2.1 **Trench A:** the trench extended 2.5m northwards from the west side of the north porch (Fig 2a) and was 1m in length, 0.9m in width and initially excavated to depth of 0.25m. The stratigraphy comprised a layer of stone flags to a maximum depth of 0.1m. Removal of the stone flags (*001*) revealed a bedding layer of pinkish-grey sand and cement pads (*002*). The pads were unevenly spread underneath the flags to a maximum depth of 0.03m. The foundation stone for the western plinth of the north porch was exposed in the north-facing section of the trench (*003*), 0.88m in width and 0.1m in length. Beneath this foundation stone a rubble layer was also exposed in the north-facing section of the trench (*004*) comprising small/medium-sized rubble stones with a dark brown silty infill, and extending for the 0.9m width of the trench, and 0.15m deep. Below the sand and cement bedding layer (*002*) was a layer of light, blueish-grey clay (*005*) which varied in extent and depth within the trench from a minimum depth of 0.04m on the south side, to a maximum depth of 0.1m on the north side. Following removal of the bedding layers, a dark brown deposit of fine-grained clayey-silt (*006*) was revealed, containing some small pebbles to a depth of 0.25m.

3.2.2 **Trench B:** extended from the east side of the porch. The stone flags were removed (*007*) and a trench excavated by hand to a length of 1m and a width of 1m and initially to a depth of 0.25m (Fig 2). Below the flagstones was a bedding layer of pinkish/grey sand and cement pads (*008*), as in Trench A (*002*), to a maximum depth of 0.03m. The eastern foundation for the north porch plinth was exposed in the north-facing section of the trench (*009*), 0.88m wide, with a thickness of 0.10m. Beneath this was a rubble foundation layer (*010*), the same as *004* in Trench A, comprising small/medium rounded stones. Beneath the bedding layer and the foundation layers was a layer of very dark brown/black fuel ash (*011*), which extended diagonally across the eastern and south-western sides of the trench to a maximum depth of 0.12m (Plate 9). This was presumably a levelling layer laid during the construction of the porch and the laying of the flagstone path. Removal of the fuel ash deposit (*011*) revealed a layer of mid-brown clayey-silt (*012*) that extended across the trench to a depth of 0.25m interpreted as backfill following construction of the north porch.

3.2.3 Cleaning of the base of the trench revealed a rectangular feature, possibly a posthole, with rounded corners (*013*), 0.4m in length and 0.28m wide, in the

north-west corner of Trench B (Plate 10). This feature is possibly the remains of a temporary support associated with the construction of the porch in 1909. The posthole was filled with dark brown/black loose deposit (**014**), similar in composition to the fuel ash layer (**011**).

- 3.2.4 Below **012** was a deposit of light/mid brown, soft sandy-silt with an inclusion of small rounded pebbles, extending throughout Trench B (**015**). This was interpreted as a general burial horizon and contained disarticulated human bone. A skull (**SK027**) was revealed in the west-facing section at a depth of 0.45m together with disarticulated human remains in the south-west corner of the trench below **011** interpreted as charnel remains re-interred after previous ground disturbance (Fig 5; Plate 11). Further excavation revealed an *in situ* burial in the northern section of the trench (**SK016**; Figs 3 and 6). The skeleton was extended in a supine position, slumping down to the north, with the head at the west end of the grave. The head was situated at a maximum depth of 0.65m in the north-east corner of the trench and the right arm at a maximum depth of 0.48m. The right arm was flexed by the side, and the left arm was not visible. The right leg appeared to be displaced, resting over the position of the right hand. The left leg and the feet were not visible. There was no visible trace of a grave cut, stone or coffin (Fig 6; Plate 12).
- 3.2.5 An extension to Trench B was excavated beyond the north section, with dimensions of 0.4m by 0.44m by 0.5m in order to locate a drain. The ceramic drain was found at a depth of 0.5m beneath a deposit of modern infill (**017**), running on a north-east/south-west alignment, and was left *in situ*. The drain truncated the *in situ* burial (**016**).
- 3.2.6 **Trench C**: the trench was excavated as a test pit immediately to the north of Trench A, and was excavated to locate the course of the drain on the west side of the site. The trench was dug to a maximum depth of 0.8m, 0.7m wide and 0.9m long. Below the flagstones (**001**) the stratigraphy comprised the same layer of very dark brown/black fuel ash found in Trench B (**011**), to a maximum depth of 0.2m, below which was a deposit of light to mid-brown sandy-silt with a 30% inclusion of small stones, interpreted a general burial horizon (**019**). Human remains were revealed at a depth of 0.3m (**SK020**) and at a depth of 0.8m (**SK021**) at the base of the trench.
- 3.2.7 Skeleton **SK021** was laid east/west with the head at the west, although this was not fully exposed as it was beyond the limit of excavation, and only the tibia, fibia and patella were visible (Plate 13). The feet appeared to have been removed by **SK020**, which was stratigraphically above **SK021**. No cut or individual fill was visible. The body of **SK020** was laid in a supine position although only the femur and part of the tibia of the right leg were visible. The left leg was complete, and the left foot was visible (Plate 14). Again, there was no trace of a grave cut or an individual fill, and the burial was interpreted as being contained in burial horizon (**019**).
- 3.2.8 **Trench D**: the trench was initially excavated to a depth of 0.8m and linked trench C with the northern extension of Trench B comprising a total width of 3.25m. Human remains were revealed in the south-west corner of the footings trench (**SK022**). Very little of the skeleton was seen, but the burial was

presumed to be east/west aligned. The only visible remains were part of the left side of the pelvis and femur but no grave cut or individual fill was identified, and the burial was interpreted as being disturbed and re-interred remains contained in the general burial horizon (**019**) following insertion of the modern drain.

- 3.2.9 At the eastern end of the trench a human skull was identified, aligned south-west (**SK023**) and contained within **019**. It appeared the skull had rolled to its present position from a more westerly alignment, but was still an *in situ* burial and the rest of the skeleton was not visible as it was beyond the limits of excavation. The bone was degraded, fragmented and in a poor condition.
- 3.2.10 Located within the north section of the trench was grave fill (**024**). The deposit comprised a dark grey, firm, silty-clay with an inclusion of stone rubble of 40-90mm diameter and of dimensions 1.97m by more than 0.6m by 0.56m. Skeleton **025** was contained within this fill (Fig 4; Plate 15). The inhumation was aligned east/west in a supine position. The head was damaged but probably lay facing to the north. The right arm was by the side of the body although the ulna and radius were damaged. The right hand was below the pelvis. The left arm lay by the side of the body, but there was no evidence of the left hand. The pelvis was damaged or missing, but the tibia and fibia of the right leg were intact, along with the foot. Tunnelling slightly into the south-facing section of the footings trench exposed the left foot. The skull was fragmentary and the ribs, vertebrae and arms had suffered from the effects of the breastplate of the coffin, the remains of which were degraded and fragmentary. The lower body was better preserved, particularly the feet.
- 3.2.11 A coffin stain was identified around the body and a copper alloy ring was identified on the third digit of the left hand (*Section 3.4*). The grave cut (**026**) was linear in plan, with a near vertical-sided profile. The break of slope at the top was sharp, the sides near vertical and the break of slope at the base was flat. The cut was aligned east/west and was not truncated. The burial was exposed at an approximate depth of 0.6m. Following the removal of the human remains, the footings trench was excavated to the required depth of 0.8m, with the eastern and western limits of Trench D measuring 0.1m beyond the east and west plinths of the porch (Fig 2).
- 3.2.12 At the western end of Trench D, a dark brown compact silty-deposit was exposed (**028**) with an inclusion of loose small stones. The deposit contained numerous disarticulated bones and was interpreted as a modern backfill, deposited following the insertion of a plastic drainpipe on the same alignment, and positioned under the ceramic drain already exposed. The drainpipe lay at a maximum depth of 1m. Below the modern backfill (**028**) was a gravel layer (**029**) indicating the presence of the drain. In total, four drains were located within this area, lying almost directly on top of one another. All the drainpipes were modern, and give an indication of the extent of recent ground disturbance in this part of the site.
- 3.2.13 At the eastern end of the Trench D a dark brown, compact silty deposit (**030**) was interpreted as modern backfill following the insertion of the plastic drainpipe, the line of which had been exposed at the western end Trench D.

Below this was a layer of loose gravel deposited to indicate the presence of the drain (**031**). The backfill also contained bone fragments and disarticulated charnel remains. The course of the drains was identified as sloping downwards from east to west which resulted in the footings trench required depth being increased from 0.8m to 1m to allow the services to be boxed in before the concrete foundations were laid.

- 3.2.14 The area between the porch and the concrete foundation to the north was hand dug through general burial horizon **019**, to an approximate depth of 0.05-0.1m. No archaeological features were exposed, except for a small quantity of disarticulated human bone.
- 3.2.15 **Interior of the church (north aisle):** the pews and floorboards were removed in the north aisle, initially from an area of 6.5m by 1.6m, to the east of the north porch (Fig 3). The work in the north aisle was to take place in sections in order to move and relocate the eight pews as required. Beneath the floorboards a layer of bitumen-sealed cinder block was revealed. A strip of this very hard surface was removed with a small breaker and revealed a rough stone surface. Following this, the surface was removed in the rest of the area. No archaeological features were revealed following the removal of the cinder block and the area was cleaned in preparation for laying new stone flags.
- 3.2.16 A narrow trench was excavated immediately inside the interior door of the north porch for the installation of heating pipes. Removal of modern infill revealed a layer of rubble sitting over a compact earth floor surface, which was at the same level and possibly the same deposit, as the foundation layer (**010**) in Trench B. No archaeological features were revealed within the narrow trench.
- 3.2.17 **Interior of north porch:** removal of a layer of concrete in front of the medieval door revealed a stone slab. The concrete was approximately 0.2m thick with a 0.10m stone rubble foundation layer. In front of the north porch threshold the slab was laid directly onto **019**. The slab measured 0.3m by more than 1.75m, and lay 0.37m below the level of the threshold of the church.

### 3.3 HUMAN REMAINS

- 3.3.1 **Articulated Skeletons:** due to the small number and relative incompleteness of the articulated remains no meaningful statistics can be produced here. Instead, each skeleton will be dealt with individually.
- 3.3.2 Only the lower legs of **SK021** were retrieved during excavation as the rest of the burial lay outside the impact of the works. Therefore, it was less than 25% complete and was graded 2 for preservation. This individual is a sub-adult, most likely a younger child based on the size of their tibiae. The potential for metrical and no-metrics is very limited (grades 2 and 1 respectively). There was no pathology seen.
- 3.3.3 Only the skull of **SK023** was retrieved during excavation. Therefore it was less than 25% complete and was graded 2 for preservation. This individual was an

infant based on tooth development. There is no potential for metric and non-metric analysis (both graded 1). No pathology was seen.

- 3.3.4 **SK025** is the only individual greater than 25% complete. The remains are 50-75% complete and were graded 4 for preservation. This individual is an adult. However, the skeletal markers used for ageing are fragmented and therefore accurate age estimation cannot be produced. There are very few areas surviving in order to determine sex. Potential for metric and non-metric analysis is limited (both grade 2). This individual has osteoarthritis in their cervical and thoracic vertebrae, and right shoulder, as well as osteochondritis dissecans in their left elbow. Dental pathology was widespread with severe *ante-mortem* tooth loss of the mandible and presence of caries, calculus, periodontal disease and a possible abscess.
- 3.3.5 **Disarticulated Human Bone:** disarticulated skeletal remains were recovered from five separate contexts. The MNI (minimum number of individuals) for this material was 14, with every context containing more than one individual. The preservation of this material was graded 4 and there is very little potential for further analysis of these remains. Indeed, generally speaking, commingled remains are of limited value to archaeological studies and it is not usually recommended that they are examined in any great detail, other than to establish the minimum number of individuals present (Mays *et al* 2004).
- 3.3.6 **Potential for further analysis:** the skeletons that have been assessed here hold very little potential for further analysis, as the sample size is too small to be meaningful. Of the three articulated skeletons, two hold very limited potential due to their incompleteness. Although **SK025** holds potential for further analysis, this is limited, and would not justify further analysis on its own.
- 3.3.7 **Proposal for further work and recommendations:** it is proposed that no further analysis needs to be undertaken on these remains due to the very small sample size and relatively incompleteness of the remains. However, the results of this assessment will be archived and used if further work is to be done on the site in the future.

### 3.4 FINDS

- 3.4.1 A small and insubstantial finger ring was found *in situ* on the left hand of **SK025** (third proximal phalanx). The ring comprised a thin band of copper alloy. It is probably undecorated, although it is in poor condition and this cannot be stated with complete confidence. Its location suggests that it could have served as a wedding band, perhaps in circumstances when the original ring had been retained for sentimental reasons. Very similar rings were recovered from two nineteenth-century burials recently excavated at Redearth Primitive Methodists Church, Darwen (OA North forthcoming).



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## 4. CONCLUSIONS

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### 4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The watching brief revealed disarticulated bone from five separate contexts (**012**, **015**, **019**, **024** and **028**), one fully exposed (**SK025**), and two partially exposed burials (**SK21** and **SK23**), together with two *in situ* burials which were left undisturbed and covered with sand and terram for protection (**SK016** and **SK027**). Following assessment it was concluded that the minimum number of individuals for the disarticulated material was 14, with every context containing more than one individual. The assemblage held very little potential for further analysis and on completion of the project the bones will be reinterred within the graveyard. The intact burials were contained within a sandy-silt deposit **019**, interpreted as a general burial horizon that extended across the excavated area. church, relatively shallow depth and the lack of any associated coffin or grave cut.
- 4.1.2 Previous work on the north side of the church (LCAS 2009) had exposed intact burials at a depth of 1.2m, but, in this area intact burials were encountered at a shallower depth of between 0.45m and 0.8m. Previous disturbance to the site, including the 1909 construction of the north porch and the recent insertion of service pipes, had resulted in localised disturbance to the general burial horizons, and redeposited disarticulated bone was found contained in the modern backfill deposits.
- 4.1.3 No features of archaeological significance were exposed during work within the interior of the church or the interior of the north porch.

### 4.2 CONCLUSION

- 4.2.1 The results of the watching brief showed the graveyard to be used extensively, potentially since the early medieval period, and that, in spite of recent disturbance, there is potential for undisturbed burials at a shallower depth within the graveyard than previously thought, in particular, those areas closest to the existing church walls.
- 4.2.2 Therefore, any further groundworks within the graveyard are likely to impact upon the below ground archaeological remains, and should be carried out under archaeological supervision.

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## 6. ILLUSTRATIONS

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Plate 7: General layout of north aisle prior to works

Plate 8: General view of 'Wardens' Pew'

Plate 9: Layer of fuel ash (**011**) below bedding layer for flagstones

Plate 10: Trench B; showing porch foundations and possible posthole, **013**

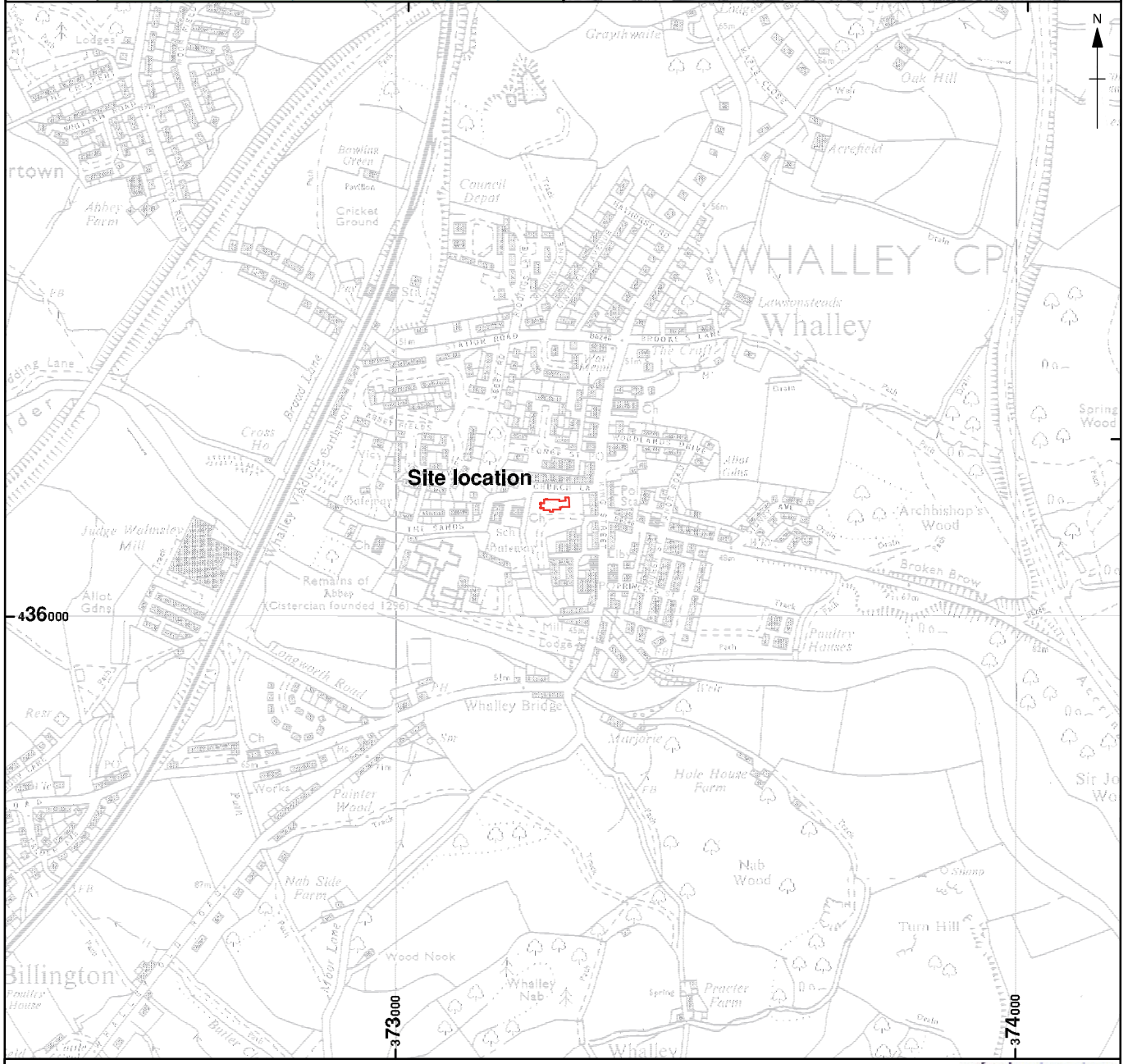
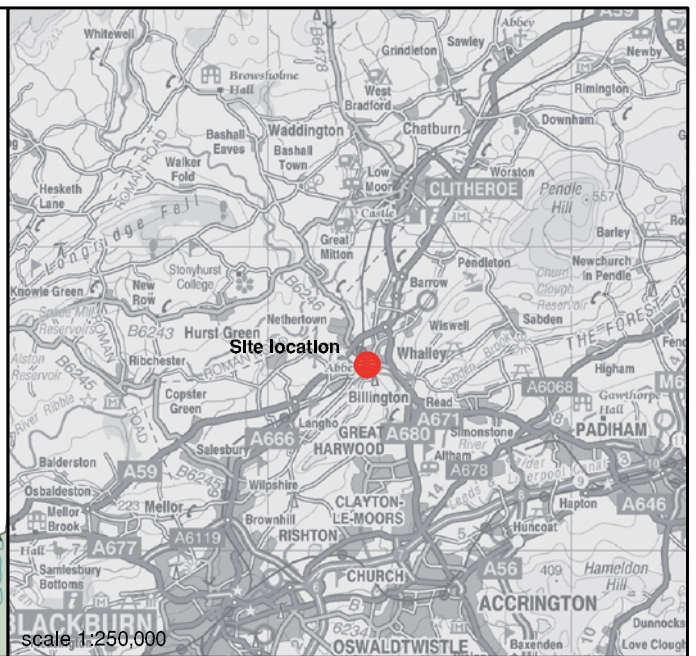
Plate 11: Skeleton **027** in west-facing section of Trench B

Plate 12: Skeleton **016** left *in situ* in Trench B

Plate 13: Skeleton **021** in north-west corner of Trench D

Plate 14: Skeleton **020** in north-west corner of Trench D

Plate 15: Skeleton **025** east/west aligned in Trench D



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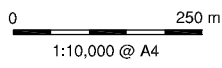
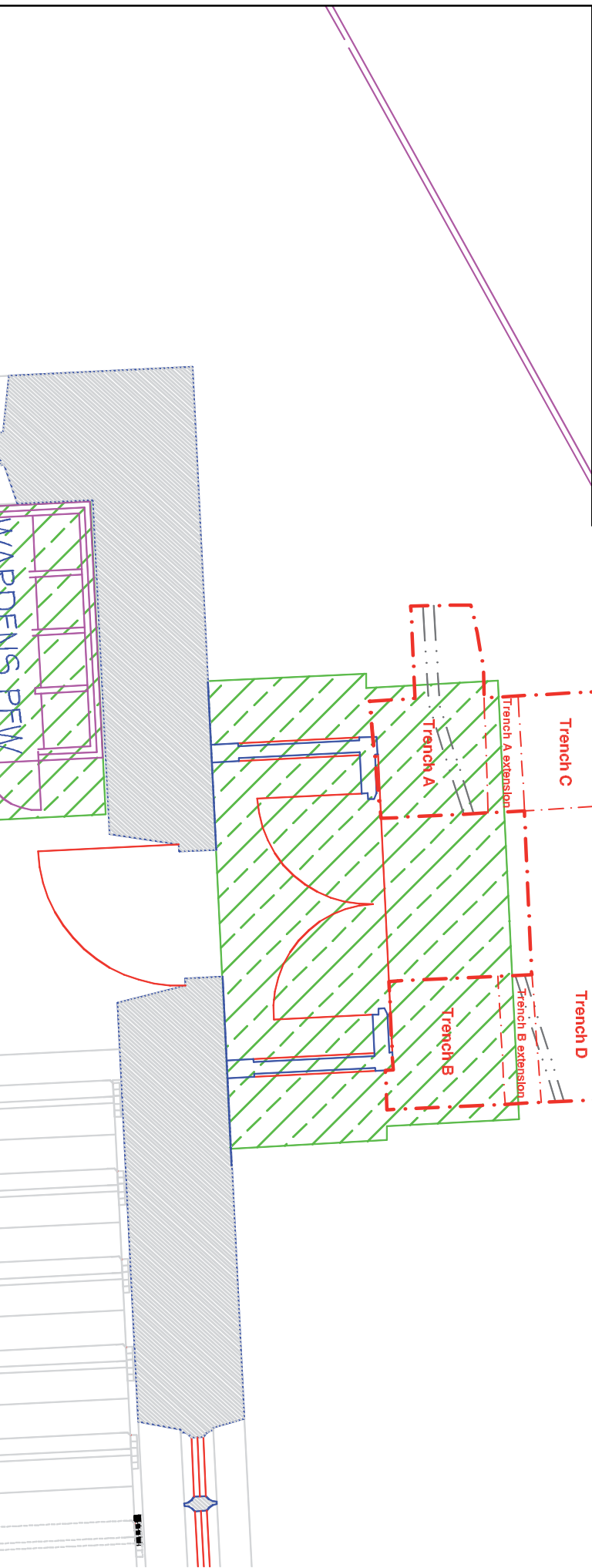
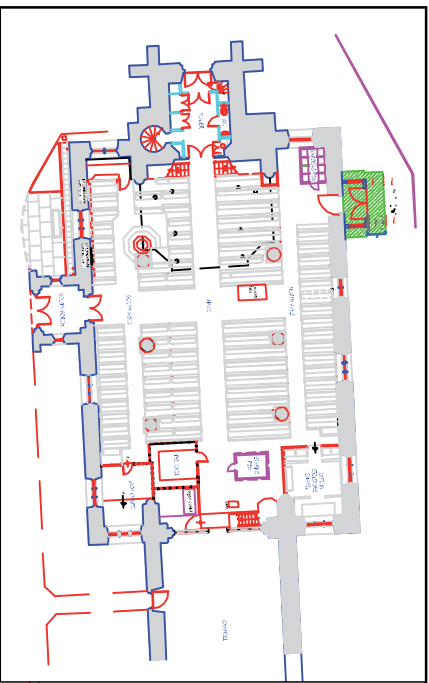


Figure 1: Site location

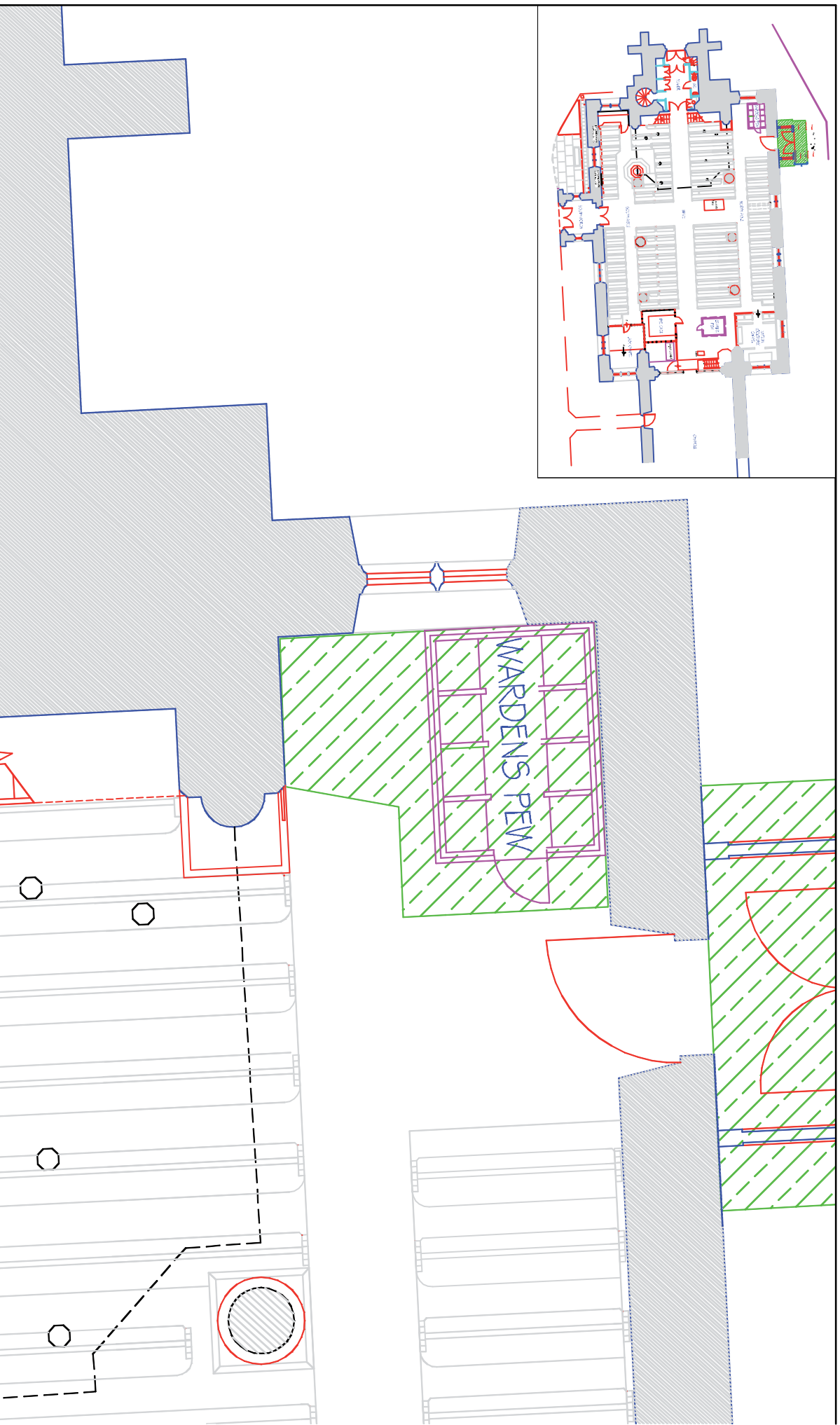
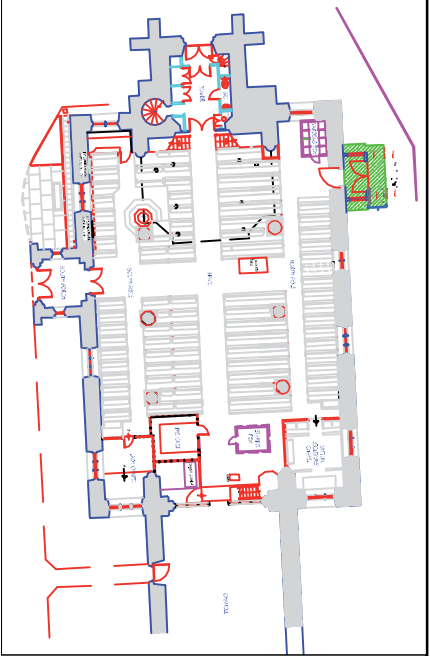
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Limit of Excavation  
Area of proposed extension

0 1 m  
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Figure 2: Plan showing outline of proposed extension in relation to the church



Limit of Excavation



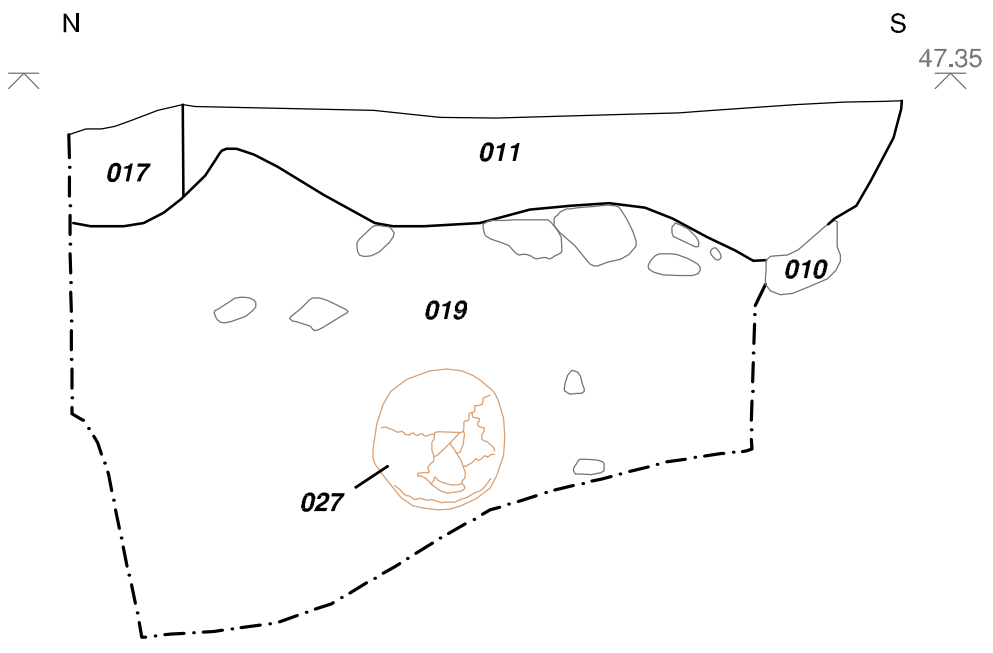
Area of proposed extension





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Figure 3: Plan of the area affected by the reordering of the interior of the church







-  Limit of excavation
-  Context
-  Bone
-  Stone

0 0.25 m  
1:10 @ A4



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Figure 5: Section showing the skull, **027**



Plate 6: Exterior of north porch prior to works



Plate 7: General layout of north aisle prior to works



Plate 8: General view of Churchwardens' pew

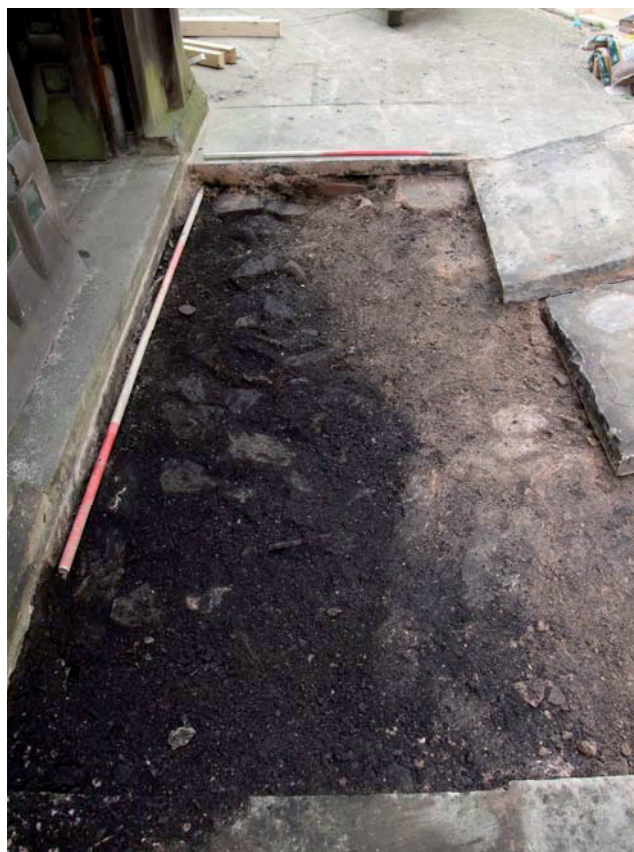


Plate 9: Layer of fuel ash (*011*) below bedding layer for flagstones



Plate 10: Trench B; showing porch foundations and possible posthole



Plate 11: Skeleton **027** in west facing section of Trench B



Plate 12: Skeleton **016** left *in situ* in Trench B



Plate 13: Skeleton **021** in north-west corner of footings trench



Plate 14: Skeleton **020** in north-west corner of footings trench



Plate 15: Skeleton **025** east/west aligned in footings trench

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## APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

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### Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at The Church of St Mary and All Saints, Whalley (SD 73250 36179)

Prepared by LCAS

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 As part of a scheme of improvement at the Church of St Mary and All Saints, Whalley, a small kitchen area is to be inserted at the rear of the north aisle and the north porch is to be extended to form an accessible lavatory. As part of these works the 'Warden's Pew' will need to be moved to a new position east of the north porch and a number of Victorian pews removed to make way for the works. As part of the development an archaeological watching brief is required.
- 1.2 This specification has been prepared by Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS).

#### 2. Archaeological Interest

- 2.1 The church of St Mary and All Saints is thought to have been in existence from the eighth century, and has probably been the parish church of Whalley, one of the original parishes within the county, since its construction. The existing building is of thirteenth century date, with a later fifteenth century tower and other changes and alterations and some possible earlier survivals. The timber north porch was added in 1909 and the Warden's Pew is thought to be of the early eighteenth century although relocated in the twentieth century.
- 2.2 A fragment of Roman dedication slab, built into the arch of the North door of Whalley Church was revealed c.1929 during restoration. The inscription reads '*.... Flavius ..... after fulfilment of his vow deservedly set this up*'. Presumably this stone was brought from Ribchester. It is not intended to move or alter this stone during the works, but its presence should be noted. A loose stone font, reputed to be of Roman origin and to have been brought to the church from Wiswell Hall, is also located at the rear of the north aisle. This will be moved to the front of the south aisle as part of the works.
- 2.3 A watching brief during excavations for drain laying along the line of the north pathway during October – November of 1990 revealed evidence for several disturbed burials at a depth of c.1.2m. These remains were re-interred within the churchyard. No other features of archaeological importance were noted, and no other finds recovered during this work.
- 2.4 Given the early origin of the church, and its long-held high status, it is possible (even probable) that archaeological remains will survive in this area and be revealed or damaged by the proposed development.

#### 3. General Considerations

- 3.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor should confirm in writing adherence to this specification, or state (with reasons) any proposals to vary the specification. Should the contractor wish to vary the specification, then written confirmation of the agreement of LCAS to any variations is required prior to work commencing. The archaeologist carrying out the watching brief should be appropriately qualified and experienced. Any technical queries arising from the specification detailed below should be addressed to LCAS *without delay*.

#### 4. Fieldwork Methodology

- 4.1 It is recommended that a series of record photographs of the site as existing should be taken and archived, prior to the works being started. These should show the general location and layout of the pews which are to be moved. [These photographs may well already have been taken by the architects, in which case copies should be obtained and included in the project archive.]

- 4.2 An archaeologist should be present on site during all ground works associated with the proposed development. This will include any removal of existing flooring such as floorboards or stone flags, but they need not attend for the simple removal of coverings such as carpet, linoleum, etc. It will include all the excavation works required to prepare the site for the extension of the north porch and the insertion of the kitchen, lavatory and services. The archaeologist should view the area as it is being dug and any trench sections after excavation has been completed. Where archaeology is judged to be present, the excavated area should be rapidly cleaned and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds should then be quickly hand excavated, sampled and recorded, within the confines of the excavated trench.
- 4.3 Excavated soil should be searched as practicable for finds. The presence and nature of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century material should be noted (quantified and summarily described) but finds of this date need not be retained for processing. Finds judged to be 18<sup>th</sup>-century in date or earlier should be retained. Note - Because this work is being undertaken in an historic church, it is probable that significant quantities of disturbed and disarticulated human remains may be encountered, although the shallow nature of the proposed works should preclude the discovery of intact and in-situ burials. All human remains encountered should be recorded, recovered and retained for assessment and reporting purposes and should be treated with appropriate care and consideration (English Heritage and The Church of England 2005 *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*). Reference should also be made to the requirements set out in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 below.
- 4.4 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of possible archaeological concern noted within these areas, should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings (including height above O.D.) and written description sufficient to permit the preparation of a report on the site.
- 4.5 The intention of the archaeological watching brief is not to unduly delay the work of other contractors on site. This work should not, therefore prejudice the progress of the main or subsidiary contractor's work, except by prior agreement and on-site co-operation. This should not be taken, however, to allow the omission of appropriate recording as noted above.
- 4.6 The archaeologist on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. In this case, where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose. This work may require the preparation of a Risk Assessment of the site, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations. **LCAS and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may occur to outside contractors engaged to undertake this survey while attempting to conform to this specification.**

## 5. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

- 5.1 Should there be, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant more detailed recording than possible within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor is to urgently contact LCAS with the relevant information to enable the matter to be resolved with the developer.
- 5.2 Where any intact burials or other articulated human remains are encountered, they should initially be left in-situ, covered and protected and their discovery notified to LCAS as above. If removal is deemed necessary, following consultation this must comply with the relevant guidelines noted above.
- 5.3 The terms of the Treasure Act, 1996 must be followed with regard to any finds, which might fall within its purview. Any such finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the "Code of Practice". Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.



## 6. Monitoring

- 6.1 The recording exercise will be monitored as necessary and practicable by the LCAS Advisory Service in its role as 'curator' of the county's archaeology. LCAS should receive **as much notice as possible in writing** (and certainly not less than one week) of the intention to start the watching brief. **A copy of the archaeological contractor's risk assessment of the site should accompany the notification.**

## 7. Post-Excavation/Post-Recording Work and Report Preparation

- 7.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. Any human remains (4.2 and 5.2 above) should be assessed by an appropriately qualified specialist and a formal report produced. Where these remains are not considered to be of more than local importance, they should be placed into an appropriate container and returned to the Church authorities for reburial within St Mary's Church or churchyard. Where it is proposed that any human remains be retained for study, an appropriate written agreement should be reached with the Church authorities for their storage, treatment, and eventual reburial. Only in exceptional circumstances should any such remains be retained indefinitely for a museum collection, and this will also require the agreement of LCAS.
- 7.2 A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and fully labelled photographs. Labelling should be in indelible ink on the *back* of the print and should include film and frame number; date recorded and photographer's name; name and address of site; national grid reference. Photographic prints should be mounted in appropriate archivally-stable sleeves. **A quantified index to the field archive should form an appendix to the report.** The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive (see Section 8.1 below).
- 7.3 A report should be produced to provide background information, a summary of the works carried out, a description and separate interpretation of any features and finds identified. Details of the report's style and format are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but it should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive and as an appendix, a copy of this specification. The report illustrations should include, as a minimum, a location map at a reasonable scale plus any drawings and photographs.
- 7.4 If nothing of archaeological interest is identified during the course of the watching brief, then a summary report will be adequate, as long as sufficient details are supplied for SMR purposes. Illustrations would not be required, although it would be anticipated that black and white prints would form part of the archival record. A summary record should include: (1) details of the commissioning body; (2) the nature of the development and resultant ground disturbance; (3) the approximate position of any ground disturbance viewed with relation to adjacent existing fixed points; (4) the date(s) of fieldwork; (5) name(s) of fieldworker(s); (6) written observations on the nature and depth of deposits observed (this may include annotated sketch sections); (7) the conditions under which they were observed (for example, details of weather conditions, ease of access and views, attitude of other organisations *etc.*); (8) a quantified index to the field archive; (9) details of the archives present location and intended deposition and (10) a copy of this specification.
- 7.5 The report should be produced within three weeks of completion of the fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed with the LCAS. Copies of the report should be supplied to the client and the Lancashire HER. The report will become publicly accessible once deposited with the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record.
- 7.6 Archaeological contractors must complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact Lancashire HER prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Lancashire HER may place the information on a web-site. Please

ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the case officer (Ken Davies) at Lancashire HER.

**8. DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE**

- 8.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant museum archaeological curator in writing (copied to LCAS) to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. In this case the contact is Rachel Jackson, Clitheroe Castle Museum, Castle Hill, Clitheroe. BB7 1BA t.01200 427897
- 8.2 Only if Ms Jackson does not wish to or cannot take on the archive, may it be deposited with the Museum of Lancashire's central store. Contact details for the MoL can be obtained from LCAS.
- 8.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with the Museum.
- 8.4 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet the Museum's requirements with regard to the preparation of fieldwork archives for deposition.
- 8.5 The museums officer named in 8.1 above should be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as LCAS.

**9. Further Details**

- 9.1 Any queries about the contents of the specification should be addressed to Lancashire County Archaeology Service, Lancashire County Council, Highways & Environmental Management, Guild House, Cross Street, Preston PPR1 8RD Tel 01772 531550, fax 01772 533423

**10. Valid period of specification**

- 10.1 This specification will remain valid for up to one year from the date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

**Lancashire County Archaeology Service                      October 2008**

Peter Iles

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## APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Whalley Parish Church (hereafter the 'client') has commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to carry out a programme of archaeological watching brief at the Church of Saint Mary and All Saints, Whalley (centred NGR SD 73250 36179) during a scheme of improvement. The proposals are for a kitchen to be inserted to the rear of the north aisle and the north porch extended to create a lavatory. This will involve the Warden's Pew being moved to a new position to the east of the north porch together with a number of Victorian pews. Prior to this, however, a photographic record will be undertaken of the area and elements of the church which will be affected. The watching brief will be maintained during any ground moving or excavating works (i.e. drainage/services/foundations and ground reduction). This work is in accordance with a specification prepared by Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS), and should be read in conjunction with the following document, which outlines OA North's role within the site work.

### 2 HEALTH AND SAFETY

#### 2.1 RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1.1 OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

#### 2.2 CONTAMINATION

2.2.1 Any known contamination issues or any specific health and safety requirements on site should be made known to OA North by the client to ensure all procedures can be met, and that the risk is dealt with appropriately. Should any presently unknown contamination be discovered during excavation, it may be necessary to halt the works and reassess the risk assessment. Should it be necessary to supply additional PPE or other contamination avoidance equipment this will be costed as a variation.

#### 2.3 SITE WELFARE

2.3.1 Health and safety regulations require access to adequate handwashing facilities to be provided for the duration of the fieldwork. It is assumed that the site toilets provided for the construction team can be used for the duration of the project. Should it be necessary to arrange facilities for OA North staff, this will be charged as a variation.

### 3 METHOD STATEMENT

#### 3.1 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

3.1.1 A visual inspection will be undertaken to generally record as well as note any significant features that may be affected by the proposed refurbishment. This is to be undertaken prior to any work associated with the proposed improvement commencing on site.

3.1.2 A photographic record for the archive will be produced utilising a 35mm camera to produce achievable monochrome prints. A high-resolution digital camera will also be employed for general coverage and for use for illustration purposes within the final report. A full photographic index will be produced for the purposes of the archive.

#### 3.2 WATCHING BRIEF

3.2.1 All modern floor coverings (i.e. carpet and linoleum etc) may be removed prior to attendance of the OA North archaeologist. However, floorboards, flags etc must be lifted under archaeological supervision.

3.2.2 Once the site work commences and intrusive works begin, and OA North archaeologist must be present in order to record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the area to be disturbed during the improvement works. Intrusive

work includes any excavation, including foundations and service trenches, or ground moving works that will be carried out by the on-site contractor under the guidance of the archaeologist. During the course of the groundworks any subsoil horizons exposed will be systematically examined by the archaeologist in attendance, and all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation will be accurately recorded. This will be carried out under constant archaeological observation unless, with consultation and agreement of the client and other interested parties, it is identified that a more targeted and timetabled archaeological investigation would be more appropriate.

- 3.2.3 Discovery of any archaeological remains will require stoppage of the excavation works, and sufficient time must be made to allow the OA North archaeologist to undertake adequate recording under safe conditions. This will be carried out as efficiently as possible in order to minimise disruption. Depending on the deposits revealed, it is anticipated that the average time for the suspension of works will be approximately 0.5-4 hours.
- 3.2.4 Clearance will be given for construction to proceed once the archaeologist is satisfied that either no remains are present, or that they have been adequately recorded, or that the level of impact will not disturb any deeper remains that can be preserved *in situ*.
- 3.2.5 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified together with the immediate vicinity of any such features will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (i.e. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 3.2.6 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, or as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale digital plan. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.2.7 Levels will be recorded and reduced to their OD heights, with all benchmark and TBMS to be shown. The location of all features excavated will be recorded by Total Station with appropriate spot heights and tied into the OS grid. Altitude information will be established with respect to OS Datum. The location of the remains within the areas of construction will be based on the site plans provided by the client.
- 3.2.8 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced.
- 3.2.9 **Complex or extensive remains:** should the remains be too complex or extensive to be investigated and recorded under watching brief conditions then the area will be fenced-off and the client and curator will be immediately contacted in order to determine the requirements for further investigation. All further construction works within the marked area will cease until clearance is given to proceed. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design.

### 3.3 GENERAL PROCEDURES

- 3.3.1 **Environmental Sampling:** environmental samples (bulk samples of 40 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of suitable deposits by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis.
- 3.3.2 **Human Remains:** it is not anticipated that intact human burials will be encountered, due to the shallow nature of investigations. Should this occur, however, any human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial.
- 3.3.3 Disturbed or disarticulated bone are expected. These, again, will be recorded but these will be lifted by the OA North archaeologist and returned to the Lancaster office for assessment.

3.3.4 **Treatment of finds:** all finds will be exposed and lifted. They will be retained and returned to OA North's offices. Thereafter, those finds deemed to be of nineteenth or twentieth century date will be discarded under the auspices of the OA North finds manager, and the remainder will be processed and assessed accordingly.

3.3.5 **Treasure:** any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.

### 3.4 ARCHIVE

3.4.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the County Record Office in Preston, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with the Museum of Lancashire.

### 3.5 REPORT

3.5.1 A hard copy and a digital copy on CD of the report will be submitted to the client, and a further digital copy supplied as pdf files will be submitted to the Lancashire HER within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork. The report will include;

- a site location plan related to the national grid
- a front cover to include the planning application number, where relevant, and the NGR
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results
- the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken
- description of the methodology, including the sources consulted
- a summary of the historical background of the study area
- appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located
- a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the proposed development
- photographs as appropriate
- a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design
- the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted

3.5.2 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

## APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT REGISTER

CONTEXT No	DETAIL	TRENCH	DEPTH OF FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
001	Stone Flags	A	0.10m	Stone flags laid in front of porch that form part of path through north side of churchyard
002	Sand and cement bed	A	0.03m	Sand and cement levelling layer for stone flags (001)
003	Stone foundation	A	0.05m	Stone foundation for north porch
004	Rubble foundation	A	0.15m	Rubble foundation layer for north porch foundation stone (003)
005	Levelling layer	A	0.04-0.10m	Light, blueish-grey clay levelling/compacting layer deposited for stone flags (001)
006	Modern service trench backfill	A	0.25m	Light brown clayey-silt backfill for modern service trenches
007	Stone flags	B	0.10m	Stone flags laid in front of porch that form part of path through north side of churchyard, same as 001
008	Sand and cement bed	B	0.03m	Sand and cement levelling layer for stone flags, same as 002
009	Stone foundation	B	0.10m	Stone foundation for north porch, same as 003
010	Rubble foundation	B	0.18m	Rubble foundation layer for north porch foundation stone, same as 004
011	Black silty coal ash	B	0.12m	Levelling layer for flag stones/foundations of north porch
012	Modern service trench backfill	B	0.25m	Light brown clayey-silt backfill for modern service trenches
013	Cut for posthole	B	-	Cut for possible posthole – temporary support during construction of north porch
014	Fill of 013	B	-	Posthole fill for temporary support during construction of north porch
015	General burial horizon	B	0.45-0.55m	Light/mid brown sandy-silt deposit
016	Skeleton	B	0.48-0.65m	<i>In situ</i> skeleton contained in fill 015
017	Modern infill	B	0.10m	Loose rubble over modern ceramic

				drain
<b>018</b>	Sand and cement bed	D	0.03m	Sand and cement levelling layer for stone flags
<b>019</b>	General burial horizon	D	Max depth 1m	Light brown clayey-silt burial horizon, same as <b>015</b>
<b>020</b>	Skeleton	C	0.3m	<i>In situ</i> ; supine, lower portion only revealed
<b>021</b>	Skeleton	C	0.8m	<i>In situ</i> ; contained in fill <b>019</b> east/west aligned, tibia, fibia and patella
<b>022</b>	Skeleton	D	0.8m	<i>In situ</i> ; very little exposed, most beyond limits of excavation
<b>023</b>	Skeleton	D	0.6m	<i>In situ</i> ; skull only displaced, rest beyond limits of excavation
<b>024</b>	Grave fill	D	0.56m	Dark grey, firm silty-clay grave fill
<b>025</b>	Skeleton	D	0.6m	<i>In situ</i> ; east/west aligned inhumation, coffin and breast plate fragments
<b>026</b>	Grave cut	D	-	Grave cut for <b>SK025</b>
<b>027</b>	Skeleton	D	0.35m	Supine inhumation, only skull exposed
<b>028</b>	Modern backfill	D	0.30m	Dark brown compact clayey-silt with loose rubble stones deposited following insertion of modern drains
<b>029</b>	Gravel layer	D	0.10m	Modern gravel layer deposited to mark position of drain
<b>030</b>	Backfill	D	0.80m	Dark brown, compact, clayey deposit
<b>031</b>	Gravel layer	D	0.10m	Deposited to indicate drain