

ST PETER'S CHURCH, BILTON,  
EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,  
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In August 2009, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Ferry and Mennim (Architects) Ltd, on behalf of St Peter's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC), to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the renewal of the surface water disposal system in the churchyard of St Peter's Church, Bilton, East Yorkshire (NGR TA 1565 3271 centred). The archaeological work was made a condition of a Diocesan faculty.

The existing St Peter's church was built in the mid 19th century wholly or partially on the site of an earlier medieval church or chapel, originally dedicated to St Mary Magdalen. Its burial ground was first mentioned in 1285 and the church was repaired in 1822. In 1841, Poulson described the church as being a small structure of stone with a later battlemented brick bell turret at the west end. The present structure, designed by G T Andrews, opened in 1852 and comprises a four bay nave and two bay chancel with a double bell-cote at the west end, a south porch and a north vestry and boiler room.

No structural remains for the former medieval church were found during the drainage works, and the existing foundations, where exposed, appeared to be of a relatively small scale; the fact that there were few excavations immediately adjacent to the church meant there was little opportunity to uncover any remains associated with the previous structure, assuming that some might still survive. Nevertheless, what appeared to be a construction level for the new church was visible as a thin layer of compacted mortar and crushed stone in drainage trenches either side of the south porch.

The bulk of the information recovered from the watching brief was revealed in what transpired to be unusually extensive drainage excavations in the intensively used and long-lived graveyard. Within the exposed soils were fragments of pottery, glass, ceramic tile, slate, brick, chalk, stone, flint, oyster shells, plain clay pipe stems and coffin nails and handles; the earliest pottery sherd found dated to the late Medieval period. Two *in situ* burials and several caches of reburied human bones were uncovered in soakaway pit 2 to the south of the church, and two other *in situ* burials plus the remains of a coffin were seen in pit 3 to the south-west. Many of the burials had been disturbed by later graves and the construction of presumed 19th century brick-lined and stone-capped burial vaults, and it is clear that these parts of the churchyard contain a high population of unmarked burials. Although none of the burials or vaults exposed by the drainage works were indicated by surface markers, it was possible to avoid any significant disturbance by modifications to the scheme design.

A deposit of a pale brown fine silty soil, between 0.20m-0.27m thick, was evident over the east side of the graveyard, and this extended for some distance to the west, as far as the south porch where it was only 0.02m thick. This soil, which was obviously imported, was present immediately beneath the turf, and it may represent a 20th century levelling layer which was laid down soon after, or as part of, a general clearing up of the churchyard. The latter was represented by several buried concrete slabs, broken memorials and gravestones, and a rubbish pit (043) which contained a mixture of post-medieval material including fragments of glass jars dated to after 1928.

What appeared to be the geologically natural clay was only exposed in the base of soakaway pit 3, at 1.13m below ground level (4.25m OD). This relatively high level may indicate that the slight rise on which the present church (and presumably the medieval church) stands is a natural rather than an artificial landform.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In August 2009, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Ferry and Mennim (Architects) Ltd, on behalf of St Peter's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC), to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the renewal of the surface water disposal system in the churchyard of St Peter's Church, Bilton, East Yorkshire (NGR TA 1565 3271 centred).
- 1.2 The replacement of the surface water disposal system was being undertaken in conjunction with other works to the church, which included the repair, upgrade and overhaul of the bells installation, various rebuilding, repairs and repointing works to the bellcote, west gable and vestry chimney, the complete re-roofing of the whole of the church, and various internal plaster repairs and redecoration works. These works were all approved by a Diocesan Faculty dated 5th November 2008, and several of the conditions related to an archaeological watching brief which was required to be held during the churchyard groundworks.

## **2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 St Peter's Church lies on the western outskirts of the village of Bilton in East Yorkshire, only 0.75km east of the Hull city boundary (see figure 1). It is positioned on the east side of Church Lane, which runs south from the south side of the B1238 Hull to Sproatley road (NGR TA 1565 3271 centred) (see figure 2). Bilton village is now a suburb of Hull, located some 7km to the north-east of the centre of the town, but the 1st edition (1856) Ordnance Survey map (sheet 227) shows it to be a small hamlet on the Sproatley road (see figure 3).
- 2.2 The church is built on a slight rise, and is surrounded by a retaining wall of stone and brick, which encloses the older part of the graveyard. A lychgate gives access from Church Lane and extensions to the graveyard were consecrated in 1905 to the east, and in 1938 to the south. A new cemetery now lies at the end of Church Lane, to the south of the church, beyond the church boundary wall and adjacent to the former vicarage. To the west of Church Lane there is open land and allotments, while to the north is a modern community hall, an area of rough ground and a small pond. To the east, to the south of a row of houses fronting the B1238, is open pasture containing earthworks of ridge and furrow and the remains of a medieval moated enclosure.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 No specification or EDAS methods statement was issued for the project, but the work was carried out in accordance with the Diocese of York's Guidance Note for Archaeological Watching Briefs (DAC 2002). More general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999) was also considered, as well as that relating to archaeological work in Christian cemeteries and burial grounds (ADCA 2004; EH/CoE 2005). The aim of the archaeological work was to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might be affected by the groundworks associated with the new surface water drainage scheme.
- 3.2 The new drainage system involved the renewal of all existing gullies and drains running from a total of six downpipes, three located on the north side of the church and three on the south side. The 'Waterloc' drainage system was designed to lead rainwater into three large pits each filled with up to 30 plastic D-Raintank soakaway

units, bedded on a layer of gravel. These units, which measured 1.2m by 0.8m, were to be stacked and interconnected, then wrapped in a geotextile membrane, thus allowing gradual water dispersal; the 'Waterloc' system also gives the opportunity for water recycling if required.

- 3.3 The groundworks involved the digging of several new drainage trenches, 0.3m wide, running from the downpipes to new soakaway pits, sometimes in a somewhat circuitous route to avoid marked graves. On the south side of the church, one right-angled trench (Trench 1) ran south from a downpipe at the east end of the nave to a sub-square soakaway pit (Pit 2) which measured 2.4m long by 2.68m wide by a maximum 1.06m deep, while other trenches (Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 9) ran from the two downpipes either side of the south porch to a large rectangular soakaway pit (Pit 3) measuring 2.4m long by 2.68m wide by a maximum 1.20m deep positioned off the south-west corner of the church; a short section of Trench 3 where it cut through the existing concrete path was not observed. On the north side of the church, three trenches (Trenches 5, 7 and 8) connected the existing downpipes to a long trench (Trench 6) and another soakaway pit (Pit 1) which measured 5.2m long by 2.7m wide by a maximum 0.92m deep) located off the north-east corner of the church. Silt filter units were then installed in the pipe runs, c.1.0m before the soakaway pits. An inspection chamber was also installed at a sharp turn of the pipe run leading to Pit 3, a route necessitated by the presence of a concrete path and steps and numerous marked and unmarked graves. It was also necessary to break through a partially buried stone revetment wall to the north-east of the church, close to the northern boundary wall, to link the pipe work into Pit 1. In general, the drainage trenches increased in depth as they travelled away from the downpipes to the soakaways, from c.0.20m nearest the church to virtually the base of the soakaway pits at c.1.00m deep.
- 3.4 All the excavation work was carried out by hand by the drainage contractors, using ditching or standard spades as appropriate (see plate 1). Unfortunately, a number of problems were experienced during the excavations. Pit 1 on the north-east side of the churchyard was initially dug too deep, resulting in additional archaeological cleaning and recording. This overdigging also exposed the soil beneath the foundation of the adjacent boundary wall which resulted in potential instability, and so the pit was partially refilled and then extended in length and breadth, to ensure the required capacity. The proposed depth of Pit 2 to the south of the church would have necessitated the use of shoring for both the drainage contractors and the archaeologist, as well as resulting in the disturbance of *in situ* burials, and so it was decided to widen the pit to both the north and south. However, this revealed the presence of unmarked brick burial vaults and so the pit was extended to the east instead. The exposure of at least three *in situ* burials in the base of Pit 3 to the south-west of the church (see below) led to a decision to extend this pit to the north at a reduced depth. In retrospect, the use of the 'Waterloc' drainage system, which requires large soakaway pits, has considerable drawbacks in the context of a graveyard, both in terms of the amount of ground disturbance (and therefore archaeological work) required and health and safety issues relating to excavating in loose unconsolidated ground.
- 3.5 The groundworks were monitored continuously by EDAS over a period of six days between 23rd February and 4th March 2010. Several site meetings were also held between EDAS, the project architect and the drainage contractors to resolve the issues noted above. The positions of all monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plan, and more detailed drawings were made as necessary. A photographic record was also maintained. Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned

an individual context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of 75 archaeological contexts were recorded; these are all described in the following text as three digit numbers (e.g. 015). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The *in situ* burials exposed in Pit 3 were photographed and quickly sketched in plan at a scale of 1:10 before being covered over, while an *in situ* burial in Pit 2 was only photographed before being covered with soil; no *in situ* remains were required to be significantly disturbed or lifted. Isolated disarticulated human bones and several previously reburied caches of bone were collected together and reburied beneath the relevant soakaway pits. Levels AOD were taken from the bench mark located on the north-west angled buttress at the west end of the church, which Ordnance Survey maps show has a value of 20.66ft (6.29m).

- 3.6 With the agreement of the PCC, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service (site code SPB 10; accession number 2010/86). A number of post-medieval artefacts were collected from the excavations, as well as a single sherd of 15th/16th century pottery (see below), and these were passed to the church for display and safekeeping.

## 4 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The name 'Bilton' appears to derive from 'Billa's farm' and is probably of Anglian origin; it is first named as *Billeton* in the 1086 Domesday Book (Smith 1937, 46-47). A carucate of land at Bilton, which had belonged to Halfdan in 1066, had by 1086 passed to Drew de Bevrère, the majority landowner in Holderness; his undertenant was Franco, an ancestor of the Fauconbergs. Walter de Fauconberg, later Lord Fauconberg, was the tenant in Bilton in the mid 13th century, and the estate later descended, as an appurtenance of Rise Manor, to the Neville family (Kent 2002, 125). St John's church in Beverley also owned a larger manor of three carucates in Bilton in 1086. It was held by Stephen of Marfleet, but subsequently passed by marriage to William of Bilton. By a complex series of marriage settlements, divisions, acquisitions and sales, the manor was, by the mid 18th century, in the possession of sisters Catherine Dawnay and Mildred Bouchier (Kent 2002, 125-126).
- 4.2 The Domesday Book records that 13 villeins worked two ploughlands on the archbishop's estate while four villeins worked one ploughland on Franco's estate. There were 69 individuals listed in the poll tax of 1362, although this may also have included the residents of nearby Ganstead. In 1672 only 26 houses in Bilton were assessed as being liable for the hearth tax, and the population level had fallen to only 89 residents in 1911. Later field names suggest that the medieval open fields, which included North and East Field, were enclosed in the early 17th century. The agricultural land was a mixture of pasture and common, and there was a considerable area of arable, as evidenced by the earthworks of ridge and furrow, now mostly ploughed out, seen on aerial photographs to the south of the village.
- 4.3 The 19th century maps show that most of the few farms and houses in the village lay on the north side of the Hull to Sproatley road (see figure 3), either side of Back Lane, although most of this area has now been developed. The church lies on the south side of the main road, together with a moated site c.100m to the east. The latter most likely represents the site of a manor house, recorded in 1557, which may well have been occupied by the main manorial tenants (Humber Sites and Monuments Record (HSMR) 1538). The northern half of the site was built over in the 1950s, as part of the linear development on the south side of the main road,

although the southern half survives as well-preserved earthworks in a pasture field, with ridge and furrow earthworks to the east. It is possible that the moated site replaced an earlier small fortified house built on a circular earthwork or motte ('Swan Hill'), which lies just to the south of the vicarage, and which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (HSMR 709). However, the categorisation of the site as a medieval motte has not been proved, and it is also possible that it could represent a post-medieval garden feature associated with the adjacent former vicarage (now Swanhill House).

4.4 Swine Parish had a chapel at Bilton from at least 1285, when its burial ground was first mentioned, and it appears to have contained or comprised a chantry. The curate had an income of £4 a year in 1526, part of which may have come from a house and a small plot of land. From the late 16th century the curacy was shared with other Holderness livings and by 1743 services were held every other Sunday with communion only three times a year. The curacy became perpetual after an endowment of £800 in 1794 and, following further grants in 1859, the townships of Bilton, Ganstead and Wyton were taken from Swine parish to form a distinct chapelry or parish in 1867 (Kent 2002, 127). In 1822 a sum of c.£200 was spent on repairs (Poulson 1841, 251), and it was originally dedicated to St Mary Magdalen, only being dedicated to St Peter by 1823. The medieval chapel, which appears to have lain on virtually the same site as the existing church, was demolished in the mid 19th century when the present structure was constructed (see below) (Pevsner & Neave 1995, 324).

4.5 Relatively little is known of the medieval church on the site, although Poulson does provide a description of the structure as it existed in 1841:

*"The fabric, dedicated to St Peter, is a small building of early English character, consisting of a body, with a bell turret at the west end. On the south side, three long narrow lancet-headed windows, with an early English doorway, the dripstone of which has a distorted head on its apex; the doorway is entered through a modern brick porch. There is a small square light of the same age as the rest. The north side has similar windows and doorway, the latter blocked up. At the east end three, and at the west end one, lancet window, all having small dripstones, with a flower ornament in the soffit at the top of the arch. The whole built of small hewn stone, with brick repairs; the bell turret all of brick, battlemented; the roof slated. The interior is small but neat; the roof ceiled. There are seven neat pews, and four backed seats; the floor is of brick. The pulpit is placed against the north wall; the Lord's Prayer and Belief on the east wall, between the windows. The font is very old, small and circular, and is protected by a wooden case surmounted by a dove. Part of the west end is separated from the rest by a brick partition, which seems to have been erected when the turret was built for the purpose of supporting it, the turret appearing to be a later addition. A neat communion table and railing. There are two bells. The chapel yard is small"* (Poulson 1841, 251). This structure would appear to be that shown on the Ordnance Survey 1856 6" map, which was surveyed in 1852, as it does not depict current footprint or the lychgate, and the churchyard is rather small (see figure 3). A comparison with the more modern Ordnance Survey maps might suggest that the medieval church lay a few metres to the south of the present structure, although it is difficult to be sure and it may in fact have duplicated the footprint in length and breadth (excluding the vestry and boiler room) more or less exactly.

4.6 As noted above, the present church is a replacement or rebuilding of the earlier structure, erected by Payn Dawney (then Lord of the manor) with or for his sister Lydia Dawney. It was designed by G T Andrews and his plan of 1851 and other details are held in the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research archives (BIHR Fac.



1851/1; Fac.Bk.4, pp587-9); the church opened in 1852. It follows the plan and style of the old church, and comprises an undivided nave and chancel with a north vestry (with chimney) and south porch, and a western double bellcot, all in a 13th century style. It is built of ashlar with a graduated stone slate roof. The rich paving of encaustic tiles in the chancel is well-preserved. By 1886 a communion rail of Caen stone had been installed to divide the chancel from the nave, and a stone reredos was added in 1886. The lychgate was built in 1852, and the churchyard was extended twice, in 1905 to the east and in 1938 to the south (Kent 2002, 128; Pevsner & Neave 1995, 324).

## 5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF

### North side of the Church (see figure 4)

#### *Drainage trenches*

- 5.1 To the north of the church, a deposit of firm pink-red ashy loam less than 0.04m thick (032) was identified for a distance of c.13m in Trench 6 under the 0.07m deep turf and topsoil (030). This ashy material, which overlay a wet sticky dark brown loam subsoil (031) containing moderate amounts of mixed modern brick, tile, stone, plastic, slate and glass fragments, may represent part of a former path around the church. It was also necessary for the east end of Trench 6 to break through the southern end of a buried north-south aligned stone wall (038), close to the churchyard boundary wall (009), to link the pipe work into soakaway pit 1. At least four courses of lime mortared ashlar stone were exposed in the trench, at 0.48m BGL and with a combined width of 0.43m; the stones were roughly dressed and the construction included one brick, and the wall appeared to butt against the east-west brick boundary wall. Although the excavated section was buried under turf and topsoil (030), other parts of the wall alignment are exposed further to the south, effectively forming a low revetment between two parts of the churchyard. This boundary is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1856 6" map (see figure 3), as defining the east end of the churchyard, and the extension to the east was consecrated in 1905. There is no marked difference in the levels of the churchyard either side of the former boundary, that to the east being only c.0.26m lower than that to the west.
- 5.2 Also on the north side of the church, an unglazed flat-topped ceramic drain (033), 0.14m in diameter, was exposed for a distance of 2.4m in Trench 5 running away from the adjacent downpipe. The cut for the drain was not seen in the surrounding deposits (030 and 031), and it had been damaged by tree roots. The base of the drain lay 0.39m below ground level (BGL), and it was laid on two courses of unmortared 19th/20th century bricks (034). Similarly in Trench 7 to the east, another glazed ceramic drain (036) was partially exposed running north-east from the downpipe on the east side of the vestry, at a depth of 0.38m BGL; it partially overlay an earlier brick soakaway (037) running at a slightly different angle.
- 5.3 The foundations (035) of the north side of the church (029) were seen to step out by 0.12m, at a depth of 0.38m BGL, in Trenches 5 and 7. In Trench 8, on the west side of the boiler room (029), this plinth overlay a lower stone foundation (023) which stepped out by 0.28m at a depth of 0.51m BGL.

#### *Soakaway Pit 1*

- 5.4 Soakaway pit 1 measured 5.2m long by 2.7m wide and was 0.92m deep (4.16m AOD) (maximum measurements). At the west end of the centre of the pit, and beneath a deposit of pale brown very clean fine silty soil, at least 0.26m thick (041)

below the turf and topsoil (040), the top of a small rounded pit (043) c.0.45m in diameter was partially visible, cut into a dark brown friable and well drained loam (045). This pit (043) was filled with a loose brown loam (044) containing frequent pieces of pottery, glass and nails, mainly dating to the 19th and 20th century. A deposition date of no earlier than 1928 was confirmed by the presence of glass bottles bearing the trademark 'FMF', although one of the fragmented ceramic vessels had a date range of 17th-19th century (see finds below). The fill also contained a fragmented but almost complete moulded and gilded jug probably dating to the mid 19th century (Peter Didsbury, *pers. comm.*). The pit is assumed to be part of a clearing-up operation carried out in the churchyard at some time before the deposition of the pale brown soil (041), which itself was clearly imported into the site as it was unlike any of the other adjacent soils. This pale brown soil (041) was also present beneath the turf (040) to the east and south-east of the church, and indeed over the whole of the east side of the graveyard, thinning to the west, although it was discernible as far as the south porch (see below).

- 5.5 Exposed in the southern section of the soakaway (see figure 5), at a depth of 0.70m BGL, was a disturbed firm brown-grey loam (060) flecked with numerous lumps of yellow-brown clay and stone fragments. This deposit, which was a maximum of 0.3m thick, slumped down slightly to the west, and so may represent the edge of the backfill of an unmarked burial to the south, although the cut was not visible and it was not excavated further. Above this deposit, at the junction between the dark brown loam (045) and the pale brown imported soil (041), lay a localised patch of a friable brown loam (059) containing numerous small stone fragments and gravel, 0.04m thick - this may be associated with a former grave slab now removed. Just to the east of this were the remains of a broken alabaster grave marker (066). This was broken into three pieces, which were stacked on top of each other, the whole tilting down towards the west (see plate 2); the lower two pieces were 0.10m thick and the base of the bottom piece lay at 0.65m BGL, while the slightly thicker top piece was carved into a foliate design - it may possibly have been disturbed during the digging of the burial represented by backfill 060.
- 5.6 Beneath the imported soil (041) at the east end of the south side of the soakaway, which here was c.0.20m thick, lay a number of broken alabaster grave stones and concrete slabs (061, 062 and 063) which appeared to have been placed to form a series of three steps cut into the surrounding dark brown loam (045) (see plate 2); the steps extended down to 0.41m BGL and a compacted brown loam with occasional small sandy mortar and stone/brick fragments (064) may have been used as a levelling layer. The central 'step' (061) contained the truncated inscription "Rosabella More .. / died September 24th ..", and this piece was subsequently extracted and placed adjacent to the churchyard boundary wall. Ceramic and glass sherds dating to no earlier than the late 19th/early 20th century were found in the dark brown loam (045) surrounding the steps. Under another concrete slab (065), adjacent to the steps and 0.8m to their north, a single rim sherd from a greenish-brown, internally-glazed ceramic dripping dish was found in the underlying wet sticky dark brown loam (070); the sherd is of late medieval, probably 15th/16th century, date with a Humberware type glaze (Peter Didsbury, *pers. comm.*). This dark brown loam (070), which was at least 0.4m thick with the top at 0.60m BGL, extended beyond the limit of excavation to the west, and it probably represents a former land surface.
- 5.7 At the west end of the southern section of the soakaway pit, approximately eight concrete and artificial stone paving slabs (039) were seen covering an area of c.2sqm to the east of the north-south aligned revetment wall (038) mentioned above. The slabs were 0.33m BGL, positioned between the imported soil (041) and the

underlying dark brown loam (045). The purpose or function of these slabs was unclear, and they did not appear to have been covering anything, and it may be that they were part of a previous clearing-up operation in the churchyard.

- 5.8 The stone-capped brick boundary wall (009) of the churchyard was fully exposed in the north side of the soakaway excavation; to the east of the north-south aligned revetment wall (038) which marks the extent of the earliest churchyard, the construction of the boundary wall is wholly of brick apart from the cap stones. The existing pre-excavation ground level lies at the base of the fifth course of the cement mortared brick. Excavation revealed two further courses of brick with cement mortar, over five courses of brick with lime mortar, in fairly poor condition, over three courses of an unmortared foundation. The base of the improvised steps (061, 062 and 063) in the south section of the soakaway was at approximately the same level as the lowest cemented course of the wall, and so may indicate a former ground level; this level also aligns with the base of the broken grave marker (066). It was noted that the part of the brick wall exposed at the east end of the pit appeared to show a change of construction, from a Stretcher bond to a 2:1 English Garden Wall bond. This might indicate the closing off of a possible former access, opposite the improvised steps, into the adjacent land to the north.

#### **South side of the Church** (see figure 4)

##### *Drainage trenches*

- 5.9 On the south side of the church, the two glazed ceramic drains (006 and 011) running from the downpipes on the east side of the south porch and that further to the east were blocked, although they were apparently in good condition beneath the ground where exposed in Trenches 1 and 2. In Trench 1, the c.0.28m wide cut (005) for the drain was visible in the east section, cutting through the loose friable brown loam subsoil (002) and dark brown topsoil (001). In Trench 9, to the west of the south porch, part of a dilapidated brick gully (027) with a stone base was exposed within a linear cut (026), although there was no evidence for a ceramic pipe.
- 5.10 In Trench 1, the rough undressed limestone foundation (004) for the ashlar buttress (003) at the junction of the nave and chancel was exposed at a depth of c.0.37m BGL. In order to avoid marked graves, the trench then took a right-angled course around a stone kerb (007) which defined the Raines family plot, located immediately south of the chancel; the south side of the kerb exposed in the trench was underlain by a single course of bricks (008) with the base at 0.33m BGL. It was noted that the earliest legible Raines gravestone within the plot was dated 1701, raising the possibility that the stones (and perhaps the burials) were re-erected/repositioned after the rebuilding of the church in the mid 19th century.
- 5.11 On the south side of the church, Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9 cut through a friable dark brown loam topsoil (001), averaging 0.19m thick, which overlay a loose friable brown loam subsoil (002), less than 0.94m BGL and containing moderate numbers of stones and flints as well as fragments of slate, stone, brick, tile, glass and shell. However, as noted above, a blanket layer of a clean firm pale brown silty soil (041), obviously imported and less than 0.27m deep, was present beneath the turf to the east and south of the church - it was visible in Soakaway Pit 2 and Trenches 1 and 2, thinning to the west, although it was discernible as far as the south porch. In addition, what appeared to be a construction level for the new church was visible as a thin 0.03m thick layer of compacted mortar and crushed stone in Trenches 1 and 9 (010 and 042) above the subsoil (002) either side of the south porch at a depth of

c.0.37m BGL. Above this deposit, and below the turf and topsoil (001), was a thin (0.25m thick) layer of moist loose brown loam (067).

- 5.12 Several other features were noted in the drainage trenches to the south of the church. In Trench 2, to the east of the south porch, a loose mid-brown loam containing amounts of mixed brick/tile, rubble and stone fragments (016 and 018), was exposed, representing the backfill of two graves; each burial was marked by an upstanding gravestone (015 and 017), the northern stone recording the details of Robert Wood (d.1805) and the southern Elizabeth Wood (d.1780), but the actual burials themselves were not disturbed by the 0.3m deep trench here. A piece of roughly dressed limestone (019), 0.08m thick and 0.25m high, was seen standing vertically in the north side of Trench 3 to the south of the south door, the top of the stone at 0.23m BGL.
- 5.13 Close to the entrance into soakaway pit 3, in Trench 4, two east-west aligned roughly dressed stone slabs (021) had been placed on top of a brick wall support (022); although only three courses of brick were exposed, this structure is likely to represent a burial vault, with the top of the slabs being 0.44m BGL (5.04m AOD) - no grave marker survives at ground level. The soil just to the east of this structure was a firm mid-brown loam containing frequent small pieces of mortar, limestone fragments and brick rubble, 0.06m thick (024), which was visible in the north side of Trench 4 - it may have been associated with the building of the vault (022).

#### *Soakaway Pit 2*

- 5.14 Soakaway pit 2 measured 2.4m long by 2.68m wide and was maximum of 1.06m deep (5.39m AOD). Two separate caches of disarticulated human bone were recorded during the excavation of this pit, as well as two *in situ* burials and numerous isolated human bones, as might be expected in a well-used and long-lived burial ground. As noted in Chapter 3 above, the discovery of burials and burial vaults meant that the pit had to be extended to the east, rather than the north or south as had originally been planned.
- 5.15 An intact *in situ* burial (047) on the south side of the pit included remnants of the coffin, nails and corroded coffin plate fragments (048). The skeleton, which lay at 1.10m-1.27m BGL, was extended, facing east, and the lower mandible, some ribs, the lower vertebrae, sacrum, parts of the pelvis and the femurs were exposed, but the skull was missing (see plate 3). The backfill of the burial was a friable loose grey-brown loam containing brick rubble, sand and mortar fragments (069). The length of the femurs would suggest that the burial was that of an adult, and the coffin furniture implied a fairly recent, possibly 18th or 19th century burial. Due to the safety considerations of working at that depth in relatively unstable ground conditions, the burial was not fully cleaned and exposed, but was photographed and then re-covered with soil.
- 5.16 Only 0.20m to the south of burial 047, a damaged brick vault (049) was exposed, in the south side of the pit. At least 12 courses of brickwork were revealed, with a stone slab placed over the top; the top of the slab lay just under the turf (040) and so was not visible at the surface. A neatly stacked cache of bones (051), consisting of a skull, long bones and other disarticulated bones of an unusually sturdy individual, was found only 0.30m BGL in front (north) of the vault (see plate 4); after excavation, the remains were re-buried in the base of the pit.
- 5.17 A partially disturbed *in situ* burial (046) at a depth of 0.99m BGL was also revealed towards the north side of the pit. Some of the long bones (e.g. humerus, radius,

femur and one fibula) were still *in situ*, but the burial had been heavily disturbed by the construction of a brick-lined vault (050) which was exposed in the north side of the pit, 0.57m BGL; at least nine courses of mortared brickwork were visible forming the south side of the vault, but the structure was not investigated further.

- 5.18 At the base of the west side of the pit, at 0.75m-1.00m BGL and almost beneath a partially exposed grave slab, was a further cache of reburied bones consisting of four skulls and longbones from at least two individuals (073). No cut for any burial was visible, and the cache lay within the disturbed background subsoil (002).

### *Soakaway Pit 3*

- 5.19 Soakaway pit 3 measured 2.4m long by 2.68m wide and was dug to a maximum of 1.20m BGL (4.25m OAD) off the south-west corner of the church (see figure 6). As noted in Section 3 above, the north side of the pit was extended but at a higher depth.
- 5.20 Two east-west aligned *in situ* burials (054 and 057) were exposed in this pit, the graves having been dug as far as the solid natural yellowish brown clay (056) which lay at a depth of 1.13m BGL (4.25m OD). The nails and timber of the coffin (075) were discernible for burial 054, although they had been badly damaged by tree roots; the two sides of the cut (068) for the burial were only visible in the east section of the pit. The burial itself was mostly intact but it was not fully exposed or excavated, as it was not to be disturbed by the drainage works, merely being sketched and photographed before being covered with soil. The skull appeared to have been already displaced, but the mandible was visible, together with the majority of the right side and the pelvis and leg bones of the left side (see plate 5). The backfill (055) of the burial was a loose brown loam with moderate amounts of brick/tile/stone fragments and possible mica flakes. Burial (057) was only partially visible in the south-east corner of the pit and no coffin or cut could be defined; the exposed skeleton, which had been previously been damaged, comprised the right femur, radius, ulna and lower vertebrae and sacrum, was lying on the very firm yellowish-brown natural clay (056).
- 5.21 The western end of a second collapsed coffin (053) was exposed at the north end of the pit, at 0.88m BGL, with some of the skeletal remains (074) present and still aligned, though largely disarticulated; the remains comprised the right humerus, left radius and ulna, and a separated skull (which may or may not have been associated with this burial) lay just to the north under the north side of the pit. The burial (074) had probably disturbed an earlier burial to the east, evidenced only by an alignment of coffin nails (058) with traces of timber at a depth of 0.98m BGL and part of a grave cut (071) measuring 0.32m wide and filled with a friable brown loam (072), dug into the natural clay (056). None of the *in situ* burials in Pit 3 were marked at the surface.
- 5.22 Many disarticulated human bones were noted during the digging of the soakaway pit. Several human long bones in an approximately east-west alignment and projecting from the east and west sides of the pit appeared to belong to previously disturbed burials, and this appears to be an intensively used part of the burial ground. As described in Section 3 above, in order to avoid exposing any more human remains, and to achieve the required capacity of the soakaway, the pit was partially refilled but extended to the north at a shallower depth. No *in situ* burials were disturbed by this work, and the disarticulated bones that were exposed were reburied in the base of the pit.

## Finds

5.23 Apart from the single piece of late medieval pottery, probably of 15th/16th century date, found in context 070 (see above), the majority of artefacts were recovered from the small pit 043 identified in soakaway pit 1 off the north-east corner of the church (see plate 6). These finds included the following:

- fragments from a small thin plain glass vessel lined with orange glass;
- fragments of at least eight glass jars bearing, on the base, the trade mark 'FMF', in which the first F is reversed. The Food Manufacturers' Federation, Inc., of 22 Buckingham Gate, London SW1, applied for use of this trademark in 1928 (*Pottery Gazette and Glass Trade Journal*, August 1st 1928, p1233; Peter Didsbury, *pers. comm.*);
- fragments from at least three glass jars bearing the moulded mark 'UGB', (United Glass Bottle Manufacturers Ltd.). Additional individual letters also indicate the relevant factory and thus the possible production dates, from 1913 to present (Peter Didsbury, *pers. comm.*);
- a fragmented but almost complete glazed ceramic jug, 18.6cms high, dating to the mid 19th century, moulded and gilded with an oak leaf pattern;
- a small, hand-made carinated and grooved jar or vase of a yellowish fabric, glazed yellow on the inner side and green on the outside, of a type produced between the 17th and 19th centuries.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 No structural remains for the former medieval church were found during the drainage work, and the existing foundations (004, 023 and 035), where exposed, appeared to be of a relatively small scale, although larger foundations might of course be present at a deeper level. The currently-available evidence suggests that the present church, built in the mid 19th century and opened in 1852, lies on the site of, or very slightly to the north of, the earlier medieval structure; the fact that there were few excavations immediately adjacent to the church meant that there was little opportunity to uncover any remains associated with the previous structure, assuming that some might have survived the 1850s rebuild. Nevertheless, what appeared to be a construction level for the new church was visible as a 0.03m thick layer of compacted mortar and crushed stone in Trenches 1 and 9 (010 and 042) either side of the south porch at a depth of c.0.37m BGL. A piece of roughly dressed limestone (019), 0.08m thick and 0.25m high, seen in the north side of Trench 3 to the south of the south door, may also have been a discarded remnant of the earlier structure.

6.2 The bulk of the information recovered from the watching brief was revealed in what transpired to be unusually extensive drainage excavations in the intensively used and long-lived graveyard. Within the exposed soils were fragments of pottery, glass, ceramic tile, slate, brick, chalk, stone, flint, oyster shells, plain clay pipe stems and coffin nails and handles, i.e. the normal range of material expected in a grave yard excavation, although less pottery was present than might have been expected; the earliest pottery sherd found dated to the late Medieval period. Two *in situ* burials and several caches of reburied human bones were uncovered in soakaway pit 2 to the south of the church, and two other *in situ* burials plus the remains of a coffin were seen in pit 3 to the south-west. Many of the burials had been disturbed by later graves and the construction of presumed 19th century brick-lined and stone-capped

burial vaults, and it is clear that these parts of the churchyard contain a high population of unmarked burials which probably extend back into the medieval period; Poulson (1841, 251) provides a list of burials in the medieval church from 1432 onwards, and a burial ground was first mentioned in 1285. Although none of the burials or vaults exposed by the drainage works were indicated by surface markers, it was possible to avoid any significant disturbance by modifications to the scheme design.

- 6.3 A deposit of a pale brown fine silty soil (041), between 0.20m-0.27m thick, was evident over the east side of the graveyard, and this extended for some distance to the west, as far as the south porch where it was only 0.02m thick. This soil, which was obviously imported, was present immediately beneath the turf (040), and it may represent a 20th century levelling layer which was laid down soon after, or as part of, a general clearing up of the churchyard. The latter is represented by several buried concrete slabs (039, 062 and 065), broken memorials (066) and gravestones (063), and a rubbish pit (043) which contained a mixture of post-medieval material including fragments of glass jars dated to after 1928 - perhaps this tidying up coincided with the southern extension of the churchyard in 1938.
- 6.4 It is also of interest to note that what appeared to be the geologically natural clay (056), only exposed in the base of soakaway pit 3, was present at 4.25m OD (1.13m BGL), a relatively high level. This may indicate that the slight rise on which the present church (and presumably the medieval church) stands is a natural rather than an artificial landform, although so little of the clay was exposed that this cannot be confirmed with certainty.

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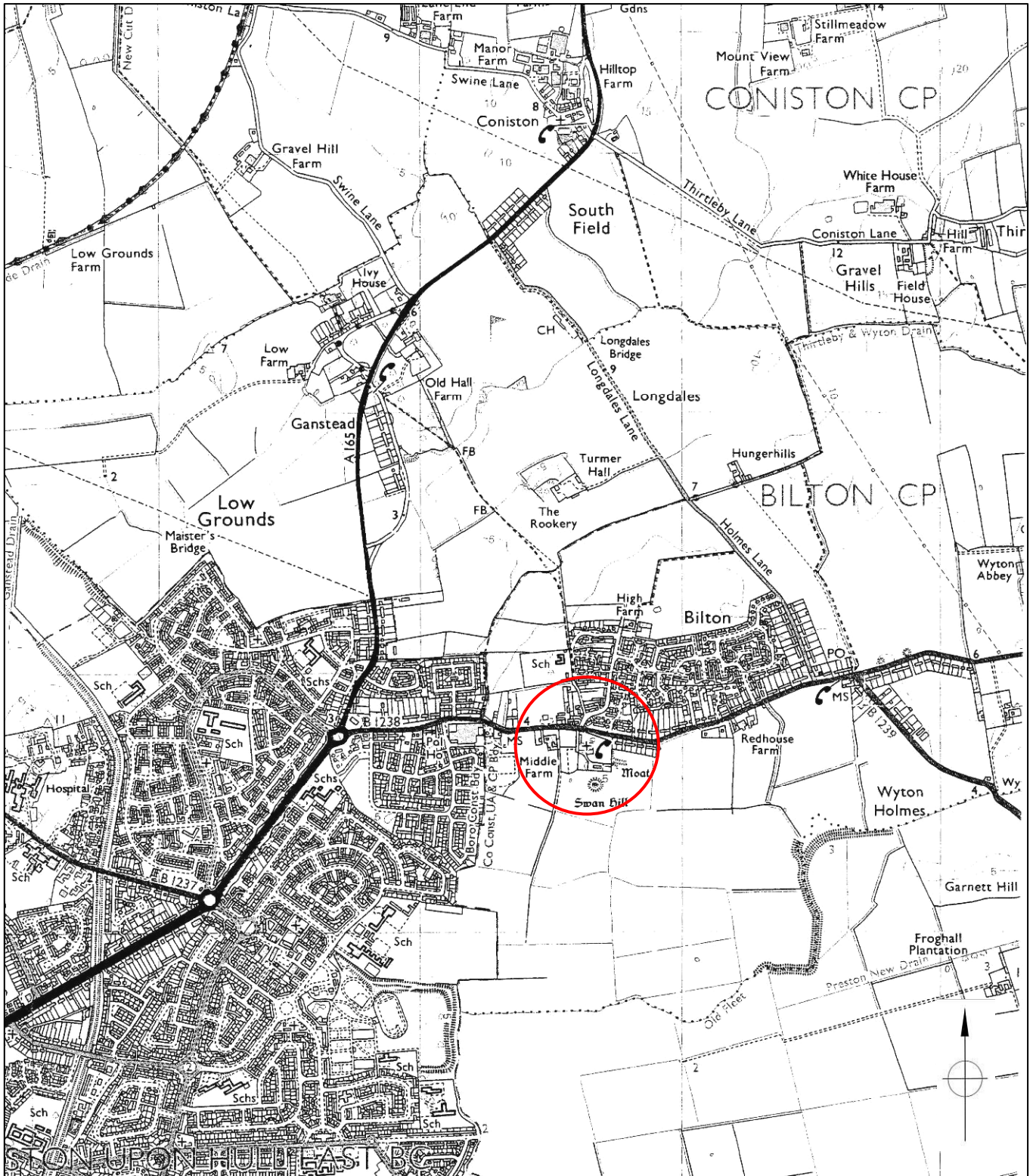
## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief at St Peter's Church was commissioned and funded by the Parochial Church Council, through the project architect Andrew Boyce

of Ferrey and Mennim. The site contractors were Geoff Neal (Roofing) Ltd. EDAS would like to thank Andrew Boyce, the PCC, and Geoff Neal for their co-operation whilst carrying out the archaeological recording.

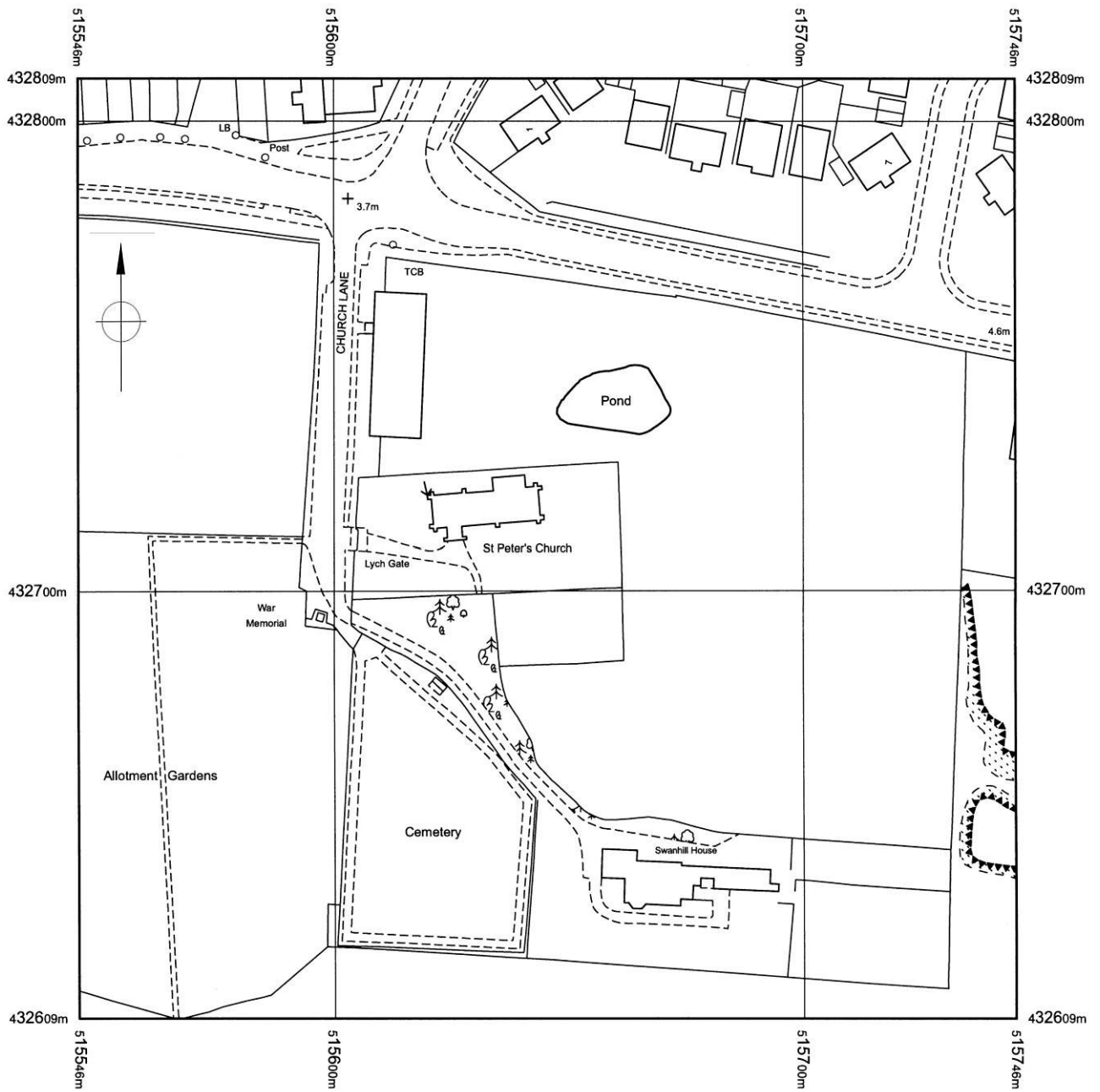
- 8.2 The on-site recording was undertaken by Kate Dennett for EDAS, with assistance from Ed Dennison, and she also produced the fieldwork records and a draft report. Some of the finds were identified and described by Peter Didsbury, a specialist pottery researcher. The final report was produced by Ed Dennison, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.





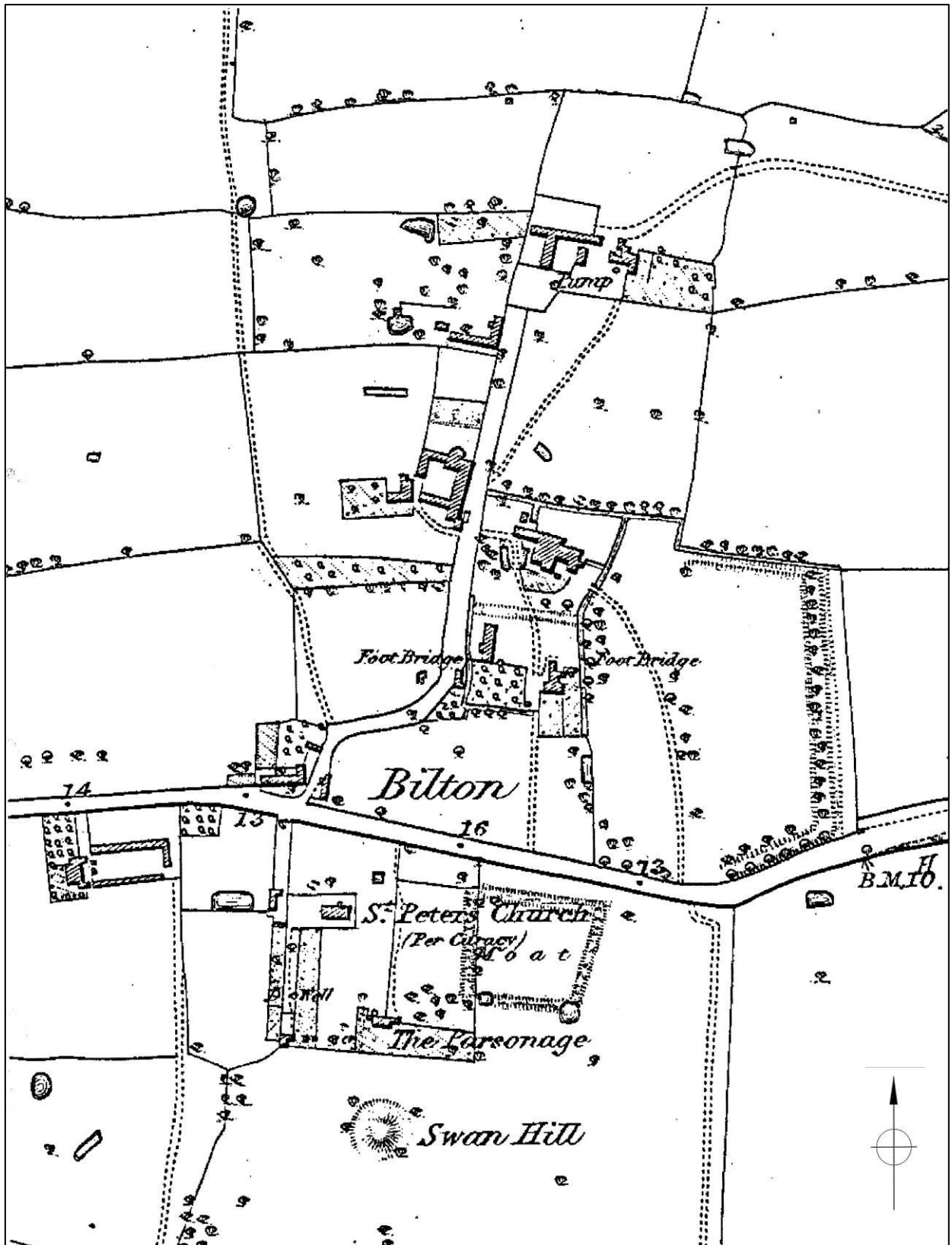
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|         |     |                           |          |
|---------|-----|---------------------------|----------|
| PROJECT |     | ST PETER'S CHURCH, BILTON |          |
| TITLE   |     | GENERAL LOCATION          |          |
| SCALE   | NTS | DATE                      | OCT 2010 |
| EDAS    |     | FIGURE                    | 1        |



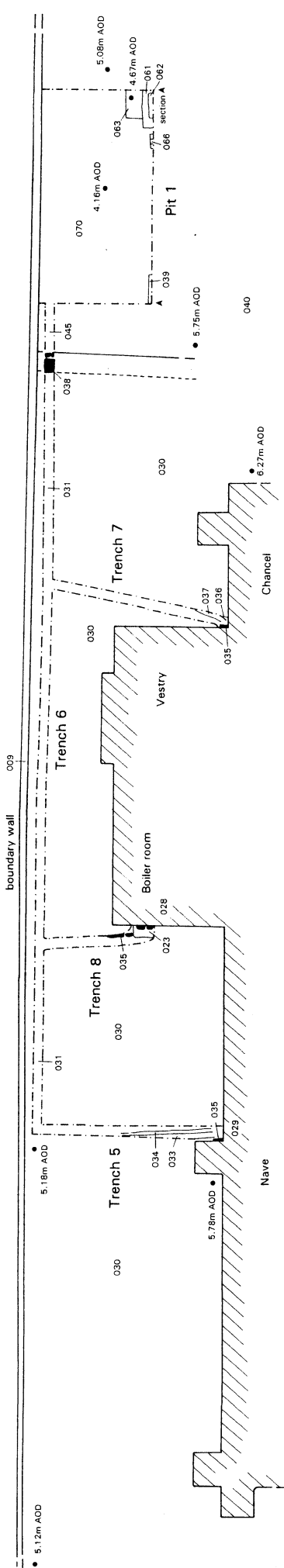
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|---------|------|---------------------------|----------|
| PROJECT |      | ST PETER'S CHURCH, BILTON |          |
| TITLE   |      | SITE LOCATION             |          |
| SCALE   | DATE | NTS                       | OCT 2010 |
| EDAS    |      | FIGURE                    | 2        |

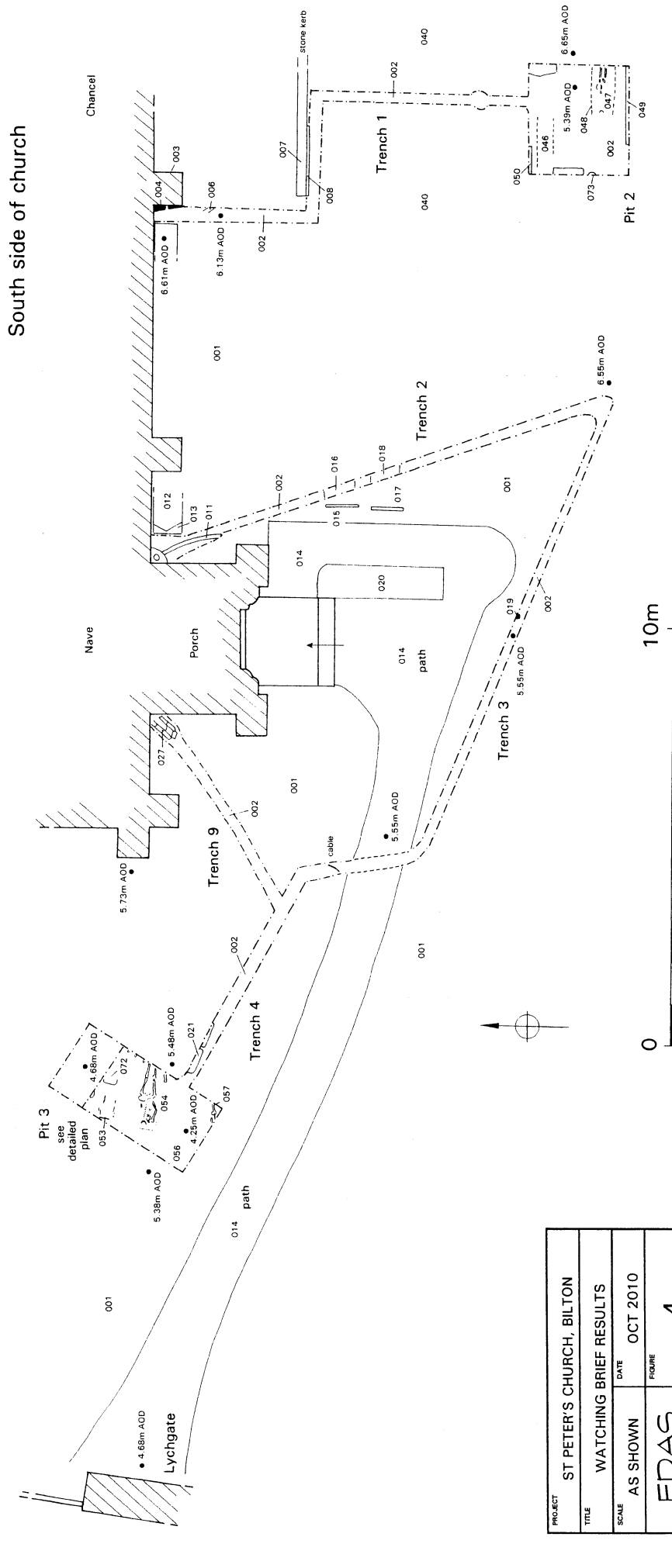


Source: Ordnance Survey 1856 6" map sheet 227 (surveyed 1852).

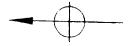
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| EDAS    |     | FIGURE                    | 3        |



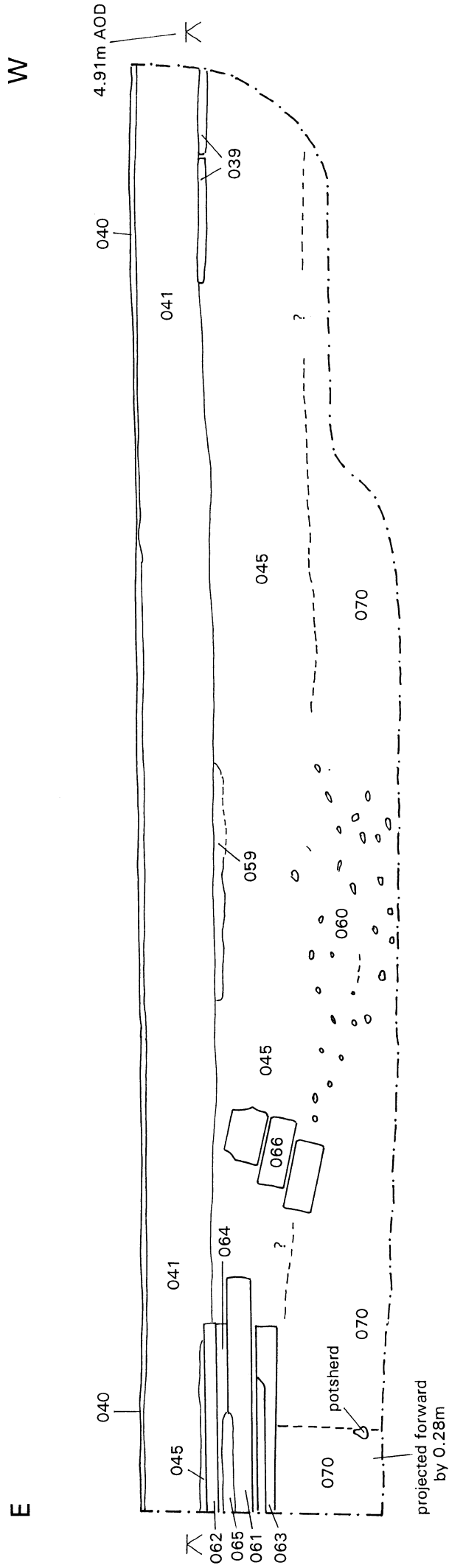
North side of church



South side of church



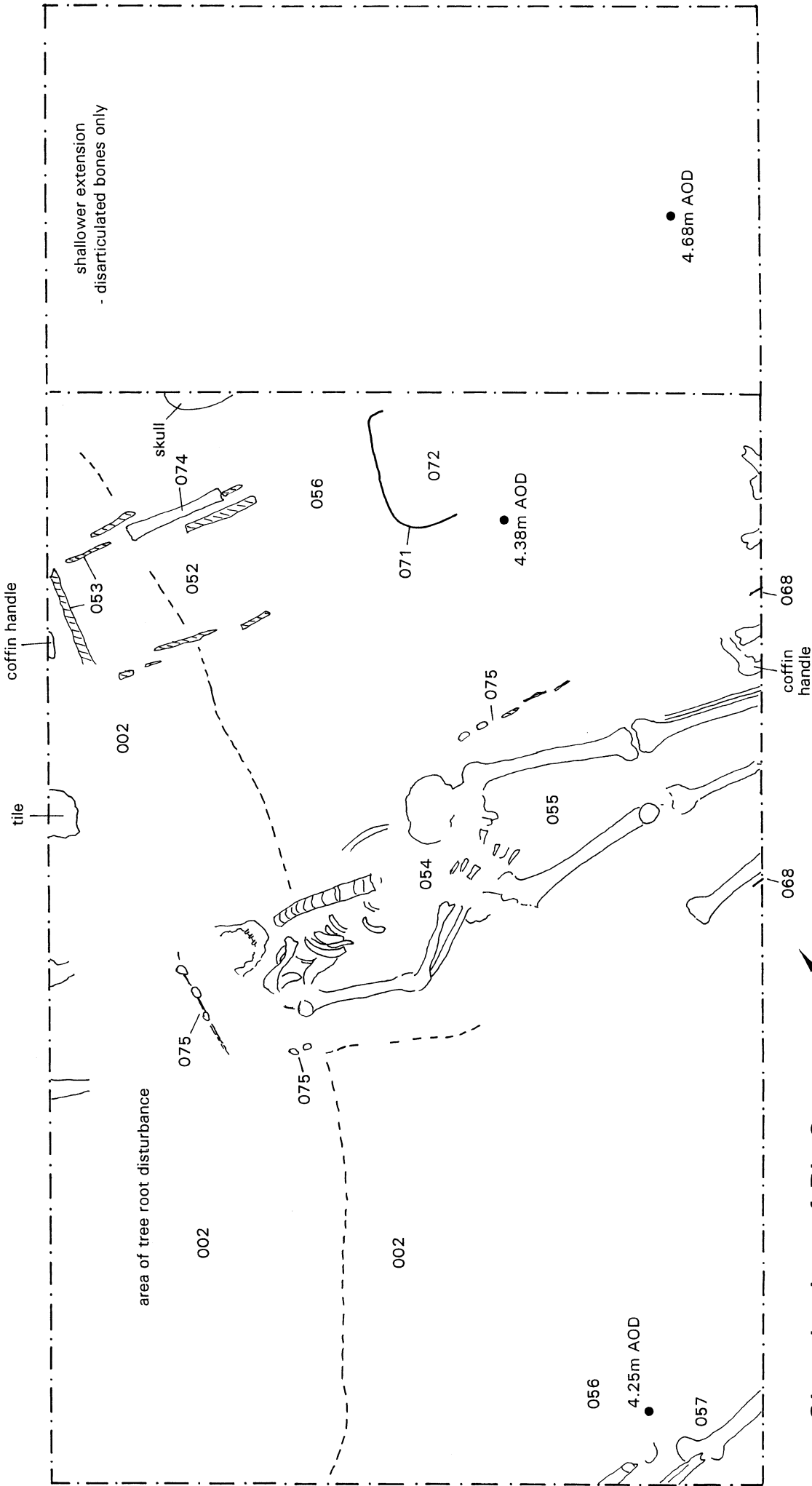
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| PROJECT | ST PETER'S CHURCH, BILTON |        |          |
| TITLE   | WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS    |        |          |
| SCALE   | AS SHOWN                  | DATE   | OCT 2010 |
|         | EDAS                      | FIGURE | 4        |



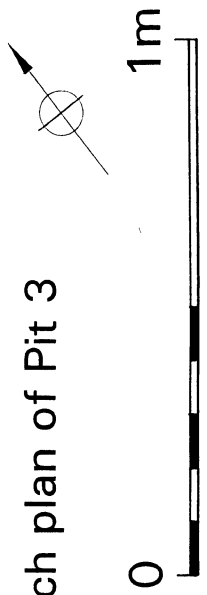
South side of Pit 1



|         |                           |        |          |
|---------|---------------------------|--------|----------|
| PROJECT | ST PETER'S CHURCH, BILTON |        |          |
| TITLE   | SECTION OF SOAKAWAY PIT 1 |        |          |
| SCALE   | AS SHOWN                  | DATE   | OCT 2010 |
|         | EDAS                      | FIGURE | 5        |



Sketch plan of Pit 3



|         |                               |        |          |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------|----------|
| PROJECT | ST PETER'S CHURCH, BILTON     |        |          |
| TITLE   | SKETCH PLAN OF SOAKAWAY PIT 3 |        |          |
| SCALE   | AS SHOWN                      | DATE   | OCT 2010 |
|         | EDAS                          | FIGURE | 6        |



Plate 1: Trenches 2 and 3 under excavation, south side of the church, looking NW.



Plate 2: Re-used stones and slabs forming steps, with broken memorial to W, in south-east corner of Soakaway Pit 1, looking S.



Plate 3: Initial exposure of *in situ* burial 047 in Soakaway Pit 2 (E to right).



Plate 4: Burial vault (049) and cache of human bones (051) in south side of Soakaway Pit 2, looking S.





Plate 5: Burial 054, coffin remains 075 and backfill 055, in base of Soakaway Pit 3.



Plate 6: Post-medieval material recovered from rubbish pit 043 in Soakaway Pit 1.

## **APPENDIX 1**

## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS (SPB 10)

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Location</i>    | <i>Description</i>  |
|----------------|--------------------|---|
| 001            | S side             | Friable dark brown loam with occasional small stones, flints, brick & stone fragments, maximum 0.19m thick - topsoil with turf, over 002.   |
| 002            | S side             | Loose/friable brown loam with moderate small stones and fragments of slate, stone, brick, tile, glass & shell, less than 0.94m BGL - subsoil beneath 001.                             |
| 003            | S side             | Ashlar buttress at SW corner of chancel, 0.8m wide.   |
| 004            | S side             | Undressed limestone foundation of buttress 003, 0.37m BGL.  |
| 005            | T1 (S side)        | Cut for drain 006, c.0.28m wide, base at 0.44m BGL, cut through 002 and 067.  |
| 006            | T1 (S side)        | Very loose brown loam with modern debris and glazed ceramic drain pipe 0.13m diameter and base at 0.44m BGL- drain and backfill of 005.   |
| 007            | S side             | Stone kerb, c.7.5m long, 0.3m wide & 0.23m deep, forming edge of Raines family burial enclosure.  |
| 008            | T1 (S side)        | Single course of bricks, base at 0.33m BGL, beneath 007 - levelling layer or edge of vault?   |
| 009            | N, E & S of church | Brick revetment wall with chamfered stone capping on N & S sides, flat-topped on E side - boundary wall of churchyard.  |
| 010            | T1 (S side)        | Solid creamy fine mortar deposit, with occasional lumps of sandy mortar and tone, at 0.36m BGL, beneath 067 and overlying 002. Same as 042 - a construction layer for the new church? |
| 011            | T2 (S side)        | Glazed ceramic drain (cut not visible), overlies 002.   |
| 012            | S side             | Horizontal grave slab, 0.73m wide, beneath 001 and placed on top of 013 - inscription not fully visible.  |
| 013            | S side             | Horizontal grave slab, 0.75m wide, beneath 012 - inscription not visible.   |
| 014            | S side             | Area of concrete path running from south porch to lychgate.   |
| 015            | S side             | Vertical grave marker, grave filled with 016.   |
| 016            | T2 (S side)        | Loose mid-brown loam containing amounts of mixed brick/tile, rubble & stone fragments - backfill of grave 015.  |
| 017            | S side             | Vertical grave marker, grave filled with 018.   |
| 018            | T2 (S side)        | Loose mid-brown loam containing moderate amounts of small brick and tile fragments - backfill of grave 017.   |
| 019            | T3 (S side)        | Piece of roughly dressed limestone, 0.08m thick and 0.25m high, standing vertically in trench section, top 0.23m BGL.   |
| 020            | S side             | Area of friable brown loam with occasional small stones and flints, forming a small garden area.  |
| 021            | T4 (S side)        | Two greenish pieces of stone, roughly dressed, 0.06m thick, forming partially exposed capping of brick vault 022, 0.44m BGL.  |
| 022            | T4 (S side)        | Brick wall (only three courses exposed) forming S side of vault, below stone capping 021.   |
| 023            | T8 (N side)        | Soft yellow limestone - partially exposed lower foundation of vestry/boiler room, beneath 035.  |
| 024            | T4 (S side)        | Firm mid-brown loam containing frequent small pieces of mortar, limestone fragments and brick rubble, 0.06m thick, 0.41m BGL - perhaps associated with building of vault 021/022?     |
| 025            | T3 (S side)        | Clean rounded gravel layer with some loam, between 001 and 002, 0.12m thick and 0.06m BGL - former pathway?   |
| 026            | T9 (S side)        | Linear cut for drain 027, less than 0.28m wide and 0.31m deep, cutting through 001, 067 & 002.  |
| 027            | T9 (S side)        | Brick and stone gully or support for sink, 0.51m long, 0.36m wide and 0.38m deep; no evidence of ceramic pipe.  |
| 028            | N side             | W wall of vestry/boiler room over foundation 035; ashlar of varying size, lime mortar with some cement repairs.   |
| 029            | N side             | N wall of nave, over foundation 035; ashlar of varying size, lime mortar with some cement repairs.  |
| 030            | N side             | Turf and wet sticky dark brown loam topsoil, with occasional small brick, tile, pot, glass etc, 0.07m thick, to N of church but W of revetment 038.                                   |
| 031            | N side             | Wet sticky dark brown loam with moderate mixed fragments of brick, tile, stone, plastic, slate, iron, glass etc of unknown depth - subsoil underlying 030 and 032.                    |
| 032            | T5, 6 & 8 (N side) | Firm pink-red ash/ashy loam, 0.04m thick, beneath 030 and over 031, adjacent to wall 009 and 028 - former path or waste material?   |
| 033            | T5 (N side)        | Flat-topped unglazed ceramic drain, 0.14m in diameter, overlying bricks 034.  |
| 034            | T5 (N side)        | Two courses of modern unmortared bricks, underlying drain 033.  |

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Location</i>         | <i>Description</i>   |
|----------------|-------------------------|--|
| 035            | T5, T7 & T8<br>(N side) | Two courses of foundations, very roughly dressed limestone, c.0.13m thick and 0.38m BGL - upper foundation for N side of church, between 028 (above) and 023 (below).  |
| 036            | T7 (N side)             | Glazed ceramic drain partially overlying bricks 037.   |
| 037            | T7 (N side)             | Single layer of bricks partially beneath drain 036 - earlier soakaway or base for drain 036.   |
| 038            | E side                  | N-S aligned stone revetment wall to east of church, partially overlain by 030.   |
| 039            | P1 (N side)             | Artificial stone/concrete slabs (c.8) laid horizontally between 041 and 045, covering area 2mx2m and 0.33m deep, covering nothing in particular.   |
| 040            | E & SE side             | Turf and firm dark brown loam topsoil with occasional small stones, less than 0.05m thick, over 041.   |
| 041            | E & SE side             | Firm pale brown very fine clean silty soil with very occasional small stones, less than 0.26m thick, beneath 040 and over soil 045 - relatively modern non-local imported material.  |
| 042            | T9 (S side)             | Very firm creamy grey mortar with small pieces of crushed stone & mortar, 0.03m thick and 0.38m BGL, over 002 and beneath 067 - same as 010 construction layer?  |
| 043            | P1 (N side)             | Rounded cut of rubbish pit, c.0.45m in diameter, top at 0.25m BGL, not wholly visible  |
| 044            | P1 (N side)             | Fill of 044 - loose brown loam containing frequent mixed pot, glass, nails etc. Later than 1928, although earlier material present.  |
| 045            | P1 (N side)             | Friable well-drained dark brown loamy containing occasional stone, pot fragments, wine bottle, less than 0.35m thick, beneath 041 and over 070.  |
| 046            | P2 (S side)             | Burial, already partially disturbed, but some long bones in situ (humerus, radius, femur and one fibula), 0.99m BGL.   |
| 047            | P2 (S side)             | In situ burial, partially exposed, 1.26m BGL, skull missing, in coffin 048.  |
| 048            | P2 (S side)             | Remains of timber coffin for burial 047, including nails, part of metal coffin plate (much corroded) and possible remains of lining - greater than 1.10m long, c.0.50m wide and top at 0.88m BGL.                                  |
| 049            | P2 (S side)             | Brick vault (full depth unknown), immediately beneath 040. 12 courses of brick exposed (Flemish bond with lime mortar), stone slab (broken) visible at W end.  |
| 050            | P2 (S side)             | Brick vault, top at 0.57m BGL, full depth unknown. 9 courses of brick visible, cement mortar.  |
| 051            | P2 (S side)             | Cache of human bones of one individual, adjacent to vault 049, 0.3m BGL.   |
| 052            | P3 (S side)             | Wet loose dark brown loam with moderate pot (C19th), tile, brick fragments - backfill of coffin 053 for burial 054.  |
| 053            | P3 (S side)             | Remains of collapsed timber coffin for disturbed burial 074, top at 0.88m BGL.   |
| 054            | P3 (S side)             | In situ burial, aligned E-W, within coffin 075 - skull already displaced by other remains present, 1.1m BGL.   |
| 055            | P3 (S side)             | Loose brown loam with moderate brick/tile/stone fragments and ?mica flakes, less than 1.14m BGL - backfill of burial 054.  |
| 056            | P3 (S side)             | Very firm clean yellow-brown clay beneath 002 (1.13m BGL) in P3 - probable natural.  |
| 057            | P3 (S side)             | In situ burial, aligned E-W (right femur, radius, ulna, sacrum & lower vertebrae), 1.1m BGL overlying natural clay 056 - only partially exposed and already disturbed.   |
| 058            | P3 (S side)             | Alignment of coffin nails and possible timber at 0.98m BGL, probably related to burial in cut 071 - no articulated bones present.  |
| 059            | P1 (N side)             | Friable brown loam containing 50% small sharp gravel and stone fragments, 0.04m thick, exposed in section, 0.27m BGL, above possible grave backfill 060 and beneath 041 - possibly associated with former gravel slab now removed. |
| 060            | P1 (N side)             | Disturbed firm brown-grey loam with flecks and lumps of yellow-brown clay with stone fragments, beneath 059 - possible gravel backfill.  |
| 061            | P1 (N side)             | Broken gravestone piece, re-used as part of steps, 0.08m thick and 0.31m BGL over 063 and beneath 064.   |
| 062            | P1 (N side)             | Concrete slab, 0.05m thick and 0.23m BGL, reused as part of steps, over 064 and beneath soil 041.  |
| 063            | P1 (N side)             | Broken gravestone piece, 0.08m thick and 0.40m BGL, reused as part of steps over soil 070 and beneath other gravestone piece 061, 0.40m BGL.   |
| 064            | P1 (N side)             | Compacted brown loam with occasional small sandy mortar and stone/brick fragments, 0.04m thick and 0.026m BGL, beneath slab 062 and over stone 061 - levelling bed for steps.  |
| 065            | P1 (N side)             | Concrete slab. 0.05m thick and 0.27m BGL, under 041 - not part of steps.   |
| 066            | P1 (N side)             | Grave marker/cross, broken and stacked in three pieces, 0.25m wide and base at 0.6m BGL, beneath 045 and over 070 - may have stood on old land surface 070.  |

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Location</i>  | <i>Description</i>   |
|----------------|------------------|--|
| 067            | T1 & T9 (S side) | Moist loose brown loam with occasional small stones and stone fragments, 0.25m thick, over construction layers 010 and 042, beneath turf 001.  |
| 068            | P3 (S side)      | Cut for burial 054, greater than 1.8m long and less than 1.1m BGL, filled by coffin 075, burial 054 and backfill 055.  |
| 069            | P2 (S side)      | Friable loose grey-brown loam with moderate brick rubble, sand and mortar fragments and small stones - backfill of burial 047 overlying coffin 048.                                      |
| 070            | P1 (N side)      | Wet sticky dark brown loam with occasional small stones and stone fragments, 0.4m thick, at c.0.6m BGL, contained fragment of C15th/16th pottery - under 045, possible old land surface? |
| 071            | P3 (S side)      | Rectangular cut 0.32m wide and 1.12m BGL, into natural clay 056, filled with 072 - probably related to coffin nails 058.   |
| 072            | P3 (S side)      | Fill of 071 - friable brown loam with occasional brick and stone fragments - probable grave backfill.  |
| 073            | P2 (S side)      | Cache of reburied skulls and long bones, 0.75m-1.0m BGL - four skulls from at least two individuals - no cut within 002 evident.   |
| 074            | P3 (S side)      | Remains of much disturbed burial within coffin 053, 0.98m BGL, not articulated but still in alignment - right humerus, left radius and ulna, and a skull nearby,                         |
| 075            | P3 ( S side)     | Coffin remnants/coffin nails for burial 054, c.0.68m wide and top at 0.86m BGL, backfilled by 055.   |

## APPENDIX 2

## APPENDIX 2: LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Location: CHURCH OF ST PETER, B1238 (south off), BILTON, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE,  
EAST YORKSHIRE

IoE Number: 166467

Date listed: 06 July 1987

Date of last amendment: 06 July 1987

Grade: II

TA13SE  
5266

BILTON

B1238  
(south side, off)

6/9

Church of St Peter

Church. 1852. By G T Andrews for the Hon Lydia Dawnay. Early English style. Ashlar with graduated stone slate roof. Double bell-cote to west end, 4-bay nave and 2-bay chancel in one; south porch and north vestry. Nave: moulded plinth, buttresses with offsets. Lancet windows, with florets to apex, under hood-moulds. Pointed south door with continuous roll moulding. Porch: south door of 2 orders with nook-shafts and pointed arch with keel mouldings and dogtooth under coped gable. West bell-cote: 2 pointed openings under chamfered pointed arch with plate tracery. Coped gable. East end: twin lancets, coped gable. Interior: octagonal font with 4 attached columns on waterholding bases: basin with trefoils and nailhead: panel depicting baptism of Christ. Scissor-braced common rafter roof.

Source: Images of England website ([www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk))