

ALL SAINTS CHURCH,  
SKIPSEA, EAST YORKSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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On behalf of

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF,  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2010, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC), through their architect Mr Peter Gaze Pace, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a 'Trench Arch' drainage system and the resurfacing of a gravel path at All Saints Church, Skipsea, East Yorkshire (NGR TA 1655 5498). The archaeological recording was made a condition of a Diocesan faculty, issued by the Diocese of York on 1st November 2010.

The excavation of a 10m long by 1m wide drainage trench off the north-west corner of the church encountered three *in situ* and articulated presumed medieval burials, at depths of 0.75-0.85m below existing ground level (8.42-8.34m OD). It is assumed that the three burials are broadly contemporary, although no specific dating evidence was recovered. The lowest burial was that of a robust male, aged about 45+ years and 6ft 1ins in height - the wear on the teeth suggest a coarse diet which implies a medieval date. Cut into this grave was another burial, this time of a very small child probably aged between 1½-2 years old. The third and highest burial was that of a 'possible female', aged between 18-25 years and 5ft 3ins high. There was also a considerable quantity of disarticulated bone recovered from the trench, equating to at least three other burials. There were no further burials in the western half of the trench, and the eastern half had been considerably disturbed by a large pit at least 0.50m deep and more recent drainage works.

Another *in situ* burial was found at the eastern end of the churchyard path, adjacent to the gate. The skeleton was that of a robust right-handed male, c.5ft 7ins high and aged 45+. Once again, the wear on the teeth indicates a coarse diet, which implies a possible medieval date. This is also suggested by the depth of the burial when compared to the surrounding ground surface and the other burials found in the drainage trench to the east - the base of the path grave cut was at 7.42m OD, considerably lower than the 8.30m OD recorded for the lowest burial in the trench.

Two sections of probable 19th century brick kerbing were revealed along the central part of the churchyard path. Limited excavations around the front of the south porch also revealed an earlier brick foundation, which extended 0.8m to the south of the existing structure. This foundation pre-dates the existing south porch which has been dated to the early 18th century.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In November 2010, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC), through their architect Mr Peter Gaze Pace, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a 'Trench Arch' drainage system and the resurfacing of a gravel path at All Saints Church, Skipsea, East Yorkshire. The archaeological recording was made a condition of a Diocesan faculty, issued by the Diocese of York on 1st November 2010.

## **2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 All Saints Church occupies an elevated position at c.8m AOD, at the west end of the village of Skipsea, adjacent to the B1249 Beeford to Skipsea road, in East Yorkshire (NGR TA16555498) (see figure 1). The church overlooks the former Skipsea mere, located at the north end of the Holderness plain, which is characterised by a landscape of hummocky till with occasional hills, overlooking extensive, low-lying flat land. The surface soils of the area are surface water gleys and brown soils, which overlie glacially deposited clays and gravels. The church is cut into a natural north-south slope and the grave yard extends almost all around the church, and is retained by a low cobble and brick wall.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 No specification or methods statement was produced for the archaeological recording, although documents produced by EDAS for similar watching briefs elsewhere in the area were followed. More general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999) was also considered. The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks associated with the provision of the new drainage system and the resurfacing of the churchyard path, and to recover information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed.
- 3.2 The main phase of groundworks involved the excavation of a large virtually east-west aligned drainage trench, 10.0m long by 1.0m wide and up to 0.95m deep, in the churchyard adjacent to the north-west corner of the north aisle (see figure 2). This was originally going to be excavated with a mechanical mini-digger, but the potential for human remains meant that all excavation was actually carried out by hand by the contractors.
- 3.3 The other groundworks subject to archaeological monitoring involved the re-grading of the existing gravel path to make it more disabled-friendly, widening it in some sections from 1.20m to 1.60m wide and replacing it with a new tarmac and resin-bonded gravel finish. This path runs across the east and south sides of the churchyard, from a roadside gate off Beeford Road in the north-east corner of the churchyard, around the chancel and south aisle, to the south porch (see figure 2). The eastern section of the path, adjacent to the gate, was steeply sloped and sunk in a cutting c.1.2m below the adjacent ground level; part of the works was to regrade this slope to improve the gradient for wheelchair access. On the flatter ground, the depth of the path was initially 0.15m, although this increased to between 0.25-0.30m in places as further foundation work was carried out using a small mini 'Kuboto'-type digger utilising a toothed bucket; this bucket was used as a bladed bucket could not break the frozen ground.

- 3.4 All these groundworks were defined by a specification produced by the church architect (Pace 2010). It should be noted that other internal works carried out as part of the same project, namely the installation of a kitchenette and a disabled-accessible WC at the west end of the north aisle, were not subject to archaeological monitoring.
- 3.5 Following reports that the groundworks had started without provision for archaeological monitoring, the site was visited by EDAS on 14th November 2010. This revealed that topsoil had been stripped from the drainage trench, and some work had started on the existing path near the churchyard gate, exposing an *in situ* human burial. This was covered up whilst arrangements for the archaeological watching brief were put in place, and this commenced on 22nd November 2010. A total of eight man-days were spent monitoring the excavations, and recording and lifting exposed human remains, between 22nd November and 10th December 2010. Weather conditions during the watching brief were very bad, with work having to be suspended several times due to heavy snow and severe frost.
- 3.6 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 37 archaeological contexts were recorded; these are described in the following text as three digit numbers (e.g. 105) (see also Appendix 1). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of all monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plan at 1:200 scale, and more detailed drawings were made as necessary at scales of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10. A photographic record was also maintained using a digital camera. Levels OD were obtained from the existing Ordnance Survey benchmark on the church. Details of the age, sex, stature and pathology of the articulated skeletons were also collected where possible (see Appendix 3).
- 3.7 None of the recorded artefacts were considered to be worthy of retention (see Appendix 2). Given this, and in accordance with the current East Riding of Yorkshire Museum collection policy, no archive for the project was deposited with the museum, although site notes, plans and photographs have been retained by EDAS (site code ASS 10). The considerable quantity of disarticulated human bones and articulated skeletons recovered from the excavations were returned to the church authorities for subsequent reburial in the churchyard.

#### **4 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The church comprises a west tower, a nave and chancel, north and south aisles with clerestories, a south porch, and a vestry in the angle between the chancel and the north aisle.
- 4.2 The Grade I Listed Building (see Appendix 4) is particularly well proportioned. The west tower is of three stages with diagonal buttresses, while the south aisle is of four bays with traceried three-light windows to the south and east and a two-light window to the west. The porch projects from the second bay to the west. The north aisle is of similar proportions, but with only one north window, a blocked north door and a two-light west window. The chancel has a blocked priest's door and a three-light perpendicular window on the south side, and the one-bay vestry to the north. Internally, the nave arcades are of four bays.

- 4.3 The tower is built of a mixture of cobble and rubble, with calcareous sandstone dressings. A similar mix of materials is used for the north aisle, clerestory (with some brick), chancel and vestry. The chancel's north and south walls have cobbles laid in a herring-bone pattern. The south aisle is of fine magnesian limestone ashlar, but the porch is probably of brick under a cement render. The tower roof is of lead, with stainless steel for the nave and aisle, lead for the vestry, Westmorland slates for the chancel, and Welsh slates for the porch and boiler room.
- 4.4 The building is a complex structure, but a summary of the history of its development is provided by Pevsner and Neave (1995, 686), Baines (2003, 36-38) and Kent (2002, 399-400), from whom the following text is summarised. The original church, thought to have been entirely of cobbles, was built around 1090 by Odo, Duke of Albemarle and Lord of Holderness. His son, Stephen, granted it to the Abbey of Aumale in Normandy in 1100. When the Albermarles died out, the estate reverted to the Crown and Edward I became patron in 1294. Edward I granted the church to Meaux Abbey in 1305, and it was entirely rebuilt during the 14th century. After appropriation in 1309-10, Meaux Abbey and later the archbishop or his lessees were responsible for the chancel, with the rest of the church being maintained by the townships of Skipsea, Dringhoe, Ulrome and Bonwick.
- 4.5 There are some traces of Norman work in the church, including a reused section of dog-tooth carving set into the east walls of the chancel. However, the earliest substantial remains are the nave arcades and the east window, which date to the early 14th century, while Meaux Abbey added a north window or windows to the chancel and repaired the roof twice towards the end of that century. The aisles, clerestory and embattlements are 15th century, and the west tower was probably rebuilt at the same time. The south porch appears to be of early 18th century origin. An engraving of 1784 shows the chancel in a poor state of repair, without a roof.
- 4.6 In 1824 the Revd. John Gilby, lessee of the rectory, rebuilt the ruined chancel and the nave was re-roofed in 1827. Nevertheless, the church was 'almost ruinous' before 1865, and it was extensively restored in 1865-66 by James Fowler of Louth in a 15th century style. This work included the restoration of the chancel and the renewal of the roofs (except that to the tower), arcades, floors and furnishings, although a lack of money presumably precluded the restoration of the tower parapet and pinnacles, and the rebuilding of the south porch; the herring-bone pattern of cobbles in the chancel walls probably dates from this period. The Listed Building description suggests that the south porch did form part of Fowler's restoration, although this is not repeated elsewhere (e.g. Kent 2002, 399 who says that it might date to c.1700). The vestry was added in 1874, apparently replacing an earlier chapel or vestry. The tower was restored in 1893 and 1932. A rendered brick boiler chamber was subsequently added to the north side of the tower, probably in the early 20th century.
- 4.7 The external groundworks recorded by this watching brief represent the latest of numerous repair and improvement works undertaken at the church. In the 1980s, the nave and south aisle roofs were replaced, in 1994-97 the tower roof was re-covered, and in 2001-03 the north aisle roof was replaced along with masonry repairs to the aisle and tower. A later phase of this major repair programme, in 2006-07, included the formation of a ramp at the south-east entrance to the graveyard, various stonework and glazing repairs to the west window in the south aisle, the replacement of rotted pew platforms with solid tiled floors in the north

aisle, west end of the nave and the south aisle, the formation of an access ramp and steps to the south door in the south aisle entrance, and internal repairs to the walls and plaster ceilings. As far as has been determined, few of these works were subject to archaeological monitoring or recording, although a photographic and drawn record was made during the replacement of the pews and their platforms (Pace 2004).

- 4.8 Other groundworks were also undertaken in April 2007, to complete new external drainage facilities, and this work was subject to archaeological monitoring (Dennison & Dennett 2007). A new French drain exposed the foundations of the south wall of the chancel, as well as east and south walls of the south aisle; the former were shown to be underlain by another set of cobble foundations. An *in-situ* burial was also uncovered by the excavations for the soakaway pit located off the south-east corner of the chancel, at a depth of 1.26m below ground level, and another, higher, burial in a partially surviving wooden coffin was also disturbed.

## 5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF

### Drainage Trench

- 5.1 As previously noted, the new 'Trench Arch' drainage system required the excavation of a virtually east-west aligned trench (Trench 1) off the north-west corner of the north aisle, parallel to the axis of the church, measuring 10.00m long and 1.00m wide (see figure 2 and plate 3). At the west end of the trench, the ground level was 8.94m OD and 8.39m OD in the base of the trench, while the levels at the east end were 9.12m OD and 8.40m OD respectively. The level at the west end of the trench was subsequently increased to c.8.20m OD to allow for the fall which was required by the drainage system (see figure 3). A short extension to the trench was also subsequently dug off the south-east corner, to connect the system to the existing downpipes.
- 5.2 A significant amount of disarticulated human remains were recovered during the hand excavation of the trench. An examination of these bones indicate that there were probably a minimum of three individuals present, an adult, a juvenile and one a child aged c.2-4 years of age (see Appendix 3). There was also one animal bone present.
- 5.3 The lowest deposit within the drainage trench was a very soft and friable light-mid grey-brown sandy silt (103) with occasional small stones, a likely medieval churchyard subsoil. This deposit was a minimum of 0.25m thick which continued below the base of the trench.
- 5.4 The earliest feature encountered in the trench was a rectangular east-west aligned cut (118); it had rounded corners, and measured 2.05m long by 0.70m wide, and was 0.20m deep (base at 8.15m OD). The break of the slope at the top of the cut was sharp with vertical sides with a sharp turn towards the flat base. The extended, supine and articulated skeleton (120) within, which was truncated by a later burial cut (121) (see below), was fairly well preserved and in good condition (see plate 1). The skeleton lay at an average of 8.32m OD, the disturbed skull area at 8.34m OD, the hips at 8.31m OD, and the feet at 8.35m OD (see figure 4). The right hand was extended and placed on the right side of the pelvis, the extended left hand was placed on the ground to the left of the pelvis, the right leg was extended with the foot fallen inwards, and the left leg was also extended with the foot turned or fallen outwards. The skeleton (120) was that of an extremely robust male, about 6ft 1ins high, and the wear on the teeth suggests he was a 45+



year old individual who experienced a coarse diet; a medieval burial is suggested (see Appendix 3). The fill of the grave was a firm dark brown silt (119), and it was cut into the mid grey-brown subsoil (103).

- 5.5 Cutting into the chest cavity and head area of skeleton 120 was a sub-circular cut (121) containing an infant burial (123) (see figure 4). The cut measured 0.35m long (east-west) by 0.25m wide (north-south) and it was 0.15m deep with sharp vertical edges and an indeterminate base (see plate 1). The height of the remains of the skull lay at 8.34m OD. The orientation of the body was east-west, and the skeleton was in good condition and probably extended. A significant number of associated bones were present, although they were disturbed by the excavation works, and so no further details could be recovered. The skeleton suggests a very small child in 'Early Childhood', which equates to between one and six years of age, although the probable age is between 1½ and two years (see Appendix 3). The stature and sex of the child is unknown. The fill of the grave was a loose dark brown silt (122).
- 5.6 A second grave cut (114) was noted in the centre of the trench, which also cut into the mid grey-brown subsoil (103). This cut was a maximum of 0.40m wide and 0.35m deep, the base at 8.22m OD, and it was oriented south-west/north-east over a distance of 0.80m; it cut slightly into the underlying burial (118), extended beyond the north side of the trench, and the east end was truncated by a later pit (111) (see below). The cut was slightly concave at the top with a vertical edge with a gradual turn to the flat base. Set within the cut were the truncated remains of a crouched and supine female skeleton (113) in good condition (see plate 2); the orientation of the body was the same as the cut. There was complete articulation of the skeleton apart from the skull which was unfortunately broken into pieces during excavation by the contractors. The right arm was flexed with the hand on the breast/chest area, the left arm was in an extended flexed position pointing towards the truncated pelvis, and both legs were missing (see figure 4). The top of the disturbed skull area lay at 8.42m OD and the chest area at 8.48m OD. The pathology suggests that this adult had reached 18 years of age, as demonstrated by the presence of all three molars, although the very limited wear indicated that survival did not occur for much longer, perhaps up to 25 years. Although only limited unwashed material was available, the skull remains suggest that it was a 'possible female', around 5ft 3ins tall (see Appendix 3). The fill of the grave (112) was a very soft, friable and loose very dark charcoal-brown grey fine grained sandy silt with occasional small gravel inclusions.
- 5.7 Cutting through the grave fill (112) was a cut for a large pit (111) (see figure 3). This was presumed to be oblong in plan, although it appeared linear within the trench; it may possibly be quite rectangular. The pit extended beyond both sides of the excavation, and the exposed section measured 1.62m wide at the top but narrowing to 1.35m at the break of slope towards the base. The cut was not fully bottomed out and is a minimum of 0.40m deep (base at 8.17m OD). Both sides of the pit were slightly concave at 55°. The fill was a very soft, loose and friable mid-dark grey silty sand with very occasional charcoal flecking (110). The purpose or function of the pit is unclear, but it may be related to earlier churchyard clearance or perhaps an early sand-based soakaway pit. There were no disarticulated human remains in the fill, suggesting that the material had been brought in from outside the area of the churchyard.
- 5.8 Overlying this pit was a localised layer of a soft and friable very dark red-grey silt and charcoal containing occasional small 2-5mm diameter pea gravel inclusions (117). It was only viewed in section at the west end of the trench; it covered an

area 1.58m west-east, extending west beyond the excavation, and was 0.10m thick at the west tapering to 0.01m thick at the east. It appeared to represent a levelling deposit or a localised dump, and it contained some possible metalwork debris indicating the refuse for some possible repair work undertaken on the church during the post-medieval period.

- 5.9 Sealing all the above features and deposits was a relatively modern churchyard subsoil (102). This deposit was a soft friable mid grey-brown sandy silt averaging 0.40m thick, containing occasional/moderate numbers of small stones. The base of the deposit was at 9.60m OD (average).
- 5.10 Cutting into the subsoil at the eastern end of the trench was a cut for a modern soakaway pit (109). This pit was not fully exposed, either in section or in plan, by the excavations, but it appears to be sub-circular with a minimum diameter of 0.80m and a minimum depth of 0.55m. The break of slope at the top was gradual with straight sides at 40°. The base was not exposed. The pit was filled with a mid grey-brown sand containing loose mixed and mottled red, grey and brown small to medium sized gravels and pebbles (5mm to 20mm) (108); a fragment of 18th century clay pipe stem and one slate roof tile, as well as building materials such as pieces of roof tile, land drain, bricks and a floor paver, were also found in the fill (see Appendix 2).
- 5.11 The pit was truncated by a north-south oriented cut for a French drain (107). This cut was linear, more than 0.55m deep and 0.20m wide. The break of slope at the top was 90° with vertical sides. The fill consisted of a moderately hard dark brown silt containing small to medium angled 5mm to 15mm chalks and gravels (106).
- 5.12 The French drain was truncated by another cut for a salt-glazed drain (105) which was oriented west-south-west/east-north-east and extended beyond the area of excavation. In plan, it was greater than 1.05m long, 0.70m wide and 0.30m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at the top with gentle concave sides with a gradual turn to a flat base. The backfill of the cut, which included the 6 ins diameter salt-glazed drain, was a soft and pliable mixed mottled grey-brown and red gravel in a dark sand silt (104).
- 5.13 Located centrally within the trench was a cut for a water pipe (116). It is presumed to be curvilinear in plan as it probably meanders around the perimeter of the church. Viewed in the excavation trench, the straight-sided flat-bottomed cut was 0.10m wide (entering the trench from the south and going back on itself) and 0.46-0.48m deep. The fill was a very soft, loose and friable mid grey silt sand (115) which held a 20mm diameter copper water pipe towards the base.
- 5.14 Sealing all of these deposits across the trench was the modern topsoil which consisted of a soft and friable dark charcoal coloured sandy silt sealed with turf (101). The topsoil held a small amount of small stone inclusions and was between 0.10m and 0.20m thick.

### **The New Path**

- 5.15 As previously noted, the excavations for the new path leading from the church gate to the south porch followed the broad S-shaped route of the existing path, widening it slightly in some areas from 1.20m to 1.60m. The depth of the path initially was 0.15m, and this was increased to between 0.25-0.30m in places as further foundation work was carried out (see plate 4). At the south porch, the ground level was reduced from 8.80m OD to 8.57m OD while near the north-east gate, where

there was a significant drop in slope, the level was reduced from at 7.30m OD to 7.20m OD.

- 5.16 The topsoil (207) either side of the path was a soft and friable very dark brown-grey sandy silt containing rootlets with a thick turf cover. It was 0.20m thick and was present across the entirety of the southern part of the churchyard. The top of this deposit at ground level was at 8.53m OD, next to the south-east corner of the church. Cutting into the topsoil was the cut for the existing path foundation (206). As noted above, this follows a broad 'S'-shape from the gate at the north-east corner of the churchyard to the south porch. The part is shown on virtually this alignment on the 1855 1st edition 6" map (sheet 180), and it probably dates to at least the late 18th century, given the discovery of the earlier porch foundations (see below). Within the cut for the path were the remains of the present path construction (205), a moderately hard mid to dark brown-grey pea gravel, sand and silt mix between 0.10m and 0.30m thick. Set within the limit of the path cut, therefore giving its dimensions, this layer occasionally held some disarticulated human remains.

#### *Medieval burial near church gate*

- 5.17 A grave cut was uncovered in the path, 2.15m to the west of the churchyard gate; the path here was in a cutting, c.1.2m below the surrounding ground surface, with the slope previously broken by steps which had since been removed (see plate 5). The grave cut (201) was sub-rectangular in plan, oriented east-west, with slightly rounded corners and measuring 1.95m long, 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep (base at 7.42m OD) (see figure 5). The break of slope at the top of the cut was sharp with angled sides and a graded slope to the flat base. Set within this cut were the truncated remains of adult inhumation (203) (see plate 6). The skeleton was oriented west to east and in fair condition, but there had been some prior damage due to the unauthorised and unsupervised start of excavations - the head and lower legs had been exposed and were removed for safekeeping to the church vestry. The remaining *in situ* skeleton was articulated and in an extended supine position. The right arm was extended with the hand behind the right buttock and the left hand was also extended with the hand centred on top of the pelvis. The lower legs were missing but, for the appearance of one knee (patella), the legs were probably extended. The pathology suggests that this is a robust right-handed male, 5ft 7ins in height, and aged around 45 (see Appendix 3). The considerable wear on the teeth indicates a coarse diet, which suggests a possible medieval date; this is also suggested by the depth of the burial when compared to the surrounding ground surface (c.1.2m deep).

#### *South porch excavations*

- 5.18 A friable mid-dark orange brown gravely silt (212) was exposed near the existing south porch, which appears to represent a post-medieval subsoil layer associated with the church. It was visible in plan in the reduced ground surface, over an area of 2.05m west-east and 0.54m north-south (8.57m OD); it extended beyond the area of excavation to the west and south. The deposit was not fully excavated, so its depth was not determined. Disarticulated human remains were encountered in the top of the deposit.
- 5.19 The mid-dark orange brown silt (212) was cut by the construction cut (209) for the former south porch. It was presumed to be rectangular in plan, although none of the corners were visible; the south-west corner lay beyond the area of excavation and the south-east corner was truncated by a later demolition horizon (210). The

cut was exposed for a length of 2.18m east-west, and it was filled with a soft and friable mid to dark brown silt (211); this deposit, which was not excavated and so the depth is unknown, was also seen near the existing porch entrance.

- 5.20 Set within the cut were the foundation remains of an earlier south porch (208) (see plates 7 and 8), which had presumably been dismantled and demolished to make way for the existing early 18th century structure (see figure 6). The foundations were of brick with a thick lime mortar bonding, up to 30-40mm thick in places. The bricks were handmade and of various sizes ranging between 300mm x 150mm x 40mm and 260mm x 180mm x 50mm; the lime mortar also held blue grey and black grits. The bricks were laid as header courses along the south face and as a stretcher course to the east and west. The structure was more than 2.58m east-west and extended for a distance of 0.80-0.82m to the south of the existing porch. The general surviving height of the foundations was 8.50m OD, however a higher course to the east was 8.59m OD high while one to the west was 8.63m OD.
- 5.21 Prior to the construction of the existing south porch, the previous structure, represented by the exposed foundations (208), was dismantled producing a demolition layer (210). This layer consisted of moderate to hard mid to dark grey brown clays sands and silts, as well as a moderate amount of broken brick inclusions from the former structure together with lime mortar fragments. It also obscured and truncated the south-east corner of the earlier foundations. Within the area of excavation, the demolition deposit measured 0.70m west-east by 1.60m north-south, although it extended beyond the area of excavation to both the north and the south. The general height of this deposit was 8.44m OD.

#### *Brick kerbing in path*

- 5.22 Two sections of a brick kerbing (213) and (214) were recorded within the reduced ground level in the path, one off the south-east corner of the south aisle and one to the east of the chancel (see figure 7). They are probably the remains of the same construction phase at the church, and were probably late post-medieval to 19th century in date.
- 5.23 The brick kerb off the south-east corner of the south aisle (213) was oriented virtually east-west over a distance of 3.75m and was 0.10m wide in plan (see plate 9). In this section, there were a total of 16 bricks (with one gap), all having similar dimensions of 235mm x 102mm x 57mm; all were laid on edge with no mortar bonding. The top of the kerb lay at 8.33m OD.
- 5.24 The kerb to the east of the chancel (214) was oriented almost north-south over a distance of 1.30m and was 0.15m wide in plan. This section contained a total of six bricks, with the same dimensions as those to the south-west, namely 235mm x 102mm x 57mm; all were laid on edge with no mortar bonding and appeared to have collapsed to the east which made the kerb look triangular in profile. The height of the kerb was 8.25m OD.

## **6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The excavation of the large 'Trench Arch' drainage trench off the north-west corner of the church encountered three *in situ* and articulated presumed medieval burials (113, 120 and 123), at depths of 0.75-0.85m below existing ground level (8.42-8.34m OD). Although at slightly different depths, with the higher (113) grave cutting slightly into the lower (120) and the other (123) cut into the lower, it is assumed that the burials are broadly contemporary, although no specific dating

evidence was recovered. The lower burial (120) was that of robust male, aged about 45+ years and 6ft 1ins in height - the wear on the teeth suggest a coarse diet which implies a medieval date. Cut into this grave was another burial (123), this time of a very small child probably aged between 1½-2 years old. The higher burial (113) was that of a 'possible female', aged between 18-25 years and 5ft 3ins high.

- 6.2 It is surprising that no other burials were encountered in the drainage trench, especially in the east end which had not previously been disturbed, although it is always possible that there are further remains at a greater depth. Nevertheless, there was a considerable quantity of disarticulated bone recovered from the trench, equating to at least three other burials. The localised layer of soft and friable very dark red-grey silt and charcoal containing occasional pea gravel inclusions (117), seen only in section at the west end of the trench, appeared to represent a levelling deposit or a localised dump, and it may have been associated with Fowler's rebuilding of parts of the church in 1865-66.
- 6.3 The ground in the east half of the trench had been considerably disturbed. Truncating one of the above burials was a large pit (111) at least 0.50m deep, which might have been a rubbish or an early soakaway pit. This was sealed by the relatively modern churchyard soil (102), which in turn had been cut through by another soakaway pit (109), a later French-type drain (107) and a recent trench for a salt-glazed drainage pipe (105). The majority of the finds came from the fill (118) of the later soakaway pit (119), a fragment of 18th century clay pipe stem, a slate roof tile, and various other building materials.
- 6.4 It was assumed that the relatively shallow excavations required for the resurfacing of the churchyard path would not uncover any archaeological remains. However, the groundworks involved in smoothing the gradient adjacent to the churchyard gate revealed another presumed medieval burial (203) - the skeleton was that of a robust right-handed male, c.5ft 7ins high and aged 45+. Once again, the considerable wear on the teeth indicates a coarse diet, which implies a possible medieval date. This is also suggested by the depth of the burial when compared to the surrounding ground surface (c.1.2m deep) and the other burials found in the drainage trench to the east - the base of the path grave cut was at 7.42m OD, considerably lower than the 8.30m OD recorded for the lowest burial in the trench. Additional burials may well have been encountered when the path was lowered here, presumably in Victorian times.
- 6.5 Little was revealed along the rest of the length of the path, apart from two sections of brick kerbing (213 and 214) which probably represent the east edge of the earlier path alignment shown in 1855. However, limited excavations around the front of the south porch did reveal an earlier brick foundation (208), which extended 0.8m to the south beyond the existing structure. This brick foundation pre-dates the existing early 18th century structure, and so is presumably of early post-medieval date, although no dating evidence was recovered.

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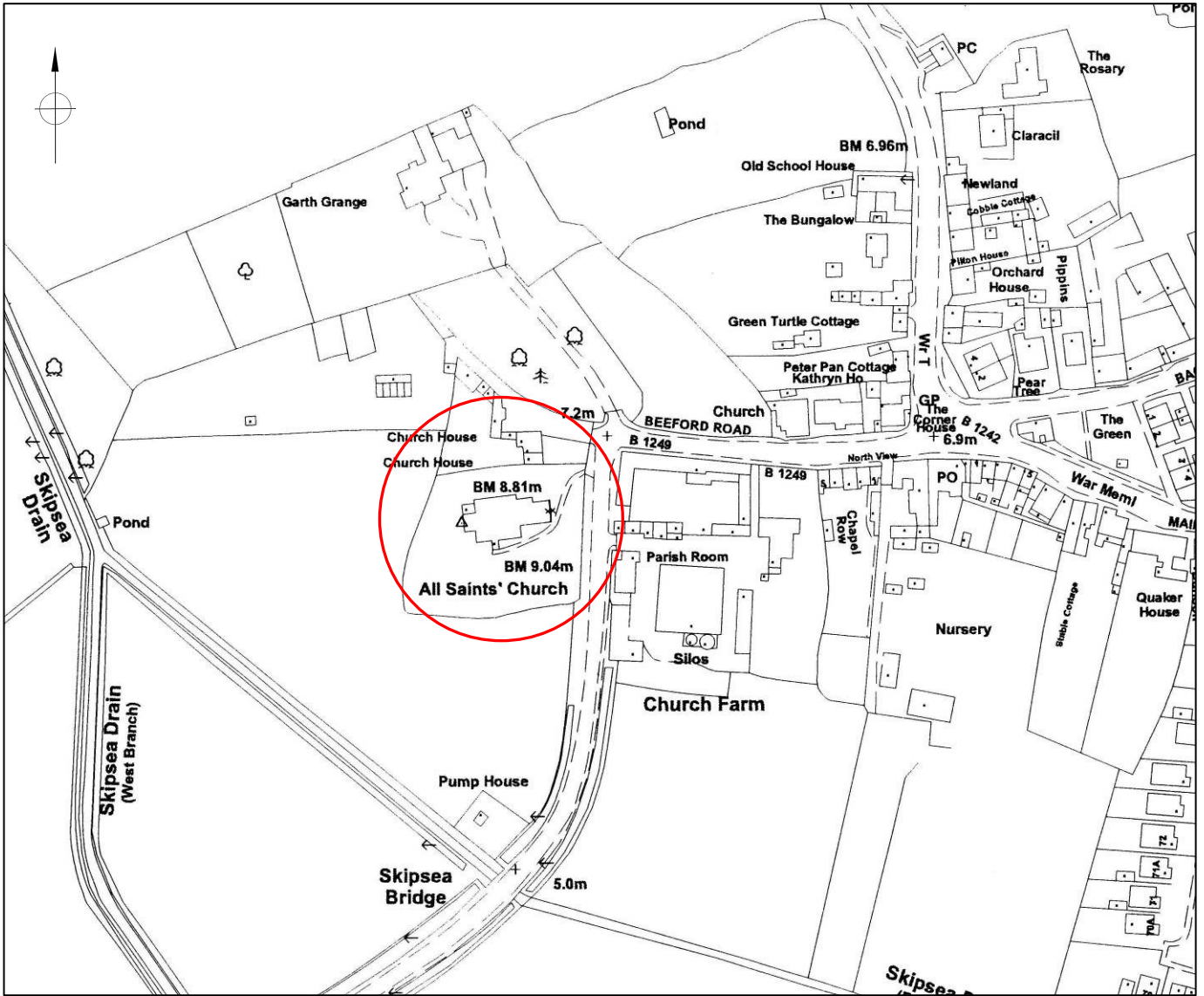
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## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

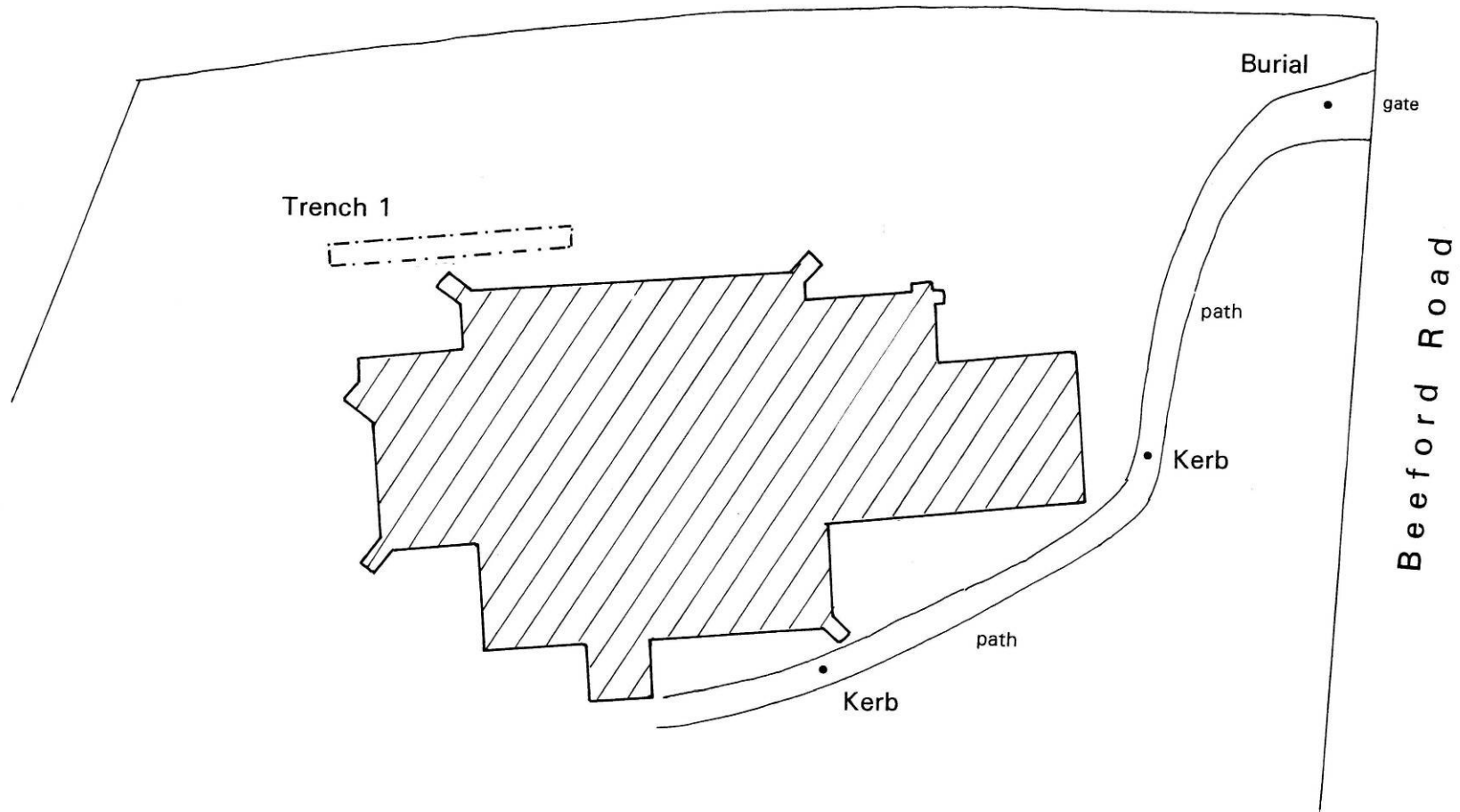
8.1 The archaeological watching brief at All Saints Church was commissioned by the PCC, through their architect, Peter Gaze Pace. EDAS would like to thank all concerned for their co-operation whilst carrying out the archaeological work, especially Rosemary Brown (churchwarden) and Stephen Willows (Harker Construction).

8.2 The on-site recording was undertaken by Doug Jobling (Humber Field Archaeology), who also took the photographs, and provided a draft report and archive. Assistance was provided by Karen Adams (HFA) and Vaughan Wastling (human osteologist). Sophie Tibbles (HFA) provided an assessment of the finds and Vaughan Wastling provided osteological comments on the skeletons. The final report was produced by Ed Dennison (EDAS), with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.



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PROJECT		ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SKIPSEA	
TITLE		DETAILED LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	APR 2011
EDAS		FIGURE	1



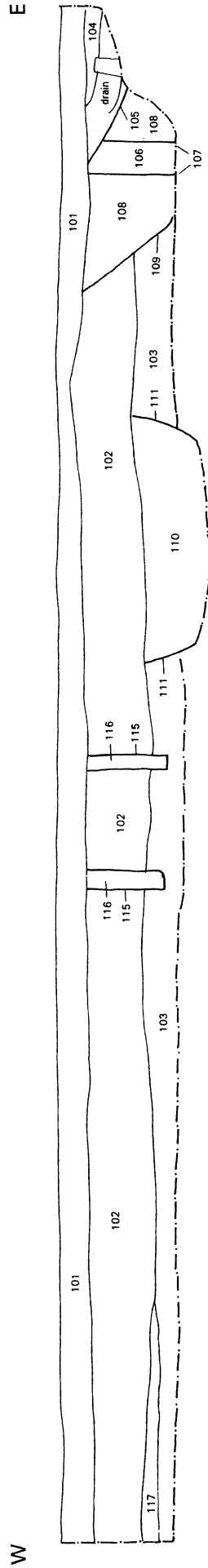
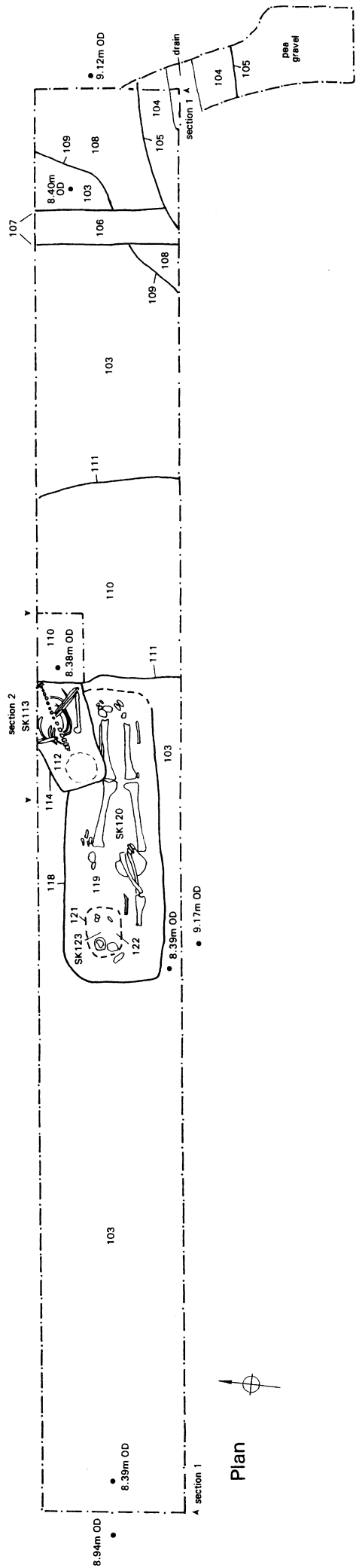
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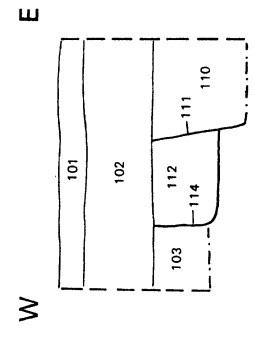
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PROJECT		ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SKIPSEA	
TITLE		LOCATION OF FINDS	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	APR 2011
EDAS		FIGURE	2



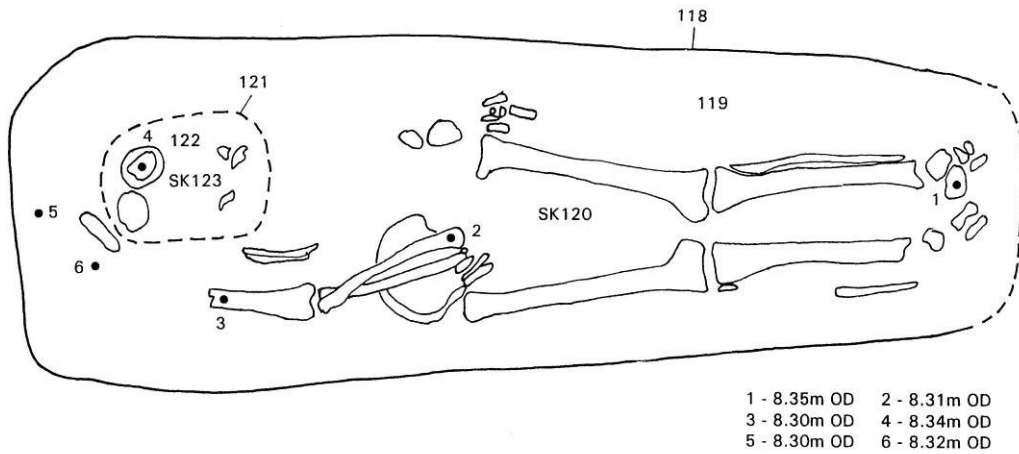


Section 1: South side of Trench

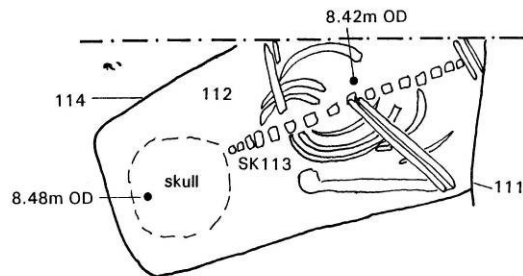


Section 2: North side of Trench (part)

PROJECT	ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SKIPSEA		
TITLE	RESULTS FROM TRENCH 1		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	APR 2011
	EDAS	FIGURE	3



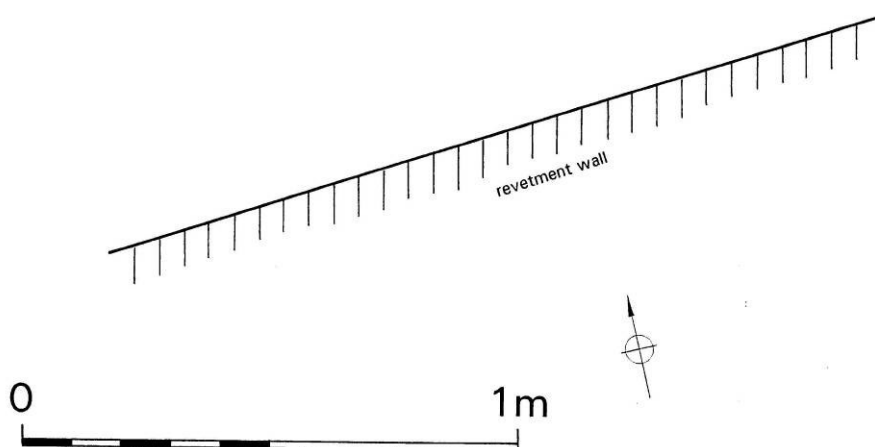
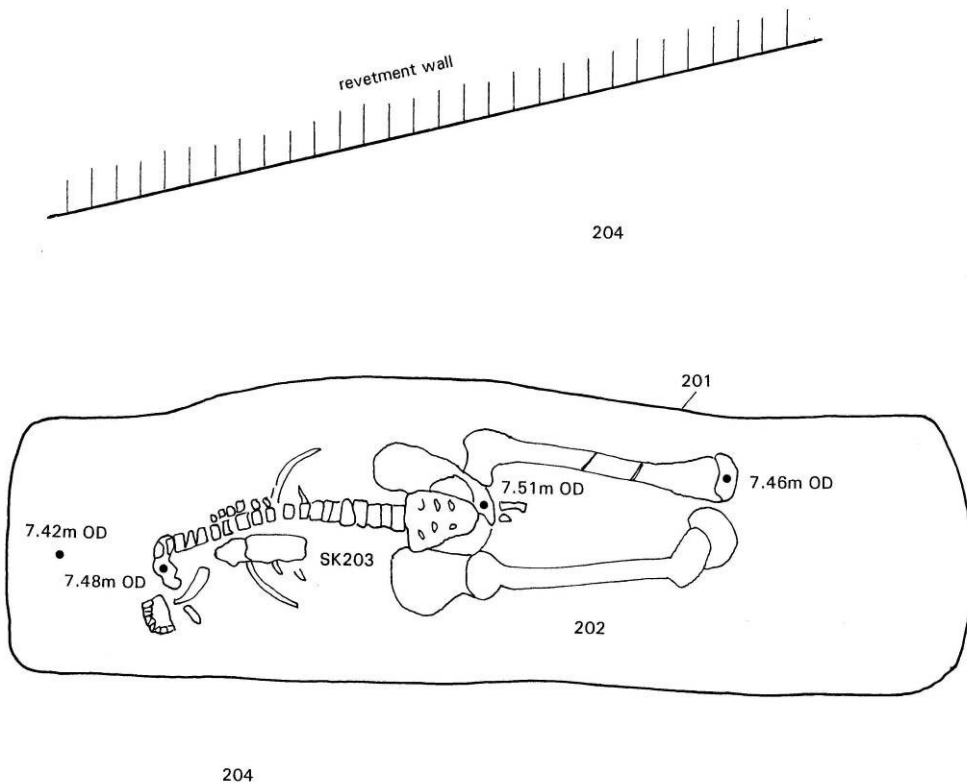
Trench 1: Plan of Skeletons 120 and 123



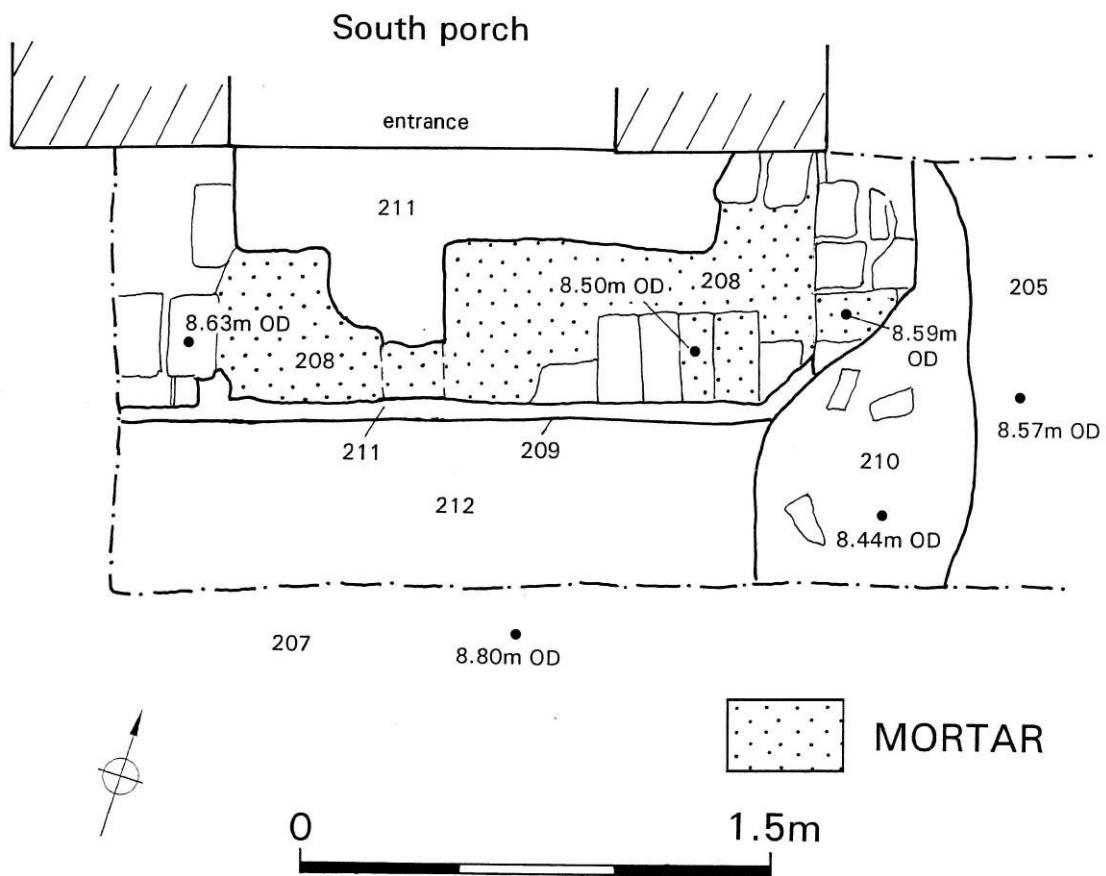
Trench 1: Plan of Skeleton 113



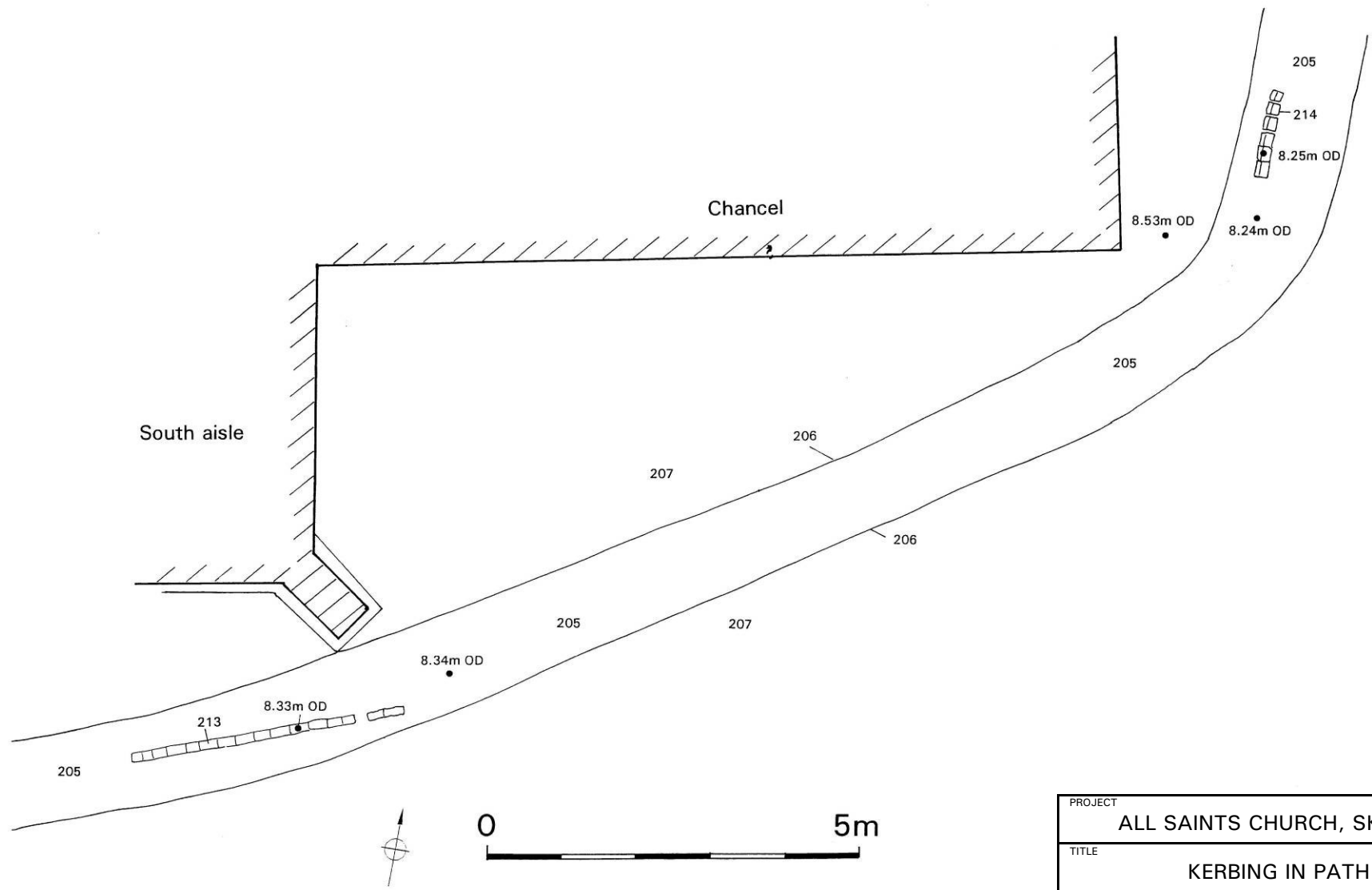
PROJECT		ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SKIPSEA	
TITLE		BURIALS IN TRENCH 1	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	APR 2011
EDAS		FIGURE	4



PROJECT	
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SKIPSEA	
TITLE	
BURIALS NEAR GATE	
SCALE	DATE
AS SHOWN	APR 2011
EDAS	FIGURE
	5



PROJECT	
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SKIPSEA	
TITLE	
FOUNDATIONS AT SOUTH PORCH	
SCALE	DATE
AS SHOWN	APR 2011
EDAS	FIGURE
	6



PROJECT		ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SKIPSEA	
TITLE		KERBING IN PATH	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	APR 2011
EDAS		FIGURE	7



Plate 1: Skeletons 120 and 123 in Trench 1, looking N.



Plate 2: Skeleton 113 in Trench 1, looking NE.



Plate 3: General view of completed drainage trench, looking W.



Plate 4: Excavations for new path, looking NE.



Plate 5: View of burial 203 prior to excavation, looking NE.



Plate 6: Skeleton 203 in path adjacent to gate, looking N.



Plate 7: Foundations of earlier south porch, looking N.





Plate 8: Foundations of earlier south porch, looking W.



Plate 9: Brick kerbing in path, looking NE.

## **APPENDIX 1**

## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

### Drainage trench

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
101	Soft friable dark charcoal coloured sandy silt, 0.10-0.20m thick, sealed by turf - topsoil.
102	Soft friable mid grey-brown sandy silt, average 0.40m thick, with occasional/moderate amounts of small stones.
103	Very soft friable light-mid grey-brown sandy silt, at least 0.25m thick and continuing below base of trench, with occasional small stones.
104	Fill of 105 - soft pliable mixed grey-brown and red gravel in a dark grey silt, with 6" diameter salt-glazed drain.
105	Cut for French drain - oriented SW-NE and continuing beyond trench, 1.05m wide and 0.30m deep, flat bottomed, gently concave on W side.
106	Fill of 107 - moderately hard dark brown silt with mid orange grey-brown small-medium angled 5mm to 15mm chalks and gravels.
107	Cut for French drain - linear, orientated N-S, vertical sides and flat bottom, greater than 0.55m deep, 0.20m wide.
108	Fill of 109 - mid grey brown sand, containing loose mixed and mottled red, grey and brown small to medium sized gravels and pebbles (5mm to 20mm).
109	Cut for soakaway pit - sub-circular in plan, at least 0.80m diameter and 0.55m deep (not fully exposed), straight sided at 40° slope.
110	Fill of 111 - very soft loose friable mid-dark grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecking, at least 0.45m thick.
111	Cut for possible soakaway/clearance pit - aligned N-S, at least 1.62m wide, narrowing to 1.35m wide in base of trench (not bottomed), minimum 0.40m deep, both sides slightly concave with 55° slope.
112	Fill of 114 - very soft friable loose very dark charcoal coloured brown-grey fine grained sandy silt, with occasional small gravel.
113	Skeleton - extended and supine, aligned E-W, in good condition. Complete articulation in surviving parts - right side, left ulna and scapulas missing, skull broken, legs and feet truncated. Possible female, 18-25 years.
114	Grave cut for 113 - aligned SSW-NNE, 0.75m long by 0.45m wide. Slightly concave base and sides.
115	Fill of 116 - very soft loose and friable mid grey silt sand.
116	Cut for service trench - straight sided, flat bottom, 0.10m wide (W-E) by 0.46-0.48m deep.
117	Soft friable very dark red-grey silt and charcoal, with occasional small pea gravel, maximum 0.10m thick. Viewed in section only - 0.10m thick at W end tapering to 0.01m.

- 118 Grave cut for 120 - aligned E-W, sub-rectangular, 2.05m long by 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep. Flat bottomed with vertical sides.
- 119 Fill of 118 - firm dark brown silt.
- 120 Skeleton - extended and supine, aligned E-W, in good condition. Articulated but head truncated, pelvis, legs and feet surviving. Teeth wear suggests robust male, 45+ years.
- 121 Grave cut for 123 - sub-circular in plan, 0.30m by 0.25m by 0.15m deep. Probably E-W.
- 122 Fill of 121 - loose dark brown silt.
- 123 Skeleton - probably extended, aligned E-W, in good condition. Skull, right clavicle, ribs, left femur. Very small child, c.1½-2 years.

## Path

### *Context Description*

- 201 Grave cut for 203 - sub-rectangular, aligned E-W, 1.95m long by 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep. Steep sides and flat base.
- 202 Fill of 201 - firm mixed brown soil and gravel, some small cobbles.
- 203 Skeleton - extended and supine, articulated in fair condition. Upper body mostly intact, but skull removed and legs and feet truncated. Robust male, considerable wear on teeth, 45+ years.
- 204 Hard mid yellow/off white silty gravel - natural deposit.
- 205 Moderately hard, mid-dark brown-grey pea gravel, sand and silt mix, 0.10-0.30m thick.
- 206 Cut for path foundation - broad S shape.
- 207 Soft friable very dark brown-grey sandy silt, at least 0.20m thick - topsoil.
- 208 Foundation remains of former S porch - composed of handmade bricks of various sizes ranging between 300mm x 150mm x 40mm and 260mm x 180mm x 50mm with lime mortar bonding. Bricks laid as header courses along the south face and stretcher course on the east and west. The structure was more than 2.58m E-W and 0.80-0.82m N-S.
- 209 Foundation cut for 208 and 211 - 2.18m E-W, 0.36m N-S, unknown depth.
- 210 Moderate to hard mid dark grey-brown clay sands and silts. Numerous brick and mortar inclusions.
- 211 Fill of 209 - soft friable mid dark brown silty sand.
- 212 Friable mid dark orange-brown gravelly silt, forming layer 2.05m E-W by 0.54m N-S.
- 213 Brick kerbing - 16 bricks over distance of 3.75m, 235mm x 102mm x 57mm, all laid on edge with no mortar.
- 214 Brick kerbing - 6 bricks over distance of 1.30m, 235mm x 102mm x 57mm, all laid on edge with no mortar.

## APPENDIX 2

## **APPENDIX 2: ALL SAINT'S CHURCH, SKIPSEA: THE FINDS**

Sophie Tibbles

### **Aims and Objectives**

The following report will assess the potential of the finds assemblage from the evaluation for further analysis.

The structure of this report is based on guidelines recommended by the Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD700-1700 (1993) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group (1991). It also aims to meet the requirements of MAP2, Phase 3, 'Assessment of potential for analysis' (English Heritage, 1991).

### **Introduction**

The watching brief produced a small assemblage of finds that comprised five material categories: ceramic building material, stone building material, clay pipe, industrial residue and metalwork. Material types were quantified by count and weight where applicable.

The metalwork was not stratified and considered to be of late date (see below). Therefore a conservation assessment was not deemed necessary.

All finds were appropriately packed for long term storage, in accordance with conservation and museum guidelines.

### **The Metalwork**

The metalwork comprised two nails which were not stratified (U/S). Although heavy concretions adhered to their surfaces, both were complete with dimensions of:

Length: 73mm Head: 10mm x 12mm Shank: 7.5mm x 5mm to 7.5mm x 4mm

Length: 94mm Head: 10mm x 13mm Shank: 7.5mm x 5mm to 7.5mm x 3.5mm

Both were in fair condition with a strong magnetic response; an indication of good preservation of the core. This would suggest a relatively recent date. Although they may represent coffin fittings, a structural use is more likely considering their size.

### **The Clay Pipe**

A fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered from the fill (108) of a pit/soakaway (109). It had a weight of 5.1g and was dated to the 18th century. The clay pipe probably represents casual deposition/dumping.

### **The Industrial Residue**

Levelling layer/dump (117) produced four fragments of industrial residue, with a weight of 29.7g. The material was vesicular in appearance, with adhering concretions of small stones and occasional small pieces of semi-charred wood (suggesting a late date). All of the fragments displayed green (copper) discolouration. The light weight and vesicular appearance of the fragments would suggest hearth residue; such as clinker with copper staining. Although its presence does potentially indicate copper-working within the vicinity, it cannot be discounted that the material may have been brought into the area from elsewhere.

### **The Stone Building Material**

One slate roof tile was recovered from fill (108) of a pit/soakaway (109). The tile had a complete width and thickness of 110mmx4mm and a weight of 200g. Grey mortar was noted on all surfaces, particularly along the edges. Smaller slates were generally used along the ridge of the roof, however, the mortar may indicate the tile was used as a filling piece, possibly for repair.

## **The Ceramic Building Materials**

### *Introduction and methodology*

It should be noted that the diversity of size and colour of brick and tile caused during the manufacturing process must be taken into consideration when comparing examples within collected assemblages and local typologies. The varying sizes and colours can be attributed to the variation in the clays used, shrinkage during drying, firing within the kiln or clamp and the location of the brick/tile within the kiln. The dating of ceramic building material can be highly contentious due to its re-usable nature; the date range given below is therefore that of the known dates where such bricks have been recorded.

Twenty-one fragments of ceramic building material (hereafter CBM) were submitted for assessment. Four types were identified: roof tile, land drain, brick and a floor paver. All of the material was recovered from the fill (108) of a pit/soakaway (109) (see table below). With the exception of one medieval? brick, the assemblage as a whole was dated from the early 19th century.

### *Roof tile*

Four fragments of pantile were identified, with a combined weight of 875g. The tiles had a thickness of 18mm. Only one fragment was diagnostic, bearing means of suspension in the form of a plain, rectangular nib (32mm x 18mm). The fragments were of a similar fabric – hard homogenous clay with little or no inclusions – and are probably from the same tile.

### *Brick*

Nine brick fragments were submitted, of which seven were diagnostic. No complete bricks were recovered. The bricks had a total weight of 6865kg. Mortar adhesions were evident on a large proportion of the bricks including over broken surfaces. This suggests re-use post-breakage.

The earliest material was a residual fragment of a ?medieval brick, dated from the 13th/14th centuries. The latest material was a fragment of a 'Beart', press-moulded brick of 20th century date.

The diagnostic bricks displayed complete width and thickness dimensions, within a range of: 110-120mm (4¼"-4¾") by 42mm-65mm (1 5/8"-2½"). All were of 19th century date. Worn, smooth bed surfaces and slightly rounded arrises were noted on one part brick. The heavy wear indicates use within a floor or area of hard standing.

### *Floor paver*

The floor paver had a weight of 800g and a complete thickness of 55mm. The upper surface was worn and smooth from use. No mortar was noted.

### *Land drain*

The assemblage of six fragments of land drain had a combined weight of 1.625kg. An external diameter of 90mm was recorded. All were circular in form, Type 2C (Tibbles *forthcoming*) and were probably from the same tile.

## **Overall Discussion and Recommendations**

Due to its small size and late date, the assemblage is of limited archaeological potential. It is likely to represent relatively recent activity, most likely dumping; the CBM to aid in drainage for the pit/soakaway (109), the residue from possible small scale metal-working within the vicinity. The nails and clay pipe are probably casual deposition.

No further work is deemed necessary on the finds assemblage. None of the material is worthy of retention.

Table: Building material database

CBM Period	Form	Diag	Diag Wt (g)	Non-diag	Non-diag Wt (g)	Comments
Early MOD	Land drain	1	875			Circular – Type 2C. External diameter 90mm
Early MOD	Land drain			5	750	Circular – Type 2C.
Early MOD	Slate roof tile	1	200			Purple slate. Grey mortar on all surfaces. ? x 110mm x 4mm.
MOD	Pantile	1	200			V. late 19th-20th century. Plain nib. 32mm x 18mm. Th: 18mm
MOD	Pantile			3	675	V. late 19th-20th century. Th: 18mm.
Early MOD	Floor Paver			1	800	Worn upper bed surface. Th: 55mm.
MOD	Brick			1	500	Beart brick. Machine-made. 20th century. Th: 80mm.
Early MOD	Brick	1	1050			1840s –ish. Overfired, header corner slightly blown. White mortar on all surfaces. ? x 120mm x 74mm.
Early MOD	Brick	1	770			Early 19th century, pre 1840s. ? x 115mm x 70mm
Early MOD	Brick	1	550			Early 19th century, pre 1840s. Remnants of white mortar on 1 header and 1 bed surface. ? x 115mm x 64mm
Early MOD	Brick	1	925			Post 1840. Remnants of white mortar on 1 header, 1 bed surface and over breaks. ? x 115mm x 70mm.
Early MOD	Brick			1	1100	Mid 19th century. Width: 117mm.
Early MOD	Brick	1	710			Early 19th century. Remnants of white mortar on all surfaces. ? x 110mm x 57mm
Early MOD	Brick	1	780			Early 19th century. ? x 115mm x 55mm.
MED?	Brick			1	480	Cream mortar patches on all but broken surfaces. Th: 42mm.
Early MOD	Brick	1	590			19th century. Both bed surfaces smooth, arrises slightly rounded – used within a floor or area of hardstanding. ? x 120mm x 42mm.

Roman Finds Group and the Finds Research Group AD700-1700 1993 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives & Assessments for all Finds other than Fired Clay Vessels*

Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group 1991 *Guidelines for Finds Work* (first draft)

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*

Tibbles, J (forthcoming) *The History, Manufacture and Usage of Ceramic Land Drains (Including East Yorkshire Typologies)*



## **APPENDIX 3**

## **APPENDIX 3: COMMENTS ON THE SKELETONS**

Vaughan Wastling

### **Trench 1: Skeleton 113**

Age	This individual has attained the age of 18 years as demonstrated by the presence of all three molars. The very limited wear on a fine set of teeth indicates that survival did not occur for much longer, perhaps up to 25 years.
Sex	The pelvis and skull are the key elements when assessing the sex of an individual and only limited unwashed material is available for that purpose. Using the skull remains, it would seem that this a 'possible female'.
Stature	The only long bone available for stature estimation is a radius (lower arm) measuring 22cms. Using regression tables, this gives a height estimate of 159.21cms +/- 4.24cms = 5ft 3ins+/- . This is a slightly built individual with gracile bones and that estimate tallies with the 'possible female' assessment.
Pathology	None visible.

### **Trench 1: Skeleton 120**

Age	This is an extremely robust male individual. The muscle attachments to the femurs are very robust and the bones are large and robust.
Sex	Teeth wear indicates a 45 years + individual. The wear also indicates a coarse diet, so early, possibly medieval, date is suggested.
Stature	Clearly a male. The femur measures 52cms, equating to a height of 185.17cms +/- 3.27cms = 6ft+/- .
Pathology	None visible.

### **Trench 1: Skeleton 123**

Age	Certainly a very small child in 'early childhood' = 1 to 6 years. The probable age is in the range 1½-2 years.
Sex	Children are unsexable.
Stature	Unknown.
Pathology	None visible.

### **Path: Skeleton 203**

Age	There is considerable wear on the teeth which indicates a coarse diet, possibly medieval. There are however a number of molars missing, one of which had been absent for some time as the bone of the lower jaw had resorbed and filled the cavity. This would cause uneven wear on the remaining teeth. An age of 45+ (but younger end rather than much older) seems reasonable.
Sex	This is a robust male. The skeleton has a small degree of lipping on the lumbar vertebrae caused by compression of the vertebral bodies by lifting, but nothing excessive or anything likely to cause pain.
Stature	The height based on the femur length of 46cms is 170.89cms +/- 3.27cms = 5ft 7ins+/- .

Pathology The deltoid tuberosity of the upper right arm has an impressive growth where the muscles attach. This noticeable change is the result of hard physical use of the muscles. As this is a rural area church, farm work is probably the cause. He would appear to have been right handed.

**Trench 1: Disarticulated bone**

These represent a minimum of three individuals. One is an adult, one a juvenile and one child (approx 2-4 years). There was also one animal bone.

## **APPENDIX 4**

## APPENDIX 4: LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Location : CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, BEEFORD ROAD (south west side), SKIPSEA, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

IoE number : 167802

Date listed : 30 JUNE 1966

Date of last amendment : 30 JUNE 1966

Grade : 1

TA15SE	SKIPSEA	BEEFORD ROAD (west side)
10/47 30.6.66		Church of All Saints

Church. C11 nave and chancel with later additions and alterations including C15 tower, aisles and clerestory, and additions and restorations of c1856-60 by Fowler of Louth including south porch, north vestry and arcades; C20 boiler house of no special interest. Coursed and galleted pebbles with brick and ashlar dressings; magnesian limestone south aisle, slate roof. 3- stage west tower, 4-bay aisled nave with clerestory, south porch, 2-bay chancel. Tower: chamfered plinth. Diagonal buttresses with offsets. To west end a 3-light pointed window with Perpendicular tracery to head, with re-cut hollow-chamfered mullions and within chamfered surround. Slit window. Boiler house to north. Second stage has slit window to south. Band. Twin-light bell opening with Perpendicular tracery to heads within pointed double-chamfered surrounds. Low parapet. Nave: south aisle has chamfered plinth and diagonal buttress with offsets to eastern end. Entrance to south porch in second bay, a round-arched opening below shaped gable; within a plank door in moulded surround. 3-light pointed windows with Perpendicular tracery to heads throughout, some re-cut, with continuous sill band. Hollow-chamfered eaves string course. Battlements. North aisle: diagonal buttresses with offsets. Off-centre entrance, now blocked, within double-ovolo-moulded surround under hoodmould, 3-light window with Perpendicular tracery under hoodmould. Battlements. To west return a similar 2-light window. Clerestory: 2-trefoiled-light, straight-headed windows. Battlements with crocketed corner pinnacles. Chancel: to south side a blocked priest's door within pointed chamfered surround under hoodmould, 3-light pointed Perpendicular window under hoodmould with face stops. To north side a single-bay vestry with chamfered plinth, angle buttresses with offsets, 2-light Perpendicular-type windows and entrance to east return, a plank door within chamfered surround under hoodmould with face stops, battlements. East end: 4-light pointed window with reticulated tracery to head within double-chamfered surround. Stone coping with ridge cross. Interior. Pointed double-chamfered tower arch on octagonal responds with moulded capitals and chamfered bases. 4-bay double-chamfered arcade on octagonal piers with moulded bases and capitals. Double-chamfered chancel arch on moulded corbels and under hoodmould. Chancel has plank door to vestry in pointed, chamfered surround under hoodmould. Neo-classical monument to George Green d 1831 by Thomas Earle of Hull. Pevsner N, Yorkshire, York and the East Riding, 1978, p340.

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