

EXTERNAL DRAINAGE WORKS,
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HELMSLEY,
NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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On behalf of

All Saints' Church PCC
c/o The Revd. Tim Robinson
The Vicarage
Baxtons Road
Helmsley
North Yorkshire YO62 5HT

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING,
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HELMSLEY, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2012, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by All Saints' Church Parochial Church Council (PCC), through the church architect, Peter Pace, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with external drainage works at All Saints' Church, Helmsley, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 61184 83871 centred). The archaeological recording, which was made a condition of a Diocesan Faculty, was undertaken in late August and early October 2012.

Little of archaeological interest was observed in the two excavated trenches. The only archaeological feature in Trench 1 was a loose chalk/limestone rubble deposit (102) seen on the north side of the vestry. Although it is possible that this material relates to an earlier phase of the church, or one of the several restorations, it is perhaps more likely that it forms a simple area of consolidation for the existing path and drain which run along the north side of the vestry here. As far as could be determined, given the narrowness of the trench, no articulated human burials were disturbed by the drainage works, although the 1.05m deep mid-orange/brown sandy clayey silt subsoil (101) did contain a large quantity of disarticulated human bone, occasional fragments of coffin furniture, one sherd of medieval pottery and other more recent finds. The trench (Trench 2) excavated for a short distance along the north side of the Market Place did not uncover any archaeological deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2012, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by All Saints' Church Parochial Church Council (PCC), through the church architect, Peter Pace, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with external drainage works at All Saints' Church, Helmsley, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 61184 83871 centred). The archaeological work was made a condition of a Diocesan Faculty, issued by the Diocese of York on 28th November 2011 (see Appendix 2).

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 All Saints' Church is located on the north side of Helmsley's market place, in the angle of Cannons Garth Lane and Church Street (see figures 1 and 2). The church lies within Helmsley Conservation Area, designated by North Yorkshire County Council in 1973, and it is a Grade II* Listed Building (see below).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological recording was defined by a 'Written Scheme of Investigation' produced by EDAS prior to the start of works (see Appendix 3). Other general advice produced by the Institute for Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999), by English Heritage/Church of England in relation to the treatment of human remains (EH/CoE 2005), and by the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists in relation to work in churchyards (ADCA 2004) was also followed. The proposed alterations and drainage works were defined by a specification produced by the project architect, Peter Gaze Pace (2011).
- 3.2 The aim of the archaeological recording was to monitor the groundworks (topsoil stripping and the excavation of a trench) associated with foul water drainage in the east side of All Saints' churchyard, in order to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth and significance of any archaeological features which might be present and damaged by the development. All excavated material was also visually inspected for any finds. At the request of the Local Highways Authority, the watching brief was extended to cover the excavations on the northern edge of the Market Place, just to the south of the Black Swan Hotel, undertaken to connect the foul water drain into the existing sewerage system; previous excavations here had apparently encountered human remains. A further drainage trench off the north-west corner of the church, originally planned as part of the current works, will now take place at a later date (Peter Pace, *pers. comm.*).
- 3.3 The watching brief in the churchyard was carried out over two days, on 28th-29th August 2012. The groundworks comprised one long trench (Trench 1) measuring c.65.00m long, up to 0.50m wide and up to 1.30m deep below existing ground level (BGL), which was excavated along the east and then west side of an existing path which ran on a general north-south alignment through the eastern side of the churchyard (see figure 4). The trench was dug using a combination of hand digging and a 360 degree mechanical mini-excavator fitted with a ditching bucket. The watching brief on the north side of the Market Place was undertaken on 3rd-4th October 2012. Here, a further east-west aligned drainage trench (Trench 2) measuring 11.60m long by 0.75m wide and 0.60m deep was excavated using a 360 degree mechanical mini-excavator (see figure 4). In view of the absence of archaeological deposits, the excavation of the very western 2m length of this trench was not recorded.

- 3.4 Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual three digit context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of four archaeological contexts were recorded (see Appendix 1), which are referred to in the following text as three figure numbers (e.g. 102). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of the monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plan at 1:50 scale, and a more detailed section drawing was produced at a scale of 1:20; the lack of any significant archaeological deposits meant that further drawings were not required. A photographic record was maintained using a digital camera.
- 3.5 Given the absence of archaeological results or finds, no archive for the project was deposited with the local archaeological museum, although site notes, plans and photographs have been retained by EDAS (site code ASH 12).

4 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Context: the Origins and Development of Helmsley

- 4.1 Helmsley is likely to have been an important crossroads since early times and archaeological evidence suggests that there was human habitation in the vicinity of Helmsley dating to the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. However, the main origins of the settlement date to the medieval period, and by the 10th century a church and burial ground had been constructed (English Heritage 2004). The position of the settlement at the confluence of Borough Beck and the River Rye, the latter of which could be crossed at this point, played an integral part in the development of Helmsley as a market town. Although the first recorded market held in the present Market Place was in 1467, markets were probably held on the site from the 12th century onwards. By the Norman Conquest a cluster of large properties, which still form a distinctive element in the street plan, had been established around the church, mostly along the west end of Bondgate.
- 4.2 Following the Norman Conquest, Helmsley's significance was underlined by the construction of a castle on a knoll to the south of the church. This allowed both the 'town' and the river crossing to be controlled. The original construction date for the castle is uncertain, but in 1120 the manor was granted to Walter Espec who either established or rebuilt the castle. It was then extensively remodelled after 1190 and throughout the 13th and early 14th centuries.
- 4.3 The presence of the castle, forming the seat of the local lord, had a significant impact on the development of the town. In about 1190 Robert 'Fursan' de Roos created a 'borough', a planned block of long narrow urban properties, still forming the east of Market Street and Bridge Street; the east and south ends of this block are represented by Pottergate and Ryegate (English Heritage 2004). This development was accompanied by the construction of corn mills by the river Rye and the east tower of the castle. When Castlegate and Church Street were laid out some 150 years later, the tower was raised still further, to emphasise the lord's symbolic 'presence' over the townspeople. The only known house surviving from this time is Canon's Garth, located to the north-east of the church, together with a fragment inside the Old Manor House on Castlegate.
- 4.4 Later growth saw the development of new areas (Bondgate, High Street and Ryegate) and intensification and infill of previously under-developed sites. The main market place remained the focus of lordly authority, however, as evidenced

by the construction of an imposing building, now Rectory House, for the agents of the Earls of Rutland in the 16th century. By the beginning of the 17th century the overall form of Helmsley was largely complete, and the majority of buildings which exist today date from this period or slightly later; many were single-storey longhouses with timber walls and thatched roofs.

- 4.5 By the early 18th century, linen weaving had become established as the town's predominant cottage industry despite its reliance on imported flax. The weavers were located on Bondgate and Bridge Street with some associated properties bordering the beck. There were also some tanneries on Ryegate. However, the growth of machine-driven looms in the West Riding eventually destroyed Helmsley's weaving industry and the weekly Saturday market also declined.
- 4.6 Nevertheless, agriculture continued to play an important role in supporting the town's economy, by the late 18th century the town was dominated by small farmers. However, the process of land enclosure and the emergence of larger-scale landowners forced many small farmers to cease working their own land. By the early 19th century, all the land around the town was enclosed with only two common pastures remaining. Although some infill development occurred within the town, little substantial building work took place until the mid 19th century when the town enjoyed an economic revival, strengthened by the arrival of the railway in 1871.

All Saints' Church

- 4.7 As has been noted above, the church and graveyard at Helmsley probably date from the 10th century. A church and priest are mentioned in the 11th century Domesday Book, and a dedication to All Saints is a characteristic of Saxon churches (McDonnell 1963, 90-92). A Norman church of c.1140-50 was remodelled in the 15th century and subsequently heavily restored and rebuilt during the 19th century. The north aisle was rebuilt in 1849, and then in 1868 the remainder of the church was largely rebuilt and entirely re-cast by Charles Barry of Banks and Barry. Two pictures, formerly on the south wall of the ground stage of the tower, clearly indicate the exterior of the church before the 1868 restoration. There are also pictures in the vestry and elsewhere which indicate an interesting building with many local characteristics which today would have been restored rather than rebuilt. A fourth restoration is suggested in 1884 by S Naylor of Derby. In the early party of the 20th century there were many introductions of good quality work, particularly furnishings by Temple Moore and Leslie Moore.
- 4.8 The present church consists of a west tower, nave, south porch, south aisle, south transept, north transept with organ in the southern part, chancel with sacristy behind the high altar, choir vestry (with kitchenette) and priest's vestry on the north side of the chancel, a heating chamber under the north aisle, a crypt under the eastern portion of the chancel, a lychgate and two detached outbuildings in the north churchyard (see figure 3).
- 4.9 The church is a Grade II* Listed Building, first listed on 4th January 1955 (National Heritage List for England number 1149308). The Listed Building description reads: *Church. 1866-9 incorporating C12, C13 and C14 features from earlier church on same site. By Banks and Barry. Sandstone ashlar, stone slate roof. C19 rebuilding in Gothic Revival style. West tower, 4-bay nave, with north aisle, south porch, transepts, 2-bay chancel, vestry to north of chancel. West tower of 3 stages with C13 fabric surviving to second stage within C19 rebuild. C13 paired lancets with headstops to west and*

north faces at second stage. All other windows 1866-9, paired lancets below and paired round-headed belfry windows. Octagonal corner turrets with pyramidal roofs on plain parapet. Nave in Transitional style. Paired round-headed windows. Corbel table with beakheads and abstract designs. South porch has round arch with roll-mouldings on shafted responds. C12 south door of 4 orders with chevron moulding on scalloped and volute capitals with replaced shafts. North aisle has C19 windows with Reticulated tracery. North transept has C19 west window with Reticulated tracery, and pair of round-headed north windows below a large circular window with 8 roundels around an octagon. Corbel table. South transept has plain round-headed windows to east and west and group of 3 round-headed windows to south. Corbel table. Chancel has round-headed windows with group of 3 stepped lancets to east. Vestry has quatrefoil window to north and large chimney to east. Interior: C13 tower arch of 3 orders with fillets on filleted responds with plain capitals. C13 north arcade of 2 orders on C19 quadripartite shafts with early C13 foliated volute capitals. Respond capitals are C19. North aisle has mural of 1909 designed by C N Gray and executed by Gast. Design of lean-to ceiling painting by Temple Moore. C15 piscina in south wall of aisle. South transept has early C20 mural depicting 'The Mission of St Aidan'. C12 chancel arch of 3 orders with beads, chevrons and beakheads on volute interlace and zigzag capitals. Furnishings: very worn C15 brass to knight and his wife in tower. C10 hogback with coarse interlace in south porch. Pevsner, *Yorkshire: the North Riding*, 1966. Williams, *Rievaulx Abbey and the Helmsley District*, n.d. (www.imagesofengland.org.uk). The church is also described by Pevsner (1966, 187).

5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF (see figure 4)

Trench 1

- 5.1 Trench 1 ran north from the north side of the vestry for a distance of 2.70m into an inspection chamber at which point it turned and ran east, parallel with the north side of the vestry, for 10.20m as far as a second inspection chamber (see plate 1). The drainage trench exited this second inspection chamber at a 90 degree angle and ran south, along the east side of the existing path for another 28.50m, into a third inspection chamber, which it exited at a 45 degree angle and ran south-east along the south side of the path for a further 20.60m where it terminated at the churchyard boundary wall (see plates 2 and 3). The overall length of the drainage trench with its associated inspection chambers was c.65.00m, and it was up to 0.50m wide and up to 1.30m deep BGL. The ground surface in this part of the churchyard sloped gently down from north to south, from 58.77m AOD to 57.80m AOD.
- 5.2 The turf and dark grey-brown topsoil (100) was between 0.05m-0.15m thick throughout the trench, below which was a mid-orange/brown sandy clayey silt subsoil (101) with frequent sandstone inclusions up to 1.05m thick. This deposit contained a large quantity of disarticulated human bone, occasional fragments of coffin furniture, a single sherd of medieval green-glazed pottery and another sherd dating to the early modern period, as well as a clay pipe stem. The natural deposits, an orange-brown clay silt and gravel (103), were encountered periodically in the base of the trench below a general depth of 1.05m BGL.

- 5.3 The only archaeological feature encountered throughout the length of the excavated trench was a loose chalk/limestone rubble deposit with occasional brick fragments (102), seen on the north side of the vestry (see Section 1); the deposit was at least 0.25m thick and it extended below the base of the trench. The nature of the feature is unclear - it extended beyond the limits of excavation although its south side was defined by the vestry wall and the north side by the curbing of the existing footpath. It is possible that it represents some foundations associated with an earlier phase of the church, although it is more likely that it formed a simple hardstanding surface, on which the existing footpath could be laid.

Trench 2

- 5.4 The area of excavations relating to the drainage trench on the north side of the Market Place measured 11.60m in length by on average 0.75m wide, although the width at the east end of the trench at the junction with the existing sewer was up to 1.30m wide; the depth of excavation was typically 0.60m BGL (see plate 4). This trench was archaeologically sterile and the stratigraphy consisted of a modern ground surface to a depth of 0.15m, which overlay the natural alluvial deposits (103) and which extended beyond the base of excavation.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Little of archaeological interest was observed in either excavated trench. The only archaeological feature was a loose chalk/limestone rubble deposit (102) seen on the north side of the vestry. Although it is possible that this material relates to an earlier phase of the church, or one of the several restorations, it is perhaps more likely that it forms a simple area of consolidation for the existing path and drain which runs along the north side of the vestry here. As far as could be determined, given the narrowness of the trench, no articulated human burials were disturbed by the drainage works, although the 1.05m deep mid-orange/brown sandy clayey silt subsoil (101) did contain a large quantity of disarticulated human bone, occasional fragments of coffin furniture, one sherd of medieval pottery and other more recent finds. No finds were worthy of retention. The trench excavated for a short distance along the north side of the Market Place did not uncover any archaeological deposits.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

ADCA (Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists) 2004 *Guidance Note 1: Archaeological Requirements for Works on Churches and Churchyards*

EH/CoE (English Heritage/Church of England) 2005 *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England*

English Heritage 2004 *Helmsley - the Story of a Town* (leaflet)

IFA (Institute for Archaeologists) 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (and subsequent revisions)

McDonnell, J 1963 *A History of Helmsley, Rievaulx and District*

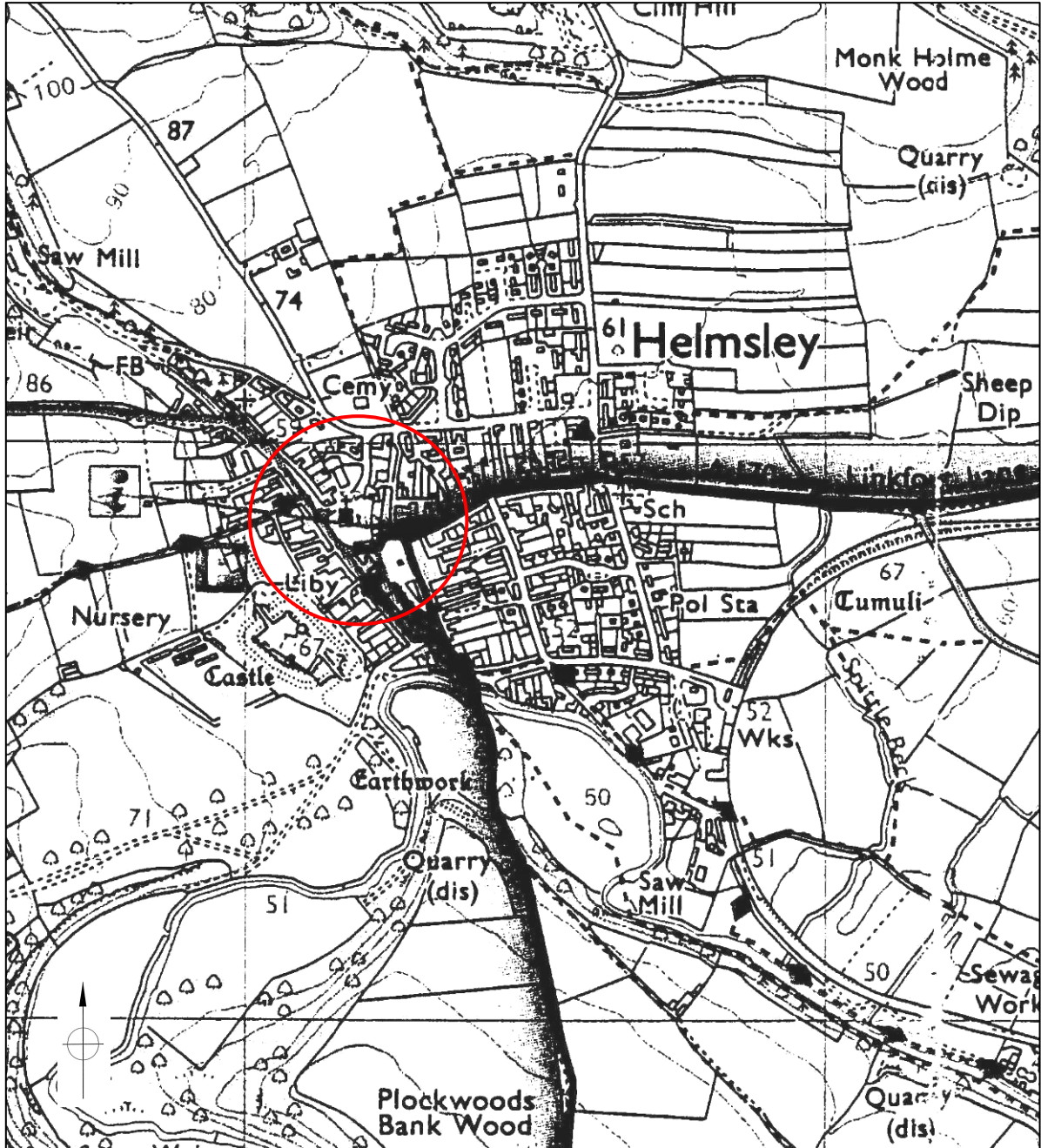
Pace, P 2011 *All Saints Church, Helmsley, North Yorkshire: Specification for Alterations and Improvements*

Pevsner, N 1966 *The Buildings of England: Yorkshire: the North Riding* (2002 edition)

www.imagesofengland.org.uk - English Heritage's 'Images of England' website (accessed 1st December 2012).

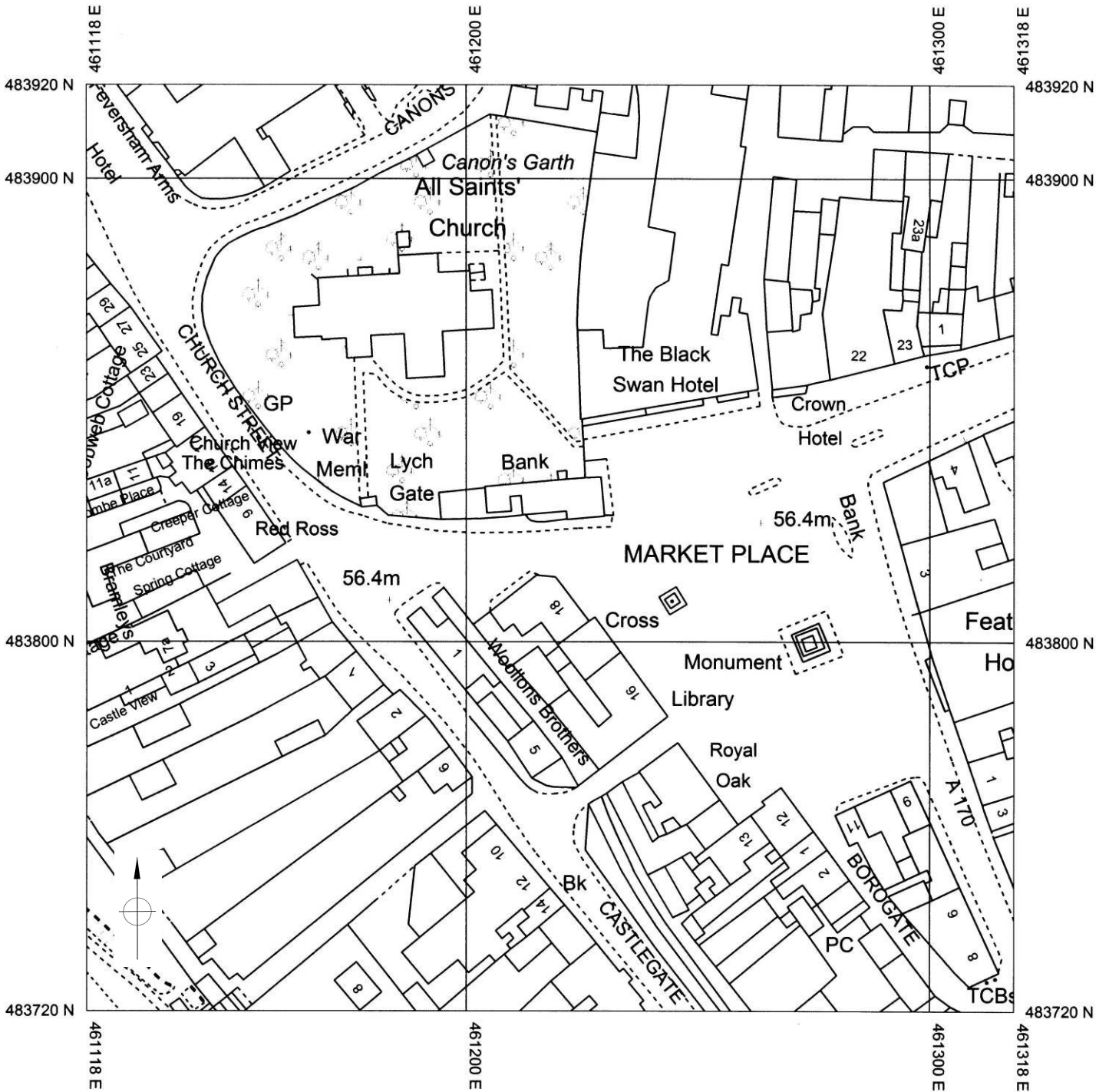
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief was commissioned and funded by All Saints' Church Parochial Church Council, and EDAS would like them, Peter Gaze Pace (church architect), and the two sets of contractors, E-Build (churchyard excavations) and Rising Construction (Market Place excavations) for their help and cooperation in carrying out the archaeological work.
- 8.2 The site recording was undertaken by Katie Keefe of On Site Archaeology on behalf of EDAS, and she produced the fieldwork records. Ed Dennison produced the final report and drawings, and the responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies remains with him.



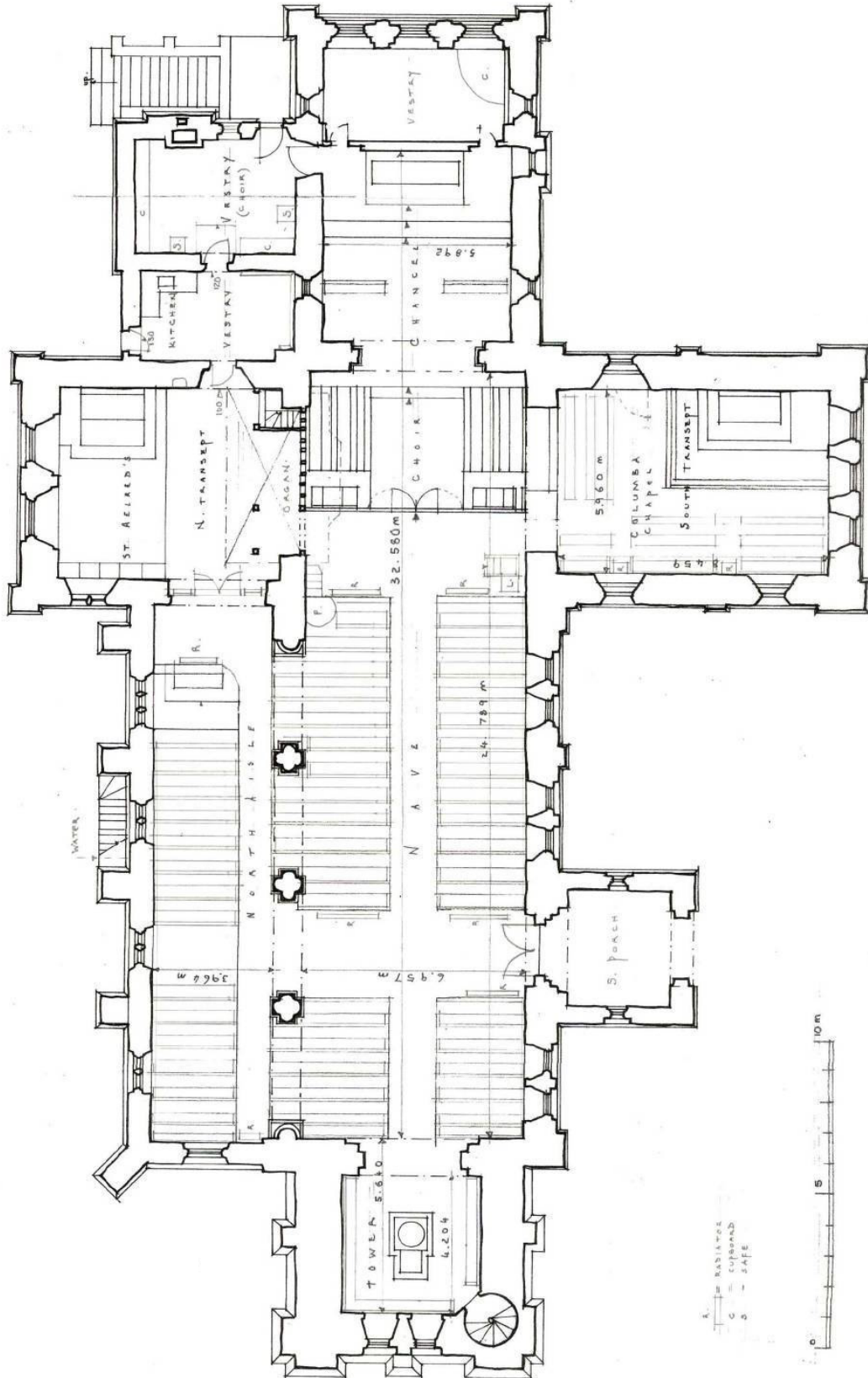
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PROJECT		ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HELMSLEY	
TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	DEC 2012
EDAS		FIGURE	1



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PROJECT		ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HELMSLEY	
TITLE		DETAILED LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	DEC 2012
EDAS		FIGURE	2



Plan provided by Peter Gaze Pace (architect).

PROJECT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HELMSLEY	
TITLE CHURCH PLAN AS EXISTING	
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE DEC 2012
EDAS	FIGURE 3

PROJECT	ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HELMSLEY		
TITLE	WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	DEC 2012
	EDAS	FIGURE	4

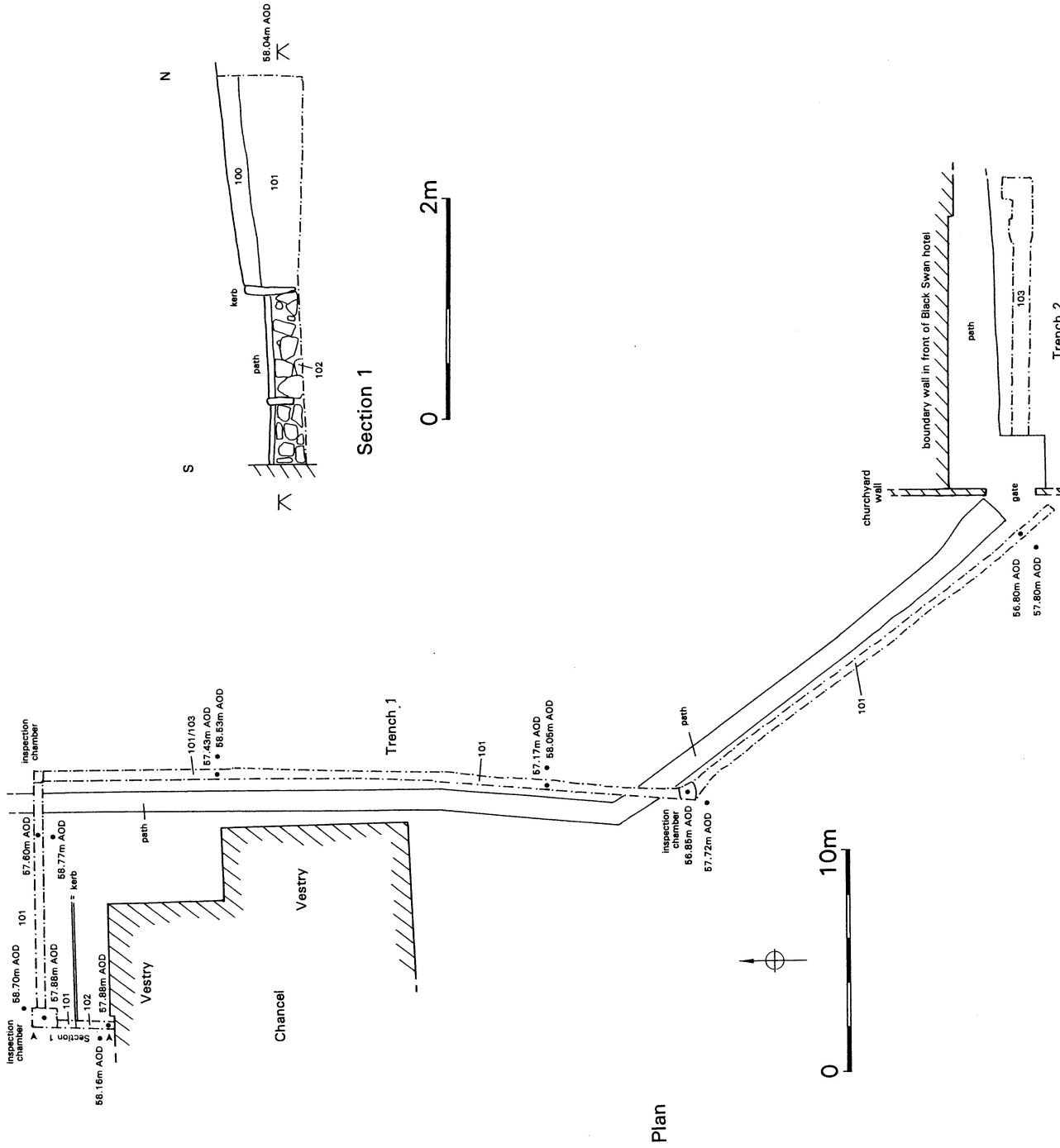




Plate 1: Trench 1 running north from vestry, looking north.



Plate 2: Trench 1 running south on east side of vestry, looking south.



Plate 3: Trench 1 running south on west side of path, looking south.

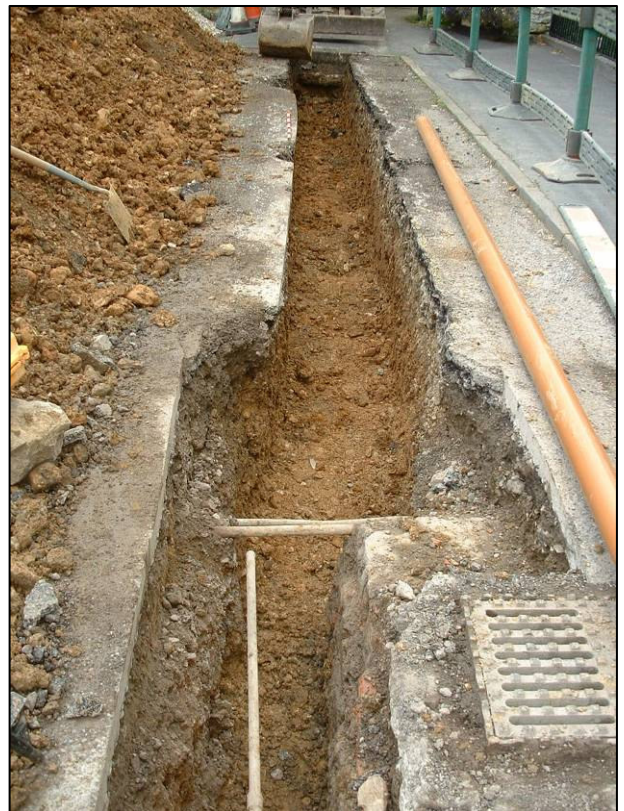


Plate 4: Excavated Trench 2 on north side of Market Place, looking west.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

List of Contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Turf and dark grey-brown topsoil, 0.05m-0.15m thick.
101	Mid orange-brown sandy clayey silt subsoil, up to 1.05m thick.
102	Loose chalk/limestone rubble with occasional brick fragments.
103	Orange-brown alluvial clay, silts and gravel - natural deposit.

APPENDIX 2

FACULTY IN UNOPPOSED PROCEEDINGS

In the Consistory Court

The Diocese of York

Parish of Helmsley

Church of All Saints

**The Worshipful Canon Peter N Collier QC Chancellor of the Diocese and Official
Principal of the Lord Archbishop of York**

To: The Reverend T Robinson, Mr A Rabjohn and Mr M Willshaw churchwardens

A petition presented by you has been submitted to the Registry of this Court together with designs, plans, photographs or other documents, requesting a Faculty authorising the works or other proposals specified in the petition.

And a public notice was duly displayed giving an opportunity to all persons interested to object and give reasons why a Faculty should not be granted and there are no objections under the Rules to the granting of a Faculty.

This Court now grants a Faculty, until further order, authorising you to carry out the works or other proposals in accordance with the designs, plans or other documents accompanying the petition and subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule below.

The works should be completed within **TWELVE MONTHS** from the date below or such further period as this Court may allow and the certificate of completion is to be sent to the Registry within the period allowed.

A copy of this Faculty is to be supplied by you to the architect or surveyor and contractors to be employed in respect of the authorised work before any work is commenced.

This Faculty is duly authenticated by the seal of this Court.

Dated 28 November 2011

L.P.M.L

.....
L P M Lennox
Registrar

SCHEDULE

Description of Works or Purposes and any conditions attached to the Faculty.

At the Church of All Saints, Helmsley (1) to create a new disabled-accessible WC and a flower/utility space within the existing outer north-east vestry, and to re-decorate the area, (2) to introduce new foul drainage across the churchyard to connect with the sewer beyond the northern boundary, together with associated minor works all in accordance with the specification of Peter G Pace, Architect dated September 2011 together with associated drawings numbered 19 - 25 filed in the Registry of the Consistory Court of York SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:-

- A
- (1) Pipes in churchyards are to be laid underground and shall avoid passing across any graves.
 - (2) The position of the hole or entry in the church wall through which the pipes shall pass is to be agreed between the contractor and the church architect.
 - (3) The Petitioners shall mark the churchyard plan to show the line of the pipes laid under the churchyard.
 - (4) The Petitioners shall require the contractors to lay a conspicuous marker above the line of the pipes.
 - (5) If any human remains are disturbed then:
 - (i) they are to be immediately covered with a suitable sheet
 - (ii) the incumbent is to be informed immediately
 - (iii) the remains are to be reinterred as quickly as possible under the direction of the incumbent in a place close to that from which they came.
- B.
- (1) Notice shall be given to an archaeologist within 14 days that s/he is required to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the excavations;
 - (2) The archaeologist shall be notified of the date for commencement of work no less than 3 weeks before the date of the commencement of any excavations on the site;
 - (3) The Petitioners and their contractors shall cooperate with the archaeologist to enable him/her to do his/her work. This will include examination, recording and photographing.
 - (4) Copies of the Archaeologist's final report shall be sent by him/her within 14 days of completion of the report to the following bodies:-
 - (i) The Parochial Church Council (for keeping with the church log book)
 - (ii) The Diocesan Advisory Committee (for its records)
 - (iii) The Diocesan Registry (for placing with the faculty papers)
 - (iv) The local Sites and Monuments Records office (if the address is not known the archaeologist should obtain it from the local authority planning department).
- C.
- The route of the drain through the north of the churchyard to Canons Garth Lane shall be marked on the churchyard plan and recorded in the Terrier/Church Property Register and entered in the Log Book within 28 days of the work being completed.

APPENDIX 3

EXTERNAL DRAINAGE WORKS, ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HELMSLEY, NORTH YORKSHIRE: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) that will be carried out during groundworks associated with external drainage works at All Saints Church, Helmsley, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 61184 83871). This WSI has been produced by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS), at the request of the church architect, Peter Gaze Pace.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESIGNATIONS

- 2.1 All Saint's Church lies on the north side of Helmsley's market place, in the angle of Cannons Garth Lane and Church Street (see figure 1).
- 2.2 The church largely dates to 1866-69, but does incorporate 12th, 13th and 14th century features from an earlier church on same site. It is a Grade II* Listed Building, first listed on 4th January 1955 (List Entry 1149308). The Listed Building description reads:
Church. 1866-9 incorporating C12, C13 and C14 features from earlier church on same site. By Banks and Barry. Sandstone ashlar, stone slate roof. C19 rebuilding in Gothic Revival style. West tower, 4-bay nave, with north aisle, south porch, transepts, 2-bay chancel, vestry to north of chancel. West tower of 3 stages with C13 fabric surviving to second stage within C19 rebuild. C13 paired lancets with headstops to west and north faces at second stage. All other windows 1866-9, paired lancets below and paired round-headed belfry windows. Octagonal corner turrets with pyramidal roofs on plain parapet. Nave in Transitional style. Paired round-headed windows. Corbel table with beakheads and abstract designs. South porch has round arch with roll-mouldings on shafted responds. C12 south door of 4 orders with chevron moulding on scalloped and volute capitals with replaced shafts. North aisle has C19 windows with Reticulated tracery. North transept has C19 west window with Reticulated tracery, and pair of round-headed north windows below a large circular window with 8 roundels around an octagon. Corbel table. South transept has plain round-headed windows to east and west and group of 3 round-headed windows to south. Corbel table. Chancel has round-headed windows with group of 3 stepped lancets to east. Vestry has quatrefoil window to north and large chimney to east. Interior: C13 tower arch of 3 orders with fillets on filleted responds with plain capitals. C13 north arcade of 2 orders on C19 quadripartite shafts with early C13 foliated volute capitals. Respond capitals are C19. North aisle has mural of 1909 designed by C N Gray and executed by Gast. Design of lean-to ceiling painting by Temple Moore. C15 piscina in south wall of aisle. South transept has early C20 mural depicting 'The Mission of St Aidan'. C12 chancel arch of 3 orders with beads, chevrons and beakheads on volute interlace and zigzag capitals. Furnishings: very worn C15 brass to knight and his wife in tower. C10 hogback with coarse interlace in south porch. Pevsner, Yorkshire: the North Riding, 1966. Williams, Rievaulx Abbey and the Helmsley District, n.d. (www.imagesofengland.org.uk).
- 2.3 All Saints Church lies within the Helmsley Conservation Area, designated by North Yorkshire County Council in 1973. A Conservation Area Appraisal document has also been produced by Ryedale District Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority. The Conservation Area contains all 51 of the listed buildings located within the town, which represents c.12% of the building stock, as well as two Scheduled Monuments;

of the listed buildings, 48 are classified as Grade II and three are Grade II* (RDC/NYMNPA nd, 4).

3 DIOCESAN FACULTY

- 3.1 A Diocesan Faculty was granted for this development on 28th November 2011. One of the conditions (B) relates to archaeology, and states that:
- (1) Notice shall be given to an archaeologist within 14 days that s/he is required to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the excavations;
 - (2) The archaeologist shall be notified of the date for commencement of work no less than 3 weeks before the date of any commencement of any excavations on the site;
 - (3) The Petitioners and their contractors shall cooperate with the archaeologist to enable him/her to do his/her work. This will include examination, recording and photographing.
 - (4) Copies of the Archaeologist's final report shall be sent by him/her within 14 days of completion of the report to the following bodies:-
 - (i) the Parochial Church Council (for keeping with the church log book)
 - (ii) the Diocesan Advisory Committee (for its records)
 - (iii) The Diocesan Registry (for placing with the faculty papers)
 - (iv) The local Sites and Monuments Records office (if the address is not know, the archaeologist should obtain it from the local planning department).
- 3.2 One of the other conditions (A) of the faculty is also relevant to the archaeological works:
- (1) Pipes in churchyards are to be laid underground and shall avoid passing across any graves;
 - (2) The position of the hole or entry in the church wall through which the pipes shall pass is to be agreed between the contractor and the church architect;
 - (3) The Petitioners shall mark the churchyard plan to show the lines of the pipes laid under the churchyard;
 - (4) The Petitioners shall require the contractors to lay a conspicuous marker above the line of the pipes;
 - (5) If any human remains are disturbed then:
 - (i) they are to be immediately covered with a suitable sheet
 - (ii) the incumbent is to be informed immediately
 - (iii) the remains are to be reinterred as quickly as possible under the direction of the incumbent in a place close to that from which they came.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

The Context: the Origins and Development of Helmsley

- 4.1 Helmsley is likely to have been an important crossroads since early times and archaeological evidence suggests that there was human habitation in the vicinity of Helmsley dating to the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. However, the main origins of the settlement date to the medieval period, and by the 10th century a church and burial ground had been constructed (English Heritage 2004). The position of the settlement at the confluence of Borough Beck and the River Rye, the latter of which could be crossed at this point, played an integral part in the development of Helmsley as a market town. Although the first recorded market held in the present Market Place was in 1467, markets were probably held on the site from the 12th century onwards. By the Norman Conquest a cluster of large properties, which still form a distinctive element in the street plan, had been established around the church, mostly along the west end of Bondgate.
- 4.2 Following the Norman Conquest, Helmsley's significance was underlined by the construction of a castle on a knoll to the south of the church. This allowed both the 'town' and the river crossing to be controlled. The original construction date for the castle is uncertain, but in 1120 the manor was granted to Walter Espec who either established or rebuilt the castle. It was then extensively remodelled after 1190 and through the 13th and early 14th centuries.

- 4.3 The presence of the castle, forming the seat of the local lord, had a significant impact on the development of the town. In about 1190 Robert 'Fursan' de Roos created a 'borough', a planned block of long narrow urban properties, still forming the east of Market Street and Bridge Street; the east and south ends of this block are represented by Pottergate and Ryegate (English Heritage 2004). This development was accompanied by the construction of corn mills by the Rye and the east tower of the castle. When Castlegate and Church Street were laid out some 150 years later, the tower was raised still further, to emphasise the lord's symbolic 'presence' over the townspeople. The only known house surviving from this time is Canon's Garth, located to the north-east of the church, together with a fragment inside the Old Manor House on Castlegate.
- 4.4 Later growth saw the development of new areas (Bondgate, High Street and Ryegate) and intensification and infill of previously under-developed sites. The main market place remained the focus of lordly authority, however, as evidenced by the construction of an imposing building, now Rectory House, for the agents of the Earls of Rutland in the 16th century. By the beginning of the 17th century the overall form of Helmsley was largely complete, and the majority of buildings which exist today date from this period or slightly later; many were single-storey longhouses with timber walls and thatched roofs.
- 4.5 By the early 18th century, linen weaving had become established as the town's predominant cottage industry despite its reliance on imported flax. The weavers were located on Bondgate and Bridge Street with some associated properties bordering the Beck. There were also some tanneries on Ryegate. However, the growth of machine driven looms in the West Riding eventually destroyed Helmsley's weaving industry and the weekly Saturday market also declined.
- 4.6 Nevertheless, agriculture continued to play an important role in supporting the town's economy, by the late 18th century the town was dominated by small farmers. However, the process of land enclosure and the emergence of larger-scale landowners forced a many small farmers to cease working their own land. By the early 19th century, all the land around the town was enclosed with only two common pastures remaining. Although some infill development occurred within the town, little substantial building work took place until the mid 19th century when the town enjoyed an economic revival, strengthened by the arrival of the railway in 1871.

All Saints's Church

- 4.7 As has been noted above, the church and graveyard at Helmsley probably dates from the 10th century. A church and priest are mentioned in the 11th century Domesday Book, and a dedication to All Saints is a characteristic of Saxon churches (McDonnell 1963, 90-92). A Norman church of c.1140-50 was remodelled in the 15th century and subsequently heavily restored and rebuilt during the 19th century. The north aisle was rebuilt in 1849, and then in 1868 the remainder of the church was mostly rebuilt and entirely re-cast by Charles Barry of Banks and Barry. Two pictures, formerly on the south wall of the ground stage of the tower, clearly indicates the exterior of the church before the 1868 restoration. There are also pictures in the vestry and elsewhere which indicate the interesting building with many local characteristics which today would have been restored rather than rebuilt. A fourth restoration is suggested in 1884 by S Naylor of Derby. In the early party of the 20th century there were many introductions of good quality work, particularly furnishings by Temple Moore and Leslie Moore.
- 4.8 The church is described by Pevsner (1966,), as follows:
ALL SAINTS. 1866-9 by Banks & Barry. Ashlar, big and self-confident, in the C13th style. Re-used S doorway, Norman, of four orders with scalloped capitals. The arches all with zigzag. C13th the lower parts of the W Tower with twin lancets as (former) bell-openings and the N aisle masonry. As one enters, one sees at once a good deal more of the preceding church. The tripartite chancel arch is Norman. It has volute capitals and capitals with stylised scrolls. In the arch a chain of beads and zigzag. The hood-mould with beakheads. The tripartite tower arch is of C1200, heightened later, but apparently before the C19th. The simplest capitals; fillets on the shafts. The N arcade has quatrefoil early C13th piers, mostly not C13th but C19th. But the flat capitals with leafy, crocketty volutes

are original. In the N aisle a pretty little Perp PISCINA with canopy. The aisle roof charmingly painted to Temple Moore's design (1909). - He also did the HIGH ALTAR and the Reredos. FONT COVER by G G Pace, (1952). Tall thin columns and above them very tall canopy of thin buttress shafts. CHANDELIER. A Fine Baroque two-tiered piece in the nave. PLATE. Cup by Sem Casson, York, 1636; Cover by John Thompson, York, 1638; Set by Gabriel Sleath, London, 1724. Flagon by I.C, London, 1724. MONUMENTS. Hogback tombstone with coarse interlace; C10th. Brass to a Knight, late C15th, and his wife. The figures 291ns long and very rubbed off.

- 4.11 The present church consists of a west tower, nave, south porch, south aisle, south transept, north transept with organ in the southern part, chancel with sacristy behind the high altar, choir vestry (with kitchenette) and priest's vestry on the north side of the chancel, a heating chamber under the north aisle, a crypt under the eastern portion of the chancel, a lychgate and two detached outbuildings in the north churchyard (see figure 2).

5 NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 Full details of the proposed drainage and other works are contained within a specification of works produced by the church architect, Peter Pace (Pace 2010). Figure 3 shows the broad details, although the archaeological watching brief will only apply to the external below-ground excavations.
- 5.2 The main part of the external drainage works will involve the construction of a new foul water drain within an excavated trench 60m long by 0.35m wide and c.0.6m deep. This will run north from the north side of the vestry, into an inspection chamber. The trench will then run east to an existing path and then south and south-east along the east side of the path to the churchyard entrance adjacent to the Black Swan Hotel, in the north-west corner of the market place.
- 5.3 A second trench for waste water will be dug west from the west side of the north aisle. This trench will be 0.6m deep and 0.35m wide, and will extend for a distance of c.10m to reach a new soakaway pit, the excavation for which will measure 1sqm by 1m deep. Finally, a smaller width water trench, 0.6m deep, will be dug around the north-east corner of the north aisle, to connect to an existing supply adjacent to the boiler house.

6 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

Aims of the Project

- 6.1 The aim of the archaeological recording is 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 proposed development.

On-site Fieldwork

- 6.2 The scale and scope of the archaeological fieldwork will be determined by this Written Scheme of Investigation. Additional guidance is published by the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists (ADCA 2004), English Heritage and the Church of England (EH/CoE 2005), and the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 1999).
- 6.3 The drainage trenches, inspection chambers and soakaway pits excavated for the scheme will be subject to direct archaeological monitoring as they are being dug, so that any archaeological deposits that might be uncovered can be immediately identified and recorded. If mechanical excavators are used, these should be fitted with toothless buckets.
- 6.4 If it becomes clear during the monitoring work that little of archaeological interest is likely to survive in specific areas, the recording work may be halted in that part of the site. However, if structures, features or finds of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed, time will be allowed for the archaeologist to clean, assess, and quickly hand excavate, sample and record the archaeological remains, as necessary and appropriate

according to the nature of the remains, to allow the archaeological material to be sufficiently characterised. Excavators will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until those remains have been recorded, and the archaeologist has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

- 6.5 A full written, drawn and photographic record of all material revealed during the course of the investigations will be made. General site plans showing areas of ground disturbance will be produced at 1:100 scale, as well as larger scale hand-drawn plans of archaeological features at 1:50 or 1:20 scale, as appropriate. Trench sections, and sections of linear and discrete features, will be drawn at 1:10 scale. All sections, plans and elevations will include spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres as correct to two decimal places.
- 6.6 Small finds will be recorded three dimensionally. Bulk finds will be collected by context. All non-modern artefacts recovered will be retained and removed from the site for processing and analysis. Non-modern artefacts will be collected from the excavated topsoil and subsoil, where practicable. Finds material will be stored in controlled environments. All artefacts recovered by the investigations will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines laid out in the IFA Guidelines for Finds Work. Conservation, if required, will be undertaken by approved conservators and UKIC guidelines will apply (UKIC 1990).
- 6.7 All excavated archaeological contexts will be recorded by detailed written records giving details of location, composition, shape, dimensions, relationships, finds, samples, and cross-references to other elements of the record and other relevant contexts, in accordance with best industry practice and in accordance with current recording guidelines. All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them, will be given unique identifying numbers. A full digital photographic record will be kept.
- 6.8 The scale and nature of the proposed investigations suggest that a soil-sampling programme for the recovery of carbonised and waterlogged remains, vertebrate remains, molluscs and small artefactual material will not be necessary for this project. However, such a programme will be initiated should the need be identified.
- 6.9 The archaeological contractor will also make provision for the recovery of samples suitable for scientific dating, as necessary. Any finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to H M Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act.
- 6.10 If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries are made that warrant more recording than is covered by this WSI, immediate contact will be made with the client and church architect. This will allow appropriate amendments to be made to the scope of the recording work, in agreement with all parties concerned; these amendments might, for example, include the requirement to sample archaeological and/or environmental deposits, and/or detailed excavation of specific structures. The possibility of temporarily halting work for unexpected discoveries will be discussed with the developer in advance of the development, and sufficient time and resources will be made available to ensure that proper recording is made prior to any removal.
- 6.11 If articulated human remains are encountered during the course of the groundworks, they will be screened from view and recorded. If the remains are likely to be disturbed by the works, the remains will be carefully excavated, lifted, bagged (individual burials kept separate) and removed for safe storage until such time as reburial can be arranged by the church authorities in an alternative location within the churchyard (see conditions of faculty above). In accordance with current advice (EH/CoE 2005, 23), articulated burials should not be 'chased' beyond the limits of the excavation. Small disarticulated and/or disturbed bones will be re-interred as soon as possible in a place near to where they were exposed. All human remains that are uncovered will be treated with due dignity.
- 6.12 The terms of the Treasure Act (1996) will be followed with regard to any finds which might fall within its purview. Any such finds will be removed to a safe place, and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where

removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will also be discussed and agreed with the developer in advance of the project commencing.

Reporting

Project archive

- 6.13 On completion of the archaeological fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and any finds will be cleaned, identified, assessed, spot dated, marked (if appropriate) and properly packaged and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. The level of post-excavation analysis will be appropriate to the quality and quantity of the finds recovered, and specialists would be consulted as necessary.
- 6.14 A fully indexed and ordered field archive will be prepared, in accordance with published guidance (e.g. MGC 1994) and the requirements of the recipient museum. The archive will comprise primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive. With the exception of human remains and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act) (see above), all finds are the property of the landowner. However, it is generally expected that the finds will also be deposited with the site archive. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will be agreed in advance of the project commencing, and this will include contingency arrangements for artefacts of special significance. Any recording, marking and storage materials will be of archival quality, and recording systems will be compatible with the recipient museum.
- 6.15 Subject to the agreement of the church authorities, the site archive will be deposited with any finds with an appropriately registered museum. A copy of the Archive Index and the name of the recipient museum will also be sent to the North York Moors National Park HER.

Reporting

- 6.16 All of the artefacts, ecofacts and stratigraphic information recovered from the site investigations will be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis. If necessary, a post-excavation assessment will be undertaken, which will conform to the requirements defined by English Heritage (1991); if further post-excavation work is recommended, an outline research design will be prepared and costed.
- 6.17 Within ten weeks of the completion of the site work, a report on the site investigations will be produced. This report will include the following (as appropriate):
- A non-technical summary;
 - Site code/project number;
 - Planning reference number and SMR casework number;
 - Dates for fieldwork visits;
 - National grid reference;
 - A location plan, with scale;
 - A copy of the developer's plan showing the areas monitored;
 - Sections and plan drawings with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and horizontal scales;
 - General site photographs, as well as photographs of any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts that are encountered;
 - A written description and analysis of the methods and results of the archaeological investigations, in the context of the known archaeology of the area;
 - Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary.
- 6.18 Four copies of the final report will be supplied, for distribution to the PCC (client), the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the Diocesan Registry and the North York Moors National Park. A copy of the final report will also be included within the site archive.

Other Considerations

Health and Safety

- 6.19 The archaeological contractor will comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 while undertaking the work. A full copy of their Health and Safety Policy will be made available on request. All archaeological work on site will be carried out with due regard for all Health and Safety considerations, and Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters. Due regard will be made for any constraints or restrictions imposed by the Main Contractor.
- 6.20 The archaeologists undertaking the investigations will be equipped with a mobile phone that will be switched on at all times during fieldwork operations to enable contact to be made between the site and other interested bodies.
- 6.21 If required, a Risk Assessment detailing project-specific Health and Safety requirements will be produced prior to the start of any site work. This will take into account the location of the nearest Accident and Emergency Unit Department to the site, take precautionary measures for overhead and below-ground services, dangers to/from the public and the identification of potential dangers and risks to the archaeologists and approved visitors to the site during fieldwork and when the site is not in operation (e.g. evenings and weekends).

Insurance

- 6.22 The site is privately owned and the archaeological contractor would indemnify the landowner in respect of their legal liability for physical injury to persons or damage to property arising on site in connection with the recording brief, to the extent of their Public Liability Insurance Cover (expected to be £5,000,000).

7 REFERENCES

ADCA (Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists) 2004 *Guidance Note 1: Archaeological Requirements for Works on Churches and Churchyards*

EH/CoE (English Heritage/Church of England) 2005 *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England*

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*

English Heritage 2004 *Helmsley - the Story of a Town* (leaflet)

IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (and subsequent revisions)

McDonnell, J 1963 *A History of Helmsley, Rievaulx and District*

MGC (Museum and Galleries Commission) 1994 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*

Pace, P 2011 *All Saints Church, Helmsley, North Yorkshire: Specification for Alterations and Improvements*

RDC/NYMNPA nd *Helmsley Conservation Area Appraisal*

UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1990) 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage*

Ed Dennison, EDAS
March 2012



FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION
(not to scale)

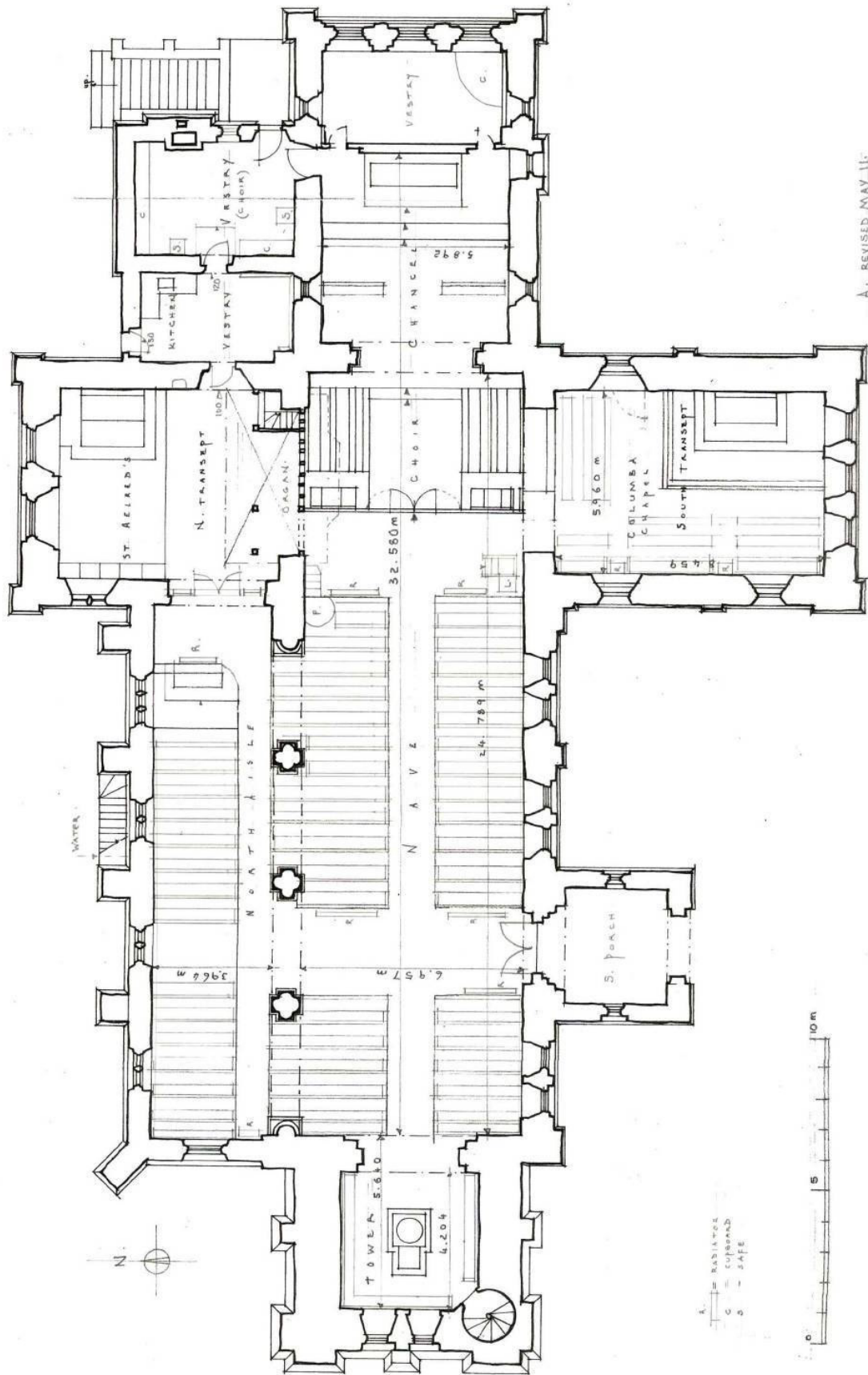


FIGURE 2: GROUND PLAN OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH
 (courtesy Peter Pace Architects)

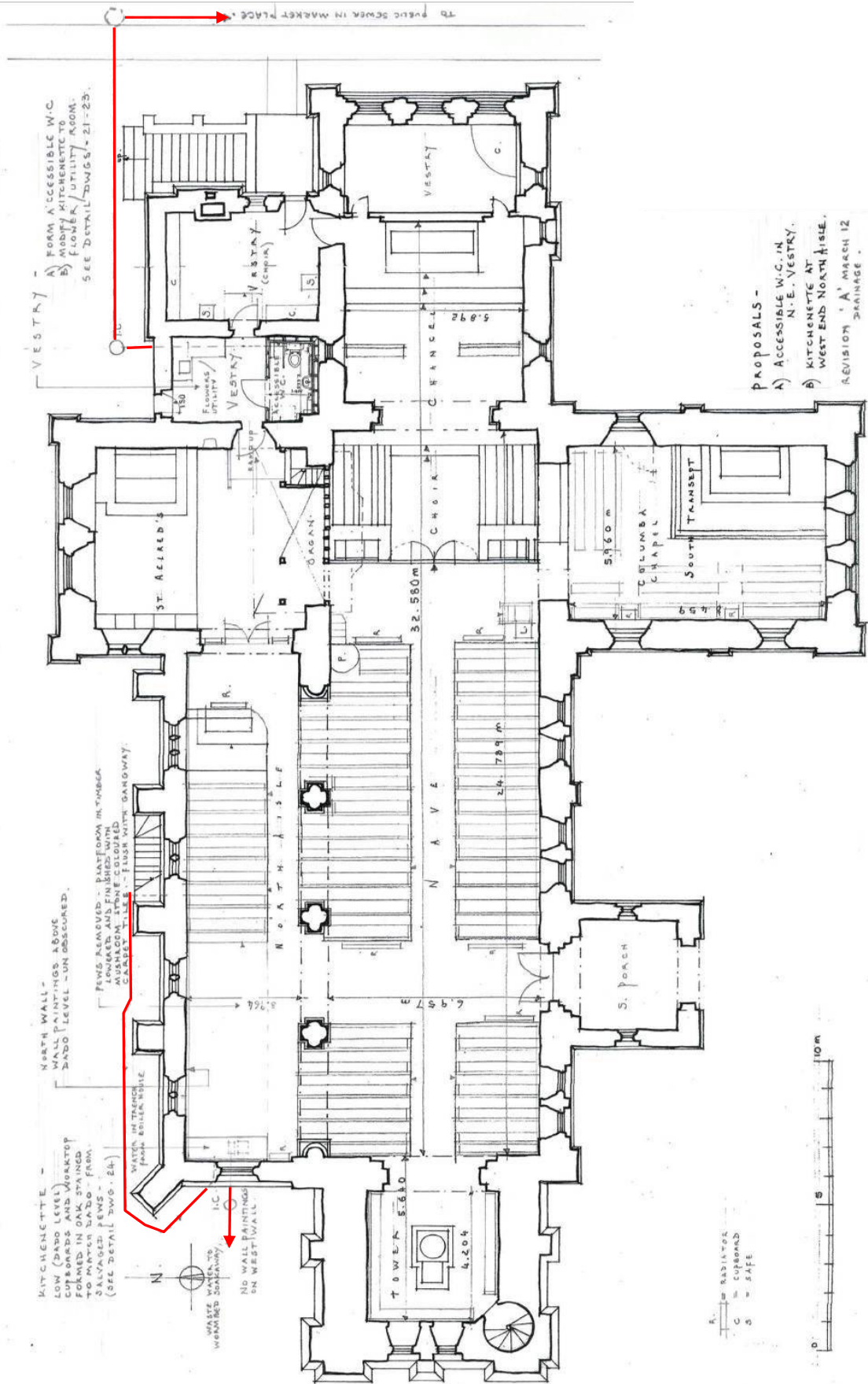


FIGURE 3: PROPOSED DRAINAGE WORKS (courtesy Peter Pace Architects)