

ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, DRAX, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

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Author: Ed Dennison & Kate Dennett

Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd 18 Springdale Way Beverley

East Yorkshire **HU17 8NU**

On behalf of

St Peter & St Paul PCC c/o "The Rowans" Castle Hill Lane Drax, Selby North Yorkshire YO8 8NP

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF), ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, DRAX, NORTH YORKSHIRE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological observation and recording (a watching brief) was undertaken by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS), on behalf of the Vicar and Parochial Church Council, in March 2004 during groundworks within the churchyard at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Drax, North Yorkshire (NGR SE67592638). These groundworks were associated with the provision of upgraded kitchen facilities and a new WC in the west tower of the church, and a trench was excavated through the western part of the churchyard for a new foul drainage system.

The archaeological recording work was made a condition of a Faculty issued by the Diocese of York on 2nd October 2003.

The watching brief did not reveal any significant archaeological information. Only a small amount of disarticulated human bone was disturbed by the groundworks in the churchyard, and these were returned to the drainage trench.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2004, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by John Hunter, on behalf of the Vicar and Parochial Church Council, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks carried out within the churchyard at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Drax, North Yorkshire (NGR SE67592638). The groundworks were associated with the provision of upgraded kitchen facilities and a new WC in the west tower of the church, and a trench was excavated through the western part of the churchyard for a new foul drainage system.
- 1.2 The archaeological recording work, which was made a condition of a Faculty issued by the Diocese of York on 2nd October 2003, was defined by a methods statement produced by EDAS (see Appendix 3).

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 St Peter and St Paul's Church lies in the village of Drax, some 7km to the north-west of Goole, in North Yorkshire. The church lies on the north side of the main street, at NGR SE67592638, at a height of *c*.6m AOD (see figure 1). The natural soils are of sand, the site lying within the drift deposits of the Vale of York, overlying red sandstone with some beds of siltstone and mudstone (Institute of Geological Sciences 1983).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The church is a complex structure with 12th century origins, and is listed as being of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, Grade I; a copy of the Listed Building description appears as Appendix 2. The church is also recorded by Pevsner (1979, 186-187) and alterations were carried out to the church from 1706, including C Hodgson Fowler's restoration works in 1896 (Evans 1995, 25).
- 3.2 In brief, the church comprises an unbuttressed 3-stage west tower, a 4-bay aisled and clerestoried nave, a south porch, and a 5-bay chancel with a north chapel. It is built of magnesian limestone ashlar with roofs of lead and slate. The 12th century north aisle was widened and rebuilt in the 14th century, and the clerestory has an arcade of eight perpendicular windows of 3-stepped lights under a continuous hoodmould. The south aisle is of 14th century date. There is a fragment of a 12th century sculpture incorporated into the 14th century masonry of the north aisle wall, and a 13th century foliate cross in the chancel wall. The internal fittings include a set of early 16th century bench ends and there are the remains of wall paintings on the north wall of the nave.
- 3.3 A detailed account of the church and the adjacent priory was produced by John Hunter, the churchwarden, in 1988; the church was unrelated to the Augustinian Priory at Drax, which was founded before 1140. A watching brief was also carried out in February 2000 on the north side of the church during the renewal of rainwater goods. This work uncovered five *in situ* but disturbed burials and a portion of a burial vault in a 1.4m deep soakaway pit located 5.5m to the north of the church; the burials were dated from the early 18th century to the early 19th century (Tomson & Ferguson 2000).

4 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The scope of the watching brief was defined by a methods statement prepared by EDAS (see Appendix 3). This statement takes account of general guidance produced by the local archaeological curators, the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council, the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists (ADCA 2004), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999), in relation to watching briefs. The methods statement was approved by the church architect in advance of the watching brief.
- 4.2 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks associated with the installation of the foul drainage system, and to record and recover any information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed by the works. Care had been taken by the church architect to avoid known graves within the churchyard, but it was possible that other, unmarked, graves would be disturbed by the excavations.
- 4.3 The new drainage trench was dug by hand for a distance of *c*.10m westwards across the churchyard, from the west side of the west tower to the churchyard boundary wall. This work was continuously monitored by the archaeologist. The trench measured 0.30m wide and 0.55m deep near the tower, increasing to 0.45m wide and 0.75m deep at the boundary wall due to a mass of tree roots here. The trench passed beneath but did not disturb a stone kerb and two service pipes to the west of the tower wall, but several bricks were removed from the base of the churchyard wall. The trench then turned south along an unclassified lane for a distance of *c*.15m, to connect with an existing manhole; this part of the trench had already been dug and was only briefly inspected by the archaeologist. The channel to carry the drainage pipe through the west wall of the tower had also been completed and reinstated before the archaeologist was in attendance.
- 4.4 The on-site recording took place on 1st March 2004. Each discrete stratigraphic entity (eg. a cut, fill, or layer) was assigned an individual context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of 11 archaeological contexts were recorded, and these are described in the following text as three digit numbers (e.g. 005) (see also Appendix 1). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of the excavations were marked on a general site plan at 1:200 scale, and appropriate sections were drawn at 1:10 scale. A photographic record was also maintained using 35mm colour transparencies.
- 4.5 In accordance with the methods statement (see Appendix 3), and with the agreement of the church authorities, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum (site code SPD 04, accession number 2006/15).

5 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS (see figures 2 and 3)

5.1 The cementing of the drainage pipe and the re-consolidation of the west tower wall (003) obscured any information which may have been gained relating to the tower's foundations. Some undressed limestone pieces, which had been removed from the inner part of the wall, were noted. It could be seen from the trench that the vertical face of the wall below the chamfered limestone plinth, positioned level with the turf at the base of the tower, extended to a depth of 0.11m. Below this repacked stone and concrete had been inserted around the new drain pipe and vent pipe (see Section 1). The weathered stone kerb (009) located 1.2m from the west side of the

tower was seen to be c.0.2m wide and 0.3m deep but this was not disturbed by the excavations.

- 5.2 Through the main part of the churchyard, the topsoil (001) was less than 0.46m thick and was a firm brown loam containing limestone fragments and gravel. Below this was an unknown depth of firm grey/brown sandy loam subsoil (002). No articulated burials were encountered or disturbed by the trench within the churchyard. However, seven separate, worn, residual fragments of human bone (1x tibia, 4 x femur, 1 x rib, 1 x skull) from at least three individuals were found within the loamy topsoil (001) and the sandy subsoil (002). Several post-medieval glazed pottery sherds and fragments of plain ceramic tile were also found in these two contexts, but they were largely of 18th, 19th and 20th century date. The human bone and other artefacts were returned to the trench.
- 5.3 At least eight courses of bricks (measuring 0.23m by 0.08m) were visible in the stone-capped boundary wall (004) of the churchyard where it was disturbed by the trench. The wall formed a revetment to the churchyard on its east side and there was some tree root disturbance to the topsoil (001) next to the wall. Adjacent to the wall, at a depth of 0.17m beneath the turf, a thin deposit of brick rubble and mortar (010) was visible in the south side of the trench, sloping down towards the wall (see Section 2); this material was probably associated with the building of, or an earlier repair to, the wall. Below this was a layer of slightly sandy brown loam (011), which merged into the subsoil (002).
- 5.4 The continuation of the drainage trench, cut to a depth of 0.56m from the existing ground surface, along the unclassified lane beyond the churchyard wall was only briefly examined. A deposit of dark brown loam topsoil (005), containing a higher percentage of organic material, was visible immediately to the west of the churchyard wall. A discontinuous horizon of ash and cinders (006), 0.08m thick, was visible c.0.15m from the ground surface in some areas of this part of the trench, which may have been part of a laid surface. Below this was 0.2m thick layer of yellow-brown sand (007), which in turn lay on top of the natural orange-brown sand (008); this latter material appeared to be present at a depth of 0.43m below the existing ground surface.
- 5.5 Part of a pig's mandible, some modern gate bolts, a possible coffin handle and several sherds of pottery were recovered from the spoil of this part of the trench. The pottery appeared to be earlier than that from within the churchyard and included a sherd of a heavy, flat-rimmed, strap-handled, splash-glazed medieval vessel and two heavily abraided sherds from wide mouthed, flat rimmed, flared shouldered vessels, one with ochre coloured splash-glazing. None of these finds were retained.

6 REFERENCES

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

Evans, P 1995 Church Fabric in the York Diocese 1613-1899: The Records of the Archbishop's Faculty Jurisdiction (Borthwick Texts and Calendars, no 19)

Institute of Geological Sciences 1983 Geological Survey Sheet 53

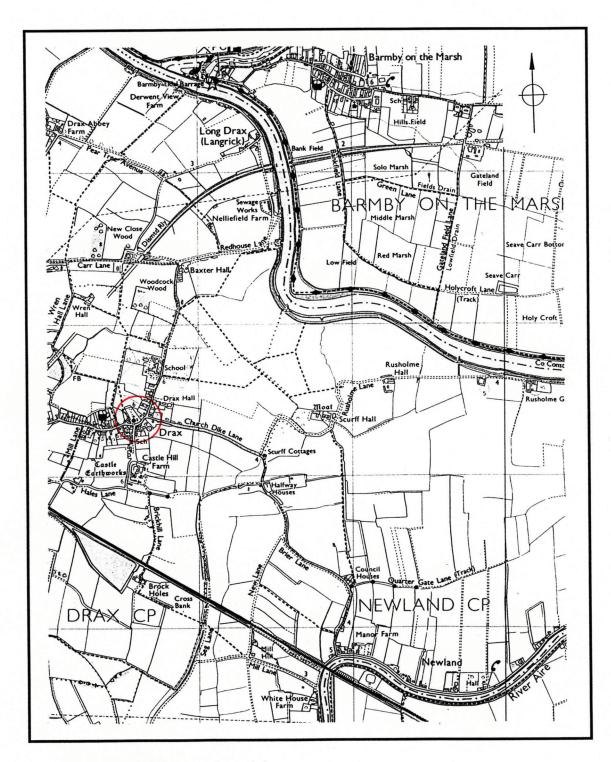
Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999 Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (and subsequent revisions)

Tomson, S J N & Ferguson, D 2000 *Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, Drax* (unpublished Wood Hall Archaeological Trust Ltd report)

Pevsner, N 1979 Buildings of England: Yorkshire West Riding (2nd edition)

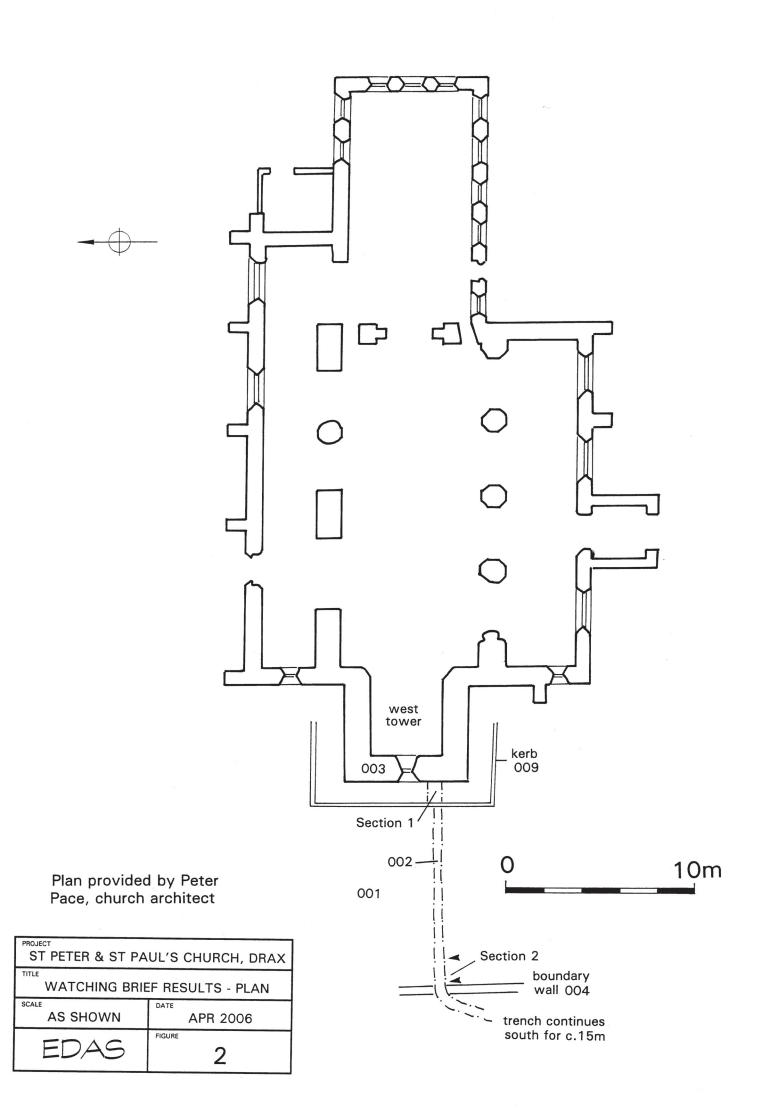
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

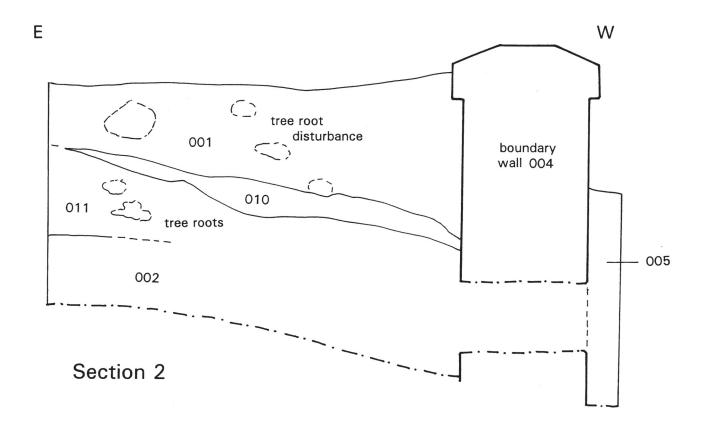
- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief at St Peter and St Paul's Church was commissioned by John Hunter, on behalf of the Vicar and Parochial Church Council. EDAS would like to thank John Hunter and the church architect Peter Pace for their co-operation in carrying out the archaeological watching brief.
- 7.2 The watching brief was carried out by Kate Dennett, on behalf of EDAS, and she produced a draft archive and took the site photographs. The final report and other drawings were produced by Ed Dennison, who retains responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies.

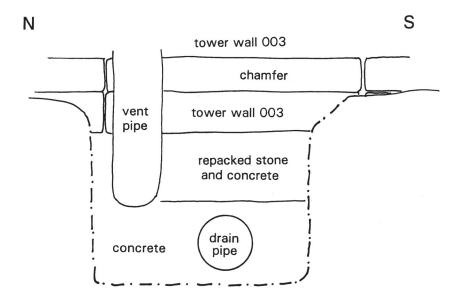


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ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, DRA TITLE GENERAL LOCATION		
EDAS	FIGURE 1	







Section 1



PROJECT	UL'S CHURCH, DRAX
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WATCHING BRIEF	RESULTS - SECTIONS
AS SHOWN	APR 2006
EDAS	FIGURE 3

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

001 002	Topsoil / turf – slightly sandy firm brown loam with some stone and gravel. Subsoil – firm grey/brown sandy loam with charcoal and occasional stones.
003	West wall of church tower.
004	Churchyard boundary wall – brick with stone capping.
005	Turf / top soil beyond churchyard boundary wall.
006	Discontinuous layer of cinders and ash beyond churchyard wall.
007	Similar to 002 – yellow/brown sandy subsoil.
800	Natural moist orange/brown sand.
009	Kerb around church tower.
010	Brick rubble and mortar near churchyard boundary wall.
011	Sandy brown loam – former land surface?

Appendix 1 page 1 c:\edas\drax.229\append1

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Location: DRAX, SELBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

IoE number : 326465 Date listed : 17 NOV 1986

Date of last amendment: 17 NOV 1986

SE62NE MAIN STREET (north side)

6/15 Church of All Saints

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Church. C12 with C13, C14, C15, C16 and C19 additions and alterations including work of c.1230 for Letticia, Baroness of Drax. Magnesian limestone ashlar with slate and lead roof. 3-stage west tower; 4-bay clerestoried nave with aisles and south porch; 5-bay chancel with north chapel. Tower: quoins. To west side, first stage are 2 lancet windows. First-stage band. Trefoiled openings, now blocked to second stage. Second-stage band. Twin-light bell openings with trefoil heads to third stage. Corbel table. Gargoyles to angles. Octagonal spire. South porch has pointed arched opening with rollmoulded hood and contains 7 reset corbel heads. C18 pointed double plank doors with opening with roll-moulded hood on foliate capitals and with chamfered jambs. Nave, south aisle: buttresses; 3light, straight-headed windows under hoodmoulds and with decoration to spandrels, continuous sill band. C12 north aisle widened and rebuilt in C14 with chapel. Buttresses with offsets. Entrance a plank door within chamfered, ogeed surround. 3-light windows have reticulated tracery to heads within straight-headed, double-chamfered surrounds. Clerestorey has arcade of 8 Perpendicular windows of 3-stepped lights under continuous hoodmould. Gargoyles. Enriched battlements. Chancel: plank priest's door with strapwork hinges within chamfered shouldered surround under cavetto-moulded which forms part of continuous sill band. Lancets within chamfered surrounds and under hoods throughout, 3 to east end with oculus to gable. Ashlar coping. Cross at apex. Interior. Double-chamfered, round tower arch on plain imposts. Nave has C12 3-bay round-arched arcade to north side with chevron moulding and C14 fleurons, one cylindrical pier with waterleaf capital, otherwise mainly plain imposts, the easternmost has slender shafts with waterleaf capitals to angles. C14 4-bay south arcade has double-chamfered, pointed arches on octagonal piers, 2 piers are buttressed. Figures of saints support brattished shafts between clerestorey windows. Doublechamfered round chancel arch with plain imposts. Cavetto-moulded, double-chamfered arch to north chapel with stiff leaf capitals. Fragment of C12 sculpture incorporated into C14 north aisle wall and C13 foliate cross in chancel wall. C12 tub font. Piscina. Several C18 memorial slabs and tablets. Late C17 alter rail. Set of carved bench ends c.1535-50. Remains of wall painting to north wall of nave. N Pevsner N, Yorkshire: The West Riding, 1979, pp 186-7.

Source: Images of England website (www.imagesofengland.org.uk)

APPENDIX 3: EDAS METHODS STATEMENT

PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF), ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, DRAX, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A Church Faculty was issued on 2 October 2003 for the installation of a new toilet facility and the refurbishment of an existing kitchen area at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Drax, North Yorkshire. As part of this work, it was stipulated that an archaeologist should be engaged to monitor all below-ground works, so that any archaeological finds could be recorded and reported upon. This work can be accommodated by a programme of archaeological observation and recording, also known as a watching brief.
- 1.2 Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) have been appointed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to undertake the watching brief, and this methods statement has been prepared by Ed Dennison of EDAS to outline what work will be carried out.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 St Peter and St Paul's church lies in village of Drax, some 7km to the north-west of Goole, in North Yorkshire. The church lies on the north side of main street, at NGR SE67592638.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The church is a complex structure with 12th century origins, and is listed as being of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, Grade I.
- 3.2 In brief, the church comprises an unbuttressed 3-stage west tower, a 4-bay aisled and clerestoried nave, a south porch, and a 5-bay chancel with a north chapel. It is built of magnesian limestone ashlar with roofs of lead and slate. The 12th century north aisle was widened and rebuilt in the 14th century, and the clerestory has an arcade of eight perpendicular windows of 3-stepped lights under a continuous hoodmould. The south aisle is of 14th century date. There is a fragment of a 12th century sculpture incorporated into the 14th century masonry of the north aisle wall, and a 13th century foliate cross in the chancel wall. The internal fittings include a set of early 16th century bench ends and there are remains of wall paintings on the north wall of the nave.
- 3.3 A detailed account of the church and the adjacent priory was produced by John Hunter, the churchwarden, in 1988; the church was unrelated to the Augustinian Priory at Drax, which was founded before 1140. A watching brief was also carried out in February 2000 on the north side of the church during the renewal of rainwater goods. This work uncovered five *in situ* but disturbed burials and a portion of a burial vault in the 1.4m deep soakaway pit located 5.5m to the north of the church; the burials were dated from the early 18th century to the early 19th century (Tomson, S J N & Ferguson, D 2000 *Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, Drax*).

4 PROPOSED WORKS

- 4.1 In order to facilitate the new facilities in the west tower, a drainage trench will need to be excavated under the footings of the west wall of the tower, and then west for a distance of c.15m through the churchyard to link with an existing sewer in an adjacent unclassified road. This trench will be c.0.5m wide and will be dug to an estimated 1.5m deep, although the latter will depend on ground conditions.
- 4.2 Care has been taken by the church architect to avoid all marked graves within the churchyard, but it is quite possible that other, unmarked, graves will be disturbed by the excavation of the drainage trench. The excavation of the trench under the west wall of

- the tower may also uncover structural and archaeological evidence relating to the architectural development of the building.
- 4.3 Other proposed works covered by the faculty include the replacement and upgrading of the existing kitchen in the west tower. These works will not involve any excavation below the existing floor surface, and so there is no need for a watching brief to be undertaken during this work, although the archaeologists will be on call should any unexpected discoveries be made.

5 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief is to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might be present on the site and which will be affected by the current proposals.
- 5.2 The watching brief should not unduly delay the overall programme of site works, and much can be achieved through liaison and co-operation with the building contractor. However, the PCC and church architect should ensure that EDAS have sufficient time and resources to ensure compliance with all elements of this specification.
- 5.3 It is likely that the watching brief will be accomplished through a number of separate site visits. The number and duration of the visits will be determined by the speed of the development works. At present, it is envisaged that all the excavation works can be completed within a single day.
- 5.4 All archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the building contractor's proposed timetable, unless agreed otherwise. Reasonable prior notice (minimum two weeks) of the commencement of development will be given EDAS, who will then inform the relevant authorities.
- 5.5 EDAS will be afforded access to the development site at all reasonable times to view the excavation of the drainage works, or other operations resulting in ground disturbance.
- 5.6 EDAS will closely monitor all development works which involve ground disturbance. The groundworks will be viewed as they are being excavated, and all excavations will be done under direct archaeological supervision, in accordance with the contractor's specification. EDAS will also be allowed time to clean, assess, and quickly hand excavate, sample and record any features and finds where appropriate.
- 5.7 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of archaeological interest identified within these areas, will be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings and written descriptions as judged adequate by EDAS, using appropriate proforma record sheets and standard archaeological recording systems.
- 5.8 As some of the works will involve excavation within the churchyard, it is likely that human remains will be encountered during the course of the watching brief; although the position of the new drainage works appear to avoid the extent of known graves, medieval internments may be found throughout the area. Any human remains that are uncovered will be treated with due dignity.
- 5.9 The following course of action will be taken should burials be uncovered, unless otherwise directed by the PCC. Small disarticulated and/or disturbed bones will be reinterred as soon as possible in a place near to where they were exposed. Complete or partial skeletons will, if at all possible, be left *in situ* but if this is not possible they will be recorded, lifted, and removed for storage until such time as reburial can be arranged in an alternative location within the churchyard. The church authorities will be informed if any complete or partial skeletons are noticed, and they will arrange for the appropriate re-

- committal of the remains into the ground. Previous experience has determined that a Home Office licence for the removal of human remains is not required.
- 5.10 All archaeological work on site will be carried out with due regard for all Health and Safety considerations. As the watching brief will be carried out at the same time as the building contractor's work, regard will also be made for any constraints or restrictions imposed by the building contractor.

6 UNEXPECTED SIGNIFICANT OR COMPLEX DISCOVERIES

- 6.1 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 specification, immediate contact will be made with the church architect and the PCC. This will allow appropriate amendments to be made to the scope of the watching brief, in agreement with all parties concerned. The possibility of temporarily halting work for unexpected discoveries has already been allowed for in the main Contractor's specification.
- 6.2 The terms of the Treasure Act (1996) will be followed with regard to any finds which might fall within its purview. Any finds will be removed to a safe place, and recorded 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.

7 POST EXCAVATION WORK

- 7.1 EDAS will obtained the consent of the church authorities for the deposition of any finds resulting from the project in an appropriate local registered museum. EDAS will contact the museum at the start of the project to determine their requirements for the transfer and deposition of the project archive. EDAS will also adhere to any specific transfer and deposition requirements which the museum might impose; these are likely to include charges for the storage and long-term curation of the site archive.
- 7.2 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and all finds 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 will be consulted as necessary; no detailed analysis of any human bones is expected, unless the finds are of particular merit.
- 7.3 A fully indexed field archive will be prepared, following the guidance produced by English Heritage. The archive will consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive will also be prepared. Subject to the agreement of the church authorities, the site archive will be deposited with any finds in the appropriate registered museum. A copy of the archive index and the name of the recipient museum will be included in the project report.

8 REPORT PRODUCTION

- 8.1 Within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork (unless otherwise agreed), a report detailing the watching brief will be produced.
- 8.2 It is expected that the report will include the following:
 - a summary of the works carried out;
 - background information including site code/project number and dates of fieldwork visits:
 - location of the site (including grid reference and location plan);

- a written description and analysis of the methods and results of the watching brief, in the context of the known archaeology of the area;
- a plan showing the areas monitored, indicating the location of any archaeological features;
- section and plan drawings (where archaeological deposits are exposed), with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and horizontal scales;
- photographs (a minimum 35mm format) where significant archaeological deposits are found;
- a catalogue of finds, features and primary records;
- specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary;
- a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, and a copy of this specification.
- 8.3 Four copies of the report will be supplied, to be distributed to the church architect, the PCC, the Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee, and the North Yorkshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

E Dennison, EDAS 19 February 2004