

ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
SANCTON, EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd
18 Springdale Way
Beverley
East Yorkshire
HU17 8NU

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Report no: 2005/257.R01
Version: Final
Date: April 2006
Author: Ed Dennison & Shaun Richardson

Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd
18 Springdale Way
Beverley
East Yorkshire
HU17 8NU

On behalf of

All Saints Church PCC
c/o Prospect House
High Street
Sancton
East Yorkshire YO43 4QT

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ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SANCTON, EAST YORKSHIRE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) was undertaken during drainage and other works at All Saints Church, Sancton, East Yorkshire (NGR SE89903930) by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS), on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, in April-May 2005.

No apparent natural deposits were exposed in any of the trenches dug through the churchyard. An orange-brown sandy silt noted in most of the trenches may be associated with the restoration / rebuilding work undertaken at the church between 1869-71, and used to raise the ground level on the north, east and south sides of the church following the completion of the work. This suggestion is supported by the relatively small amounts of disarticulated human bone recovered from the sand and that fact that the majority of the remaining headstones in these areas appear to date to after 1871. In addition, no grave cuts were observed for any of the three undisturbed burials exposed by the works. These burials were only encountered at c.1.00m below existing ground level, and only one had any associated coffin fragments, which probably dates it to the 18th or 19th century.

The watching brief exposed little in the way of new information relating to the church's structural development. As might have been expected, stepped footings were revealed beneath some of the 15th century west tower buttresses, whilst the material noted during small-scale works inside the church relate to the late 19th century restoration of the building.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2005, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by All Saints Church Parochial Church Council (PCC), through their architect, Andrew Pert of Ferrey and Mennim in York, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during drainage and other works at All Saint's Church, Sancton, East Yorkshire (NGR SE89903930). The site work was carried out in April-May 2005.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 All Saints Church lies in an elevated position on the north side of Sancton village, on the west side of the A1034 Market Weighton to South Cave road, in East Yorkshire (NGR SE89903930) (see figure 1). Sancton itself lies some 3km to the south-east of Market Weighton.
- 2.2 The church is surrounded by a sub-rectangular churchyard, which is now no longer used for burials, although there is a small enclosed burial ground to the west which is still in use. The area of the churchyard immediately surrounding the church is raised considerably above the internal floor level, especially to the north and south. Beyond this area, the ground falls away gently to the south in a series of shallow terraces through a grass field towards Low Street. To the east, the churchyard slopes more steeply towards its eastern boundary, where there is a substantial fall to the Market Weighton road. A similar sharp drop exists on the northern boundary of the churchyard, where a steep-sided sunken trackway gives access to a property to the north. The church lies at an elevation of c.10.50m AOD.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 All Saints Church is listed as being of Special Architectural and Historic Interest, Grade II*; the full listed building description appears as Appendix 2. The church has also been described by Pevsner and Neave (1995, 667), it is included in the study of the parish made by the Victoria County History (Allison 1979, 162-163), and it is registered on English Heritage's National Archaeological Record (site SE83NE10) and the Humberside County Sites and Monuments Record (site 6337). The church comprises a three stage octagonal west tower, a 4-bay nave with south and north porches, and a 3-bay chancel.
- 3.2 A church is noted at Sancton in 1086 and the existing structure retains a number of re-used fragments of 12th century and later date. The form of the 12th century church is unclear, but it probably comprised a simple nave and chancel plan. The chancel may have been rebuilt during the 13th century, whilst the three stage octagonal west tower, which is unique in the East Riding, was added during the 15th century. The chancel was in a poor state of repair by the late 16th century, and repairs were carried out to the church in 1728 and 1828. A late 18th century print of the church, attributed to J Roe and dating to c.1770, appears to show the nave roofless; the chancel was still covered with pantiles at this date but had a substantial amount of vegetation growing out of the west end of the ridge (Faull 1976, plate 37).
- 3.3 Despite these repairs, the church was again in a very poor state by 1865 and between 1869-71 both the chancel and nave were rebuilt using old materials in an Early English style to the designs of J B and W Atkinson. The rebuilt church retained the same west tower, chancel and nave plan, and the original 1868 drawings survive in the Borthwick Institute for Historical Research in York (Evans 1995, 73). A pre-18th century south porch was rebuilt at the same time as the

chancel and nave, whilst a new north porch was added to the north side of the church with a boiler room below.

- 3.4 The northern boundary of the present graveyard forms the southern edge of the grounds of Sandhill Cottage, and it is possible that the Christian cemetery around the church represents a continuation and southern shift from an earlier Anglo-Saxon burial ground. This earlier cemetery, known as Sancton II, contained both inhumation and cremation burials, and was identified prior to 1882 (Meaney 1964, 299-300; Faull 1976). Between 1870-75 the skulls of three adults were discovered and later, at some point after 1882, the remains of a larger mixed cemetery were disturbed by ploughing. Other burials together with associated grave goods were found in the area of Sandhill Cottage before 1912. The full extent of the cemetery has not yet been established, but fieldwalking has identified a large scatter of Anglo-Saxon material to the north, west and east of the field on the north side of the churchyard (Timby 1993, 248).

4 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The watching brief took account of, and followed, existing guidance produced by the local archaeological curators (the Humber Archaeology Partnership), the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists (ADCA 2004), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). A copy of the EDAS method statement appears as Appendix 3. The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks associated with the creation of a new external drainage scheme and the replacement of pew platforms inside the church, and to record and recover any information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed by the works.
- 4.2 The external drainage works involved the excavation of a number of trenches around the church, the longer arms of which terminated in soakaway pits (see figure 2). Trenches 2 to 6 were excavated on 6th April 2005 while Trenches 7 and 8 were excavated on 7th April 2005. The trenches were machine-excavated, the turf, topsoil and sub-soils being removed to an average depth of 0.60m using a tracked mini-excavator fitted with a 0.40m wide toothed ditching bucket. The discovery of three *in situ* burials in some deeper parts of the trenches meant that the excavations were halted for a short period while the remains were recorded and removed; the remains were then stored with other fragments of *ex situ* bone recovered from elsewhere on the site, and re-buried when the trenches were backfilled.
- 4.3 Inside the church, two trenches were excavated by hand to an average depth of 0.20m below existing floor level to facilitate the renewal of the pew platforms. Trench 1 was excavated on 6th-7th April 2005 and Trench 9 on 6th May 2005.
- 4.4 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 16 archaeological contexts were recorded, and these are described in the following text as three digit numbers (e.g. 005) (see also Appendix 1). Disarticulated or *ex situ* human remains were not assigned context numbers. In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of all excavations were marked on a general site plan, and more detailed plans and sections were made of each area as necessary; a photographic record was also maintained using 35mm colour prints. Apart from the human bone noted above, no other artefacts were recovered during the watching brief.

- 4.5 It should also be noted that some years previous to the current scheme of works, a narrow trench or channel c.0.60m deep had been excavated around the north, east and south sides of the church. This channel resembled a French drain, although it had been left open and not backfilled with gravel; it is believed that these works were not subject to any archaeological monitoring. As part of the current scheme therefore, the channel on the north side of the church was cleaned and its depth increased by a further 0.10m to facilitate the drainage works. A number of exploratory investigations along the length of this trench revealed that the upper 0.10m of fill consisted of modern debris and fallen material from the trench section. The remainder of this part of the works was therefore not monitored.
- 4.6 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 Service (site code ASS 05; accession code 2006/16).

5 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

External drainage works

- 5.1 As noted above, the external works comprised the excavation of a number of new drainage trenches and soakaways around the church and into the graveyard (see figure 2).

Trench 2

- 5.2 Trench 2 was located adjacent to the south-east corner of the chancel. It commenced on the west side of the southern angle buttress and ran south-east for a distance of 8.20m, maintaining a width of 0.40m and a depth of 0.60m below ground level (BGL). The trench terminated in a 1.00m square soakaway pit which was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.00m BGL (8.61m AOD).
- 5.3 Following the removal of the turf and topsoil (001), which was on average 0.18m deep, a number of contexts were exposed. Adjacent to the west side of the buttress, the topsoil overlay a small area (0.40m square) of brickwork paving (003), comprising red hand-made bricks (average dimensions 240mm by 120mm by 75mm) which were laid on a thin bed of pale pink / buff lime mortar; the brickwork butted up to the adjacent buttress.
- 5.4 In the main body of the trench and the soakaway pit, the topsoil overlay a deposit of compact but still relatively soft very clean orange-brown silty sand (002) (see figure 3). The sand contained a relatively small amount of disarticulated human bone and, 2.80m from the west end, a skull was exposed in the base of the trench, although it was not clear if this remained *in situ*. Another skull was noted in the base of the north-west corner of the soakaway pit at a depth of c.8.61m AOD but, as with the other example, it was not clear if it remained *in situ*. The orange-brown sand (002) continued beneath the base of the soakaway pit.

Trench 3

- 5.5 Trench 3 was located adjacent to the north-east corner of the chancel. It commenced on the west side of the north angle buttress and ran north-east for a distance of 6.50m, maintaining a width of 0.40m and 0.6m below ground level, terminating in a 1.00m square soakaway pit which was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m BGL (8.91m AOD) (see plate 1).

- 5.6 Following the removal of a 0.18m depth of turf and topsoil (001), a single context was exposed, comprising a compact clean orange-brown sand (004), very similar to that noted in Trench 2 (002). Like the latter, this sand contained a relatively small amount of disarticulated human bone. The possible remnants of a partly disturbed *in situ* burial were noted just above the base of the west side of the soakaway pit (at approximately 8.80m AOD). It may have comprised the lower vertebrae and upper leg bones of an adult, orientated north-west/south-east but this was not certain, and so it was not assigned a separate context number. The orange brown sand (004) continued beneath the base of the soakaway pit and contained infrequent angular pieces of limestone / sandstone rubble in its lowest visible parts.

Trench 4

- 5.7 Trench 4 was located adjacent to the north side of the central buttress on the north side of the church. It was a maximum of 2.20m long (east-west) and 0.40m wide, and it was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m BGL (c.9.50m AOD). The trench was excavated to link two separate parts of the earlier drainage channel which ran along the base of the north wall of the nave and chancel. Below the topsoil (001), the trench was largely filled with a loose dark orange silty sand (012) which contained frequent angular pieces of sandstone / limestone rubble and modern rubbish, some of which had fallen in from the sides of the earlier drainage channel; this material was similar to contexts 002 and 004 seen elsewhere on the site.

Trench 5

- 5.8 Trench 5 was excavated around the east, north and west sides of the vestry (formerly the north porch). Altogether, the trench was c.13m long, 0.40m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m BGL or c.9.90m AOD at its lowest point. The east part of the trench ran along the east side of the retaining wall of the steps leading down to the boiler house beneath the vestry.
- 5.9 Following the removal of the turf and topsoil (001), a number of contexts were exposed. In the east and north parts of the trench, the topsoil overlay a compact very clean dark orange sand (005), similar to contexts 002 and 004 noted elsewhere. In the west part of the trench, the dark orange sand (005) overlay a deposit of hard packed pieces of angular limestone / sandstone rubble (006), which increased in depth from north to south.

Trench 6

- 5.10 Trench 6 was located around the base of the west tower. The trench maintained a width of 0.40m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m BGL (9.70m AOD). Following the removal of the turf and topsoil (001), the hard packed angular stone rubble (006) noted in Trench 5 continued around the base of the church tower, and continued beneath the base of the trench. It faded out towards the south-eastern end of the trench, to be replaced by a silty sand (007) (see Trench 7).
- 5.11 The ground surface between the trench and the base of the tower was also reduced by 0.20m. The tower is supported by five buttresses (labelled A to E on figure 2), the bases of which were partly exposed by the reduction in ground level. The base of buttress B was typical, stepping outwards beneath a chamfered plinth (see figure 3). Similar footings were observed beneath buttress C, but those under buttress D and E were undercut. The base of buttress A was not exposed.

Trench 7

- 5.12 Trench 7 was located to either side and to the south of the south porch. Separate trenches, each c.5.00m long (north-south), were excavated on either side of the porch, converging to the south of the porch and continuing southwards for a further 4.00m, terminating in a test pit measuring 3.00m by 1.00m. The main body of the trench maintained a width of 0.40m and a depth of 0.60m, whilst the soakaway was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.00m BGL (9.00m AOD). The trench on the west side of the porch followed an earlier drainage channel (see plate 2).
- 5.13 Following the removal of the 0.18m depth of turf and topsoil (001), a compact very clean dark brown sand (007) containing a relatively small amount of disarticulated human bone was exposed. This dark brown sand continued beneath the base of the soakaway pit, where it began to contain infrequent pieces of angular stone rubble (see figure 3). The rubble appeared to be concentrated around two *in situ* burials that were partly exposed in the base of the soakaway pit. The first burial (008) was that of a child, aligned east-west, visible in the west-facing section of the soakaway pit (at 9.20m AOD). Only the skull was exposed within the soakaway pit and no evidence for a coffin, shroud pins or associated artefacts were noted (see plate 3). The second burial (009) was visible at the base of the north side of the soakaway (at 9.00m AOD), and comprised the left arm bones and some ribs. It was again that of an infant or child, aligned east-west, with no evidence for a coffin or other associated artefacts. No grave cut was apparent for either burial.

Trench 8

- 5.14 Trench 8 was located adjacent to the external north-east corner of the vestry. It started at the north-east corner of Trench 5 and ran in a north-east direction for 4.80m, maintaining a width of 0.40m and a depth of 0.60m, terminating in a 1.00m square soakaway pit. The soakaway pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m BGL (9.97m AOD).
- 5.15 Following the removal of the turf and topsoil (001), a compact very clean orange brown silty sand (010) was exposed, forming a continuation of the similar deposit (005) noted in Trench 5. The sand contained no disarticulated human bone, although infrequent pieces of limestone rubble were visible in the lower part of the sand, with a particular concentration between 1.40m to 2.20m from the south-west end of the trench. The sand continued beneath the base of the soakaway pit. Part of a single *in situ* burial (011) was exposed in the base of the soakaway pit (at 9.97m AOD), comprising the lower vertebrae and right leg bones of an adult, aligned north-east/south-west (see figure 3). The side board of a nailed softwood coffin survived on the north side of the leg bones, with the remains of a decayed footboard to the east. Fragments of lead coffin decoration of 18th / 19th century appearance were also recovered from the area of the burial.

Internal works

- 5.16 As noted above, the works inside the church comprised the removal of the existing pews and bases in the nave, and the slight lowering of the floor levels beneath (see figure 2).

Trench 1

- 5.17 This trench was located on the north side of the nave, and measured 7.40m long (east-west) by 2.50m wide (north-south); it was excavated to a maximum depth of

0.20m below existing ground level (BGL) or 9.80m AOD (see plate 4). Following the removal of the pews and floorboards, a very dry dusty fine orange sand (013), 0.20m thick, was exposed. This sand overlay a deposit of hard dry grey-green clay (014) which contained infrequent inclusions of thin angular pieces of limestone / sandstone rubble up to 0.40m long. Two small exploratory sondages were dug towards the east end of the trench, each 0.30m square and excavated to a depth of 0.30m below the reduced ground level (9.50m AOD). In both pits, the grey-green clay (014) was seen to continue beyond their bases.

Trench 9

- 5.18 Trench 9 was located on the south side of the nave. The trench measured 7.40m long (east-west) by 2.50m wide (north-south), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m below existing ground level (BGL) or 9.70m AOD. Following the removal of the pews and floorboards, a very dry dusty fine orange sand (015) similar to 013 was exposed. A number of objects were noted beneath the floorboards on the surface of the sand, including fragments of plain window glass, a knife handle and a prayer book from Newbald church stamped 14th June 1950. In several places, the boards were supported on loose stone rubble, including a worked fragment, possibly the head of a small niche or a water-holding basin (see figure 4); this item was replaced in the church.
- 5.19 The dry orange sand (015) overlay a mixed deposit of dark brown silty sand soil / orange sand (016) containing frequent inclusions of angular stone rubble and the occasional piece of red hand-made brick fragment; patches of hard dry grey-green clay were also visible. Three small sondages were dug along the north side of the trench, each 0.30m square and excavated to a depth of 0.30m below the reduced ground level (9.40m AOD). In all three pits, the same deposit (016) was seen to continue beyond their bases.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The results from the trenches can be summarised as follows. No apparent natural deposits were exposed in any of the trenches. The common orange / brown sandy silt (002, 004, 005, 007, 010) noted in Trenches 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 may be associated with the restoration / rebuilding work undertaken between 1869-71 and used to raise the ground level on the north, east and south sides of the church following the completion of the work. This suggestion is supported by the relatively small amounts of disarticulated human bone recovered from the sand and that fact that the majority of the remaining headstones in these areas appear to date to after 1871. In addition, no grave cuts were observed for any of the undisturbed burials exposed during the works. The undisturbed burials only began to be encountered at c.1.00m BGL (9.00m and 9.20m AOD in Trench 7, 9.97m AOD in Trench 8 and possibly at 8.80m AOD in Trench 3). Of these, only the burial in Trench 8 (011) had any associated coffin fragments, and it probably dates to the 18th or 19th century.
- 6.2 The watching brief exposed little in the way of new information relating to the church's structural development. As might have been expected, stepped footings were revealed in Trench 6 beneath some of the 15th century west tower buttresses, and there was an associated deposit of compacted angular rubble pieces (006). The contexts noted inside the church in Trenches 1 and 9 relate to the late 19th century restoration of the building.

7 REFERENCES

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 The archaeological watching brief at All Saints Church was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council, through their architect, Andrew Pert of Ferrey and Mennim of York. EDAS would like to thank them and Crighton Restoration of Northallerton (contractors) for their co-operation in carrying out the archaeological watching brief.

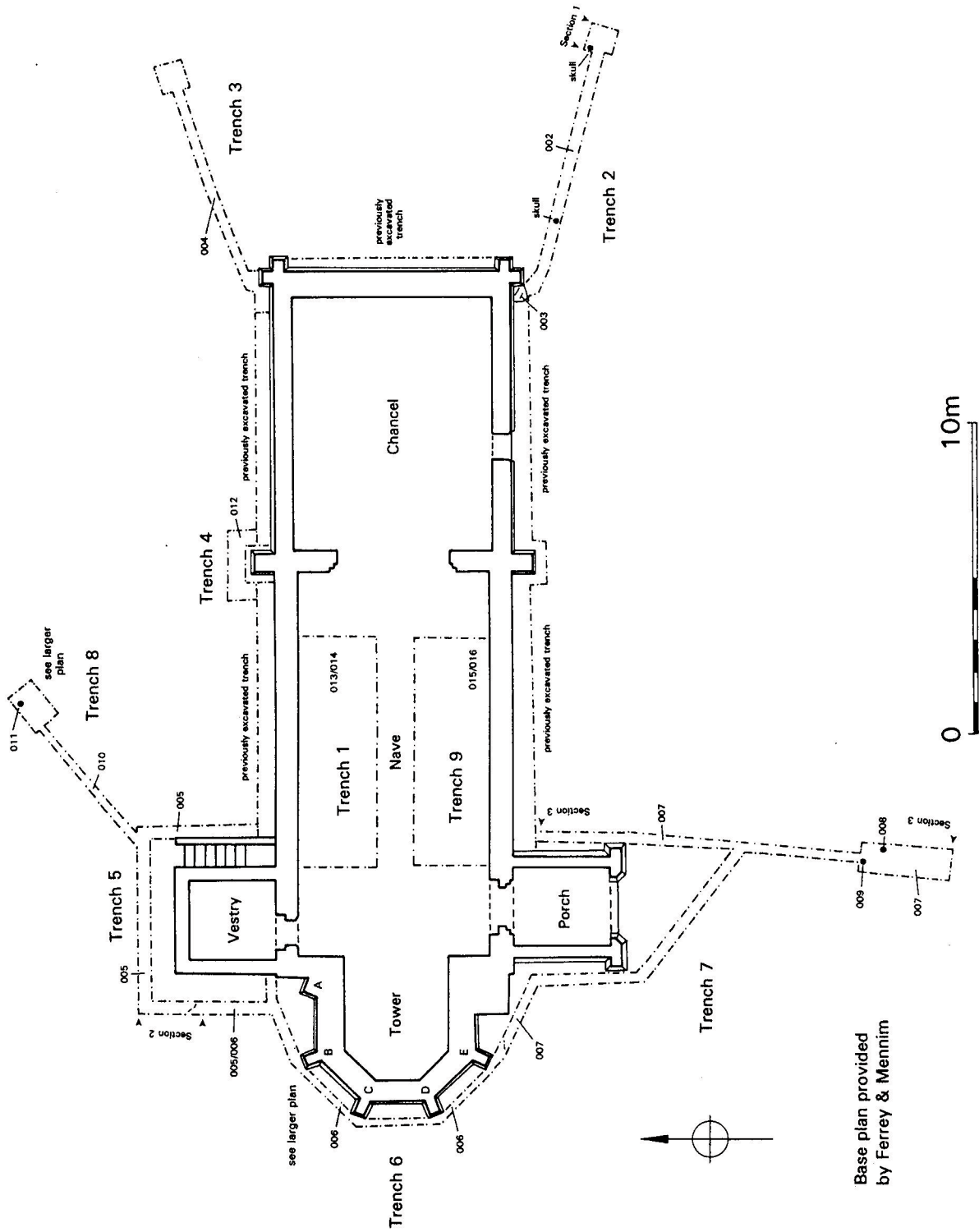
8.2 The watching brief was undertaken by Shaun Richardson of EDAS. Shaun Richardson produced the fieldwork records and Ed Dennison and Shaun Richardson produced the final report and drawings; Shaun Richardson also drew figure 4. The responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies in the report remains with Ed Dennison.



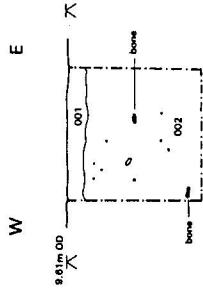
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PROJECT		ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SANCTON	
TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	1:25,000	DATE	APR 2006
EDAS		FIGURE	1

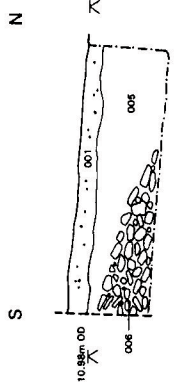
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TITLE	WATCHING BRIEF - MAIN PLAN		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	APR 2006
	EDAS	FIGURE	2



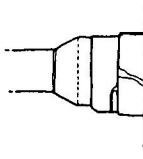
Base plan provided
by Ferrey & Mennim



Section 1: North side of Trench 2 soakaway



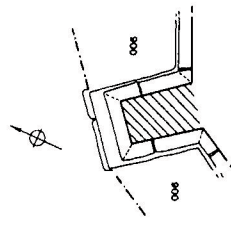
Section 2: West side of part of Trench 5



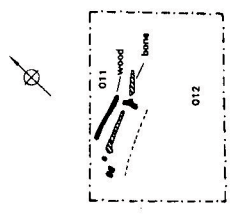
End elevation of Buttress B



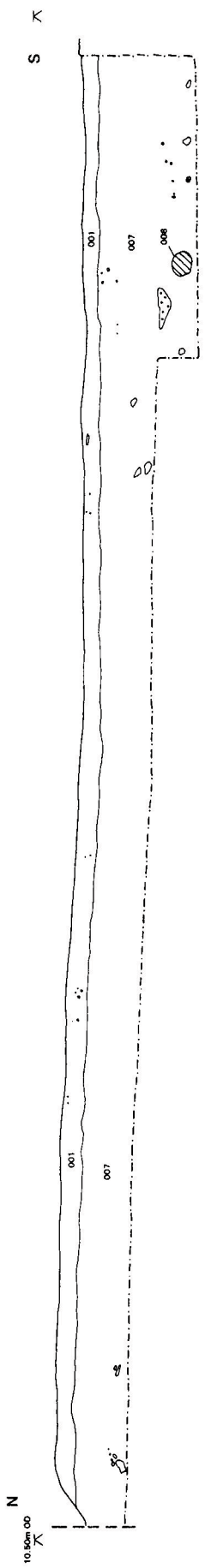
Profile of Buttress B



Plan of Buttress B



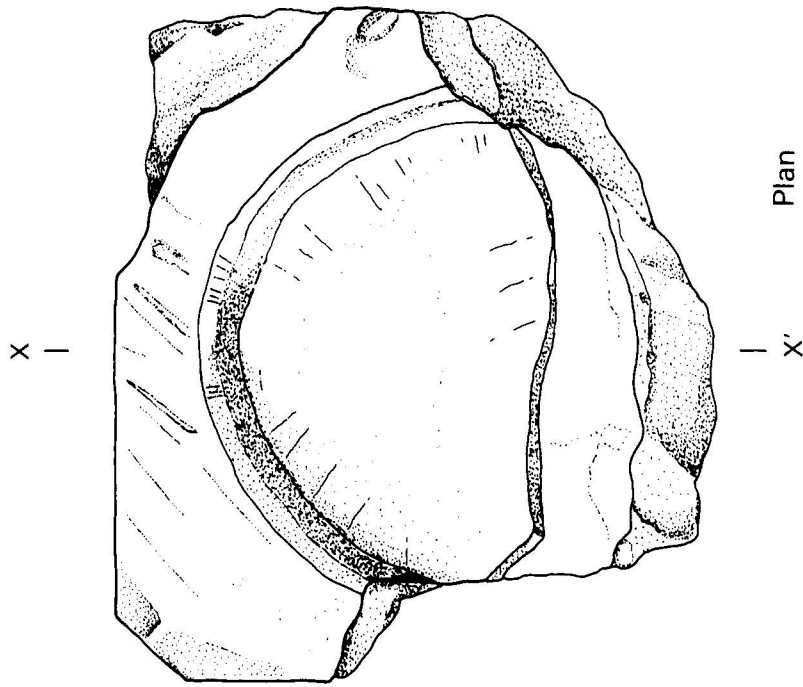
Plan of soakaway in Trench 8



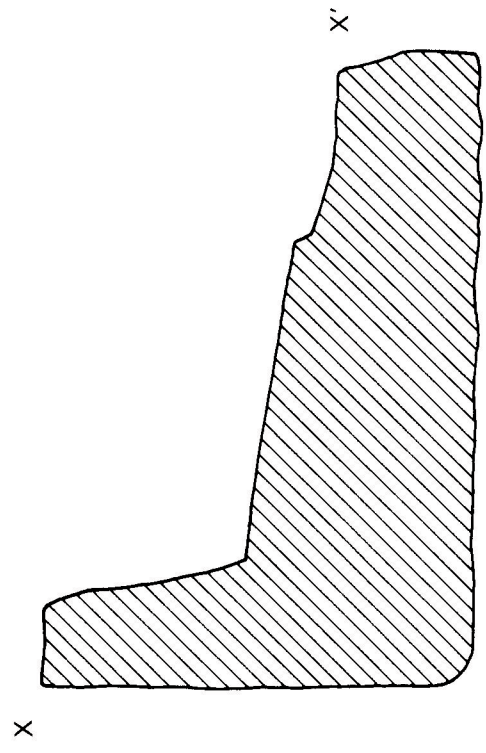
Section 3: East side of Trench 7



PROJECT	ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SANCTON		
TITLE	WATCHING BRIEF - PLANS & SECTIONS		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	APR 2006
	EDAS	FIGURE	3



Plan



Profile



PROJECT	ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SANCTON		
TITLE	ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENT FROM TRENCH 9		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	APR 2006
	EDAS	FIGURE	4



Plate 1: Trench 3, looking south-west.



Plate 2: Trench 7 on west side of south porch, looking north.



Plate 3: Burial 008 in west side of Trench 7 soakaway.

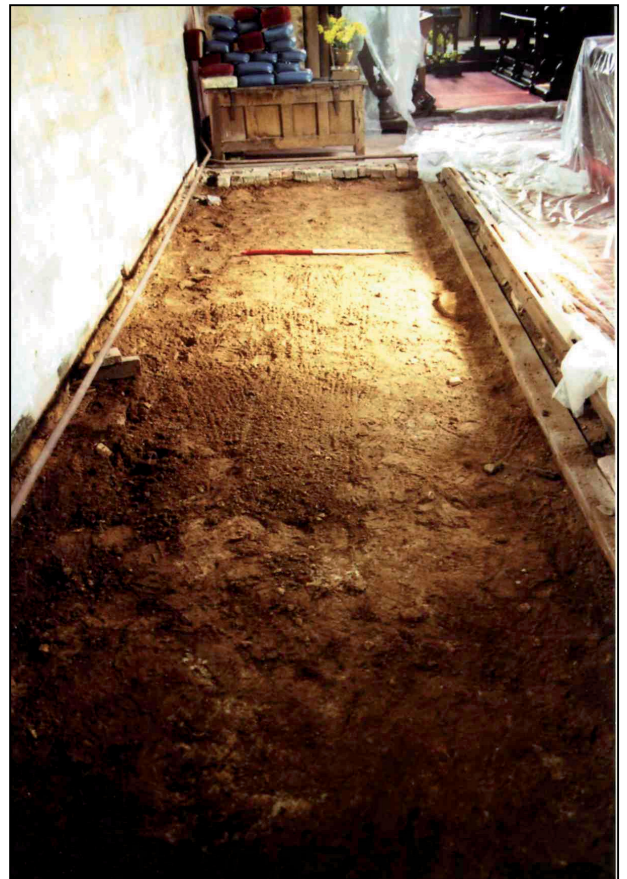


Plate 4: Trench 1, looking east.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

- 001 Silt loam topsoil, average 0.18m thick.
- 002 Orange brown silty sand in Trench 2.
- 003 Small area of brickwork, 0.40m square in Trench 2.
- 004 Orange brown silty sand in Trench 3, similar to 002.
- 005 Compacted dark orange silty sand in Trench 5.
- 006 Compacted angular rubble pieces in Trenches 5 and 6.
- 007 Dark brown silty sand in Trench 7.
- 008 Part of *in situ* infant burial (skull) in soakaway pit at end of Trench 7.
- 009 Part of *in situ* infant burial (left arm and ribs) in soakaway pit at end of Trench 7.
- 010 Orange brown silty sand in Trench 8, continuation of 005.
- 011 Part of *in situ* burial and coffin in soakaway pit at end of Trench 8.
- 012 Loose dark brown orange sandy silt in Trench 4.
- 013 Loose orange sand in Trench 1.
- 014 Hard grey-green clay in Trench 1.
- 015 Loose orange sand in Trench 9, same as 013.
- 016 Mixed sandy silt soil and orange sand in Trench 9.

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Location : CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, A1034 (west side), SANCTON, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

IoE number : 167068

Date listed : 26 JAN 1967

Date of last amendment : 26 JAN 1967

Grade : II*

SE83NE

SANCTON

A1034

(west side)

11/50

Church of All Saints

Church. C15 west tower, remainder rebuilt using old materials 1869-71 by J B & W Atkinson. Ashlar to west tower, coursed squared rubble elsewhere, graduated slate roof. C19 work in Gothic Revival style. West tower, 4-bay nave with south porch, 3-bay chancel. Octagonal west tower of two stages: diagonal buttresses with offsets and crocketed pinnacles. Lower stage has pointed 3-light west window with perpendicular tracery under hoodmould with trefoil headed lancet above. Two-light pointed belfry openings with Perpendicular tracery, including double transoms, under hoodmoulds. Crenulated parapet with crocketed pinnacles. Short flying buttresses to diagonal buttresses with pinnacles. Nave: two 2-light pointed windows with Perpendicular style tracery under hoodmoulds to west, single lancet to east. Pointed south door with continuous double chamfer with bar stops. Raised coped gable with cross finial. Chancel: priests' door, with round-headed arch on double quirk-and-hollow chamfer imposts, to centre; lancets to east and west. Low side lancet to west. Banded east gable with stepped scroll-moulded string and triple stepped lancet under hoodmould with foliated stops. Quatrefoil window above. Coped gable with cross finial. Interior: pointed double-chamfered tower arch dying into responds with incorporate re-used C12 chevrons. C15 font: octagonal pier on moulded base supporting octagonal basin with shields and fleurons.

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

APPENDIX 3

APPENDIX 3: EDAS METHOD STATEMENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF, ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SANCTON, EAST YORKSHIRE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A Diocesan Faculty has been granted for a programme of repair works at All Saints Church at Sancton (dated 23 March 2004). These works include (1) some re-roofing of the nave, chancel, south porch and vestry, (2) some rebuilding, repair and repointing to the north gable of the vestry and to areas of the chancel, nave and tower, (3) the overhaul and repair of the cast iron rainwater goods, (4) the creation of a new surface water drainage system, (5) the repair of the glazing in the east and west windows, (6) and the repair of pew platforms. Although not stipulated as a condition of the faculty, English Heritage, as part of their grant to pay for these works, wish that an archaeological watching brief is carried out during the ground excavations, so that any archaeological finds can be recorded and reported upon.
- 1.2 Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) have been appointed by the architects for the project, Ferrey and Mennim of York, on behalf of the PCC, to undertake the watching brief. This methods statement has been prepared by Ed Dennison of EDAS to outline what work will be carried out.
- 1.3 This methods statement takes account of general guidance produced by the local archaeological curators, the Humber Archaeology Partnership, the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists (ADCA 2004), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999) in relation to watching briefs.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 All Saints Church lies on the west side of the A1034 Market Weighton to South Cave road, in the village of Sancton (NGR SE89903930). Sancton itself lies some 3km to the south-east of Market Weighton.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The church is a Grade II* Listed Building. It comprises a west tower, a 4-bay nave with a south porch and north vestry, and a 3-bay chancel. The 2-stage octagonal west tower is primarily of ashlar construction, and has diagonal buttresses with offsets, crocketed pinnacles and a crenellated parapet; it is 15th century in date. The remainder of the church has been rebuilt using older materials, between 1869-71 by J B & W Atkinson in a Gothic Revival style. This 19th century work is mostly of coursed squared rubble. Inside the church, the pointed double-chamfered tower arch incorporates re-used 12th century chevrons.

4 PROPOSED WORKS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief work will relate mostly to the new external surface water drainage system. New drainage trenches, probably 450mm wide and deep, will be dug around the north vestry, west tower and south porch, and these will lead to a new soakaway located in the present path leading to the south porch; this soakaway will measure 3400mm by 810mm by 800mm deep. Other shorter drains will extend out from the north-east and south-east corners of the nave for a distance of c.8m through the churchyard to other separate soakaways which will measure 860mm by 810mm by 800mm deep.
- 4.2 Inside the church, the existing pew platforms will be dismantled and removed to facilitate the renewal of the floor. An average depth of 75mm will be excavated beneath the existing floor to create a breathing space of 100mm beneath the new floor.

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 contractor 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 hand excavations.
- 5.4 All archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the contractor's proposed timetable, unless agreed otherwise. Reasonable prior notice (minimum one week) of the commencement of development will be given EDAS, who will then inform the relevant authorities. EDAS will also inform the DAC archaeological advisor of when work will start, so he may attend if he so wishes.
- 5.5 EDAS will be afforded access to the site at all reasonable times to view the excavation of the trench, and any other operations resulting in ground disturbance.
- 5.6 EDAS will closely monitor all 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 the works will involve excavation within the church and the churchyard, it is possible that human remains will be encountered during the course of the watching brief. Any human remains that are uncovered will be treated with due dignity.
- 5.9 The following guidance will be adopted should burials be uncovered by the works, either inside or outside the church. Small disarticulated and/or disturbed bones will be re-interred 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, bagged (separate burials kept separate) and removed for safe storage until such time as reburial can be arranged in an alternative location within the churchyard. The PCC will be responsible for arranging the appropriate re-committal of the remains into the ground. However, it should be stressed that this is a last resort, and there will be a presumption against the disturbance of *in situ* remains wherever possible.
- 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 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 methods statement, immediate contact will be made with the church architect and other relevant authorities. This will allow appropriate amendments to be made to the scope of the watching brief, in agreement with all parties concerned, if necessary.

- 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 would obtain the consent of the PCC for the deposition of any finds resulting from the project in the local registered museum. EDAS would contact the museum at the start of the project to determine their requirements for the transfer and deposition of the project archive. EDAS would 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 would be appropriate to the quality and quantity of the finds recovered, and specialists would 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 would be prepared, following the guidance produced by English Heritage. The archive would consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive would also be prepared. Subject to the agreement of the church authorities, the site archive would be deposited with any finds in the appropriate registered museum. A copy of the archive index and the name of the recipient museum would also 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 Three copies of the report will be supplied, to be distributed to the church architect, the PCC, and the Humberside SMR. A copy of the final report would also be included within the site archive.

9 REFERENCES

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

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

E Dennison
EDAS
1 April 2005