

ALL SAINTS CHURCH,  
LONDESBOROUGH, EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION  
AND RECORDING (PHASE 2)

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On behalf of

All Saints Church PCC  
c/o Towthorpe Grange  
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(PHASE 2)**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In March 2006, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by the All Saints Church PCC to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording (a watching brief) during various drainage works in the churchyard at All Saints Church, Londesborough, East Yorkshire (NGR SE86864538). This watching brief represents the second phase of archaeological recording work at the church, the first phase being reported on in 2005.

The works comprised a new drainage trench along the north wall of the north aisle, and small-scale works around the south porch. Little of archaeological interest was revealed by the excavations and no artefacts were recovered. A small number of disarticulated human bones disturbed by the works were returned to the church warden for reburial.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In March 2006, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by All Saints Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording (a watching brief) during various drainage works in the churchyard of All Saints Church, Londesborough, East Yorkshire (NGR SE86864538). The drainage works were carried out in accordance with a Diocesan Faculty, issued on 23rd November 2005.
- 1.2 This watching brief represents a second phase of archaeological recording work undertaken at the church by EDAS. The first phase was carried out in July 2005, when several test pits were excavated to provide information on the existing drainage system and ground conditions (Dennison & Dennett 2005).

## **2 SITE LOCATION**

- 2.1 All Saints Church lies in the village of Londesborough, which is located on the western edge of the Yorkshire Wolds c.4km north of Market Weighton in East Yorkshire (see figure 1). The church, on the Londesborough Park Estate, is situated on the south side of Low Street, close to the site of the former Londesborough Hall which was demolished in 1818-19.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The church is a Grade I Listed Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, and the listing description appears as Appendix 2 in the previous EDAS report (Dennison & Dennett 2005). Londesborough is one of the most historically and architecturally rewarding villages in East Yorkshire, as it was owned from the early 15th century to the early 20th century by a succession of wealthy landed families each of whom left their mark on it. These families were the Cliffords, Earls of Cumberland, the Boyles, Earls of Burlington, the Cavendishes, Dukes of Devonshire, and finally the Denisons, Earls of Londesborough who sold the estate in 1923. The church is also depicted on a c.1700 engraving by Kip which also shows the house and surrounding park (Neave & Turnbull 1992, 49).
- 3.2 The church is of Norman origins, and has been described as “modest”, having escaped thorough Victorian restoration (Pevsner & Neave 1995, 601). It comprises an early 12th century 4-bay nave, a three stage west tower, a north aisle and a 2-bay chancel with a north chapel. The south porch was added in 1678-79. The church is built of coursed rubble with freestone dressings, with slate roofs. The interior contains many items of interest, including a 13th century font, an elaborate timber screen by Temple Moore, and memorials to the Earls of Cumberland and Burlington in the north chapel.
- 3.3 The history of the church has been discussed elsewhere (e.g. Neave 1977, 43-46). The first reference to the church occurs in documents dating to the first part of the 12th century and the south doorway, which also has a Anglo-Danish cross head above it, is probably part of the original structure. The doorway has one order of columns and a tympanum with a sundial. The north arcade is of four bays and is of c.1200 date. The chapel on the north side of the chancel was added in the 13th century, while the lower part of the west tower is from the early 14th century. The tower was raised in the early 15th century.
- 3.4 The church was partially restored from the 17th century onwards. In 1679, a date inscribed above the priest’s door on the south side of the chancel, it is said that Lord

Burlington rebuilt the chancel arch, added the south porch, and restored the priest's doorway and the pinnacles on the tower. He also probably added the massive Squire's pew roof which survived near the chancel arch until a later restoration in the 1870s. In 1819 the church was underdrawn, it was re-pewed in 1832, and in 1837 the lead from the roofs was sold, to be replaced with slates.

- 3.5 The first major restoration is said to have taken place in 1873 under the superintendence of an architect named Wyatt. He renewed the pews, took down the old gallery, opened the roof out, and moved the Clifford tombs from the chancel to the north chapel. In 1885 the architect Temple Moore carried out further, more sympathetic, works such as inserting a new east window and a rood screen; the original east window was reset in a walled garden directly to the east of the church. New choir stalls and the chapel screen were installed in 1905, and the screen under the chancel arch, which came from Great Driffield church, was added in 1907.

## **4 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with 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.
- 4.2 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks associated with the new drainage works, 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 architect to avoid any known graves within the churchyard, but it was possible that other, unmarked, graves would be disturbed by the excavations, as well as structural elements of the church itself.
- 4.3 The soil and surface vegetation which covered six ex-situ recumbent gravestones close to the north-west corner of the church was cleared, and the slabs were photographed prior to them being lifted and temporarily moved to create an open working area. A trench c.0.3m wide and 0.4m deep was then dug by hand along the north side of the north aisle, for a length of c.25m; the trench widened to 0.8m at the east end to expose an existing ceramic drainage pipe. This pipe was lifted and replaced in the trench, and a new land drain installed next to it. An inspection chamber was also created at the east end of the trench, close to the north-east buttress of the church, linking the new drainage system with an existing drain which was known to run away to the south-east. The adjacent upstanding grave stones were protected from the works with plywood panels. At the west end of the trench, a small section of the north aisle's foundations (c.0.85m) had to be cut away to facilitate the insertion of a new fall pipe and drainage sump. The west end of the trench was then extended to the west, around a brick-based oil storage tank, to connect the new drains with the existing drainage system.
- 4.4 Other small-scale works took place around the south porch. A small sondage was opened near the south-east corner of the porch, to insert a new junction to connect an existing drain which ran along the east side of the porch to a main drain which ran east-west beneath a grass path. A short length of trench 0.45m deep was also dug across the front of the porch, through a paved path, to create a connection between a new downpipe erected at the south-west corner of the porch and the main east-west drain. A short tunnel was excavated to the west of the pavers, to prevent damage to a cobbled section of the path.

- 4.5 The excavations were monitored continuously, on 11th-12th April 2006. 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 19 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 1:100 scale (see figure 2), and other plans and sections were made at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also maintained using 35mm colour transparencies. Levels above Ordnance Datum were taken at a later date, using the bench mark located on the church tower.
- 4.6 The archive resulting from the watching brief (site code ASL 06) will be added to that retained from the previous phase of work (site code ASL 05), and the combined archive will be deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service (accession number 2005/101), with the agreement of the PCC.

## 5 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

### The Gravestones

- 5.1 Six gravestones (contexts 010 to 015) were found laid face-down, close to the church wall, covered by a 0.4m layer of soil and vegetation (007). These were removed from the area of the excavations for safe keeping. As far as could be ascertained, the inscriptions read as follows:

#### *Gravestone 010 – Hagyard*

- 5.2 In affectionate remembrance of Robert Hagyard, of Londesborough, who died March 11(?)th 1874 aged 87 years and of Elizabeth his wife who died February 19th 1858 aged 65 years. Also of John Hagyard his brother who died March 9th 1856 aged 73 years.

O glorious truth in which we trust  
our sins were on our surety laid  
God can forgive us and be just  
and righteous grace be now displayed

#### *Gravestone 011- Little*

- 5.3 Sacred to the memory of Isabella Little wife of the late John Little of Market Weighton who died 17th day of January 1863 aged 75 years.

Weep not for me I'm free from pain  
my earthly sufferings o'er  
I hope to meet you all again  
On ??????? happy shore.  
This stone was erected by second son William Little

#### *Gravestone 012 - Hagyard*

- 5.4 Sacred to the memory of Foster the son of Robert and Elizabeth Hagyard who died July 2nd 1841 aged 19 years. Also of Robert their son who died July 13th 1841 aged 21 years. Also of Henry their son who died March 31st 1845 (1846?) aged 21 (24?) years.

Repent in time make no delay  
We in our prime were called away.

#### *Gravestone 013 - Waller*

- 5.5 Erected in affectionate remembrance of their parents by the children. John and Elizabeth Waller who departed this life as follows. John Waller Oct<sup>r</sup> 23rd 1889 aged 63 years. Elizabeth Waller ?? 12th 18?? aged 76 years.

#### *Gravestone 014*

- 5.6 Illegible.

#### *Gravestone 015 - Wharton*

- 5.7 Here rotteth(?) the remains Mat Wharton who died Mar 30 1793 aged 77 years also of Eliz<sup>th</sup> his wife who died April 27<sup>th</sup> 1780 aged 61 years. See plate 4.

### **North Drainage Trench**

- 5.8 The trench on the north side of the church was not cut completely parallel to the wall of the north aisle, and so only a short section (c.1.5m length) of the foundations was revealed, towards the west end of the trench. It was noted that the exposed limestone rubble foundations (009) here were in a poor condition, with some voids, possibly due to water erosion and the absence of a downpipe in this area; some repair with concrete had been attempted in the past (see plate 2). The visible stones of the foundations were up to 0.65m long (average 0.35m long) and up to 0.18m wide, and there was a narrow plinth which extended 0.2m out from the partially rendered wall face above just above ground level. The full depth of the foundations was not revealed in the 0.45m deep trench.
- 5.9 The rest of the trench cut through a relatively recent build-up of wet, dark, organic loam (007), below which was a firm brown subsoil (018); the latter was only visible at the very west end of the trench where the overlying loam was 0.45m deep. Towards the east end of the trench a dirty, gravely, more mixed backfill of the existing pipe trench (008) was revealed (see plate 1). The *in situ* pipe (016) was of the glazed ceramic variety and it ran from an existing downpipe to the north-east corner of the church; this drainpipe had been noted in the previous phase of works (Dennison & Dennett 2005, context 015). In the western extension, around the oil tank, the trench cut through a dirty mixed soil (017) representing the backfill of the construction trench for the base of the tank.
- 5.10 Two service cables crossing the trench were exposed by the excavations, and several sherds of 19th and 20th century pottery were found, as well as coal, brick, limestone and oyster shell fragments. Two fragments of cow bone were also noted, together with one human juvenile femur.

### **South Drainage Works**

- 5.11 The small sondage excavated adjacent to the south-east corner of the porch uncovered an existing ceramic drain (005), running from the corner of the porch to a main east-west drainage pipe just to the south (see plate 3). The former drain had also been noted during the previous phase of works (Dennison & Dennett 2005, context 013), and it extended north along the east side of the porch. The backfill of the drainage ditch was a firm brown gritty loam (019), similar to that seen previously (context 009). Below the grass path (002), the junction between this pipe (005) and the main east-west pipe had been broken, and the break had been covered with a



ceramic flat roof tile (006); this break was probably the result of an earlier attempt to clear a blockage.

5.12 The short trench dug along the front (south side) of the porch disturbed the stone and cobble path (003) which approached the porch from the west. Three flagstones were lifted, below which was a thin bedding layer of crushed brick and limestone rubble (004). The disturbed firm brown gritty loam (019) seen to the east lay beneath this. The pipe trench was then tunnelled below the cobbles forming the edge of the path to a small drainage sump.

5.13 No artefacts were noted during the work on the south side of the church, although a number of fragments of disarticulated human bone, obviously previously disturbed, were revealed. These, together with that seen in the northern trench, were collected together and left with the church warden for subsequent reburial.

## **6 REFERENCES**

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

Dennison, E & Dennett, K 2005 *Archaeological Observation and Recording, All Saints Church, Londesborough, East Yorkshire* (unpublished EDAS report 2005/269.R01)

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

Neave, D 1977 *Londesborough: History of an East Yorkshire Estate Village* (reprinted 1989)

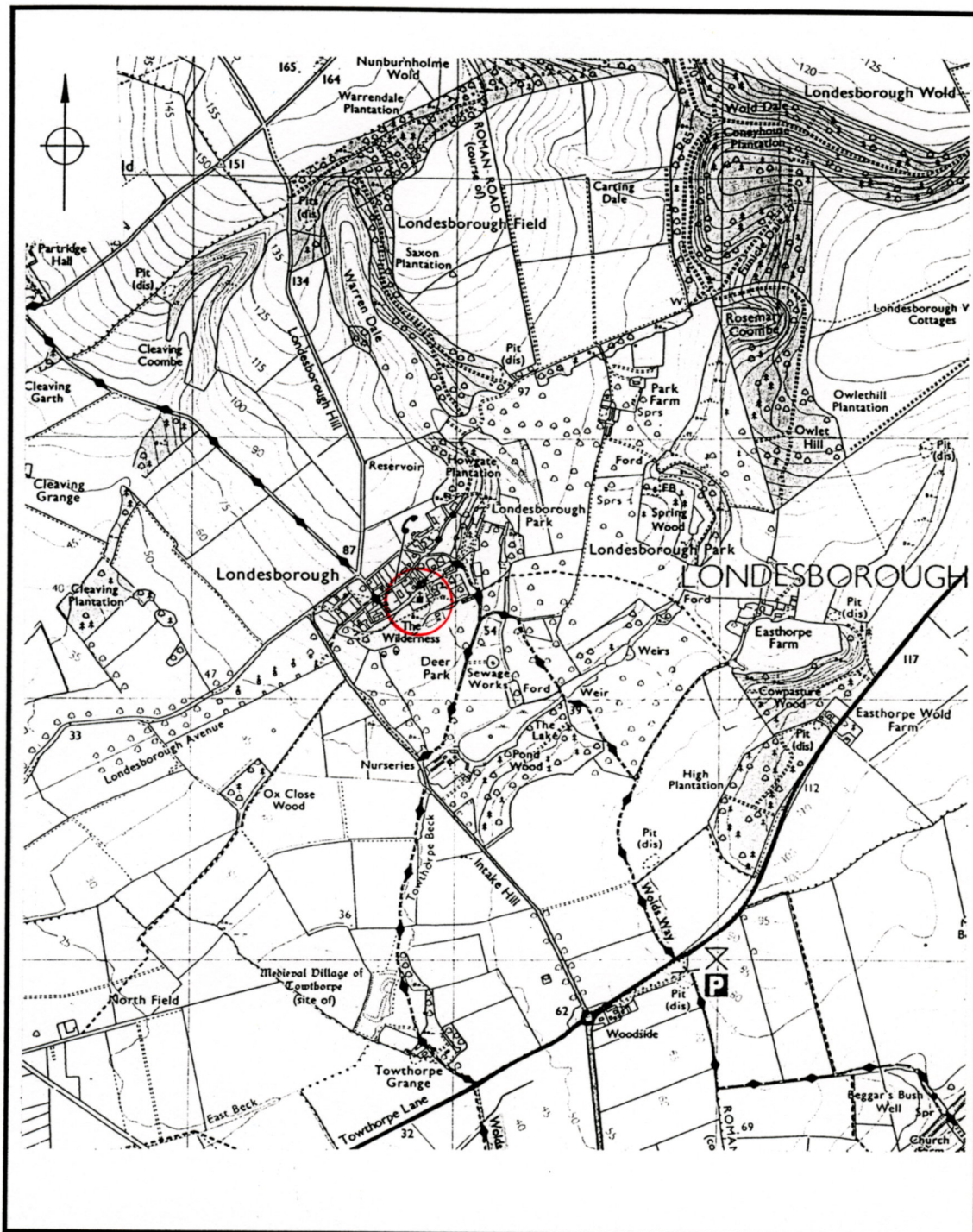
Neave, D & Turnbull D 1992 *Landscaped Parks and Gardens of East Yorkshire*

Pevsner, N & Neave, D 1995 *Buildings of England: Yorkshire: York and the East Riding*

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

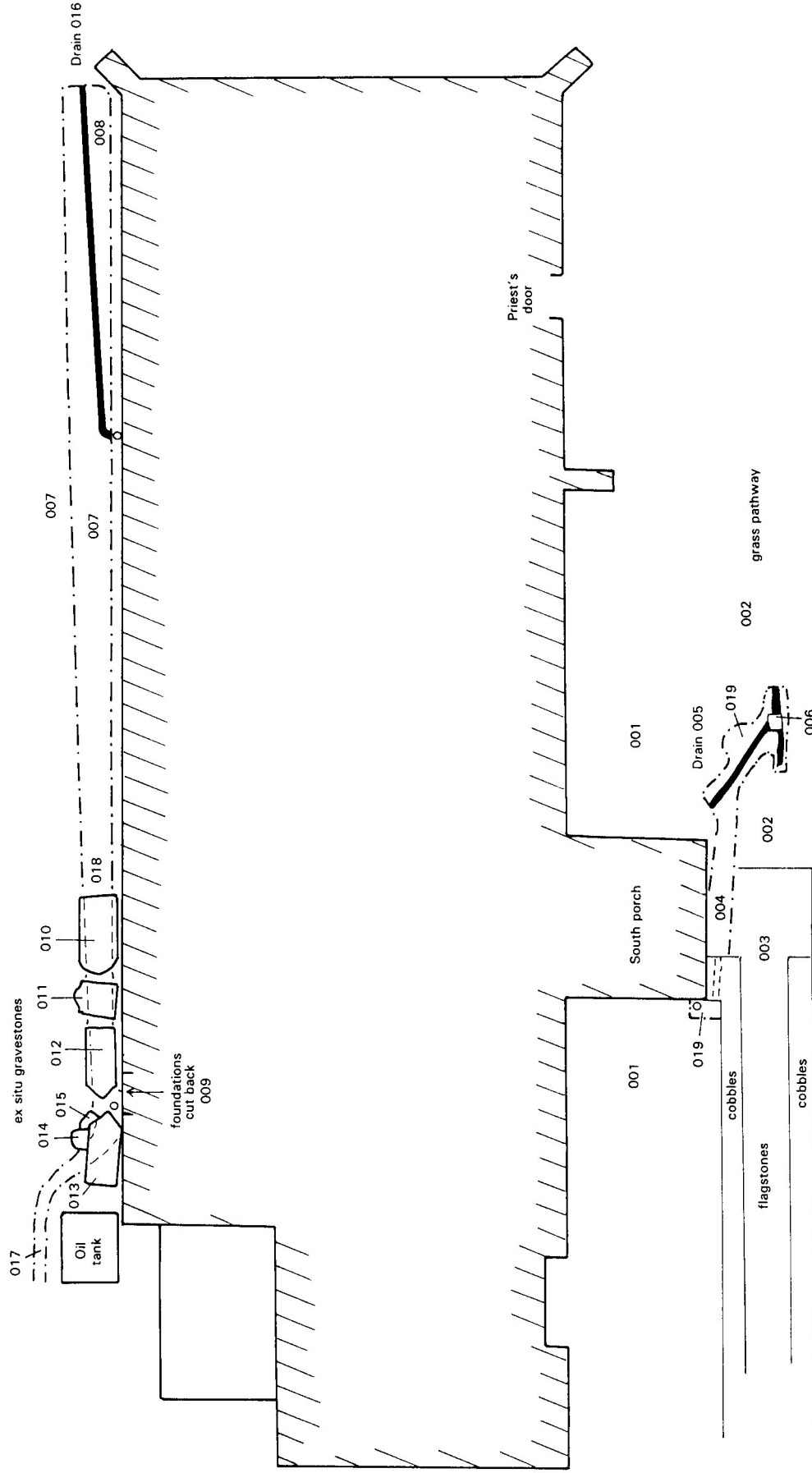
7.1 The archaeological watching brief at All Saints Church was commissioned and funded by the PCC, through their architects Ferry and Mennim of York. EDAS would like to thank the PCC and Andrew Pert (architect) for their co-operation in carrying out the archaeological watching brief.

7.2 The watching brief was carried out by Kate Dennett, with assistance from Rod Mackey, on behalf of EDAS, and they 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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|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| PROJECT                          |           |
| ALL SAINTS CHURCH, LONDESBOROUGH |           |
| TITLE                            |           |
| GENERAL LOCATION                 |           |
| SCALE                            | DATE      |
| 1:25,000                         | JULY 2006 |
| EDAS                             | FIGURE    |
|                                  | 1         |



|   |          |        |           |
|---|----------|--------|-----------|
| PROJECT<br>ALL SAINTS CHURCH, LONDESBOROUGH |          |        |           |
| TITLE<br>WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS             |          |        |           |
| SCALE                                       | AS SHOWN | DATE   | JULY 2006 |
|   | EDAS     | FIGURE | 2         |





Plate 1: General view of trench along north wall of north aisle, looking west.



Plate 2: Base of north aisle wall, prior to cutting back of stonework.





Plate 3: General view of drainage works at south porch.



Plate 4: Gravestone 015, Mat Wharton 1793.

## **APPENDIX 1**

## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

- 001 Turf/topsoil of graveyard to south of the church. Dark brown loam with flint, stone, limestone and chalk fragments, 0.15m deep.
- 002 Turf/topsoil on grass pathway to south of church, 0.1m thick.
- 003 Cobble stone edged flagstone path, <0.09m thick.
- 004 Crushed brick and limestone rubble hardcore beneath flagstone and cobble path, <0.16m thick.
- 005 Ceramic drainpipe running from SE corner of south porch, c.0.17m wide.
- 006 Tile repair to junction of 005 and old broken drain.
- 007 Dark brown organic soil to north of church, <0.4m deep
- 008 Gritty, mid brown loam – backfill of previous drainage trench.
- 009 Foundations of north aisle wall.
- 010 Gravestone 1.8m by 0.74m (Robert Hagyard).
- 011 Gravestone 1.08m by 0.75m (Isabella Little).
- 012 Gravestone 1.6m by 0.7m (Foster Hagyard).
- 013 Gravestone 1.65m by 0.75m (John & Elizabeth Waller).
- 014 Gravestone c.0.7m by c.0.5m (illegible).
- 015 Gravestone (Mat Wharton).
- 016 Ceramic drainpipe running along east end of north aisle wall, 0.17m wide.
- 017 Dirty brown gritty loam with brick / limestone mortar, >0.4m thick, backfill of trench for oil tank base.
- 018 Firm brown gritty loam subsoil beneath 007 on north side of church.
- 019 Firm brown gritty loam with chalk, flint and brick fragments, backfill of trench for drain 005.