

THE CORONATION GARDEN,  
NORTH BAR WITHIN, BEVERLEY, EAST YORKSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

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On behalf of

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2005, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Lancaster Binnington Architects, on behalf of the Beverley and District Civic Society and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, to undertake a limited programme of archaeological recording during the initial phases of the creation of a sensory garden in the Coronation Garden at North Bar Within, Beverley, East Yorkshire (NGR TA03013981).

A total of seven *ex-situ* gravestones in the former burial ground were recorded, prior to their relocation as part of the creation of the sensory garden. There was no requirement for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the limited groundworks associated with the scheme, but the remains of four brick-built burial vaults were noted, together with other isolated features. The recorded gravestones were subsequently relocated elsewhere within the graveyard once construction work had been completed.



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In January 2005, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Lancaster Binnington Architects, on behalf of the Beverley and District Civic Society and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, to undertake a limited programme of archaeological recording during the initial phases of the creation of a sensory garden in the Coronation Garden at North Bar Within, Beverley, East Yorkshire (NGR TA03013981).
- 1.2 The archaeological recording consisted of a survey of seven gravestones in the former burial ground, prior to their relocation as part of the creation of the sensory garden. There was no requirement for an archaeological watching brief to be held during the limited groundworks associated with the scheme, but some features were recorded by EDAS and the project architects, and the results are included here for completeness.
- 1.3 The seven gravestones were measured and photographed, and their inscriptions noted, on 26th January 2005. A partially exposed burial vault was also recorded on the same day, while other observations were made by the project architects in February 2005.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Coronation Garden lies on the west side of North Bar Within, just to the south of the North Bar (see figure 1).
- 2.2 That part of the garden lying on the street frontage was formerly occupied by housing. The first reasonably detailed plan of Beverley, published by Hick in 1811, depicts a range of buildings extending all along the street frontage, extending south from the North Bar and Bar House to the Tiger Lane road junction. Bar House (Nos 65-67) was the town house of the Warton family of Beverley Parks in the 17th and early 18th century, although the property was altered and refaced by William Hawe in 1866. To the south of Bar House are five three-storey houses (Nos 55 to 63) which form a 14-bay red brick terrace built for Charles Pelham, first Lord Yarborough, in c.1780, possibly to the designs of William Middleton (Pevsner & Neave 1995, 320). To the south of the Coronation Garden, at the junction of North Bar Within and Tiger Lane, lies St Mary's Court (Nos 49-51) which is the best surviving timber-framed building in the town; it is predominately of 15th century date although the façade has been much altered. Bar House is a Grade I Listed Building, Nos 49-51 are listed Grade II, and St Mary's Court is listed Grade II\* (English Heritage IOEs 167340, 167339 & 167337 respectively).
- 2.3 The houses which formerly occupied the frontage of the plot which was to become the Coronation Garden are depicted on a watercolour currently held in the Beverley Art Gallery Collection. This painting, which is now reproduced on a notice board in the garden, shows a substantial 6-bay Georgian town house of two storeys, with dormer windows suggesting a third attic floor. Amongst its owners was Mark Kirkby, a Hull merchant who lived there until 1748. By the 1820s the house belonged to the Constable family of Wassand, and was occupied by a relative, Peter Acklom. There was a coach house and stables to the rear, with access onto the Westwood. There was a smaller building between this large 6-bay house and what is now St Mary's Court. In the 1820s this house was owned by John Hunsley, a plumber and glazier (information from on-site notice board).

- 2.4 In about 1827 both houses were bought and demolished by Henry Ellison, who lived at St Mary's House, now St Mary's Manor (Allison 1989, 240). He sold the eastern two-thirds of the plot to St Mary's Church for use as a parish burial ground, and retained the western part as a private burial ground for his family and other prominent Beverley citizens. The site is marked as "New Burial Ground" on Wood's 1828 plan of Beverley, although it is depicted as rough ground suggesting that burials had not yet commenced. However, the division between the public and Ellison's private ground is shown, as a dotted line, and there are two structures running into the western part of the public area from the adjoining plots to the south.
- 2.5 Burials in the public part of the site took place from 1829, and it was then subsequently closed in 1869, except for existing plots. The area is marked as "St. Mary's Burial Ground (Disused)" on the detailed 1892 Ordnance Survey plan of the town (sheets 210/8/17-18) (see figure 2). The division between the public and private areas of the site is still shown, and the scale of the map is such that some of the planting is depicted. There is also a rectangular structure extending north into the private part of the site; this may simply be a sub-division of the burial ground or the remains of the larger structure shown on the earlier 1828 plan. The site is similarly depicted and named on the 1910 edition (sheet 210/8).
- 2.6 The public part of the burial ground was then sold to the Corporation of Beverley in 1955 and the Coronation Garden was established to commemorate the 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth II (Allison 1989, 240). The east end of the garden, fronting onto North Bar Within, has ornamental cast-iron rails, gates and gatepiers dating to 1829 which were made at William Crosskill's newly established foundry in the town. The front wall, railings, gates and gatepiers are a Grade II Listed Building (English Heritage IOE 167338).
- 2.7 Within the present public garden, the headstones have been cleared from their original positions and placed around the boundary walls. However, the private part of the burial ground has been retained and is still administered by St Mary's Church, and is separated from the rest of the area by cast-iron railings (see plate 2).

### 3 THE GRAVESTONES

- 3.1 The seven recorded gravestones were all located against the high brick wall forming the north side of the burial ground, towards the west end of the public area between a brick buttress and a stone obelisk (see figure 3 and plate 1). The gravestones were all *ex situ*, having been positioned here when all monuments in this part of the site were cleared to convert it into an open space, presumably in 1955. A certain amount of vegetation clearance was required prior to recording, including the removal of some ivy from some of the inscribed surfaces; one gravestone (no 7) had already fallen and so was propped up to be recorded. The inscriptions had also been previously been recorded by the East Yorkshire Family History Society in 1995, as part of a wider record of the whole graveyard (EYFHS 1995, 31-32).
- 3.2 The gravestones are described below from west to east (i.e. from the buttress towards the obelisk). In accordance with standard procedure (e.g. Mytum 2000), the upper and lower cases of the inscriptions were recorded as inscribed, illegible words or numbers are noted by a dash in brackets, new lines are indicated by a slash, and illegible lines are indicated by a dash in brackets between two slashes. In some cases, the EYFHS had recorded parts of the texts which were no longer visible, and so these words are highlighted in italics for completeness.

*Gravestone 1 (EYFHS no 378)*

- 3.3 Gravestone 1 was an upright slab of reddish brown sandstone, 1.16m tall, 0.80m wide and 0.10m deep, flat-topped with moulded edges (see plate 3).
- 3.4 The stone bears the following incised mainly decipherable inscription: 'SACRED / To the Memory of / ROBERT KEMP / of this place / who departed this Life / October 30 1837 / Aged 65 years / Had s(-) / (-) / Also Elizabeth / wife of the above / who died January 24<sup>th</sup> 1848 / Aged 83 Years'.

*Gravestone 2 (EYFHS no 379)*

- 3.5 Gravestone 2 was an upright flat-topped slab of reddish brown sandstone, 1.23m tall, 0.82m wide and 0.09m deep, with two concave shoulders, chamfered outer edges and an inset line around the inner edges (see plate 4).
- 3.6 The stone bears the following incised clear inscription: 'In affectionate remembrance / of LOUISA, WIFE OF / WILLIAM BRIGHAM OF BEVERLEY / CHEMIST & c / WHO DIED FEB<sup>Y</sup>. 3<sup>RD</sup> 1853 / AGED 31 YEARS / What sinners value / resign / Lord tis enough that thou are mine / Also of / LUCY THEIR DAUGHTER / BORN NOV<sup>R</sup> 13<sup>TH</sup> 1852, / DIED APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> 1853.'

*Gravestone 3 (EYFHS no 380)*

- 3.7 Gravestone 3 was an upright flat-topped slab of reddish brown sandstone, 1.17m tall, 0.98m wide and 0.09m deep, with flat edges and an inset line around the inner edge (see plate 5).
- 3.8 The stone bears the following incised clear inscription: 'In affectionate remembrance of / JAMES SMITH / WHO DIED NOVEMBER 12 1882 / AGED 78 YEARS / GOD WILL REDEEM MY SOUL FROM THE POWER OF THE GRAVE / FOR HE SHALL RECEIVE ME / ANN / THE BELOVED WIFE OF JAMES SMITH / WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE / MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 1863 / AGED 56 YEARS / Jesus said, weap *not*, *she* is not dead but sleepeth / Also JAMES, SON OF THE ABOVE / WHO DIED JULY 13<sup>TH</sup> 1859 / AGED 5 YEARS / He came forth like a flower and was cut down / ALSO OF / WILLIAM MERRY / YOUNGEST SON OF THE ABOVE / WHO DIED AT TORONTO, CANADA / APRIL 19<sup>th</sup> 1875 / aged 29 years'.

*Gravestone 4 (EYFHS no 381)*

- 3.9 Gravestone 4 was an upright flat-topped slab of reddish brown sandstone, 1.23m tall, 0.97m wide and 0.10m deep, with moulded edges (see plate 6).
- 3.10 The stone bears the following incised clear inscription: ' SACRED / to the memory of / THOMAS BRIGHAM / *Grocer* and Druggist of this Place / who departed this life / September 14<sup>th</sup> 1858 in the / 47<sup>th</sup> year of his age / *By faith on* Jesus' conquests, *he relied / on Jesus'* merits, centred all and *died.* / Also of JANE ANN / *and* MILES JACKSON his Children / who died in infancy / Also of / JOSEPH BRIGHAM / his *youngest son / died February 8th 1845 / aged 14 years*'.

*Gravestone 5 (not recorded by EYFHS)*

- 3.11 Gravestone 5 was an upright flat-topped slab of reddish brown sandstone, 1.22m tall, 0.66m wide and 0.07m deep, with a semi-circular head with concave shoulders (see plate 7). The face of the stone was extremely worn and very little of the incised

inscription remained legible: 'IN MEMORY OF / (-) INGSBY / (-) Life / (-) 1818 / (rest illegible)'.

*Gravestone 6 (EYFHS no 382)*

- 3.12 Gravestone 6 was an upright slab of reddish brown sandstone, in the form of a triangular body surmounted by a ringed cross. It was 1.32m tall, 0.64m wide at the base, 0.29m wide below the cross; the cross itself was 0.45m across (see plate 8). There was some erosion around the base.

- 3.13 The stone bears the following incised clear inscription: 'In / Affectionate / Remembrance of / KATE ADELINE, / YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF / CHARLES AND / ANNE ELIZABETH HOBSON, / WHO DIED / DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 1862 / AGED 12 MONTHS / ALSO OF / ELEANOR GERTRUDE HOBSON / WHO DIED AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup> 1884 / aged 8 weeks'.

*Gravestone 7 (EYFHS no 383)*

- 3.14 Gravestone 7 was a fallen slab of brown sandstone with a round top, 1.41m tall, 0.71m wide and 0.08m deep (see plate 9). The stone bears traces of the following incised inscription: ' IN MEMORY / OF / ELIZA / daughter of / FRANCIS & MARTHA / BURRELL / who died June 3rd 1857 / in the 5th year of her age / Also of / ROSEMARY their daughter / who died Feb (-) 1859 / in the 3rd year of her age'.

## **4 BURIAL VAULTS**

- 4.1 The remains of a few brick-built burial vaults and other structures were revealed during the landscaping works associated with the construction of the new sensory garden (see figure 3). One feature (A on figure 3) was recorded by EDAS while the others were noted by the project architect, Richard Lancaster. In all cases, the features were able to be retained *in situ*, and the ground surface above was reinstated.

*Feature A*

- 4.2 This rectangular vault was identified towards the west end of the public part of the burial ground. It appeared to have been previously disturbed, as a number of pieces of flat sandstone slab were noted amongst the soil infill, perhaps the remains of a former cover slab. The vault was aligned north-west/south-east, and measured 2.36m long, 1.76m wide and at least 0.90m deep (see plate 10). It was built of red hand-made bricks (average size 220mm by ? by 7mm) laid in stretcher bond and set with a lime mortar; the sides had been limewashed. No human remains or coffin elements were visible inside the vault.

*Feature B*

- 4.3 This coffin-shaped vault was noted just to the south of Feature A, on the same alignment. It was 2.25m long and 0.70m wide, widening to 1.00m at the shoulders. It was of brick construction, the bricks measuring 220mm by 10mm by 7mm, and the top of the bricks lay at 0.20m below the original ground surface. Other bricks and a slab were partially exposed to the north and east. The coffin-shaped vault contained no evidence for any human remains or coffin elements, and there is a similarly-shaped vault exposed in the private part of the burial ground to the west.

### *Feature C*

- 4.4 Another rectangular-shaped burial vault was noted just to the south of the recorded gravestones, 0.15m below the original ground surface. The vault measured 2.10m long and 0.90m wide, but the full extent of the structure was not exposed. To the north-east of this vault an isolated section of brickwork 1.10m long was exposed, presumably representing another part of a similar rectangular-shaped burial vault.

### *Features D*

- 4.5 The south side of a similar coffin-shaped vault was noted in the foundation trench for a new brick wall, part of a raised flower bed, which was excavated to a depth of 0.55m below the original ground surface in the centre north side of the public burial ground. The exposed parts of the vault lay 0.25m below the original ground surface and had similar dimensions to feature B noted above, and it was constructed of the same type of brickwork.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The archaeological recording noted the details of seven *ex-situ* gravestones located in the public part of the former burial ground. The graveyard as a whole was created in 1827 by Henry Ellison, who retained the western third of the site for his own use. The rest of the site was sold to St Mary's Church and was used for public burials between 1829 and 1868. In 1955 the public part of the site was sold to the Corporation of Beverley and they presumably cleared the site prior to the creation of the Coronation Garden.
- 5.2 There was no requirement for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the limited groundworks associated with the creation of the new sensory garden. However, the remains of four brick-built burial vaults were noted together with other isolated features. The recorded gravestones were subsequently relocated elsewhere within the graveyard once construction work had been completed.

## **6 REFERENCES**

- 1811 Hick's plan of Beverley  
1828 Wood's plan of Beverley  
1892 Ordnance Survey 1:500 map sheets 210/8/17-18  
1910 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map sheet 210/8

Allison, K J 1989 "Churches". In Allison, K J (ed) *A History of the County of York East Riding Volume 6: The Borough and Liberties of Beverley*, 231-242

EYFHS 1995 *Beverley St Mary's including Coronation Gardens Monumental Inscriptions*

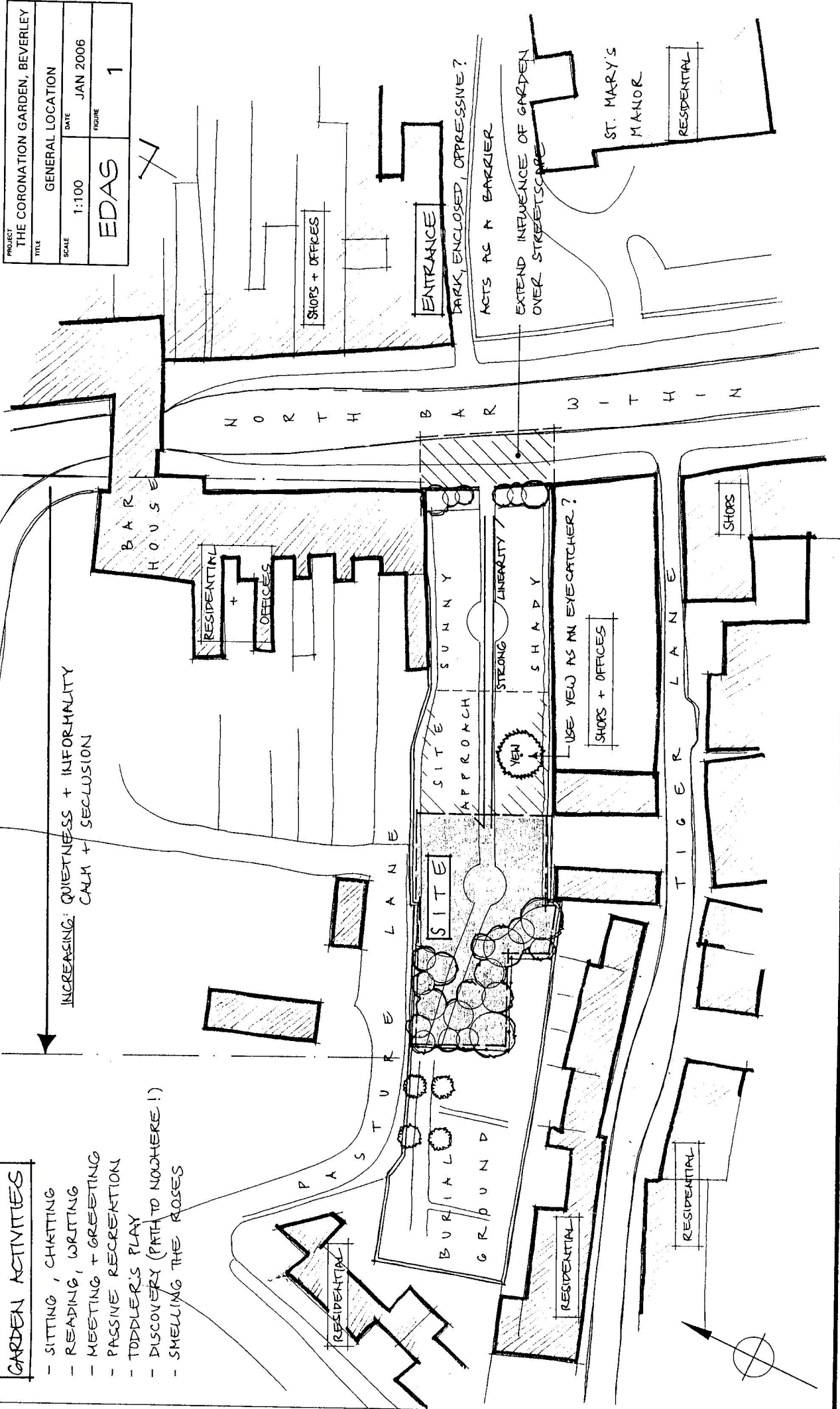
Mytum, H 2000 *Recording and Analysing Graveyards* (Council for British Archaeology Practical Handbook in Archaeology No 15)

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

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 7.1 The archaeological recording was commissioned by Lancaster Binnington Architects, on behalf of the Beverley and District Civic Society and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. EDAS would like to thank Richard Lancaster for his help and co-operation in carrying out the work.
- 7.2 The archaeological recording was undertaken by Ed Dennison and Shaun Richardson of EDAS, with additional information provided by Richard Lancaster. The final report and other drawings were produced by Ed Dennison, who retains responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies. Figure 1 and the base for figure 3 are sourced from Lancaster Binnington Architects, with permission.

PROJECT THE CORONATION GARDEN, BEVERLEY		
TITLE	GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	1:100	DATE JAN 2006
EDAS	FIGURE 1	



# PROPOSED SENSORY GARDEN, THE CORONATION GARDEN for BEVERLEY & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY **SITE CONTEXT**

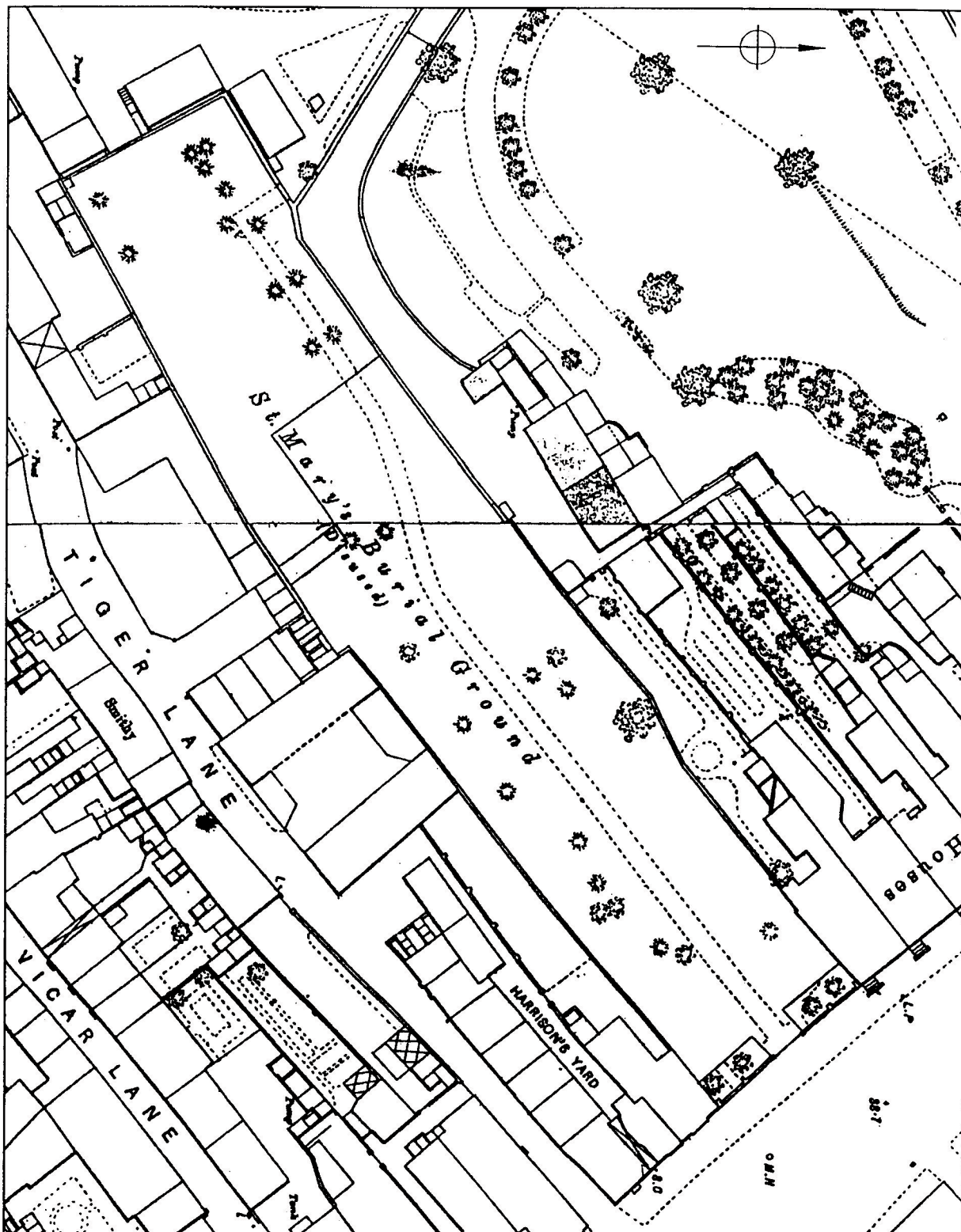
Client BEVERLEY & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY  
Project PROPOSED SENSORY GARDEN  
THE CORONATION GARDEN, BEVERLEY  
Title SITE CONTEXT

Prj No L.03-134  
Drg No 14  
Revision  
Scale NTS  
Date July 2004  
Drawn

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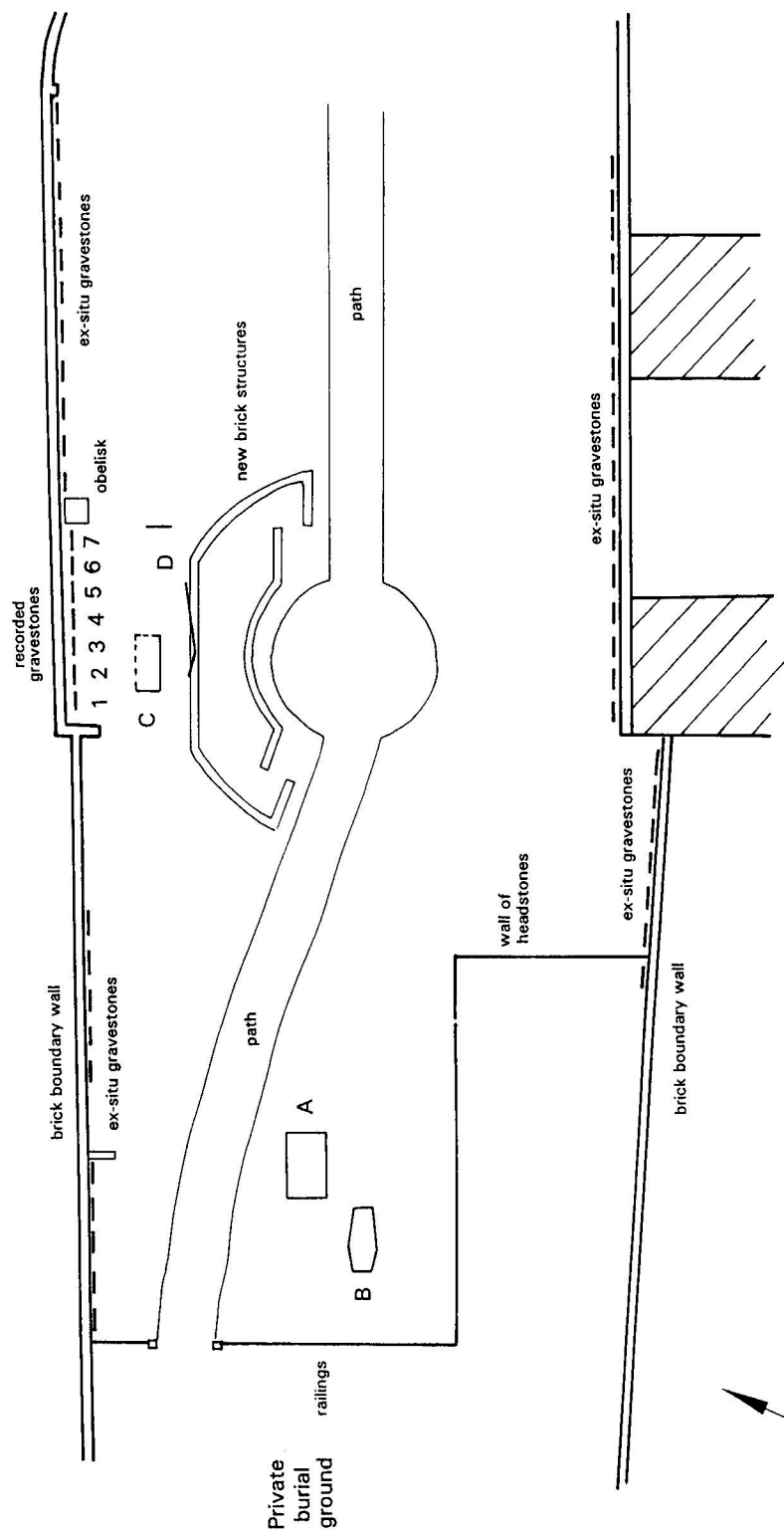




Source: Ordnance Survey 1892 1:500 map sheet 210/8/17-18

PROJECT	
THE CORONATION GARDEN, BEVERLEY	
TITLE	
1892 MAP DEPICTION	
SCALE	DATE
NTS	JAN 2006
EDAS	FIGURE
	2





PROJECT THE CORONATION GARDEN, BEVERLEY			
TITLE RECORDING RESULTS			
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE JAN 2006		FIGURE 3
EDAS			



Plate 1: General view of recorded gravestones, looking north.



Plate 2: Cast-iron railings dividing former public and private parts of the burial ground, looking north-west.





Plate 3: Gravestone 1 (Robert Kemp).



Plate 4: Gravestone 2 (Louisa Brigham).



Plate 5: Gravestone 3 (James Smith).



Plate 6: Gravestone 4 (Thomas Brigham).





Plate 7: Gravestone 5 (? ingsby).



Plate 8: Gravestone 6 (Kate Adeline).



Plate 9: Gravestone 7 (Eliza Burrell).



Plate 10: Exposed burial vault A, looking north-east.