

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HESSLE,  
EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,  
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HESSLE,  
EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,  
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

Report no: 2006/290.R01  
Version: Final  
Date: January 2007  
Author: Ed Dennison

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

On behalf of

Corporate Resources Directorate  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
County Hall  
Beverley  
East Yorkshire HU17 9BA

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING,  
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HESSLE, EAST YORKSHIRE**

**CONTENTS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1	INTRODUCTION .....	1
2	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION.....	1
3	AIMS AND METHODOLOGY .....	1
4	OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....	2
5	WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS .....	2
6	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS .....	3
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	4
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	4

Appendices

1	List of Contexts
2	Listed Building description

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In September 2006, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr C Gray of East Riding of Yorkshire Council (Building Surveyors Section, Corporate Resources Directorate) to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the taking down and rebuilding of a section of churchyard wall at All Saints Church, Hessle, East Yorkshire (NGR TA0330 2644). The watching brief was made a condition of a Diocesan faculty.

The watching brief in the south-west corner of the graveyard did not reveal any significant archaeological deposits, which is not surprising given the extent and scale of the works. The only feature of note was an unmortared foundation which lay 0.7m below the present surface of the graveyard. This foundation is likely to represent the remains of the original western boundary of the churchyard, which is shown following a direct north-south alignment from this approximate position on the Ordnance Survey map of 1855. A layer of loose gritty brown loam to the west of this foundation is likely to be associated with its demolition, possibly in the 1870s when the adjacent Wesleyan Methodist church was built and when the present boundary appears to have been established.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2006, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr C Gray of East Riding of Yorkshire Council (Building Surveyors Section, Corporate Resources Directorate) to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the taking down and rebuilding of a section of churchyard wall at All Saints Church, Hessle, East Yorkshire (NGR TA0330 2644) (see figure 1). The watching brief was made a condition of a Diocesan faculty granted on 30th May 2006.

## 2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 All Saints Church occupies a prominent position in the centre of the of Hessle, in the angle of Swinegate and Southgate, at the south end of Northgate. The graveyard surrounds the church, the greatest extent being on the west side. To the south of the graveyard, a tarmac-surfaced car park associated with the village hall slopes down slightly towards the east. To the west of the graveyard is a Sunday school / Schoolroom built in 1910 to replace an existing structure, and a Wesleyan Methodist church built in 1875-76. The c.14m length of churchyard wall which required rebuilding lay in the south-west corner of the graveyard (see figure 2).

## 3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with recently published guidance relating to archaeological work on churches and in churchyards (ADCA 2004; Church of England/English Heritage 2005), and also took account of general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999) in relation to watching briefs. However, no specific EDAS methods statement or specification was produced for this project.
- 3.2 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks associated with the demolition and rebuilding of the new section of churchyard wall, to recover any information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed. The demolition and clearance work was undertaken by contractors and was monitored by EDAS through daily site visits, between 3rd and 9th October 2006. The upper courses of the wall and ground behind were cleared using a mini-excavator with a toothed bucket, with an electric/pneumatic drill being used for the lower courses and to break up the areas of concrete and tarmac.
- 3.3 The c.16m length of bowed churchyard wall which was required to be rebuilt formed a revetment to the churchyard to the north, the ground surface of the latter lying c.0.70m above the level of the car park to the south. This meant that, following the demolition of the wall, the exposed bank of loose soil required a slight battering back, extending to c.0.5m into the churchyard, before a foundation trench for the new section of wall could be dug. This trench was c.1.0m wide and 0.4m deep on the car park side (see plates 2 and 3).
- 3.4 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. Twelve archaeological contexts were recorded; these are all 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 all monitored groundworks were marked on a general

site plan at 1:500 scale, and a more detailed section drawing at 1:20 scale was made. A photographic record was also maintained using 35mm colour prints.

- 3.5 With the agreement of the developer, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service (site code ASH 06; accession number 2007/003). No artefacts were retained during the watching brief.

## 4 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As noted by the Listed Building description (see Appendix 2), All Saints Church is a complex structure with a long history of development. In summary, the church comprises a three stage internal west tower with spire, a 5 bay aisled nave with clerestory and north and south porches, a 2 bay chancel with 2 bay north and south chapels, and a 19th century north organ chamber.
- 4.2 A church is mentioned in Hessle in the 1086 Domesday Book, but little Norman material survives within the present church, apart from some re-used masonry and a collection of fragments built into the north wall of the chapel south of the chancel; the latter include corbels and bits of elaborate 12th century windows with beakhead and zigzag decoration. A considerable amount of 13th century material survives in the nave arcades and south doorway, and there is much 15th century work in the tower and clerestory. The nave aisles were extended to the west in the 15th century to embrace the tower. The east part of the nave and the entire chancel were rebuilt in 1870 by the Hull architect, R G Smith, who also undertook a major restoration. Previous works included the rebuilding of the north side of the chancel and raising the arcade by C Appleton in 1841, and further restoration works by Cuthbert Broderick in 1852-53. The south porch was added in 1874. Despite these works however, the generally 15th century character of the building remains. A vestry was attached to the west end of the church in Broderick, Lowther and Walker in 1901-02 (Pevsner & Neave 1995, 467-468; information supplied by Peter Pace Architects).
- 4.3 Little is known about the extent and/or growth of the churchyard, but it is assumed that some land has been lost to various road widening and improvement works in the past. However, the Ordnance Survey 1855 1st edition 6" map (sheet 239) shows that the west side of the churchyard was at that time defined by a straight north-south boundary, whereas it had assumed its current alignment by the time of the 1910 edition (sheet 239NE) when the Sunday School building had been erected on the site on an earlier structure. It is therefore presumed that area containing the section of wall to be rebuilt in the south-west corner of the churchyard was added between these dates, probably in the 1870s when the adjacent Wesleyan Methodist church was built.

## 5 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

- 5.1 As noted above, the c.16m length of bowed churchyard wall which was required to be rebuilt lay in the south-west corner of the graveyard (see figure 2). The 2m high wall (012) showed evidence of several phases of repair and had been strengthened with numerous shallow buttresses along its length (see plate 1). The wall formed a revetment to the churchyard to the north, the ground surface of the latter lying c.0.70m above the level of the car park to the south.
- 5.2 A thick covering of ivy was removed by hand from the churchyard side of the wall and from nine *ex situ* gravestones, which had been re-sited alongside the wall. Six of the nine grave stones were removed, some with the aid of the mini-excavator, and

were laid horizontally nearby pending relocation; one was broken during this process. A further three gravestones to the east were found to be difficult to remove due to a mass of tree roots which had been confined between the stones and the boundary wall, and again the excavator was used. One of these stones was also broken during removal.

- 5.3 To the east of the north-south wall (010) marking the west boundary of the churchyard, the material exposed by cutting back into the graveyard revealed a c.0.26m depth of dark brown loamy topsoil (002) (see figure 3). Below this was a loose brown sandy loam (003), up to 0.4m thick, containing brick and chalk fragments and lumps of mortar, as well as the occasional large stone.
- 5.4 At a depth of c.0.7m beneath the graveyard surface, 4.0m to the east of the boundary wall (010), the remains of a possible foundation or structure were revealed, comprising seven rough unmortared courses of limestone, chalk and 19th century brick (008), 0.70m wide and 0.50m deep. This foundation lay on a thin (0.04m thick) bed of grey soft sandy mortar (009). An unidentified piece of flat rusted metal 0.48m wide lay on top of the uppermost remaining chalk and brick, and the foundation appeared to be associated with a vertical cut (007) on its east side. Extending west from this point, up to the boundary wall, was a layer of loose gritty brown loam (004) c.0.40m thick, containing mortar, cobbles, brick and chalk rubble, and fragments of 19th century pottery. Below this was a firm light brown loam (005) containing chalk and brick fragments with flint and cobble, which extended beyond the base of the trench.
- 5.5 To the east of the foundation (008), the loose brown sandy loam (003) was much deeper, up to 0.72m thick, and was underlain by a similar loamy deposit (011) c.0.17m thick, which contained brick and chalk fragments mixed with mortar. This was probably the backfill for the trench dug when the present wall was built, and it in turn overlay a yellow brown natural clay (006) which was only just visible in the base of the excavated trench. Towards the east end of the trench, these deposits were heavily disturbed by the roots of a large tree and their subsequent removal (see plate 3).
- 5.6 A surprisingly high number of large and small sherds of post-medieval pottery were noted within all the deposits beneath the graveyard topsoil (002). Those towards the east end of the trench could not be assigned to any particular context, due to the tree root disturbance. Oyster shells and several narrow clay pipe stems were noted and these are consistent with this corner of the graveyard having been used as a rubbish dump in the 17th to 19th centuries.
- 5.7 As might be expected, a few fragments of disarticulated human bone (femur and skull) were noted during the works, but the breaks appeared to have been the result of earlier disturbance. All these fragments were collected together and reburied in the new foundation trench, close to where they were found. No articulated burials were disturbed or affected by the works. After the building of the new section of retaining wall, the removed gravestones were re-erected within the graveyard, close to the previous positions adjacent to the wall.

## **6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The watching brief in the south-west corner of the graveyard did not reveal any significant archaeological deposits, which is not surprising given the extent and scale of the works.

- 6.2 The only feature of note was an unmortared foundation formed by seven courses of limestone, chalk and 19th century brick (008) which lay 0.7m below the present surface of the graveyard. This foundation may be associated with a former memorial, but it is more likely to represent the remains of the original western boundary of the churchyard, which is shown following a direct north-south alignment from this approximate position on the Ordnance Survey map of 1855. The layer of loose gritty brown loam (004) to the west of this foundation is likely to be associated with its demolition, possibly in the 1870s when the adjacent Wesleyan Methodist church was built and when the present boundary appears to have been established.
- 6.3 The extent of cutting back into the existing graveyard was minimal, and no articulated burials were disturbed or affected by the works. The few pieces of disarticulated bone which were identified were collected together and reburied in the new foundation trench.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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

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

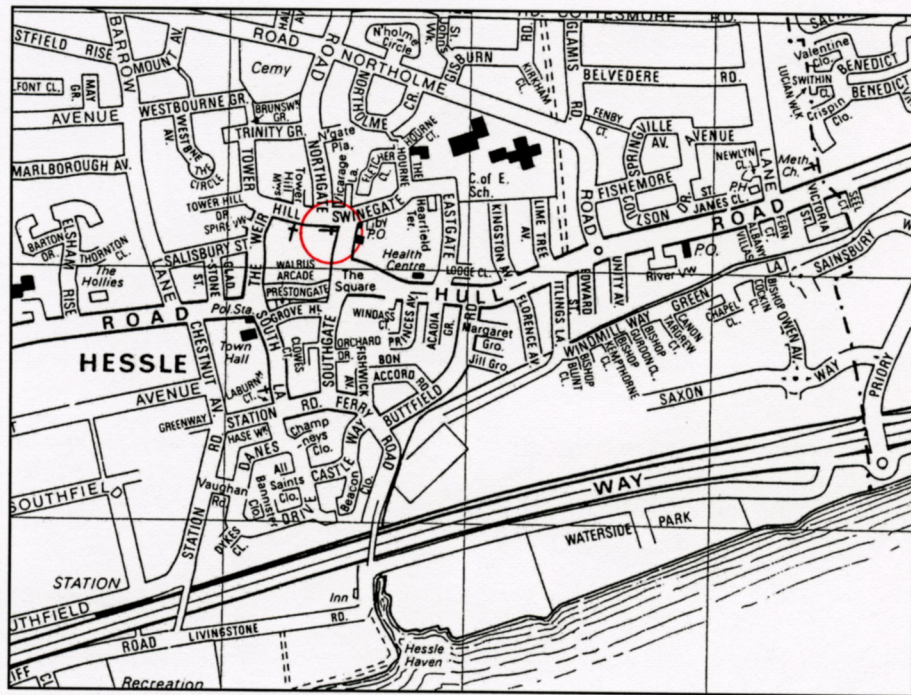
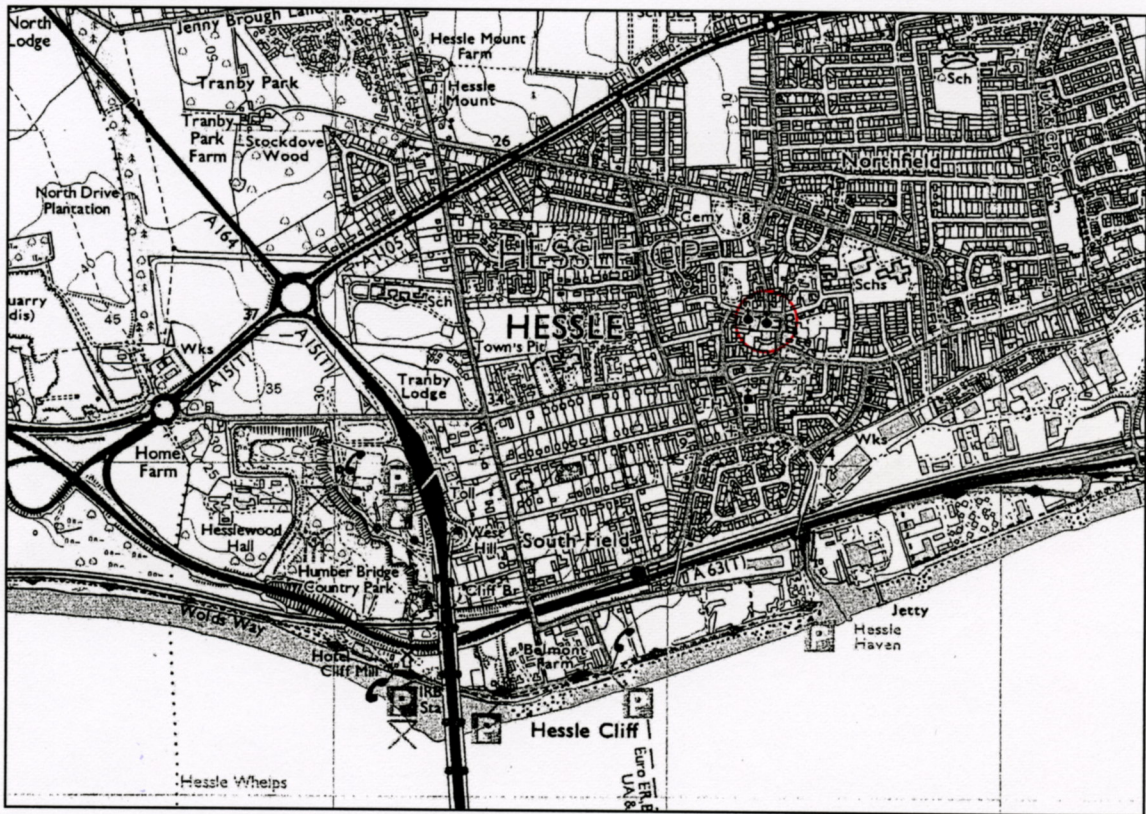
IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (and subsequent revisions)

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

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

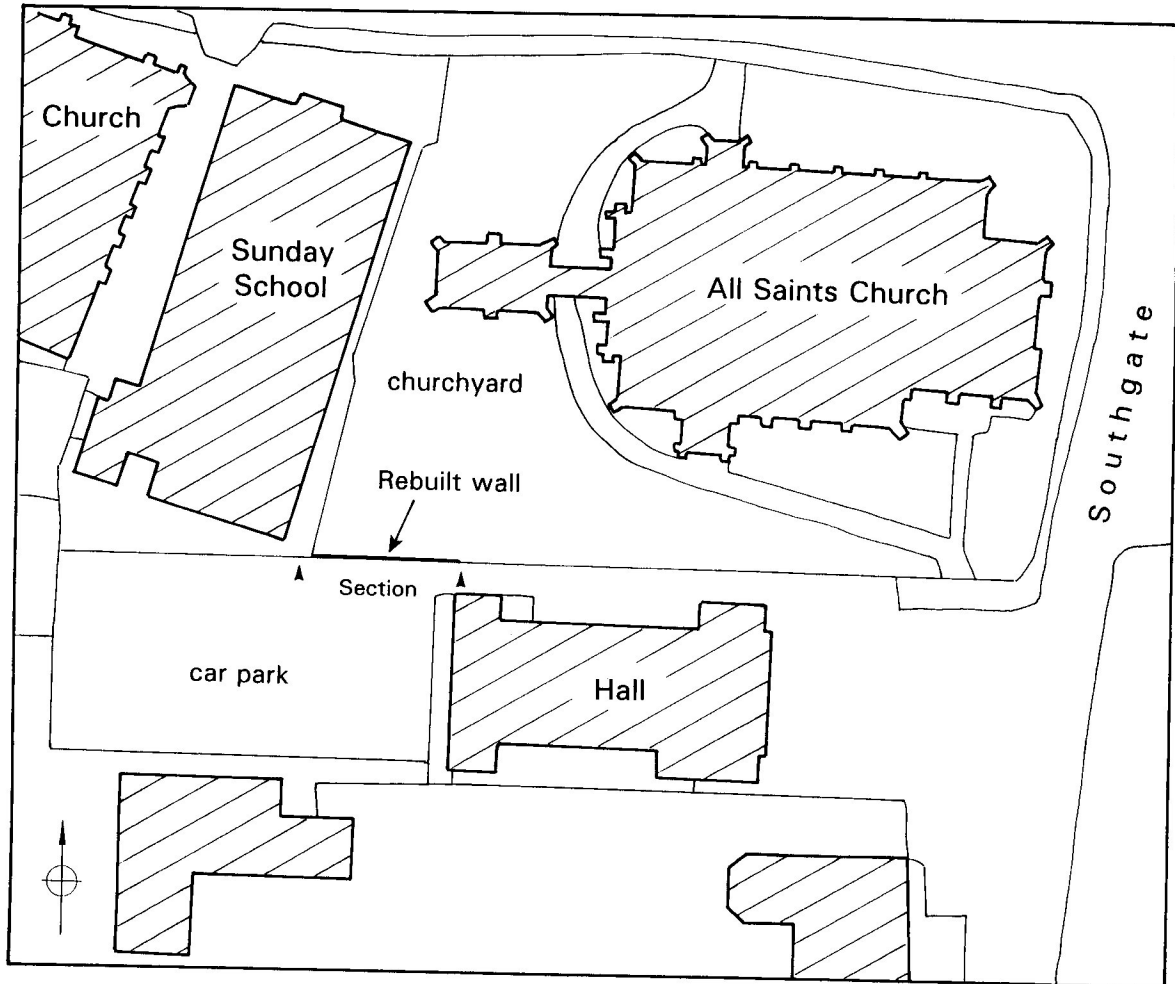
- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief at All Saints Church was commissioned and funded by East Riding of Yorkshire Council (Building Surveyors Section, Corporate Resources Directorate). EDAS would like to thank Mr C Gray of ERYC and Peter Pace of Peter Pace Architects Ltd for their co-operation in carrying out the work.
- 8.2 The site recording was undertaken by Kate Dennett on behalf of EDAS, who also produced the fieldwork records. Ed Dennison produced the final report and drawings, and the responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies remains with him.





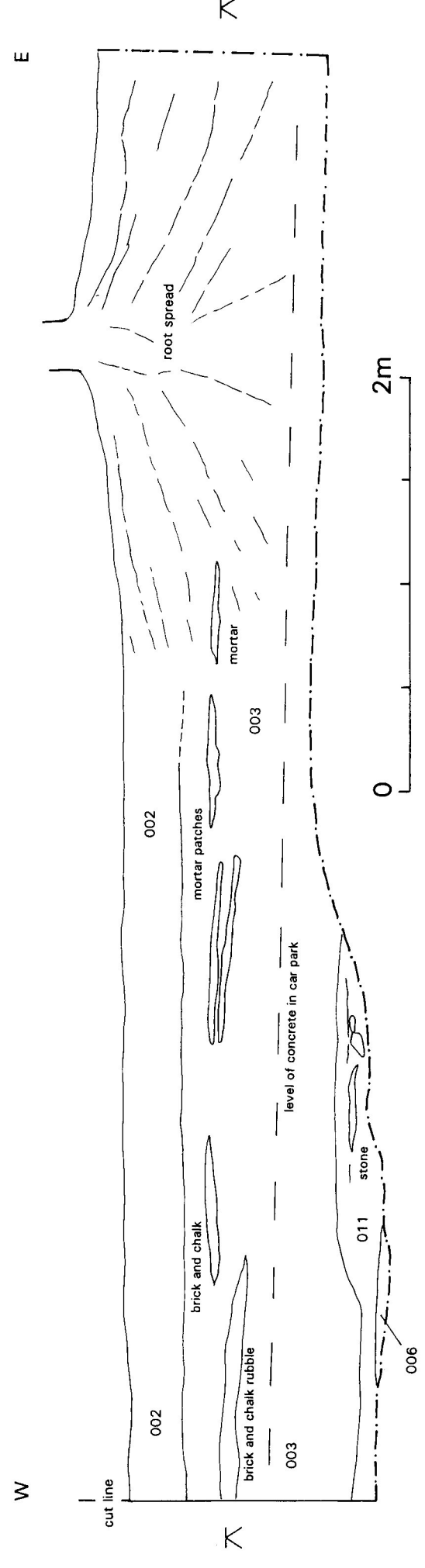
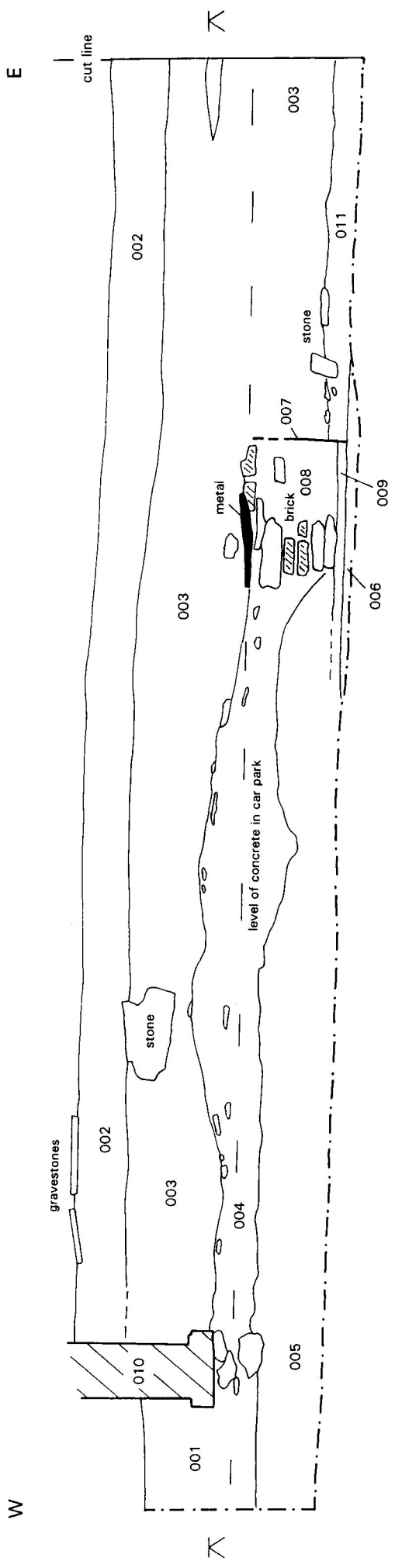
Reproduced from the 1:25,000 scale map by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, © Crown copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Licence AL100013825

PROJECT		ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HESSE	
TITLE		LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	JAN 2007
EDAS		FIGURE	1



Based on a plan provided by ERYC

PROJECT		ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HESSLE	
TITLE		SITE LOCATION	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	JAN 2006
EDAS		FIGURE	2



Section revealed by demolition of south churchyard wall

PROJECT	ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HESSLE		
TITLE	RECORDED SECTION		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	JAN 2007
	EDAS	FIGURE	3



Plate 1: General view of wall 012 prior to demolition, from car park looking north-east.



Plate 2: Work in progress, looking west.

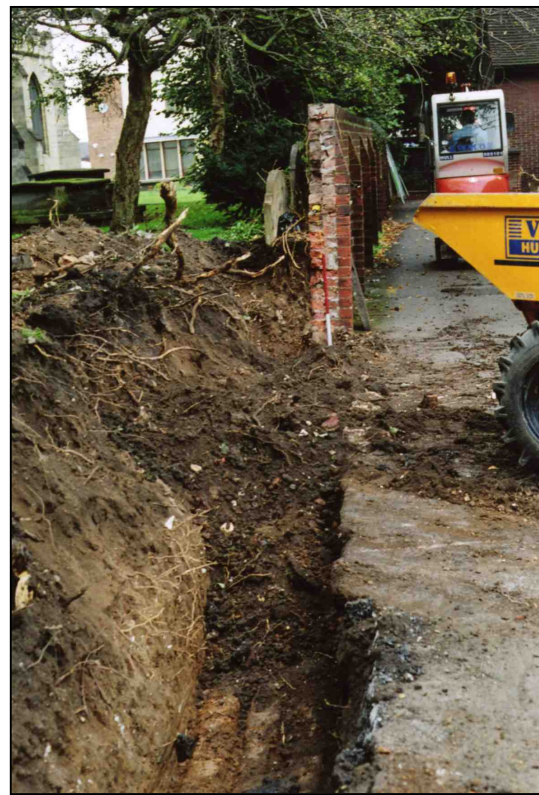


Plate 3: Work in progress, looking east.

## **APPENDIX 1**

## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

- 001 Dark brown loam - topsoil on west side of north-south boundary wall, 0.52m thick.
- 002 Dark brown loam – topsoil on east side of north-south boundary wall, <0.26m thick.
- 003 Loose brown sandy loam with chalk and brick fragments, <0.72m thick.
- 004 Loose brown loam with cobbles, mortar, brick and chalk rubble, c.0.4m thick.
- 005 Firm light brown loam with chalk and brick fragments with flint and cobbles.
- 006 Yellow brown clay – natural deposit.
- 007 Vertical cut for 008.
- 008 Structure / foundation of chalk, brick and sandstone, 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep.
- 009 Greyish soft sandy mortar 0.04m thick.
- 010 North-south boundary wall of churchyard – yellow brick on red brick foundation, 0.28m wide.
- 011 Loose brown loam, 0.17m thick, with brick and chalk fragments and mortar.
- 012 Existing east-west brick boundary wall of churchyard.

## **APPENDIX 2**

## APPENDIX 2: LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Location : CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, SOUTHGATE (west side), HESSLE, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE, EAST YORKSHIRE

IoE number : 164722

Date listed : 31 JANUARY 1967

Date of last amendment : 31 JANUARY 1967

Grade : I

	HESSLE	SOUTHGATE
TA 02 NW		
		(west side)
9/78		Church of All Saints
31.1.67		

HESSLE SOUTHGATE TA 02 NW (west side) 9/78 Church of All Saints 31.1.67 - I Church. C12 nave, early C13 nave arcades, C15 tower and spire; nave lengthened by 2 bays, aisles widened, chancel rebuilt (all reusing old materials) 1868-70 by R G Smith of Hull. Ashlar, lead roofs. 3-stage west tower (embraced by C15 westward extensions to nave aisles), spire, 5 bay aisled nave with north and south porches, 2 bay chancel with 2-bay north and south chapels and C19 north organ chamber. West tower: set-back buttresses. 3-light pointed west window with Perpendicular tracery under a hoodmould. Moulded band: pointed 3-light belfry openings with Perpendicular tracery and transoms. Band beneath crenellated parapet with crocketed corner finials. Tall spire with lucarnes. South aisle: moulded plinth, buttresses with offsets. Five 3-light pointed windows with Perpendicular tracery. Crenellated parapet. At the west end of each aisle can be seen the original width of the C15 westward extension before Smith's remodelling. Pointed south door of 4 moulded orders: 3 keeled rolls, and an outer filleted roll, all on circular abaci and nook-shafts. C19 south porch in Early English style. North aisle: essentially similar, with four 3-light windows with curvilinear tracery of good style under hoodmoulds with grotesque stops, and a single, smaller, pointed, window of 3 lights with Perpendicular tracery. Pointed double-chamfered north door with chamfered imposts. Clerestory of 4-centred arched windows of 3 lights with Perpendicular tracery. Chancel: to south chapel a chamfered plinth, buttresses with offsets and a diagonal buttress. To west and centre bays are square-headed windows of 4 trefoil-headed lights; the east bay is of 2 storeys (reflecting an earlier, probably C16, internal arrangement) with a square-headed mullion window of 2 lights to the ground floor and a square-headed window of 3 segmental-headed lights to the first floor. Crenellated parapet with crocketed finials. North side has C19 square-headed windows of 3 lights, one to the chancel, another to the organ chamber. 5-light pointed east window with fine Perpendicular tracery under a hoodmould with bishop and monarch stops. Crenellated gable, cross finial. North chapel: a pointed 2-light east window with Perpendicular tracery. South chapel: 4-centred east window of 3 lights to ground floor, square-headed window of 2 lights with label-mould to first floor. Interior: tall pointed tower arch with continuous double chamfers; similar, lower arches to north and south aisles. South arcade: 3 west bays are early C13: pointed arches with paired rolls and a central quirk to the soffit on circular abaci and cylindrical piers on waterholding bases. North arcade: 3 mid C13 west bays of pointed double-chamfered arches on similar abaci, cylindrical piers, and waterholding bases. All 4 capitals retain original painted decoration of foliage scrolls and geometric designs, albeit faded. Hoodmoulds to both arcades. The 2 east bays to north and south arcades are by R G Smith: pointed double-chamfered arches on moulded polygonal abaci and polygonal piers and bases. Pointed double-chamfered chancel arch with attached shaft to responds: raised 1892. Late C13 chancel north chapel: 2 pointed, double-chamfered arches on quatrefoil pier: filleted attached shafts to responds. Late C15 chancel south chapel: 2 pointed, double-hollow-chamfered arches on octagonal pier. Set into the north wall of the south chapel is a small collection of Romanesque moulded and carved stones, including a sagittarius figure. At the west end of the present nave, between the clearly inserted tower arch and arcade responds, can be seen a small area of C12 ashlar. To north wall of the north chancel



chapel is a brass to the memory of Dame Ann Percy, wife to Sir Henry Percy, died 1511. The second window from the west in the north aisle is by Morris and Co: it depicts Saint Anne, Saint Luke and Saint Agnes.

Source: Images of England website ([www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk))