

ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH, LECONFIELD,
EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 2007, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by St Catherine's PCC, through their architect Peter Gaze Pace, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording (a watching brief) during ground works associated with the replacement and renewal of the drainage system through the churchyard of St Catherine's Church, Leconfield, East Yorkshire (NGR TA01504376).

The archaeological work took place as four separate phases of activity between the 31st July 2007 and the 18th March 2008. Phase 1 comprised the recording of the excavation of a number of investigative test pits around the outside of the church. Phase 2 comprised the recording undertaken during the excavation of a French drain around all of the church's external footprint (Trench 1). The Phase 3 recording work was carried out during the excavation of the new drainage trenches through the churchyard (Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5), and Phase 4 comprised the monitoring of a trench for a new gas pipe running along the west side of the existing path (Trench 6).

Apart from a single *in situ* burial (013), recorded at a shallow depth (0.55m BGL or 10.50m AOD) in Test Pit 7, the deposits encountered within the churchyard comprised only topsoil (003) and sub-soil (004), with only small quantities of *ex situ* or residual human bone fragments being recovered. The excavation of Trench 1 around the outside of the church exposed some new information about the footings of the structure but it is difficult to place the new information within its proper architectural context.

The two most significant pieces of new structural information uncovered during the watching brief were some spread chalk footings (008 and 015) recorded on the north side of the north aisle, and a brick structure (014) on the south side of the tower. The appearance of the former, with their properly faced north and south edges, the distance they lie from the aisle wall, and their alignment indicate that they are not just spread footings for the north aisle, but probably represent an earlier phase of building. Quite what this is unclear, but it may be part of a separate free-standing structure or be part of an earlier chalk aisle. The brick structure (014) pre-dates the late 17th century tower, and may be earlier aisle extension or an early vestry.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2007, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by St Catherine's PCC, through their architect Peter Gaze Pace, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording (a watching brief) during ground works associated with the replacement and renewal of the drainage system through the churchyard of St Catherine's Church, Leconfield, East Yorkshire (NGR TA01504376). The watching brief was made a condition of a Licence to Proceed, issued by the Diocese of York on 26th October 2007.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 St Catherine's Church is located in the north-east part of Leconfield village, on the north side of an angle in Arram Road (see figures 1 and 2). The archaeological recording took place within the churchyard, to the immediate north, south and east of the church, with subsequent work in the burial ground extension to the north of the churchyard. The site lies at an elevation of between c.10.50m and c.11.00m AOD and, prior to the start of work, the area was a relatively level area of lawned churchyard.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Although no specific project design or brief was produced for the archaeological work, general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999) was followed. The aim of the watching brief was to monitor some investigative ground works preceding the replacement of the existing drainage system through the churchyard, and the subsequent construction of the new drainage system, to recover information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed.
- 3.2 The archaeological work took place in several different phases between the 31st July 2007 and the 18th March 2008. Phase 1 comprised the recording of the excavation of a number of investigative test pits around the outside of the church on 31st July 2007 (see figure 3). A total of seven test pits were excavated by hand, although one pit (Pit 4) was made up of four separate but closely spaced parts. Test Pit 1 was positioned to the east of the south porch and Test Pit 2 was off the south-east corner of the south aisle. Test Pit 3 was located off the south-east corner of the chancel, whilst Test Pit 4 was excavated along the base of the east wall of the chancel. Test Pit 5 stood to the immediate north of the chancel's north-west corner and Test Pit 6 was to the north of centre of the north aisle. Finally, Test Pit 7 was excavated against the north side of the north aisle, immediately to the east of a buttress. The dimensions for the individual test pits are given below, and the excavations were observed in their entirety.
- 3.3 Phase 2 of the work comprised recording undertaken during the excavation of a French drain around all of the church's external footprint (Trench 1) (see figure 4). The drain was excavated by hand and was not subject to strict archaeological monitoring, as in many places it simply replaced a pre-existing French drain that was in a poor condition. However, the newly excavated trench was left open for archaeological inspection on the 27th February 2008. Detailed photographic and written records were made of the footings, archaeological deposits and any other structures exposed in the French drain.
- 3.4 The Phase 3 recording work was carried out during the excavation of the new drainage trenches through the churchyard. A drainage trench 23.50m long was

dug parallel to the south side of the church from the south porch to the east churchyard boundary wall, and then north along the boundary wall for a distance of c.11m on 27th February 2008 (Trench 2) (see figure 4). A small angled extension drain was also dug from the south-east corner of the chancel to the main alignment at the same time (Trench 3). A similar trench was dug parallel to the north side of the church for a distance of c.19m on the 4th March 2008 (Trench 4). All these trenches were excavated by hand and were subject to constant archaeological supervision. The remainder of the drainage trench along the east churchyard boundary wall (c.28m long) and through the burial ground extension to the north (c.27m long) was excavated on the 5th March 2008 (Trench 5). Due to the greater depths involved, this trench was dug using a tracked JCB mini-digger with a 0.35m toothed bucket under periodic archaeological supervision.

- 3.5 The final phase (Phase 4) of the archaeological works comprised the monitoring of a trench for a new gas pipe running along the west side of the path which ran through the churchyard between the south gateway and the south porch (Trench 6). This trench was excavated by hand on the 18th March 2008.
- 3.6 The positions of all ground works were marked on a general site plan, and more detailed drawings were made of each area as necessary. 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 20 archaeological contexts were recorded, and these are all described in the following text as three digit numbers (e.g. 005). Modern service pipes and associated cuts were not numbered, but are noted in the text below. Similarly, the different parts of the footings of the church exposed in the French drain were not assigned context numbers, but were subject to a detailed written and photographic record. In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. A photographic record of the work was also maintained using 35mm colour and digital prints. For ease of description, the various buttresses around the church have each been assigned a unique letter code (i.e. 'A', 'B' etc), commencing with the westernmost buttress of the north aisle. Levels were taken from an Ordnance Survey bench mark located on the south-west corner of the church tower (value 12.06m AOD).
- 3.7 With the agreement of the PCC, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service (site code LEC 07; accession number 2007/083). No artefacts were retained from the watching brief; one piece of possibly carved stonework was returned to the church after it had been recorded.

4 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The following summary is taken from two main publications, Pace (2007) and Pevsner and Neave (1995, 595), with additional information from Kent (1979, 130). The church is listed Grade I for its historical and architectural interest (see Appendix 2). For the purposes of this description, it is considered to be aligned east-west, although the actual alignment is more north-east/south-west.
- 4.2 St Catherine's Church comprises a west tower (with a boiler house on the north side), a four-bay nave with north and south aisles, a south porch and a two-bay chancel (see plate 1). The first church on the site is thought to have been built around 850 AD, although the only remaining evidence of early fabric is what appears to be the head of a Pre-Conquest window, cut from a single block, in the

west wall of the south aisle. The 13th century four-bay nave arcades are of double-chamfered pointed arches; to the north, they rise from round abaci and to the south, octagonal abaci, although the piers are octagonal throughout. The double-chamfered pointed chancel arch is later 13th century in date, and is set on moulded corbels with carved faces. Both north and south aisles are suggested to be early 13th century in date but were raised in the 14th century and retain straight-headed Decorated three-light windows with cusped ogee tracery under hoodmoulds. A stone tower was recorded as being under repair in 1582.

- 4.3 The present west tower and south porch are built of brick and date to 1684. The tower is of one continuous stage, with later segmental-headed belfry openings and a crenellated parapet (see below). The south porch has a segmental-headed door with a chamfered arch on rubbed-brick impostes and square reveals, and covers a segmental-headed south door with continuous roll mouldings. The chancel was rebuilt in 1860, possibly by Temple Moore. The external walls exhibit a range of building materials, including medieval calcareous sandstone, 17th century clunch/chalk with red brick, and Victorian sandstone with blue brick. The mixture of materials creates abstract patterns and is similar to the nearby Lockington Church, where Temple Moore conducted a similar restoration. The crenellated lead chutes to the tower also match those at Lockington, and so it may be that either Temple Moore himself, or perhaps a craftsman copying him, was responsible for the Victorian work. The chancel windows are Victorian (although re-using some medieval stones), of two-light form with geometrical tracery to match in style. The aisle windows suffered bomb damage during the Second World War and were repaired in 1949; in the same year, the tower's bell chamber was rebuilt with bells re-hung and a lead roof laid over.

5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 5.1 As noted above, four separate phases of archaeological recording were undertaken.

Phase 1 Works: Test Pits (see figure 3)

Test Pit 1

- 5.2 Test Pit 1 was located midway between the two buttresses of the south aisle (J and K), to the immediate east of the south porch, at the base of the south aisle's south wall. The pit was aligned east-west, measured a maximum of 0.70m long by 0.38m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m below ground level (BGL) (10.70m AOD). Beneath the 0.4m deep gravel of a pre-existing French drain (001), a clean loose mid-brown sandy silt (002) was exposed, which continued below the base of the pit (see Section 1 on figure 3). The pit also exposed the base of the chamfered plinth of the south aisle. Beneath the chamfer, a further two courses of squared sandstone were visible, before the wall face stepped out slightly, again as sandstone but apparently also with some chalk, visible only in the base of the pit.

Test Pit 2

- 5.3 Test Pit 2 was located off the south-east corner of the south aisle. The pit was aligned north-east/south-west, a maximum of 1.42m long by 0.40m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m BGL (10.75m AOD) (see plate 2). Beneath the 0.12m thick turf and topsoil (003) was a compacted mid-brown sandy silt (004), up to 0.45m thick and containing frequent small inclusions of stone and

brick fragments. At the northern end of the trench, the sandy silt was cut by a modern 0.15m diameter clay drainpipe serving the downpipe set against the east wall of the south aisle. At the southern end of the trench, a line of east-west aligned bricks (006) was set within the sandy silt. The bricks were red and handmade (average dimensions 240mm by 110mm by 70mm), and are probably either the remains of a path edging or the top of a burial vault. The sandy silt (004) continued below the base of the pit.

Test Pit 3

- 5.4 Test Pit 3 was located off the south-east corner of the chancel. The pit was aligned north-east/south-west, measured a maximum of 0.60m long by 0.46m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m BGL (10.30m AOD). Beneath the turf and topsoil (003) the same mid-brown sandy silt as observed in Test Pit 2 (004) was exposed, and this continued beneath the base of the pit.

Test Pit 4

- 5.5 Test Pit 4 was located along the base of the chancel's east wall and was dug in four separate parts. All were aligned north-south and were excavated to a maximum depth of between 0.30m to 0.55m BGL (10.51m and 10.15m AOD); the largest part was 1.20m in length. In all four parts, the same sequence of deposits were exposed. Beneath the 0.40m deep gravel (001) of a pre-existing French drain, the same mid-brown sandy silt (004) as seen in Test Pits 2 and 3 was revealed, and this continued beneath the base of all four parts. At the south end of the chancel wall, the two southern parts of Test Pit 4 were disturbed by a modern 0.15m diameter ceramic drainpipe, running north from the downpipe at the chancel's south-east corner. In the northern part of Test Pit 4, a modern 0.20m diameter salt-glazed stoneware drainpipe served the downpipe at the chancel's north-east corner; this drainpipe appeared to terminate at the level of the base of this part of the pit (i.e. 10.15m AOD) and it may have emptied into a soakaway here.

Test Pit 5

- 5.6 Test pit 5 was located to the north of the chancel's north-east corner. The pit was aligned east-west, measured a maximum of 0.80m long by 0.60m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m BGL (10.10m AOD). Beneath the turf and topsoil (003) the same mid-brown sandy silt as observed in Test Pits 2, 3 and 4 (004) was exposed, and this continued beneath the base of the pit.

Test Pit 6

- 5.7 Test pit 6 was located to the north of the north aisle. It was aligned east-west, measured a maximum of 0.85m long by 0.55m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.38m BGL (10.32m AOD). Beneath the turf and topsoil (003) the same mid-brown sandy silt as elsewhere on the site (004) was exposed, and this continued beneath the base of the pit. The sandy silt contained a modern north-south aligned 0.20m diameter ceramic drainpipe, serving the downpipe on the adjacent north wall of the north aisle.

Test Pit 7

- 5.8 Test pit 7 was located against the north wall of the north aisle, close to the east side of a buttresses (B). The pit was aligned north-south, measured a maximum of

2.07m long and 0.67m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m BGL at the north end (10.25m AOD). The existing gravel and French drain (001) cut through the turf and topsoil (003) here, which was c.01.5m thick. When the turf and topsoil were removed, a grave cut (005) and a second possible cut (012) were exposed. The grave cut (005) was visible only in the east side of the pit, and even then only the south side could be clearly seen (see Section 2 on figure 3). It appeared to be aligned north-west/south-east and the south side sloped steeply downwards at an angle of more than 45 degrees; within the trench it measured 0.50m long, c.0.60m wide and c.0.35m deep. The cut was filled with a mid-brown sandy silt (007), the same as deposit 004, but containing a few fragments of red handmade brick which overlay the human burial (013). The burial was only partly exposed but it appeared to be an adult, aligned north-west/south-east, with the tibia projecting from the pit section; a very few *ex situ* vertebrae were also recovered from this general area. There was no evidence for a coffin or shroud, and the burial was quite shallow, only 0.55m BGL (10.50m AOD). The second possible cut (012) was located between the burial and the French drain (001). It appeared to be aligned east-west and had a roughly semi-circular profile, being 0.40m wide at the top and 0.30m deep. It contained large angular pieces of chalk, probably from the overlying deposit 008, and it may have been a crude drain or soakaway.

- 5.9 Both the grave cut (005) and the possible drain (012) were cut into the same mid-brown sandy silt (004) noted in all but one of the other test pits. The sandy silt overlay substantial chalk wall footings (008) projecting some 1.17m from the face of the chamfered plinth of the church above and set at a slightly different angle than the existing north wall of the north aisle (see plate 3 and figure 3). At the base of the chamfered plinth, there were two courses of stepped squared chalk blocks but the main body of the footings was more crudely constructed, apart from the north edge, which was properly faced. The possible east-west aligned construction cut (009) for the footings was visible to their immediate north, apparently backfilled with re-deposited sandy silt (010). This possible construction cut disturbed a level layer of compacted gritty (almost gravelly) silty sand (011) containing very frequent small inclusions of flint and chalk. This deposit continued below the base of the pit.

Phase 2 Works: French Drain

- 5.10 A trench for a new French drain was excavated around the entirety of the church's external footprint (Trench 1 on figure 4), replacing an existing French drain that was in poor condition. For the majority of its length, the new trench was 0.40m wide and it was excavated to an average maximum depth of 0.40m BGL (between 10.60m and 10.01m AOD), although locally it was sometimes slightly deeper. The following description of the observations made is divided between the archaeological deposits and the information recorded about the exposed church footings.

Archaeological deposits

- 5.11 Along the majority of the French drain's length, the exposed deposits were very similar to those observed in the investigative test pits described above. Beneath a 0.05m deep layer of turf and topsoil (003), a deposit of mid-brown sandy silt (004) was seen, which extended below the base of the trench. In places, such as around the area of Test Pit 1, this sandy silt was looser and less compacted, and also contained a higher proportion of gravel, almost certainly as a result of disturbance from the previous French drain.

- 5.12 No *in situ* burials or *ex situ* human remains were noted in excavations for the French drain. However, in several places, structures were exposed which were not associated with the church footings. To the south of the tower, and to the west of the south aisle, the remains of a small sub-square angular structure (014) were visible. In the west wall of the south aisle, the structure was incorporated into the base of the wall (see below; see plate 5), whereas to the south of the tower, the structure had been truncated by the tower, and it survived only as a wall stub. The upper surface of the latter part was set only just below the level of the turf and topsoil here; both parts were built of handmade red brick (average dimensions ? x ? x 70mm) and set with lime mortar. The structure appears to have measured c.3.40m in both length and width, and there is a slight earthwork in this part of the churchyard of approximately the same dimensions.
- 5.13 At the west end of the north aisle, the remains of an east-west aligned wall footing (015) were exposed. The footing may once have been continuous with the similar feature (008) recorded in Test Pit 7. The top of the footings was set at 0.30m BGL (10.70m AOD) and they comprised roughly squared chalk blocks up to 0.30m long. They are first visible in line with the westernmost buttress of the north aisle (A), and can be traced for a distance of c.4.50m to the east. Unlike the footings recorded in Test Pit 7, those seen in the French drain appear to be faced along the south side, rather than the north, but it may be that the two represent the opposite sides of the same wall.

The church footings

- 5.14 The church footings exposed in the trench for the French drain are described in a logical order below, starting on the north side of the tower and then moving around the exterior of the church in a clockwise direction. Unless otherwise stated, all the footings continued below the base of the trench. Additionally, the majority of the church's external walls have a double chamfered and moulded plinth; in the description below, all footings described lie below the level of the lower chamfer/moulding.
- 5.15 Below the chamfered plinth (single only to the tower), the footings of the north and west sides of the tower, as on all other sides, were as follows. The stone angle quoins of the tower give out at 0.27m BGL (10.73m AOD) and are replaced by the same brickwork that exists below the level of the chamfered plinth, i.e. red handmade bricks (average dimensions 220mm by 120mm by 55 to 60mm). Above the plinth, the bricks are laid in English Garden Wall bond (alternating header/stretcher courses) but below, there is no particular bonding pattern; however, both parts are set with a lime mortar. The late 19th/early 20th century brick boiler house obscuring much of the north side of the tower's base has roughly laid brick footings, approximately flush with the wall above.
- 5.16 At the west end of the north aisle, the westernmost buttress (A) rests upon a large smooth stone, the surface of which was set 0.05m BGL (10.95m AOD) (see plate 6). The stone was c.0.60m long (east-west) and at least 0.30m deep. It is butted to the east by mixed brick fragment/cobble footings; the top of these was set 0.30m BGL (10.70m AOD) and they projected c.0.18m from the chamfered plinth above. These footings continued along the east side of the buttress, disappearing beneath the north wall of the north aisle. There is then a short gap before the footings resume, running east towards buttress B, although they are not on exactly the same alignment as the chamfered plinth above. Here, the footings comprise roughly squared chalk blocks, up to 0.40m long and 0.20m deep. The lowest part

of buttress B, resting on the chalk blocks, was formed to 0.30m BGL (10.70m AOD) by red handmade bricks (average dimensions 240mm by ? by 60mm).

- 5.17 The chalk footings noted around buttress B continue to the east in the same manner as far as buttress C of the north aisle. Between buttresses B and C, the base of the doorway in the north aisle was exposed; it was seen to comprise two sandstone blocks, apparently *in situ*, as the chamfer of the door jamb dies out correctly on the stone. The base of buttress C was of similar form to that described for buttress B above. The chalk footings continued around the east side of the buttress, where they were observed to butt the footings of this part of the north wall of the aisle; indeed, the whole lower part of buttress C seems to post-date the wall here. The footings of this section of the aisle wall were formed by slightly projecting course of limestone blocks (the surface of which was set 0.05m BGL (c.10.80m AOD)); the blocks were up to 0.20m deep and 0.60m long. They in turn overlay a single course of handmade red brick fragments (to 0.35m BGL (c.10.50m AOD), which rested upon chalk rubble. The footings were disturbed to the west of buttress D, possibly by the construction of the buttress itself, as it is built of relatively recent brickwork set on a steeped plinth of similar construction.
- 5.18 Moving east towards buttress E, the footings of the chambered plinth of the north aisle's north wall were formed by similar brickwork to that used in buttress D. Buttress E blocks a two light-window in the north wall of the aisle, and sits on a large roughly shaped chalk block, at least 0.25m deep but apparently inserted under the base of the buttress as if to support or underpin it, rather than being of contemporary construction. Similar brickwork then resumed as far as the buttress (F) at the north-east corner of the north aisle. The brickwork continued to 0.20m BGL (10.50m AOD), at which point it was replaced by coursed and squared chalk blocks. The blocks were up to 0.25m deep and 0.35m long; sometimes two courses were visible, sometimes only a single course (see plate 4). The blocks continued around to the south of the buttress, but then became obscured beneath a section of bulging wall below a window.
- 5.19 The footings of the north and east walls of the chancel were very similar along their whole lengths. Beneath the chamfered plinth, there was brickwork to or just below ground level of the same form as in the rest of the wall above the plinth. The brickwork rested on a course of squared chalk blocks up to 0.25m in depth (i.e. to c.10.45m AOD), which were in turn set upon unmortared stone cobbles. The chamfered plinth of the north chancel wall stops c.0.70m west of the north-east corner, but the footings beneath continued largely unchanged.
- 5.20 The footings to the south chancel wall are considerably less regular. The south-east buttress (G) of the chancel appears to be a 19th century brick replacement of an older structure, and there has also been much repair to the adjacent chancel wall using Gault brick. Beneath the buttress and chancel wall, the footings are built of machine-made red bricks (average dimensions 220mm by 120mm by 70mm), laid in English Garden Wall bond (alternating header/stretcher courses) and set with a cement mortar. The brickwork steps outwards at 0.26m and 0.35m (10.30m AOD) BGL here. Approximately 1.70m to the west of buttress G, the brickwork was replaced by stone cobbles. Either side of buttress H, the same pattern of footings as noted on the north chancel wall resumed, with chalk blocks overlying stone cobbles, although the footings become much rougher as they move westwards and have concrete mixed in with them.
- 5.21 Beneath buttress I, at the south-east corner of the south aisle, there are stepped machine-made brick footings like those described above around buttress G.

However, to the west, around buttress J and as far as buttress K, the south aisle footings comprise coursed squared yellowish sandstone blocks, sometimes slightly projecting, at least three courses of which were visible above the base of the trench. Around buttress K, they are again replaced by stone cobbles.

- 5.22 The footings of the south porch were reasonably uniform. They were built of pinkish red handmade bricks (average dimensions 225mm by 120mm by 50mm) laid in English Garden Wall bond (alternate header/stretcher courses) and set with a buff lime mortar (see plate 9). On the west side, the brickwork is replaced by chalk rubble at 0.20m BGL (10.80m AOD), while at the very base of trench around the south wall, projecting chalk rubble can also be seen. To the west of the south porch, the footings of buttresses L and M to the south aisle wall comprised a very ragged mixture of sandstone, stone cobbles and red handmade brick fragments. The chamfered plinth of the south aisle does not continue around to the west gable, but rather terminates at buttress L. The west gable retains evidence for several phases of alteration. In addition to the truncated structure (014) described above, there is the chamfered brick south jamb of what appears to be a former doorway opening (see plate 5). The bricks forming the jamb are red and handmade (average dimensions 230mm by 100-110mm by 60mm) and set with a lime mortar. At a later date, the chamfered doorway appears to have been truncated or replaced by a slightly wider doorway opening with a shallow arched head, which was itself subsequently blocked. Both the jambs of the opening and the blocking are formed from handmade red bricks (average dimensions 230mm by 120mm by 65-70mm); to the blocking, they are laid in a variation of English Garden Wall bond (three to five stretcher courses to each header course).
- 5.23 On the south side of the tower, there is a substantial buttress. At a glance, this buttress appears to be of one build with the tower, but a closer examination suggests that it actually predates the tower, and was built to support the west gable of the south aisle, which it clearly butts. There is a similar buttress to the north tower wall, but this is obscured by the later boiler house and could not be inspected during the watching brief.

Phase 3 Works: New Drainage Trenches

- 5.24 The new drainage trenches to the north and south of the church were 0.30m wide and 0.40m deep (c.10.65m to 10.35m AOD) (Trenches 2, 3 and 4 on figure 4) (see plates 7 and 8). However, in order to pass beneath the north boundary wall of the churchyard, and to accommodate the c.1m drop in height of the ground surface to the north of this, the trench (Trench 5) along the east boundary wall was gradually increased in depth from south to north. By the time that it reached the north boundary wall, it was c.1.25m deep (9.96m AOD); it was also increased to 0.90m wide immediately adjacent to the wall. After passing beneath the wall, the trench resumed its average width and depth of 0.40m across the burial ground extension. The ground surface within the burial ground extension slopes gently downwards from south to north, so at the south end the trench was excavated to 9.76m AOD and at the north end to 9.48m AOD.
- 5.25 Within the majority of the new drainage trenches, the exposed deposits were exactly the same as those seen within the test pits and the French drain i.e. turf and topsoil (003) to a depth of 0.05m BGL, with a mid-brown sandy silt (004) extending below the base of the trench, and no associated finds, burials or other features were observed. In the deeper north end of the trench, running parallel to the east boundary wall of the churchyard, the topsoil (003) increased to 0.30m in

depth but the mid-brown sandy silt (004) still continued below the base of the trench.

- 5.26 In several places, the slab footings or supports of 19th century gravestones and slabs were exposed. Towards the east end of Trench 4, a stone slab (016) 0.50m long and c.o.20m wide was observed in the south section of the trench, set at 0.20m BGL (10.50m AOD). A short distance to the east, three similar stone slabs (017) projected from the south side of the trench at a similar depth beneath a 19th century memorial. Similar slabs were observed beneath the two 19th century gravestones adjacent to the east boundary wall trench (Trench 5); these have not been assigned context numbers. In all cases, these slabs appear to either support the surface memorial or perhaps to seal the top of a below-ground burial vault, although in no cases were traces of any associated burials observed.

Phase 4 Works: Gas Pipe Trench

- 5.27 The Phase 4 works comprised the excavation of a north-south aligned trench for a new gas pipe, running along the west side of the path leading from the churchyard gate to the south porch, a total length of 15m (Trench 6 on figure 4). The trench had an average width of 0.40m and an average depth of 0.40m (10.60m AOD).
- 5.28 Beneath a 0.28m depth of turf and topsoil (003), a firm greyish-brown loam subsoil (020) was exposed, extending beyond the base of the trench. In the east section, the subsoil was noted to be disturbed by a shallow (0.10m deep) oblique cut (019), 1.40m long, sub-circular in plan and filled with a yellowish cream fine sand (018); both features may be associated with the construction of the path to the south porch. No *in situ* burials were exposed and only a small amount of *ex situ* human bone fragments recovered and placed back into the trench. To the west of the south porch, a small piece of carved stone was recovered from the trench; although it is difficult to be certain and the stone was broken, it may have had a stubby fleur-de-lys design on one side (see figure 5).

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological work undertaken at St Catherine's Church uncovered only a single *in situ* burial (013), at a shallow depth (0.55m BGL or 10.50m AOD) in Test Pit 7. Apart from this, the remainder of the deposits encountered within the churchyard comprised only topsoil (003) and sub-soil (004), with only small quantities of *ex situ* or residual human bone fragments being recovered.
- 6.2 The excavation of the trench for the new French drain around the outside of the church exposed some new information about the footings of the structure but, without a detailed study of the standing structure, it is difficult to place the new information within its proper architectural context. The footings have clearly undergone much alteration although, as with the standing structure, without further work it is difficult to assess what proportion of this belongs to the possible work undertaken by Temple Moore in the 1860s or to earlier periods.
- 6.3 The two most significant pieces of new structural information uncovered during the watching brief were the spread chalk footings (008 and 015) recorded on the north side of the north aisle, and the brick structure (014) on the south side of the tower. The appearance of the former, with their properly faced north and south edges, the distance they lie from the aisle wall, and their alignment indicate that they are not just spread footings for the north aisle, but probably represent an earlier phase of building. Quite what is not clear, although an examination of the west gable of the

north aisle clearly shows that it developed in a number of phases. There appears to be a narrower, earlier aisle of chalk blocks, with a roof set at a considerably steeper angle than the existing. At a later date, at some point during the 14th century, the aisle was heightened and perhaps also widened in sandstone. The presence of brickwork beneath the chalk (similar to that used on the 1684 tower) is puzzling, but might be explained by a former westward projection of the aisle which was demolished when the tower was built in the late 17th century; there is also evidence to suggest that the existing tower may have replaced an earlier tower (see below). The chalk footings might relate to the early chalk aisle, but given that this appears to have been narrower, it is difficult to see how. Alternatively, they may represent a former free-standing structure, situated on the north side of the chalk aisle.

- 6.4 The brick structure (014) to the south of the tower definitely pre-dates the tower, as its north end is disturbed by the tower footings, and it therefore must predate the late 17th century. As with the north aisle, the west gable of the south aisle preserves evidence for several phases of alteration. The earliest phase may again be a chalk aisle; this incorporates the small window of pre-Conquest appearance, although given the degree of alteration to the church, this could have been placed here at a later date. The aisle was then heightened and widened in sandstone during the 14th century, and then probably again in the late 17th century when the tower was built. As in the north aisle, there is much brickwork beneath the chalk, and again this might be explained by a structure projecting westwards which was then truncated when the tower was built. It is of course possible that the chalk also belongs to this later blocking activity, and so does not in fact represent an earlier aisle but rather a repair.
- 6.5 What structures may have projected westwards from the aisle? They may have been extensions of the aisles themselves, perhaps flanking an earlier tower. As noted above, the big external buttresses at the west end of the church appear to pre-date the 1684 tower, but they butt up against the west ends of the aisles. It is interesting to note that they are in line with the nave arcades. If an earlier (14th century?) tower had been demolished, or perhaps had collapsed, then the removal of its mass might have caused the arcades to begin to expand westwards, thus requiring the buttresses to be put in place. It is likely that the demolition of the tower would have necessitated the demolition of any associated westward aisle projections, and so these might have been brought down at the same time, and extensive patching then undertaken to the church's west end. The structure represented by the brick footings (014) might have been a vestry, entered through one of the now blocked adjacent doorways in the south aisle's west gable. It would have been built after the demolition of the earlier tower and associated structures, but before the existing tower was put up in 1684.

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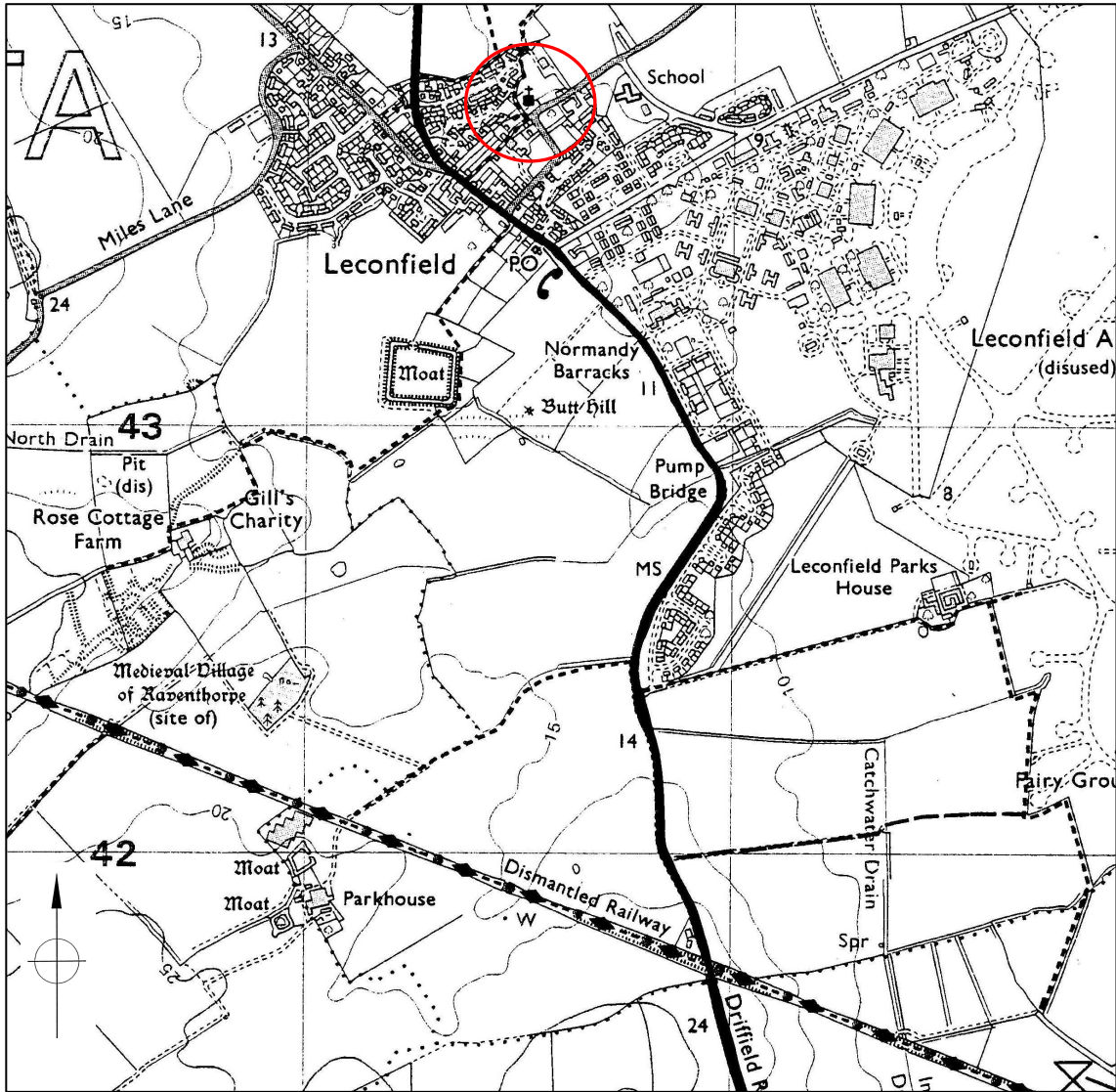
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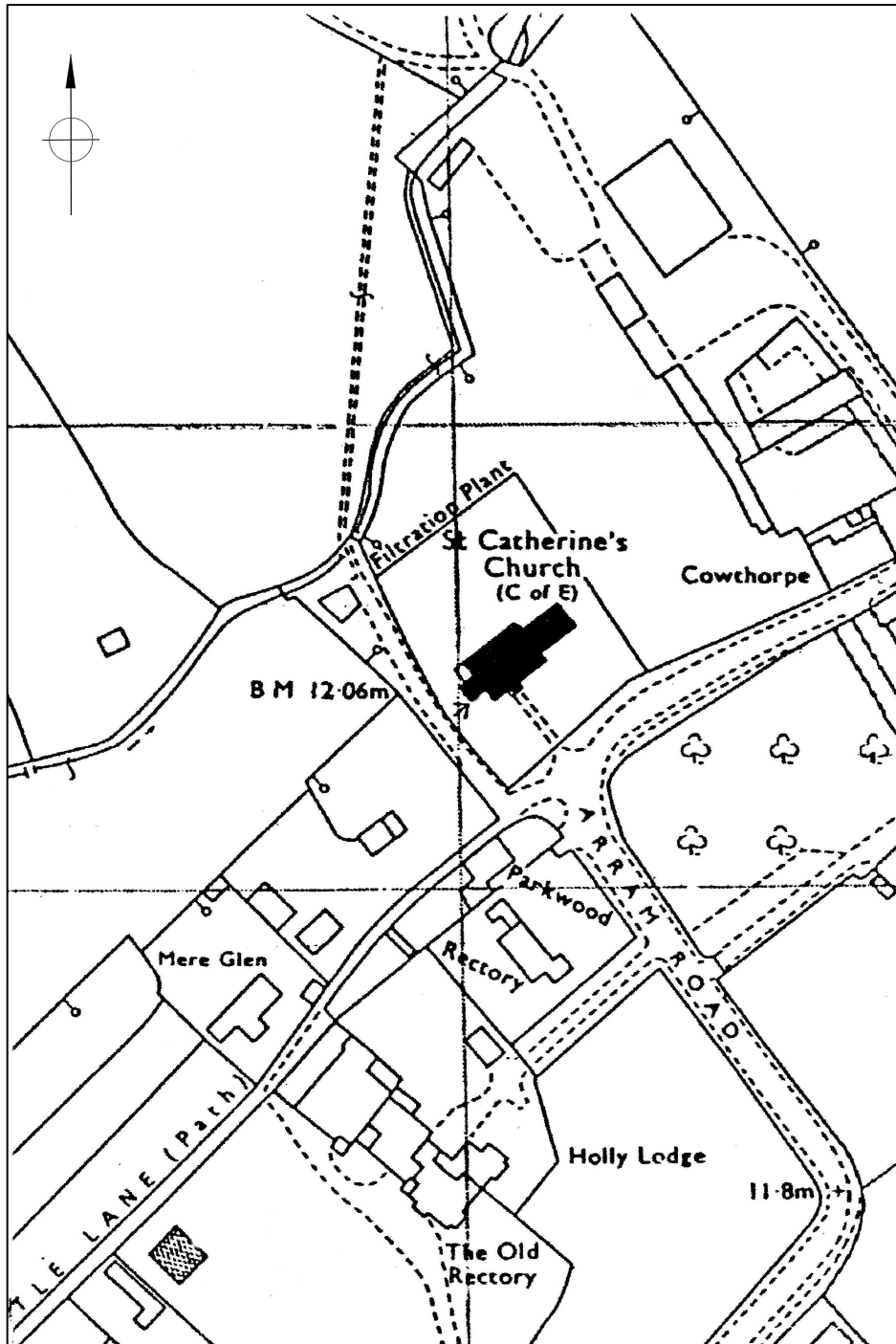
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The archaeological recording at St Catherine's Church was commissioned by the PCC through their architect, Peter Gaze Pace. EDAS would like to thank them and the contractors, F Kemp and Sons, for their co-operation in carrying out the archaeological work.
- 8.2 Phases 1 to 3 of the on-site recording were undertaken by Shaun Richardson of EDAS, and the Phase 4 work was done by Kate Dennett on behalf of EDAS. Shaun Richardson produced the fieldwork records and a draft report. Figure 5 was drawn by Kate Dennett. The final report was produced by Ed Dennison, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.



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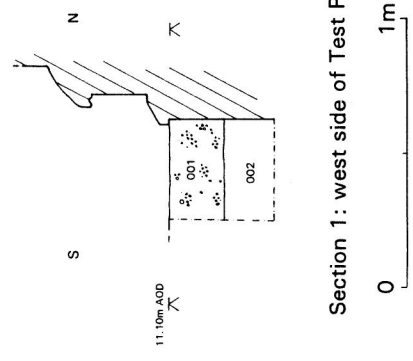
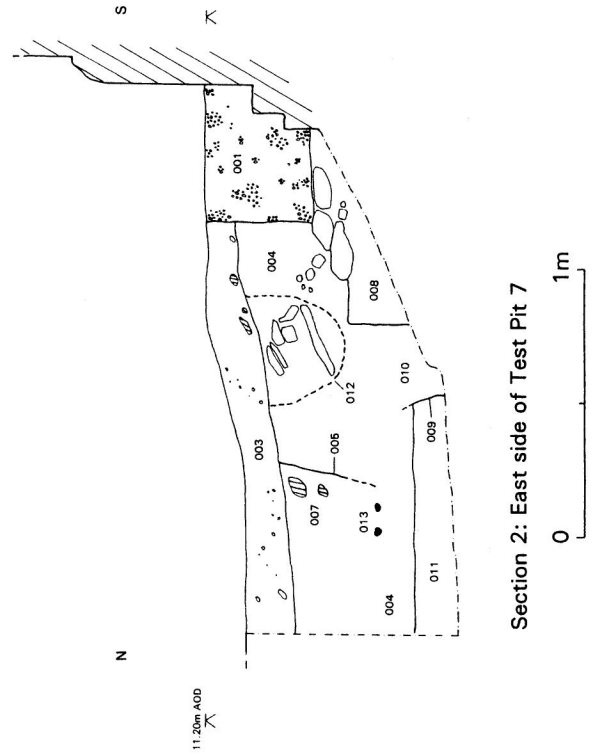
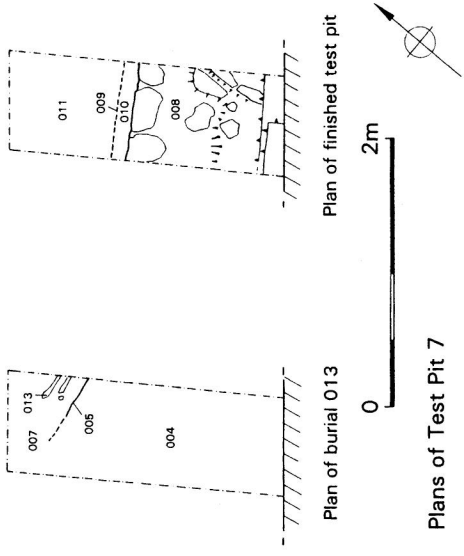
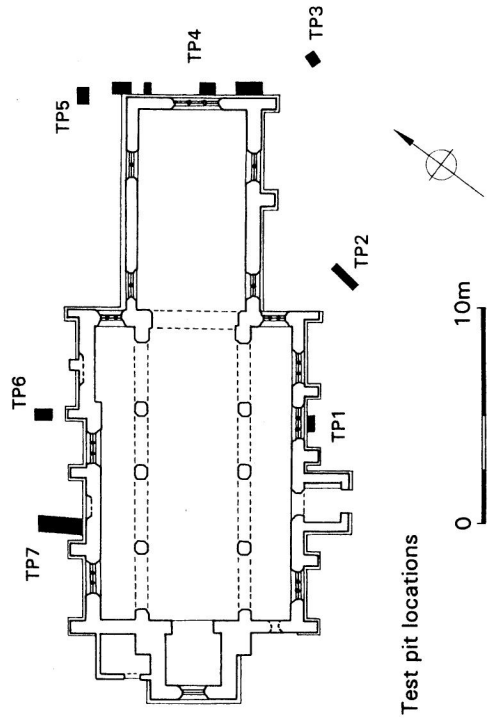
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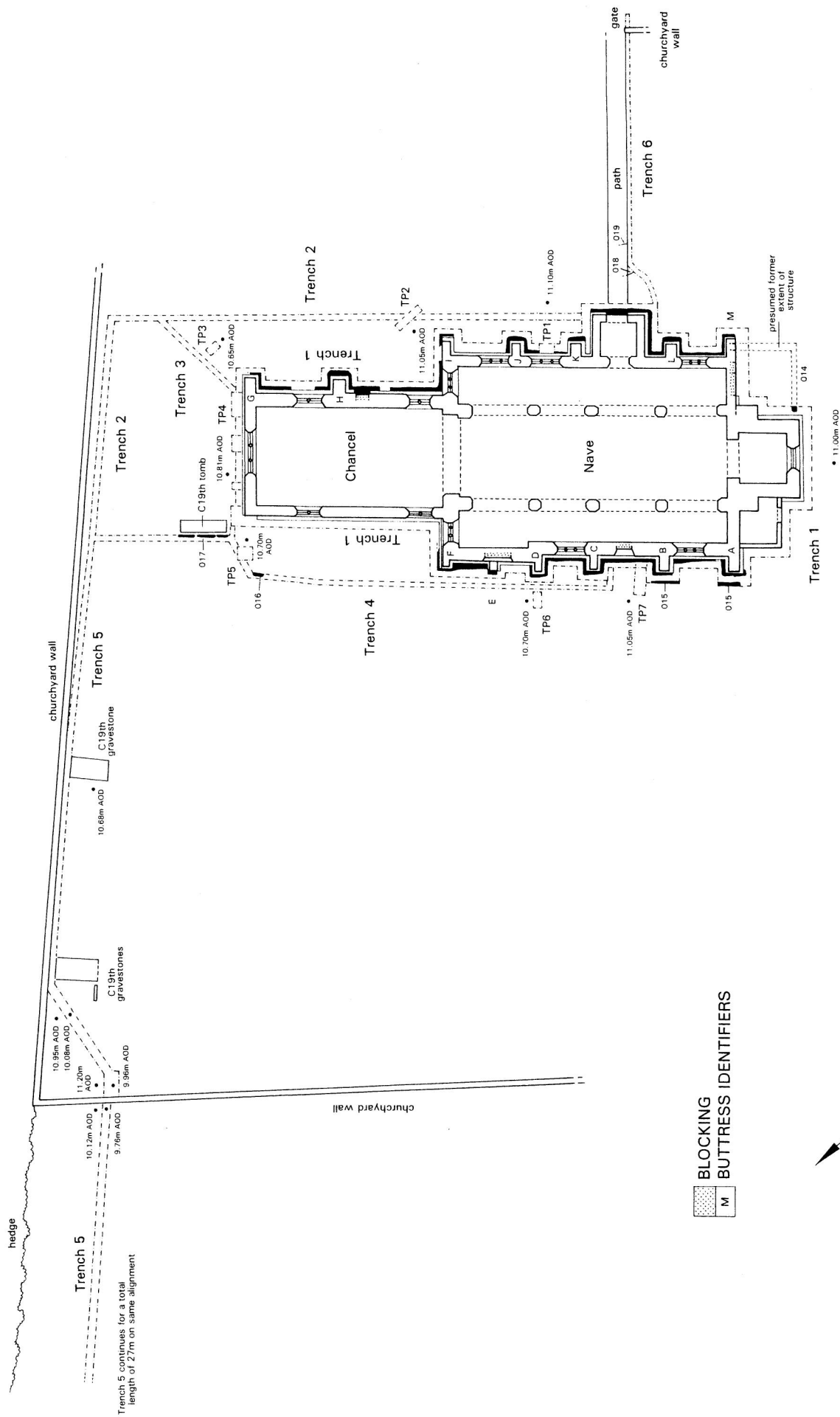


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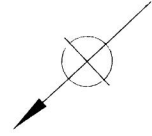
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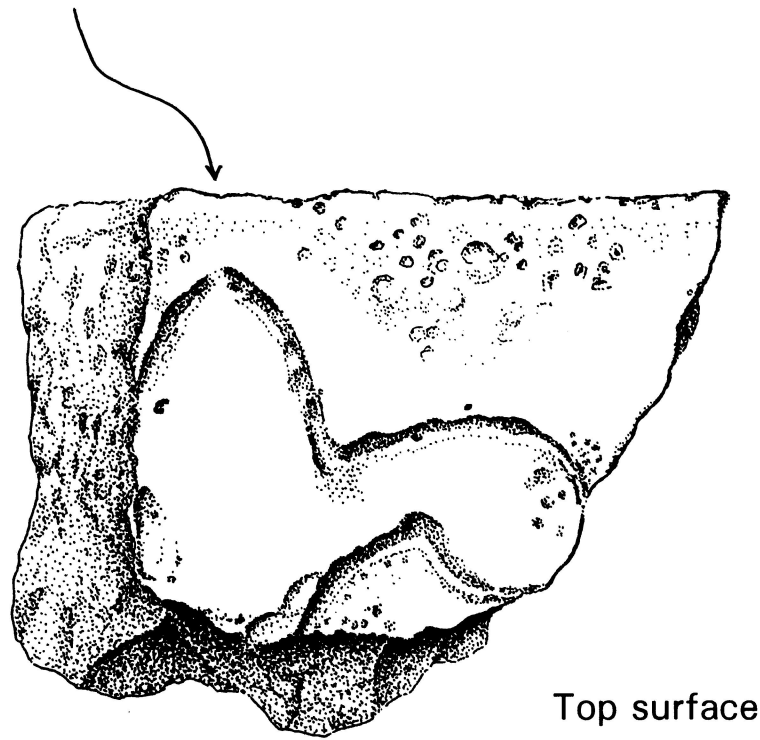
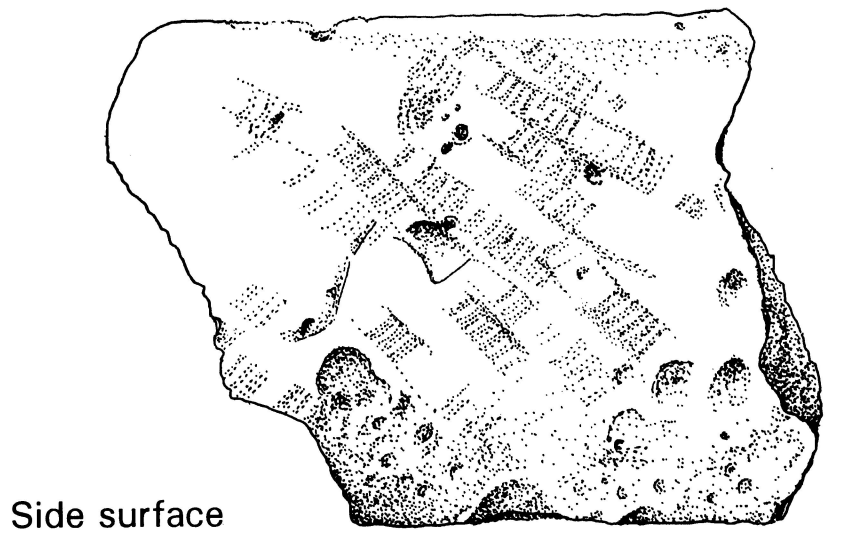
BLOCKING

 BUTTRASS IDENTIFIERS



0 15m

PROJECT	LECONFIELD CHURCH		
TITLE	WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	JULY 2008
	EDAS	FIGURE	4



0 10cm

PROJECT	LECONFIELD CHURCH	
TITLE	CARVED STONE FROM TRENCH 6	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE JULY 2008
	EDAS	FIGURE 5



Plate 1: St Catherine's Church, looking east.



Plate 2: Test Pit 2, looking east.



Plate 3: Test Pit 7, looking south.



Plate 4: Footings around butress F, looking west.



Plate 5: Blocked features and stub wall in west end of south aisle, looking north-east.



Plate 6: Footings to butress A on north aisle, looking south-east.



Plate 7: General view of Trench 2 under excavation, looking east.

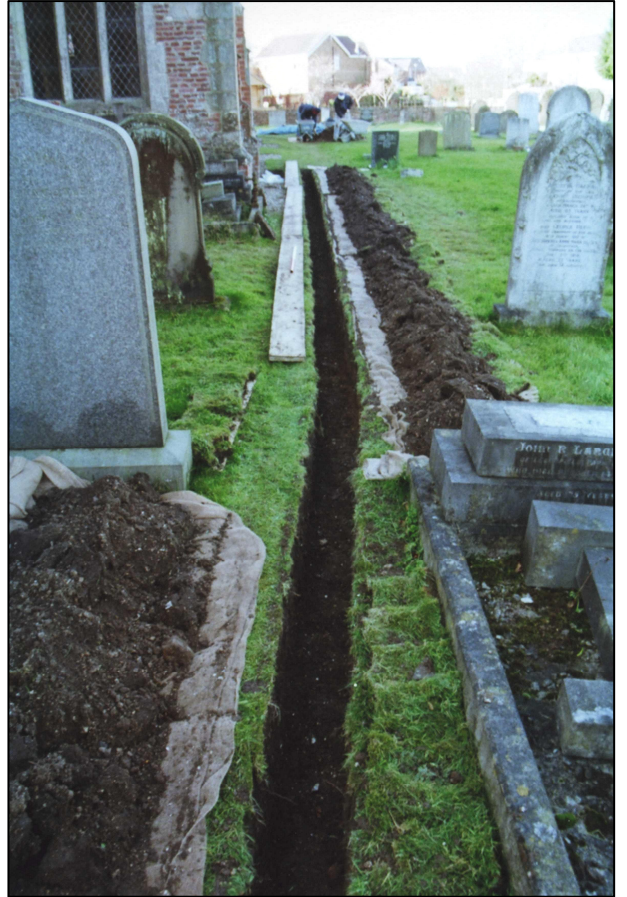


Plate 8: General view of Trench 4 under excavation, looking west.



Plate 9: Footings of south porch, looking north-east.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

- 001 Angular gravel, up to 0.40m thick, forming infill of existing French Drain.
- 002 Loose mid-brown sandy silt, minimum 0.20m thick and continuing below base of excavations; subsoil.
- 003 Turf and topsoil, average 0.12m thick but deeper in places.
- 004 Compact mid-brown sandy silt, 0.45m thick, with stone and brick; subsoil.
- 005 Cut for burial 013, 0.5m long, 0.35m deep.
- 006 Fragmentary line of red handmade bricks, 0.11m wide (bricks averaging 240mm x 110mm x 70mm in size).
- 007 Compact mid-brown sandy silt, fill of cut 005 (as 004).
- 008 Chalk rubble wall footings, c.0.70m deep.
- 009 East-west cut, probably associated with footings 008.
- 010 Fill of 009, formed by redeposited 004.
- 011 Compact orange-brown silty sand with small flint/chalk pieces, 0.16m deep; natural?
- 012 Cut 0.40m wide and 0.30m deep filled with chalk pieces (008?), forming possible east-west drain.
- 013 NW/SE in situ burial possibly of an adult; only leg bones exposed in section.
- 014 Wall alignment of red handmade bricks, average dimensions ? x ? x 70mm, set with lime mortar.
- 015 Possible chalk rubble wall footings, c.0.10m deep.
- 016 Sandstone slab within 004, 0.50m long c.0.20m wide and 0.10m deep.
- 017 Three sandstone slabs, 0.50m long c.0.20m wide and 0.10m deep.
- 018 Firm yellow-brown fine sand, 0.10m deep, fill of 019
- 019 Cut for path?
- 020 Compact mid-brown sandy silt, with stone and brick; subsoil (as 004).

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Location : CHURCH OF ST CATHERINE, ARRAM ROAD (North side), LECONFIELD, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

IoE number : 164486

Date listed : 07 FEBRUARY 1968

Date of last amendment : 07 FEBRUARY 1968

TA04SW

ARRAM ROAD
(north side)

7/14

Church of St Catherine
I

Church. C12 or earlier nave, early C13 aisles, raised in C14, late C13 chancel, C17 west tower and south porch of 1684 on datestone over door. Ashlar, red brick, coursed limestone rubble, cast-tile roofs. West tower, 3-bay nave with north and south aisles and south porch, 2-bay chancel. West tower: moulded brick plinth, stone quoins. One continuous stage with segmental-headed belfry openings with louvres and band beneath crenellated parapet. South aisle: moulded plinth, buttresses with offsets. Three 3-light square-headed windows with cusped ogee tracery under hoodmoulds. Corbel table, coped gables with cross finial. West wall of south aisle: remains of small segmental-headed pre-Conquest window with the head cut from a single block; now blocked. Segmental-headed south door with continuous roll mouldings. South porch: brick plinth. Segmental headed door with chamfered arch on rubbed brick imposts and square reveals. Datestone over. Raised coped gable. Chancel: two 2-light windows with geometrical tracery. Pointed priests' door with continuous mouldings under hoodmould with face-masks. East window of 3 stepped lancets. Coped gable. Interior: north and south arcades of double chamfered pointed arches: to north, on round abaci, to south, on octagonal abaci. Octagonal piers throughout. Double-chamfered pointed chancel arch on moulded corbels with carved faces. Early C17 pulpit on octagonal pier: blank round-headed arches under fan ornament to each side. Windows in the north aisle and chancel retain small fragments of C14- C15 stained glass: heraldic in the chancel, figures in the north aisle.

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