

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, EASINGTON,
EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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On behalf of

All Saints Church PCC
c/o Mr T Alder
1 Coastguard Cottages
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Easington
Hull HU12 0TP

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ALL SAINTS CHURCH, EASINGTON, EAST YORKSHIRE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2008, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by All Saints Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (watching brief) during external groundworks associated with the installation of a disabled accessible WC and kitchenette at All Saints Church, Easington, East Yorkshire (NGR TA39881917). The archaeological work was made a condition of a Diocesan faculty, granted on 5th December 2007.

The watching brief did not uncover any *in situ* burials or any significant archaeological deposits within the excavated drainage trench. The deposits that were encountered were a topsoil (001) and a sub-soil (002/016). However, there were at least five separate caches of disarticulated human bone (009, 010, 011, 012 and 013) recorded adjacent to an existing asphalt path (005), at a depth of c.0.25m below the level of the path, although all remains appeared to have been redeposited following previous disturbance to this part of the churchyard.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2008, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by All Saints Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (watching brief) during external groundworks associated with the installation of a disabled accessible WC and kitchenette at All Saints Church, Easington, East Yorkshire (NGR TA39881917). The archaeological work was made a condition of a Diocesan faculty, granted on 5th December 2007.

2 SITE LOCATION AND OUTLINE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 All Saints Church lies between North Church Side and South Church Side, in the core of the historic village on the west side of The Square (see figure 1). The name of the village, which is mentioned in the 11th century Domesday Book, is Anglian in origin, meaning "Esa's Farm" (Smith 1937, 17). The present village seems to occupy only the northern end of a long linear settlement which may originally have extended south as far as South End (Allison 1984, 23). The village also lies within a landscape that contains evidence for much earlier occupation, and Romano-British pottery has been found within the village itself.
- 2.2 The church, which is built of a combination of cobbles, limestone and sandstone ashlar, is a Grade I Listed Building (see Appendix 1). It comprises a three stage west tower, a three bay clerestoried nave with a three bay north aisle, a four bay south aisle with a south porch, and a three bay chancel. There was a church recorded at Easington by 1115, and the present nave is probably 12th century in origin, a short piece of original walling surviving at the south-east corner as well as a free-standing 12th century pillar piscina in the chancel. The north arcade and aisle were added c.1200 and a blocked north doorway of that date also survives. The south arcade and aisle, with three of the surviving windows, date to the later 13th century. The tower was added in the 14th century, and later in the same century the clerestory was added to the nave. The chancel was completely rebuilt in the late 15th century, when new windows were also inserted into the north aisle, the west wall of the tower and the south aisle to the east of the porch.
- 2.3 The chancel and nave were reported as being "out of repair" in the late 17th and early 18th century. The chancel screen was ordered to be removed and the porch to be rebuilt in 1720, and a brief for the repair of the church was granted in 1769. A gallery was erected in 1802 but was removed later in that century, and a sundial dated 1811 may indicate when repairs were carried out to the porch. The chancel was restored in 1863 and the nave and aisles in 1890; further restoration was carried out on 1927 and 1931. The churchyard was closed for burials in 1886 when a new parish cemetery was opened (Allison 1984, 30; Pevsner & Neave 1995, 395).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological work was not defined by an EDAS methods statement or specification, but the 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 the external groundworks associated with the installation of a disabled accessible WC and kitchenette in the west end of the north aisle of the church, to recover information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed in the churchyard.

- 3.2 The work was monitored continuously by the archaeologist on 21st August 2008. A narrow hole (c.0.12m in diameter) had already been drilled through the west wall of the north aisle at ground level, which required only the removal of a single large cobble stone to access the hole from the exterior. A mechanical mini-excavator with a 9" toothless bucket was then used to dig the drainage trench, measuring c.0.25m wide and up to 0.40m deep, which ran north-west from the north aisle wall before turning south and south-east to run along the east side of an asphalt path. Where necessary, i.e. between grave stones or close to electricity cables, the trench was dug with a ditching spade (see plate 1). The trench continued south-eastwards along the east edge of the path, until shortly before the south gate of the churchyard, where the path was cut with a power tool and an inspection chamber measuring 0.6m by 0.6m was excavated to a depth of 0.7m. Overall, the trench measured c.50m long.
- 3.3 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 22 archaeological contexts were recorded; these are all described in the following descriptive text as three digit numbers (e.g. 002) (see also Appendix 2). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of the monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plan, and a photographic record was also maintained using a 35mm digital camera.
- 3.4 With the agreement of the PCC, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, will be deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service (site code EAS 08; accession number 2009/10). No artefacts were retained from the watching brief.

4 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF (see figure 3)

- 4.1 Within the excavated trench to the north and west of the church tower, the topsoil was at least 0.38m thick and was represented by a friable dark brown loam (001) containing occasional small stones and flints. Below this was a blanket layer of a firm mid-brown loam subsoil (002) which extended below the depth of excavation. It was noted that most of the alignment of the asphalt path (005), which ran approximately north-west/south-east across the churchyard to the west of the tower, seemed to have been laid directly onto the topsoil (001) with little or no hardcore base. This modern path crossed over the top of an old gravel path, represented by a 0.08m thick layer of small rounded gravel in a firm brown loam (003), which was now covered by a thin layer of fine turf and soil (004); this former path ran east-south-east/west-south-west through the churchyard, probably towards a former gate in the west boundary wall, although there was no evidence on the ground for this. Towards the south end of the asphalt path, near the south gate into the churchyard, the surface of the path cut into the ground surface and was retained by two low retaining walls (017 and 018) made of randomly-laid cobbles in a cement mortar; the soil (019) resulting from this excavation was banked up on the east side of the path (see plate 2).
- 4.2 Immediately to the east of the asphalt path (005) there was a narrow band of redeposited brown loamy soil with turf (015), 0.12m thick, which probably originated when the path was laid. Below this, the subsoil in the trench to the south of the south porch was a firm mid-brown loam (016) of unknown depth, similar to deposit 002 seen further to the north.

- 4.3 No structural remains were found during the archaeological watching brief and no *in situ* burials were encountered. However, at least five separate caches of disarticulated human bone (009, 010, 011, 012 and 013) were recorded adjacent to the eastern edge of the asphalt path (005), at a depth of c.0.25m from the level of the path (and c.0.95m down from the adjacent higher banked-up ground level). These bones were all contained in the layer of firm mid-brown loam (016). The condition of the bone varied and some may be of considerable age; it is assumed that most of these bones were disturbed from previous churchyard excavations (e.g. electricity services), either from *in situ* burials or from residual contexts, and had been collected up and reburied at that time.
- 4.4 Cache 009 consisted of a partially articulated infant, but it may have been re-deposited in a single spadeful of soil so cannot be said to have been *in situ*. Cache 010 comprised the skull, pelvis and teeth of a probable adolescent (see plate 3). Cache 011 was formed by a skull and miscellaneous other bones and bone fragments, while cache 012 consisted mainly of long-bones, probably from more than one skeleton, together with one skull (see plate 4). Cache 013 comprised two skulls. All the human bone recovered from the drainage trench was collected together for subsequent reburial by the church authorities.
- 4.5 Also noted within the soils exposed by the trench (001, 002, 015 and 016) were fragments of glass, ceramic tile, brick, chalk, stone, flint, glazed post-Medieval pottery, oyster shells, plain clay pipe stems and several coffin nails. This is within the normal range of material expected to be found in a churchyard excavation, although few of the above were present in the section of trench to the north of the tower, where only a clean dark brown loam (001) was present. A single unglazed sherd of pottery from a thin walled vessel of a hard gritty fabric, found in this latter context, is probably of medieval origin.
- 4.6 The excavated trench also exposed a number of modern services. Three electricity cables were noted, one close to the angle of the west tower and north aisle (006/007), another opposite the north-west buttress of the tower (021/022), and one off the south-west buttress adjacent to the asphalt path (008/020). In all cases, the fills for these cuts were not readily identifiable from the background deposits (001/002).
- 4.7 Nothing of archaeological interest was noted in the excavation for the inspection chamber adjacent to the south boundary of the churchyard, although a deposit of clean firm yellow-brown sandy clay (014), possibly a natural deposit, was recorded at a depth of 0.5m below existing ground level.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The watching brief did not uncover any *in situ* burials or any significant archaeological deposits within the external drainage trench excavated for the installation of a disabled accessible WC and kitchenette in the west end of the north aisle. The deposits that were encountered were a topsoil (001) and a sub-soil (002/016). However, there were at least five separate caches of disarticulated human bone (009, 010, 011, 012 and 013) recorded adjacent to the existing asphalt path (005), at a depth of c.0.25m below the level of the path, although all remains appeared to have been redeposited following previous disturbance to this part of the churchyard.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

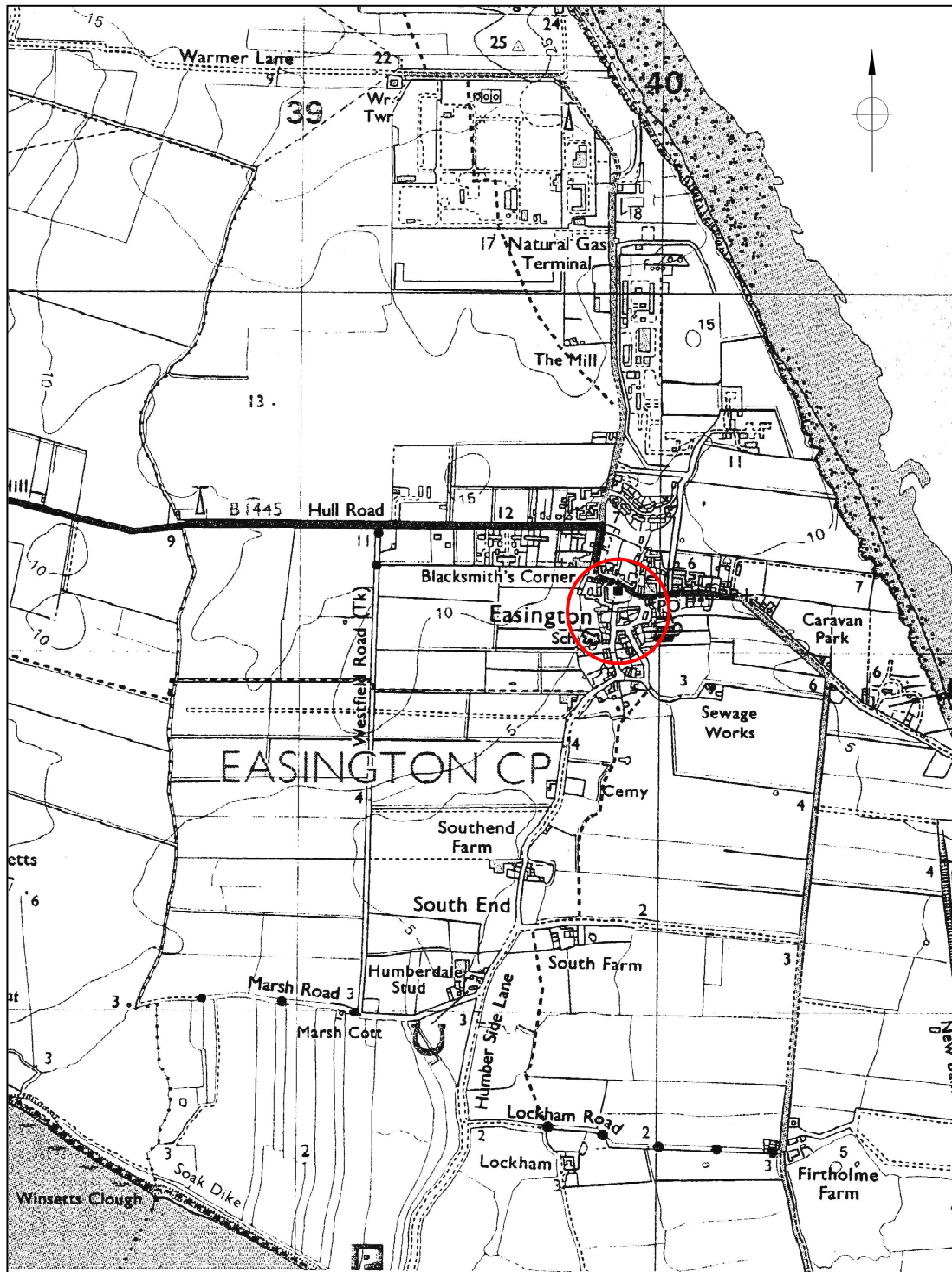
Pevsner, N & Neave, D 1995 *The Buildings of England: Yorkshire York and the East Riding*

Smith, A H 1937 *The Place-names of the East Riding of Yorkshire and York*

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

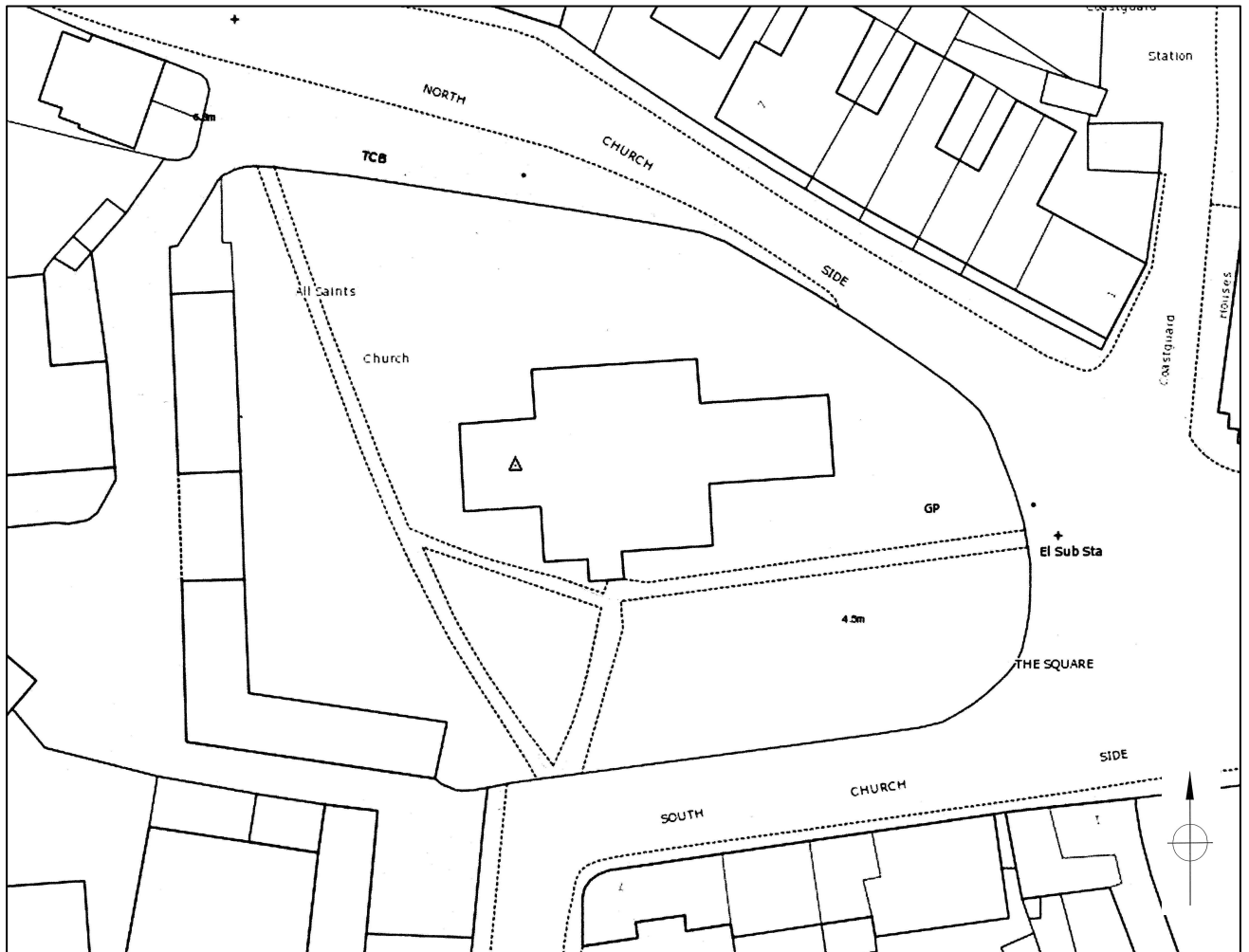
7.1 The archaeological watching brief at All Saints Church was commissioned by the PCC, through Mr T Alder. EDAS would like to thank Mr Alder and the PCC, as well as the site contractors (C Fewster & Son Ltd) and the scheme architect, Andrew Pert of Ferrey and Mennim, for their co-operation in carrying out the archaeological investigations.

7.2 The on-site recording was undertaken by Kate Dennett, who also produced the site archive. The final report was produced by Ed Dennison of EDAS, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.



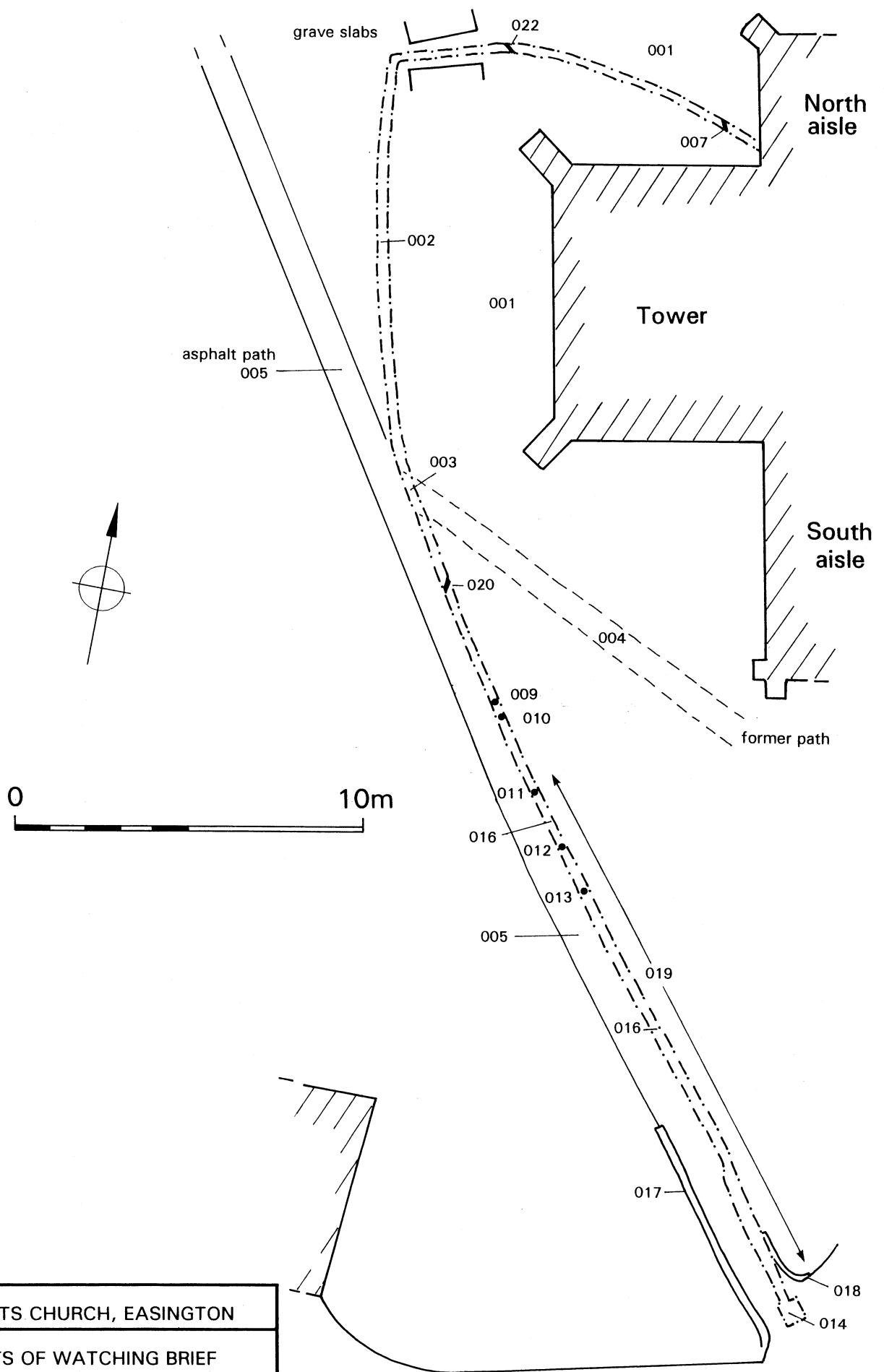
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PROJECT		ALL SAINTS CHURCH, EASINGTON	
TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	FEB 2009
EDAS		FIGURE	1



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PROJECT		ALL SAINTS CHURCH, EASINGTON	
TITLE		SITE PLAN	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	FEB 2009
	EDAS	FIGURE	2



PROJECT		ALL SAINTS CHURCH, EASINGTON	
TITLE		RESULTS OF WATCHING BRIEF	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	FEB 2009
	EDAS	FIGURE	3



Plate 1: Northern section of drainage trench under excavation, looking east.



Plate 2: Southern section of drainage trench under excavation, looking south-east.



Plate 3: Human bone cache 010 revealed in bottom of drainage trench.



Plate 4: Human bone cache 012 revealed in bottom of drainage trench.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

IoE Number: 166545

Location: Church of All Saints, South Church Side (north side), Easington, East Riding of Yorkshire

Date listed: 16 December 1966

Date of last amendment: 16 December 1966

Grade: I

Parish church. C12 nave, late C12 - early C13 north arcade and aisle, later C13 south arcade and aisle, C14 tower, late C14 clerestory; C15-C16 chancel, north aisle windows, east section of south aisle, upper stages of tower. Porch rebuilt c1720 and repaired in 1811. Restorations to chancel in 1863, and to nave and aisles in 1890; renovations underway at time of resurvey. Random cobbles to south aisle, chancel, nave east end, north aisle parapet and east end; cobbles and brick to south porch; limestone and sandstone ashlar to tower, limestone ashlar to north aisle and nave clerestory; limestone ashlar dressings throughout. Pantile roof to south porch, lead roofs to remainder. West tower, 3-bay nave with 3-bay north aisle, 4-bay south aisle with south porch, 3-bay chancel. 3-stage tower: moulded plinth, full-height diagonal buttresses with offsets, moulded string courses between stages. First stage: pointed 3-light west window with Perpendicular tracery, moulded sill string course and hoodmould returned as string course. Second stage: small round-headed single-light trefoiled windows to south and west, line of earlier nave roof to east side. Pointed 2-light traceried belfry openings with hoodmoulds. Moulded string course, coped embattled parapet. North aisle: chamfered plinth, diagonal buttresses with moulded angles; C12-C13 round-arched door of 3 shafted orders (outer pairs of shafts missing) with nailhead moulding to inner capitals, and nailhead, lozenge, keeled and roll mouldings to arch; square-headed, 2-light trefoiled windows with incised spandrels; corbelled string course, coped parapet. South aisle: plinth, angle buttresses; restored C13 pointed 2-light Y-traceried window, C15-C16 square-headed cinquefoiled window with incised spandrels, C13 pointed 3-light window with intersecting tracery; pointed single-light rounded-trefoil west window, blocked round-headed west door with brick surround. Nave clerestory: pointed 2-light traceried windows, moulded string courses, coped embattled parapets. Chancel: moulded plinth, diagonal buttresses, buttresses between bays; south side has pair of square-headed 3-light cinquefoiled windows, similar window beneath triangular head, restored pointed moulded door with hoodmould; north side has similar square-headed 3-light and 5-light windows, blocked door to rebuilt central bay flanked by cobble buttresses; large pointed 5-light east window with Perpendicular tracery and hoodmould. South porch: plinth, round-headed outer arch with 2-course brick impost, brick-coped gable with ashlar sundial dated 1811 and inscribed with names of churchwardens. Pointed moulded inner arch with hoodmould and weathered stops. Interior. 3-bay north arcade of pointed arches of 2 plain orders (with traces of painted chevrons to west bay) on cylindrical piers with plain moulded capitals and bases, the west pier and east respond with cross-shaped abaci and pedestals. 4-bay south arcade of pointed double-chamfered arches on central quatrefoil pier flanked by cylindrical piers and foiled responds, with plain moulded capitals and bases; the east pier with medieval graffiti drawing of a ship. Tall pointed double-chamfered tower arch on chamfered responds with plain moulded bases and capitals with carved leaves and grotesque in angles of chamfers. Pointed double-chamfered chancel arch on chamfered responds with plain moulded capitals and bases. Pointed door to pulpit at east end of north arcade (perhaps originally to rood loft) with C19 moulded plaster surround, hoodmould and foliate stops. South aisle has square aumbry and moulded trefoiled piscina with incised spandrels, projecting bowl and carved basin; pointed chamfered arch reveals to C13 windows. Chancel has C12 pillar piscina (discovered in 1863 renovations) on 4 clustered shafts with a moulded cushion capital and base; small square-headed wave-moulded north door with surround bearing carved paterae. Monuments in chancel: C18 floorslabs, pair of marble wall tablets with fluted pilasters and coffins on obelisk bases, one to Pattinson family of c1766, the other a copy of 1808 to Robert Pattinson. Good marble wall monument in south aisle to John and Joan Overton of 1651: large base with carved scrolled apron, moulded cornice and open segmental pediment with arms in cartouche, supporting inscribed tablet with verse, flanked by Corinthian columns carrying segmental entablature and pediment surmounted by urns and arms in cartouche. C13 incised graveslabs reused as lintels and jambs to 2 north aisle windows. Mutilated mensa slab, reused as gravestone, in north aisle. C14 octagonal font with plain moulded bowl. N Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Yorkshire, East Riding*, 1972, p 220; Victoria County History: York, East Riding, vol 5, 1984, p 30; church guide.

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

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF RECORDED CONTEXTS

Context Description

001	Friable dark brown loam topsoil with occasional small stones and flints, under rough turf, more than 0.38m thick.
002	Firm mid-brown loam subsoil with occasional small stones and flints, unknown depth.
003	Firm brown loam with rounded gravel, 0.08m thick and 2.1m wide - old path surface.
004	Fine turf and soil overlying 003, 1.5m wide - former path.
005	Modern asphalt path.
006	Cut for electricity cable.
007	Friable dark brown loam - fill of 006.
008	Cut for electricity cable.
009	Cache of human bones, partially articulated, possibly infant.
010	Cache of disarticulated human bones - skull, pelvis, teeth, possibly adolescent.
011	Cache of disarticulated human bones - skull and other misc bone fragments.
012	Cache of disarticulated human bones - several long bones and skull.
013	Cache of disarticulated human bones - two skulls.
014	Firm yellow brown sandy clay, unknown depth - natural deposit?
015	Friable brown loam with turf, with occasional small gravel, stones, flints, 0.12m thick.
016	Firm mid-brown loam with occasional small stones and flints (possibly same as 002).
017	Cobble-built retaining wall for asphalt path.
018	Cobble-built retaining wall for asphalt path.
019	Soil with turf - redeposited from path construction.
020	Friable dark brown loam - fill of 008.
021	Cut for electricity cable.
022	Friable dark brown loam - fill of 021.