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**All Hallows Church
Kirkburton
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

September 2011

Report No. 2247

CLIENT

Kirkburton PCC

**All Hallows Church
Kirkburton
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at All Hallows Church, Kirkburton, during the excavation of a service trench through the graveyard. A small assemblage of disarticulated human skeletal material was recovered from a highly disturbed deposit typical of graveyards of some antiquity. No grave cuts were identified within the narrow confines and shallow depth of the service trench.



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Report Information

Client: Kirkburton PCC
Address: All Hallows Church, Kirkburton, Huddersfield, HD8 0TG
Report Type: Archaeological Watching Brief
Location: Kirkburton
County: West Yorkshire
Grid Reference: SE 1980 1247
Period(s) of activity represented:
Report Number: 2247
Project Number: 3742
Site Code: AHK11
Planning Application No.: n/a
Museum Accession No.: n/a
Date of fieldwork: September 2011
Date of report: September 2011
Project Management: Alistair Webb BA MifA
Fieldwork supervisor: Phil Weston BSc MA
Report: Phil Weston
Illustrations: Phil Weston
Photography: Phil Weston

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PO Box 30, Nephshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG
Telephone: 0113 383 7500.
Email: admin@aswyas.com



Contents

Report information	ii
Contents.....	iii
List of Figures	iv
List of Plates.....	iv
1 Introduction.....	1
Site location and topography	1
Soils, geology and land-use	1
2 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	1
3 Aims and Objectives	1
4 Methodology	2
5 Results	2
6 Conclusions.....	3

Figures

Plates

Appendices

Appendix 1: Inventory of primary archive

Appendix 2: Written Scheme of Investigation

Bibliography

List of Figures

- 1 Site location
- 2 Site plan showing the route of the service trench (1:250)

List of Plates

- 1 Excavation of the service trench, view north from the churchyard gate towards the church
- 2 The excavated service trench, view south from the church towards the churchyard gate
- 3 The service trench passing the eastern wall of the church, view north
- 4 Terminus of the service trench on the church's eastern wall, view west

1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS was commissioned by Mr Glyn Phillips, churchwarden of All Hallows Church, Kirkburton, on behalf of Kirkburton PCC, to maintain an archaeological watching brief during the machine excavation of a service pipe trench from a point adjacent to the churchyard wall, across part of the graveyard and up to the eastern external wall of the church. The monitoring was undertaken on September 5th 2011.

Site location and topography

All Hallows Church is situated on the south side of Kirkburton village to the west of the B6116 (see Fig. 1). The church is centred at SE 1980 1247 and stands at approximately 140m above Ordnance Datum. The local landscape predominantly falls from south to north though All Hallows Church sits on a false crest overlooking the village to the north.

Soils, geology and land-use

The soils in the area are of the Association Rivington 1, described as well-drained, coarse loamy soils over sandstone. The underlying geology of the site is Kirkburton Sandstone. No superficial deposits are recorded for the area.

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The remains of a 12th-century nave attest to the antiquity of All Hallows Church, a Grade 1 listed building, but it seems likely that the church has pre-Conquest origins, a notion supported by the Late Saxon crucifix found on the site and the name “All Hallows” itself, a dedication often associated with pre-Conquest foundations. The church was remodelled to its present plan in the 13th century, the tower being added in the 15th century. The chancel was rebuilt and the porches added in the 19th.

The churchyard is extensive and contains some discarded architectural stonework of different periods. The tombs and gravestones are densest around the church itself.

3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the watching brief is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any graves, human remains and/or other archaeological features and deposits that are disturbed or revealed during the ground works associated with the installation of the new gas pipe.

This work will mitigate the destruction of any buried archaeological remains through ‘preservation by record’.

4 Methodology

The ground works consisted of the excavation of a trench 39m in length, 0.3m wide and 0.5m deep. The excavation was undertaken by a mini 360° excavator fitted with a toothless, 0.3m wide, bucket. Almost the entire trench was excavated along the line of a footpath that led from the gate adjacent to the newly installed gas meter, through the graveyard, and up to the eastern end of the church (see Fig. 2).

All work was carried out in accordance with accepted professional standards and guidelines (English Heritage 2006, Institute for Archaeologists 2008) and in accordance with the ASWYAS site recording manual (ASWYAS 2006) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix 2).

5 Results

Although the service trench followed a footpath for much of its length, the route had become much overgrown and a layer of turf had spread over the surface of the path (Plates 1-4). The typical stratigraphy encountered along the length of the trench is recorded in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Context	Depth	Deposit description
1	0.00 – 0.08m	Turf
2	0.08 – 0.25m	Mixed deposit along the length of the path consisting predominantly of crushed stone, likely representing various phases of path maintenance
3	0.25 – 0.50m+	Sandstone fragments in a light, yellowish-brown, silty matrix. Human bone fragments noted.

At the northern end of the trench, the last 5 metres were cut through a tarmac path which in turn overlaid similar deposits to those described in Table 1.

Context 3 produced several fragments of disarticulated human skeletal remains, which were retained and left in the care of the churchwarden for re-interment at a later date. The presence of the human remains and the mixed, disturbed nature of this context strongly suggests that the bone is derived from earlier graves that have been disturbed by the imposition of later burials. This is entirely consistent with the use and re-use of the graveyard over a period of several hundred years.

No grave cuts were identified in the service trench.

6 Conclusions

The nature of the deposits encountered during the archaeological watching brief at All Hallows Church emphasise the antiquity of the site as a focus for funerary activity. The presence of disarticulated human skeletal remains indicates that successive generations have continued to use the graveyard disturbing earlier graves once grave markers and have memory have faded. Although no grave cuts were identified it is almost certain, given the presence of bone and the disturbed nature of Context 3, that *in situ* burials lay beneath the limit of the service trench excavation.

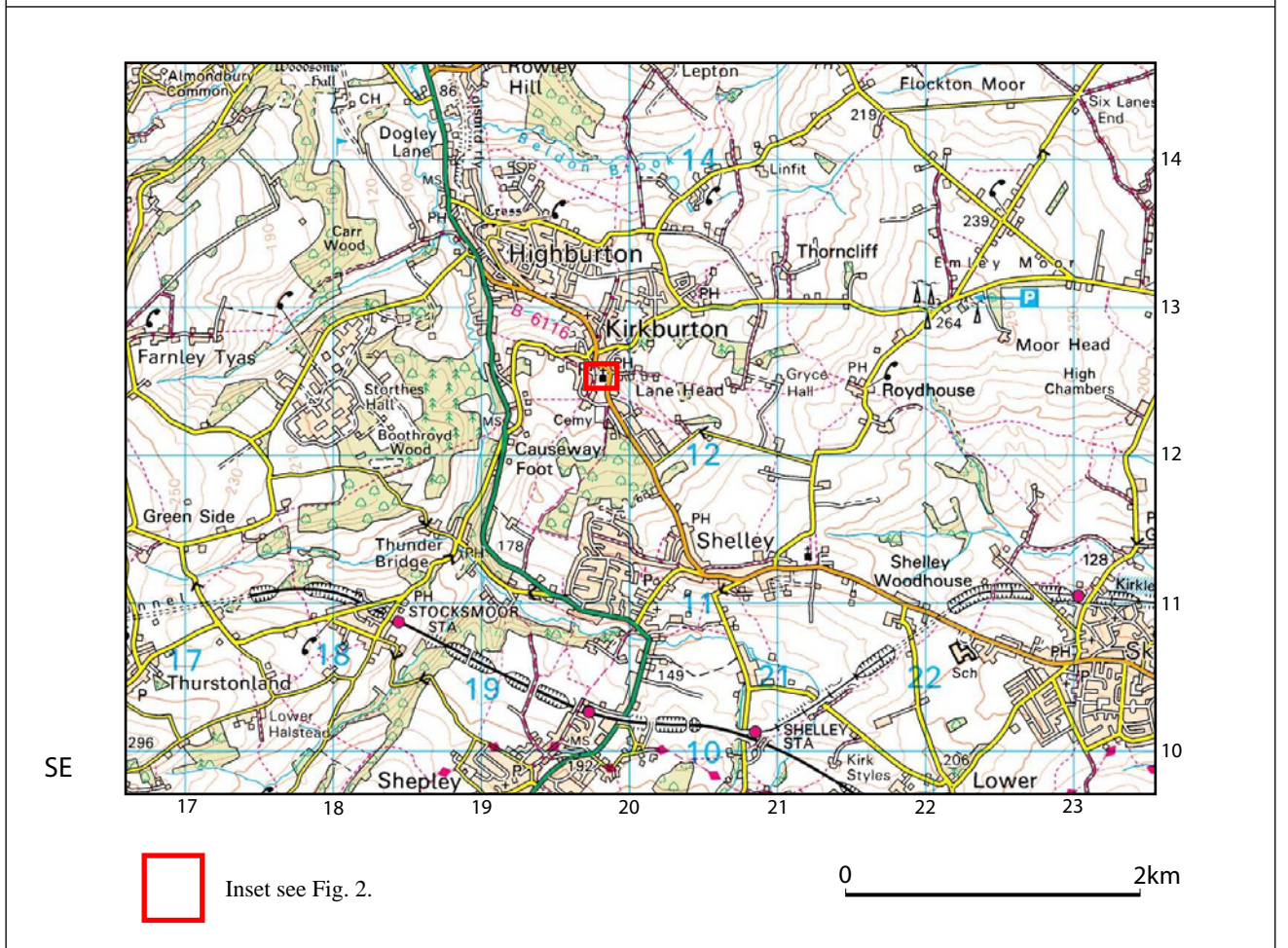
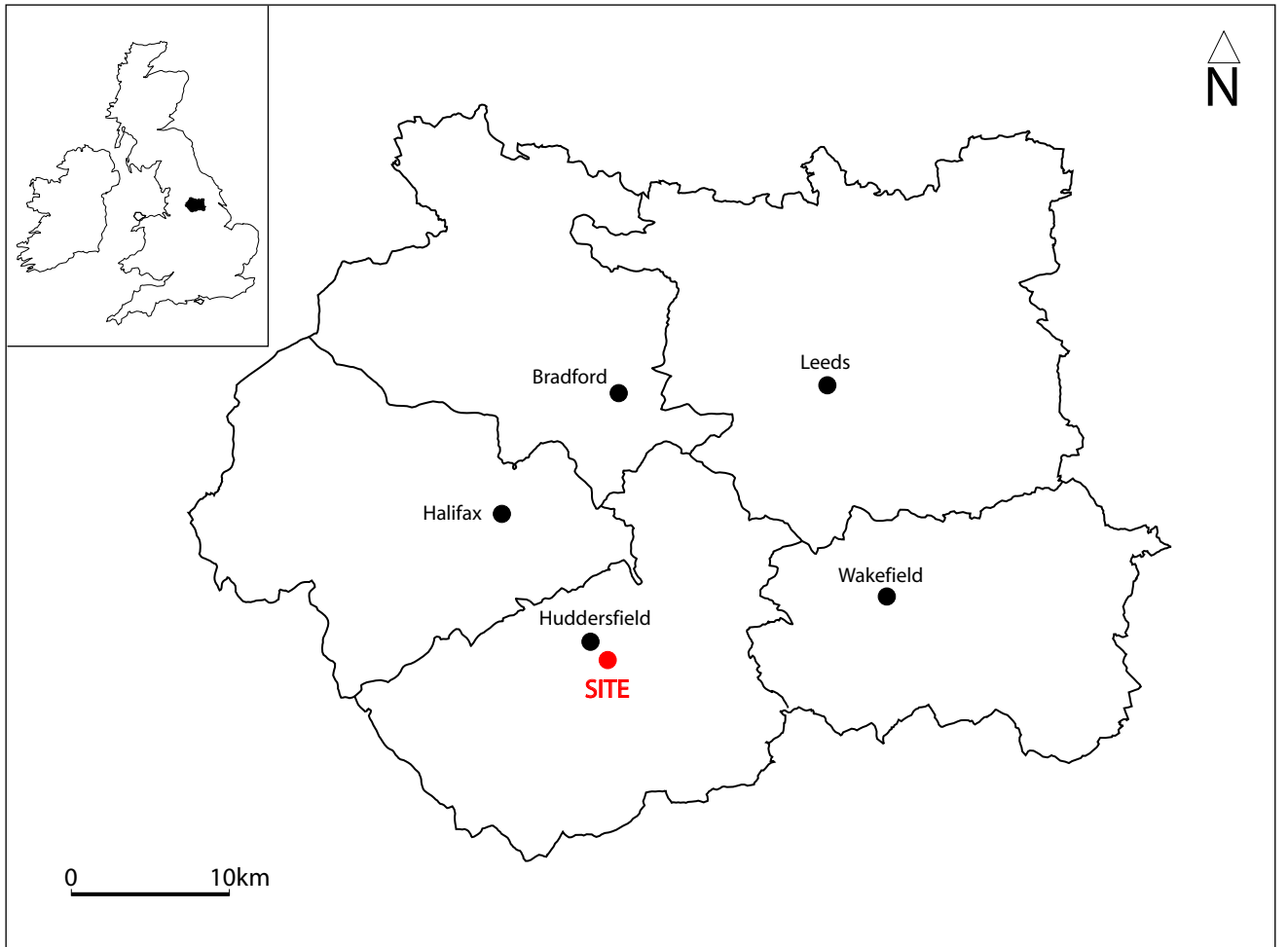


Fig. 1. Site location

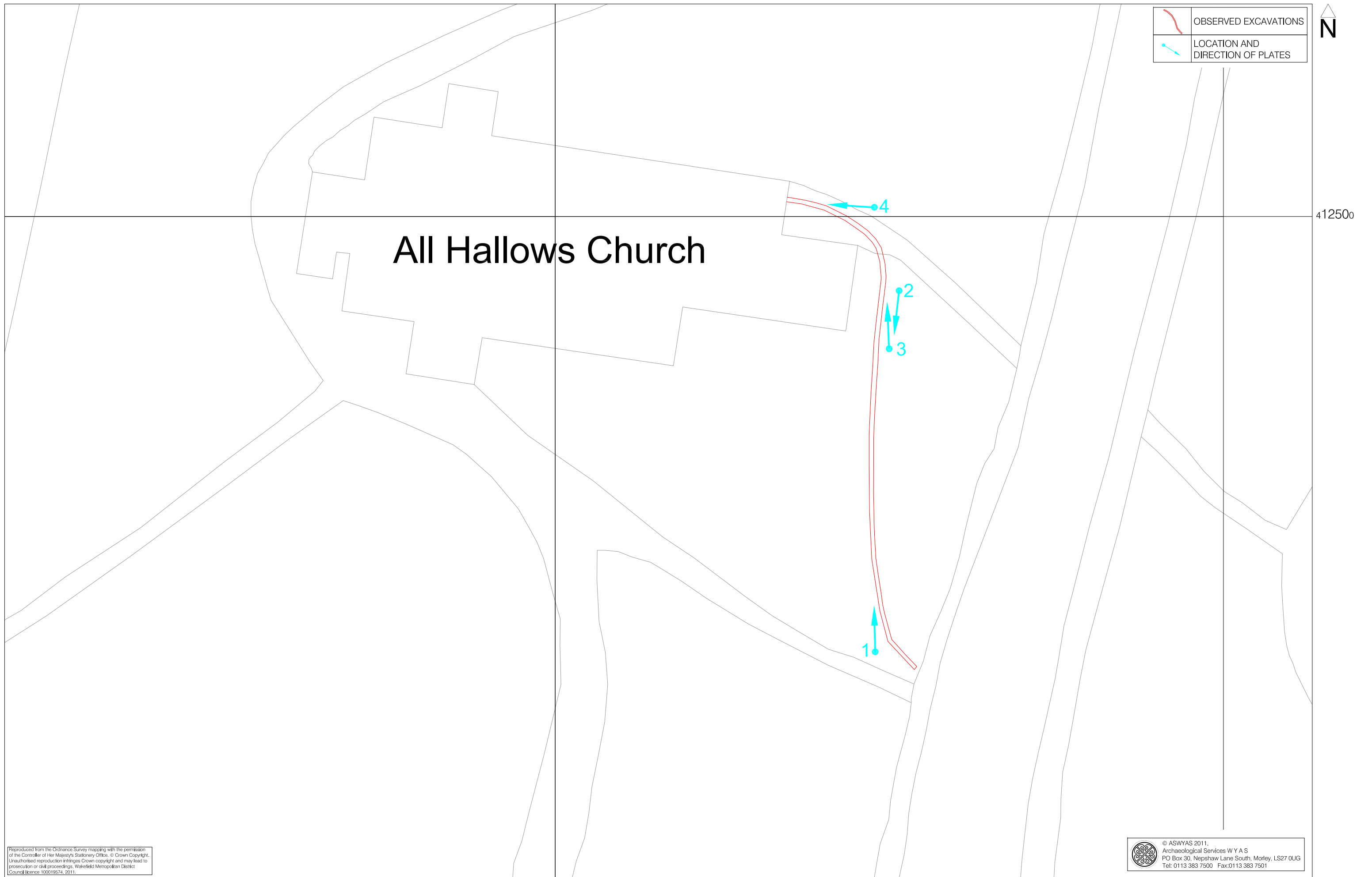


Fig. 2. Plan showing the showing the route of the service trench (1:250 scale)



Plate 1. Excavation of the service trench, view north from the churchyard gate towards the church



Plate 2. The excavated service trench, view south from the church towards the churchyard gate



Plate 3. The service trench passing the eastern wall of the church, view north



Plate 4. Terminus of the service trench on the church's eastern wall, view west

Appendix 1: Inventory of primary archive

Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no.1	Watching brief daily monitoring form	1
		Digital photo register	1

Appendix 2: Written Scheme of Investigation

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief during works in the churchyard of All Hallows Church, Kirkburton

Specification prepared at the request of Glyn Phillips (churchwarden)

1. Summary

1.1 An archaeological watching brief is required during ground works for new gas pipe line through the churchyard of All Hallows Church, Kirkburton, as requested by Mr Glyn Phillips, one of the churchwardens.

2. Site Location and Description of Works

2.1 The church is situated in Kirkburton village, to the west of the B6116, at grid reference SE 1975 1255.

2.2 The works include the excavation of a pipe trench from the Shelley Lane gate to the south-east of the church, across the churchyard to the east end of the church. The trench will be about 44m long, c. 400mm wide and up to 450mm deep. There will be no below ground works within the church.

3. Archaeological Interest

3.1 The remains of a 12th-century nave attest to the antiquity of All Hallows Church, but it seems likely that the church has pre-Conquest origins, a notion supported by the Late Saxon stone crucifix found on the site and the name 'All Hallows' itself, a dedication often associated with pre-Conquest foundations.

3.2 The church was remodelled to its present plan in the 13th century, the tower being added in the 15th century. The 19th century saw the chancel rebuilt and the addition of the porches.

3.3 The churchyard is extensive and contains some discarded architectural stonework of different periods. The tombs and gravestones are densest around the church itself.

3.4 The church is Grade 1 listed building.

4. Aim of the Archaeological Works

4.1 The aim of the watching brief is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any graves, human remains and/or other archaeological features and deposits that are disturbed or revealed during the ground works associated with the installation of the new gas pipe.

4.2 This work will mitigate the destruction of buried archaeological remains through 'preservation by record'.

5. Health and Safety

5.1 The work will be carried out with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. In this case, where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any

reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose. A Risk Assessment summary in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations will be prepared prior to the archaeological work commencing.

6. Timetable

6.1 There is no schedule of works available at the time of writing. The work on site is expected to extend over more than one day, but this will be determined by the main contractor's schedule and by what is encountered during the work.

7 Monitoring

7.1 The immediate monitoring of the trenching, and any archaeological excavation and recording that proves necessary, will be carried out by Archaeological Services WYAS. The West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service will be notified of this work in their role as curators of the county's archaeology and heritage.

8. Fieldwork Methodology

8.1 The trench will be excavated mechanically using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a toothless bucket. If archaeological remains or features are encountered the excavation of that part of the trench must be carried out manually by archaeologists. The work must be carried out in accordance with the latest Church of England and English Heritage guidelines.

8.2 An archaeologist will be present on site during the excavation/ground reduction of any area below a depth of 0.15m. The archaeologist should view the area as it is being dug and any trench sections after excavation has been completed. Where archaeology is judged to be present, the excavated area should be rapidly cleaned and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds should then be quickly hand excavated, sampled if appropriate, and recorded.

8.3 Features/deposits of archaeological concern should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report. Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) and plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) must both include OD spot heights for all principal strata and any features.

8.4 The actual areas of ground disturbance (even if no archaeological remains are present) should be recorded on a suitable base map or development plan and the stratigraphic sequences and the depth/nature of the excavations will be recorded. If archaeological remains are identified, their location is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on an up-to-date 1:1250 OS map base.

8.5 Excavated soil should be searched as practicable for finds. All artefacts are to be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified 20th-century material, which may be noted and discarded.

8.6 All securely stratified contexts, principally grave cuts and human remains, should be sampled for environmental analysis and scientific dating. Additional 'spot' samples should be taken if suitable material is encountered during the watching brief.

8.7 All articulated human remains and grave cuts should be recorded in plan and section. Removal of human remains must comply with the Church of England Faculty or a valid Ministry of Justice licence, whichever is appropriate, and any local environmental health regulations. These notwithstanding, all articulated human remains that cannot be preserved *in situ* shall be carefully exposed, planned and photographed and their individual elements bagged discretely for removal from site. The excavation of such remains shall be screened from public view if the site area is not already fenced off. Such remains shall be cleaned and analysed by a qualified osteologist before being returned to the church for reburial in another part of the churchyard. Residual disarticulated remains will not be removed for osteological analysis and shall be collected and given to the church for reburial in another part of the churchyard.

8.8 The intention of the archaeological watching brief is not to unduly delay the work of the main contractors on site, however, a degree of flexibility is also expected in order that the archaeologist can fulfil the terms of this WSI. The archaeologist shall not excavate any area beyond those scheduled for disturbance by the pipe trench, unless the nature and significance of a particular find dictates otherwise. Note, it is not expected that human skeletons be recovered in their entirety.

9. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

9.1 Should there be, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant more detailed recording than possible within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor is to urgently contact the DAC archaeological adviser with the relevant information to enable the matter to be resolved.

9.2 The terms of the Treasure Act 1996 must be followed with regard to any finds, which might fall within its purview. Any such finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

10. Post-excavation Analysis and Report Preparation

10.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. Finds of 20th century date and later should be quantified and summarily described, but can then be discarded if appropriate. All finds of 19th century or earlier date should be retained and archived.

10.2 A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and fully labelled photographs/slides. A quantified index of the field archive should form an appendix to the report. The primary archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds in a publicly accessible archive, subject to the agreement of the church. Human remains, once analysed, will be returned to the church for reburial.

10.3 A fully illustrated report should be produced, which should include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of the results, placing them in a local and, if appropriate, regional context. It is not envisaged that the report is likely to be published, but it should be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers.

10.4 Location plans should be produced at scales which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the areas investigated. Plans should show the areas investigated and the identified archaeological features/deposits.

10.5 All artefacts and human remains, as well as other environmental material, will be analysed by qualified and experienced specialists. Artefact analysis is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue. Any finds critical for dating and interpretation should be illustrated.

10.6 Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, and as an appendix, a copy of this specification.

11. Archive Deposition

10.1 Unless otherwise agreed, the archive and finds arising from the work (excluding human remains) shall be deposited with Huddersfield Museum for long-term storage. The archaeological contractor will endeavour to obtain consent of the church, in writing, to the deposition of finds with Huddersfield Museum.

11.2 The archaeological contractor will meet Huddersfield Museums' requirements with regard to the preparation of excavation archives for deposition and to make provision for any costs associated with the deposition of archives.

12. Report Submission and Deposition with the HER

11.1 The archaeological contractor will supply a copy of the final report to the PCC, Wakefield DAC and the West Yorkshire HER.

Bibliography

ASWYAS, 2006, 'Site Recording Manual', unpubl

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*