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**All Saints' Church
Harewood House
West Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

May 2011

Report No. 2220

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Harewood House Trust

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Harewood House
West Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a cable trench running south from All Saints' Church at Harewood House, West Yorkshire. The trench was relatively shallow but did encounter disarticulated human remains outside the western door of the church; these were left in situ. A buried section of the ha-ha was also encountered at the southern end of the trench which aligns with the extant remains of the feature 20m to the west.



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Report Information

Client: Harewood House Trust
Address: Harewood, Leeds, LS17 9LG
Report Type: Archaeological Watching Brief
Location: All Saints' Church, Harewood House, Harewood.
County: West Yorkshire
Grid Reference: SE 3137 4500
Period(s) of activity represented: Post-Medieval
Report Number: 2220
Project Number: 3734
Site Code: HAS
Planning Application No.: n/a
Museum Accession No.:
Date of fieldwork: 5th April 2011
Date of report: May 2011
Project Management: Alistair Webb BA MifA
Fieldwork supervisor: David Williams BA PifA
Report: David Williams
Illustrations: David Williams
Photography: David Williams
Research: n/a
Specialists: n/a

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



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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Harewood House Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief to the west of All Saints' Church and graveyard during the excavation of a trench for the installation of a new power cable. The watching brief was undertaken to record and recover any human or archaeological remains that may have been revealed or upcast during the excavation of the trench. The work was carried out on the 5th April 2011.

Site location and topography

All Saints' Church is situated in the grounds of Harewood House, approximately 9km to the south-west of Wetherby and 11km to the north of Leeds (see Fig. 1). The church is centred at SE 3137 4500 and stands at a height of 101m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on a slight rise of ground with the land falling away to the south. The graveyard lies to the immediate south of the church and is partially surrounded by a wall. Woodland lies beyond to all sides. The church is accessed by a path from the south. The cable trench was excavated along the eastern edge of the path (see Fig. 2).

Soils, geology and land-use

The site is located upon a ridge of Lower Follifoot Grit Sandstone, with no overlying superficial geology (British Geological Survey 2003). The overlying soils are classified in the Waltham series (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980), being characterised as well drained loams.

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

All Saints' Church is now redundant but is maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust who have produced a general historical background of the church (Hollinshead 2002) from which the information below is abstracted.

The earliest archaeological evidence for a church on the site is a fragment of an Anglo-Scandinavian carved cross which suggests an origin for the church in the 10th or 11th centuries. Documentary evidence also records that there was a priest there in the 10th century when All Saints' Church was originally called Holy Cross. The earliest church may have been a simple wooden structure with perhaps an attached small community; all traces of this building will probably have been removed by later stone buildings.

The first stone built church probably dates from around the Norman period when William De Curci, steward to Henry I, is reputed to have re-built the church by 1116. The Norman tub-shaped font is also likely to come from this 12th century rebuild. Further reconstruction took place after 1353 with the extension of the chancel, after the church was granted to Bolton Priory by the landowner Lord Lisle.

The early 15th century saw the remodelling of the church by the De Aldburgh family into its present form. Following the Reformation and Dissolution of Bolton Priory the church remained under the patronage of the local families associated with Harewood and Gawthorpe Hall. With the construction of Harewood House in 1759 the church became the family chapel and was altered in the 1780s with the addition of the majority of the Gothic features. The church was placed in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust in 1978 after it was declared redundant.

3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of this project was to monitor the excavated trench within the churchyard in order to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and recover any human remains that were disturbed. It was considered that the depth of the trench was such that any earlier burials that maybe present may be disturbed by the groundworks. The watching brief would also assess the significance of any archaeology uncovered and report on the findings.

4 Methodology

An archaeologist was present to monitor the hand excavations and inspect all material being up-cast. Appropriate written, drawn and photographic records were made in accordance with ASWYAS watching brief guidelines and site recording manual (ASWYAS 2003, 2006) and IfA standards and guidance (IfA 2008). The contents of the primary archive are listed in Appendix 1 and a concordance of contexts listed in Appendix 2.

5 Results

A single trench was excavated using a small mini-excavator following the main path up to the church from the grounds of Harewood House (Fig 2; Plate 1). The trench was excavated along the eastern side of this path slightly under the cover of yew trees. The trench was 86m in length, 0.45m wide and between 0.5m and 0.6m deep.

The stratigraphy comprised topsoil (100), 0.25m in depth, overlying subsoil (101) which varied between 0.2m and 0.35m in depth with the natural deposits comprising sandstone (Plate 2). The topsoil was 0.25m deep, with the subsoil varying between 0.2m and 0.35m in depth.

The northern section of the trench cut through part of the path which was formed by a thin layer of gravel (104), 0.10m deep, overlying a band of sandstone rubble (102) which may have been eroded or weathered natural or a bedding layer for the path.

The ground surface by the church was at a height of 101.17m aOD sloping gradually down along the length of the path to 98.79m aOD at its southern end. The base of the trench by the church was at 101.17m aOD and 98.2m aOD at the southern end.

In the base of the northern part of the trench, immediately outside the western door to the church, a small group of disarticulated human bone was observed in the base of the trench (see Plate 4). As no further excavation was required below the level at which the bone was exposed the remains were photographed and covered, leaving them *in situ*. No grave cuts were observed. The bones appeared to be human ankle bones. The excavations in the northern 10m of the trench did not reach natural deposits with only topsoil and path make up 0.25m deep and subsoil 0.35m+ deep being recorded.

Towards the southern end of the trench, near the present gateway, a buried section of the ha-ha wall was uncovered (see Plate 3)(103). Extant sections survive approximately 20m to the west. The wall was 0.92m wide and at least 0.44m deep – its full depth was not exposed. The wall was made up of large sandstone blocks bonded with lime mortar.

6 Discussion and Conclusions

The watching brief on the service trench uncovered a small amount of disarticulated human bone just outside the western door of the church. As the natural deposits were not exposed in this section of the trench it was impossible to determine whether there were any grave cuts. The presence of disarticulated bone does, however, suggest that graves may well extend to the west of the church and may not therefore be confined within the present graveyard. With the long history of the church dating back from at least the 10th century this would not be surprising.

A short length of ha-ha was also exposed at the southern end of the trench. This is clearly part of the same feature which survives 20m to the west. The section of ha-ha exposed appears to have been in filled and covered suggesting that the path to the church did not always follow its present course.

No further archaeological features or finds were recovered or identified during the course of the watching brief.

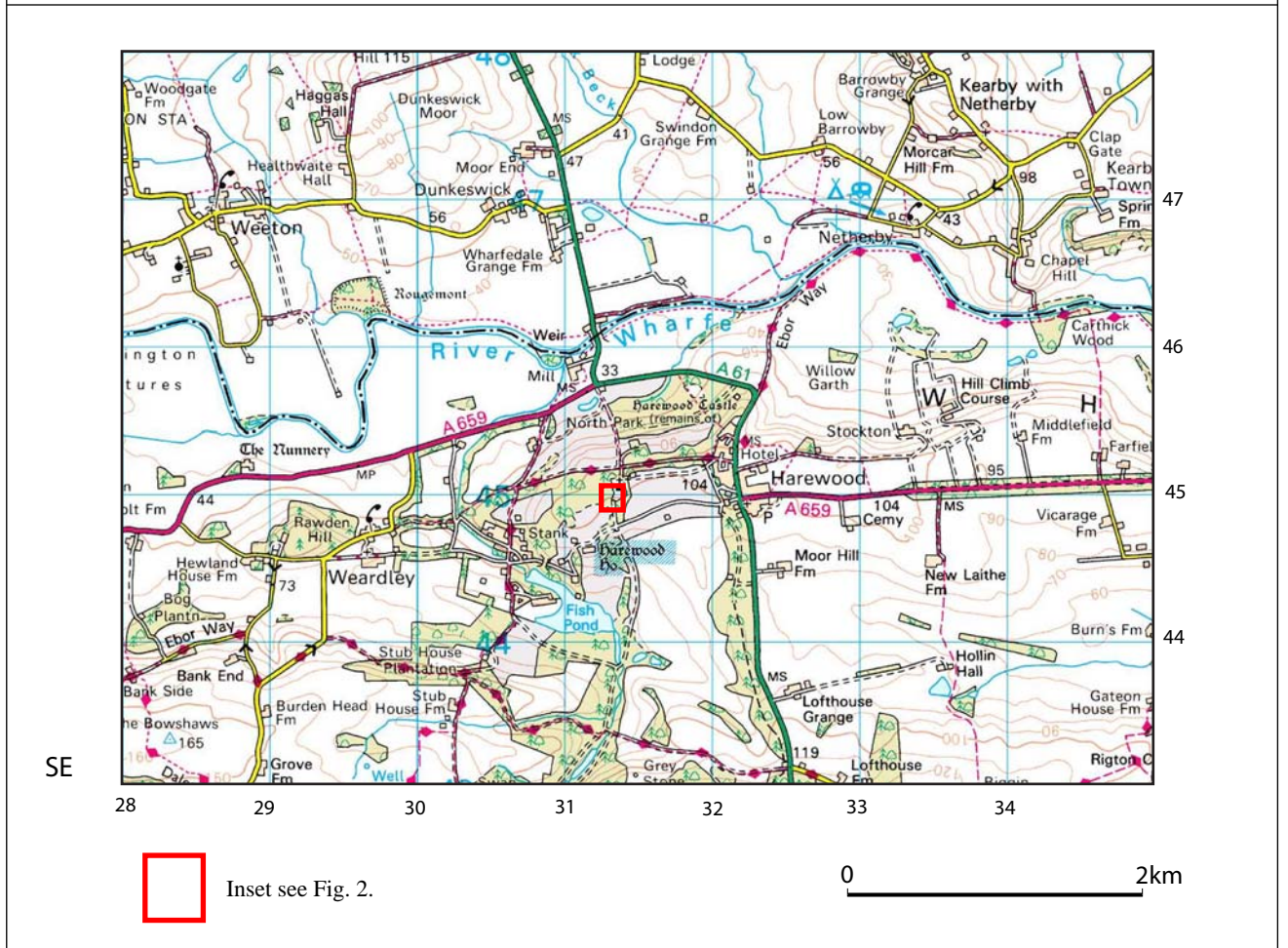
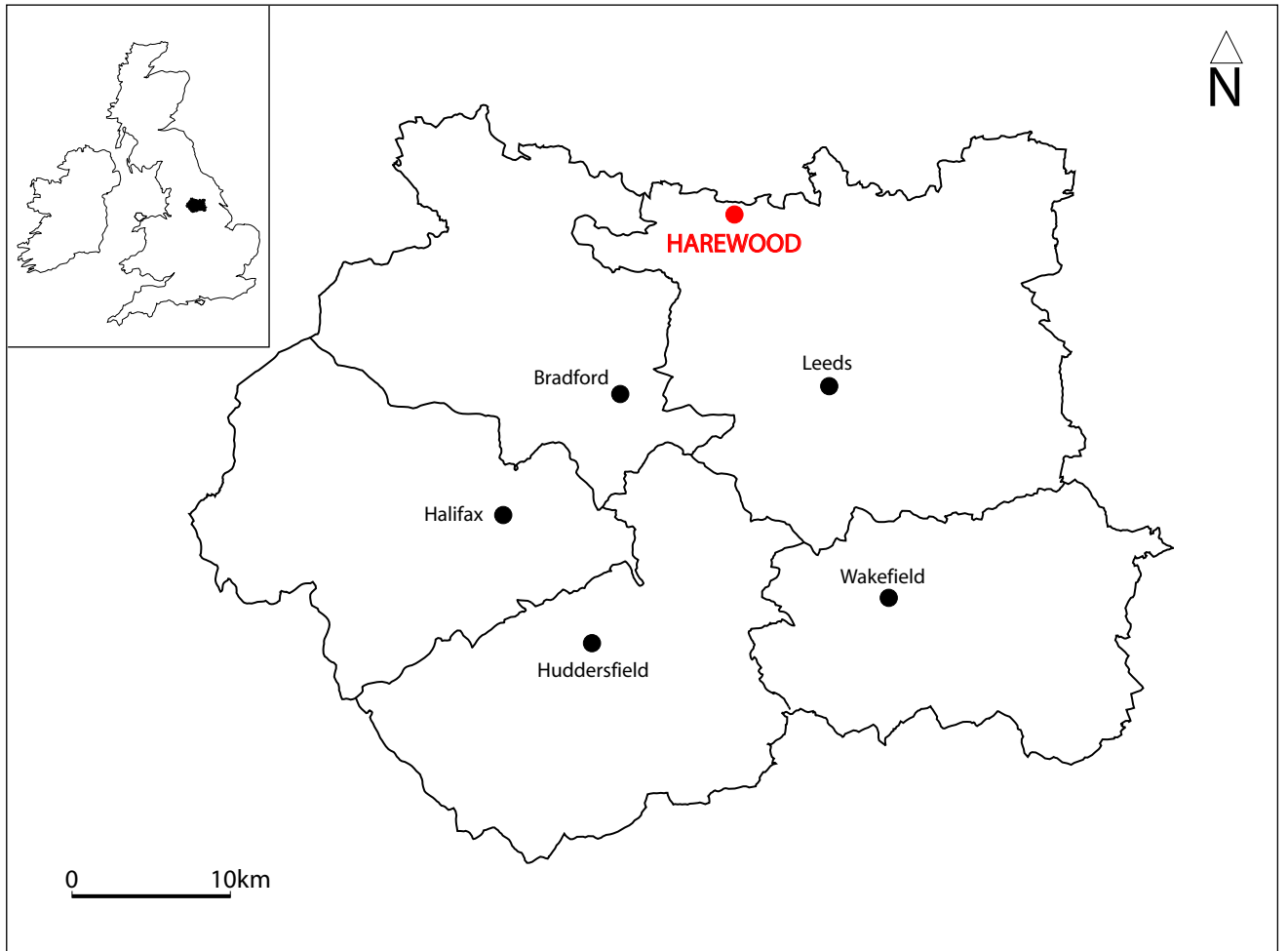


Fig. 1. Site location



Fig. 2. Detailed site location showing monitored trench (1:500 @ A3)



Plate 1. Excavated service trench, looking south-west



Plate 2. Central part of trench, showing general section of trench, looking west



Plate 3. Exposed ha ha 103, looking north



Plate 4. Exposed disarticulated bone in base of trench, looking north-east

Appendix 1: Inventory of primary archive

Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Watching Brief	File no.1	Context register sheets	1
		Context sheets	5
		Drawing register sheets	1
		Permatrace sheet	1
		Digital photo record sheet	1
		Digital photo contact sheet	1
		Watching brief daily monitoring form	1

Appendix 2: Concordance of contexts

Context	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
100	Topsoil	-
101	Subsoil	-
102	Hardcore	-
103	Ha-ha wall	-
104	Path Surface	-

Bibliography

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