

MAP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE Ltd.

St. Laurence's Church
Scalby
Scarborough
North Yorkshire

TA 00921 90326

MAP 10.78.2012

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

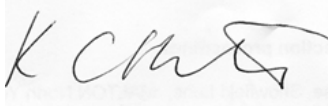
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Date: 31/05/2012	Date: 31/05/2012

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Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd at St Laurence's Church, Scalby, Scarborough, North Yorkshire (TA 00921 90326) on the 29th March 2012 as well as 5th, 10th & 19th April 2012 and the 3rd May 2012. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the insertion of three new drainage gullies and one soakaway pit to improve drainage conditions and divert rainwater away from the external walls of the church.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the watching brief.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was carried out on the 29th March 2012, the 5th, 10th, & 19th April 2012 and the 3rd May 2012 during the groundworks associated with the insertion of three new drainage gullies and one soakaway pit to improve drainage conditions and divert rainwater away from the external walls at St Laurence's Church, Scalby, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, (TA 00921 90326, Fig. 1). The Watching Brief was undertaken as part of an improvement and renovation project at the church.

1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to provide the appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development. St Laurence's Church, Scalby is a Grade II* Listed Building. Listed churches within the heritage protection system fall outside the scope of normal listing building controls. The protection and management of churches falls within 'ecclesiastical exemption.' It provides a mechanism for certain denominations to be exempted from building control systems administered by local planning authorities when undertaking works or making repairs. The Church of England's Churches fall under faculty jurisdiction, any repairs, alterations or extensions or changes to its contents or churchyard require a faculty that is a license for authorising the work. Section 9 of the Faculty of Work stated that "*All excavations will take place in consecrated and/or historically significant ground. All work is to be carried out under an archaeological watching brief. Any finds are to be reported to the archaeologists and opportunity afforded to them to undertake close examination in situ and for them to continue excavation of finds by hand*" (AB/JVF/JOB Ref. 2208)

1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned and funded by KFB Scarborough Ltd.

1.4 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

2.1 The site lies in the village of Scalby, c. 3 miles north-west of Scarborough, on the northern side of Church Hill which leads off the A171 Scalby Road (Fig. 1). The site is bounded by Church Hill to the east and south, residential properties to the north and a small beck to the west. The site is comprised of St Laurence's church itself, a graveyard which encompasses the full extent of the church, a small car park and Scalby village hall.

- 2.2 At the time of the Watching Brief the church had undergone an extensive renovation project which was nearing its completion.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The North Riding of Yorkshire contain relict landscapes dating from the Neolithic through to the medieval periods, and evidence exists within the surrounding region of Scalby providing evidence for possible settlement activity very early on. An archaeological evaluation by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (2009) west of the proposed development site on land at Field Lane confirmed the existence of a late prehistoric square barrow and adjacent linear ditch which appeared to terminate close to the existence of an enclosure. A small assemblage of lithic tools were also recovered and provided evidence for activity at the site from the Mesolithic to Neolithic and Bronze Ages. There have been various spot finds made around the surrounding areas of the proposal site including a Bronze Age Palstave and a number of Early Bronze Age axe hammers enhancing the interpretation that this area had been settled from very early on.
- 3.2 The medieval village of Scalby was in existence by the time of the 1086 Domesday Survey, the settlement being recorded as various derivations, *Scalebi*, *Scallebi*, *Scaulby*, and *Scawby*. Scalby is mentioned as a member of the manor of Walesgrif or Falsgrave (Page, 1923: 476-483). The application site lay within the core of the medieval village.
- 3.3 St Laurence's Church is of considerable antiquity, with its exact age unknown. Formerly it was in the hands of the Prior of Burlington, having been presented to that establishment by Eustace Fitz John, about 1150. At the dissolution it was given to the Dean and Chapter of Norwich, in whose gift it still remains. It is therefore dated between the 12th and 13th centuries with later alterations and additions, including the tower, probably in 1683, but in Gothic style. The church was heavily

restored and extended in 1859. It consists of chancel, nave, south aisle, south porch, and tower with three bells. The north wall of the nave is of medieval masonry. In 1887 the church was repaired both externally and internally by private subscriptions and the produce of a bazaar. There are five stained windows, and many brass memorials. The stained east window is of three lights, representing respectively the Baptism, Last Supper, and Crucifixion of Christ. This window, which is richly decorated, was the gift of Mrs. Betsy Hardcastle, of Scalby Villa, in memory of her husband, Timothy Hardcastle, Esq. There are good surviving 18th century wall monuments to both sides of the chancel with Medieval fonts. One tower window bears the inscription: '1683. Thomas -, Samewell -, Church wardens', which may refer to the insertion of bell openings and windows in an existing tower. A new organ was put in, in 1865. The register commences in 1556. The living is a vicarage of the net value of £380 (www.genuki.org.uk).

- 3.4 St Laurence's Church became a Grade II* listed building on the 26th November 1985.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Recording Brief were to record and recover any archaeological remains that were affected by the development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological work involved monitoring the removal of overburden and topsoil within the trenches and pit where the new drainage gullies and soakaway would be inserted. All drainage services were to be joined to those already existing on site.
- 5.2 The excavated trenches for the drainage gullies were hand excavated, under close archaeological supervision.

5.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).

5.4 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Recording Brief on a high resolution digital camera.

6. Results (Pls. 2- 4)

6.1 Two of the trenches excavated for the drainage gullies ran east to west on the northern side of the church, measuring approximately 12m in length and 0.25m in width. The trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.30m (Pl. 2). The remaining drainage trench ran from the southern side of the church tower, north-west to south-east before changing to an east-west alignment to circumvent a number of gravestones (Pl. 3). The trench ran for approximately 15m before dropping into a square soakaway pit, excavated to a depth of 0.50m (Pl. 4).

6.2 The soil horizon within the trenches towards the rear of the church consisted of brown clay loam containing sandstone fragments and backfilled demolition debris. Whereas the stratigraphy within the trenches and soakway pit on the south side of the church consisted of a layer of modern turf which sealed a deposit of dark brown clay loam topsoil. This deposit in turn sealed a subsoil layer of orange brown very sticky clay containing sandstone fragments.

6.3 No archaeological finds, deposits or features were present in either the drainage trenches or soakaway pit.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1. The apparent absence of any archaeological deposits may be due to the shallowness of the excavation areas, which failed to reach any significant depths.

8. Bibliography

- Lidell, T. 2009 Land At Field Lane, Scalby, Scarborough, North Yorkshire. Archaeological Evaluation. 962/09. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. *Unpublished Report.*
- Page, W. 1923 A History of the County of York North Riding Vol. 2: 'Parishes: Scalby.' From www.british-history.ac.uk

www.genuki.org.uk



Figure 1. Site Location.

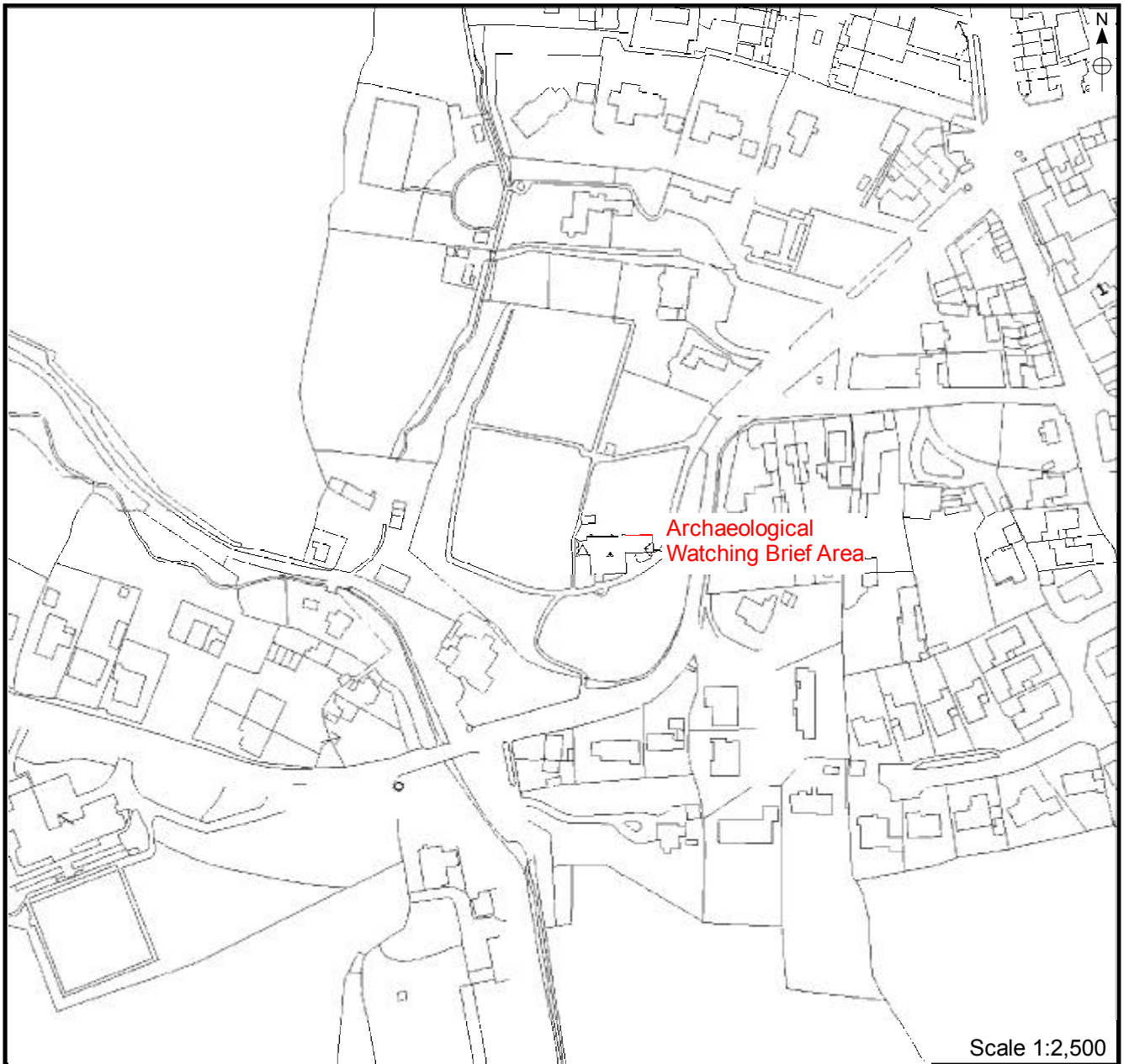


Figure 2. Archaeological Watching Brief Area.



Plate 1. General View of Site. Facing South-west.



Plate 2. Drainage Gully Excavation. Facing East.



Plate 3. Drainage Gully Excavation. Facing East.



Plate 4. Soakaway Pit. Facing North-east.

