



ALL SAINTS CE PARISH CHURCH, ORTON, Cumbria

Archaeological Desk- Based Assessment and Visual Inspection



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SUMMARY

Following a request by IWA Architects and All Saints Parochial Church Council, Oxford Archaeology North undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment and visual inspection of All Saints Parish Church, Orton, Cumbria, (NY 62216 08389) prior to extensive renovations being carried out at the site. The work involved a desk-based assessment and a visual inspection of the church, and was carried out in July 2004.

The desk-based assessment involved the examination of all pertinent documents relating to the church held in the Cumbria County Record Office in Kendal, and the consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record of Cumbria County Council, also based in Kendal. In addition, a number of published sources from the Record Office and OA North were consulted to provide further information.

The assessment presented a general history of All Saints Church, Orton, and a more specific history of the development of the building where this known. The church is first mentioned when it was awarded to Conishead Priory between the years of 1154 and 1163. The origins of the stone church are believed to date from this era, although it may date to the early thirteenth century. The church was originally built in a cruciform shape, with a north and south aisle added in the thirteenth century. Around the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century, new windows were inserted into the aisles, the north aisle was extended, the roof timbers were repaired, and the tower was built. During the seventeenth to twentieth centuries, most expansion was concerned with land, as further plots were acquired to increase the size of the churchyard.

A visual inspection was also carried out, which was able to identify the main phases of alterations recorded in the documentary sources. It was evident that some substantial rebuilding had been carried out at an early date, which was thought to be of some significance. Extensive rebuilding had also been carried out in 1878-9 by the noted regional architects Paley and Austin, and this too was visible within the existing building. The church is considered to have some regional significant partially because of its age and relatively complexity, and the work carried out by Paley and Austin. There is also a suggestion of Roman activity on the site with the identification of possible reused fabric within the foundations, perhaps indicating an even longer period of use than initially thought.

The renovations will impact upon three areas of the church. The character of the tower will be changed with the addition of a lime-based render; the excavation of drains around the external walls will potentially impact on buried archaeological remains; and the application of render to the internal walls will expose the original fabric of the church. Further renovations to the building are not expected to impact too heavily on the church, as it is assumed that similar building materials will be used in the works.

A programme of archaeological monitoring of the church by means of a watching brief has already been outlined in the Project Design, and the results of the desk-based assessment and visual inspection allowed more specific recommendations to be made.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to express its thanks to IWA Architects and All Saints Parochial Church Council for commissioning the work, and for their help and assistance during the fieldwork. Further thanks are due to staff of the County Record Office in Kendal for their assistance and to Jo MacIntosh for supplying information from the Cumbria SMR.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Hannah Gajos, and the visual inspection was carried out by Daniel Elsworth. The report was written by Hannah Gajos and Daniel Elsworth. The drawings were produced by Cristina Clarke. The report was edited by Alison Plummer and Emily Mercer. Alison Plummer managed the project.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 IWA Architects and All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) have been required by English Heritage to conduct an archaeological building investigation of All Saints Parish Church, Orton, Cumbria, (NY 62216 08389) prior to extensive renovations being carried out at the site. A brief for the renovations was produced (*Appendix 1*), in response to which Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were requested to submit a project design for the required work (*Appendix 2*). Following its approval by English Heritage, OA North was commissioned to undertake the work, which was carried out in July 2004.
- 1.1.2 This report sets out the results of the desk-based assessment and visual inspection in the form of a short document. This outlines the findings and potential of the archaeological remains, followed by an assessment of the impact of the proposed development.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 2*) was submitted by OA North, in response to a project brief (*Appendix 1*) issued by IWA Architects, for an archaeological desk-based assessment and visual inspection at All Saints Church, Orton, Cumbria. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 ***Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)***: the SMR for Cumbria, held in Kendal, was consulted. This is a list of all archaeological sites known in Cumbria maintained by the County Council and is the primary source of information for an assessment of this type.
- 2.2.2 ***Cumbria County Record Office (Kendal) (CCRO(Kendal))***: the County Record Office in Kendal was visited to consult parish records relating to the church, maps and other primary sources of relevance. Several secondary sources were also investigated.
- 2.2.3 ***Oxford Archaeology North***: OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, most notably the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

2.3 VISUAL INSPECTION

- 2.3.1 The visual inspection comprised a rapid examination of the standing fabric of the building intended to identify broad phases of alteration and use and place the results of the desk-based assessment into a physical context. Written records were kept during the visual inspection using OA North *pro forma* record sheets, and sketches and plans were produced where necessary. Photographs of both the building in general and specific features were also taken.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full archive has been prepared to a professional standard in accordance with current United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC 1990) and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Cumbria County Record Office (Kendal) on

completion of the project. Copies of the report will be deposited with the Cumbria SMR in Kendal.

3. DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT RESULTS

3.1 THE SETTING

- 3.1.1 **Location:** Orton is located in the ancient county of Westmorland, now in modern day Cumbria. The village is situated four miles to the north of Tebay, and eight miles south-east of Shap (Bulmer 1905; Fig 1).
- 3.1.2 **Topography:** the village lies in a valley bottom, within the Orton Fells, an area in which bridges of high fells contrast with valleys of rich grazing land. The river Lune and several of its tributary streams have their sources in this parish (Bulmer 1905). The village of Orton is an important element in the landscape. This historic settlement consists of limestone farms and dwellings, and narrow lanes bounded by limestone walls, which together exhibit a uniformity in scale, form and colour (Countryside Commission 1998).
- 3.1.3 The church is situated on high ground, rising to approximately 230m OD at the north side of the village (Ordnance Survey 1984). The church yard is spread around the north, east and west sides of the church (Fig 2).
- 3.1.3 **Geology:** the underlying solid geology of the area consists of limestones from the Carboniferous period producing extensive limestone scars and pavements. This is combined with beds of sandstone and shale (Countryside Commission 1998). This is overlain by drift geology of glacial boulder clays, with the resulting soils being from the Eardiston series, which are typical brown earths (Ordnance Survey 1983).

3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** All Saints Church, Orton is designated as a Listed Building (3/9 Grade II*), and is recorded in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (SMR 13855). Below is a general history of the site and a more detailed history of the development of the church, drawn from both primary and secondary sources from the Cumbria Record Office in Kendal and the OA North library.

3.3 BACKGROUND HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

- 3.3.1 **Roman Period:** although there are no specific references to a Roman building or settlement at Orton, excavations carried out in 1986 during the construction of the car park revealed possible reused Roman masonry within the foundations of the north side of the nave (Cumbria County Council 1986; Plates 3 and 4). Two blocks of masonry were identified, one with simple moulding on the edge, and a second with a recess on the surface for an metal clamp (*ibid*; Plate 3). It is possible that a Roman structure was located close to the church as it is unlikely that these fairly ordinary stones would have been imported any distance. It is impossible to tell, however, from the area

excavated whether there is a structure below the church, although the discovery of such a building would be highly significant for the area.

- 3.3.2 **Early Medieval:** there is no mention of Orton in the Domesday Book, as Westmorland was not covered in the survey, meaning the early history of the church is difficult to trace. However, it is known that the Church of Orton in Westmorland was awarded to Conishead Priory by Gamel de Pennington (near Ulverston, in what was then part of Lancashire) between the years of 1154 and 1163 (Collingwood 1931). There are some discrepancies over the date of the original stone church, with Bulmer (1905) suggesting that it was built during the twelfth century and had a cruciform plan, comprising the chancel, nave and north and south transepts. The SMR suggests that the pier and respond still extant in the east bay of south aisle formed part of this original cruciform structure. Pevsner (1967), however, believes the origins of the stone church to date instead to the early thirteenth century, although he is in agreement that the original church was cruciform in plan.

3.4 HISTORY OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH

- 3.4.1 **Medieval Period:** as the general history suggests it is difficult to assess precisely when the different elements of the church were constructed. The scarcity of documentary evidence means that it is necessary to rely on the physical evidence, in the form of dateable styles and construction techniques. It would seem likely that the church was expanded throughout the medieval period; the north and south aisles are thought to have been added in the thirteenth century, with the south aisle probably originally being a chapel as there are remains of a trefoiled piscina, and a recess in the wall which formed either a credence or an aumbry (Pevsner 1967). Both aisles are built in the perpendicular style, with the west arch of the crossing possibly supporting a tower that may have become insecure and removed (*ibid*). There are also stone brackets on the east wall which possibly held religious images.
- 3.4.2 Two windows were added in the wall of the south aisle in the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century either side of a round-headed doorway. The easternmost pillar in this aisle shows the remains of several arches suggesting different phases of building, or reuse of original building materials. The three-stage castellated tower is believed to have been built in the perpendicular style around 1504, and the north aisle was extended to the west, with a window added. However, it does not appear that the south aisle was extended at this date, as the pillar bases on this side of the church do not extend as far west as those in the north aisle (Pevsner 1967; Smith 1993; Whiteside 1904).
- 3.4.3 The earliest documentary references relating to the business of the church appear to date to the thirteenth century. In 1263 Bishop Robert de Chauncy, acting on behalf of the Pope, requested a valuation of the church and vicarage by the prior of Conishead, which came to £4 14s (Whiteside 1904). Instead of paying the tithe to the Priory as money, it was arranged that certain portions of the parish should be assigned instead. These portions included the assets of two dwelling houses with two oxgangs of land, mortuaries, offerings on All Saints Day, Christmas Day, Easter Day and the Day of Purification of the

Blessed Mary, and at weddings, burials and churchings, tithes of wool and lambs, tithes of flax, hemp and moulter; small tithes of forest trees, geese, ducks, eggs, chickens and pigs; honey and beeswax; use of ponds, dovecotes and gardens; and profits from trades, merchants and wages (WPR/9/I/157 1946).

- 3.4.4 **Later Medieval Period:** in 1529, during the reign of Henry VIII, the church of Orton appeared to prosper. Four new bells were placed in the tower, with one cast by John Woolley of Nottingham dated to 1530 (Parson and White 1829; although Nicolson and Burn (1777, 485) state that all four were cast by Wooley) Two of the bells in the surviving frame (now situated in north aisle) are dated 1637 and the fourth is undated (*ibid*). By 1540 the valuation of the church had risen to £17 5s 4d (WPR/9/I/157 1946).
- 3.4.5 After Conishead Priory reverted to the Crown during the Reformation, Queen Elizabeth I leased the rectory of Orton in 1586 to Richard Sadlier, who was rector of the parish at the time, for the duration of thirty-one years, with an annual rental of twenty pounds (WPR/9/I/65 1586). However, the lease did not remain with Richard Sadlier for the expected amount of time, as the Crown then sold the rights of the parish to two London financiers, Francis Morice and Francis Phelipe, some time after 1586 (WPR/9/I/157 1946). By 1612, the parishioners of Orton, with the rector John Corney, unhappy with the situation of two London men holding the rights to the parish, raised the money to buy back the church and advowson for £570 (WPR/9/I/13 1612). From this time onwards, the freeholders of Orton have held the advowson of the Orton living, giving them the right to elect the vicar. The parish registers began soon after in March 1654, but have no other records other than births, deaths and marriages (Whiteside 1904).
- 3.4.6 Few sources relating to expansion of the church in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries could be found, perhaps suggesting that there was little alteration carried out during this period. However, the Listing information suggests that the roof timbers of the nave and aisles date to the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century, with the gabled porch in the nave bay in the south aisle dating to 1607. The octagonal stone font, typical of this period, was placed in the church in 1662 (Pevsner 1967). In 1749, four new pews were added for the common people and churchwardens (Whiteside 1904).
- 3.4.7 However, the post-medieval period saw the church expand its land ownership, suggesting that the parish still prospered. In 1666, Roger Keinon, the vicar of Orton, exchanged glebe land at Frybiggins held by the church, for land belonging to the late vicar George Fothergill (WPR/9/I/115 1666). Plans illustrating this could not be found. In 1736 the Rev Dr Richard Burn, co-author of *The History and Antiquities of the Counties of Westmorland and Cumberland* (Nicolson and Burn 1777) was elected rector. A plaque within the chancel records his time at All Saints. In 1768 the church council applied for an Act of Parliament to divide and enclose common and waste ground in Orton and Raisbeck, of which part was set aside for the vicar in lieu of tithes of wool and lamb, giving a yearly income of £25 (WPR/9/I/68 1768). The seats at this time were '*repaired at the public expense*' as '*the modern practice*

of appropriating seats hath not yet obtained in this church' (Nicolson and Butn 1777, 485).

- 3.4.8 **Post-Medieval Period:** during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, further additions were made to the church. A faculty was granted in 1877 to take down and rebuild the chancel, and between 1878 and 1879 the restoration was undertaken by Paley and Austin (Price 1998, 86). During these renovations it was shown that the chancel walls had been altered previously, with much of the stonework consisting of re-used pieces of windows and arches (Smith 1993). No documentary record of this previous work remains, however. An organ and vestry were also added at this time, along with oak sanctuary rails. The vestry was panelled with oak which is thought to have been taken from the vicar's pew, as over the fireplace are Vicar Corney's initials, I.C., 1639. Part of the capital of the pillar in the nave was cut away to accommodate the three decker pulpit which used to stand here. The clay floor of the church was replaced first with flags and then with boards during the nineteenth century (Bulmer 1905). Radiators were introduced into the church in 1901, and a fuel chamber was built in 1913, but electric lights were not installed until 1938. The peal of six bells was replaced with a peal of eight bells in 1916, and a war memorial was erected in 1919 (WPR/9/I/159-260 1877-1961).
- 3.4.9 The church continued its acquisition of land during this period. As part of the enclosure award in 1852, the advowson was augmented with two allotments called the Knott and Vicar's Moss, consisting of about 200 acres given in lieu of lamb and wool tithes (Parson and White 1829). This area of enclosed land was mapped at the time (WPR/9/Z/19-20 1852; Fig 2). Further plots of land were subsequently bought, specifically to increase the size of the churchyard.
- 3.4.10 **Historic Map Regression:** the earliest detailed maps of the site relate to these periods of enclosure. There are two plans available of the church and churchyard dating to 1886, showing the church, churchyard and vicarage along with the surrounding enclosed fields (WPR/9/I/127 1886; Plate 1). The accompanying documentation discusses the extra land acquired for the churchyard but it is not clear exactly where the extension is located. The church has essentially the same form and shows the extensions from the nineteenth century. The earliest Ordnance Survey maps showing the site in detail were consulted but do not provide any additional information about the plan of the building. A more detailed plan drawn in approximately 1946, shows the addition of an area to the churchyard to the north of the church (WPR9/I/120 n.d.; Plate 2). The church is shown as the same shape as in 1886 and evidently did not change a great deal during the twentieth century.

4. VISUAL INSPECTION

4.1 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 **Introduction:** the arrangement of the church is relatively simple and comprises a nave with north and south aisles (Plate 5). A porch is attached to the west end of the south aisle. The chancel, at the east end, has a vestry and organ room attached to the north side. There is a tower at the west end with a small store on the north side.
- 4.1.2 **General fabric:** the entire church, apart from the chancel, comprises rough courses of roughly dressed sandstone with small, two-tiered buttresses. The chancel is constructed from finer, ashlar blocks and has larger buttresses. The roof is slate, with stone coping and a low parapet.
- 4.1.3 **External detail:** there are three windows in the north elevation of the north aisle, all of which are three-light with round-headed arches. At the east end of the elevation a small vestry has been added and a large buttress is situated between it and the north aisle. There is a small outshut attached to the tower at the west end with a similar window within it, although this is considerably more weathered and may be earlier, and the outshut appears to be contemporary with the north aisle. The west elevation is dominated by the tower. There is an outshut to the north, butting the tower, which is built of regular courses of dressed sandstone. There is some evidence for rebuilding around the doorway within this outshut.
- 4.1.4 The tower itself makes up the majority of the west elevation and has two plinths and diagonal buttresses, the corners are finished with quoins and it has a crenellated parapet. The window surrounds typically consist of dressed yellow sandstone. Its construction is much rougher than the rest of the building, although generally similar in style. There are two large slatted apertures in the north elevation. There is a small two-light mullion window on the top floor and larger, three-light one below – probably a later insertion, which has the remains of lead flashing, perhaps for a porch, above. Below this is an aperture, perhaps originally a doorway. This appears to be inserted, or has had considerable alteration, and is currently blocked leaving a deep recess. On the north side of the tower there is a possible small blocked window at first floor level and there is another small window into the stair tower on the south side with a reused dressed slab above. There are further small windows in the south elevation and a larger window near the top partially covered by a clock face. A plaque near the base reads: ‘RESTORATION 1977’. The west elevation of the south aisle has a single four-centre arched window and a diagonal buttress and possibly butts the tower. There is a further slatted window in the east elevation of the tower.
- 4.1.5 The south elevation is similar to the north, with an aisle with two central buttresses and diagonal ones at the corners. All of the windows have hood moulds and segmental arches. There is a porch attached on the west side with stone coping (with the date 1607 inscribed). Within the porch the roof is

covered and there are stone benches along the east and west walls. The internal door has a four-centred arch and a moulded surround. At the east end of the main south elevation the chancel is noticeably different in build and has three buttresses. The windows are narrow and have hood moulds. The east elevation is dominated by the gables of the chancel and vestry. The chancel gable is topped with a carved cross finial and there are corner buttresses and a plinth. The windows have hood moulds. The extension to the north forming the vestry has chamfered coping and a single small window with a hood mould.

- 4.1.6 **Internal detail:** the roof of the nave comprises tie beams resting on a timber wall plate supported by stone corbels. The last four bays at the east end are different as they are supported by timber corbels on the south side with angled brackets. There are scars for similar remains on the north side, and one of those on the south actually hangs over an arch into the south aisle, suggesting it is early than the arch. There are two purlins per pitch with halved scarf joints between joining timbers. Both the south and north elevations are pierced by arches allowing access to the aisles, and there are the remains of an arch orientated north/south towards the east end of the south elevation corresponding to the change in the roof. The east elevation is also pierced by a large arch allowing access to the chancel and a plaque attached reads:

'This arch was erected by Thomas Hayton Esqre of The Oak Orton 1878 in memory of Agnes his beloved wife who died on the 21st day of April 1850 aged 29 years. Rest in peace'.

The west end of the nave has another large arch into the tower, now filled with modern timber and glass panelling. There is a possible blocked draw-bar slot on the south side of this doorway. The elevations of the nave are all cement rendered over finely dressed stone blocks and the floor is finished with red tiles.

- 4.1.7 The north aisle has a single pitch roof with principal rafters resting on timber corbels with arched braces. These are pegged together and decorated with chamfers. The floor is raised on timber and the walls are finished with cement render throughout. The south elevation is pierced by arches allowing access to the nave, and there are three windows within the north elevation all with three panels and round headed arches. There is a doorway at the east end to what was probably originally the vestry, and now houses the organ, and there is another doorway at the west end to the side room attached to the tower. The south aisle is similar in form to the nave, but there is only a single stone corbel within the roof. The tie beams are built into the walls and have small flattened scrolled braces at both ends, which are pegged to the tie beam and built into the walls and are decorated with chamfering. There are three purlins, all hand-finished with simple halved scarf joints. At the east end there is a small window with two panels with flowing tracery. Two pieces of possibly reused stone project from the wall, one with a carved shield, the other with a plinth and the remains of what is possibly a head. The south elevation has two windows, each of two panels, with flattened round headed arches. There is a piscina at the east end with a trefoil arch and beaded and denticulate decoration forming a border. An area of exposed stonework where the render

has been removed shows that the church the same construction as seen externally, comprising of large dressed blocks. The main doorway is situated at the west end and has a timber internal porch. There is an additional window in the west elevation, which is evidently a later addition and has finely dressed tracery.

- 4.1.8 The chancel is evidently a much later addition. It has a raised floor finished with tiles. The ceiling has a semi-circular structure with angled braces. There are lancet windows in the north and south elevations and a large arched doorway allowing access to the vestry/organ and an arch to the nave in the west elevation. There is a large window in the east elevation with three panels of trefoil tracery. A small, plain piscina (perhaps false) is situated in the north elevation and there are three steps up to the altar.
- 4.1.9 The inside of the tower is very plain. It has a flag floor and a flat ceiling supported by tie beams on corbels on the south side. The stair tower is situated in the south-west corner. The walls are finished with a cement render, which is very damp in places, which has been scored to give the impression of ashlar blocks. There is a window in the west end with three panels like those in the south aisle and a large arch, partially filled with a modern partition, allows access to the nave to the east. Attached to the north side of the tower is a small extension currently used as a kitchen. This comprises a single small room with a low ceiling (although there is evidently further room above this) and a concrete floor. The north elevation has a single two-light window like that in the southern aisle. There is a doorway in the north-west corner leading outside, which has a roughly dressed stone lintel (partially covered by moss).
- 4.1.10 **Conclusions:** many of the major phases of alteration outlined in the results of the desk-based assessment were observed within the fabric of the church. The basic outline of the development of the building can be observed, in particular the addition of the vestry and alterations to the north aisle. The obvious difference in fabric between the chancel and the rest of the building would suggest it had been added at a later date, although there is no obvious evidence for this in the documentary sources that were consulted. It would seem likely, therefore, that the chancel was almost entirely rebuilt, probably during the renovations carried out by Paley and Austin in 1878-9. This does, however, call into question the relative date of the vestry, which appears to butt the chancel. There are enough similarities in the style of these two parts to suggest, however, that they are contemporary. The general plan of the church does not seem to have altered substantially since 1886 (Plates 1 and 2), suggesting that no major alterations have been carried out subsequent to the renovations of Paley and Austin.
- 4.1.11 It was not possible during the visual inspection to gain a detailed understanding of the earlier alterations to the building, although there is considerable evidence for alterations to the east end of the nave (immediately to the west of the chancel) to support the idea of a cruciform plan with a central tower. The relationship between the existing tower and the north aisle is unclear due to the probable extension to the west end of the north aisle, but it is apparent that a series of substantial alterations were made during a relatively short space of time in the medieval period.

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF REMAINS

5.1 CRITERIA

- 5.1.1 There are a number of different methodologies used to assess the archaeological significance of sites; in this instance those outlined in Annex 4 of Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (DoE 1990), as used by the Secretary of State when scheduling Ancient Monuments, will be used. The church is considered using each of the following criteria, and the results outlined below.
- 5.1.2 **Period:** the church is undoubtedly of some local significance because of its period as it is likely to be one of the earliest buildings in Orton and the surrounding area. It is not only of medieval origin, but there is some evidence for an earlier, possibly Roman, structure in the vicinity. If this were to be proved it would considerably enhance the importance of the site.
- 5.1.3 **Rarity:** the church is a rare structure within the local landscape and as such of considerable local significance. In the wider area it is less rare, but it is still of some importance.
- 5.1.4 **Documentation:** there are apparently relatively few documentary sources referring to the development of the church itself, particularly relating to its origins. There are, however, some relating it to the wider landscape and as such it has some, albeit only a small amount without additional documents being located, of potential for further research and so is not particularly significant in this area.
- 5.1.5 **Group value:** All Saints is in a relatively isolated position within the village and is only related, historically, to the rectory. As such its significance through its group value is relatively limited. Nevertheless the structure itself is complicated and made up of several parts, with a high group value within itself. It has some significance on this basis.
- 5.1.6 **Survival/Condition:** despite the need for repairs the church is in relatively good condition and is unlikely to be at serious threat from re-development, demolition, or other particularly damaging activities. It has survived well, partially because of the extensive renovations that have been carried out, which have in turn destroyed parts of the original fabric, and is likely to remain in good condition. Its significance is not particularly high on this account.
- 5.1.7 **Fragility/Vulnerability:** the good condition and survival of the building, combined with its important social position in the local area mean that it is unlikely to be threatened by any damaging activity. Its significance is therefore not particularly increased by reference to its fragility.
- 5.1.8 **Diversity:** the church is perhaps not especially diverse when compared to other types of buildings. Nevertheless within itself it is made up of a number of phases of activity from a range of periods (including potentially Roman). It is

therefore of some local significance on account of its diversity, and possibly even of regional importance if it were shown to have a Roman origin.

- 5.1.9 **Potential:** there is some potential for any further, more detailed examination of the church to reveal information about its complex development. There is also a lack of information regarding its origins and this could potentially be elucidated by more detailed investigation. The lack of detailed recording and investigation means that the church is of some local significance due to the possibility of additional information being gained.

5.2 SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.2.1 The early origins of All Saints church are not well understood and the possibility of Roman fabric having been re-used within the building might suggest that the it is more complex than is apparent within the standing remains. Regardless of this it is certainly of medieval origin and has clearly been subject to alterations during the medieval period.
- 5.2.2 While the desk-based assessment has demonstrated the early history of the church the visual inspection has identified a number of areas in which further research would be beneficial, in particular the east end of the nave, which may have originally housed a central tower. The opportunity of the current programme of works could allow areas to be examined that have not been exposed for some time, since at least the nineteenth century in some cases. The possibility of identifying re-used fabric from the church, or, perhaps more importantly, re-used Roman material during the current renovation should be considered of great significance.
- 5.2.3 Further information that could be gained from the physical remains of the building of the extensive renovations carried out in 1878-9 by the important local architects Paley and Austin would also be of some interest. A detailed study of their building practice has recently been published (Price 1998) but a greater understanding of their building methods has yet to be carried out. An examination of the fabric of their repairs could provide some useful information on this matter, especially in the chancel where substantial re-used elements from the original church were identified during their rebuilding.

6. IMPACT

6.1 PROPOSED BUILDING WORKS

6.1.1 The proposed building works will impact on several areas of the fabric of the church. These comprise applying render to the external walls of the tower; general repairs to the tower; repairs to the roof of both the church and the tower; the construction of drains around the external walls of the church, and the reduction of the ground level to below the inside floor level; minor repairs to the masonry of the church; and internal works including the replacement of unsuitable render with a lime based render, and the ventilation of floor voids.

6.2 LEVEL OF IMPACT

6.1.1 The tower will be heavily impacted upon by the proposed development. The appearance of the structure will be changed with the application of render and limewash, producing a different character to the church with the addition of the white colour. However, repair works to the roof and general repairs to the rest of the tower should not cause undue disruption to the character of the structure, as similar materials are being used.

6.2.2 The construction of the drains around the external walls has the potential to impact on buried archaeological remains, with the possibility of previous foundations and inhumations being uncovered. There is also the possibility that previously unknown Roman masonry may be uncovered.

6.2.3 The repairs to the general masonry of the church should not cause undue disruption to the character of the structure, as similar materials are being used within the works. However, the removal of render and the replacement with lime-based render will expose the original surfaces of the walls, and will change its appearance with the addition of the white colour.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION

7.1 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

- 7.1.1 A programme of archaeological monitoring of the renovation of the church through an archaeological watching brief has already been outlined in the Project Design (*Appendix 2*). The desk-based assessment and visual inspection have allowed a more detailed specification of exactly which areas of the church are of most interest.
- 7.1.2 It is recommended that a watching brief be carried out during the excavation of the drainage ditches around the external walls, and the reduction of the ground surface, due to the possibility of buried archaeological remains, particularly Roman masonry, being present.
- 7.1.3 In addition it is recommended that an inspection be carried out of any areas following the removal of render or mortar, or parts of the roof. This should allow any re-used fabric to be identified as well as reveal blocked apertures, doorways and other features.

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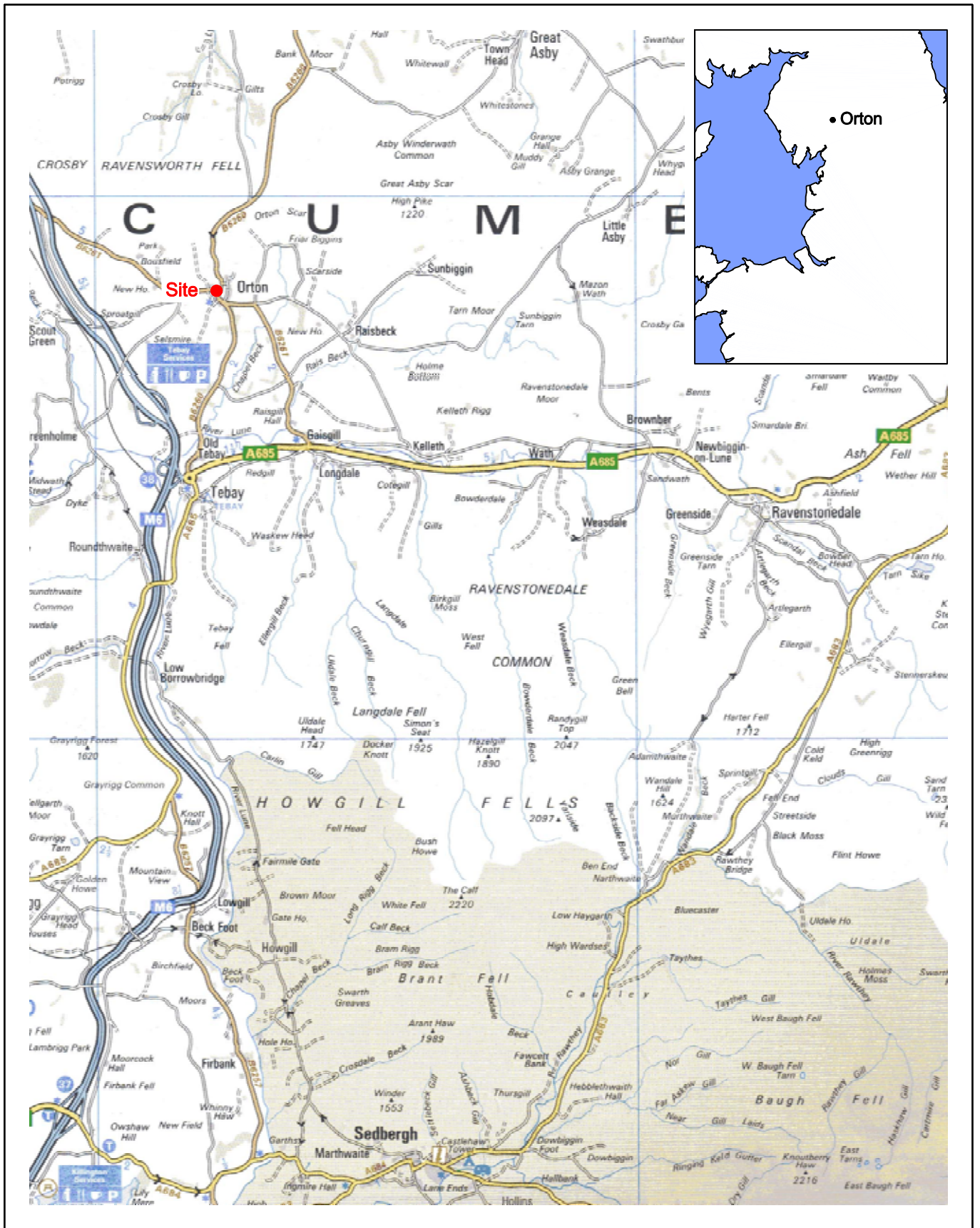
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Plate 3: Plan and elevation of external foundations of south side of nave, Orton Church (from Cumbria County Council 1986)

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Plate 5: Sketch plan of the church (from Smith 1993)



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Figure 1: Location map



Figure 2: Plan of church

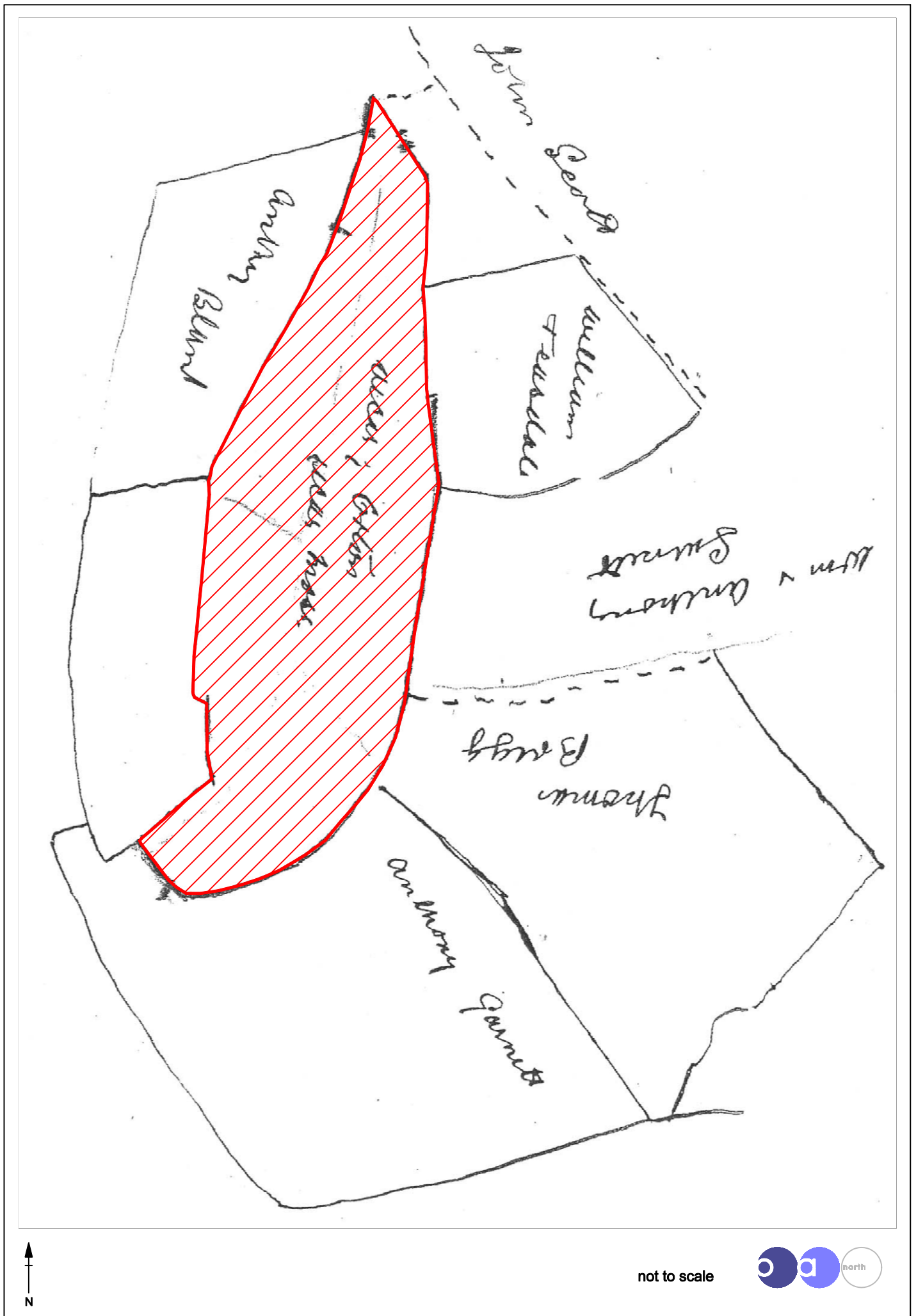


Figure 3: Extract from the Orton Enclosure Award, 1852

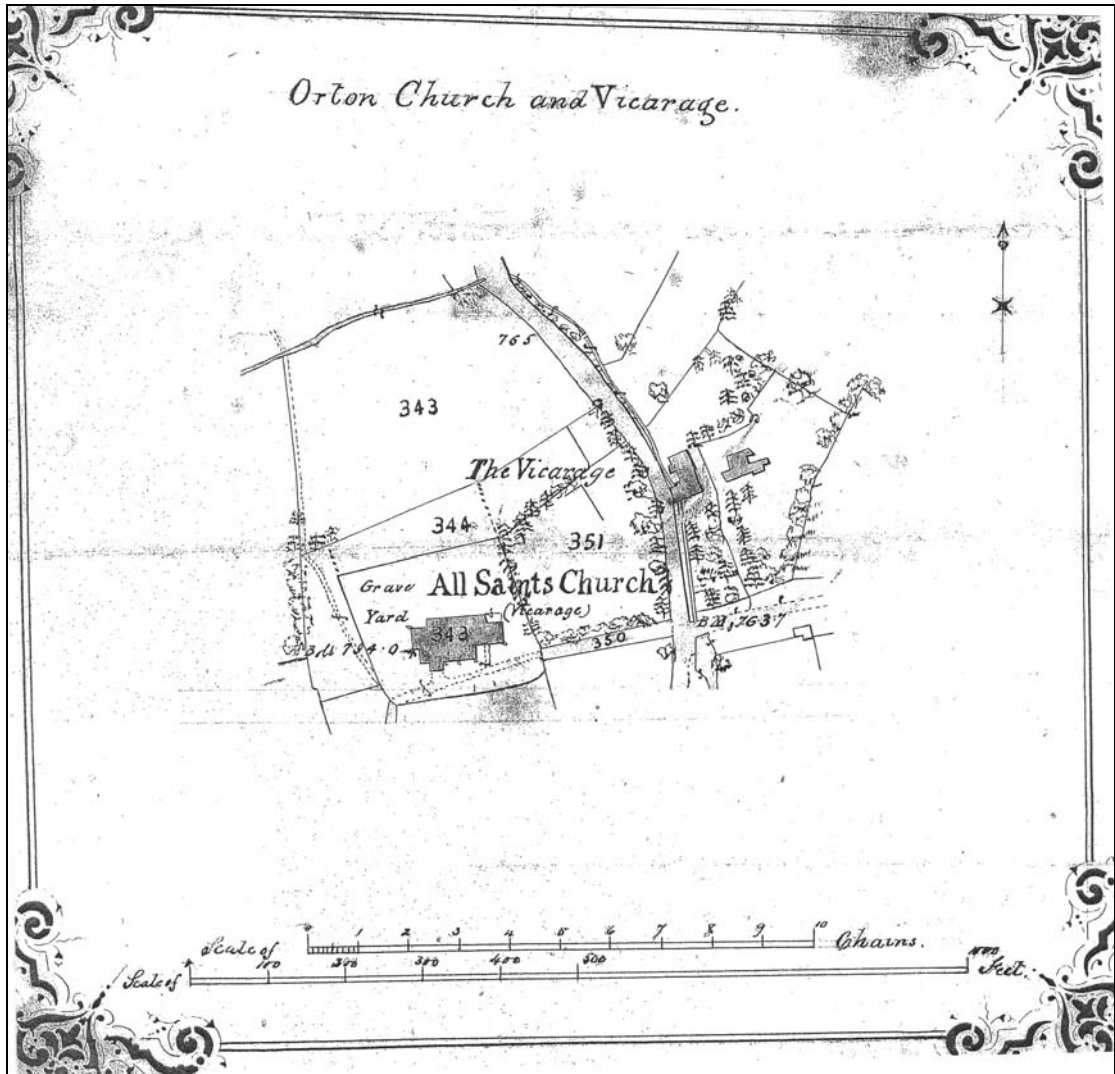


Plate 1: Plan of Orton Church and Vicarage, 1886

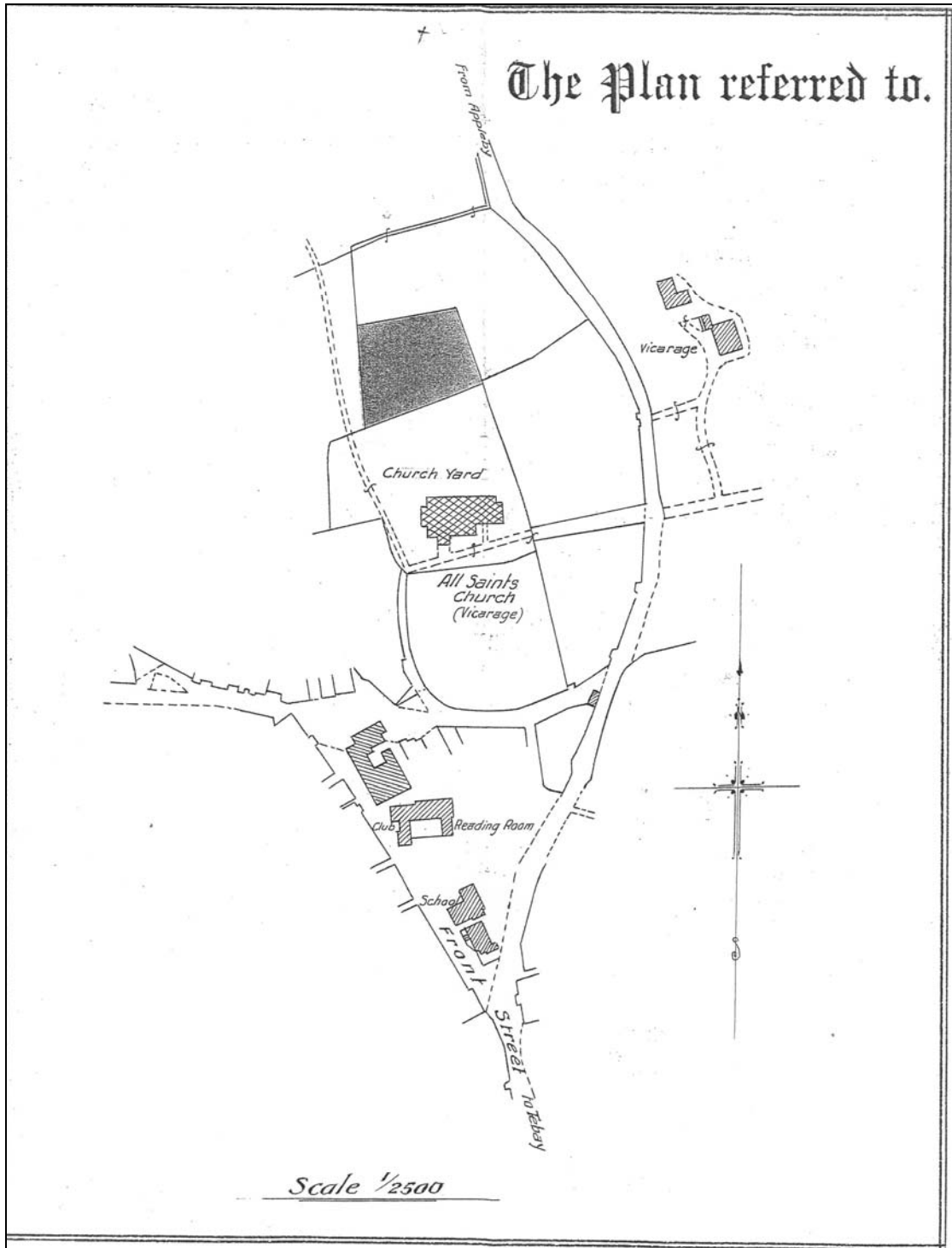


Plate 2: Plan of extension to Orton churchyard, 1946

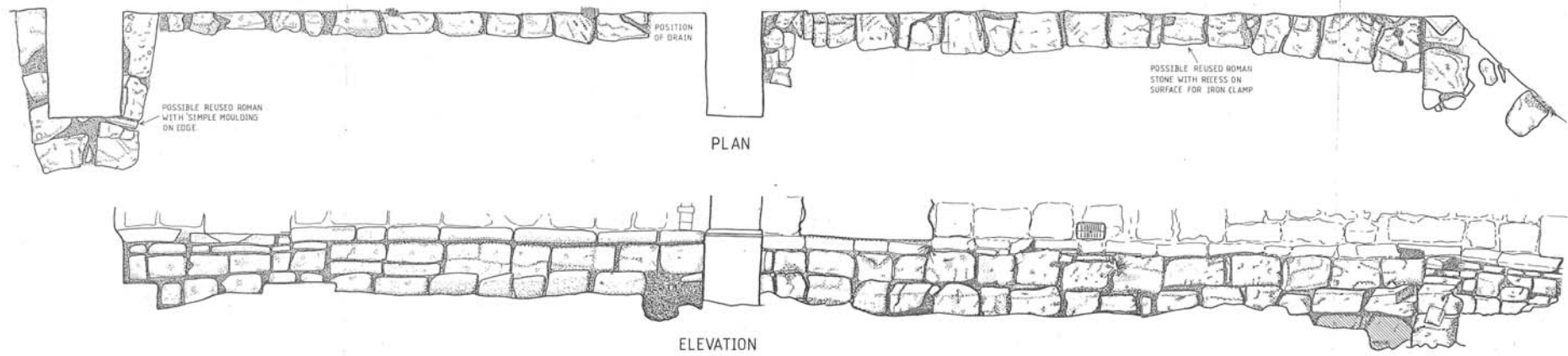


Plate 3: Plan and elevation of external foundations of south side of Nave, Orton Church (from Cumbria County Council 1986)



Plate 4: Photograph of external foundations of south side of Nave, Orton Church
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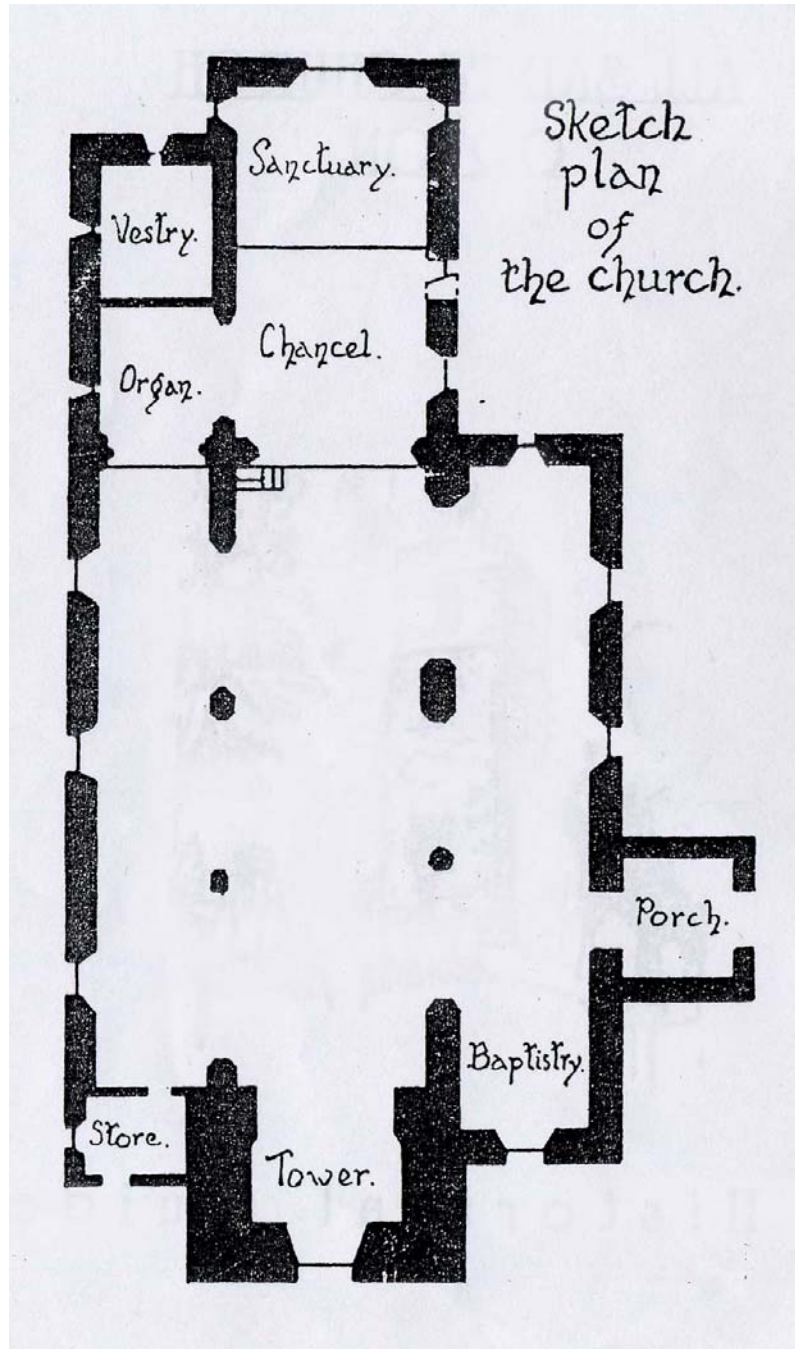


Plate 5: Sketch plan of the church (from Smith 1993)

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

**Oxford
Archaeology
North**

March 2004

ALL SAINTS CE PARISH CHURCH, ORTON, CUMBRIA

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING INVESTIGATION AND WATCHING BRIEF
PROJECT DESIGN**

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request by IWA Architects on behalf of All Saints PCC for an archaeological building investigation in advance of proposed building works at All saints CE Parish Church, Orton, Cumbria.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This project design has been compiled for IWA Architects with reference to the requirement for an archaeological building investigation of All Saints CE Parish Church. Section 2 states the objectives of the project, Section 3 deals with OA North's methodology. Section 4 addresses other pertinent issues including details of staff to be involved, and project costs are presented in Section 5.
- 1.2 OA North has considerable experience of the assessment and investigation of historic buildings of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large-scale projects during the past 20 years. Watching briefs and building investigations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. Recent church projects include St Paul's and St Mary's in Preston, St Laurence, Chorley, St Helen's, Waddington and St Conan's Kirk in Argyll.
- 1.3 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, **registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the building investigation are to provide an outline analysis of the church prior to and during building works, which will serve to both preserve by record and inform the project engineers.
- 2.1.1 To achieve the objective outlined above the following listed specific aims are proposed.

Stage 1:

- (i) to undertake a desk-based assessment and visual inspection of the church;
- (ii) to produce a report and archive in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991).

Stage 2:

- (iii) to undertake an archaeological watching brief;
- (iv) to produce a report and archive in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Stage 1 - DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

3.1.1 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material.

3.1.2 **Documentary and Cartographic Material:** this work will comprise a rapid desk-based assessment of the existing resource. It will include an appraisal of the data in the CSMR (Kendal), appropriate sections of County histories, early maps (printed and manuscript), and such primary documentation (tithes and estate plans etc.) as may be reasonably available. Particular attention will be paid to field and place names recorded on early cartographic sources relating to estate and parish boundaries, field boundaries, woodlands and routes, as these often provide important evidence of archaeological activity and transformation of the historic landscape. All available published and unpublished documentary sources will also be examined and assessed. The County Record Office (Kendal) and relevant local studies library will also be consulted.

3.1.3 **Visual Inspection:** a brief visual inspection of the church will be undertaken to RCHME level I-type survey. This level of survey is purely descriptive and will result in an outline development and use of the building.

3.1.4 **Photographic Archive:** a photographic archive will be produced utilising a 35mm camera to produce both black and white contact prints and colour slides. The archive will comprise general shots of the church (both internal and external) and surroundings, and detailed coverage of agricultural features.

3.1 Stage 2 - WATCHING BRIEF

3.2.1 **Methodology:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving architectural/archaeological features exposed during the reduction to external ground levels and the removal of any unsuitable render during the internal works. This work will comprise observation and the systematic examination of features exposed during the course of the works, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features identified during observation.

3.2.2 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important features. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high density of archaeology is discovered, but this would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and the County Archaeology Service and will require a variation to costing. In normal circumstances, field recording will also include a continual process of analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of the data, in

order to establish the necessity for any further more detailed recording that may prove essential

- 3.2.3 **Burials:** should evidence of burials be identified, the 1857 Burial Act would apply and a Home Office Licence would be sought. This would involve all work ceasing until the proper authorities were happy for burials to be removed.
- 3.2.4 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan provided by the Client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.2.5 OA North generally calculates a 1:0.5 ratio of fieldwork: post-fieldwork (archive, analysis, and report preparation) if the level of archaeology observed is low or 1:1 if the level of archaeology is high.

3.3 STAGES 1 AND 2 - REPORT AND ARCHIVE

- 3.3.1 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, and a further two copies submitted to the County SMR (one paper copy and one digital copy) within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, together with appropriate illustrations, including detailed plans and sections indicating the locations of archaeological features. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.
- 3.3.2 This report will identify areas of defined archaeology. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the identified archaeology within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map, section drawings, and plans. This report will be in the same basic format as this project design.
- 3.3.3 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct. OA North conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives

for long-term storage. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the County SMR (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office.

- 3.3.4 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.
- 3.3.5 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the CCC Archaeologist, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work.

4 TIMETABLE AND RESOURCES

- 4.1 The desk-based assessment will take five days to complete; a further one day will be required for the visual inspection.
- 4.2 The duration of the watching brief will depend upon the progress of the contractor.
- 4.3 The final report will follow within eight weeks of completion of the data collection and fieldwork, although a shorter deadline can be negotiated.
- 4.4 The project will be under the direct management of **Alison Plummer BSc (Hons)** (OA North senior project manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 4.5 The desk-based assessment is likely to be undertaken by **Daniel Elsworth MA** (OA North supervisor). Daniel has a great deal of experience in the assessment and analysis of historic buildings throughout the NorthWest.
- 4.6 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing exactly who will be carrying out each specific task, but all elements of the project are likely to be supervised by an OA North project supervisor experienced in this type of project. All OA North project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.
- 4.7 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.