



ST SAVIOUR'S CE CHURCH, STYDD, Lancashire

Archaeological Desk- Based Assessment and Visual Inspection



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SUMMARY

IWA Architects are required by English Heritage to conduct an archaeological building investigation of St Saviour's Church, Stydd, Lancashire (NGR SD 65385 35980), prior to extensive renovations being carried out at the site. The programme of archaeological works comprised a desk-based assessment complemented by a visual inspection of the church. Following submission of a project design, OA North was commissioned to undertake the work, which was carried out in July 2004.

The desk-based assessment determined that the true early history of the church of St Saviour, Stydd, is lost, leaving conflicting accounts of ownership and attributed dates of foundation. It is, however, likely that there was a chapel in existence at the site by the late twelfth century associated with a hospital complex, possibly a leper hospital. The manor of Stydd is first documented in 1265 when the Knights Hospitaller acquired the site, including the chapel.

Following the Dissolution of Monasteries the manor was seized by the Crown and subsequently given to Thomas Holt of Gristlehurst. With this, the church passed into the care of the vicar of Ribchester. In the following centuries it fell into dilapidation and was renovated and restored in the first quarter of the twentieth century. It retains many original period features and is now a Grade I Listed building.

The visual inspection identified a number of phases within the fabric of the building, many of which correspond to the background history. Evidence for alterations in the form of additional buttresses and considerable rebuilding of the west elevation were also observed; the latter of which may relate to buildings identified during excavations to the north and west, which may have been attached to the church. Masons' marks were also observed within the church, carved into the surround of a window in the south elevation, demonstrating a medieval date for their insertion.

A statement of the historical and archaeological significance of the building was also produced, which allowed specific recommendations about areas of interest to be monitored by watching brief (as already outlined in the project design) to be presented. Further work was recommended, such as more detailed recording of the roof structure and examination of areas where wall coverings are to be removed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to express its thanks to IWA Architects and St Wilfrid's and St Saviour's Parochial Church Council for commissioning the work. Further thanks are due to Patrick Tostevin, Curator, Ribchester Museum, Peter Iles, Lancashire County Archaeologist, and the staff of the County Record Office in Preston for their assistance.

David Tonks carried out the desk-based assessment and Daniel Elsworth undertook the visual inspection. David Tonks and Daniel Elsworth wrote the report. Mark Tidmarsh produced the drawings. Alison Plummer, who also edited the report along with Emily Mercer and Alan Lupton, managed the project.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 IWA Architects have been required by English Heritage to conduct an archaeological building investigation of St Saviour's Parish Church, Stydd, Lancashire (NGR SD 65385 35980, Fig 1), prior to extensive renovations being carried out at the site. In response to this, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were requested to submit a project design for the required work (*Appendix 2*). OA North was commissioned to undertake the work, which was carried out in July 2004.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

- 1.2.1 This document sets out the results of the desk-based assessment and visual inspection in the form of a short report. It outlines the historical findings and observations made during the programme of work, followed by an assessment of the impact of the proposed development.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with both the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 **Introduction:** the desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record office (SMR) in Preston, the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston (LCRO (Preston)), and the archives and library held at OA North.
- 2.2.2 **Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR):** information was obtained from the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record. This is a database of archaeological sites within the county and maintained by Lancashire County Council in Preston. It is the primary source of information for an assessment of this type.
- 2.2.3 **Lancashire County Record Office (Preston) (LCRO(Preston)):** the County Record Office in Preston was visited to consult parish records relating to the church. Several secondary sources were also investigated.
- 2.2.4 **Oxford Archaeology North:** OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, including numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out in the area both as OA North and under its former name of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU).

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 apply the results of the desk-based assessment. 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 the building were taken, both of the general aspect and of more specific significant features.
- 2.3.2 Rectified photographs were also taken of the external east elevation, the upper part of which is likely to be largely rebuilt, to preserve an accurate record prior to the renovation works.

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 LRO(P) on completion of the project. Copies of the report will also be deposited with the Lancashire SMR in Preston.

3. RESULTS

3.1 THE SETTING

- 3.1.1 **Location:** St Saviour's Church is located at the end of Stydd Lane just south of Stydd Manor, Stydd, Lancashire (SD 65385 35980, Fig 1). It is approximately a mile north-east of Ribchester and is located in the Ribble valley roughly mid-way between the central Pennine uplands and the Irish Sea (Countryside Commission 1998).
- 3.1.2 **Topography:** the Millstone Grit outcrop of Pendle Hill forms part of the northern boundary to the area (*ibid*). When combined with the fells of the south Pennines, this higher ground surrounds the site and serves as an important backdrop that dwarfs the scale of the settlement in the valley bottom (*ibid*). Stydd and Ribchester are also bordered to the west by Longridge fell. Although the industrialized towns of Burnley, Accrington and Blackburn dominate much of the Lancashire Valleys, Stydd lies to the western edge of the area and is surrounded by agricultural land. The field boundaries are hedgerows that give way to stone walls and fencing on higher ground (*ibid*). Woodland is restricted to small woods and there are several areas of parkland within the Lancashire Valleys connected to large houses (*ibid*).
- 3.1.3 **Geology:** the underlying solid geology around Stydd is dominated by Sabden shales of the Millstone Grit Group masked by thick boulder clay deposits (Aitkenhead *et al* 1992). The drift geology is also characterised by typical brown alluvial soils of the Alun association (Ordnance Survey 1983).

3.2 BACKGROUND ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

- 3.2.1 **Roman Period:** despite the church's close proximity to the fort of *Bremetennacum* at Ribchester, there is unlikely to have been a Christian connection. Although Christianity was adopted by Roman Emperor Constantine I (the Great) in AD 312 (Pohlsander 2004; Shotter 1993, 73), it is not known when the first Christian presence arrived at Ribchester. Even after AD 312 it took some time for people to renounce their pagan beliefs although there must have been increasing numbers of converts throughout the country at this time (Shotter 1993, 73). There are a number of pieces of evidence for the spread of Christianity into the north-west, from as early as the mid-second century, and it is possible that any Norman pre-Conquest church sites might betray the existence of an earlier Christian site (*op cit*, 73-4).
- 3.2.2 A Roman lamp bearing the *chi-rho* monogram has been suggested as evidence for the existence of the Christian faith in the area at the time (Finch n.d., 3). Its provenance is, however, highly insecure and it is thought by the present curator of Ribchester Museum that it is not even from Ribchester. More probably it is a relatively modern import of North African origin (P Tostevin *pers comm*).

- 3.2.3 In 1912, excavations in the vicinity of St Saviour's under the aegis of Stonyhurst College exposed the remains of an apsidal building to the north-west of the chapel (Ward *et al* 1986). It consisted of imported red sandstone, which has led to suggestions that it was the remains of a Roman temple, probably a Mithraeum (Dixon n.d., cited in Ward *et al* 1986), although there was no further evidence to substantiate this. Nevertheless, Roman pottery was recovered from excavations conducted in the environs in 1972 (Edwards 1977), which may imply that there was Roman settlement nearby other than at *Bremetennacum*. Alternatively, the proximity of the Ribchester fort may itself explain the presence of Roman pottery in the vicinity. Therefore, there is no clear evidence for the existence of either Christianity or a church on the site as early as the Roman period.
- 3.2.4 Further archaeological excavations were undertaken in 1971-2 by the Ribchester Archaeological Group under the direction of Ben Edwards (Edwards 1977; Ward *et al* 1986). These also found evidence for a wall twenty feet north of the chapel (*ibid*), but the significance, antiquity and function of this wall remains obscure and the results of the excavation have never been satisfactorily published.
- 3.2.5 **Early Medieval Period:** there is no evidence for the presence of a church on the site in the centuries following the withdrawal of Roman administration of Britain in AD 410 and the Norman conquest in AD 1066. The true early history of the church of St Saviour, Stydd, is lost and what is left comprises conflicting accounts of ownership and attributed dates of foundation. The name (formerly spelled Stidd) is thought to be Old English, and derived from the word 'stede' meaning place; in this case possibly place of worship (Ekwall 1922, 144).
- 3.2.6 **Medieval Period:** the site is inextricably linked with the history of the manor and hospital of Stydd, of which it is a part, but the date of the founding of the hospital is unknown (Edwards 1977). The manor is first documented in 1265 when the Knights Hospitaller (Farrer and Brownbill 1912), also named the Order of St John of Jerusalem acquired it. Prior to its acquisition by the Knights Hospitaller, the hospital appears to have been an independent establishment (Edwards 1977) and grants that have been preserved indicate that there had been an organised community at the site for at least fifty years before this event (Farrer and Brownbill 1912). The suggestion that it may have functioned as a leper hospital during this time (Edwards 1977, 33) is not unreasonable and the chantry, now the church of St Saviour, may have been used for the "*repose of the souls of one or more benefactors*" (*op cit*, 34). Who those benefactors may have been remains only conjecture.
- 3.2.7 Smith and Shortt (1890) present a different early history, suggesting that the first 'lords of the manor' were possibly the Knights Templars, whose order had originally been established to protect sites in the Holy Land (Greene 1992, 28) and existed in parallel to the Hospitallers. The Order of the Knights Templar was suppressed between 1308 and 1312 and most of their possessions were passed by the Crown to the Knights Hospitallers (*op cit*, 29). Sidebotham has another view and states quite categorically that "*This church was built by*

the Knights Hospitallers of Wakefield in the year 1136’, although his source is unclear (Sidebotham n.d.).

- 3.2.8 Although it is not known precisely when the church was first built, its architecture suggests a probable late twelfth century origin which is earlier than any known documentary record (Edwards 1977). In plan it is a simple rectangle with a small south porch to the east (Farrer and Brownbill 1912; Ward *et al* 1986; Plate 7) and within the north wall is a built-up doorway with a round-headed, single chamfered arch (*ibid*). This is a clear indication of Norman origin and on either side of this are two Norman windows (Pevsner 1991, 238-9). The main doorway is Early English in style (Pevsner 1991, 238-9; Ward *et al* 1986) which dates it to between 1190 AD and 1250 AD (Pevsner 1991, 238-9). It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that the building was first constructed within this period and, subsequently, underwent later alterations, an observation that fits well with the limited documentary evidence (*Section 3.2.4*).
- 3.2.9 Subsequent to the proposed twelfth century foundation, the west and east windows (Plate 2 and Plate 3) are late thirteenth century (Pevsner 1991, 238-9), as is the *piscina* at the east end of the south wall (Ward *et al* 1986). Another later development is evidenced by the square buttresses, which have been added to each angle, probably also in the late thirteenth century (Farrer and Brownbill 1912). Two straight-headed windows in the south wall are Perpendicular in style (Pevsner 1991, 238-9), which dates them to between *c*1335-50 and *c*1530 AD (*ibid*); apparently, they are fifteenth century windows acquired from St Wilfrid's church in Ribchester, which were not installed until the seventeenth century (Ward *et al* 1986). Following the Dissolution of Monasteries, the manor was seized by the Crown and subsequently given to Thomas Holt of Gristlehurst (Farrer and Brownbill 1912) and the hospice was destroyed (Sidebotham n.d.). The church was passed into the care of the vicar of Ribchester (*ibid*) and in the following centuries it fell into dilapidation.
- 3.2.10 **Late-medieval Period:** the post-Dissolution history of St Saviour's is evidenced solely by non-architectural details within the chapel. The font (Plate 4), of Perpendicular style, is described as “*very rough*” (Pevsner 1991, 238) and belongs to the first half of the sixteenth century (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 61). It was a gift from Sir Thomas Pemberton, preceptor of the Order of St John of Jerusalem at Newland, Yorkshire, under which Stydd was a camera at the time (Ward *et al* 1986). There is a late seventeenth or early eighteenth century oak screen between the east wall and the pulpit (Farrer and Brownbill 1912), although Pevsner (1991, 238-9) and Ward *et al* (1986) place it firmly in the seventeenth century. The pulpit itself is also probably late seventeenth century (Farrer and Brownbill 1912), whilst the altar table is probably the one donated in 1703 (*ibid*) and, therefore, of probable early eighteenth century origin. At this time the long oak seat under the south window was probably also put in place (Smith and Shortt 1890, cited in Farrer and Brownbill, 1912). The tombstone of Bishop Francis Petre is set into the floor (*ibid*). He died in 1775 so this detail can readily be attributed to the late eighteenth century.
- 3.2.11 **Post-medieval Period:** a study of early edition Ordnance Survey maps (Ordnance Survey 1893; 1912, 1932) was undertaken and, although the scale

of the maps was such that no architectural detail was visible, it is evident that the church has much the same form as it does today.

- 3.2.12 In 1888, a proposal to restore the chapel was abandoned (Farrer and Brownbill 1912) and by the early twentieth century the church was “*in a very dilapidated condition. The roof was falling in; the sky could be seen in more places than one. It was the home of the birds, for they lodged in it*” (Sidebotham n.d.; Plate 8). Accordingly, it was fully restored in 1925 and re-opened on September 12th that year (*ibid*). A tablet on the north wall stated that the cost of £500 was met by parishioners and friends (*ibid*).
- 3.2.13 The porch (Plate 5) was added at a later date than the door itself, which is the original thirteenth century oak nail-studded door (*ibid*), but no record survives of when exactly (Farrer and Brownbill 1912). Farrer and Brownbill (Plate 7) suggest that it is a modern addition to the church.
- 3.2.14 The church is presently protected as a listed building (Grade I), number 8/112 and is SMR number 6966.

4. VISUAL INSPECTION

4.1 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 **Introduction:** the church has a simple rectangular plan divided internally between the nave and chancel by a timber panel screen. There is a later porch attached to the west end of the south elevation around the original doorway. Buttresses have been added to the corners and there are further blocked doorways in the north and west elevations.
- 4.1.2 **General fabric:** the entire building is constructed of roughly-coursed, rock face-finished sandstone, although part of the north elevation is less finely dressed. There are buttresses on all of the corners, with two tiers, and the roof is finished with sandstone flags with chamfered stone coping on the gables, and some lead flashing.
- 4.1.3 **External details:** the north elevation has two small windows with hood moulds and a doorway with denticulate decoration that has been blocked with stone. At the west end there are three ashlar blocks of unknown function and date built into the upper part of the wall, perhaps representing part of a blocked aperture. There is also evidence for some rebuilding around the buttress at the west end.
- 4.1.4 The east elevation has a central window with stepped and chamfered reveals and three panes with intersecting tracery. There is a chamfered plinth course and buttresses at both ends with a small buttress below the central window. The buttresses at the corners appear to cut into the wall fabric and are apparently later additions.
- 4.1.5 The south elevation has a lancet window and a larger window to the west, both with hood moulds. The eastern window has a possible string-course above, partially hidden by the roof, and there is another below extending to the west. A porch is attached to the wall at the west end. Its southern end forms a gable and there is a large doorway with a dressed stone lintel, which appears to be relatively modern. The original doorway within the porch has the remains of a smaller slightly projecting 'porch' above it, which is obscured by the later porch. The door is constructed of thick timber boards with studs, carved into which is a large amount of graffiti, some dated to the nineteenth century. The door has a hood mould and a two-centred arch with engaged columns, the worn capitals of which remain, and the surround comprises ashlar blocks.
- 4.1.6 The west elevation is distinctly different to the rest; being constructed of rough courses of roughly dressed rounded stones. There is a doorway, blocked with the same type of courses at first floor level, with ashlar-chamfered surrounds and a round-headed arch. To the north of this is a window similar to that in the east elevation, but with only two panes of interlacing tracery (Plate 2).
- 4.1.7 **Internal detail:** the interior of the church is very plain and essentially consists of a single room. The floor is flagged and re-uses a number of medieval and post-medieval grave slabs at the east end. It is raised in the north-east corner

beneath the altar. The walls are finished with whitewash over rough plaster. The roof comprises five sets of principal rafters with arched or angled collars, above which are small king posts, as well as another two with heavy tie beams only. There are two pairs of purlins per pitch with four wind braces at the junction with each principal rafter. All of the joints are pegged, there are halved scarf joints in the purlins and all of the timbers are heavy and roughly chamfered. There is a jointed piece of timber in the easternmost tie beam, perhaps part of a repair, and the remains of possible collars that have been sawn off, which would have partially covered the windows. An additional piece of timber of unknown function is attached between the tie beam and wall at the east and west ends. Two of the tie beams have carved timber bosses on their undersides, one with a swirling sun motif, the other with the initials 'IHS' (the first three letters of Jesus in Greek (Anon 1994, 10)).

- 4.1.8 The 'nave' and 'chancel', such as they are, are divided at the east end by a timber panel screen. This comprises an upper row of baluster-turned posts above fielded panelling divided by beaded rails. The various empty sockets and sections that have been sawn away suggest that this has evidently been re-used and was probably brought to the church from elsewhere. There are steps against the south elevation leading to the timber-panelled pulpit, which sits on a stone base. The steps come up to the level of the sill of a lancet window and are presumably a slightly later addition.
- 4.1.9 The two small round-headed windows in the north elevation have deep reveals and a doorway with ashlar quoins and a low segmental arch. There is a projecting stone, perhaps a throughstone, at the east end.
- 4.1.10 The east elevation has a large central window with a low segmental arch and ashlar quoins. There are three panels with intersecting tracery and a rolled string-course below. On the south side a piece of timber with two empty peg holes, probably sawn off, projects from the wall. On the north side there are several pieces of stone projecting from the wall, including one with two dressed faces forming a triangular face and two ashlar blocks.
- 4.1.11 The south elevation has two square windows, presumably later additions, with intersecting tracery with decorative cusps. There are three masons' marks in the form of three intersecting lines forming a central triangle (the same as examples at Furness Abbey; Furguson 1883, Plate II, number 106; Plate 6) and another less distinct mark carved into the ashlar surrounds of the eastern window. Below this window, and partially cut into the sill, is a small *piscina* with cusped decoration. In the centre there is a lancet window with a round-headed arch and deep splayed reveals with ashlar blocks. At the west end there is a doorway with a segmental arch, ashlar jambs and a heavy panelled and studded door.
- 4.1.12 The west elevation has a window off-centre to the north and a doorway at first floor level to the south with ashlar jambs and a round arch. This has been blocked but presumably originally allowed access to a gallery of some form.
- 4.1.13 **Conclusions:** the church of St Saviour's is a relatively small and simple building. Nevertheless, there are some evident periods of alteration within the

fabric. It is clear that the buttresses are later in date; they have been crudely added by breaking into the original fabric of the church, which has potentially caused considerable long-term damage as much of the evident movement within the walls seems to be at these points. The porch is evidently a much later addition, and in fact relatively modern. The mason's marks on the window surround confirm the medieval date of that particular window, and there may be other examples within the building.

4.1.14 The most curious part of the physical remains of the building, and an aspect that does not appear to be elucidated by the documentary history, are the differences in construction of the west elevation. This has evidently been substantially altered, and although it appears to be contemporary with the buttresses their relationship is not clear as a result of the rebuilding. The style of building and fresh appearance of the stonework would suggest a much later date, but it has deliberately retained the earlier window and door, the latter of which has been blocked with the same fabric as the rebuilding.

4.1.15 The position of the doorway suggests some sort of structure, even if this was little more than a staircase, was attached to the west elevation, and it seems likely that the rebuilding of the west elevation is related to the removal of this structure. The fact that buried structural remains have been discovered to the north of the west end of the building might suggest that a substantial additional building was positioned here. The doorway was presumably to allow access to a gallery at the west end (although the timber built into the east elevation may be related and would suggest that the gallery extended along the whole of the south elevation). The position of buildings to the north and west, the possible connection to hospitallers and the gallery might suggest that the church was originally part of a larger complex and the gallery was reserved for those entering the church from buildings to the west.

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:** St Saviour's is perhaps not the most significant site of its period, although its confused early history make this difficult to assess. As a small church or chapel it is a good example of its type, but if it could be proved to have formed part of an earlier hospital or been related to a larger complex its significance would be far greater both regionally and nationally.
- 5.1.3 **Rarity:** the church is perhaps only rare because it has remained largely unaltered relative to larger churches. Its simple plan and uncomplicated construction are unusual and this makes it significant.
- 5.1.4 **Documentation:** the documentary record of St Saviour's largely relates to its later history, and there is considerable obscurity regarding its origins. It cannot, therefore, be considered to be of any great significance on account of its documentary record, unless further documentary sources were to become available.
- 5.1.5 **Group value:** at present St Saviour's is extremely isolated from any major settlement, and is some distance even from Ribchester. Nevertheless, it is in an area of some group interest on account of the evidence for its relationship to buildings of either earlier (perhaps Roman) or contemporary (perhaps Knights Hospitaller) date. The evidence from excavations around the site suggests that there were other buildings, but these excavations have not been able to demonstrate the relationship between the buildings and the church. Due to this the group value can only be said to have potential significance.
- 5.1.6 **Survival/Condition:** the church is presently in reasonable condition but in need of repair. Little investigation has been done into the fabric of the church (even the obvious masons' marks do not appear to have been observed previously) and there is considerable scope for features of some antiquity to be present within the existing fabric. There is also the possibility of re-used masonry from the former buildings on the site being identified during any renovation.
- 5.1.7 **Fragility/Vulnerability:** the church, while in need of repair, is not particularly fragile. Nor is it likely to be subject to any severe pressure from development or damaging land-use. There is a risk, however, that St Saviour's would degrade considerably if these repairs were not carried out and the building properly maintained.

- 5.1.8 **Diversity:** St Saviour's is not a particularly complex structure, and essentially comprises only a single room. The age of the structure does, however, mean that there are several phases of alteration, some dating to the medieval period, which add a degree of complexity and diversity to the structure.
- 5.1.9 **Potential:** the lack of detailed investigation of the fabric of the church (in comparison to the relatively extensive excavations that have taken place adjacent to it) means that there is a great deal of potential for further research. Assuming that there was a previous structure on the site, or that the present church formed part of a larger complex, it seems reasonable to suggest that there may be re-used building material within it. There is also the potential for identifying additional architectural elements within the church, which could aid explanation of the known elements. The potential for further information to be gained is perhaps one of the most significant elements of St Saviour's and is therefore certainly of regional significance.

5.2 SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.2.1 Although only a small building, St Saviour's has a complex history that is not clearly understood. There have evidently been several alterations, some of which are probably medieval in date, and it has been fortunate to avoid extensive modern renovation. The presence of buried building remains to the north and west suggest that a far larger complex of buildings or several phases of buildings occupied the site, which makes the detailed understanding of the surviving church fabric of key importance. Besides its relationship to the below-ground remains, the origins of St Saviour's Church are not well understood and any further work that can elucidate this would be of some significance. The blocked doorway at 1st floor in the west elevation and the associated rebuilding are a clear indication of the potential for additional information to be gained by further investigation, and might suggest the presence of structures to the west of the chapel.
- 5.2.2 Previous excavations have so far failed to fully explain the development of St Saviour's and there has been little detailed examination of the church itself. The current renovation programme could potentially demonstrate how different elements of the building relate to each other and, therefore contribute to the production of a relative chronological development. There is also the potential to discover re-used masonry, perhaps dating from as early as the Roman period. Similarly, additional small details, such as the masons' marks, could be identified and these can provide useful dating evidence or possibly even identify individual masons (Hislop 2000). All of these features could provide evidence not only for dating elements of the building but also for any connections with historical events and records.

6. IMPACT

6.1 SUMMARY OF AFFECTED ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

- 6.1.1 **Introduction:** the project brief (*Appendix 1*) outlines the main elements of repair work to be carried out during the renovations of St Saviour's. These are discussed below and their likely level of impact is assessed.
- 6.1.2 **Main Walls:** it is thought that the main structure is substantially late twelfth century in origin, with the west and east windows being later additions in the thirteenth century. The proposals to take down and re-build part of a wall above the east window will seriously impact upon the structural fabric of the building. Underpinning may also have a serious impact on any surviving buried archaeological remains. The stitching of cracks will affect small areas of the fabric, but the repointing and infilling of voids will not have significant archaeological impact. It is considered likely that parts of the original fabric could be exposed during this work, which may reveal re-used elements or show the relationships of parts of the building.
- 6.1.3 **Roof:** it is probable that the current roof substantially dates from when the church was restored in 1925. Its removal, therefore, whilst having a serious impact on the structural fabric of the church, is not thought to have serious archaeological implications. Nevertheless, any elements of the earlier roof structure that survive would be likely to be exposed during this process and should be recorded.
- 6.1.4 **Floors:** no secure date for the floors of the church were obtained during the desk-based assessment. The removal of slabs and their re-setting in concrete is thought likely to have the potential to impact on buried archaeological remains, with the possibility of previous foundations and burials being uncovered.
- 6.1.5 **External Works:** the construction of drains around the external walls has the potential to impact on buried archaeological remains, with the possibility of previous foundations and inhumations being uncovered.
- 6.1.6 **Internal Fittings:** the cleaning and renovation of decorations and fittings is not thought to have significant archaeological implications.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION

7.1 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

- 7.1.1 It is proposed that a watching brief be undertaken during the programme of restoration (*Appendix 2*). This should be carried out in particular during the excavation of drainage ditches around the external walls and the reduction of the ground surface. This is due to the potential for the existence and disturbance of buried archaeological remains. A watching brief should also be undertaken during the removal of floor slabs to determine the existence or otherwise of archaeological remains beneath.
- 7.1.2 Inspections should also be carried out following the removal of the roof and the removal of any substantial areas of wall coverings or mortar in case any original fabric is revealed. Should roof timbers be identified which appear to pre-date the extant roof, these should be sampled for dendrochronological analysis. A detailed photograph and written record of any sections of the roof that are exposed should be made during the renovation.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location map

PLATES

Plate 1: The south external elevation, looking north-west

Plate 2: West internal elevation

Plate 3: East window and screen

Plate 4: The font

Plate 5: The porch, looking north

Plate 6: Masons' marks from Furness Abbey (from Furguson 1883, Plate II). The marks at St Saviour's are the same as number 106

Plate 7: Plan of St Saviour's (from Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 60)

Plate 8: The north exterior elevation as depicted in Farrer and Brownbill (1912, 61)



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Figure 1: Location Map



Plate 1: The south external elevation, looking north-west



Plate 2: West internal elevation



Plate 3: East window and screen



Plate 4: The font



Plate 5: The porch, looking north

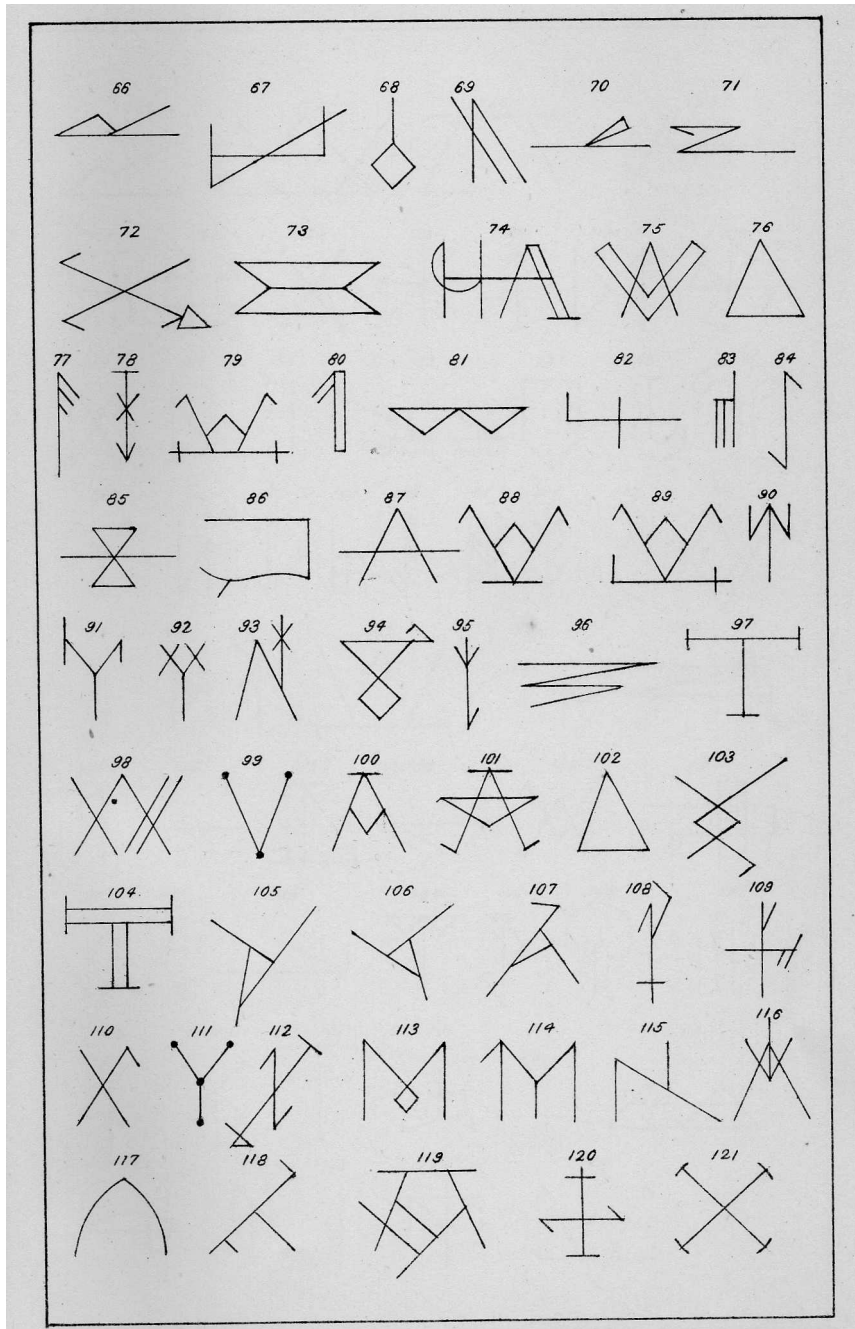


Plate 6: Masons' marks from Furness Abbey (from Fergusson 1883, Plate II). The marks at St Saviour's are the same as number 106

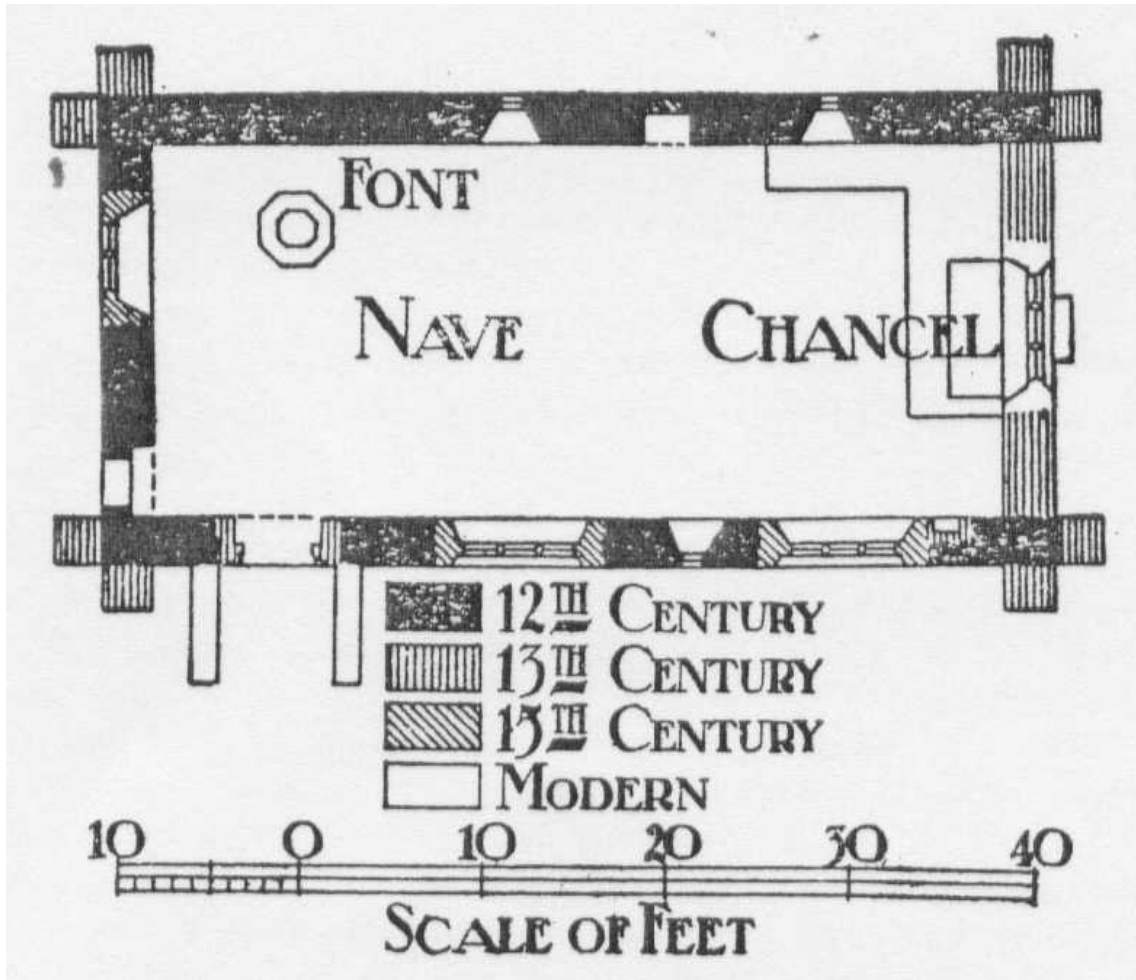


Plate 7: Plan of St Saviour's (from Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 60)

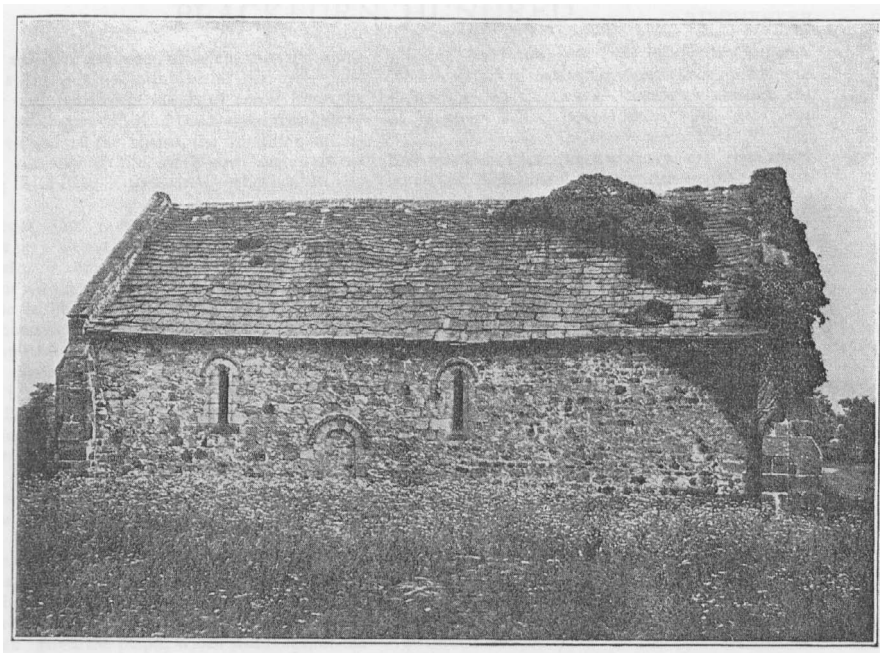


Plate 8: The north exterior elevation as depicted in Farrer and Brownbill (1912, 61)

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

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IWA Architects

ARCHITECTURE * PLANNING * DESIGN * FEASIBILITY STUDIES * CONSERVATION * PROJECT MANAGEMENT *

Oxford Archaeology North,
Storey Institute,
Meeting House Lane,
Lancaster
LA1 1TF

Your ref:
Our Ref: / RIW /
Date: 4 March, 2004

Dear Ms. Plummer,

Re. English Heritage grant aided repairs to four historic churches.

we have been commissioned to oversee four grant aided historic church repair projects. These four projects have two clients, 1 and 2 are the responsibility of St. Wilfrid's PCC and 3 and 4, the two churches in Cumbria share one Vicar, Father Anthony Dalton at All Saints Vicarage.

1. St. Wilfrid's C.E. Parish Church, Ribchester for St. Wilfrid's PCC.
2. St. Saviour's Stydd, nr. Ribchester, also for St. Wilfrid's PCC. - Knights Templar Chapel with occasional services in summer months only.
3. All Saints C.E. Parish Church, Orton, Cumbria for All Saints PCC.
4. St. Oswald's C.E. Parish Church, Ravenstonedale, Cumbria, for St. Oswald's PCC.

We attach a copy of the main elements of work for each project. There is an amendment to the work for St. Wilfrid's as we are now also re-roofing the tower roof - replacing the lead work and altering the roof access rather than repairs to the existing lead roof.

You may wish to advise us from your experience on the appropriate level of involvement and the fees required. Fees should be separately itemised if there are options to consider.

As a guide we expect that for this stage 1 work to tender stage you will undertake the following work for each church :

1. Allow for an initial site visit if considered necessary to fulfil the requirements in item 2.
2. Desktop exercise to provide a brief report on the important areas and features of the building with the measures, precautions and site working arrangements required to be taken into account by Contractor's tendering for the work. This should relate specifically to the areas where work is to be carried out. (See the attached Proposed building works sheets "Brief description of elements" for each church.)

This should include your recommendations and guidance to the Contractor on excavations and opening up works. It would be helpful if the guidance included clear instructions to the Contractor on the procedure to follow for exhumations should human remains be found during excavations.
(contd.)

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Website address : www.iwarchitects.com

IWA Architects

All four churches will require your quotations to be separately provided for each church. I trust this information is sufficient. If there are any queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Ivan Wilson.

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APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford
Archaeology
North

March 2004

ST SAVIOURS'S STYDD, RIBCHESTER, LANCASHIRE

**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 St Wilfred's PCC for an archaeological building investigation in advance of proposed building works at St Saviour's Stydd, Ribchester, Lancashire.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This project design has been compiled for IWA Architects with reference to the requirement for an archaeological building investigation of St Saviour's Stydd. 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 (Preston), appropriate sections of County histories, early maps (printed and manuscript), and such primary documentation (tithe 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 Lancashire Record Office (Preston) 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.

3.1.5 **Rectified Photographs:** rectified, medium format photographic coverage should be taken for the area of wall above the east window that is to be rebuilt. This will ensure that a detailed visual record of the original fabric is maintained.

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 any works to internal floors. 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 Lancashire 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 Lancashire 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 LCAS 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.

5. COSTING

The cost is a fixed price cost, inclusive of all management, overheads, and other disbursement costs (travel and expenses), to undertake the programme of work as defined in this project design; the third item is a fixed price day rate. Any other variations from this programme of work at the clients' direction will require recosting. All staff costs are inclusive of holiday entitlement, as well as NI and Superannuation.

PLEASE NOTE:

Normal OA North working hours are between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, though adjustments hours maybe made to maximise daylight working time in winter and to meet travel requirements. It is not normal practice for OA North staff to be asked to work evenings, weekends or bank holidays and should the client require such time to be worked during the course of a project a contract variation to cover additional costs will be necessary.

Notes:

1. Salaries and wages inclusive of NI, Superannuation and overheads
2. Total costs exclusive of VAT
3. All costs at 2003/2004 prices