

ST CHAD'S CHURCH, POULTON-LE- FYLDE, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Cassidy Ashton

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Cassidy Ashton, acting on behalf of St Chad's Church, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire (NGR SD 34785 39447) to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the church during groundworks for a single storey extension for a kitchen, disabled wc and storage facility (planning application reference 02/04/0434). The work was carried out to fulfil a planning condition on advice from the Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS), and was undertaken during January, February and April 2005.

The first mention of the church at Poulton-le-Fylde is from 1094, although the present day church is largely an eighteenth century re-build of earlier church buildings. The settlement of Poulton-le-Fylde is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Polton. However, it is likely that a settlement existed prior to this, as St Chad, to whom the church is dedicated, was a Mercian saint. Roman coins have been found in the graveyard and further afield within Poulton-le-Fylde, indicating that there was activity during this period within the area. Groundworks in the churchyard could therefore impact upon earlier structures or features.

The watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of the foundations and service trenches for the new extension measuring approximately 4.4m x 3.8m. Situated within the proposed northern wall of the extension, which was aligned east/west, was a brick-lined shaft, **6**, containing a lead coffin, beneath a horizontal tombstone. The coffin, **5**, was recorded and left *in situ*. A further tombstone, **9**, was uncovered beneath concrete adjacent to the north boiler room wall and was recorded and moved. Excavation of a trench beneath the west end of **9**, ascertained that there was no associated grave, and that the stone had been relocated from elsewhere. A large quantity of disarticulated human bone was recovered from the foundation trenches, which has been re-interred. It is recommended that any further groundworks at the church be carried out under archaeological supervision.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OA North would like to express its thanks to Cassidy Ashton, acting on behalf of St Chad's Church, Poulton-le-Fylde, for commissioning the work, and to Fylde Interiors Ltd for their assistance during the groundworks. Thanks are also due to Martin Keighley, the vicar of St Chad's, for his assistance.

The watching brief was carried out by Kathryn Blythe, who also wrote the report and produced the drawings. The finds were examined by Jo Dawson, with the exception of the human bone, which was examined by Kathryn Blythe. The project was managed by Emily Mercer and Jamie Quartermaine, and the report was edited by Emily Mercer.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 A planning application (ref 02/04/0434) was submitted to Lancashire County Council for a single storey extension for a kitchen, disabled wc and storage facility at St Chad's Church, Poulton-le-Fylde (NGR SD 34785 39447).
- 1.1.2 The present day church, a Grade II* listed building (HER 1285), is largely an eighteenth century rebuild of earlier church buildings. The first mention of the settlement is in the Domesday Book of 1086 and of the church is from 1094. However, both the church and settlement may be older than this as the church is dedicated to St Chad who was a Mercian saint. Roman coins (HER 339) have been found at the church and nearby in the town suggesting activity during this period in the vicinity.
- 1.1.3 Due to the archaeological potential of the site Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS) recommended that a watching brief should be undertaken during groundworks on the site. In response to this Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was requested to submit proposals for the required work (*Appendix 1*), which was undertaken during January, February and April 2005.
- 1.1.4 This report sets out the results of the watching brief in the form of a short document. This outlines the historical background for the site and the findings.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North, in response to a request by the client for an archaeological watching brief, which was approved by LCAS. 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 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 A programme of field observation was undertaken during the groundworks to record accurately the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits. This groundwork comprised the excavation by hand of trenches for building foundations and services. Recording comprised a full description and classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location on plan. A photographic record was undertaken simultaneously.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full archive has been produced to a professional standard, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Lancashire County Record Office (Preston) on completion of the project.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 St Chad's Church is located in the centre of Poulton-le-Fylde, to the north of the market place (Fig 1). The groundworks for the extension were located to the immediate north-west of the church, extending on, and partially replacing, an existing boiler room and toilet block (Fig 2).
- 3.1.2 Poulton-le-Fylde is located to the east of Blackpool and lies at a height of approximately 10m above mean sea level.
- 3.1.3 The underlying solid geology of the area consists of Permo-Triassic red mudstones, siltstones and sandstones, overlain by thick glacial and post-glacial deposits. The geological resource created a predominantly marshy landscape, giving rise to mosses and meres which dominated the landscape until relatively recently (Countryside Commission 1998).

3.2 HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** the historical and archaeological background is principally compiled through secondary sources and is intended only to provide a context for the site.
- 3.2.2 **Palaeolithic to Mesolithic Periods:** the earliest evidence for human occupation in the area dates from the Palaeolithic period. This evidence comes from the discovery in July 1970 of an almost complete skeleton of a 12,000 year old elk, found as foundations were being dug for a new house on Blackpool Old Road, Carleton. Embedded within the leg bones were hunting barbs. This is the earliest evidence yet found for man living this far north, in the days when Britain was part of continental Europe, and is evidence of prehistoric activity across the wider area, therefore offering the potential for discovery of finds from this period (Middleton *et al* 1995).
- 3.2.3 Evidence of occupation in the Mesolithic period is less substantial with only a handful of sites being dated to this period, and the dating of these sites being based solely on their distinctive late Mesolithic/early Neolithic features of the lithic scatters (*op cit*).
- 3.2.4 **Neolithic to Bronze Age Periods:** the area directly to the south of Poulton-le-Fylde "represents one of the most dense areas of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity within the North West" (*op cit*, 96). The majority of these sites are flint scatters of varying size, comprising mostly waste products. The distinct lack of implements would seem to suggest that these sites were mainly used for the production of tools. The main evidence of Bronze Age activity comes from the excavation of a human skull, and the recovery of a mid Bronze Age palstave at Briarfield Nurseries, Poulton-Le-Fylde (*op cit*).

- 3.2.5 **Romano-British Period:** evidence suggests that the earliest Roman activity in the area was at Kirkham, and was Agricolan in date (c AD 78). The Roman fort at Kirkham, appears to have been used as a staging post, and was abandoned by the mid second century AD (Howard-Davis and Buxton 2000). There is potential for evidence of activity in Poulton-le-Fylde as numerous coins have been located within the vicinity. A medal of Germanicus was uncovered in a garden behind the market place and two Roman coins were located in the churchyard (HER 339; Thornber 1837). Further afield, coins have been found at the railway station (HER 1295; Thornber 1852) and at Skipool (HER 352; Harrison 1896).
- 3.2.6 **Medieval Period:** the earliest documented evidence of a church in Poulton is from 1094 (HER 1284), when Roger de Poitou gave it to the new Priory of St Mary at Lancaster. However, the dedication of the church was to St Chad, a Mercian saint who died in AD 627 and one of the most important figures of the Saxon Church consequently this may indicate a much earlier origin; probably pre-Conquest (Crosby 1998, 30). In addition the name Poulton is also of Anglo-Saxon derivation, meaning the settlement of the creek (Mills 1991, 263). The Creek being referred to is the Skipool to the east of the town (Egerton Lea Consultancy 2003).
- 3.2.7 The position of the market next to the church, still marked by the Market Cross (HER 1284), the base of which forms the seat for the stocks, suggests that this was the focus to a medieval settlement. However, the first known reference to the market is not until 1628 (*op cit*, 49). The Market Cross was a sign in medieval England that even in business the church had overall control and was placed high up so all could see and be reminded of Christianity when trading (<http://www.wyrebc.gov.uk/historypoulton.htm>).
- 3.2.8 **Post-Medieval Period:** despite the appearance of the present church as a Georgian 'preaching box', there are still some traces of an earlier church (Fox 2004). The present structure is from three different periods, the oldest section being the tower dating from 1638, containing six bells. At this time the church was built of red sandstone and was a narrow aisleless building with a small chancel, enlarged at a later date by the addition of a north aisle. The main part of the church was re-built between 1751 and 1753, although some parts of the walls are of an earlier origin, and the apse was built in 1868 (*ibid*). Its classical facade on the side facing the Market Square is virtually symmetrical, with two tall oval windows flanked by Doric doorways, with oval windows over them and another window to the side. Inside, the nave has a single overall roof and no subdivisions except for the widely-spaced Doric columns carrying the gallery, which runs around three sides. This has a panelled front with the original candleholders and is approached up a fine staircase in the north-west corner (*ibid*). On the wall behind the choir stalls are seventeenth century grave memorial plates, and in the choir vestry two plaques commemorate the long service of the vicar Peter White (1622) and the initials of the churchwardens of 1638 (*op cit*, 20).
- 3.2.9 Despite Victorian historians having written that in 1751 the medieval church was completely demolished and a new church erected in a fashionable style, research carried out on the building and on the documentary evidence during

repair and restoration work over a decade ago point to the ashlar stone covering the remains of an older sandstone building (*op cit*, 14). The potential exists, therefore, that any groundworks may reveal remains associated with the earlier buildings.

4. FIELDWORK RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief involved the monitoring of the hand excavation of trenches for the foundations and drains for the extension. The proposed foundations (Fig 2) are to consist of a wall bonded to the north-west corner of the current boiler room wall and extending to the north for 3.28m. This wall will then turn through 90° and run eastwards for 4.38m to abutt the north-west corner of the church. In preparation for the foundations a trench was excavated to a maximum width of 1.4m and a maximum depth of 1.55m. A further two trenches were excavated to the west of the new extension, to facilitate new drainage pipes (Fig 3).

4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 A slate tombstone, **I** (Plates 1 and 2, Figs 2 and 3), was located in the area of the east/west foundation trench. It measured 1.89m in length, 1m in width and was 0.05m thick. The tombstone was aligned east/west, with the inscription at the east end covering approximately two thirds of the stone.

4.2.2 This tombstone, which had previously been broken into four pieces, was recorded and removed. The inscription on the tombstone read: 'In memory of Thomas Wilson, second son of Tho^s, and Jane Wilson who died the 16th, November 1844 aged 54. I knew whom I have believed, and am persuaded(?) that he is able to keep that which I have(?) committed unto him, again that day. 2nd, Tim^y 1st, chap 12th, verse. Also of Margaret his beloved wife who departed this life on the 2nd, day of March 1855 in the 57th, year of her age. "*Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from (?) You saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them*" Rev. XIV-XIII'.

4.2.3 Tombstone **I** was raised 0.16m above the ground on re-used blocks of worked grey sandstone, **8**, presumed to be from elsewhere in the church. These stones were not bonded, but had been laid over the four walls of a brick-lined shaft, **6**, beneath.

4.2.4 Immediately beneath the sandstone blocks, **8**, was a deposit of silty-clay topsoil, **2**. It was 0.32m in depth and contained within the shaft created by sandstone blocks **8**, and within the top 0.16m of the brick-lined shaft **6**. Within **2** were inclusions of modern rubbish and building rubble as well as disarticulated human bone. This indicates that tombstone **I** had been moved to this raised position above the brick-lined shaft, **6**, relatively recently. Beneath this was a 0.88m thick deposit of mid orange-brown slightly sandy clay, **3**, containing frequent inclusions of human bone.

4.2.5 The cut for brick-lined shaft, **6**, (Figs 3 and 4, Plates 7 and 8) and the shaft itself were 2.43m in length (east/west) and 1.18m in width externally and, internally, the shaft measured 2.04m in length and 0.74m in depth. Its full

depth was not seen but it was exposed on the outside to a depth of 1.53m (equalling 18 courses of brick). The walls of the shaft were two courses of brick wide, and were bonded in a stretcher pattern. Individually the bricks measured 0.23m in length, 0.11m in width, and 0.07m thick.

- 4.2.6 Three sandstone flagstones, **4** (Plate 3), of equal size (0.74m north/south, 0.67m east/west and 0.05m in depth) were located 1.16m (15 courses) beneath the top of the brick-lined shaft, **6**. The flagstones were not bonded, and had been placed on a ledge which protruded from the north and south sides of **6**. On the north side the ledge was 0.05m in width, and on the south side it was 0.03m in width.
- 4.2.7 Beneath **4** was a chamber containing a lead coffin, **5** (Fig 4, Plates 4 and 5), measuring 1.72m in length and a maximum of 0.57m in width, tapering to a width of 0.26m at each end. The full extent of the coffin to its base was not seen, but it was approximately 0.34m in depth. The coffin had a raised lip 25mm in width around the edge of the lid. The remnants of a timber lid were observed over the central part of the coffin. Two concentric rows of iron studs could be seen preserved within the wood running around the edge of the coffin over the raised lip, 25mm apart. Individually, the studs were 15mm in diameter and spaced 5mm apart. A name plate made of brass (Plate 6) was *in situ* over the timber lid of the coffin. The inscription on the name plate read: 'Margaret Wilson Died 2nd March 1855 Aged 56 Years'. No other coffin fittings were observed and there were no handles, or any indication of where handles might have been.
- 4.2.8 Although the coffin was in a chamber sealed by flagstones, **4**, and not directly backfilled with soil, roots within the chamber left the base obscured from view. The coffin was left *in situ* within the chamber, which was resealed with geo-textile and flagstones. The east, west and south walls of the brick-lined shaft were reduced by 1.05m, equalling 10 courses. The removed bricks were laid, two courses deep, over the flagstones.
- 4.2.9 To the south of brick-lined shaft **6** was an area covered with concrete. This was broken out to reveal a horizontal slate tombstone, **9**, aligned east/west alongside the northern wall of the boiler room (Fig 2, Plate 9). This tombstone measured 1.87m in length, 0.97m in width and 0.05m in depth. An inscription at the west end covered approximately one third of the stone, and read: 'Here lie interred the Remains of Henry Porter Wilson of Poulton who departed this life August 13th 1825 aged 66. Also Ellen his wife who departed this life March 31st 1845 aged 76. She was the daughter of Richard Harrison Esquire Bankfield'
- 4.2.10 Beneath tombstone **9** was a levelling layer, **10**, 0.23m in depth, consisting of grey sandstone blocks, which had been laid down under its north and east sides. There was also a single course-wide brick wall built up against the boiler room wall, which was directly beneath the south side of **9**. Layer **10** therefore post-dates the construction of the boiler room and indicates that tombstone **9** had been relocated from elsewhere in the graveyard before it was subsequently covered with concrete.

- 4.2.11 The excavation of the foundation trench beneath the western area of **9** and **10** revealed a deposit of made ground, **11**, 0.3m wide containing modern rubble and rubbish. A construction cut for the boiler room, **19**, was identified beneath this, 0.48m from the boiler room wall, which had been backfilled with **12**, a fairly clean deposit of mid orange sandy-clay.
- 4.2.12 Cut **19** was observed truncating **13** (also recorded as **16** and **18**), a deposit of mid-dark orange-brown sandy-clay. This was a substantial deposit seen throughout the north/south trench, and also on the western side of brick-lined shaft **6**. It was a maximum of 1.4m in depth and directly overlay the natural orange clay. This deposit contained frequent inclusions of disarticulated human bone and had been cut not only by the construction of the boiler room, but also by **7**, the cut for the brick-lined shaft, **6**. The fact that the bone within deposit **13** was all disarticulated indicates that this ground had been subject to heavy disturbance through continual use over many years.
- 4.2.13 On the east side of **6**, a foundation trench was dug which extended eastwards for 1.85m where it met the church wall. This area had been heavily disturbed by the construction of the toilet block and an associated pillar and steps (Fig 2). Consequently, excavation of the foundation trench largely consisted of breaking out the brick foundations for the various structures. However, a 0.4m wide area to the immediate east of the brick-lined shaft, **6**, and continuing beyond the foundation trench to the south, contained a deposit of disarticulated human bone in a silty-clay matrix. This deposit, **20**, clearly represented a single event of re-interring human bone from elsewhere in the churchyard. Its position beneath the railings on the outside of the toilet block (Fig 3) indicates that this deposit was contemporary with the construction of the boiler room, toilet block and associated features.
- 4.2.14 An approximately square trench, 1.1m x 1.2m, was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8m close to the north-west corner of the church (Fig 3). Topsoil **23**, 0.3m in depth was excavated onto a mid orange-brown sandy-clay **21**. This layer was 1.1m in depth and contained disarticulated human bone and was similar to **13**, recorded in the foundation trenches further to the south. At the southern side of this trench a wooden coffin, **22**, was partially exposed in section at a depth of 1.3m. The trench was immediately moved further to the north in order not to disturb the coffin.
- 4.2.15 The two trenches excavated to facilitate the new drainage pipes were located to the west of the new extension foundation trenches (Fig 3). Both trenches measured a maximum depth of 0.65m, with an average width of 0.40m, and were aligned north-east/south-west, and east/west respectively. The trenches were excavated through topsoil **24**, a dark greyish-brown silty-clay, with patches of orangey-brown sandy-clay. No archaeological features were revealed.

5. THE FINDS

5.1 HUMAN BONE

5.1.1 Disarticulated bone was recovered from six different contexts, **2**, **3**, **11**, **13/16/18**, **20** and **21**. The assemblage contained a full range of bones, some of which were whole. Table 1 shows a quantification of the bone collected, including an estimation of the number of people represented in the assemblage taken from a count and approximation of the number of skulls present. The bone was not removed from the site, being re-interred beneath the building foundations.

Context	No of bags collected (25 x 35 cm bags)	Estimated number of adults	Estimated number of children
2	4	5	1
3	12	10	2
11	1 fragment	-	-
13/16/18	5	4	1
20	28	12	-
21	2	5	-

Table 1: Human bone from different contexts

5.2 OTHER FINDS

5.2.1 In total, 46 artefacts were recovered during the watching brief, most of which were fragments of pottery, with clay tobacco pipe and copper alloy coffin fittings also present. The finds catalogue is detailed in *Appendix 3*, and a summary is shown in Table 2, below. Most of the finds were recovered from a single deposit (**13/16/18**), with only **2** and **3** producing any other finds.

Context	Clay tobacco pipe	Copper alloy	Pottery	Total
2	0	0	3	3
3	0	0	16	16
13/16/18	5	5	17	27
Total	5	5	36	46

Table 2: Type of artefacts from different contexts

5.2.2 All the artefacts appeared to fall into a date range between the late seventeenth and the early twentieth century, with the pottery fragments providing the most reliable dating evidence. Details of the pottery are set out below, followed by a brief record of the other categories of finds.

5.2.3 **Pottery:** a small assemblage of pottery was recovered from **2**, **3** and **13/16/18**; the last two were essentially the same deposit. The date of the graves uncovered was of the mid-nineteenth century. Therefore, it seems reasonable

to expect that the pottery from the deposit through which they were cut, and that was subsequently returned as backfill, would contain earlier or at least contemporary pottery. Although many of the pottery fragments cannot be closely dated, none of the fragments recovered were later than the early nineteenth century in date. The earliest pottery recovered from **3**, **16** and **18** was mottled ware dated to the late seventeenth to early eighteenth century (Plate 11). Of a similar date were two fragments of a single fine slip-coated hollowware vessel with trailed slip decoration, recovered from **3** and **16** (Plate 11). A tin-glazed earthenware rim fragment from the same period was also recovered from **16**. A slip-coated cup base dated to the eighteenth century was recovered from **18**, and creamware and pearlware fragments dated to the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, including a moulded and blue painted shell-edge plate rim, were recovered from **3** and **18** (Plate 11). White earthenware fragments dated to the late eighteenth to twentieth century were recovered from **3** and **16**, including one sponge-printed vessel rim, and one blue 'Willow' transfer-printed vegetable dish or tureen fragment. Many black-, brown-, and self-glazed red earthenware coarseware vessel fragments were also recovered from **2**, **3**, **13**, **16**, and **18**, all of which were broadly dated to the late seventeenth to early twentieth century. The vessel forms identified comprised pancheons and crocks or jars, and a bottle decorated with white slip stripes, and all of these would have been used as kitchen wares.

- 5.2.4 **Clay tobacco pipe:** five clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were recovered, all from **18**. They had no diagnostic features, being completely undecorated and devoid of text, and having a wide range of bore widths. They were dated broadly to the seventeenth to early twentieth century.
- 5.2.5 **Copper alloy:** two identical coffin handles were recovered from **13** and **18** (Plate 10). They have been provisionally dated to the nineteenth century, on the basis of the dates of the graves uncovered nearby. It is possible, however, that they are somewhat earlier in date, and represent the clearing of early graves to make way for the mid nineteenth century graves identified.
- 5.2.6 **Discussion:** the dates of the pottery recovered, from the late seventeenth to the early nineteenth century, tie in with period between the earliest phase of construction of the present St Chad's Church in the early seventeenth century, and the digging of the graves identified in the mid-nineteenth century. The assemblage is very small, and whilst the pottery is essentially domestic in nature, the coffin handles and the disarticulated human bone represent debris from the repeated disturbance of the graveyard to accommodate new graves.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 The watching brief revealed one lead coffin, **5**, within a brick-lined shaft, **6**, sealed with a tombstone, **1**. Two names on the tombstone: Margaret Wilson who died in 1855 and her husband Thomas Wilson who died in 1844, suggested that there would be two coffins within the grave **6**. However, the preservation of coffin **5**, that of Margaret Wilson, *in situ* meant the presence of Thomas Wilson's coffin beneath could not be confirmed.
- 6.1.2 One further tombstone, **9**, was found in the area of the new extension, partially on the line of the north/south foundation trench. Excavation of the area below the west end of this tombstone down to the natural clay ascertained that there was no grave beneath it, suggesting that it had been relocated from elsewhere in the graveyard. The names on this stone, Henry and Ellen Wilson, suggest a family connection with Thomas and Margaret Wilson named on tombstone **1**, which may indicate that their grave, if still intact, is of similar construction to that of Thomas and Margaret Wilson, and located nearby.
- 6.1.3 A substantial deposit of silty-clay, **13**, containing frequent inclusions of disarticulated human bone indicates that the ground in this north-west area of the church has been heavily disturbed by prolonged use of the graveyard for inhumations. This area has been truncated more recently by the construction of the toilet block, boiler room and associated features, evidenced by the tombstone, **9**, positioned over a small brick wall, **10**, built against the boiler room wall. Tombstone **1**, despite being correctly located over the grave of Margaret Wilson appears to have been moved relatively recently. It was raised up above the ground level on re-used worked sandstone blocks, **8**, which, in turn, overlay modern building rubble. This disturbance is highly likely to be contemporary with the construction of the toilet block and boiler room. The outside of the east end of brick-lined shaft **6** had also been exposed, presumably at this time. It was against this wall, to a depth of 1.55m, that a large deposit of re-interred bone, **20**, was discovered, beneath the railings that ran north/south on the west side of the toilet block.
- 6.1.4 The trench excavated off the north-west corner of the church for the new drain revealed a wooden coffin, **22**. This was overlain by a deposit of sandy-clay containing disarticulated human bone, **21**, very similar to **13**, seen further to the south. The deposits represent backfill and disturbance from grave shafts excavated for burials over a long period of time.

6.2 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.2.1 The construction of the boiler room and toilet block, in the north-west corner of the church, has disturbed large areas and truncated others within the graveyard, as evidenced by the re-location of tombstone **9** and the raising up of tombstone **1**. Despite this, the lead coffin, **5**, was preserved *in situ* within its

grave shaft, **6**. Two large deposits of clay, **13** and **21**, containing re-deposited disarticulated human bone, illustrates the prolonged use of the graveyard with the excavation of shafts for later graves disturbing earlier ones.

- 6.2.2 The results of the watching brief showed the graveyard to be used extensively for graves. Therefore, any further groundworks within the graveyard are likely to impact upon the archaeological remains beneath, and should be carried out under archaeological supervision.

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7. ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Plan showing outline of proposed extension in relation to church and the associated features

Figure 3: Excavated areas monitored by watching brief

Figure 4: Plan of coffin **5**, in brick-lined shaft **6**

PLATES

Plate 1: Tombstone, **1**, and surrounding area, looking south

Plate 2: Tombstone **1**, looking west

Plate 3: Sandstone slabs, **4**, in brick-lined shaft **6**, looking east

Plate 4: Coffin, **5**, in brick-lined shaft **6**, looking west

Plate 5: West end of coffin **5**

Plate 6: Name plate on coffin **5**

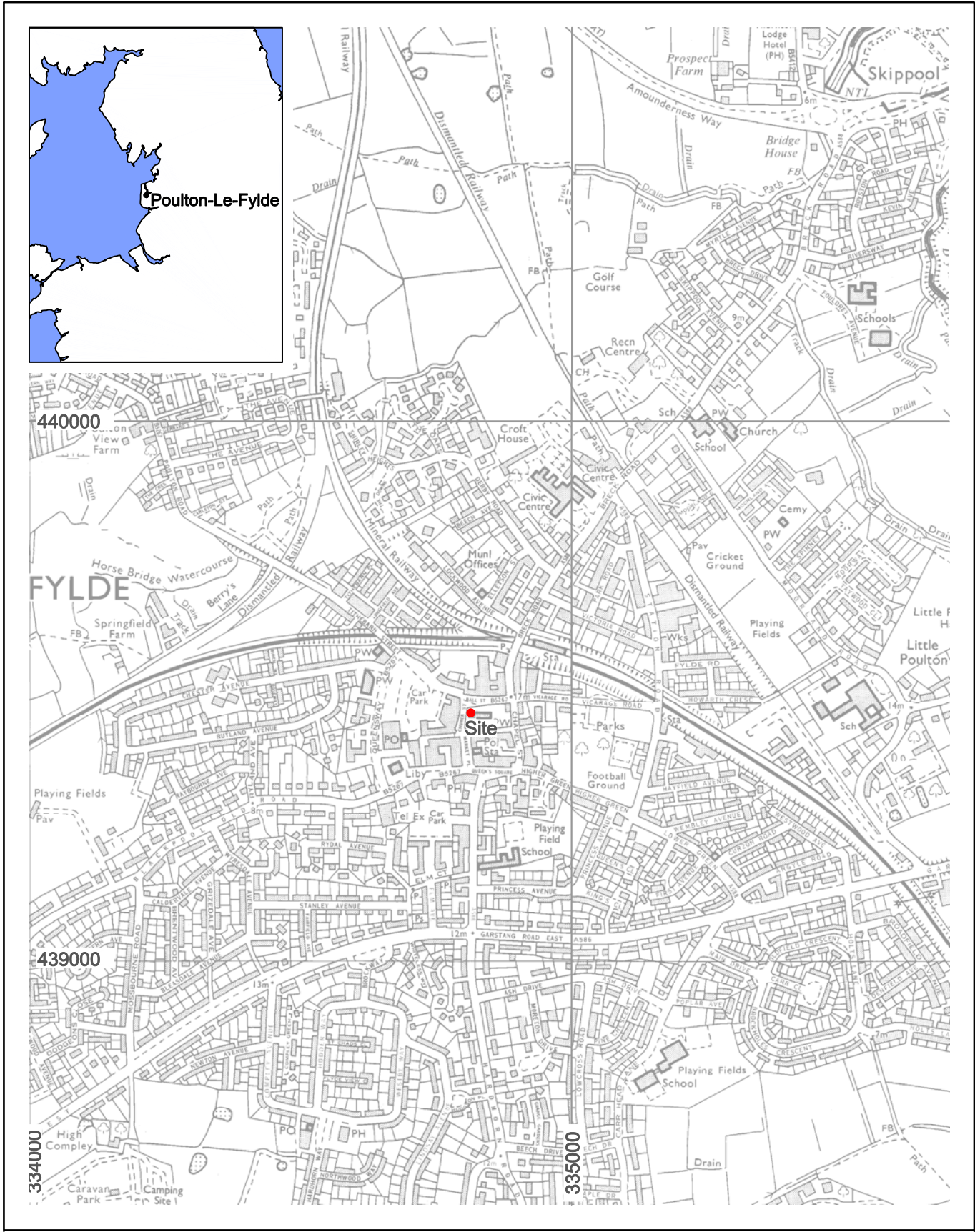
Plate 7: West end of brick-lined shaft **6**

Plate 8: South-facing section showing west end of brick-lined shaft **6**

Plate 9: West end of tombstone **9** showing inscription

Plate 10: Coffin handles from **13** (above) and **18** (below)

Plate 11: Clockwise from top left: slipware (**3**), tin-glazed earthenware vessel rim (**16**), pearlware blue shell edge plate rim (**18**), mottled ware handle terminal (context **18**), slip-coated cup base (**18**), slipware (**16**) probably from same vessel as the fragment above it (**3**)



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Figure 1: Location Map

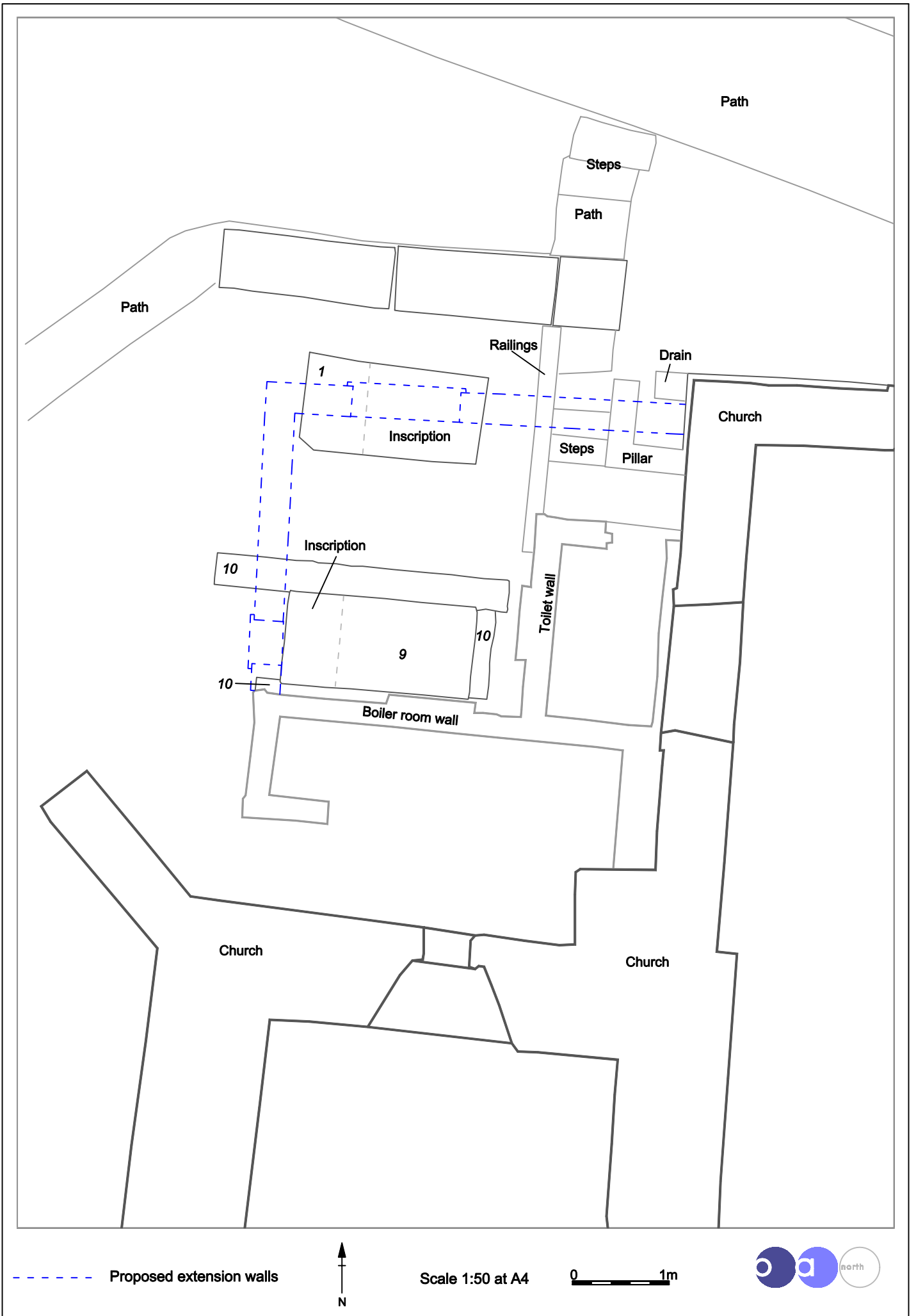


Figure 2 : Plan showing outline of proposed extension in relation to church and the associated features

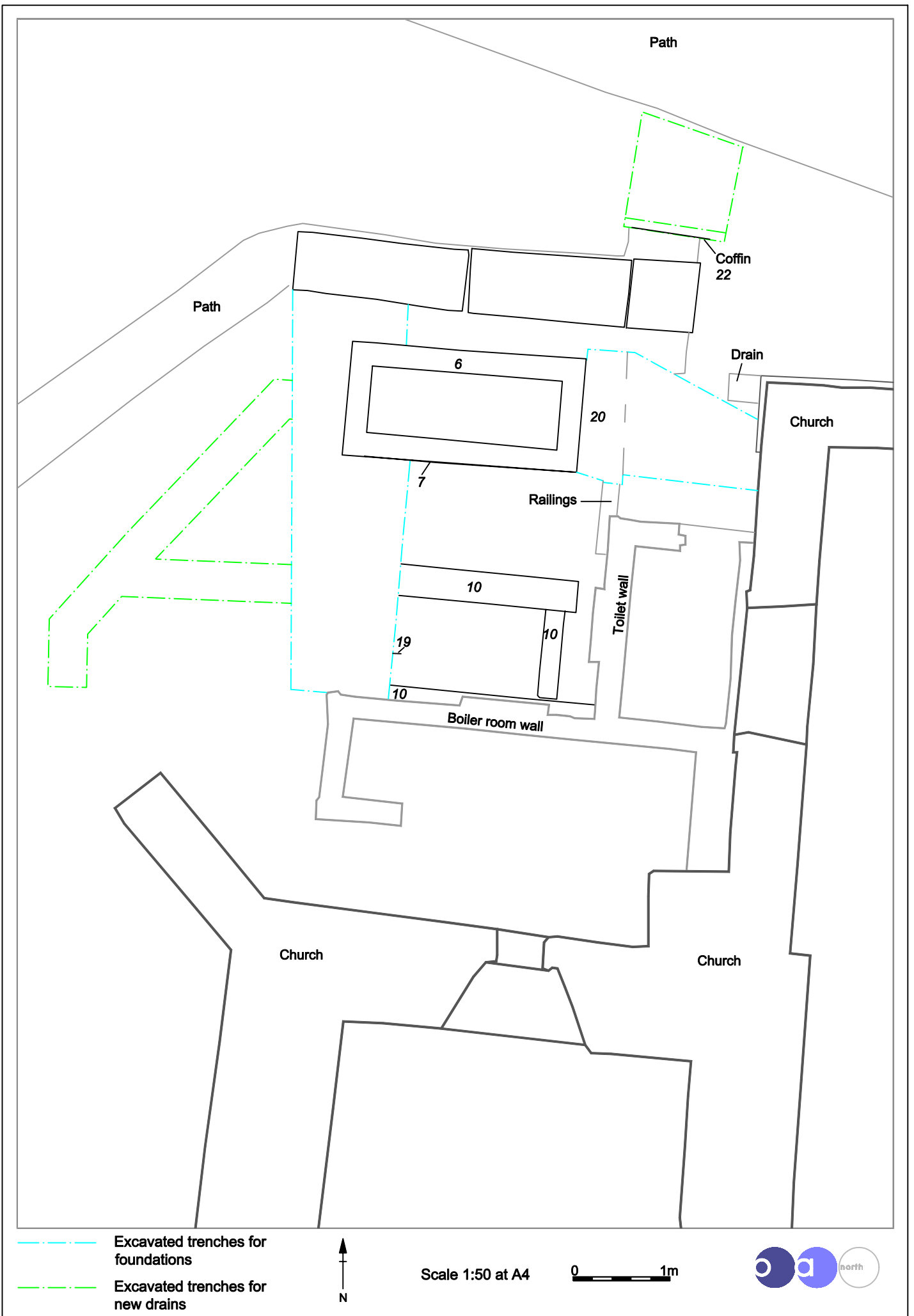


Figure 3 : Excavated area monitored by watching brief

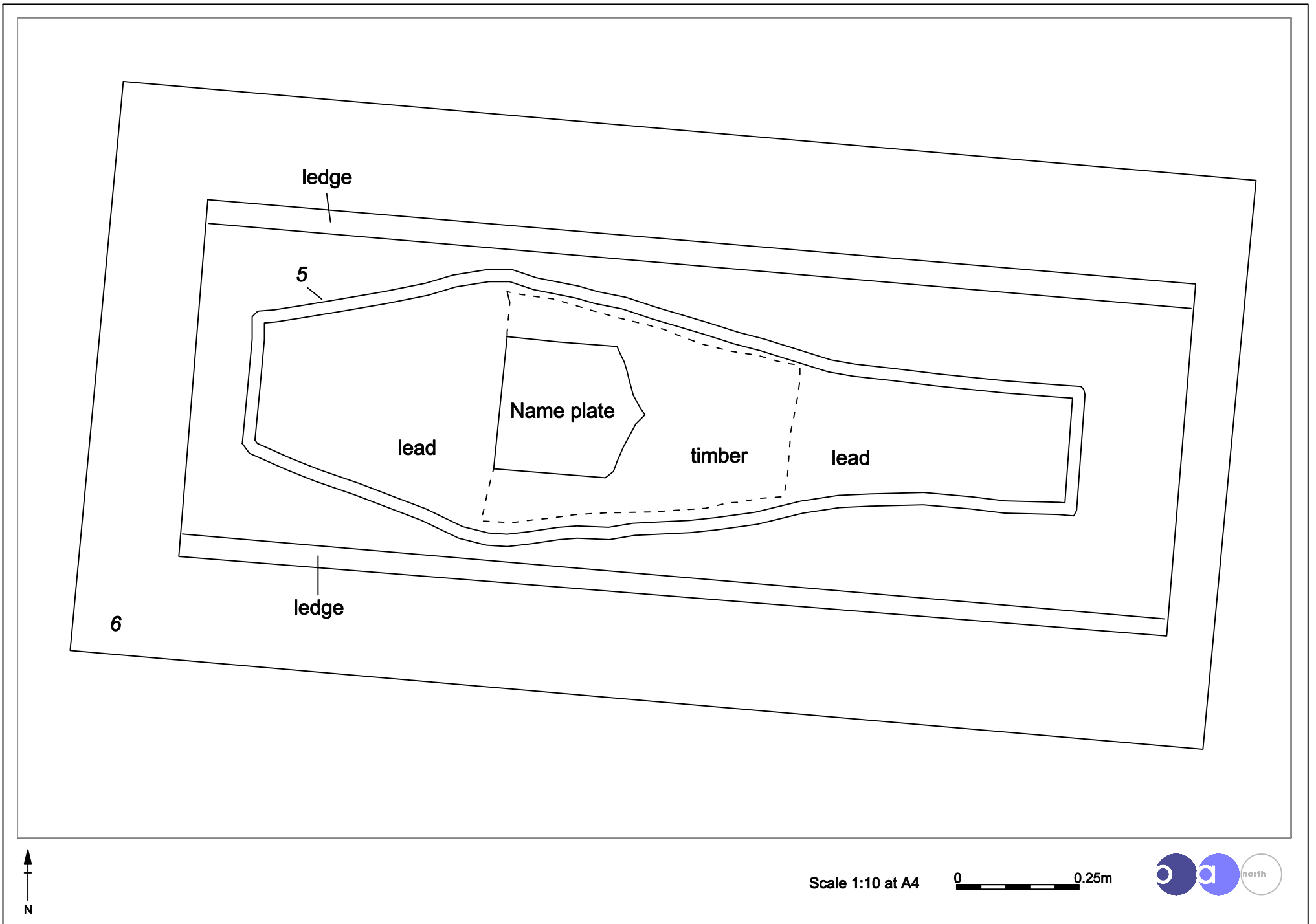


Figure 4 : Plan of coffin 5, in brick-lined shaft 6



Plate 1: Tombstone, *I*, and surrounding area, looking south



Plate 2: Tombstone I, looking west



Plate 3: Sandstone slabs, 4, in brick-lined shaft 6, looking east

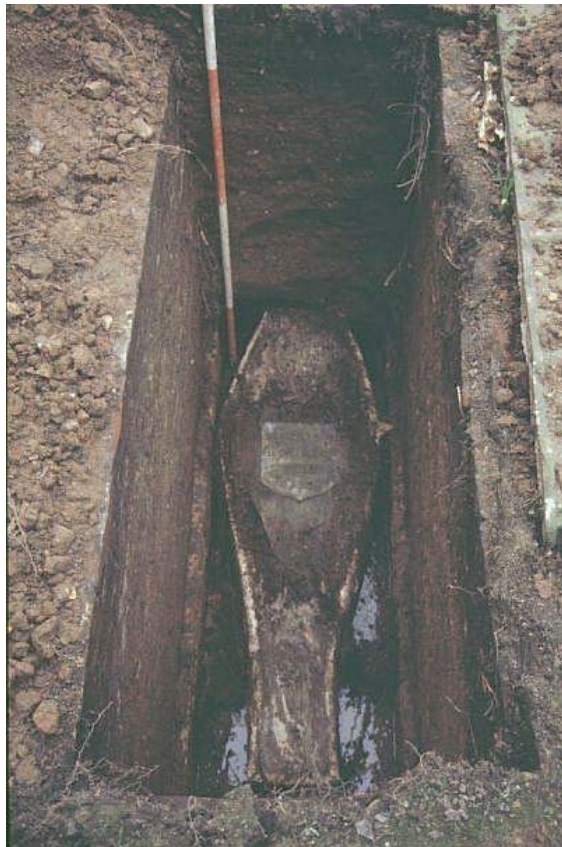


Plate 4: Coffin, 5, in brick-lined shaft 6, looking west



Plate 5: West end of coffin 5



Plate 6: Name plate on coffin 5



Plate 7: West end of brick-lined shaft 6



Plate 8: South-facing section showing west end of brick-lined shaft 6

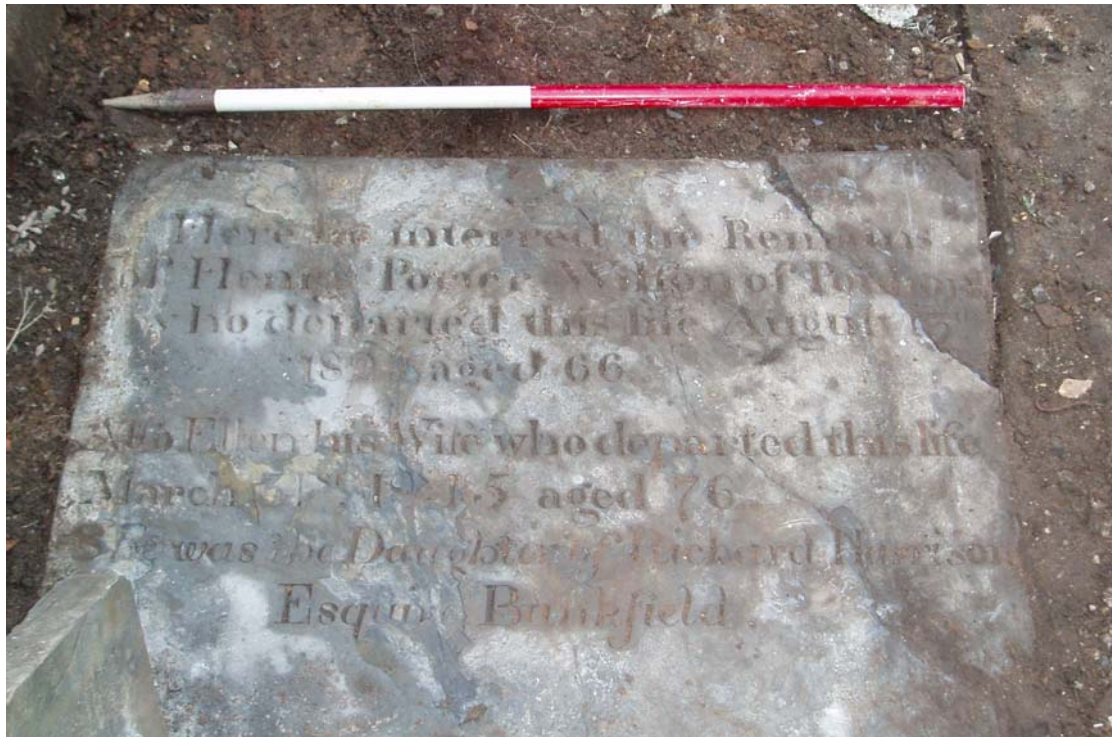


Plate 9: West end of tombstone 9 showing inscription



Plate 10: Coffin handles from 13 (above) and 18 (below)



Plate 11: Clockwise from top left: slipware (3), tin-glazed earthenware vessel rim (16), pearlware blue shell edge plate rim (18), mottledware handle terminal (18), slip-coated cup base (18), slipware (16) probably from same vessel as the fragment above it (3)

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Cassidy Ashton (hereafter the Client), acting on behalf of St Chad's Church, Poulton-le-Fylde, has requested Oxford Archaeology North submit proposals to undertake an archaeological investigation at the church during groundworks for a single storey extension for a kitchen, disabled wc and storage facility (planning application reference 02/04/0434). Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) have requested an archaeological watching brief of the groundworks for the foundations and any new service trenches associated with the extension.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.2.1 St Chad's church is in the Diocese of Blackburn and is one of the largest parishes in the Diocese. The earliest documented evidence of a church in Poulton is from 1094, when Roger d Poitou gave it to the new Priory of St Mary at Lancaster. However, the dedication of the church to St Chad, a Mercian saint who died in 627 AD and one of the most important figures of the Saxon Church, may indicate a much earlier origin; probably pre-Conquest (Crosby 1998, 30).

1.2.2 The position of the market next to the church, still marked by the Market Cross and the base of which forms the seat for the stocks, suggests that this was the focus to a medieval settlement. However, the first known reference to the market is not until 1628 (*op cit*, 49). The Market Cross was a sign in mediaeval England that even in business the church had overall control and was placed high up so all could see and be reminded of Christianity when trading (<http://www.wyrebc.gov.uk/historypoulton.htm>).

1.2.3 Despite the appearance of the present church as a Georgian 'preaching box', there are still some traces of an earlier church. The present structure is from three different periods, the oldest section being the tower dating from 1638, containing six bells. The main part of the church was re-built between 1751 and 1753 although some parts of the walls are of an earlier origin. Its classical facade on the side facing the Market Square is virtually symmetrical, with two tall oval windows flanked by Doric doorways, with oval windows over them and another window to the side. Inside, the nave has a single overall roof and no subdivisions except for the widely spaced Doric columns carrying the gallery, which runs around three sides. This has a panelled front with the original candleholders and is approached up a fine staircase in the north-west corner (*ibid*). On the wall behind the choir stalls are seventeenth century grave memorial plates, and in the choir vestry two plaques commemorate the long service of the vicar Peter White (1622) and the initials of the churchwardens of 1638 (<http://freespace.virgin.net/mc.storey/POULTON-LE-FYLDE.html>).

1.2.4 Victorian historians wrote that in 1751 the medieval red sandstone building was completely demolished (presumably with the exception of the tower) and a new church erected in a style fashionable at the time. However, research carried out on the building and on the documentary evidence during repair and restoration work over a decade ago point to the ashlar stone covering the remains of an older sandstone building (*ibid*). There is potential, however, for the proposed groundworks to reveal remains associated with the earlier buildings.

1.2.5 There are no known prehistoric sites within the immediate area, although there have been a number of finds, including Neolithic flint tools, Bronze Age metal weapons, and more significantly remains of Bronze Age boats and a human skull. Of significance, however, was the discovery in July 1970 of an almost complete skeleton of a 12,000 year old elk, found as foundations were being dug for a new house on Blackpool Old Road, Carleton. Embedded within the leg bones were hunting barbs. This is the earliest evidence yet found for man living this far north, in the days when Britain was part of continental Europe, and is evidence

of prehistoric activity across the wider area, therefore offering the potential for discovery of finds from this period (Middleton *et al* 1995).

- 1.2.6 Similarly, for the Roman period there is potential for evidence of activity as numerous coins have been located within the vicinity. A medal of Germanicus was uncovered in a garden behind the market place and two Roman coins were located in the churchyard. Further afield, coins have been found at the railway station and at Skipool.

1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North has considerable experience of excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 24 years. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.3.2 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 following programme has been designed to identify any surviving archaeological deposits and provide for accurate recording of any archaeological remains that are disturbed by groundworks for the proposed development.
- 2.2 **Watching brief:** to carry out a watching brief during associated ground disturbance, to determine the quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains on the site.
- 2.4 **Report and Archive:** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1.1 **Methodology:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the proposed ground disturbance. This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, including building foundations and service trenches, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 3.1.2 The watching brief will cover the whole of the area to be disturbed by the development including building foundations, service trenches and other earthmoving activities.
- 3.1.3 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (i.e. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).

- 3.1.4 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, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). 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.
- 3.1.5 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced.
- 3.1.6 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. LCAS and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Home Office license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations.
- 3.1.7 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Planning Archaeologist or his representative, as to the extent of further works to be carried out. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design. In the event of environmental/organic deposits being present on site, it would be necessary to discuss and agree a programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling and or dating with the Planning Archaeologist.

3.2 ARCHIVE/REPORT

- 3.2.1 **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). This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the CSMR (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 County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum.
- 3.2.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client. One bound copy and a digital copy (.pdf version) will submitted to the Lancashire SMR within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork, and a copy to the Lancashire County Record Office. Any finds recovered will be assessed with reference to other local material and any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.
- 3.2.3 **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.

4 PROJECT MONITORING

- 4.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the Lancashire County Council Archaeologist, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work.

5 WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The duration of the archaeological presence for the watching brief is as yet unknown, being dictated by the schedule of works.

- 5.2 The client report will be completed within approximately eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork.
- 6 STAFFING
- 6.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc AIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.2 The watching brief and any subsequent excavation will be supervised in the field by **Kathryn Blythe** (OA North project supervisor). Kathryn is a very experienced field archaeologist and is capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.
- 6.3 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken under the auspices of OA North's in-house finds specialist **Chris Howard-Davis** (OA North project officer). Chris acts as OA North's in-house finds specialist and has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England.
- 7 INSURANCE
- 7.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

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APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Context no.	Description
<i>1</i>	Tombstone
<i>2</i>	Layer beneath <i>1</i>
<i>3</i>	Layer beneath <i>2</i>
<i>4</i>	Slabs beneath <i>3</i> , overlying coffin <i>5</i>
<i>5</i>	Lead coffin
<i>6</i>	Brick-lined shaft for coffin <i>5</i>
<i>7</i>	Cut for grave shaft <i>6</i>
<i>8</i>	Stone blocks beneath <i>1</i>
<i>9</i>	Tombstone
<i>10</i>	Brick/stone make up for slab <i>9</i>
<i>11</i>	Sandy deposit beneath <i>9</i>
<i>12</i>	Fill of <i>19</i> , against boiler room wall
<i>13</i>	Layer beneath <i>11</i> , cut by <i>19</i> (same as <i>16</i> and <i>18</i>)
<i>14</i>	Tombstone
<i>15</i>	Tombstone
<i>16</i>	Layer of disturbed ground in test pit under <i>17</i> (same as <i>13</i> and <i>18</i>)
<i>17</i>	Layer of disturbed ground in test pit to south of <i>14</i>
<i>18</i>	Layer in test pit to north of grave slab <i>9</i> (same as <i>13</i> and <i>16</i>)
<i>19</i>	Wall cut for boiler room, filled by <i>12</i>
<i>20</i>	Re-interred human bone on east side of brick-lined shaft <i>6</i>
<i>21</i>	Brownish-orange sandy-clay in trench for new drain
<i>22</i>	Coffin in trench for new drain
<i>23</i>	Topsoil over <i>21</i>
<i>24</i>	Topsoil dark greyish-brown silty-clay, with patches orangey-brown sandy-clay in trench for new drain

APPENDIX 3: FINDS SUMMARY

Context	Category	Qty	Description	Date range
2	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware hollowware coarseware vessel fragment	Late seventeenth - early twentieth century
2	Pottery	2	Brown-glazed red earthenware coarseware base and body fragments	Late seventeenth - early twentieth century
3	Pottery	1	Fineware hollowware cream-coloured earthenware body fragment with external red slip coating and white trailed slip decoration on top, glazed to appear yellow on interior and black on exterior	Late seventeenth - eighteenth century
3	Pottery	1	Mottled ware cream-coloured earthenware coarseware hollowware body fragment	Late seventeenth - early eighteenth century
3	Pottery	6	Black-glazed red earthenware coarseware vessels, including crock/jar base with no internal glaze, and pancheon base	Late seventeenth - early twentieth century
3	Pottery	3	Black-glazed red earthenware, medium thickness, including small hollowware vessel(s) rim and base	Late seventeenth - early twentieth century
3	Pottery	2	Brown-glazed red earthenware: bottle fragment decorated with white slip stripes, and pancheon rim with unglazed white slip on rim top	Late seventeenth - early twentieth century
3	Pottery	1	Self-glazed speckled orange earthenware fragment	Late seventeenth - early twentieth century
3	Pottery	1	White earthenware base (?) fragment	Late eighteenth - twentieth century
3	Pottery	1	Pearlware plate base with recessed foot rim	Late eighteenth - early nineteenth century
13	Copper alloy	3	Coffin handle, bolt, and handle plate	Nineteenth century?
13	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware coarseware base	Late seventeenth - early twentieth century
16	Pottery	1	White earthenware tureen/vegetable dish (?) fragment, with blue 'Willow' transfer-printed pattern	Nineteenth - twentieth century
16	Pottery	1	White earthenware hollowware rim, with abstract (?) blue sponge-printed decoration	Nineteenth - early twentieth century
16	Pottery	1	Small tin-glazed earthenware hollowware vessel rim with hint of purple decoration	Late seventeenth - eighteenth century

Context	Category	Qty	Description	Date range
16	Pottery	1	Fineware hollowware cream-coloured earthenware body fragment with external red slip coating and white trailed slip decoration on top, glazed to appear yellow on interior and black on exterior, almost certainly from same vessel as that from context 3	Late seventeenth - eighteenth century
16	Pottery	1	Mottled ware hollowware vessel base	Late seventeenth - early eighteenth century
16	Pottery	3	Brown-glazed red earthenware coarseware vessels: fine pancheon rim, jar/crock body fragment, hollowware base	Late seventeenth - early twentieth century
18	Clay tobacco pipe	5	Stem fragments with wide, medium, and narrow bores	Seventeenth - early twentieth century
18	Copper alloy	2	Coffin handle and bolt, identical in design and dimensions to that from context 13	Nineteenth century?
18	Pottery	1	Red slip-coated fine cream-coloured earthenware cup base	Eighteenth century
18	Pottery	2	Mottled ware cream-coloured earthenware coarseware (?) hollowware body fragments, including largish strap handle terminal	Late seventeenth - early eighteenth century
18	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware coarseware crock/jar fragment	Late seventeenth - early twentieth century
18	Pottery	1	Brown-glazed speckled red earthenware coarseware base	Late seventeenth - early twentieth century
18	Pottery	1	Self-glazed greyish-khaki gritty stoneware cup/jar (?) base	Late eighteenth - nineteenth century?
18	Pottery	1	Pearlware plate rim with moulded and blue painted shell edge	Late eighteenth - early nineteenth century
18	Pottery	1	Creamware (?) plate (?) base	Late eighteenth - early nineteenth century