

ST OSWALD'S OLD CHURCH FULFORD

**Draft Report on the Archaeological
Investigations Undertaken During and After
its Conversion into a Private House by**

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The digitised auto-reading of the original papers has introduced miss-spellings and occasional nonsensical transcriptions of the original text. Many have been amended, hopefully correctly, by Chris Rainger of FFH, but some will remain.]

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1 SUMMARY

The redundant church of Old St Oswald's, Fulford (SE605497), in a suburb to the south of the city of York, on the east bend of the River Ouse, was converted into a private house in the early 1980s. The work was monitored by the York Archaeological Trust and by the Department of Archaeology, University of York. Small-scale excavation located part of the foundations of a structure, on a similar orientation to and underlying the west end of the present Norman building, probably an earlier church. This excavation also provided below-ground details of the standing structure; these were augmented by the observation of the fabric where it was disturbed during construction. The interior was also recorded by rectified photography.

Service trenches in the churchyard located the limits of the medieval and later cemetery to the south and the foundation of pre-1870 structures were recorded. This data complements the above-ground survey of the now-cleared graveyard.

Finds include a fragment of Roman ?bottle glass, perhaps from a funerary urn, a Roman stone coffin lid, a stamped sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery and part of a late 10th-11th-century cross shaft.

3 INTRODUCTION AND -ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

3.1 Background to the project

The church of Old St Oswald's, Fulford, was declared redundant in 1973 after a long period of decline following the erection of a much larger church in 1866, also dedicated to St Oswald (Allison ed 1976, 35), ~~more centrally placed to development along the main York-Selby road.~~ Various possible uses were suggested for the former church; these ranged from de-roofing and allowing the building to become a ruin (in preference to full-scale demolition) to providing a focal point for a Folk Park (Pickering and Briddon 1975, 45 and inf R Grant).

The redundant building was finally acquired in 1980 for a nominal sum by Roy Grant, with permission to convert it into a domestic dwelling. His intention was to retain the basic structure ~~---to preserve the historic building in its architectural proportions---~~ so that the former nave and chancel were to provide a continuous space separated by only a step, open to the roof. A newly-constructed western balcony at first floor level (replacing an earlier one) was to be added and services concentrated in the tower area at the west. The two-cell church and tower thus became a hall-house, now known as St Oswald's Hall.

The architect, Patrick Lorrimer, of Anthony Richardson and Partners, specialises in historic buildings, and conversion was aided by funds from the Council for the Historic Buildings of England, Selby District Council and a conservation charity. Professional archaeological advice, sought through the agency of Richard Morris, then of the CBA and of the Redundant Churches Fund, led to the participation of the York Archaeological Trust (YAT) and the newly-established Department of Archaeology of the University of York in their first joint enterprise. The Trust, interested in comparing a small rural church with its urban equivalents, undertook to observe work in the interior of St Oswald's, and the Department of Archaeology the exterior.

Thus in June 1980, a service trench was watched across the southern churchyard, as were small disturbances dug closer to the building. A small area was excavated by hand on the exterior north

side of the church, in the angle between the tower and the nave, where a newel stair turret was to be inserted. A complementary excavation by YAT took place within the church at this point (fig). Exterior excavations were, in 1984 and 1986-7, extended by Duncan Hawkins and Julie Lockyer, then students of the Department of Archaeology, who also prepared preliminary reports on their work.

In 1981, St Oswald's Hall, since conversion a Listed Grade II* building, was fully open to the public on a regular basis. Grant vested the building in a Trust, supported by a sponsorship of 'Friends'. It thus became again for a few years a cultural asset, both as a remarkably successful example of conversion and as the setting for medieval drama, music presentations, feasts and weddings. Unfortunately he ultimately had to sell the property when he emigrated to Italy. Subsequent owners have not continued the public cultural use of the house.

3.2 The form of the report

The report was prepared in two parts: a printed summary version (PT) and a full archive (ARC). The same numbering system is used in both versions, so that further details and discussion occurs in the ARC under the same number as in the PT section.

3.3 Location of finds and archive.

Mr Grant had an exhibition of selected finds at St Oswald's Hall, as indicated in Section -, which has been retained by later owners. The remainder and the archive are stored at YAT, under the accession number -.

3.4 Acknowledgements

Although the present report is the responsibility of the authors, it is based on the records made not only by themselves, but also by David Brinklow of YAT; and Duncan Hawkins and Julie

Lockyer in the 1980s.

The following specialists have also contributed to the report, either in the form of separate contributions or with comments incorporated into the text:

- Cathy Brooks, then of YAT
- Mike Duffy, YAT
- the late Eric Gee, then of the Royal Commission of Historical Monuments, England (RCHME)
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- Dr Keith Manchester, University of Bradford
- Professor David Palliser, then University of Hull, now University of Leeds
- the late Herman Ramm
- David Stocker, then ?YAT [stones]

We must also thank the architect, Patrick Lorimer, and the contractors, Kilvington and Young, for full cooperation during conversion and especially Roy Grant for his encouragement and hospitality. Also the Borthwick Institute, University of York, and the Yorkshire Archaeological Society for permission to reproduce manuscripts in their care, and Dr Sarah Rees-Jones and Richard Morris for discussing St Oswald's with the authors.

4 THE SITE AND ITS SETTING

4.1 Geological, topographical, and settlement background

4.1.1 GEOLOGY (fig -)

The whole area around St Oswald's is part of the glacial and later deposits south of York. The underlying strata include moranic drift, glacial sand and gravel, and later silts, clays and sands (fig -). The River Ouse follows a sinuous course from north to south through the area, flanked by relatively recent alluvial deposits. The church lies on sand and gravel on the east bank of the Ouse.

The subsoil in the excavated areas comprised an orange-brown sandy clay with some gravel. The pre-church foundations consisted of layers of clay and water-worn cobbles, readily available in the river area.

4.1.2 TOPOGRAPHY (fig -)

The complex of church and churchyard lies on slightly elevated land above the river, about a metre above the highest recent flooding. The last major flood was in 1952, when water reached within 5cm of the top of the western churchyard wall (local info) [this and previous sentence seem incompatible]

The site is situated c1.5km below the confluences of the rivers Ouse and Foss, at a point where the Ouse flows in a narrow alluvial bed, less than 0.25km wide. As such, this would also have been a natural crossing point of the Ouse (for a ford or ferry), perhaps in association with the Green Dykes earthwork (cf Ramm 1963, 26, 590 [check].) Changing hydrological conditions will have affected this landscape since prehistoric times, but in such low-lying terrain, slight elevation and well-drained soils must always have provided preferred settlement sites (cf Radley 1974, 10, Allison ed

1976, and Addyman 1984, 11).

4.2 Settlement history

4.2.1 PREHISTORIC

Prehistoric artefacts from the area include an unlocated Neolithic axe, a palstave from Fulford and other flakes, cores and implements (fig-; Radley 1974, 15, 19; cf Addyman 1984, 11 and his fig 3 for sites in the southern part of Fulford parish; and Page ed 1907, 410).

4.2.2 ROMAN

By the Roman period, the area of Fulford was peripheral to the major centre of York; and no villas are known in the area. The eastern part of the parish boundary is thought to follow the line of a Roman road (Allison ed 1976, 29, Pickering and Briddon 1975, 2; cf fig -). Roman finds from the area include urns and other objects found in gravel pits near Water Fulford Hall in 1770 (Briddon ed 1952, 5; Pickering and Briddon 1975, 2). Roman pottery was found in the area of Fulford Barracks (RCHMB 1962, 69) and stratified Roman pottery was found when new almshouses were built at the top of St Oswald's Road c1950 (inf the late H Ramm). On the west bank of the Ouse, opposite St Oswald's, two stone coffins were found in 1813, with bodies laid in gypsum; a further two were found in 1826 in the same field (RCHME 1962, 108); these probably equate with material recorded by RCHME under SE60054963 (fig -). In 1892, during excavations connected with York's sewage system, two more Roman coffins were found in a gravel pit in St Oswald's Road (that-is-on the St Oswald's side of the river). These are described as of stone, each seven feet long and three feet wide and containing human skeletons and also a white substance, probably lime and grease. They may be amongst the sarcophagi in the grounds of the Yorkshire Museum' (Pickering and Briddon 1975, 2 and 37; no source is quoted and it may simply be an expansion of a comparison made in Briddon ed 1952, 5) (cf [R coffin from St 0 and DHp21]). Al

these discoveries suggest the presence of Roman (?extramural) cemetery in the area (see fig - and Jones 1984 for known burials and cemeteries in and around York).

Roman burials may have provided an early nucleus, or have been part of an earlier complex (cf pre-church features, below p -). Equally, a previous structure may have provided such a focus, the influence of which might be detectable through subsequent reuse of its fabric, if of durable materials, although this is not apparent in the present structure of St Oswald's.

4.2.3 POST-ROMAN AND ANGLIAN

Few immediately post-Roman finds are known from York and its area, except possibly in the Minster excavations (Carver 19-, cf also Addyman 1984, 17). Although Gate Fulford has been described as an Anglian settlement (Allison ed 1976, 29), the principal nucleus of Eoforwic was only 1.5km upstream of St Oswald's, close to the confluence of the Rivers Ouse and Fosse (Kemp 1987, Tweddle 1999).

4.2.4 ANGLO-SCANDINAVIAN

The evidence for Viking York is confined to the city area; little is known of suburban extensions in the contiguous areas, nor of the extent of peripheral settlement and the exploitation of land and other resources in the hinterlands.

It seems likely however that there was continuous occupation or use of the Fulford area from Roman times onwards; the origins of the Domesday and later settlement is likely to have been earlier than the 11th century.

If it is accepted that the Anglo-Scandinavian sculpture at St Oswald's is evidence of a church or burial ground there at that time, this is the only archaeological evidence for a settlement nucleus in the area; we also give arguments below for the existence of a church in pre-Norman times.

4.2.5 MEDIEVAL (fig -)

The present parish of Fulford comprises two townships, of Gate and Water Fulford (Allison ed 1976, 29). These have been equated with the two Domesday Book villis of 'Fuleford' (eg-Faull and Stinson eds 1986, note C28), although the boundaries are uncertain (cf Allison ed 1976, 29).

Gate Fulford, along the present A19, the York-Selby road, is situated on a ridge of higher ground above the Fiver Ouse, at the south end of which is a small stream, the Germany Beck. To the south, on lower ground, is Water Fulford (Allison ed 1976, 29). St Oswald's forms a third nucleus, separate from the main part of Gate Fulford, just south of the present boundary to the city of York (c2.5km from the centre of both the Roman and medieval city of York in the area of the Minster), above the former ferry crossing of the river Ouse (fig -) (see 4.2 below [?])

Domesday Book provides the first record of the placename 'Fulford' (Smith 1937, 275). It is variously recorded there as 'Fuleford', 'Foleforde', 'Fuleforde' and 'Fuletorp' (Faull and Stinson eds 1986, C28, 6W5, 6E1, SE Wa 6). The 'ful' element has been suggested to mean muddy in the sense of low-lying (Pickering and Briddon 1975, 1), rather than foul (Smith 1937, 275). The location of the ford has been assumed to refer to the Germany Beck (eg Pickering and Briddon 1975, 1 and fig -), but it may instead relate to a river crossing below St Oswald's (see below, 4.2)

Another possible ford, a mud bank across the river, noted within living memory when the Ouse was low, has also been suggested at the south end of the parish, between Fulford House and Bishopthorpe (Briddon ed 1952,3).

By cAD1000, the road from Fulford into York via Fishergate was already important (Ramm 1972, 252; fig -).

In 1066, a battle was fought in Fulford before Stamford Bridge and Hastings, probably in the south of the parish, close to Germany Beck, when Earl Tostig of Northumbria and Harold Hardrada of Norway defeated the English. The defeated leaders included Morcar, who held one of the Fulford manors (Allison ed 1976, 29 and 31;

Pickering and Briddon 1975, 2-3). Any church may have been used in connection with the dead and dying.

After Domesday, an outline history of the townships can be reconstructed from sparse documentary references (of Pickering and Briddon 1975 and Allison ed 1976, 29-36). It was only from the nineteenth century that Fulford became linked by continuous housing with York (Allison ed 1976, 30).

The present parish boundary of Fulford deviates to include St Oswald's and its graveyard (fig -), suggesting that St Oswald's pre-dates this boundary at least in its present form, [isn't it C19???

St Oswald's old church, however, appears to have been isolated from any immediate settlement until housing development from the 19th century onwards. The few houses known away from the main village before the enclosure of 1759 include Well House, close to St Oswald's (fig -). This may have been merely a protective cover for a well (Allison ed 1976, 30 and Pickering and Briddon 1975, 37; also see 4.3.4 below). The lane down to St Oswald's and the river was gradually built-up during the nineteenth century (Allison 1975 ed, 30), and a sewage pumping works was built to the west, although gravel quarrying continued on the north side of the road (Allison ed 1975, 33), probably in the gap that was only infilled in the 1980s.

The antiquity of Church Lane, now St Oswald's road, is unknown. Its purpose appears to be more than simply providing access to the church as it continues down to the river, where it appears to form a deep hollow way west of the church (fig -). It is bounded on the east by the churchyard wall and the higher ground of the Ouse flood plain and on the west by modern waterworks which give the illusion of rising ground; the track itself is in fact broadly level with the rest of the 'Fulfordings', the flood plain of the Ouse on which it is located. At this point, there was probably a ferry across the Ouse (inf the late H Ramm). Both the ferry and the track are known since at least the mid-19th century

Thus, although in recent times, St Oswald's church has stood isolated from any immediate settlement, this may not have been so in the medieval period or earlier. St Oswald's indeed might appear to occupy the classic position of the last survivor of a 'deserted, shrunken, or shifted village' (Taylor 1974, 90), but the lack of earthworks or medieval finds from the immediate area cannot be wholly attributed to gravel pits and more recent buildings. Its position might equally reflect a different, perhaps non-nucleated, settlement pattern. Indeed the tripartite structure of Fulford that is known through the medium of relatively-recent documentation may be only a modern overlay to earlier, now-unrecognisable, patterns of settlement. While gravel workings and buildings around the churchyard may have obscured any earlier evidence, it is only archaeological investigation within the vicinity of the church that can provide more data about the earlier history of the area of St Oswald's (cf synthesis).

4.3 The Church

4.3.1 LOCATION

St Oswald's Church is located 1.5km south of the walled city of York, on the east bank of the River Ouse. Its position may suggest that St Oswald's initial importance was as an establishment extra-mural to York itself; alternatively, that its importance was more associated with the river; or that it was part of a settlement beyond the city. We will return to this problem in the final discussion (section -).

4.3.2 THE DEDICATION

The first known reference to 'St Oswald' at Fulford occurs in the 14th century, in the earliest known specific mention of a chapel here (Pickering and Briddon 1975, 5 and cf below, 4.3.2). As such, it may be one of a large group of dedications (at least 67), mainly with Northumbrian association, to a royal martyr (Butter 1986, 45,

48), who died in 642 (Lapridge et al 1999, 347). He had direct connections with York, including church- building [expand] (cf Sherley-Price and Latham 1968, 131). On his death, Oswald's body was fragmented, with individual parts subsequently located in separate places, although the major part of the body had passed from Bamburgh to Gloucester by 909 (Rollason 1978, 81).

Another candidate for the person commemorated could, however, be the St Oswald who was bishop of Worcester as well as later archbishop of York (Stenton 1965, 430; Tillott ed 1961, 16).

The difficulties of using church dedication as chronological indicators are well-established (eg cf Morris 1983, 1; Butter 1986, 44). In the case of Fulford, several alternative suggestions can be outlined for the date when the church received its dedication; none is conclusive, but they should be considered in the light of other data relating to the slightly-known documentary history of the church (4.3.2 below) and of the archaeological evidence (cf synthesis).

Butler considers that dedications to royal martyrs, usually associated with monasteries, were 'unlikely to have been given later than a generation after their death' (Butler 1986, 45, 48). If the Fulford dedication represented a resting place of the body, this should also pre-date its arrival at Gloucester in 909; it could however represent a smaller part of the body (cf above). The lack of weight that can be attributed to negative evidence, such as the absence of a surviving pre-Conquest documentary reference, is highlighted by Rollason, who has drawn attention to another royal Northumbrian relic, the head of Edwin, in the possession of York in Bede's time, but which had been lost sight of by the late Anglo-Saxon period. Furthermore Rollason draws especial attention to the 'most surprising non-appearance of the church of York' amongst shrines of the saints before the Conquest (Rollason 1986, 34).

Links with saints were not simply religious matters, but were enmeshed in the concerns of contemporary society. They were related to 'the pattern of political and territorial power' (Rollason 1986, 40), where 'the possession of the relics of saints was seen as an indicator of the power and prestige not only of a monastic house

hut also of a political unit' (Rollason 1978, 82). If such an association belongs to the pre-Conquest period at Fulford, its general context may be similar to that which gave rise to its links with York itself (4.3.2 below).

In the case of St Oswald of Worcester, the Fulford dedication might reflect topical interest when the sees of York and Worcester were permitted to be held together between 972-1016 and for a short period in 1040 (Tillott ed 1961, 16).

A final possibility, however, is that the dedication instead reflects a post-Conquest naming. By the 12th century when the present church was built, see 4.3.2 below), such early 'native' dedications were returning to fashion (Morris, *per comm* - ?).

Thus, although the dedication to St Oswald has been taken to suggest that there was a chapel at Fulford before the Norman Conquest (*cf* Pickering and Briddon 1975, 5), this cannot be substantiated on this evidence alone. It does however potentially form part of the wider background of the link between Fulford and York and may have relevance to the church's location.

4.3.3 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

Neither a church nor a priest were recorded under Domesday Book entries for Fulford, although this should not be taken as proof that neither existed.

In the post-Conquest period, St Oswald's was a property of St Mary's Abbey, York, either directly or via St Olave's Church (Allison ed 1976, 34). The date of this acquisition is uncertain; it may have been in the wake of the Norman Conquest, or it may reflect an earlier situation (St Mary's Abbey had its origins in the pre-Conquest foundation of St Olave's, established by 1055) (*cf* Faull and Stinson eds 1986, part II, Appendix 2, The church in the north, unpaginated; and Tillott ed 1961, 397 and 358). The connection between an urban religious house and a neighbouring township was not unusual; other York houses had estates in the parish of Fulford (Allison ed 1976. 32).

Morris has drawn attention to the phenomenon of outlying detached parishes associated with York city churches that can be delineated by the 11th century, but which may reflect an earlier situation. He says of this that ' a cautious interpretation would be that the crystallization of the parochial system during the 12th century had the effect of freezing the tenurial arrangements of the late 11th/early 12th century in the guise of ecclesiastical geography'; and that such extramural holdings linked to a city church might represent 'the debris of a large pre-Conquest estate' (Morris 1986, especially 84-5).

It may therefore be fruitful to study St Oswald's in the context of the landholdings of St Olave's and its successor St Mary's. It might equally, at the present stage of understanding of the early medieval history of York and its hinterland, be viewed as one of several fragmented settlements which were only subsequently nucleated (Palliser 1984).

These two models are not necessarily mutually exclusive; nor need they be the only ones. At the very least, St Oswald's status as an 'out-of-York interest' could 'signal', in Morris's view, some dimension to the early background' of in this case east-bank York (cf Morris 1986, 85), whether or not it can at present be satisfactorily explained.

The first documentary mention of St Oswald's as such is in 1349, as a chapel, when it was granted temporary burial rights while plague lasted (Allison ed 1976, 34, Pickering and Briddon 1975, 5-6). By this time at least, St Oswald's had sufficient of a surrounding 'yard' to enable burial to take place. Sporadic, if illegal, burial continued in the 14th century and certainly after the Dissolution the churchyard was in use. By the mid-17th century, baptisms and marriages were also celebrated there, although in the earlier 18th century it was still described as a chapelry of St Olave's and apparently had no parsonage (Allison ed 1976, 34, Pickering and Briddon 1975, 6).

In 1866, a new church was built in the main part of Gate Fulford and various internal fittings were transferred there from St Oswald's. The old church was used as a mortuary chapel until the

graveyard was closed in 1902 (Allison ed 1976, 35, Pickering and Briddon 1975, 62). Monthly services continued until 1966 (Allison ed 1976, 35), shortly after which Royal Commission photographs show the building to have been in a good state of repair (BB 67/9191 and BB 67/9190. *cf* PI -).

The *First Quinquennial Inspection* of St Oswald's, made in 1969, described the church as 'situated in an out of the way rural corner of the parish down by the river. It is a romantic place and retains a modest simplicity rarely found so near to a city...' It also noted that the interior '...is now rather neglected but still fairly sound...The furnishings are entirely Victorian... there is also a church mouse.'

Services were held on the last Sunday of every month until c1970 (local info). The building was declared redundant in 1973 (Allison ed 1976, 35) at a time when such redundancy was being actively recognised as an archaeological threat and when other functions were actively sought as an alternative to ruin and/or demolition (*cf* Wade-Martins and Morris 1976, 10; also see Rodwell 1981, 38-40).

The documentary evidence for St Oswald's is limited, with the church being first specifically mentioned in the 14th century, although a much longer history can be demonstrated both architecturally (below, 4.3.4) and archaeologically (below,). The connection between St Oswald's and St Olave's is an interesting one, which may pre-date the Norman Conquest. It is known that some churches ~~on the northern side of~~ York had extensive territories beyond the bounds of the city in the pre-Conquest period, and the situation in Fulford and specifically St Oswald's relationship to St Olave's may also reflect this phenomenon.

4.3.4 STRUCTURAL HISTORY

(as known before 1980)

4.3.4a Summary

The church of old St Oswald's (now St Oswald's Hall) is a small structure, comprising an aisleless chancel and nave, and a western tower. The chancel is 7.50m x 6.50m externally, and 6.10 x 5.0m internally (a wall width of 0.75m). The nave is 11.60 x 6.95m externally and 10.05 x 5.40m internally (wall width 0.775m). The western tower is 3.80m N-S and 3.20m W-E externally, and 2.55 x 2.55m internally (If and S walls 0.625m thick, W wall 0.825m). The tower is slightly rhomboidal (all measurements from the survey of 1980 by YAT).

The heights of chancel, nave and tower are respectively (to eaves) 3.50, 3.80 and 8.30m (from ground level, measurements from drawings of architects of the conversion, 1980).

The church has never been fully recorded, by for example the RCHME, as it lies just outside the boundaries of the city of York. The late Dr Eric Gee, when based at the York office of the RCHME nevertheless made extensive notes on the church, which form the basis of the following architectural description. The architect's drawings of 1980 provide some basic plans and sections of the church then being converted.

The structure of the present building cannot be dated precisely on architectural, archaeological or documentary grounds, but in general to the twelfth century (Gee, below). (The dates of c1150 for the nave and of c1180 for the chancel as published in Pickering and Briddon 1975, 57 and Allison ed 1976, 35, based on Gee's earlier opinions, are probably too precise). The general unity of the nave and chancel, at least of the upper parts of their walls, is shown

by the chamfered string courses at eaves level. The chancel is narrow and its roof is lower than the nave. No chancel arch survives but there are stubs which probably indicate its former position. These incorporated a scalloped capital, a window head and fragments of a column drum. There are single-splay windows of Norman date on the north side of the chancel; other windows are of 14th-century and later dates. A decayed steeple was referred to in 1577 (Allison ed 1976, 35), although its location is unknown. The present brick tower is probably of 1795 (see Gee below).

Gee notes a drawing of c1820 showing a building or buildings south of the church, which had been removed by 1827 (fig -).

The significance of St Oswald's as a building has been previously described as 'perhaps' lying 'in the fact that...it has remained in the same original double rectangular design of eight hundred years ago* (Pickering and Briddon 1975, 57) and, more technically, that 'originally it was one of a group of Norman chapels in the Ainsty of York, which were simple oblongs in plan and in general had thin walls of a thickness usually used by Saxon masons rather than Norman ones' (Gee, RCHME notes).

Recent studies have also highlighted the neglect of the early church in the countryside, especially 'in relation to the history of rural settlement' and the development of the parochial system, a situation certainly true of York and its hinterland (cf Morris 1983, 63-76, especially 63; also 108).

New recording and further observations of the fabric of the church made during the investigations of this report are described below (p-).

Circa 1870 the gallery at the west end of the nave was removed, the walls of the chancel and nave were plastered and a dado of pitch pine, some tall pews and the floor were fitted. The outer roofs were retiled at this time also, but a new parish church,

built to designs of JP Pritchett, had already been dedicated in May 1865, and henceforth the old church was not kept in repair; there have been no major works, however, except the insertion or rebuilding of a window in the south wall of the nave and a general restoration.

In 1934 a restoration costing £126 was carried out by W Aheley under the direction of F Plenty, architect. Plaster was stripped from the walls, the dado removed, some stonework renewed and arches over both doors and the east window in the north wall of the chancel were opened up.

4.3.4b Detailed architectural description, by Dr E frae (based on unpublished RCHME notes (written pre-1980)

4.3.4b-1 Introduction

St Oswald's is constructed mainly of stone, in places good ashlar but otherwise of rag and all the stone is magnesium limestone from Tadcaster. The west tower, however, is built of brick and the roofs are of fish scale tiles.

In the first half of the 12th century, a chapel was built here, oblong in plan and with no structural chancel. Later in the same century, the chancel was built and at the same time in the 13th century the east wall of the chancel was rebuilt. In the first half of the 14th century a large window was inserted in the chancel east wall and the upper part of it was later rebuilt. The nave and chancel were re-roofed in the 15th century.

In the 17th century windows were put in the south walls of the chancel and nave, replacing smaller ones, and at the same time the roofs were remodelled.

The present brick tower was probably built in 1795, for on the 19th June of that year a faculty was granted for a vestry and a gallery to be erected. The present plaster barrel vaults are of early 19th-century date, A door in the south wall of the chancel was perhaps rebuilt when a faculty was granted on the 13th February 1819 to re-pew the church and erect a new pulpit.

The south wall of the chancel has been patched, but a section of it to the east has a plinth; this is of coursed rag ashlar, and the courses correspond with the first two builds of the east wall. There is no sign of a window and this walling is probably post-1200 but earlier than 1340. The remainder of the wall above a point five courses above the floor level inside does not course through and must be later despite the external water table, above which are the brick courses as before. A window in the west half of the wall has a square head, two square-headed lights, chamfered reveals externally and a plastered brick mullion. At the head of the splayed rere arch is a large beam of adzed and reused oak (17th century). On the stone under this window are graffiti consisting of a cross and some Ts.

A doorway in the south wall near its west end (blocked before 1980) has a two-centred head and chamfered surround with early 19th-century chiselling and a segmental-headed rere arch of brick. The inner splays of the doorway at the bottom are probably medieval.

There is no evidence that there ever was a chancel arch and much of the east wall of the nave is now modern, but there is still some 12th century walling *in situ* at the north end. Built in on the north side of the chancel opening are the head of a small Norman window, part of a round shaft and a small scalloped capital (all c1150).

4.3.4b-2 the chancel

The chancel, although chiefly of the late-12th century, is later than the nave, for at the junction of chancel and nave externally it can be seen that the rough masonry of the chancel is built against the better ashlar of the nave.

Externally the east wall has a chamfered plinth for three quarters of its length and there is some diagonal tooling at the bottom (late 12th/early 13th century). The upper part is of 14th-century date but there is much patching at the north end. Internally it is of three builds. The original thickness is shown at the bottom and 0.61m (two feet) above the present plank floor it sets in and is probably of 13th - century date; both these sections are of coursed rag ashlar. Above again is a large 14th-century window, modernised externally and of the same date as the good ashlar of the upper part of the wall.

The east window has a two-centred head, chamfered reveals and no label on either side; there are three trefoil lights under geometrical tracery. The centre light has mullions which have been cut away at the bottom. The reveals show red colouration under coats of whitewash and a stone near the bottom of the south side shows coarse tooling of fourteenth-century type.

To the south of the window and set in the lowest part of the wall is an oblong recess or aumbry.

The north wall is of rubble and has a chamfered water table externally, under four courses of 17th-century brick. Internally there is a straight joint at the north-east corner representing the line of the original east wall and corresponding to the lowest courses of it. In the wall are two small round-headed windows with the heads in one piece, both splays and a round-headed rere arch,

the voussoirs of which have good diagonal tooling (c1180). On the outer side can be seen holes for iron wind lap.

To the easternmost window is a deep square aumbry.

There was a doorway for entry into the chancel from outside on the south side; this was blocked in recent times, and opened as part of the conversion in 1980.

The nave north wall is of two constructions; that to the east is externally of large blocks of ashlar, with fine/five mortar joints, and diagonal tooling is visible at the bottom, where the soil has protected it. There are good quoins and at the top is a chamfered water table. Internally this part of the wall is of coursed large rubble, with bands of smaller rubble at internals. A disturbance here almost certainly indicates the blocking of a window. The remainder of the wall has fallen at some time and shows at least three rebuilds. (Note that two lines in the masonry at the end are misleading as they are reused jambs of a Norman window.)

The south wall of the nave is externally chiefly of early 12th-century date, with ashlar and water table like the east end of the north wall. Two windows in this wall each have a square head, three square-headed lights, a splayed internal opening and an oak beam at the head. The window to the east is of 17th-century date and the other, which has brick splays and a sill formed of a 14th-century coffin lid, is modern. The rebuilt south doorway has a lofty round-headed rere arch with well tooled voussoirs and jambs and externally the continuous surround - much lower than the rere arch - is chamfered (twelfth century). Note that two sections of the water table of the south wall to the east still retain an incised chevron ornament and are quirked.

The west wall of the nave had been rebuilt in medieval times and then almost entirely rebuilt again in brick in the 18th

century, when the tower was erected; it is pierced by a simple round-headed tower arch.

4.3.4b-4 The tower

The tower is of two stages internally and of one externally. It is of buff-red brick with red brick quoins and dressings. The east elevation has no features; the north wall is plain except for a single oblong belfry light and the south wall is featureless. In the west wall is a large segmental headed window at ground-floor level with red brick arch and jambs. It is of three lights, with a high transom and it has a frame of oak, well pegged (of early 18th-century character). The west wall has a plinth and some stone base courses. The pyramidal roof is of red fish scale tiles like all the other external roofs.

4.3.4b-5 The roofs

In the chancel the wall plates are moulded and battlemented and of fifteenth-century date, although much restored.

At the centre of each wall plate is the sawn-off end of a contemporary hammer beam. That to the north has attached to it a head with flowing hair and long beard and the other is carved with a winged grotesque. There are the remains of similar beams at the west end.

At a later date and most probably in the seventeenth century the roof was heightened and three large beams with chamfered lower edges were fitted. The whole roof was given a plaster barrel vault in the early 19th century.

The nave roof has two large cross beams of 17th-century date and one wooden one and otherwise has an early 19th-century ceiling

as before. The roof in the tower is of oak with chamfered joists and a trap door (18th century).* [end Df gee]

4.3.4b-6 Fittings

4.3.3b-6 Fittings (based on E Gee)

BELL

This was made by Villiam Blews and Sons of Birminhgam in 1869 (Allison ed 1976, -).

?Boutler ref

BENEFACTORS TABLES

There are three tables, all of the same type with plank face, moulded surround painted red and otherwise gold letters on black. One board was put up c1782, the other c1806 and the third is c1873 (see also Pickering and Briddon 1975, 58-91).

BRASSES (check if in Buckingham)

Two grave marker plates were set in the wooden floor. In 1980 they were removed, conserved by YAT, and returned to Boy-Grant; they are still in St Oswald's Hall. Their location and inscriptions were as follows.

In the nave to the east of the south door, a large oblong plate with good lettering, some In script and some in capitals. To Master Areton Akers (who died in 1799). (Dr Gee gives the inscription, varying slightly from the version quoted by Pickering and Briddon 1975, 57-8; also see below). [?rest of inscription etc]

In the nave to the east of the tower arch, on the floor, an oblong plate, to Master Robert Andrews (who died in 1803). (The inscription is already published by Pickering and Briddon 1975, 58.)

Outside the church to the south of the south door of the chancel, on a large stone slab, an oblong plate in a very good cursive hand (to various members of the Rusdell\ [?correct] family, who died between 1698 and 1715. The inscription is published by Pickering and Briddon 1975, 60.)

4. BURIALS UNDER THE WOODEN FLOOR [are these In Pickering and Briddon?]

Robert Oates Esq, son of Robert and Isabella Oates, died 28th of February 1763, aged 64.

Robert Oates of Water Fulford Gent, died July 27th 1739, aged 76. Isabella Oates, wife of Robert Oates gent, died 8th June 1756, aged 84.

Isabella Oates, daughter of Robert Oates, died 28th of January 1760, aged 64.

Ann Key, died Feb 1st 1775.

Hic jacet Cor. Guilelmus Redman de Water Fulford Generosus obit Septem. *Xvii 9/a[?]*. Dom. MDCXLIX. I layd This Here that all the world may see I had a friend and thou alone wast hee. John Redman.

Here lieth the body of Jane the daughter [obliterated] departed this life 179-.

Here lieth the Body of John Taylor of Fulford Esq; who departed this life the 10th of December 1705. A.E. [obliterated].

Here lieth the body of William Williamson Marsh who died
July aged years [rest obliterated].

OTHER INSCRIPTIONS

Name and date on back of one of the nave floor boards: W
Hall 1871.

William Smith, who died in 1786 and Joseph Smith, who died
1811; inscription given by Pickering and Briddon 1975, 57.
These two brothers were described as 'lovely and pleasant in
their lives'.

The internal wall memorials were removed and reset in the
modern church.

COFFIN LID

Part of a fourteenth-century coffin lid forms the sill of
the window to the west, in the south wall of the nave. It has
part of the stem of a foliated cross incised on its surface
(sketch by Gee)

DOORS

In the south wall of the chancel, the doorway has a door
with two panels externally and six panels inside. The panels,
the upper ones of which are shaped to fit the two-centred head,
are plain and the frame has a simple ogee mould (early 19th
century).

The south doorway of the nave has a door with four panels,
the lower ones plain and the upper ones gilded. At the top are
two shaped glazed openings with radial glazing bars forming a
fanlight (18th century).

FONT

'Georgian, simple and delicate; small stone bowl is supported on a column' (Gee, paper originating from Council for Places of Worship, later than 1969).

BENCHES

Pine, Victorian; a few have panelled backs.

CHOIR STALLS

Timber book-rests on simple wrought-iron supports.

HATCHMENTS

Two of arms of Oates and Richardson families (removed to new church). (24.6.69 Quinquennial Inspection says Key and Barstow families). The following details are based on Dr Gee's notes.

On the north wall of the nave, over the Richardson monument, a large square placed diagonally, with a border of gold and black velvet (sketch by Gee). The arms an an elaborate cartouche are sable, on a chief argent three lions heads erased sable langued gules (RICHARDSON), impaling per pale nebu!6 argent and azure two mullets counterchanged (ATHORPE). (William Richardson, died 6th October, 1816, married Elizabeth, daughter of George Athorpe of Howden). The helmet has a closed visor with masks on it and above a crest - a lion's head erased ermines langued gules. There are palm leaves at the back of the boldly conceived maulling.

Over the tower arch, a square placed diagonally, with a border of skulls and crossbones at the corners and bones crossed in saltire in the centre of each side (sketch by Gee). Arms on a formal shield:- azure a saltire engrailed argent between four crosses crosslet fitches (OATS) impaling argent three lions jamps erect clawed gules two and one (BEDFORD). (Robert Oates, died 27 July, 1739, married Isabella, daughter

of Samuel Bedford). Crest:- on a helmet, issuing from a ducal coronet a cross crosslet fitch6e sable. An elaborate maulling argent and gules. (Pickering and Briddon 1975, 62 note that two hatchments from St Oswald's are now at the new church).

WALL MONUMENTS

On the north wall of the chancel, an oblong white marble inscription slab with shaped base, foliated console on either side supporting a moulded section above which, set on a grey marble background, is a seated female figure gazing at an urn (sketch by Gee). At the top is a shield.

Near this places lies interred
the body of JOHN KEY of Water Fulford Esqr
who died the 24th day of December 1778
Aged 62 years KATHERINE KEY as a Testimony of Respect
and gratitude to the memory of a
beloved and lamented brother has caused
this monument to be erected.

In the same vault are deposited the
Remains of ANN KEY, and MARY KEY the
sisters of the said JOM KEY and
KATHERIME KEY

On a snail moulded support at the bottom is 'T. KING Ft. BATH".

On the north face of the chancel opening, a monument with a white oval inscription slab on a grey marble background with round features at the top and bottom (sketch by Gee). The inscription is as follows:-

IN A VAULT
NEAR THIS PLACE
ARE INTERRED THE REMAINS
OF
WILLIAM WOOTTON ABNEY ESQr
OF MEASHAM
IN THE COUNTY OF DERBY, WHO
DEPARTED THIS LIFE
MAY 18th 1822
AGED 42 years

On the north wall of the nave, the conical monument has an oblong white marble slab with moulded cornice, above which is a draped urn set against a shaped marble background, but later a skull was set on a prolongation of the background (sketch by Gee). The monument is signed 'Bennett and Flintoft Sculpt York'. (The inscription, to William Richardson of Fulford, who died in 1810, and to his wife Elizabeth, who died in 1841, is given by Pickering and Briddon, who also note that the Richardson's were related to the Sandys and Sandys-Renton families (1975, 58)).

On the nave north wall is a monument consisting of a lancet window form set against a freestone slab (Gee sketch). A shaft on either side, with a moulded cap and base, supports a moulded two centred head with a chevron ornament and stands on a plinth with a sill between. In the window opening is a black marble slab and the whole is supported on corbels with shields on the outer surface. (This is to Ann Frances, who died in 1848; the inscription is given by Pickering and Briddon 1975, 58).

To the west of the last monument, a plain white marble oval slab.

BENEATH THIS PEW
ARE INTERRED THE REMAINS OF
MARY REDWOOD
THE WIFE OF CAPT REDWOOD OF HIS MAJESTY'S
FIFTH REGT OF DRAGN [?] GDS,
AETAT 24

On the south wall of the nave is a monument with an oblong white marble slab with cornice and supported on foliated corbels (Gee sketch). Above the slab is a large urn on a pedestal and on the urn a coat of arms (gules), three escallops (or) with a crest:- an arm (azure and or), holding a flag (tasselled) and on it (azure and or), eight cross crosslets (counterchanged) and a saracen's head. The motto is 'Je vive en esperance'. The whole is set against an obelisk of grey marble and is signed 'Taylor, York'. (This is the monument referred to above, under 'Brasses' to Master Aretas Akers, who died in 1799; recorded by Pickering and Briddon 1975, 57-8. Dr Gee notes that this was a branch of a family who lived at Mailing Abbey, Kent.)

TOWER BELL CHAMBER

In 1980, the tower was cleared of guano, nests, eggs and dead birds; two of the latter were collected by the Environmental Archaeology Laboratory of the University of York, as specimens for comparative purposes. The bell and its frame were also removed and conserved. The bell is now (2000) in St Oswald's Hall, suspended in a way that it can be rung by pulling a rope.

PLATE

A cup and paten of silver.

The cup 22.7cm (9in) high, diameter of bowl 10.8cm (4 1/4in), depth 10.2cm (4Mn), diameter of foot 10.2cm (4in) has

a bell-shaped bowl, a stem with a moulded band and a moulded and shaped base. It is marked 'The Gift of Mrs Ann Key to St Oswald's Chapel at Fulford 1768'. The marks are S.W., a lion passant, a crowned leopard's head, and ffl (London mark for 1767).

The paten is a plain salver on three legs 17.8cm (7in) in diameter and 3.2cm (1 1/4in) in height. Same inscription underneath and marks R.R. and otherwise the same as the cup.

A large brass dish with broad ring, a medallion in the centre and swirling quadroning between. On the rim is a border of fleurs de lys with very prolonged bases. Inscribed on the rim: 'St Oswald Chappell (Gabriel Hayton) Chappellwardens of Foulforth 1708. (William Ward Jnr. There is another undecipherable inscription in Gothic hand round the medallion (cf one at SouthstDne, Worcs. drawn in the Wares Diocesan Architectural Report 1863, now lost).

A pewter plate, the surface of which is covered with odd bits of pewter (probably the result of a fire of 1876). On the back repeated twice is a mark - a horse's head issuing out of a cornet and under it 'London' and 'FC. The plate is not mentioned in a terrier Df 1786, but in that of 1817.

A large pewter flagon with shaped handle and domed lid. Inside is the mark - out of a ducal coronet and horse's hoof (made by Yates and Birch of Birmingham c1800).

TOMBSTONES IN THE GRAVEYARD

Dr Gee has a brief note on these with sketches; for a full account, now see Buckingham 198-.

4.3.4 THE CONVERSION

'The congregation at St Oswald's declined gradually after the much larger parish church ('new' St Oswald's) was built in 1865 to serve the expanding ribbon development alongside the main York-Selby road, Old St Oswald's was not immediately abandoned, however, and was kept in a fair state, last being restored in 1334 at a cost of £126. From c1960 the church has been disused and boarded up (fig -) and the structure was suffering as vandalism and weather took their toll. It was thus fortunate that a purchaser was eventually found willing to expend resources and expertise necessary to restore the building sympathetically,' (from Brinklow, in *Interim* 7,3 (Feb 138!)), It was at this time listed as a 2* building.

Roy Grant, the purchaser, was professionally involved in oil company management, He had worked and lived in the Middle East, He now wished to retire to his own country, He was attracted to St Oswald's because he was a Roman Catholic, and was attracted to all things medieval, He had acquired a number of objects, and St Oswald's seemed to provide a perfect place in which to exhibit them, and to be his home.

The architect was Patrick Lorimer of Anthony Richardson and Partners of London, Lorimer worked closely with Grant, The latter was anxious to preserve the outward appearance of the church, The only major alterations were to install a 'medieval-looking' chimney through the south roof of the chancel (fig -); the demolition of a brick store north of the tower and the addition in its place of an external stair turret; the making of the tower interior into a kitchen and bathroom on the ground floor with two bedrooms above; and new windows in the tower (cf fig -).

Inside, the nineteenth-century plaster ceilings were removed, and the medieval roof timbers exposed (fig -); a large open fireplace was built on the south side of the chancel; the wooden floors were removed to use older stone floors; and the chancel was filled with medieval plain floor tiles, These came from Jervaulx Abbey, whence they had been rescued by the late Chris Clarke, of YAT, who gave

them to Grant for his new home - a late example of an earlier practice!, But otherwise the interior preserved much of its medieval appearance.

Roy Grant stayed at St Oswald's, presiding over many cultural events and 'feasts'; but when he finally retired, he could not afford to keep it up, so he sold the property, and now lives in Italy, in the old part of Assisi.

4.3.5 Observations made in 1980

In 1980, the recent ceilings were removed and the medieval roof trusses were exposed; together with a rose-decorated wooden boss and painted plaster (?details of these with YAT).

In 1980, the church was surveyed and the interior photographed by David Brinklow of YAT. He also studied the structure of the church before it was converted; the following notes are quoted from his article in Interim (the regular publication of YAT), 7.3 (February 1981), 29-34:

'Although the principal structure (a rectangular nave, and a rectangular chancel added later on a slightly different alignment) has survived, parts of both had been drastically rebuilt to such a degree that little of the original structure remained intact. For instance the east wall of the chancel, with two-centred heads and chamfered reveals above three trefoiled lights, has been rebuilt at least three times; internally this shows as offsets to the wall, required as it was pushed outwards by movement in the roof timbers. Externally, however, there is less such evidence to show as the original masonry was re-erected each time, if occasionally in the wrong place. The final rebuild of this wall involved the removal of part of the three window lights.'

'Several interesting fragments of stonework were removed, so they could be studied before the eventual return to the church. The piece of Anglo-Saxon sculpture (000below) was recovered from the north wall of the nave. A finely executed scalloped capital, removed from a stub wall constructed where a chancel arch might have been, is an unusual find from such a church' (cf Gee's mention of it above, p -). 'It seems unlikely that its origin is not this church, but may well form part of the large body of stonework which was removed from York Minster after the disastrous fire of 18S9 and has since found its way into so many York churches in and around York.'

* * *

[?new haeding]

The above descriptions of the fabric are not of course any substitute for a measured and drawn structural analysis, This was not possible, but to some extent could still be done in the twenty-first century, even though the church has been converted.

The below-ground examinations offered by excavations in 1980-7 added nothing to the above in respect of the chancel and most of the nave; but did add considerably to the understanding of the structural sequence at the west end of the nave and tower area; and to the associated stratigraphy pre-church features; this is fully described in section 000 below.

Firstly was the definition of parts of cobble foundations both under parts of the existing structure, and beyond it to the west. While these were utilised in the 12th-century nave, they were of earlier origin, and are interpreted as the western part of an earlier structure; in the light of its location in relation to the 12th-century nave, and its similar orientation, is likely to have been an earlier church or chapel, possibly of pre-Conquest date (as the finding of a piece of Anglo-Saxn sculpture gives some support) (for further discussion, see section 000).

Secondly, the foundations of the west end of the nave, above the earlier cobbles, were exposed and shown to have been of two phases.

Thirdly, stone foundations were exposed under the 1795 brick tower. These were shown to be not only earlier than 1795, but secondary to the twelfth-century nave. They are suggested to be the foundations of a west adjunct, likely to be of a medieval tower.

Finally, disturbance for services allowed an examination of the south nave doorway. This is round-headed, with a chamfered outer edge. There is no reason to doubt it as twelfth century in origin, but may have been rebuilt. It appears to be of one build, both with the chamfered string course above and below (p. -), the latter being 30cm below ground level.

The threshold is secondary to the jambs of the doorway. The lower string course is broken off immediately adjacent to the western jamb, but its broken edge extends several metres to the east of the inner face of jamb. That on the east side, however, ends in a dressed face several centimetres east of the inner face of the jamb, presumably where a whole section of string course has been removed.

The stone slabs were covered with a wooden floor; joist holes at a level lower than the present floor indicate that there had been earlier wooden floors.

Some appreciation of the appearance of the church can be gained by the study of pictorial sources. The earliest known depictions are of the nineteenth century. A water colour [?] from the south-west [?] made by - in - (fig-) shows the church very like it has been in modern times, but with one

important addition, a ruinous part of a wall attached to the NW part of the nave, conceivably a surviving part of the pre-12th-century church. Two further water colours survive from a slightly later date, by - in - (figs -). Both show the church on the bank above the River Ouse. That from the south-west (fig -) shows the church in its modern form, but the other, from the north-west, shows additionally a structure (of wood?) projecting into the water of the river; and two buildings; one apparently flanks the tower on its south side, with a west-east orientation; the second apparently joins onto it, behind it, but on a north-south orientation (could the piece of ruin in the other water colour be the survival of part of this rather than an earlier church - which is later -to check) No evidence of these were seen in excavation.

For more recent times, there are photographs; and architect's drawings related to the conversion.

There are firstly two photographs probably from the earlier twentieth century (figs - - -), One (fig -) was bought in 1910, and so must be earlier than this, with snow; there are bushes against the south side of the tower, The other (fig -) is probably later, and shows heavy infestation of ivy by the tower.

There is another photograph of later times of good quality (fig showing the whole church from the south, with no ivy on the tower, The building is seen here in good condition, with its southern graveyard with gravestones, and well-cared paths leading to doors in nave and chancel, The source of this is unknown, but it must have been taken when the church was in use, albeit sporadically,

While the church was in good condition, there are three very useful photographs of the interior, from each end, which provide an invaluable idea of what the church looked like in its viable state, before any vandalism occurred (we have three prints of good quality; but no dates on them of origin or date; they were almost certainly done by the RCHME, to judge by the quality, but it is surprising that they have no reference stamp on the backs; we can try EH for ref).

The next photograph was taken by PAR in 1980 (fig -). This shows the church as it was on the eve of conversion, with most gravestones removed the windows boarded, and the chancel door blocked with stone.

Rectified photographs of the interior was taken by YAT at this time (Archive - we do not have originals).

Finally there are the drawings and photographs of the church before and after its conversion, in use as a home; these will be described in section - below.

Conclusion

The above descriptions of the fabric are not of course any substitute for a measured and drawn structural analysis, This was not possible in 1980, but to some extent could still be done in the 21st century, even though the church has been converted.

The below-ground examinations offered by excavations in 1980-7 added nothing to the above in respect of the chancel and most of the nave; but did add considerably to the understanding of the structural sequence at the west end of the nave and tower area; and to the associated stratigraphy and -church features; this is fully described in section 000 below, .

Firstly was the definition of parts of cobble foundations both under parts of the existing structure, and beyond it to the west, While these were utilised in the 12th-century nave, they were of earlier origin, and are interpreted as the western part of an earlier structure; in the light of its location in relation to the twelfth-century nave, and its similar orientation, is likely to have been an earlier church or chapel, possibly of pre-Conquest date (as the finding of a piece of Anglo-Saxon sculpture gives some support) for further discussion, see section 000). **[Laing dates it 9th-10th century CR]**

Secondly, the foundations of the west end of the nave, above the earlier cobbles, were exposed and shown to have been of two phases,

Thirdly, stone foundations were exposed under the 1795 brick tower, These were shown to be not only earlier than 1795, but secondary to the twelfth-century nave, They are suggested to be the foundations of a western adjunct, likely to be of a medieval tower,

Finally, disturbance for services allowed an examination of the south nave doorway, This is round-headed, with a chamfered outer edge, There is no reason to doubt it as twelfth century in origin, but may have been rebuilt, It appears to be of one build, both with the chamfered string course above and below (p, -) the latter being 30cm below ground level,

The threshold is secondary to the jambs of the doorway, the lower string course is broken off immediately adjacent to the western jamb, but its broken edge extends several metres to the east of the inner face of the jamb. That on the east side, however, ends in a dressed face several centimetres east of the inner face of the jamb, presumably where a whole section of string course has been removed,

The stone slabs were covered with a wooden floor; joist holes at a level lower than the present floor indicate that there had been earlier wooden floors. (?cf)

St Oswald's Old Church, Fulford

[Archaeology]

CUTTING II (1980) (figs 000-000)

Introduction

This consists of three areas; IIa, a small cut by the west side of the NV corner of the nave, was the initial cutting made by PAR and LV, clearing up a 1980 builders' hole. This was incorporated into a larger area lib, both Inside and to the north of a modern brick annexe; this area was fully excavated to natural. A 40cm baulk separated lib from lie, a large area to the west. This was not excavated beyond the level needed to define the extent of a large cobble foundation (206) encountered in lib. The unexcavated layers here and the baulk will be useful for future excavators to extend their understanding of this area.

Phase II. 1

The earliest context here is 217, a depression or ditch; only the irregular northern side was in the area of the excavation, the rest extending below the west wall of the nave, or cut away by the foundations of the north wall of the tower. In the main area of IIa/b, it was defined only as a shallow cut in the natural (228); but in the section below the west wall of the nave (A-B, fig 000), the fill (217A) could be discerned a further up to 10cm higher up. It is likely that this feature was cut from a higher ground level, and was therefore more substantial than it might appear in fig 000.

The fill was a stone-free dark brown soil, rather darker than the general soil above the feature; with no apparent inclusion of any clayey subsoil. In 217A were found the earliest items in

the whole excavation: a few flint flakes; mortar flecks (intrusive or Roman); a fragment of tile, possibly Roman; a fragment of pale green glass, possibly also Roman, perhaps from a cremation bottle; and an Anglo-Saxon hand-made sherd, apparently from a lug (p 000). This is stamped, a stamp of barred semi-circle and half rosette.

Phase II. 2

Although there is no stratigraphic relationship between 217 and 206, it is postulated that the latter is secondary. It is a substantial mass of cobbles up to 10cm in longest dimension, packed in sandy clay. No layering was observed in Cutting II, nor any finds incorporated within it; c1.70m of 206 were defined in 11a/b, but a good edge was clear on its south side near the baulk (as in section C-D, fig 000). On the north side, the sides of 206 were falling away to the north, apparently collapsing; nor was the south side clear (as in section A-B, fig 000). A width of c1m was defined on the west side of the cutting; and this was confirmed by the well-preserved part of 206 in Cutting lie; the latter was 3.50m in length, and (with the 1.70m in 11a/b and the assumed part in the baulk), the length uncovered was 6.5m

In 11b, it was seen to extend down to the level of the natural sandy clay, or slightly bedded into it (see section C-D), a depth of 60cm. The surface, especially as seen in lie, was relatively flat. It is suggested that 206 was a substantial foundation for a structure, probably of timber and other organic material: that 206 supported a sill-beam. No impression or other evidence confirmed this, but we might conjecture that such a sill-beam might be c 60cm in width.

Also probably of this phase, but not securely associated, was the posthole 224. This had a postpad of coarse-grained

limestone. The surviving part of the posthole was up to 15cm in diameter, but the post may have been larger. The fill of the posthole (223), above the padstone, was a mixed bluish-brown soil, with a darker blue centre on the padstone. A bluish colour is often associated with the rotting-down of timber uprights.

Presumably after such a rotting process, the post was dug out (pit 222) (see section C-D); the fill of this was not, above the natural, dissimilar to the general brown sandy soil, 212. If this major post was directly related to the stone foundation 206, we may consider the possibility that it held an internal upright post, such as for a north arcade. This will be discussed further later in this report (p 000).

* * *

In area IIa/b, there was, as noted above, some collapse of the north side of the cobble foundation, 206; and there was some spreading or bulging of the south side. As this edge of 206 extended below the NW corner 01 the nave of the present church, there was a further area of large cobbles extending to the south, at least in its lowest part. This south-extending section was subsequently part of the foundation of the later nave west wall (see section A-B, fig 000). The shaded part in the drawing (fig 000) indicates this extension, set back slightly to the east, but here projected onto the actual plane of the section.

It seems very likely that -these cobbles are part of the west edge of the same cobble foundation as that whose east edge was found in Cutting I, on the east side of the nave west wall (see above). The width of 206 as 1m, as defined further west in lie, matches this hypothesis, one metre being the distance from

the east edge in I to the cobbles seen on the west edge. If this is accepted, then we have the return from 206 to the south ie the east side of the structure whose north side is represented by 206. The IE of this postulated structure was subsequently defined in Cutting III (see below).

Phase II. 3

As we have seen above, the west wall of the present nave (219) was built over the Phase 11.2 cobble foundation, 206. As we will see below in the discussion on Cutting III, the west wall here is not primary; but here it is described as if it was structurally a direct successor to the cobble foundation, even if in its present form a rebuild.

The lower part of the new wall is shown in elevation and profile in section A-B, fig 000. Its foundation appears to have been at least partly the reused cobble mass; but, as the elevation shows, there are some extra stones and clay under the basal course of the masonry: extending down to Phase II.1 features.

The lowest two courses here are of large limestone, with variable tooling. Above these is a chamfered string course, rather irregular and badly weathered; most of the wall face here is plastered; repairs are indicated by a brick in this area.

Probably also of Phase 11.3 was the grave 218, with the legs and part of the pelvis of a small child, orientated V-E. This appeared to be secondary to the cobble foundation 20b, and sealed by a mortar interface (204). The posthole 208 was undated; but may be for a scaffolding of either Phase II.3 or Phase 11.4.

Phase II. 4

Secondary to the west wall masonry of Phase II.3 are the lowest six courses of the north wall (220) of the tower; these are the foundations of a presumably medieval tower which was replaced by the present brick tower of [date].

The lowest course of 220 was set nearly 20cm into the natural sandy clay 228. There is no evidence of a construction trench to the north, but the mortar interface 204 is likely to represent the builders' activity of Phase II.4, at a ground level of c30.60m AOD.

The six courses of 220 observed were not horizontal, but were sloping down to the west at an angle of up to 50. [?] There had clearly been some instability here, which had probably been the reason for the replacement of the stone tower with the brick version - perhaps it had collapsed. It was noted that the west wall of the nave was also not vertical to a similar angle, so that the tower courses and those of the nave west wall remained a right angle.

The secondary character of the stone courses 220 were also demonstrated by the incorporation in them of medieval ceramic roof tile and especially an inverted segment of chamfered block identical to those of the nave visible on either side of the south doorway, with similar diagonal tooling. At the intersection of 220 with 219, the tower courses were 'tucked in' under the nave west wall for at least 50cm. Above this, the eastern face of the brick tower abutted the nave west wall in its four lower courses, but above this it over sails the west wall.

Apart from the tile and chamfer segment noted above, two of the stones of 220 have attached to them patches of brick-tempered mortar, similar to opus signinum, and are likely to be of Roman derivation.

Phase II. 5

This is represented by the brick tower of [date], discussed in other parts of this report.

Phase II. 6

The final phase in this area comprises the construction of a brick store. The foundations of this were set down to c30.50m ADD, in part on the cobbled foundation 204. The basal offset courses (in a construction trench 210) supported a 25 cm wide wall foundation. This was, before 1980, a store, but was then demolished to the then ground level of up [?] to c 30.80m ADD. This had risen since the building activity interface 204, caused by an accumulation of brown sandy soil.

(St Oswald's, Fulford)

[Archaeology]

CUTTING II 1980 Context descriptions (as
per Hawkins table)

- 200 Turf and topsoil inside annexe (brick)
- 201 Floor (brick) of brick annexe (with 213, 214, 215)
- 202 Surface below 201, compacted brown sandy soil with some pebbles and frs of tile and mortar; below 201
- 203 Similar to 202, below 202; sherd Humber Ware; mortar flecks
- 204 Interface represented by mortar line; ?floor; Alterations to brick tower; cut by 210
- 205 Brown sandy soil, few MOR flecks, tile frs and river or boulder clay cobbles, becoming thick to N side of cutting, where they form 206; tile frs down to this level; sherd of York White Ware and another of Brandsby Ware (see 107)
- 206 Cobbles up to 10cm long; fdn followed to west, beyond tower; fdn for sill beam of superstructure, or for demolished stone building; in trench? 222 may be arcade post; or part of earlier church! ?tower] abandoned because of instability
- 207 Line of pebbles, ?interface; not on drawing
- 208 Posthole - ?tower scaffolding; 17cm down below base of 204; pear-shaped SV-NE; 32x27cm
- 209 Fill of 208, yel-br sandy, MOR; animal bone
- 210 Linear E-V cut, constr tr for brick 14
- 211 Fill of 210; green-gl floor tile, stucco, 2 shs of Gritty Ware

- 212 North oi tower; mixed sandy soil, pebbles, MOR;
Pbackfill assoc with 206 and 224
- 213 Brick fdn, E side (see III also)
- 214 Brick fdn, N side, offset externally
- 215 Brick fdn, V side
- 216 Turf and topsoil N of 214, rooty, bricky, very
dark; down to 33cm
- 217 E-W cut, depression or ditch
- 217A Fill of 217, dark brown, little subsoil; FL, MOR,
Anglo-Saxon stamped sh (Type Spong 4D, medieval or Roman;
?part of cremation bottle (below cobbles in section W
wall of nave)
- 218 Grave, lower limbs and pelvis; adult, not extant [?3
of immature person [?]; no cut seen
- 219 West wall of nave; Hawkins note: slight neck (?) of
foundations related to known existence of cobble
foundation 206. The part of the brick tower
immediately above (and below?) modern doorway into
former annexe abutted against church, but at four
courses up and including the string course it over-
sails the nave and forms the tower's eastern face.
Perhaps medieval tower 220 caused heavy damage when it
collapsed, perhaps in post-med period; or part of the
nave wall removed when tower demolished?
- 220 Foundation of stone tower north wall. Construction with
rubble filling between outer blocks, with much buff
mortar; two pieces of tile wedged in north elevation,
decisively in situ, dating the tower to later than
advent of tile in York. 220 secondary to nave wall,
and, although stone similar to nave, it is very

different in dressing:- very hammer-dressed in contrast to diagonal tooling of nave; not cut to same size, or as regularly- 220 mortared even in foundations; foundations of nave not so. The surface of 220 stones is dropping slightly to west, 5° Dr less; approx same angle from horizontal as NW corner of nave is off vertical - ie still right angle.

Six courses surviving below brick tower; secondary character shown by tile, MOR, lapping up to, and especially by the incorporation of a segment of string (chamfer) course upside down with dressed ends with fine diagonal tooling like that on either side of south doorway.

220 is tucked in underneath V wall of ?C12 church for at least 50cm

Brick tempered 'Roman' MOR in 220 foundations.

221 Layers of cobbles of 206 below nave wall; as 107 1980 internal excavation; projected in section, N-S

222 Postpit to remove 224; sub-circular cut, 4cm N of tower

223 Fill of 222; separated from tower only by 4cm oi rooty disturbed soil; bluish-brown soil and redistributed natural with darker blue centre where there is a padstone (sandstone);
?structural or scaffold; associated with
cobble foundations;

no MOR or stone chippings

224 Posthole; ?arcade. Hawkins comments:(another feature which may be associated with cobble fdns; large (0.5 C?m/cmJ diam) postpit; just to S of E-W cobbles. A post in this pit had been set on a padstone of half-burnt coarse

limestone (or rougher sandstone) and was later dug out. While this could be an early scaffold pit, it could be an arcade post. In the absence of any other stone evidence here, the cobble footing is interpreted as the foundation of a sill beam for a timber structure. This might be associated with the pre-Conquest cross piece (see p 000)

225 Fill of 224

ST03

St Oswald's Old Church, Fulford

[Archaeology]

CUTTING III (1981) (fig 000-000)

Introduction

This was excavated by PAR and LV to examine a further segment of the cobble foundation defined in Cuttings I and II; and in particular to determine whether it continued eastwards past the main north side of the nave.

The cutting was 3m V-E, by c2m wide; its north side was in orientation the same as the north limits of II; but its south limit was the north wall of the nave, not quite on the same orientation.

Phase III.1

The natural sandy clay was encountered at a similar level as in Cutting II, at c29.80m AOD; here, however, there was a clear weathering surface of yellow-brown sandy subsoil (338A and B); at the west end, as in the S-N section in fig 000 upper, a grave (331) and other disturbance had removed all the stratification down to 338. The southern edge of another grave to the north (33) had cut only part of the edge I?] (section V-E, fig 000 upper).

In the undisturbed main area, however, the lower part of a north-south ditch (337), clearly defined in the natural, into which it was cut over 10cm in a rounded base; and its profile was visible above natural for a further 10cm (see V-E section).

The ground level from which the ditch was cut is uncertain, but probably from c30.25m AOD; so the ditch may have originally been c 60cm deep.

In the fill which had survived (337A) were a flint blade; oyster shell; two Roman sherds of ?shell-tempered ware, one a rim sherd; a piece of Roman roof-tile (tegula); a melon bead, also of Roman date; and a green-glazed sherd of Brandsby Ware, of 13th-14th-century date. The Roman finds suggest occupation or burial in the vicinity; the ditch may be Roman, but the medieval sherd should sound a caution, though it may be intrusive. The matrix of 337A was similar to the surrounding soil, 336, and stone-free but slightly darker. The ditch could be contemporary with the depression 217 in Cutting II, designated as phase I there; but they may be different dates. The function of either is unknown, but 337 could obviously be for drainage; if so, it may have been for an area of secular or religious (the latter burial or structural), in the area of the present church.

Phase III.2

Ditch 337 was cut by two cobble foundations 206 (followed from Cutting II, and a separate cobble foundation to the east (341).

The continuation of 206 was similar to the length seen further west, but in the more or less hurried circumstances in which Cutting I11m was done, it could be more carefully examined. In particular, the total removal of the stratification on its north side down to the natural, and the absence of graves close by, allowed its north elevation to be exposed. The surface of 206 was again fairly level at c30.50m

AOD. Through [?out its] the length, the upper part projected to the north, spread or lumped [?dumped] (see west face profile, fig 000, upper); but not collapsed as in lib, where the north edge of 206 was disintegrated.

Towards the east, the surface of the cobble mass had apparently been replaced by smaller gravel (344); or here perhaps the cobble top had been removed down to the second layer below. It should be noted that this area is below the masonry junction of the nave above; and while there may not be a causal relationship, the coincidence may be relevant to the interpretation of their respective function.

The second cobble foundation (341) was abutted to 206, but continued its line to the east. Its NV corner projected somewhat to the north beyond the north edge of 206, in a fairly sharp acute angle, its surface was similar to that of 206, but slightly lower, at c30.45m by the nave wall (see elevation in fig 000 lower); but at a similar level at c30.50m further east (see N-S section in fig 000 lower).

Its north face was not slumped, but survived as a fairly vertical face, as in the N-S section; this shows also that it is founded up to 10cm into the natural and down to the base of the ditch 337 (see pi 000). It was also clear that it was banded in seven zones of cobbles and clay and sand. This may have been true of 206, but was not so clearly apparent in Cuttings I and II (but see Cuttings IV and V below).

* * *

The relationship between 341 and 206/344 was not clear, ie whether one was later than the other, or indeed of the same period, the join seeing the result of the meeting of the work of two construction gangs. In 1981, PAR and LV assumed that 206/344

was primary, 341 being a later-addition or replacement (in function); but in 1984 Duncan Hawkins suggested that 341 was primary, to which 206/344 was an extension. This is a weighty problem, to which we must return in our overall discussion below.

From 341 or 206/344 there was some spillage (342) northwards into the upper part of the phase III.1 ditch 337 (as on the plan, fig 000); this way be the result of removal of cobbles from 344, or from a further easterly part of 206; if this is true, it would favour the hypothesis that 341 was the later of the two cobble masses; but there is a gap in the eastern part of 341, caused partly by a later infant burial (see fig 000, lower); and this may have been responsible for the 'spillage'.

Phase III.3

This comprises the courses of the Tadcaster limestone north wall of the nave above the cobble foundations below. This is in two periods; we believe that the eastern part must be the earlier, as its chamfered string course is lower than that in the western part; the latter would in this case be higher because the ground level has risen c20cm, as is frequently found in churchyards. Our hypothesis is that the eastern masonry originally continued to the present NV corner of the nave, but the western part was rebuilt.

The eastern part, which we suggest is earlier, is different also in that the chamfered string course is supported by one course; between that and the cobble foundation 341 was a layer of pebbles (343) which is likely to have been merely levelling material; further east, the later masonry was bedded directly on the cobble foundation 206, with two courses below the higher string course (including a possible grave-lab).

The building debris from the eastern part extended north, as 335A and 335, to the north limit of the excavation (see N-S section in fig 000).

* * *

It must be pointed out that our hypothesis about the rebuilding of the west end of the nave north wall may be too simplistic; the HV corner may not be a rebuilding, but an extension from a western end further east; but this again must be deferred to overall appreciation of the structure.

Phase III.4

Above the builders' layer 335, there was a further deposit of buff-brown sandy soil (334), probably a medieval and later topsoil. A further accretion 332 is more mortary; probably from a later building or repair. This is capped by recent topsoil (330) and 1980 dump (329). There was further disturbance by concrete and drainage nearer to the nave wall. The infant burial cut, although appearing to cut the 1980 dump 329, probably appears so because of the concrete disturbance, but the burial is likely nevertheless to have been fairly recent.

St Oswald's, Fullford

[Archaeology]

CUTTING III 1981

Context descriptions

- 329 Recent dump (1980)
- 330 dark soil, rooty and. disturbed
- 331 Grave cut, ?recent
- 331A Fill of 331, disturbed soil
- 332 buff-brown mortary soil
- 333 Grave cut, close to 3 edge
- 333A Fill of 333, disturbed mortary clayey soil
- 334 Buff-brown sandy soil
- 335 Tadcaster limestone pieces, pebbles, MOR - extends to S of grave 540, but not as far as nave - builders' debris, possibly Norman, or later?
- 336 Buff-brown soil, the general, [?] partly undisturbed, original deep accumulating soil
- 337 Ditch, cutting 10cm into natural - profile not discernible above level shown on drawing of section.
- 337A Fill - similar to 336, but darker; flint blade, oyster shell, two Roman sherds, ?shell-tempered: one is a rim sherd; Roman roof tile piece; melon bead green-gl sh - ?Brandsby
- 338A West of 337) yellow-brown sandy, weathered surface
- 338B East of 337) of natural 339
- 339 Natural yellow-brown sandy clay
- 340 Infant burial (mainly to east)
- 340A Fill of 340 [?]
- 341 Cobble foundation; four courses of pebbles or cobbles, separated by three courses of clay and sand; cut down to and

into natural; apparently ends at level of limit of excavation, as shown on section.

Appeared to abut foundation 206, but much more deeply founded; but see 206 in Cutting II, whose depth may be greater; but actual abutting part of 206 is actually 344. In 1981 LW and PAR assumed that 206/344 were primary, and 341 secondary; but in 1984 Duncan Hawkins thought 341 was primary and 206 a western addition; to be considered. DH thought both could be pre-Norman.

342 Cobbles extending to N from foundation 341 at level of its surface; probably no more than a spread from 341 in top of ditch 337; but may mark a path; and we even suggested in 1981 that it could be a foundation, for a porticos or something similar

343 Pebbles under stone foundation of north wall of nave, that part only to the east of the rebuild junction; projects slightly iron foundation blocks; possibly a levelling bed for foundation above.

St Oswald's, Fulford

[Archaeology]

CUTTING IV

Following the cuttings at St Oswald's in 1980 and 1981, by the York Archaeological Trust and by Rahtz and Watts, two years elapsed before more work, either on site or on the records. In 1984 Duncan Hawkins, then an undergraduate in the Department of Archaeology in the University of York, expressed an interest in the use of the records for a dissertation, a part of his final assesement¹. He made fair copies of the drawings and ordered the context records; and wrote a provisional report. In the course of the work, he had reason to question the conclusions reached by Rahtz and Watts in interim reports in 1981, notably the structural relationship between the segments of cobble foundations in Cuttings I and II around the west end of the church.

Hawkins was also interested in the extension of the cobble foundations further west. He made a resistivity survey, and made an extra cutting (IV), 2 x 1.5m. He found two extra segments of cobble foundation (413 and 422), which he interpreted as respectively a continuation of the E-W foundation previously defined, and the possible return to the south. The area dug was badly cut about by graves and other features, so interpretation is problematic; nor did Hawkins complete all the area to natural. He did, however, draw a plan and a section of the west side of the cutting (redrawn as fig 000) and wrote a text and context tables. All his records were finally edited and incorporated in this report in 1999-2000.

Cutting IV discussion

Foundation 413 is roughly in line with the long E-V run of foundation(206) found further east, in Cutting IIC; separated from it by 1.30m of unexcavated ground. It is here, however, fragmentary, badly disturbed by graves; it was observed, however, that it was in two or three layers of cobbles, with some packing of red/yellow clay in a matrix of yellow-black sandy soil.

Foundation 422 was similar in character, with three or four layers of cobbles; Hawkins interpreted this as the N-S return of 413/206; the latter is seen as the foundation of the north wall of a church earlier than the present building; and 422 could be a remnant of its west wall. Its minimum original width would be 1.20m, c 25cm wider than the postulated north wall 206; but extra width may have been needed at the west end, especially in the light of the instability of the ground here (see general discussion).

Any definite conclusion is, however, vitiated by the subsequent grave digging after the postulated demolition of the earlier church. Two graves (418, 420) still exhibited decayed residues of wooden coffins (419, 421), c 30cm wide N~S, and of plain rectangular plan. Since these were encountered at a depth of only c 70cm, Hawkins suggested that they should be pre-1836, when the Public Health Act enforced a rule that burial should be six feet deep. An expert examination of the wooden coffins or their contents were attempted by Hawkins. It is rather surprising that graves were so dense in this area, compared to the area of Cutting He, where none was encountered; though excavation here was superficial, the foundation 206 seemed to be intact. It would appear that there was some physical barrier or

regulation that allowed burial only beyond the area of the gap between Cuttings IIc and IV.

St Oswald's, Fulford
[Archaeology]

Cutting IV

Context details

(summary of Hawkins table; only starred items are shown in fig
000)

- *401 Post-1980 turf; modern finds
- *402 Post-1980 topsoil; modern finds
- 403 1980 dump; light brown sandy
- 404 1980 dump; dark grey-brown; tile and brick
- *405 1980 dump; similar
- 406 1980 primary dump; dark orange-brown
- *407 Pipe trench, pre-1980?
- *408 Fill of 407, dark soil, fragments of plastic pipe, dated
1972
- *409 Pre-407 and pre-1980, former topsoil; N part dark brown,
tile, MOR, human bone scraps
- *410 Ditto, S part
- *411 Mixed dark soil and clay; grave upcast, N part
- *412 Ditto, S part
- *413 Cobbles set in sandy yellow-black soil with patches
of red/grey clay; 2-3 layers of cobbles; four ?Roman
tile fragments
- *414 Disturbed yellow-black soil, clay, and loose pebbles;
disturbed top of 422
- 415 Sandy yellow clay; ?grave fill
- *416 Grave cut, cutting 422 foundation
- *417 Blackish soil, fill of 416

- *418 Grave cut, cutting foundation 422
- *419 Dark orange clay, fill of 418; parts of decayed wooden coffin with decorated metal traces; fragments of human bone
- *420 Grave cut, cutting 413 foundation
- *421 Dark orange-black, fill of 420; fragments of decayed wooden coffin and traces of ?cloth
- *422 Cobbles set in sandy yellow-black soil, with patches of red-grey clay; 3-4 layers of cobbles; three ?Roman tile fragments disturbed and cut on N and S sides
- *423 Cut by north side of 422; possibly robbing cut
- 424 Fill of 423, similar to 427
- 425 Cut for foundation 413 construction
- 426 Cut for foundation 42
- *427 Yellow-brown sandy clay, very disturbed, all or partly grave fill, from deep former subsoil; sherds of glazed York White Ware; glass [?] C16-C17 sherd, tile, nails
- *428 Orange-brown sandy clay, natural

ST0.5

St Oswald's, Fulford

[Archaeology]

CUTTING V (1987)

Introduction

This cutting (4.24 x 2.98m) was done by students of the Department of Archaeology of the University of York, by private arrangement with the owner, Roy Grant. This was after the retirement of PAR in July 1986, and was not supervised by any member of staff. This was the first dig done by the students, presumably the Archaeological Society of the department. The work was directed and recorded by Julie Lockyer. She made the drawings in a finished state, which she used for her 1988 Portfolio, for assessment. She was assisted principally by Ian -, David Fell, and Peter Bushell. The last seems to have been responsible for the finds; most of these, notably the human bones, disappeared in the chaos surrounding his incarceration for misdemeanour.

Method

A preliminary start was made in October 1986, but most of the work was done during the Easter vacation of 1987. The excavation was done with considerable care; numbers were given for all contexts: layers, cuts and skeletons. Seven plans (plans 1-7) were made as the excavation area was lowered in stages, with numerous levels being done at key locations (not on plans, but in archive); and a section was drawn of that part of the eastern face of the cutting, between the SV corner of the tower and the 1980 paved path (fig 000).

The avowed research aim was to test the hypothesis that PAR and LW had set up in 1981, after the excavations of 1980-81

(Cuttings I-III) (and expanded by Duncan Hawkins in 1984 in Cutting IV): that the linear V-E cobble foundation, extending from the nave and tower to the west, was that of the north wall of part of a church which was demolished before the present structure was built. The students hoped to find evidence for a complementary wall foundation on the south side, and in this they were successful, though not so positively so as they had hoped.

Results

Plans 2 and 3 display a spread of cobbles in the expected area; but the area had suffered extensive disturbance from grave-digging up to the 19th century; in contrast to the comparable area on the north side (Cutting IIc), where no graves were noted. The south side of churches attracted more burial than the north.

In spite of this, however, in the lower part of the excavation an area of more substantial cobble and gravel foundation was defined; the south side of this (580) was a well-defined edge, which gives a limit to the foundation of the postulated structure, and allowing its north-south dimension to be given within a small margin of error (see general discussion later).

The excavation was not completed to natural in 1987, so the depth of the cobble foundation was not determined, but it is likely to have been similar to that on the north side. Its width was at least 83cm, between the edge 580 and the graves to the north; this minimum dimension may be the original, ?grave 592 being possibly dug alongside the foundation, rather than cutting into it.

The extent of grave-digging is shown in plans 1-7, and the details of particular graves, their skeletons, coffins, and fittings are in the appended context detail. No bones survive, so no biological report can be made.

St Oswald's, Fulford

[Archaeology]

Cutting V Context details

(from Julie Lockyer's site notebook)

- 501 Turf
- 502 Topsoil, with some flints, medieval sherds and modern finds and some builders' material; partly grave upcast
- 503 Sand laid with path to south
- 504 Brown sandy with building rubble and plaster
- 505 Silty grey/black soil; modern sherd
- 506 Brown sandy; with clay patches, cobbles and disturbed human bones
- 507 Dark brown silt, chalk and pebbles, lightweight slag, flint nodules
- 508 Dark brown soil, bone, tile
- 550 Clayey light brown sandy, fill of 551; some cobbles
- 551 Grave cut, with skeleton 559 in coffin
- 552 Light brown sandy, some cobbles; fill of pit 553
- 553 Pit, fill 552
- 554 Dark grey sandy clay loam, fill of linear cut 555
- 555 Linear cut
- 556 Pit, fill 557
- 557 Light brown sandy clay loam, fill of pit 5556
- 558 Mid brown clay loam; MOR, tile, charcoal
- 559 Skeleton; in coffin (a grey stain); gilded iron handles; decorated plates on lid, black enamel paint, with red painted letters; name mainly illegible, but ended in -SON; date of death ?August 1850, aged 72 years; supine, W-E.
- PAR note: this skeleton does not figure on

- any of plans or photographs; possibly no
time to record it, or lift it
- 560 Spread of cobbles, up to 15cm diameter, clQ-
15cm deep; with a matrix of brown sandy; cut
by 592
- 561 Brown sandy clay loam, charcoal and MOR flecks, and human
bone; in cut 592 (?grave)
- 562 Ditto, lower in fill
- 563 Cobbles, bedded into 562, but below 560
- 564 Brown sandy loam, cobbles, MOR, tile
- 565 Skeleton, V-E, supine; wrist and R hand bones
above pelvis; LH hand bones below pelvis, with
complete L arm; both legs intact; possibly
feet truncated by medieval tower construction
trench; cut by pit 563
- 566 Brown sandy, charcoal, KOR, limestone, gravel
- 567 Similar to 566, cut by grave 594
- 568 Similar, in linear cut 592 (?grave)
- 569 Similar, fill of grave 571
- 570 Skeleton, immature, W-E, supine; ?iron-faced
wooden coffin, metal plate formerly on lid;
illegible lettering; lid formerly secured with
domed metal nails, penetrating linear scalloped
edged metal ribbon
- 571 Grave cut, with skeleton 570
- 572 Brown sandy clayey; some human bones
- 573 Ditto, above grave cut 584
- 574 Reddish-brown clayey soil, some cobbles
- 575 Disturbed cobbling, interspersed with some red-grey
sandy clay loam, + skeleton frs
- 576 Brown sandy clay, some loose gravel

- 577 Compact block of gravel 1-4cm, mixed with grey-brown clayey sand
- 578 Ditto, above 580
- 579 Ditto, up to 7cm, above 280
- 580 Linear edge, V-E, defining the boundary between (on plan 4) 566 and 577j and (on plan 5) a more positive division between 574 and 575, 577, 578
- 581 Skeleton, V-E supine, below 575 (disturbed cobbling); in grave cut 589; below 575
- 582 Skeleton, V-E, supine, in grave cut 593; cut by grave cut 571
- 583 Skeleton, V-E, supine; legs and feet from knees down, upper part truncated by later grave cut 584; some of bones of 583 in 584 fill; in grave cut 588
- 584 Grave cut, fill 573 and skeleton 585
- 585 Skeleton, immature, V-E; in coffin with handles (see plan 7)
- 586 Mid grey-brown sandy clay; above coffin 587
- 587 Coffin, below 586 (no further details)
- 588 Grave cut with skeleton 583
- 559 Grave cut with skeleton 581; above grave 591
- 590 Skeleton, V-E, supine, immature; below 589, in 591
- 591 Grave cut, with skeleton 590, below 589
- 592 Linear cut, V-E; fills 561, 562, 568, 572; probably grave; possibly robbed; same bones recorded in fill, no skeleton noted, possibly not reached
- 593 Grave cut, with skeleton 582; cut into 595
- 594 Grave cut, with skeleton 565, cut 553
- 595 Disturbed cobbles up to 15cm, in a matrix of brown sandy clay loam

St0.7

(St Oswald's Old Church, Fulford)

THE CHURCHYARD

From AD 1100, St Oswald's was owned by St Mary's Abbey, York. It was administered by St Olaf's church, the parish church of St Mary's and its grounds; the Fulford dead had normally to be taken to St Olaf's for burial. At the time of the Black Death, the graveyard of St Oswald's was consecrated for burials, though the mandate clearly states this was only a temporary measure and afterwards burials had to be made again at St Olaf's, at least until the 16th century (p 000 LV text; and J Kaner). The earliest documented burial was in 1691 (from Roy Grant's notes - but now see JK>. In 1721, the Parochial Return ordered 'the deal fence of the churchyard to be railed and painted' (Borthwick Institute Y/V.Ret.2.2).

The first map to show the churchyard is of 1745 (fig 000, from part of Y.A.S.DD88/8, kindly provided for us in 1987 by Judith Boardman, then at the Archive section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society in Leeds). Here the churchyard is shown as an irregular rectangle c 76 x 24m (c0.18ha), with the church a little north of the centre. To the south the map shows a property named Well House, though its location is ambiguous and there is no plan of it; but it was certainly between the churchyard and the road later to be St Oswald's Road.

Another map (also from T.A.S.DO c-3/6) is not dated, but is clearly later than 1775-6, as it shows the open fields, and also the Barracks (built in 1775-6, Allison ed 1976. 30). In this, the churchyard has apparently been truncated lengthwise, but widened, being now 66 x 33m (0.21ha) (but both pairs of measurements may not be accurate in the plans). The church is now shown rather south of centre; and there are now three buildings between the churchyard and the road. A similar arrangement is seen in the 1853 6 inches to 1 mile map (sheet 174). This

map also shows a spring in the land between the churchyard and the river, close to the river bank; and a number of gravel pits in the area to north and east of the churchyard.

In 1869, the churchyard was extended: a 'piece or parcel of grass land', containing 'one rood and eight perches' (c0.1ha), and a 'cottage or tenement with the Barn Stables and hereditaments now standing' were granted to the church for this extension; these are the buildings which are indicated in the post-1745 plan; and more accurately in a plan of 1870 (fig 000; from Borthwick CD. Add 1870/3), presumably that made for the 1869 grant arrangements, here the churchyard is with sub-oval plan of c0.25ha (with church still to south of centre), separated by properties from the road, with a footpath on the west side and a lane leading from the road, on the east side. The extended churchyard is shown in the 1892 OS 1:1250 map (Yorkshire Sheet ££SrFV.14). It has by this time a nearly straight west side and an eastern side, whose 'kink' reflects the earlier lane; the south side fronts St Oswald's Road. The maximum dimensions are 110 x 44m, enclosing c0.45ha; now with the church nearly central.

By 000, the lych-gate has been added (1:1250 map, ref....) and the sewage works have been built to the east.

In 1980, the churchyard was again truncated, by the cutting off of the northern part (see fig 000), in part of the church conversion. The gravestones in the surviving part were largely cleared in the spring of 1980, and stacked around the perimeter. This was part of the conditions of sale of the church property to Roy Grant, who 'wanted a garden rather than a graveyard' (pers com Roy Grant). We had not been contacted by Mr Grant at that stage, so we did not. have any opportunity to persuade him to leave the stones.

The gravestones have been variously recorded, rarely while they were still in *situ* (Pickering and Breeder 1975, 59–50). A record also

exists in the Borthwick Institute; this comprises a plan, and a list of inscriptions, but not the iconography or other data which have been thought necessary in recent times. All the available data were, however, collated by Kate Buckingham in 1980, for a BA Thesis in the Department of Archaeology, University of York (refs needed).

St Oswald's Old church, Fulford

THE 1980 SERVICE TRENCH

Introduction

This was a machine trench dug along the path which led from the lych-gate to the south doorway of the church (fig 000). The trench was to house water, gas and telephone services needed for the conversion of the church to a domestic dwelling. It was c 60cin wide, and varied in depth from 50cm to 100cm.

When observations were begun, the trench was partly filled in; there was no time to record all the stratification and features encountered. Such detail as was recovered is catalogued below. A rough plan was made, and ten profiles were made; these form the basis of fig 000. Contexts were numbered from south to north.

To summarise the result of observations, it is suffice to note that in the southern part of the trench, towards the lych-gate, brick footings and layers were recorded of the most recent of the buildings which existed in this area before the churchyard was extended in this direction in 1869 (above, p 000); the area was heavily root-disturbed. No earlier features were noted in this area. An c 37m from the lych-gate, grave-earth and human remains were noted and continued right up to the doorway of the church. The area of burial was that of the original churchyard.

About two metres from the church, the machine struck and displaced the inverted massive lid, orientated V-E, of a Roman sarcophagus; this was presumed to have been reused as a grave cover for a later burial. The sarcophagus was not found, but it is likely to have come from a number found in the area in the 19th century (p 000).

*Detail of stratification and features (fig 000, plan and profiles;
the uppermost 3-5-mn layer was the concrete of the path)*

PROFILES

1m from lych-gate

1. 37cm; brick fragments, mortar, small pebbles, in matrix of buff mortary soil; debris from buildings in this area, levelled off as a make-up for concrete path
2. 15cm: buff-orange sandy soil; former upper subsoil
3. 22cm+: laminated buff-brown clayey sandy and brown clay; lower subsoil

4m from lych-gate

4. 40cm: mortary brown soil, small pebbles, tile fragments; debris/make-up as above
5. 15cm: buff-orange sandy soil (more sandy than 2. above); merging into 6
6. 14cm: clayey buff upper subsoil, merging into 7.
7. 20cm+: stiff brown clay; lower subsoil

15m from lych-gate S.

8. 40cm: mortary brown soil with brick and tile fragments
9. 3cm: dark grey-brown greasy soil, sherd of C19 china at base; ?floor~level of building
10. 6cm: orange gravelly sandy soil; possibly imported to site as make-up for floor
11. 20cm; buff-brown clayey sandy soil
12. 10cm+: mere clayey and orange-buff than 11

24n from lych-gate

13. 20cm: mortary plastery soil, pieces of pink plaster; destruction level of building
14. 14cm: two courses of brick wall, each brick 6.5cm thick, with 1cm of pale grey-buff mortar
15. 10cm: clayey brown gravel; make-up for 14.
16. 20cm: clayey brown sandy soil

27m from lych-gate

17. 15cm: mortary plastery soil
18. 30cm: six courses of brick, each under 5cm thick, with thin mortar
19. 20cm+: buff-brown clayey sandy

28m from lych-gate

20. 20cm: disturbed brown clayey sandy soil, with small fragments of plaster and tile
21. 35cm+: buff-brown sandy, becoming more clayey

30m from lych-gate

22. 5cm: disturbed brown sandy with a little plaster
23. 60cm: buff-brown sandy soil, occasional pebbles up to 10cm long
24. 50cm+: buff-brown sandy soil, merging downwards into a stiffer yellow-buff sandy clay, similar to that found in excavation around the west end of the church

31m from lych-gate

25. 30cm: brick and stone rubble, with much plaster or stucco, 3cm thick, with pale mauvish surface; some tile; building debris

26. 10cm: disturbed dark brown organically-rich soil;
some tile and pebbles; ?floor level
27. 3cm: disturbed orange-brown gravel, cf 15. above
28. 20cm+: buff-orange sandy soil

32m from lych-gate

29. 18cm: brick courses, not clearly observed in profile, but top orientation measurable; bricks appeared to have been set in a very small trench in brown sandy soil
30. 20cm+: buff-orange sandy soil
31. 60cm+: brown sandy soil, becoming more yellowish clayey at base, few pebbles

* * *

Here, the trench changed direction, and human bones appeared in the spoil; the machine appeared to be skimming over the surface of some articulated burials.

Discussion of the southern part of the trench

The brick wall foundations are probably all of the same 19th-century date; the three fragments observed include two at right angles (14 and 18) and another (29) on a similar orientation to 18; with their possible floor layers and make-up, they represent some elements of the buildings known to have been in this area; the extent to which they match is discussed on p 000. Archaeologically, the walls should be earlier than neighbouring gravestones, the oldest of which was of 1872.

The northern end of the trench

The whole area south of the doorway is disturbed grave-earth, possibly destroying any original threshold; this may have included a sleeper chamfered stringcourse.

From the south door of the church southwards, the machine trench was only 60cm deep and sloping up to the north; the services are only 25cm below the present surface by the door.

At 2.5m from the church door, where the trench changed course, was a keeled cover of a sarcophagus, originally orientated west-east, but subsequently displaced to the west. The cover was 2.4m long, and was presumably over a grave of uncertain date; probably in this location that of an important person.

The stone cover (see Finds, p000) is now (2000) displayed on plinths in the garden.

(Old St Oswald's, Fulford)

THE FINDS

Introduction

Finds were recovered from the building conversion work, from the service trenches, and (principally) from the excavations of areas I-V. The total number is small, and mostly of minor usefulness in determining the date or function of structures, features, or other contexts. Those that -s*s -T interest in the earlier seasons of 1980-4 were recorded, but thenceforth retained by the new owner of St Oswald's Hall. The finds from the later excavations in 1986-87 were mostly lost in the circumstances attending the incarceration of one of the participants (see p 000), but a few survived in the possession of Julie Lockyer. The following descriptions result from the collation of all St Oswald's material in the later 1980s; they are classified here by material, not function,

Flints

These provide the only evidence for prehistoric frequenation of the area: there is no feature which can be related to the flints, [but see FL3].

- FL 1 Flake 51 x 17 x 3 mm; one face is half cortex, the other flaked to a sharp edge with secondary working (337A, ditch fill)
- FL 2 3 flakes, not illust (217A)
- FL3 In 1986-7, in Cutting V, Julie Lockyer recorded flint 'nodules' in her context 507, a 'dark brown silt, chalk and pebbles, with light-weight slag', Unfortunately, this context is not shown on any drawings or further mentioned in her text; it sounds as if this was a pre-burial/church

context. She drew fifteen other flints (fig 000 3; all or some of these survive in 2000, coded as SF 19, 32, 91 (context 508, a disturbed brown sandy soil, possibly pre-burial; see fig 000 3 and SF 17-18 (context 502, topsoil) (these extant Jan 2000),

(A specialist report on these is needed, and professional drawings, to ascertain date and function) (also no 1 above, if this survives).

ROMAN SARCOPHAGUS COVER

This was found in 1980 in the service trench in the south part of the churchyard, close to the south part of the church, close to the south door of the church (p 000), it was lying upside down (lie with keeled side beneath), on an E-W orientation, it probably marked the position of a later grave. The cover was hit and displaced by the JCB digger machine, and there was no opportunity to examine the ground beneath it.

The cover is of gritstone: the surface found uppermost (pl 000) exhibited coarse pick dressing on its southern half; the northern half appeared to have been worn smooth by passage of feet, as if it had been more exposed; there were also patches of a blackened surface. The sides of the cover show diagonal pick dressing of a type familiar in the Roman sarcophagi of York, The original uppermost surface has a central raised keel, also common in York.

The dimensions of the cover are 2.35m in length, and 80-82cm wide (thickness and size of keel to be measured on site). The cover is now mounted on concrete pillars outside the church. It may have been originally on a sarcophagus in the church area; or from one further afield (see discussion on Roman burial in the area on pp 000-000); it- seems unlikely that it was brought to the site for building material; in that case, one would expect it to have been broken.

SCULPTURE (Anglo-Saxon) (figs 000-000)

This was noted in the course of examination of the interior walls of the church by the York Archaeological Trust in 1980. It was set low down in the interior north wall of the nave; it was broken and worn. It had been reported on by the late Jim Lang in his Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Sculpture from North-East- Yorkshire (Lang 1991, 101-2 and illustrations 323-5), Dr Lang comments that the piece is of an Upper Jurassic sandstone, similar to sculpture in Middleton, Sinnington and Stonegrave (in Ryedale, north of York).

Lang identified the piece as 'perhaps a lateral arm of a cross; there are protuberances which may have been a ring or disk'. Other features suggest a cusped profile, "within, the carving is worn but the head and shoulders of a figure with upturned face and long hair may be made out'; 'the small portrait- tread... may have gazed upwards at- a lost- motif. ...'. The sculpture is Anglian, in its basic form, of the ninth to tenth century.

While there must be the usual reservations as to the original provenance of the sculpture, it is the principal evidence for their having been a pre-Conquest structure on the site of St Oswald's, possibly represented by the cobble foundations encountered in the excavations west of the church.

The sculpture is now exhibited in St Oswald's Hall (check) [photographs, select one or two from negatives 85-99, prob in PAR'S monochrome file, 6x4 negatives, probably from Bronica, taken by PAR or John Bateman.]

BUILDING STONE [omit]

Padstone (at base of posthole 224, Cutting II. p000), Coarse limestone, similar to Barnack; apparently burnt, or rich in iron, or sandstone (LW)?

Blocks (in context 101, Cutting II, p000). Two large limestone blocks, one plastered on external face; and a dressed piece (context 2261, max 15x6.8x9.0cm.

SLAG

A piece of 'light-weight* slag is recorded from 507, in Cutting V, this context (with flint nodules) is not on drawings or discussed,

FIRED CLAY

Roman,

A number of fragments of *tegulae* were recorded.

In Cutting I, there were several in the cobble foundation 107; these were of salmon-red fabric with yellow clay inclusions up to 1cm in size, and yellow clay striations; the largest piece was 14x10cm, 1.4cm thick,

In Cutting II, another fragment was recorded in the pre-church feature

217.

In Cutting III, an edge piece was found in ditch 337 (337A); this was 5 X 5.2cm, 1.5cm thick; the fabric is dull reddish, with 'folded' layers of salmon-pink and yellow clay; one surface exhibits wood-grain impressions.

In Cutting IV, four fragments were again found in the cobble foundation 413, and three more in the other cobble foundation 422.

In Cutting V, there were no pieces,

* * *

These *tegulae* fragments may indicate Roman structures in the area; or they may have been imported to the site in soil; especially those among cobbles may have come from the original

source of these. They must be evaluated in the context of the few other Roman finds from the excavations,

Medieval or later tile

Fragments of ceramic roof tile were recorded in many contexts; service trench, 201, 202, 208, 210, 211, 213, 216, 217, 220, 227, 422, 427, 558. That from the service trench (unstratified) was complete; reddish ceramic with patches of white gritty mortar; peg hole 3cm from upper edge.

Medieval or later floor tile

Service trench near south doorway: a fragment with dull dark green glaze; 9.0 X 6.5 X 2.4cm thick.

Cutting III, I, topsoil; fr coarse red sandy; on upper surface is patchy yellow glaze, trickling over edges; slightly bevelled sides; 4.0 X 3.0 X 2.4cm thick .

Cutting II, 211; sliver, dark green glaze; 2.2 X 1.4cm, x 1.3cm thick.

Cutting 1, 105A, grave fill; four fragments (a-d)--.

a.dull red sandy fabric, unglazed, interior partly reduced; max 9.7 X 7.1cm, X 3.0cm thick

b.corner, very dark green glaze, partly worn off; max 9.0 X 4.7cm X 2.3cm thick, bevelled edges

c.about half; pale dull red, coarse sandy fabric; traces of pale yellow glaze along one edge; the complete tile would have been 14.1 X 9.5cm, X2.3cm thick.

d. about two-thirds; in similar fabric to c; traces of yellow- and ?brown glaze; the complete tile would have been 14.4 X 14.1 cm x 2.3cm thick.

BRICK

Service trench, unstratified; fr, ?lower surface grass- or straw-marked.

Cutting IV; fr recorded in 417, grave fill; and in dump from 1980 work.

Daub

Cutting I, 105A, grave fill; very pale burnt buff and pink clay, max 5.1 X 4.8cm, X 1.9 cm thick.

105A, burnt clay 'plug', whitish outer surface, core pinkish; possibly a plug for a peghole.

Clay pipes

Cutting I, 105A, grave fill; complete ?CI8 bowl with flat spur; also piece of stem 0.8 X 0.7cm, bore diameter 0,3cm, Cutting V,. 504; fr recorded

MORTAR

Mortar was recorded from 107, 120, 212, 217A, 304, 305. Those from 120 were pale buff-brown. In the absence of the survival of any samples, none can be related to structures.

GLASS

Roman

Fr of pale green glass, possibly from a cremation bottle, 5-sided, irregular, 22x18mm, 4mm thick (Cutting II, 217A),

Melon bead (vitreous paste.); pale turquoise green, vertically-ribbed; 13mm diameter, 9mm long, perforation circular, 6mm diameter (Cutting III, 337A), (fig 000).

Medieval

Three window glass fragments (Cutting I, 104).

These were examined in 1980 by David O'Connor; they have been

subsequently lost, O'Connor wrote interim notes as follows;

'The largest piece is definitely medieval stained yellow glass with one grozed edge; there is decoration of drapery; on the evidence of the style of this and the grozing, a date of 1310-40 is suggested. A comparison may be made with the glass in the naive of York Minster',

'The medium-sized piece of blue-pot metal is probably medieval; the shade of blue would be consistent with the date suggested for the larger piece above',

'The smallest piece is decaying; there can, however, be seen traces of paint, a shaped border quarry. The paint is white with brown diaper work. The piece is probably also fourteenth century. (See O'Connor in Interim vol 3, no 1, pl6, fig 3)' ,

'While the glass fragments indicate the existence of stained glass in St Oswald's in the fourteenth century, there is no evidence to show which window is represented'.

METAL

Iron

Nails were recorded associated with coffin residues in Cutting IV (427) and Cutting V; and a piece of knife blade from the topsoil 502 (Cutting V)

Bronze

Sixteen tinned bronze pins were found in Cutting V, probably shroud pins; their context is uncertain, since the numbers on the bags (Grave 3, context 213, small finds 46, 49, 50.) are not in the surviving records, Their lengths are (in mm.) 21 (1), 22 (1), 23 (1), 24 (1), 26.27 (3) and 3 incomplete; those that are complete have thickened and sub-spherical heads (c2mm in diameter); and all have shank clmm in diameter).

Miscellaneous

(base metal and iron): a number of coffin fittings were

recorded in non-grave contexts in Cutting V (504, building rubble; 508 ?grave upcast; and 566[?check], loose cobbles).

In two graves were elaborate fittings. In grave 551 (skeleton 559), a wooden coffin was indicated as a grey stain; there were gilded iron handles, decorated plates on the lid, with black enamel paint, with red-painted letters; name ended in _SON; date of death - August, 1850, aged- 72.

In grave 571 (skeleton 570), an immature person was in an ?iron-faced wooden coffin, with a metal plate formerly on the lid (lettering illegible), The lid was secured with domed metal nails, penetrating linear scalloped-edged metal ribbon

POTTERY

The few pieces found-in excavation were examined for Duncan Hawkins by Dr Ailsa Mainman, of the York Archaeological Trust. She gave verbal identifications to him, but no written report survives; the identifications given below are those of Dr Mainman, except where otherwise indicated.

[?she also identified Saxon sherd, didn't she?] - is it still with her- 2010

Roman

Two calcite-gritted sherds (one a rim, fig 000) were found in the fill (337A) of ditch 337, in Cutting III; they are likely to be late Roman, but such sherds may extend into post-Roman times.

Eight similar, calcite-grit-ted sherds were among the finds surviving from Cutting V; but they were not marked, nor was the-bag in which they were; so their context is not known. All are body sherds.

Anglo-Saxon

The single sherd found is from a pre-church context (217A) in Cutting II, in the fill of a depression or ditch. It is a small irregular piece 21x16mm, apparently from a small lug, or part of a

swelling towards a spout, boss or handle, The fabric is a dark grey coarse ware, with reddish patches; it is tempered with sparse quartzite grits and some organic material, One facet is decorated with parts of three stamps, each of barred semicircle and half rosette. This is comparable to Spong 4D, and could in this case be of the early period (CAD450-650); but- Dr Catherine Hills suggests that the sherd could be later than this, in the middle Saxon period (c650-850). It is now realised that stamped pottery extends into later centuries rather than used to be thought (fig 000 and pl 000).

Medieval

Cutting I; - 2 sherds of C13-14 (108, a disturbed layer) (see p 000) [?size of sherds; ?description of fabrics.]

Cutting II: - sherd, 35x25x6mm thick; fine hard fabric, sparse quartzite sand temper, pale grey interior, pinker towards the exterior; exterior smooth with patches of pale apple-green glossy glaze (205) (York White Ware, c1200-1250)

 - sherd of fine hard dark red; splashes of buff-brown glaze on interior; and on exterior, thick crackled dark greenish-yellow glaze over stabbed, wavy incised lines and girth grooves (205) (?Bransby Ware, C13-14) (fig 000)

 - 2 sherds of Gritty Ware (C11-12) (211) [?details]

 - sherd, hard reduced interior, orangey-brown exterior; splashes of glaze (Humber Ware) [context needed]

 -2 sherds of green-glazed [details + context needed]

Cutting III - sherd 20x12x6mm thick; vesicular light sandy brown with dark grey surfaces; very fine quartzite temper, also micaceous; possibly C11-12? (PAR) (337A, fill of ditch 337)

 - sherd, triangular 30x30x30x6mm thick; very fine dark red semi-stoneware; dark glossy maroon glaze on

exterior and patchily on interior; late C16
'Cistercian Ware' (331, topsoil)
-sherd 30x39x6mm, probably from shoulder of jug;
fabric dull buff fine sandy with sparse quartzite
grits; interior dull very dark grey; exterior thick
crackled dull green glaze, darker in girth grooves
(337A, possibly intrusive in this early context)
(Bransby Type, c1250-1350) (fig 000)
- sherd from base of jug; fabric pale grey interior,
pinker towards exterior; medium fine hard, sparse
small quartzite sand temper; pale apple-green glaze
(cf no - above) on side and base; base angle thumbed
from side (330, topsoil) (York White Ware)

- Cutting IV - sherds of glazed York White Ware (details and
contexts needed]
- sherd of C16-17 (both 427, grave fill)
- Cutting V - 2 sherds reddish CI4 (557)

HUMAN BONE

All human bones found were reinterred (218) or lost, There is
thus no possibility of a proper report on them. The minimal data
recorded are as follows;

- Cutting II, 218 - legs and part of pelvis (fig 000). In Duncan
Hawkins' text, there are details of the part skeleton 218.
They are apparently a report from an informed person,
unfortunately not named, She or he lists among the bones
unfused femur lower extremities; the left bones appeared to be
more robust than the right, It was concluded that the skeletal
remains were of a child, probably under 12 years,
- Cutting III, 340, infant (?modern) (fig 000)
- Cutting V, 559, adult, died aged 72 (from inscription, p 000)
- Cutting V, 585, immature skeleton,

The incomplete skeleton 565 is shown in fig 000, plan 4, It
appears from the drawing that the skeleton was an adult, c1,60m

tall. The rough size of the other skeletons may be guessed from the length of the graves of coffins drawn in the plans of Cuttings IV and V.

ANIMAL BONE AND MOLLUSCA

A fragment of a ?horse. jaw was found in Cutting II, 208, the fill of a ?scaffold post-hole.

A piece of a nearly-straight long bone (?leg) of a large bird, such as a goose or swan, was found in Cutting V, 508, dark sandy soil; it is 7.5cm in length, 9-11mm in diameter (ovoid), with an internal diameter of 6-9mm. The exterior is polished by use. The extremities, where the bone is cut transversely, are also very smooth; this seems to be a complete implement, or fitting, or decoration,

Oyster shell fragments (3) were found in the pre-church feature, Cutting III, 337A, and are probably of Roman usage. Another fragment came from Cutting V, '216', an unknown context.