

SNY 11948

ENY 4165

WATCHING BRIEF AT NEW DWELLING AT DEANERY GARDENS, RIPON.

CNY

Parish 6031

Rec'd 17/08/95

At the request of Mr. Brian Duffield, Rhona Finlayson on behalf of York Archaeological Trust visited the site of a new development in Deanery Gardens, Ripon on 12th May 1995 to carry out an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief was a condition of scheduled Monument Consent granted by the Department of National Heritage.

Site location and background

The site was located at Grid Reference SE 315 714, to the north-east of Ripon Cathedral. The western and southern perimeter of the site is defined by a limestone wall thought to have been built by Abbot Marmaduke Huby of Fountains Abbey in the early 16th century. Various archaeological excavations have taken place near to the site in the past. The Old Deanery Hotel was excavated by A. Paget-Baggs on behalf of the Ministry of Works in 1955. Further excavations were conducted by David Greenhaugh in Deanery Gardens on behalf of the Department of the Environment in 1977. Ailcy Hill was excavated by R.A.Hall and M. Whyman (YAT) on behalf of the Ripon 1100 Festival Committee and the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission in 1986 and 1987.

The current development lies close to the southern edge of the 1977 excavation, which was directed by David Greenhaugh.

Observations

Observations took place during the digging of a construction trench to carry services from the street to the site of the new dwelling in Deanery Gardens. The service trench, which was excavated by mechanical digger, was approximately 0.50m wide and 0.35m deep. It ran north-south from the new dwelling, turned a right angle and left the site to the pavement through the base of the perimeter wall of the site. (See location plan). Immediately adjacent to the wall the trench was deepened to approximately 0.90m below the existing ground surface to locate the base of the stonework, and allow the trench to be excavated under the wall, through its foundations.

The service trench was cut through a deposit of dark brown loam, with occasional fragments of modern pottery, which had the appearance of cultivated soil. The previous use of the site as an allotment would appear to confirm this. This deposit was approximately 0.35m deep close to the new dwelling and deepened to below the base of the trench to the north of the new dwelling.

In the base of the service trench where the cultivated soil was shallowest, a mixed sandy clay with frequent inclusions of plaster and brick fragments and occasional bone fragments was seen. This may have been demolition debris which could have derived from the demolition of the small brick buildings close to the perimeter wall of the site identified within the excavation in 1977 directed by David Greenhaugh. The brick and plaster fragments within the deposit appeared to be of post-medieval date. A full interpretation of the deposit was not possible since none of this material was disturbed during construction.

Immediately adjacent to the perimeter wall a large sandstone flag stone was found beneath the cultivated soil. This was a single flag, but it may have represented a floor within one of the buildings identified by David Greenhaugh.

Beneath the flag a light brown sandy clay with frequent cobble and pebbles was seen. The deposit was encountered at approximately 0.35m below the modern ground surface and continued beyond the depth of the service trench. It was seen to extend at least 2m from the face of the wall but its full extent was not observed since the depth of the service trench rose to 0.35m some 2m from the wall. This material appeared to form the foundation upon which the perimeter wall had been built. No edge to a construction trench was observed and the material may have represented a larger deposit associated with the wall construction. No dating material was recovered .

The western profile of the perimeter wall was seen to be vertical . The only variation in the stonework was that the two lowest courses were more roughly faced than those above them. A patch of plaster adhered to the wall face close to the construction trench. This plaster may have been associated with the small brick buildings built close to the wall identified by David Greenhaugh.

A sketch plan of the area enclosed by Abbot Huby's wall was made in 1842 by the Ripon painter and antiquarian John Tuting (Hall, 1995). This shows a cowshed adjacent to the perimeter wall in approximately the position cut by the service trench which may thus be the building encountered in both Greenhaugh's excavation and the current watching brief.

Photographs were taken to record the visible deposits and are stored by YAT under the Project Code 1995.P0304.

#### Assessment

From the observations made during the excavation of the service trench it would appear that little damage was done to any archaeological deposits on the site.

#### Bibliography

Whyman, M and Hall, R.A., Y.A.T. : Assessment reports for Ripon Old Sites.

Hall, R.A. 1995, Antiquaries and Archaeology in and around Ripon Minster in L.R. Hoey (ed.) Yorkshire Monasticism, British Archaeological Association Conference Transactions XV1.

Excavation which took place in 1977  
directed by David Greenhaugh.

Site of new dwelling

Service trench

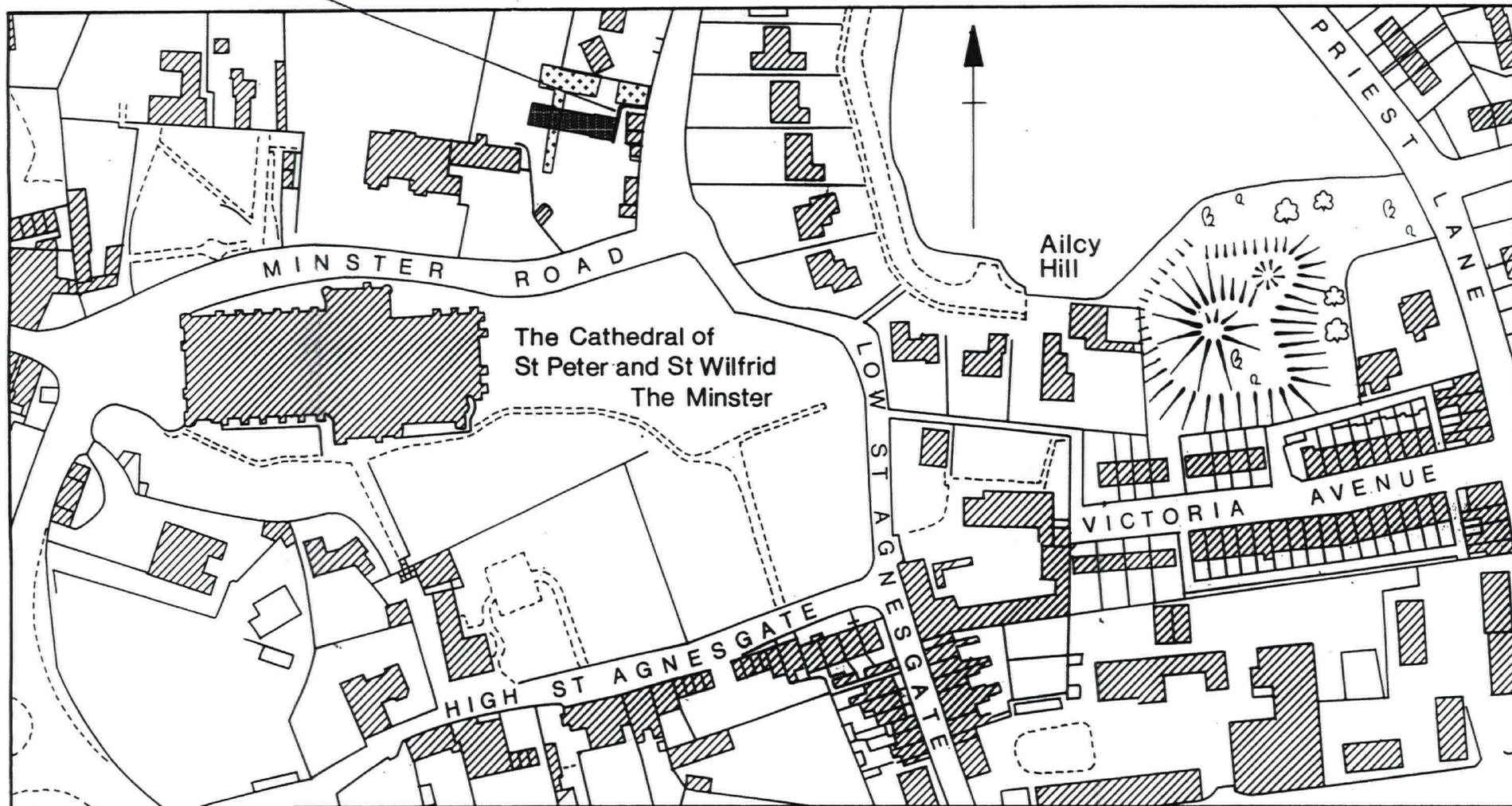


Figure 1





1. Facing North, service trench, cut through garden soil, mixed brick and plaster in a matrix of sandy clay seen at base of trench.



2. Facing north-west, service trench adjacent to perimeter wall, showing top of wall foundation.



3. Facing North, service trench adjacent to west face of perimeter wall, showing almost vertical profile.



4. Facing north-west, showing full height of wall where service trench was constructed.