



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



## 129 THE MOUNT YORK

### A Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief

by David Evans

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## ABSTRACT

*In July and October 2006 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at 129 The Mount, York. The site lies within the known Roman cemetery centred on The Mount and the work in July revealed a decapitated skeleton very similar to those found at 1-3 Driffeld Terrace in 2004 and 6 Driffeld Terrace in 2005. A skull was also seen, but left in-situ, in the cut-back driveway bank and may indicate a further burial on the site.*

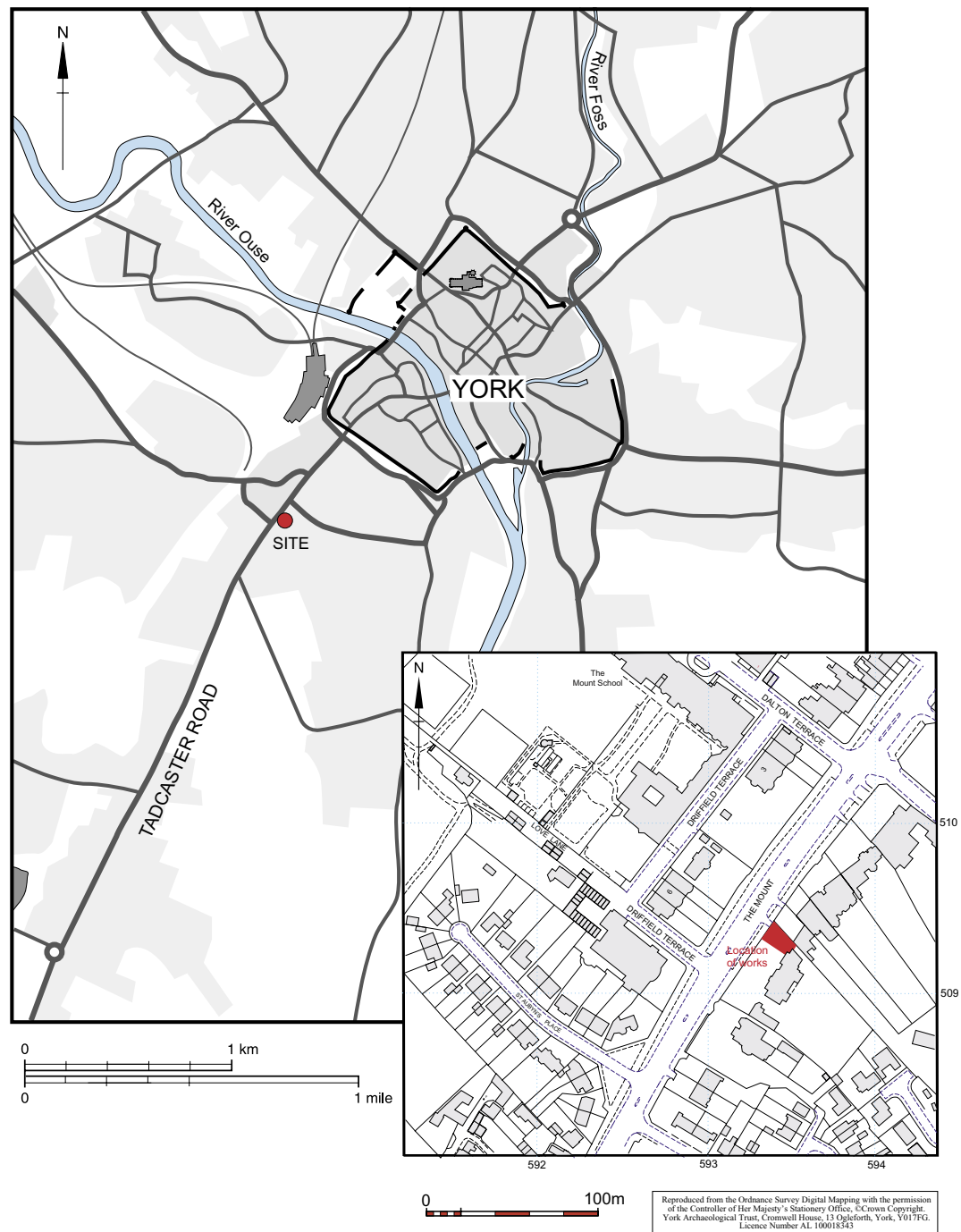


Figure 1 Site and works location plan

*In October the works undertaken produced no results of archaeological significance. The site, although it only produced one burial, is of considerable significance since it extends the area dominated by decapitated burials to the east of The Mount thus suggesting that this particular form of burial was more common than previously envisaged and the cemetery area containing this form of burial is considerably more extensive than formerly thought.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Between 7<sup>th</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> July York Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological watching brief at 129 The Mount, York (NGR SE 5933 5092, Figure 1) after ground works uncovered possible human bones. The work involved the monitoring of the widening of the main access drive and the levelling of an additional area for added car parking space. The site was further visited on October 6<sup>th</sup> (during heavy rain I might add!) in order to monitor tree-root grinding, lowering of the driveway bank, by a maximum of c.0.3m, and minor landscaping works. Both the tree-root grinding and the landscaping penetrated or exposed natural in places but the lowering of the driveway bank did not, only modern topsoil being removed. On both occasions the excavation work was undertaken by Moor Lane Construction of York. Both of the watching briefs were commissioned by Anne Teesdale of Nicholas Associates, Oxford Street, York on behalf of her clients, Mr & Mrs I Robertson of 129 The Mount. All records relating to this work are currently held by York Archaeological Trust under the YAT accession code YORAT: 2006.25.

## **2. METHOD STATEMENT**

An archaeologist was present during the machine widening of the access drive and during the levelling to create the new car parking area. An archaeologist was also present at all times when excavation took place on October 6<sup>th</sup>. On both occasions all deposits and features of archaeological significance that were encountered were recorded in a site notebook and three measured sketch sections drawn on site. These were then formally drawn up after the work had finished. A number of digital colour photographs were also taken at various points during the work in order to visually illustrate the nature of the work and the archaeology encountered.

## **3. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

The site lies adjacent to, and south-east of, the principal road out of York to the south-west at a distance of c.750m from Micklegate Bar. At the street front the main road slopes down from the north-east to the south-west from c.17m above ordnance datum (AOD) to c.15m AOD although the actual site is c.4m or more above the level of the road.

The drift geology appears as mainly boulder clay, with bands of sand and gravel of varying thickness (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 63). This overlies a solid geology of Bunter and Keuper sandstones.

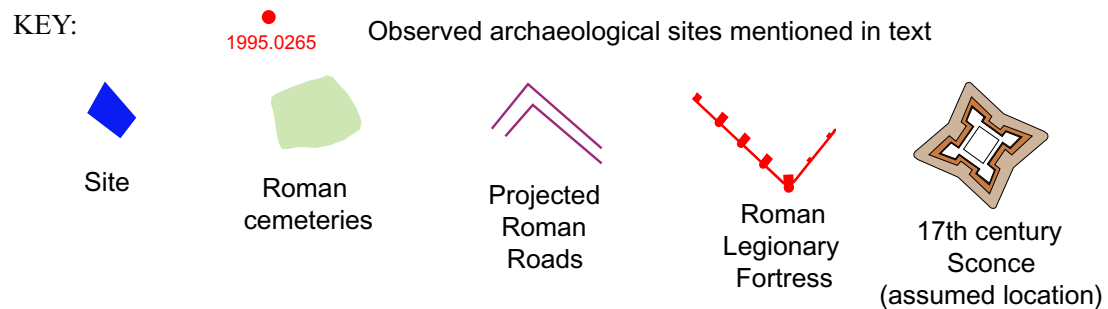
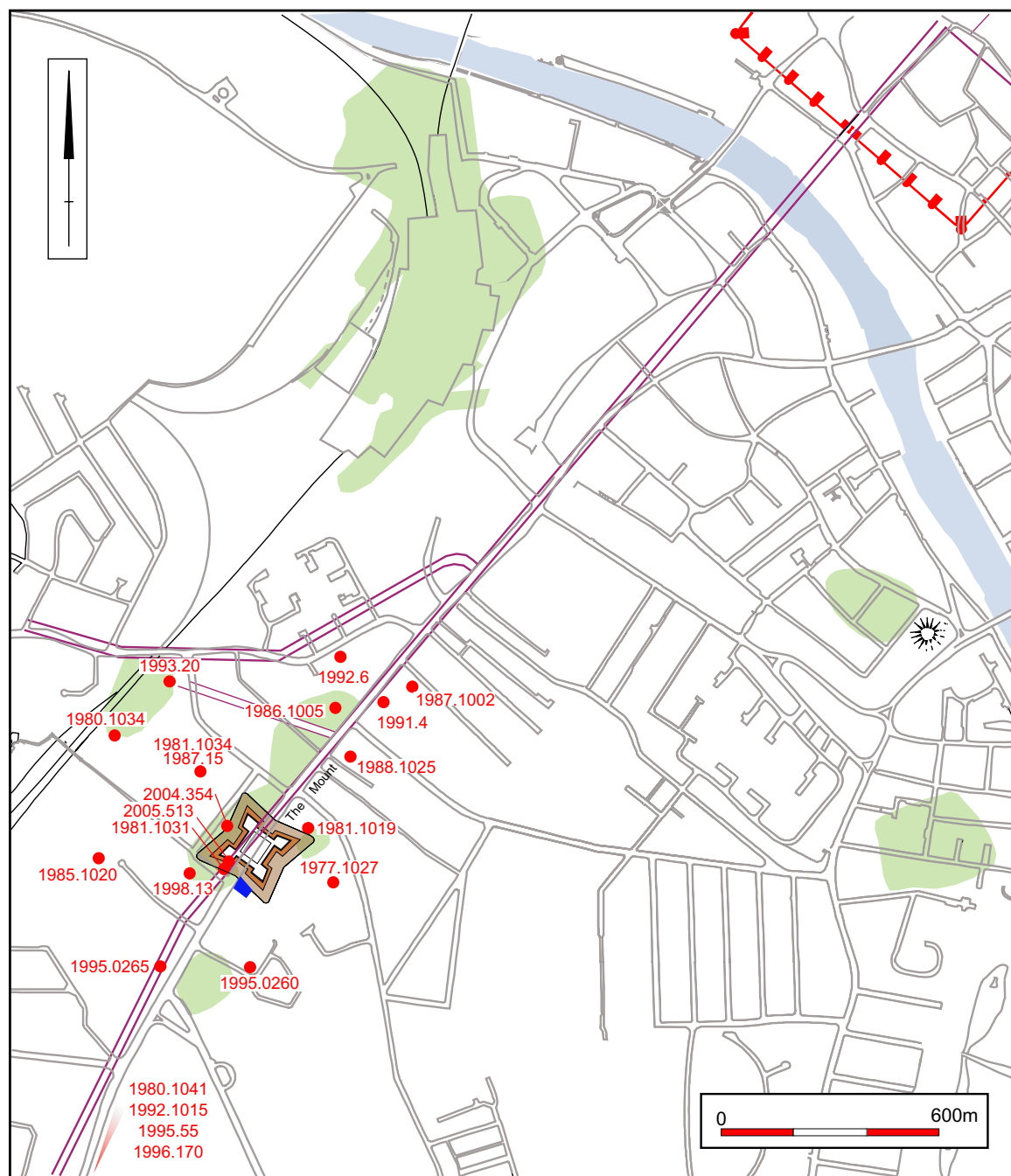


Figure 2 Historical and archaeological sites mentioned in the text

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 The Prehistoric period (to the 1st century AD)**

Evidence for the prehistoric period is not prolific in York but there have been finds of this period in the general area particularly in the Dringhouses area and in the vicinity of York Railway Station (RCHM 1972a, xxxvii). The finds from Dringhouses are all believed to be Neolithic axes but from the vicinity of York Station have come probable Iron Age burials and a beltplate of similar age. There have also been finds from the area of The Mount. A Neolithic stone axe is recorded as having come from The Mount but it is possible that this is the same as the axe-hammer recorded from Scarcroft Road in 1886. A “brass celt” is noted as having been found on the Knavesmire, a short distance to the south of the site, and a socketed bronze axe came from The Mount. South-west of the railway station, during redevelopment of the Holgate Docks area, recent archaeological investigations have lead to the recovery of a polished Neolithic stone axe and a quantity of Bronze Age pottery.

### **4.2 The Roman Period (1st to the 5th centuries AD)**

Evidence for this period is copious although it is largely in the form of burials, tombstones and coffins. The main Roman road to the south (RCHM 1962, Road 10) lies roughly along the line of The Mount and Tadcaster Road and over the last three centuries there have been numerous discoveries either side of this route of Roman inhumations and cremations. Many of those to the north-west of The Mount are thought to belong to a very large single cemetery and another large cemetery is known in the Trentholme Drive area a short distance south of the present site. In 2004 part of the cemetery north-west of The Mount, at 1-3 Driffield Terrace (YORYM: 2004.354, YAT, 1997), was investigated and a large number of burials, many of them decapitated, were recorded and excavated. Another part of this cemetery was examined in 2005 at 6 Driffield Terrace (YORYM: 2005.513) where again many of the excavated burials were found to be decapitated.

In 1861 a fragment of inscribed tombstone was found in Scarcroft Road and in 1861 cremation burials and the tombstone of Corellia Optata were found between Mill Mount and Scarcroft Road. An altar, a carved stone table leg, and an altar dedicated to the god Silvanus have come from 105-7 The Mount and the tombstones of Julia Velva and Mantia were found in Albermarle Road. A tomb relief has come from 75 The Mount and the corner of Park Street and The Mount produced the tombstone of Julia Brica. A tombstone has been found at the Mount Hotel and a mortared limestone burial chamber with a mortared tile vault can still be seen at 104 The Mount. Cremations were found, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, close to this vault and also at the Mount Hotel and 90 The Mount. Inhumations, one with a coin of Constantine, were found in 1823 on the site of houses in Mount Parade and a large inhumation cemetery was disturbed during the construction of a small civil war fort at the summit of The Mount in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Over the years there have been many finds of coffins, tombstones and burials from the area now mainly occupied by the Mount School, north-west of 129 The Mount including a burial

vault and lead coffin found in 1769. The large cemetery centred on Trentholme Drive was excavated during the 1950s and found to extend below Mount Vale and Trentholme Cottage to the south and south-west. Burials have also been found close to the Roman road as far out as Dringhouses. Complete, semi-finished and broken jet ornaments have also been found in the general area and within the grounds of the Mount School a dump of building debris including stone chippings believed to be from a nearby mason's yard was discovered. More recent work in the area, an evaluation excavation and watching brief at 89 The Mount (1991.4), uncovered ditches, road surfaces and a building of Roman date and a watching brief in the grounds of the Mount School (1987.15) recorded 13 inhumations and a single cremation of the period. Another watching brief (1993.20) in the grounds of the school produced evidence for possible Roman levelling and a feature believed to be a ditch and a watching brief (1980.1034) re-excavated a Roman stone coffin. A watching brief at the Albert Hotel, 7 Driffeld Terrace (1981.1031) uncovered a possible Roman road surface. Investigations at the Elmbank Hotel (YORYM 1998.13), in 1998, by On Site Archaeology, uncovered a Roman ditch of the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century whose backfill contained pottery, animal bone and human bone. Further from the present site an evaluation at 52-62 Tadcaster Road (YORYM 1995.55) found ditches, a pit, and a possible construction trench thought to be Roman. Roman pottery was found during a watching brief at the Post House Hotel, Dringhouses (1980.1041) and an evaluation excavation at the Starting Gate, 40 Tadcaster Road (YORYM 1996.170) produced part of RCHMY Road 10, a ditch, roadside timber structures, cobble surfaces, and industrial dumps associated with metalworking, all of definite Roman date.

#### **4.3 The Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian periods (5th to 11th centuries AD)**

There is slight but significant evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period in the area. A small cremation cemetery, believed to be of the 5<sup>th</sup> or possibly 6<sup>th</sup> century, is known from below part of the Mount School close to The Mount. There is little other archaeological evidence for the period and none in the immediate vicinity for the Anglo-Scandinavian period.

#### **4.4 The Medieval Period (11th to the mid 16th centuries AD)**

Although there is no certain archaeological evidence from the immediate area there is some evidence from the general vicinity. When a passage was driven between two cellars at 109 The Mount, probably in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a substantial rubble foundation was encountered. This was probably part of the foundations for St James's Chapel, known to have stood close to this spot. More recently an evaluation excavation and watching brief at 89 The Mount (1991.4) found build-up and dump deposits and a rubbish pit of the period. A watching brief in Tadcaster Road (1992.1015), close to the site of the Tyburn gallows, located a burial and disarticulated human bone, possibly of the period but also possibly post-medieval or even Roman. Medieval agricultural soils were recorded at the Starting Gate site and during a watching brief at 188-190 Mount Vale (1995.0265).



#### **4.5 The Post-Medieval Period (mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

There is a good deal of archaeological evidence for this period from the area. The civil war fort at the summit of The Mount was described and drawn by James Archer in c.1682 and was also mentioned by William Stukely in 1725 when he referred to it as “a great sconce” (RCHM 1972b, 26). Lead musket balls found in the playing fields of the Mount School in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century may have come from the fort and certainly belong to the period (Wenham 1970). Modern archaeological work in the area has revealed post-medieval deposits at the Starting Gate and demolition deposits and dumps at 52-62 Tadcaster Road. Elsewhere build-up deposits and a land drain have been recorded from the Mount Royale Hotel, 119 The Mount (1977.1027), pottery of the period was recovered from the Abbey Park Hotel, 79 The Mount (1978.1002), and levelling deposits were seen at the Albert Hotel. Further work at the Mount Royale Hotel (1981.1019) located a barrel-lined pit, possibly a well or water storage pit. A watching brief at 105 The Mount (1988.1025) recorded build-up deposits that were also noted at 89 The Mount, and a dog burial of the period was seen in a watching brief at 104 The Mount (1992.6). Build-up deposits of this period have also been noted at 29 St Aubyn's Place (1985.1020).

#### **4.6 The Modern Period (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

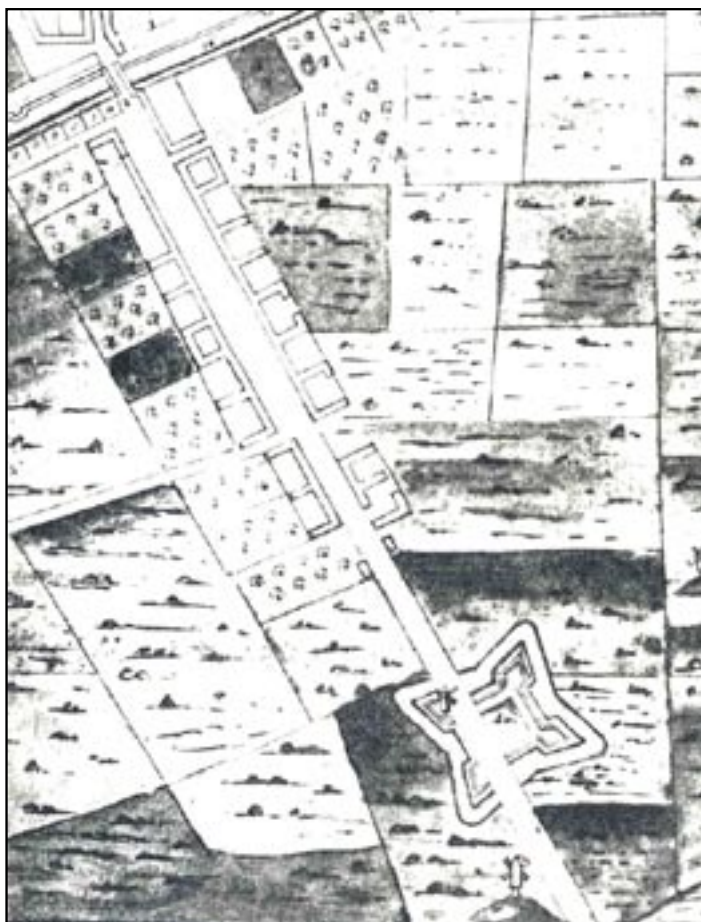
There is much evidence for this period in the immediate and surrounding area although it does for the most part take the form of garden deposits and road and path surfaces but some relatively modern deposits and structures have also been seen during archaeological work in the area. These include build-up deposits at 120 The Mount (1986.1005), a 19<sup>th</sup> century path at the Mount School (1981.1034) and dumps, levelling deposits and walls (YORYM 1996.397) within the school grounds. Modern build-up deposits were also noted during a watching brief in Trentholme Drive (1995.0260) lying directly above natural.

#### **4.7 The Historical Background**

Although now the area of The Mount may be considered close to central York it lies well outside the medieval city south-west of the Ouse and the historical evidence is therefore not abundant. At least one medieval hospital, St Catherine's, is recorded from the area. It was in use as a leper hospital by 1333 and rebuilt in 1652 by which time it housed poor widows. It was finally demolished in 1835, possibly due to the fashionable redevelopment of the area. Several mills are known to have stood in the area, at least one, owned by William Espec, dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. St James's Chapel also stood in the area, probably east of the road at the highest point of The Mount (VCH 1961). The chapel gave rise to the earlier name for the immediate vicinity, St Jaime's Hill. The chapel is referred to in a document of 1150-1154 when it is stated that the chapel was built on the site of a gallows. The gallows were apparently moved at this point in time to the Knavesmire, presumably giving rise to the name, and were used until 1812 when executions were moved to York Castle. The principal function of the chapel seems to have been as a burial place for executed felons and it was still being used for this purpose in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. A Royal Grant of 1502 mentions a five-day fair commencing on St

Luke's day, which was held around the chapel. After the dissolution it was granted to Leonard Beckwith but seems to have quickly fallen into disuse and ruin and the last traces were apparently removed in c.1735 during road widening works in the area. The main road closer to Micklegate Bar, Blossom Street, was, however, a busy and important part of York and by the 13<sup>th</sup> century possessed at least 29 tofts (houses) some of which may have lain beside The Mount. At the same time Blossom Street was the home of a thriving horse and cattle market.

Further from the city the main road is now known as The Mount and then Mount Vale before becoming Tadcaster Road but the Mount elements are comparatively recent being derived from the Civil War fortification at the summit of The Mount. This sconce was built in 1642-3 and to some extent protected many of the 68 houses recorded as existing outside Micklegate Bar along the main road. There is, however, evidence that the area did suffer during the conflict and that in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century there were many empty plots between inhabited houses. The fort itself was partly dismantled in 1649, part of it becoming the site of a windmill. The remains were further diminished in 1742 when some of the earthworks were levelled to widen the main road and the last vestiges are believed to have been swept away as late as 1953



*Plate 1 Part of Jacob Richards' 1685 plan of York showing the Sconce and Micklegate Bar*

although recent topographical observations by John Oxley (pers. comm.), Archaeologist to City of York Council, suggest that some of the eastern and south-eastern fort defences and interior may partially survive in the gardens of the houses here. The area outside Micklegate Bar had become fashionable by the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century both sides of The Mount were subject to development. There had been some earlier development in the area of The Mount, however, with at least two existing buildings believed to have originated in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The area became the home of many of the professional classes during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and still retains that atmosphere although many of the larger houses and mansions are now hotels or other business premises.

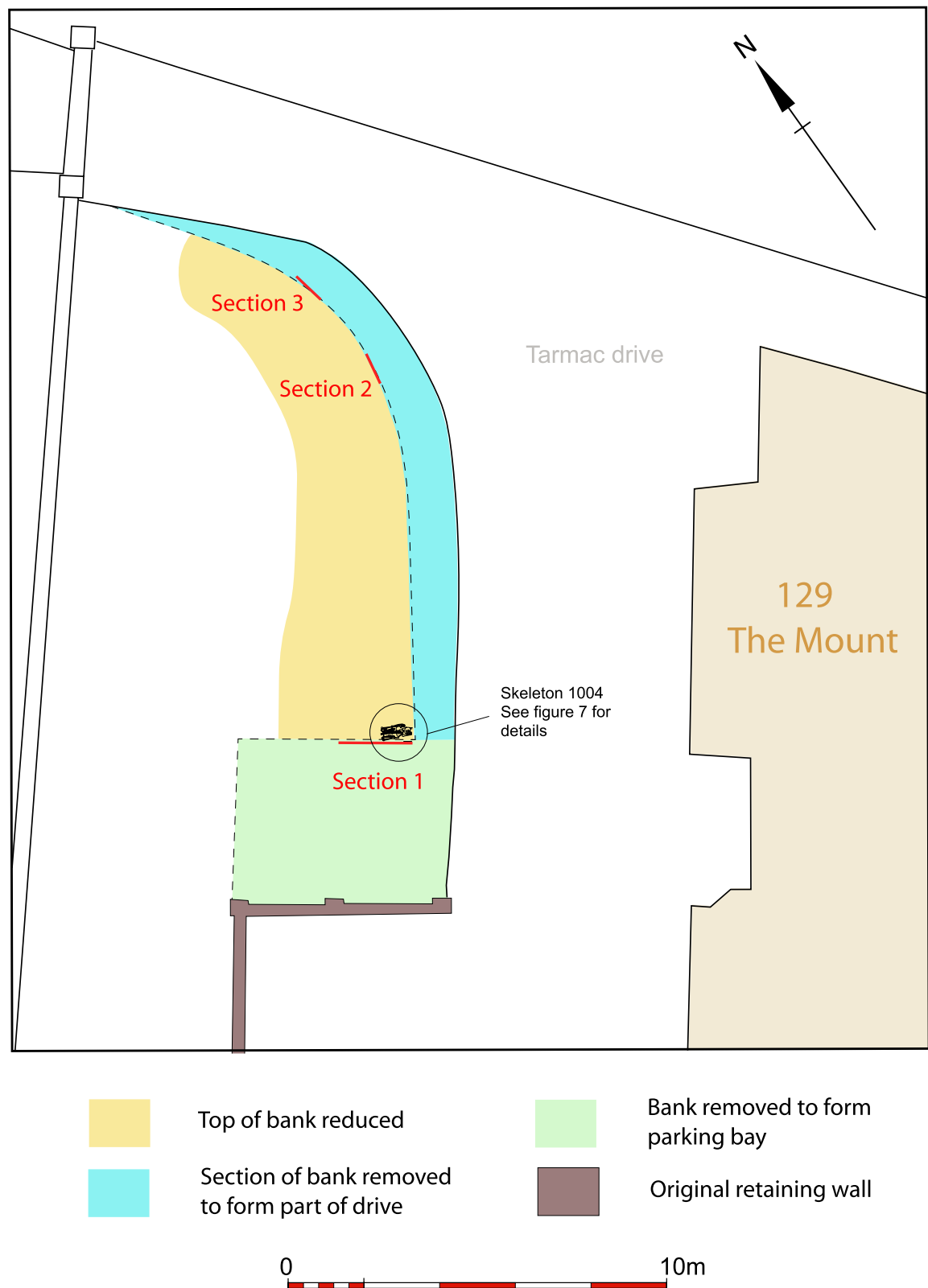


Figure 3 Showing areas of ground reduction within observed area

## 5. THE WATCHING BRIEF

Initially the archaeological investigation focussed on the area from which the possible human bones had come. The earliest deposit encountered, believed to be undisturbed natural, was a firm, mid orange clay (1003).

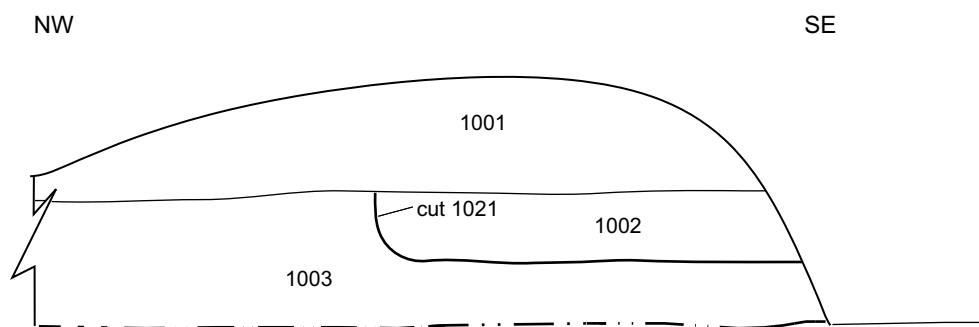
Cut into this was a grave (1021) which was aligned approximately north-west / south-east. The full dimensions of this were uncertain due to machine truncation but it was a minimum of 1.1 x 0.5 x 0.35m. It had very steeply sloping sides breaking sharply to a flat base. Within the grave was an extended supine skeleton (1004) of which all but the lower legs remained intact. The skull had, however, been removed and placed between the upper legs close to the pelvis. There was no clear indication that the burial was in a coffin but differential settlement of the skeleton may suggest that it had been placed in a coffin.



*Plate 2 View looking north-west at commencement of ground reduction*



*Plate 3 View looking north-west after partial ground reduction*



*Figure 4 Composite north-east facing Section 1*

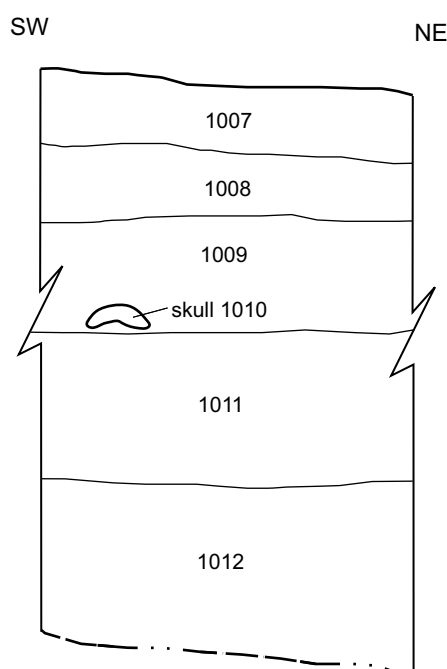


Figure 5 Composite south-east facing Section 2

This was sealed by a mid orange slightly sandy clay with occasional cobbles (1009) and skull 1010. Overlying 1009 was a light to mid brown sandy silt with moderate roots and occasional pebbles (1008). Above this was the uppermost deposit, a dark brown silt with moderate roots and capped with grass (1007). The standing section at this point was c.1.5m high.

A further part of the standing section of the widened driveway, c.7m from the main driveway entrance, was recorded since it differed significantly from the previously recorded sections. At this point the earliest observed deposit was a mid brown silty clay with moderate amounts of very small, less than 10mm, limestone fragments (1020). This was probably natural. Partly overlying Context 1020 was a deposit of clean, mid brown very silty clay (1019). It was not clear if this was a variation of natural or the backfill of a feature which was at least 0.6m wide and 0.55m deep with a moderately sloping northern edge. The profile may suggest a ditch and if so it may have been aligned roughly south-west / north-east. Although the section was examined no southern edge could be established and the works did

NE The grave had been backfilled with a mixture of mid orange-brown silt and mid orange clay (1002) which produced a moderate quantity of pottery of the late 2<sup>nd</sup> – early 3<sup>rd</sup> century and one piece of Roman brick. Sealing the grave backfill was the modern topsoil, a mid greyish-brown slightly sandy silt capped by grass (1001).

During the widening of the driveway, c.9.5m north-east of burial 1004, a skull (1010) was seen in the standing section but not removed. It was not possible to ascertain if it belonged to another skeleton or was a disturbed and isolated skull. In the vicinity of the skull the lowest deposit noted was a mid orange-brown slightly clayey sand (1012). Above it there was a deposit of loose, mid orange sand (1011).

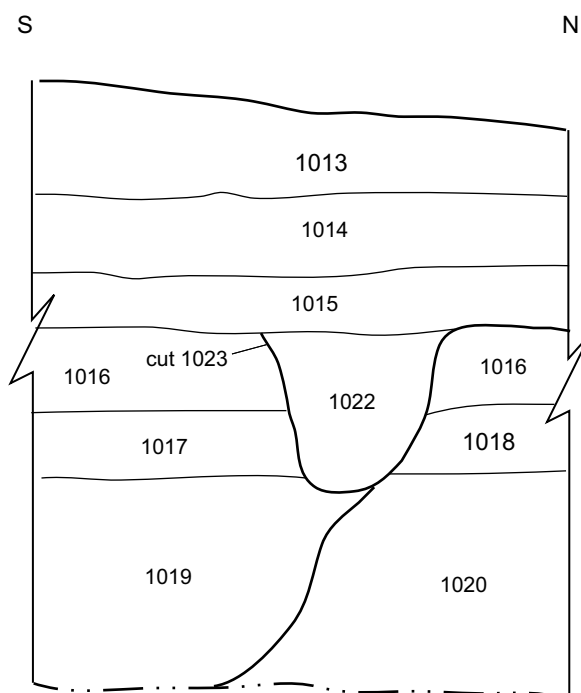
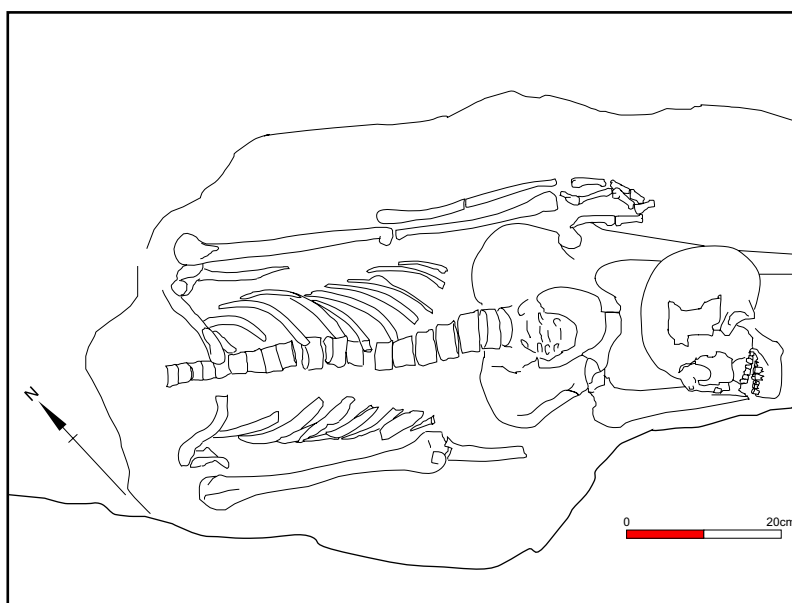


Figure 6 Composite east facing Section 3





*Figure 7 Skeleton 1004*

not go deep enough to the base of this putative feature. Overlying Context 1019 was a firm, mid orange-brown slightly clayey sand (1017) which appeared to be natural in origin although it could have been redeposited. Probably contemporary, but sealing Context 1020, was a light to mid brown slightly clayey sand (1018). Overlying Contexts 1017 and 1018 was a layer of mid orange sand (1016).

Contexts 1016, 1017 and 1018 could have been natural although again they could possibly be redeposited. Context 1016 seemed to have been cut by a possible feature (1023) which was c.0.5m across and 0.5m deep with steeply sloping sides and a shallow concave base. It contained a mid brown clayey silt with occasional roots and limestone fragments (1022). This possible feature may



*Plate 4 Skeleton 1004*

have been created by the action of a tree root since the fill was sealed by another layer of mid orange sand (1015). Overlying Context 1015 was a probable build-up deposit of mixed mid brown silt and mid orange clayey sand (1014). This was sealed by the modern garden soil of firm but friable, mid greyish-brown silt with moderate amounts of plant roots (1013). At this point the standing section was approximately 1.6m high.

On October 6<sup>th</sup> no features or finds were seen during the works and the only deposits noted were identical to those seen during the first phase of work in July. No further paper recording took place but a number of photographs of the works were taken for record purposes.

## **6. THE FINDS**

### **6.1 The Human Skeleton by Katie Tucker**

#### *6.1.1 Introduction*

This report is an assessment of the human inhumation burial from 129 The Mount, York. It comprises the methodology employed during the assessment, the results of the assessment, and the potential of the material for further analysis. It aims to meet the requirements of MAP2, Phase 3: Assessment of Potential for Analysis (EH, 1991).

#### *6.1.2 Methodology*

The skeletal material from the single inhumation burial at 129 The Mount, York was assessed for the potential for further analysis by the present author in July 2006. The skeleton was examined after being washed and while it was drying. The preservation and completeness of the skeleton was recorded on a pro forma recording form, and a diagram of a skeleton was coloured in according to the elements of the skeleton present. As this was only an assessment, this was not a complete inventory of all skeletal elements, but was rather intended to give a quick visual indication of approximately which bones were present. The general preservation of the bone, which influences how much information can be retrieved from the skeleton, was recorded on a four point scale from excellent (bone cortex intact), good (much bone cortex intact), moderate (some cortex present), and poor (little or no bone cortex preserved).

A second recording form was used to provide written data about the skeleton. This listed the skeletal elements used for estimating age and sex, and stated if these were present, absent, or poorly preserved. The form also provided space to note the potential of recording biometric data from the skull and long bones, whether there was surviving dentition, the presence of pathology (this was only noted if immediately obvious from a quick examination of the skeleton and does not constitute a full palaeopathological report), and any other information considered worthy of noting.

A brief assessment of age was made for the skeleton. This was based on a quick visual examination using the experience of the osteologist alone, without reference to any ageing methods in detail, and should be regarded as a guideline for age, rather than a proper estimate. The age categories used were foetus (up to 40 weeks gestation); neonate (from birth to 1 month); infant (from 1 month to 1 year); younger childhood (1-6); older childhood (7-12); adolescent (13-18); young adult (19-25); middle adult (26-45); mature adult (45+). A brief assessment of sex was made based on pelvic and skull morphology. Again, this assessment

was made using only the experience of the osteologist and should be regarded as a guideline, subject to change at any further analysis.

Based on this assessment, skeletons are placed into one of three categories. Category A denotes a skeleton that is a high priority for further analysis. This category is used for complete, well preserved skeletons, and individuals with interesting pathological and other changes to the skeleton. The second category, Category B, denotes skeletons that should be analysed in detail and will provide useful osteological data. The final category, Category C, contains skeletons that will yield little osteological data. The majority of these are heavily truncated adult burials that cannot be aged and sexed with any accuracy and which do not show any evidence of pathology.

### *6.1.3 Results*

A single skeleton was examined for the purposes of this assessment. This skeleton was 50-75% complete. The surfaces of the bone of this skeleton showed good preservation.

The single individual was determined to be an adult and had some of the relevant skeletal elements present to make a more accurate estimate of age at death. A quick visual examination of these elements indicated that the individual was a mature adult.

The single skeleton had preservation of the elements needed to provide an estimate of sex. A quick visual examination showed that the skeleton was a male.

The individual had surviving dentition that can be recorded, and the skull is sufficiently well preserved to provide biometric data. The long bones were also sufficiently well preserved to provide biometric data.

A few skeletal pathologies were observed on the skeleton. These were dental calculus, a fractured distal radial joint surface with associated degenerative joint disease, and osteoarthritis and Schmorl's Nodes of the vertebrae. Most interestingly, the skeleton had been decapitated through the cervical vertebrae with a sharp blade. These pathological conditions were only noted during a quick scan of the material, and need to be examined in more detail and fully recorded. A full analysis of the material could also produce more evidence of pathology that is not so immediately noticeable during a quick examination.

### *6.1.4 Assessment of Potential*

The skeleton is largely complete and well preserved with the necessary elements to estimate sex and age at death. An assessment of age should be determined from, where possible, the changes to the pubic symphysis (Brooks and Suchey 1990), and the auricular surface of the ilium (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). The sex of the skeleton should be determined from, where



possible, the assessment of several sexually dimorphic features of the pelvis and skull (as given in Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). The stature of the skeleton should be calculated, where possible, from long bone lengths, which will be placed into the regression formulae developed by Trotter (1970). The cranial index, which records the shape of the head, should also be calculated, where possible, as given in Brothwell (1981). Other biometric data should also be collected to aid in determinations of robusticity and asymmetry. Pathological changes should also be examined and photographed and possible diagnoses suggested. The cut marks on the cervical vertebrae should also be recorded in detail and the skeleton should be examined for any other evidence of trauma.

The decapitation of this skeleton makes it very interesting in the light of the recent discoveries of large numbers of decapitated skeletons from other sites in the immediate area and this skeleton would make a good addition to the data set of these unusual skeletons from Roman York.

Taking all of this into consideration, the skeleton from 129 The Mount has been placed into Category A and is highly suitable for further analysis.

## 6.2 The Pottery by Ailsa Mainman

Two contexts, (1002 and 1004), produced pottery. Context 1002 contained 34 sherds of pottery; of these 26 sherds were from a single vessel. A further sherd of the same vessel was found in context 1004. Context 1004 is the number given to the skeleton and the single sherd from 1004 should be regarded as coming from 1002.

The vessel from context 1002 is of Roman date and represents a wide-mouthed jar form with an everted, slightly squared, rim. Although the fabric is slightly paler than is typical it appears to be a variant of Ebor ware and dates to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> or early 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The fact that so much of the vessel survives, and that the sherds are unabraded, suggests that it might have been complete when placed in the ground, and perhaps served as a container for a food offering. The sherd from 1004 clearly belongs to the same vessel.

*Table 1 Pottery by context*

CONTEXT	QUANTITY	SPOTDATE	DETAILS
1002	34	Late 2nd/ early 3rd century	26 sherds of a pale Ebor wares jar. 4 sherds of grey ware including a bowl with lattice decorations and a jar form. 3 sherds of abraded white slipped Ebor ware. 1 sherd from a base of and Ebor ware form.
1004	1	Late 2nd/ early 3rd century	1 a sherd from the above pale Ebor ware vessel.

Of the other sherds in context 1002, three are abraded sherds of white-slipped Ebor-type ware but these are very abraded and worn. Four of the remaining sherds are grey wares, including a jar rim and a white slipped sherd. One grey ware sherd is from a large jar and has traces of shallow lattice pattern lines of decoration. The final sherd is the base of an Ebor ware form.

A date in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> or early 3<sup>rd</sup> century is indicated for the whole group.

### **6.3 The Small Finds by Nicky Rogers**

Three small finds were assessed: these comprise a possible Victorian drawer handle (SF1) which was found unstratified, a chain link or U-shaped staple (SF2), and a piece of glass that was too small to be diagnostic (SF3). Small finds 2 and 3 were both found in the grave fill and are probably Roman.

## **7. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

Although the monitored works were relatively limited in extent the results of the watching briefs were of some considerable interest. The recovery of an articulated but decapitated skeleton, possibly of the late 2<sup>nd</sup> or early 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, from this site clearly indicates that the cemetery investigated at 1-3 and 6 Driffeld Terrace extends to the south-east of The Mount, although for what distance remains uncertain. There is now a considerable group of recently excavated decapitated Roman skeletons from the Mount area of York and these will undoubtedly be worthy of a more detailed examination at some in the future. It would appear that any ground-disturbing works in this area of The Mount have the potential to reveal further burials of this type and date where those works are in areas that have not been subject to major disturbance in the past, such as gardens.

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