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ENY	3576
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THE BRIGANTIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE



***ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF at
TRINITY TOWER, MARKET PLACE,
RICHMOND, NORTH YORKSHIRE***

A report to the Richmond Town Manager



1st November 2006

Rec 7-11-6

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***ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF at
TRINITY TOWER, MARKET PLACE,
RICHMOND, NORTH YORKSHIRE***

In connection with planning consent 1/92W/1261D/FULL

A report to the Richmond Town Manager

Percival Turnbull

1st November 2006

Percival Turnbull, BA, MIFA, FSA

Deborah Walsh, BA, AIFA

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF at
TRINITY TOWER, MARKET PLACE,
RICHMOND, NORTH YORKSHIRE***

BACKGROUND

On instructions from Colin Grant, esq., Richmond Town Manager, an archaeological watching brief was maintained during excavations for the installation of new floodlights at the base of the tower of the former Trinity church in the Market Place, Richmond. This was required in response to a planning condition attached to Decision no 1/92W/1261D/FULL, and was carried out after discussion with the office of the County Archaeologist and according to a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by North Yorkshire County Council and the Standard Procedures of this Practice.

The mediaeval chapel of Holy Trinity at Richmond was a possession of St Mary's Abbey, York. It was once important, and housed the consistory court of the Archdeaconry of Richmond, but has long been redundant, and the body of the church houses the Regimental Museum of the Green Howards. The church has suffered many alterations, including the loss of a south aisle and the creation of a new south wall by blocking-up the arcade. The tower at the western end of the church survives substantially intact.

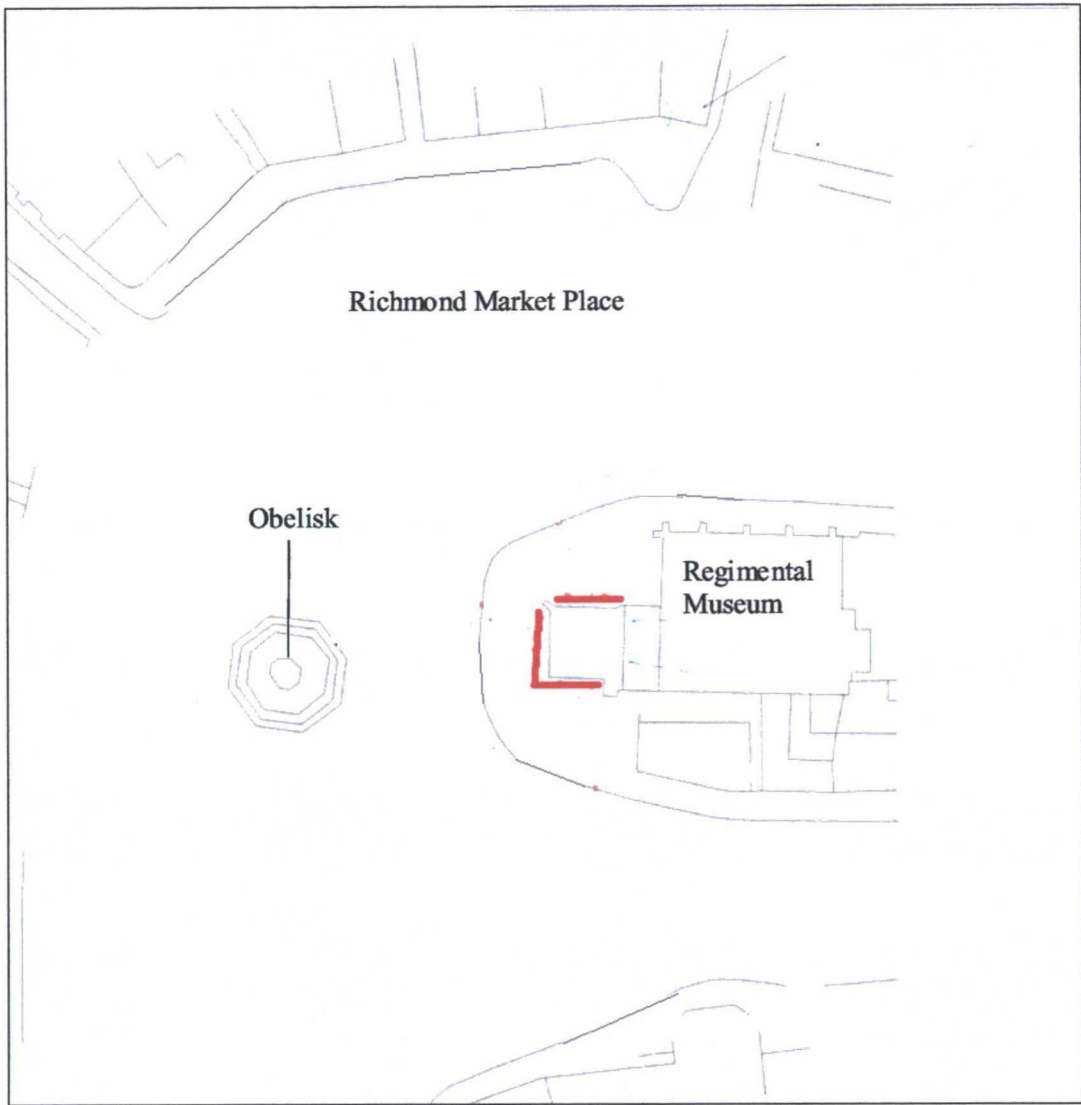
Existing prints and drawings of Richmond Market Place show buildings and booths attached to the walls of Trinity Chapel. Their nature has never been entirely clear, though they would seem to have been post-mediaeval encroachments. The possibility of burials immediately outside the chapel cannot entirely be dismissed (though burials are much more likely to be found in the former aisle on the south side of the chapel, outside the present development scheme).

The present development involves the excavation of trenches for the installation of floodlights and the necessary cables. This is part of a wider scheme, which also includes new paving and seating: the physical impact of these latter is, however, entirely superficial.

THE WATCHING BRIEF

A continuous watch was kept during the excavation of a trench around the southern, western and northern sides of the tower. Results were everywhere consistent. Very substantial paving slabs were removed; these were up to 10 cms thick, and overlay a further 10-12 cms of concrete. This overlay a black, dirty deposit, 20 cms thick, of clay loam mixed with ash, cinders and other rubbish, containing 19th/20th century chinaware and bottles. This in turn directly overlay the natural undisturbed subsoil, a rather sandy orange clay. Trenches were excavated to a total depth of 60 cms.

The results of this watching brief were archaeologically negative, all indications suggesting previous disturbance of the ground to the level of the natural clay. No structural trace was found of the buildings previously attached to the chapel: it is likely, in any case, that they were of flimsy and evanescent construction. No object was found of a date earlier than the later 19th century.



Trinity Tower, Richmond

Fig. 1

Location (trenches shown red)



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Trinity Tower, Richmond

Fig. 2

Typical trench, showing natural clay at bottom.



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