



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
MALTON  
NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF

REPORT  
MARCH 2010

SURVEY AND EXCAVATION SECTION





**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCH IN BRIEF**  
**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH AND RECTORY PLACE**  
**MALTON**  
**NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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**REPORT**  
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## Summary

This document reports the results of a watching brief undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) Ltd on behalf of Ryedale District Council and the Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Church during the excavation of service trenches at St Michael's Church, Market Place, Malton, North Yorkshire. The watching brief was carried out intermittently between the 12th January and the 1st March 2010.

The watching brief involved monitoring of groundworks for a new foul drain to serve a disabled toilet located within the west end of the church of St Michael's and groundworks for the excavation of a trench to receive flood lighting for the west end of the church.

The excavation of the foul drain trench encountered several previous services and no archaeological features were encountered. A small quantity of human bone was recovered during monitoring and reburied during groundworks. The excavation of the flood light cable encountered a sequence of topsoil and rubble; no archaeological remains were encountered.

## Acknowledgements

FAS is grateful to Louise Lunn, Business Liaison Manager, Ryedale District Council and the Reverend Peter Bowes, Priest in Charge, St Michael's Church for their assistance and cooperation.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document reports on the results of a watching brief undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) Ltd on behalf of Ryedale District Council and the Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Church during the excavation of service trenches at St Michael's Church, Market Place, Malton, North Yorkshire. The watching brief was carried out intermittently between the 12th January and the 1st March 2010.

### 1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

St Michael's Church is a Grade II\* listed building and is located in the centre of Market Place, Malton, North Yorkshire (Figure 1; NGR: SE7850 7170; Plate 1). The church is enclosed to the south west and north west by areas of car parking and to the north east by commercial properties. The area to the immediate north of the church and to the south of the new extension are all areas of garden. To the north and south of the church are two alleys oriented broadly N-E-SW.



**Plate 1** St Michael's Church looking east

### 1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

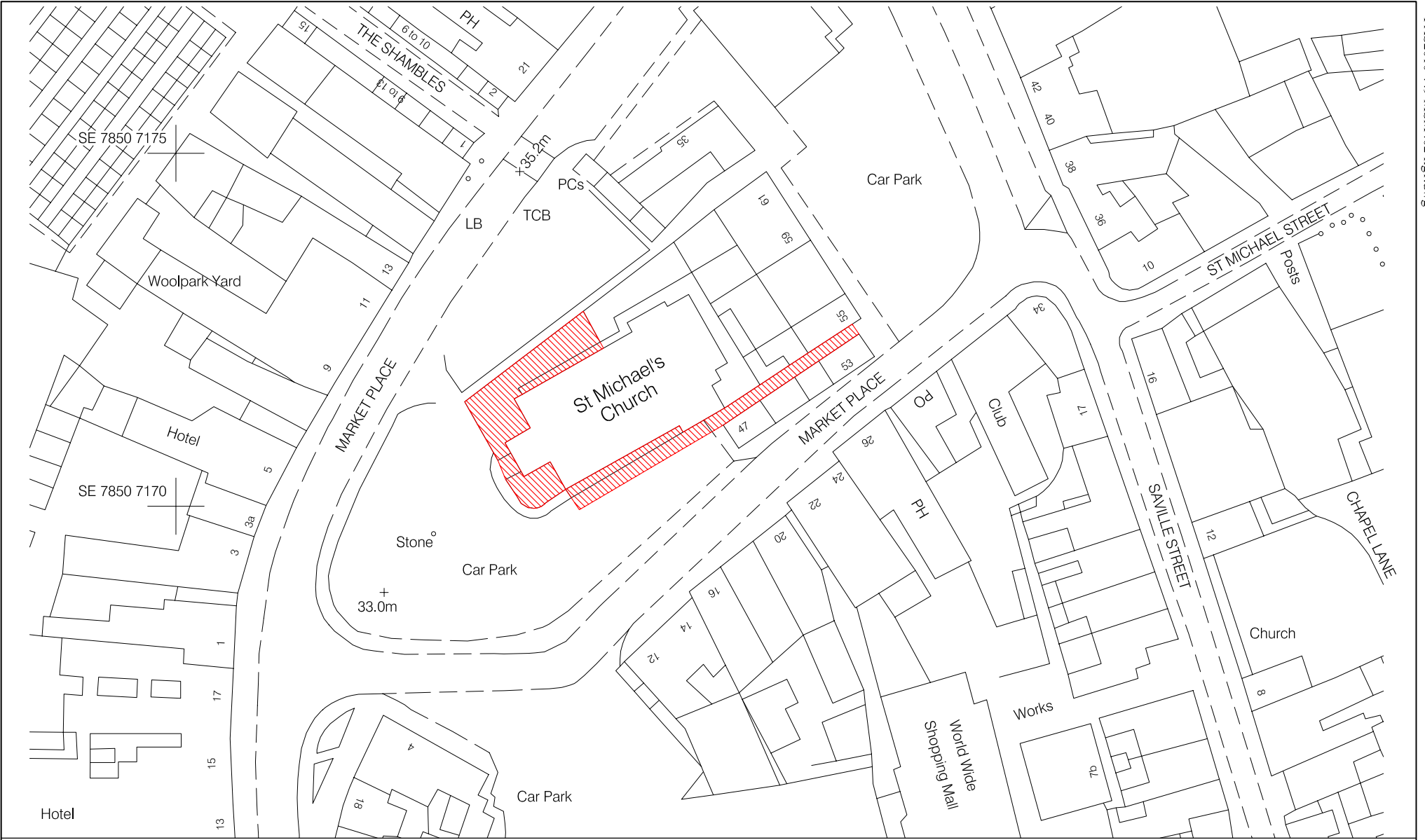
The aim of the watching brief was to identify, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered during the groundworks which would be destroyed or disturbed by the installation of new services.

### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Malton is situated in the south west corner of the Vale of Pickering between the Howardian Hills and the Yorkshire Wolds. Malton or 'New Malton' lies within the wapentake of Ryedale and partly in the liberty of St Peter, and consists of two parishes, St Leonard and St Michael. The settlement of New Malton lies to the west of the town of Malton. The borough of New Malton was founded after 1138 and built to a grid plan. St Michael's Church is situated within Market Place which deviates slightly from the town grid layout. References to St Michael and St Leonard's chapels predate the foundation of the Gilbertine Priory in c.1150.

Elements of Norman fabric survive within the fabric of the church including the pillars and capitals of the north aisle and the capitals of the south aisle. A tower was added in the 15th century and the church was heavily restored during the campaigns of the 19th century.





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Location map

Scale 1:750



Figure 1

## 2.0 FIELDWORK PROCEDURE

### 2.1 FOULPIPE TRENCH

The excavation of a new service trench to receive a foul pipe serving a new toilet within the west end of the south aisle of St Michael's was required. The trench connected to an existing manhole within the alley to the southeast of the church and continued WSW towards the west end of the church for a distance of c.40.0m (Figure 2). Within the confines of the alleyway excavation was undertaken by hand and beyond the alleyway excavation was undertaken using a small tracked mini digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket; all excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision. The trench measured c.0.30m wide and between 0.60m and 0.70m deep.

### 2.2 FLOODLIGHT TRENCH

The excavation of a trench to receive cables for new floodlighting for the west end of St Michael's Church. The trench connected to an existing lamppost situated to the north of the church and continued around the west end of the church serving four floodlights. The trench measured 0.25m wide and 0.50m deep; all excavation was undertaken by hand under archaeological supervision.

Measured sketch and photographic records were made of the position of the service trenches and the features encountered.

## 3.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

### 3.1 FOULPIPE TRENCH

Excavation of the new foul pipe trench encountered a deep deposit of limestone hardcore consisting of light brownish-grey layers and with frequent limestone rubble and occasional brick fragments, which was not exceeded during excavation. A total of ten pre-existing services were present within the trench (Plate 2). The only archaeological presence of note was a total of three fragments of disarticulated human bone found at the hardcore deposit within the alleyway. The bonewas bagged and reburied within the service trench during fieldwork.

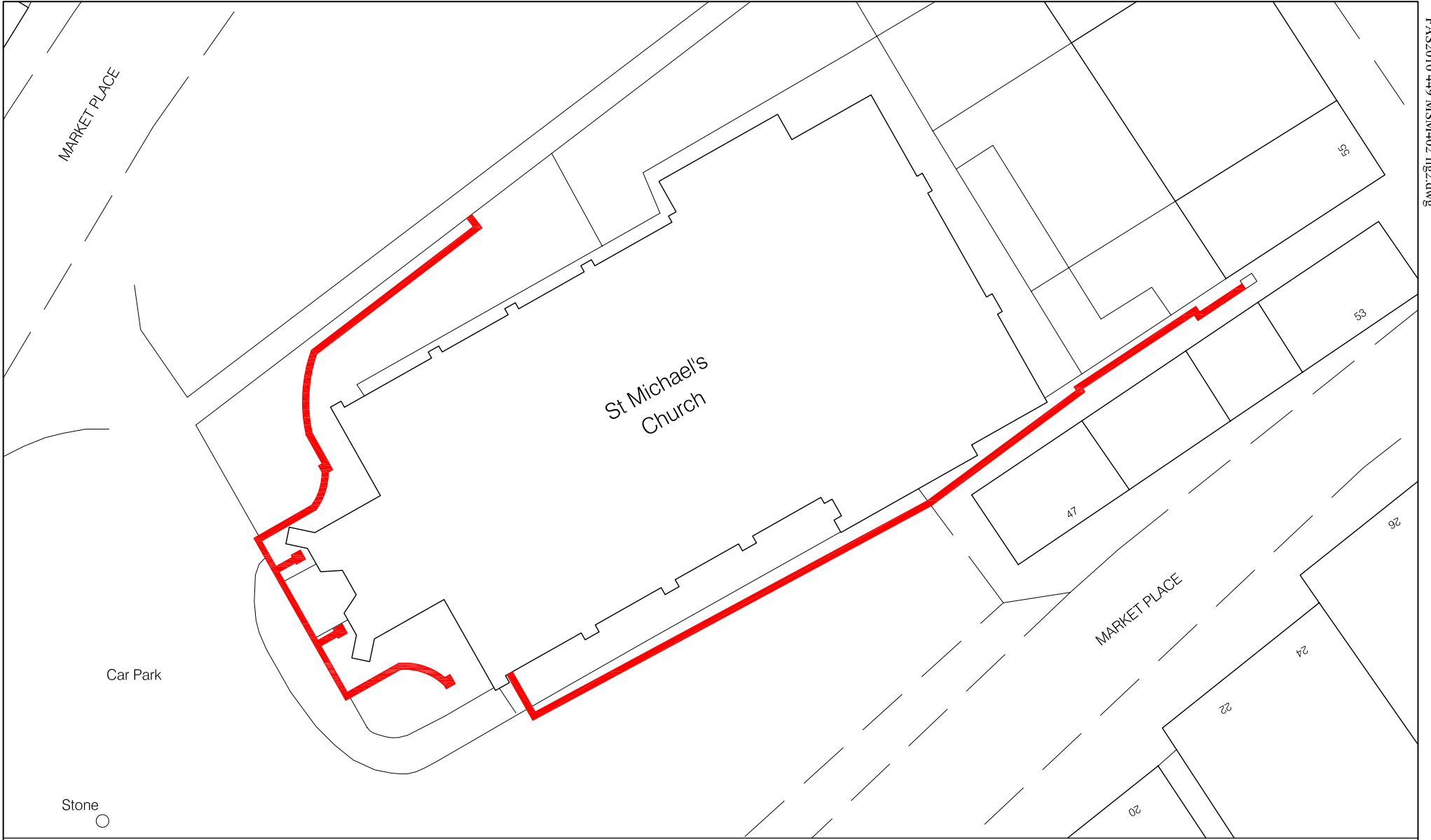
### 3.2 FLOODLIGHT TRENCH

The floodlight trench passed through the same ground to the north of the church was a sequence of hardcore rubble underlying a deep garden soil was encountered. Beyond the same ground the sequence



**Plate 2** Foul pipe service trench looking east





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Location of service trenches

Scale 1:250



Figure 2

was restricted to a layer of hardcore; the layer was not exceeded during groundworks and no archaeological remains were encountered (Plate 3).

#### 4.0 DISCUSSION

No archaeological remains were encountered during the watching brief. The existence of several previous services within the alley and widespread layers of hardcore meant that any archaeological remains within this area had been removed, although archaeological remains may exist at a greater depth, possibly signalled by the presence of disarticulated human bones encountered during fieldwork.



**Plate 3** Floodlight trench looking north

#### 5.0 ARCHIVE

Electronic and paper copies of this report have been sent to Louise Lunn, Business Liaison Manager, Ryedale District Council, the Reverend Peter Bowes, Priest in Charge, St Michael's Church, and the North Yorkshire County Council Historic Environment Record.



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