

Alison Clarke M.A., A.I.F.A.
Archaeological Consultant

15, Winton Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1QQ
Tel/Fax : 01609 776501 Mobile: 07808 626483
e-mail: alison@maryclarke.fsnet.co.uk

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

CHAPEL STREET / HIGH STREET,

TADCASTER

FOR

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

NYCC HER

SNY 492

ENY 47

CNY 1588

Parish 8073

Recd 23/03/2000

Rec'd 23/3/00
8073

see correspondence w. Mr Lavoach in
General Enqs file

E 47

SMY492

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT CHAPEL ST/HIGH ST, TADCASTER

INTRODUCTION

As part of a street enhancement scheme in Tadcaster, Selby District Council undertook works on the corner of Chapel Street and High Street involving paving and planting on a triangular site approximately 10 metres by 9 metres (Fig 1). Part of the work was the planting of a tree, which necessitated the excavation of a hole approximately 2.5 metres square and 1.5 metres deep. Because of the archaeological potential of the historic town of Tadcaster, a watching brief was carried out during this portion of the work. The operation took place on 28 February 2000.

WATCHING BRIEF (Fig 2)

Paving and brick pillars had already been put down on the north and east perimeters of the site. The rest of the site was laid to tarmac which was removed by machine to a depth of 10 to 15 cm. Beneath the tarmac was a layer of brown sandy loam to a depth of 25 cm. below the surface (surface measurements taken from the level of the new paving). A 5 cm. layer of pale yellow-brown sand formed a sharp horizon with the loamy sand above, and overlaid a layer of rubble.

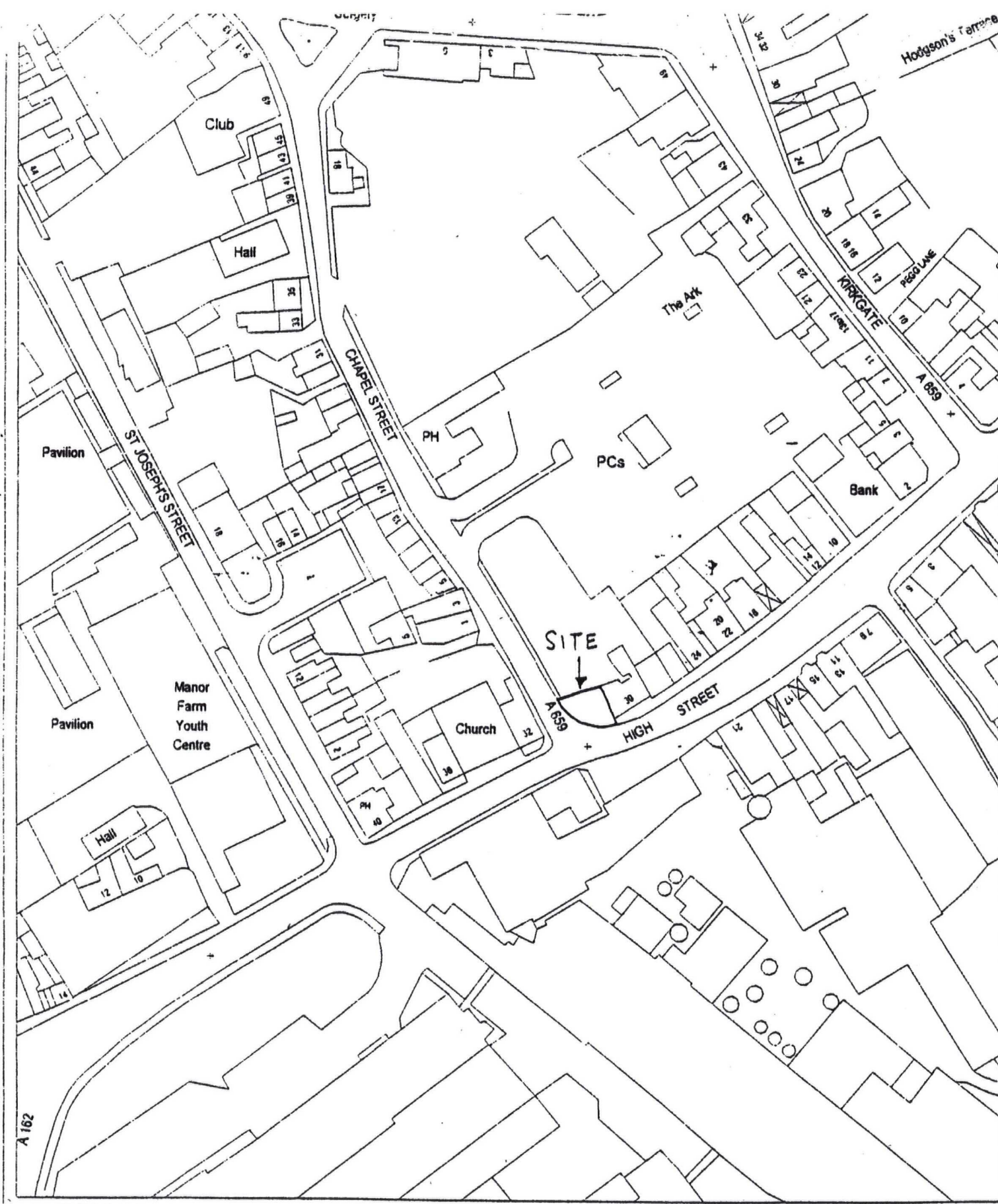
The whole site was lowered by approximately 50 cm., and the rubble extended to at least this depth except in the south-east where mid-brown friable loam lay beneath the sand layer. The rubble consisted of a mixture of dressed limestone fragments, brick and tile, concrete and mortar. The bricks were of various thicknesses from hand-made 2", through 2.5" to 3" bricks.

In the central part of the site the hole for the tree was machine excavated. The rubble spread proved to be overlying and partly filling a cellar area. This extended from 3.6 metres north-west of the footpath, up to and probably beyond the northern edge of the site. Two parallel walls ran, 1.75 metres apart, from the eastern edge of the site (Plate 2). The southern wall appeared to define the southern end of the cellar and was made of substantial dressed limestone blocks. The northern wall, also of limestone blocks, was narrower. To the north of this wall brick vaulting was visible forming two arches that appeared to continue to the northern edge of the site (Plate 1). The cellar floor was not reached.

CONCLUSIONS

The excavations proved that the area of the site had been formerly occupied by a cellared building. It is not known when the building was demolished, but the variety of building materials, including bricks of different ages, indicates a structure of some antiquity, possibly eighteenth century.

Alison Clarke



ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT WORKS AT
 CHAPEL ST/HIGH ST CORNER, TADCASTER

FIG 1 LOCATION scale 1:1250

COUNCIL
 DATE 11 January 2009
 Drawing No M273/401

© Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

FIG 2 SITE PLAN

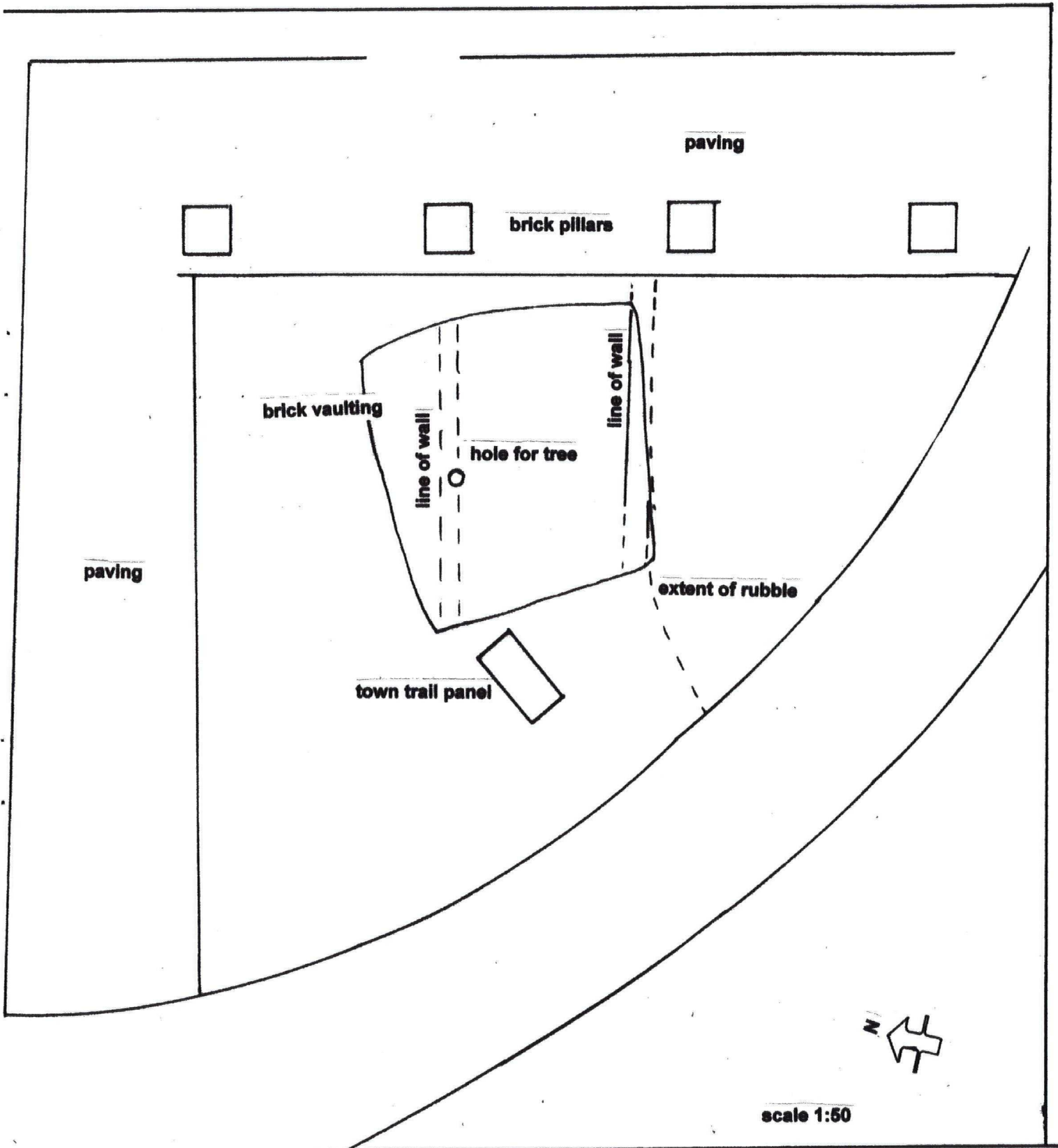




PLATE 1 Brick vaulting and remains of cross wall (looking north)



Plate 2 Remains of cellar walls crossing site (looking SE)