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NYCC HER	
SNY	8401
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Parish	6084
Rec'd	24/11/2003

**ST.OSWALD'S CHURCH,
FARNHAM,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**2001 FIELD REPORT
NUMBER 61**

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ABSTRACT

In April and May 2000 and in July 2001 York Archaeological Trust maintained a watching brief at St. Oswald's Church, Farnham, North Yorkshire. The works observed included the excavation of drainage channels around the chancel and the west end of the church, the grading down of the graveyard to the north and east of the chancel, the excavation of two soakaways and associated drain to the south-east of the church in the old grave yard and to the west of the church in the new graveyard. The purpose of the watching brief was to record any features of archaeological interest, and to ensure the collection of any human bones disturbed by the excavation work, for reburial on site.

1. INTRODUCTION

Between 12th April and the 2nd May 2000 and between the 4th to the 28th of July 2001 York Archaeological Trust maintained a periodic watching brief at St. Oswald's Church, Farnham, North Yorkshire, (NGR: SE 3481 6059). The village of Farnham is located roughly 2.5km to the north of Knaresborough (Figure 1). The church of St Oswald's is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, but the fabric of the existing church dates from the 12-15th centuries. The earliest surviving portion of the church is the fine late 12th century chancel. The exterior wall of the chancel has a chamfered plinth 0.195m high and 0.08m wide at the base. At the eastern end of the chancel, and continuing for 4.30m along both the southern and the northern side of the chancel, the chamfered plinth rests upon a footing 0.03m wide. The chancel was presumably originally attached to a 12th century nave, but no trace of this survives. The nave consists of a north aisle dating to c.1200 and a south aisle c.1300. Both aisles were extended in the early 14th

century, and finally a tower was added c.1500. A modern eaves-drip drainage channel has been inserted around the church, the construction of which involved the removal of the cemetery soils immediately adjacent to the church walls, and the grading down of the cemetery deposits to the north and east of the church.

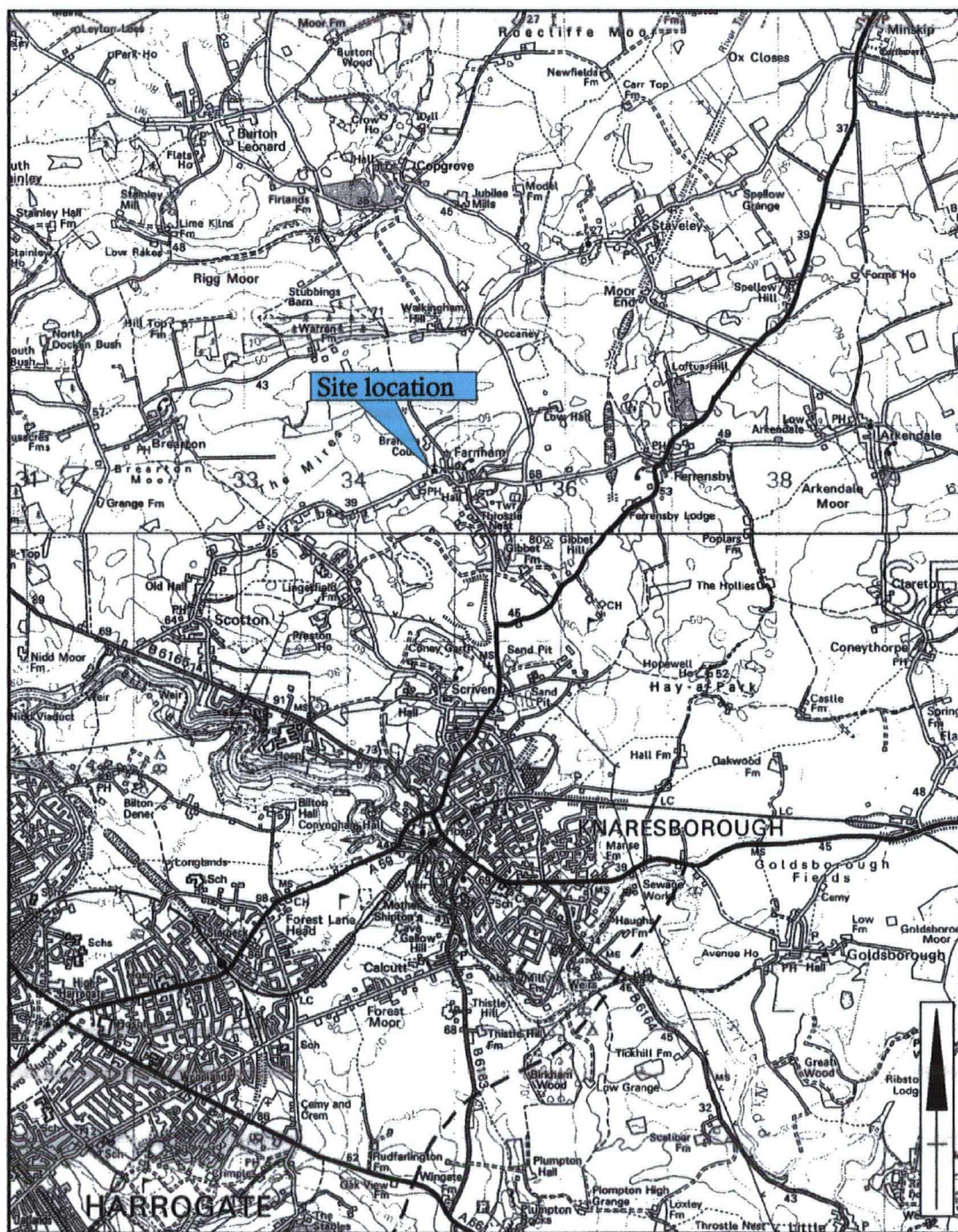
The solid geology of the area is Lower Magnesian Limestone (British Geological Survey Ten-Mile Map, Sheet No. 2 1957) laid down in the Permian period. This is overlain by boulder clay formed by glacial activity within the area, which forms a thick band of deposits that slope down moderately steeply from the north-east.

The local authority, Harrogate Borough Council, requested a scheme of archaeological works and the watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted by the church authorities to the Borough Council.

2. METHODOLOGY

The watching brief consisted of three main elements. The first element was to record the excavation of a drainage trench c.0.35m wide and up to 0.60m deep. This trench was excavated around the eastern and western ends of the church, immediately adjacent to the modern eaves-drip drain described above. The second element consisted of grading back of the cemetery to the immediate north and east of the chancel. Finally the excavation of a 6.5m long drainage channel leading to a c.1.75m x 1.75m x 1.85m soakaway was observed to the south-east of the chancel and a 50m long drainage channel to the north and west of the church leading to a c.2m x 2m x 1.85m soakaway in the new graveyard to the west of the church.

All site records are currently stored by York Archaeological Trust under the Harrogate Museums accession code HARGM 10657.



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Figure 1 Site location

