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**4 PARK STREET,**

**SELBY,**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**A REPORT ON AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

**By  
Gareth Dean**

**REPORT NUMBER: 2003/34**

**4 PARK STREET,**

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**REPORT ON AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

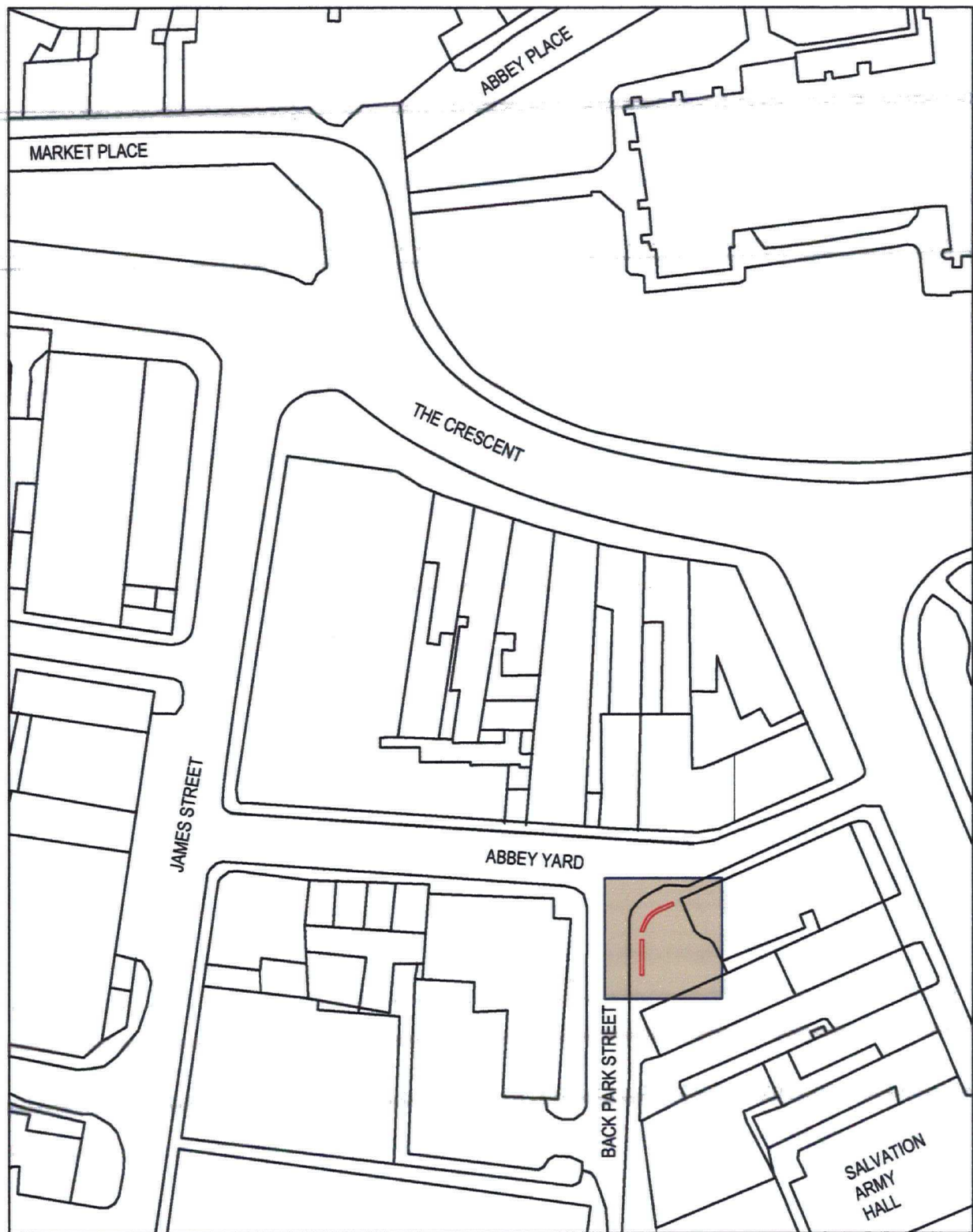
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0 40m

Figure 1 Site Location Plan

## **ABSTRACT**

*A watching brief was carried out at 4 Park Street prior to the construction of a new boundary wall on the corner of Park Street and Abbey Yard. Two trenches 0.45m wide and between 0.46m and 0.78m deep were hand excavated and revealed the remains of two walls of post-medieval date overlain by demolition rubble.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2003 at 4 Park Street, Selby (NGR SE 616 320). Work was carried out according to a written scheme of investigation issued by North Yorkshire County Council.

The main contractor was DWA Architects.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

The watching brief involved the observation and recording of deposits revealed in two hand excavated trenches for a new boundary wall. The trenches were 0.46m wide and between 0.28-0.78m deep and were aligned along the frontage of Back Park Street and Abbey Yard (Figure 1). In the southern section of Trench 2 post-medieval walls were exposed. Sections and plans were drawn of archaeological deposits. Recording on site was by means of watching brief notebooks. All depths detailed below are in relation to modern ground level.

## **3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The market town of Selby is situated on the south bank of the River Ouse, some 12 miles south of York. The site is located close to the centre of the town and the abbey (Fig.1), on the corner of Park Street and Abbey Yard within the historic core of Selby and within the medieval abbey precinct. This area was cleared in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when Park Street and the surrounding area were laid out. The 1851 Ordnance Survey map of the area shows a series of long plots with out buildings extending back from the Park Street frontage.

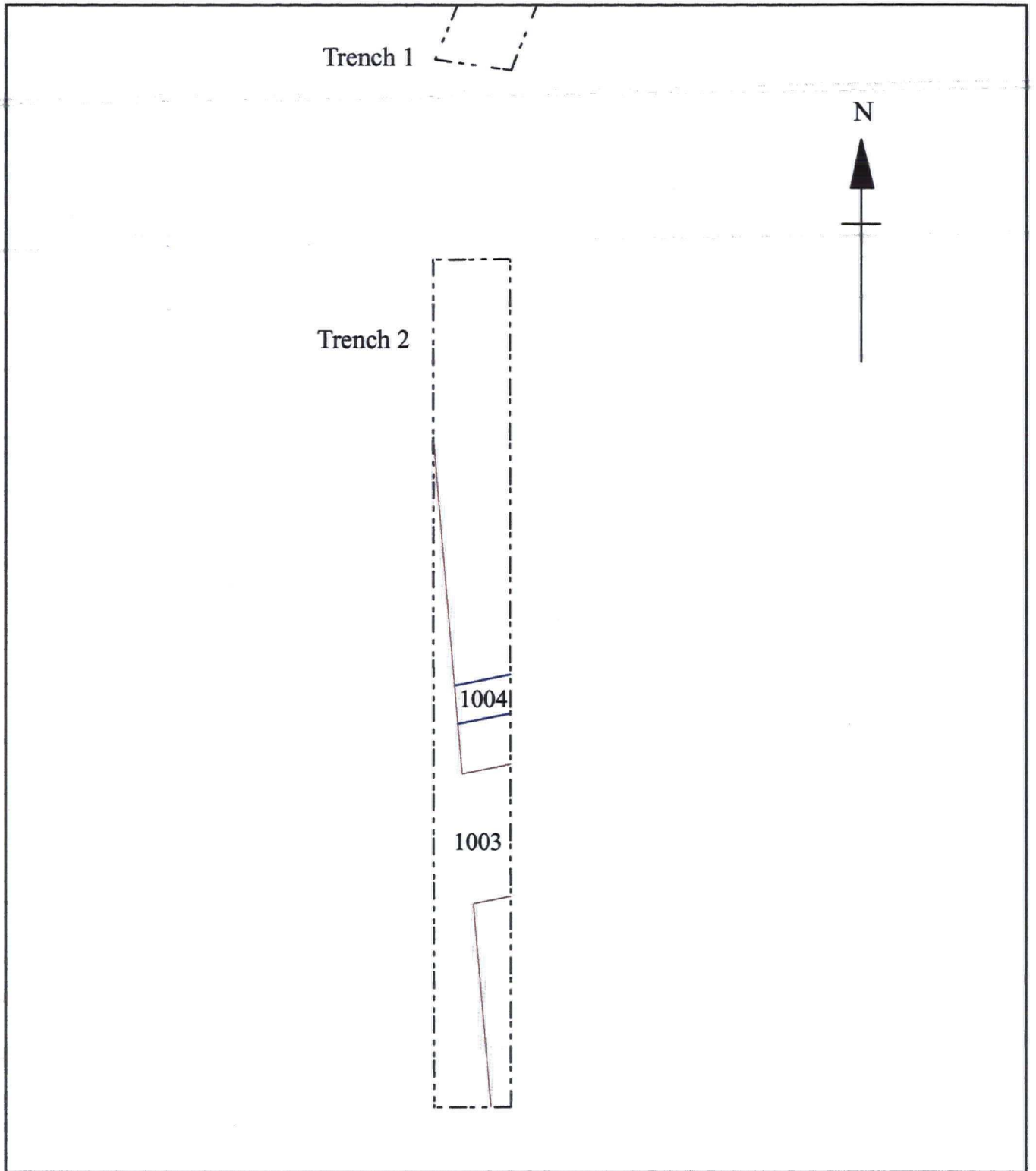


Figure 2 Plan of southern section of trench showing exposed walls

#### 4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

Two trenches were hand excavated for the footings of a new boundary wall. The southern section of Trench 2 (Fig 2) was 5.10m long, 0.46m wide and 0.28m – 0.78m deep and a 'T' section of wall (1003) was exposed 0.28m Below Ground Level (BGL). This wall was aligned north-east / south-west, and was exposed for a length of 4.0m and comprised of bricks set in a hard mortar. Against the eastern side of the trench the wall was exposed to a width of 0.34m. Where the wall had a return in a north-west direction it was 0.78m wide. Abutting the wall and offset 0.30m from the north-west return was a later wall (1004). The wall consisted of large, regular bricks set in a hard mortar and dated to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. These walls were used as foundations for the new boundary wall about to be constructed. After the walls had passed the limits of the trench at the northern end the trench was deepened to 0.78m.

Overlying the wall stubs was a deposit of brick rubble and mortar in a matrix of mid grey to dark grey brown clay sand silt (1002) with occasional charcoal flecks and pantile fragments. This deposit is most likely associated with the late 19<sup>th</sup> century clearance of the area for the construction of Park Street. Directly above this was 0.12m of limestone hardcore with occasional brick fragments (1001) for the 0.08m of tarmac (1000) that forms the present ground surface. The northern section of trench was 0.45m wide and 0.46m deep and was filled with the demolition deposit (1002) directly below the modern hardcore (1001) and tarmac (1000). The northern section of the trench was 0.45m wide and 0.46m deep. Below the present tarmac surface was a deposit (1003) of bricks, brick rubble and mortar in a friable to plastic dark grey brown clay sand silt.

#### 6. CONCLUSION

The watching brief exposed demolition debris and wall stubs that are most likely the remains of outbuildings shown on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map. No other archaeological deposits were observed.

#### 7. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Watching brief	Bryan Antoni
Report text	Gareth Dean BA MA
Illustrations	Gareth Dean BA MA