

4 St. Martin's Lane, York

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Site	4 St Martin's Lane, York, Y01 6LN	
Site Code	SML20	
County	North Yorkshire	
Location	National Grid	SE 59985 51595
	Easting and Northing	459985 451595
	Latitude Longitude	53.956979 -1.0873340
Planning	19/01188/FUL	
Development	A single storey rear extension with internal alterations and two roof lights to rear.	
Text, Images and Editing	L. Signorelli	
Date of Issue	March 2020	
Site Dates	February 2020	
Client	Tim Warman	

Summary

This report outlines the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out, at 4 St. Martin's Lane, during February 2020.

The archaeological watching brief revealed a 19th century, single nave, barrel vaulted, cellar and alcove with a lunette vault. Works have currently stopped until engineering solutions have been agreed, regarding any further works to the planned rear extension.

The cellar is interconnected to an extensive underground system, that serves a local Grade II Public House located on Micklegate.

The construction of the cellar, during the 19th century, would have truncated any existing archaeological deposits.

Introduction

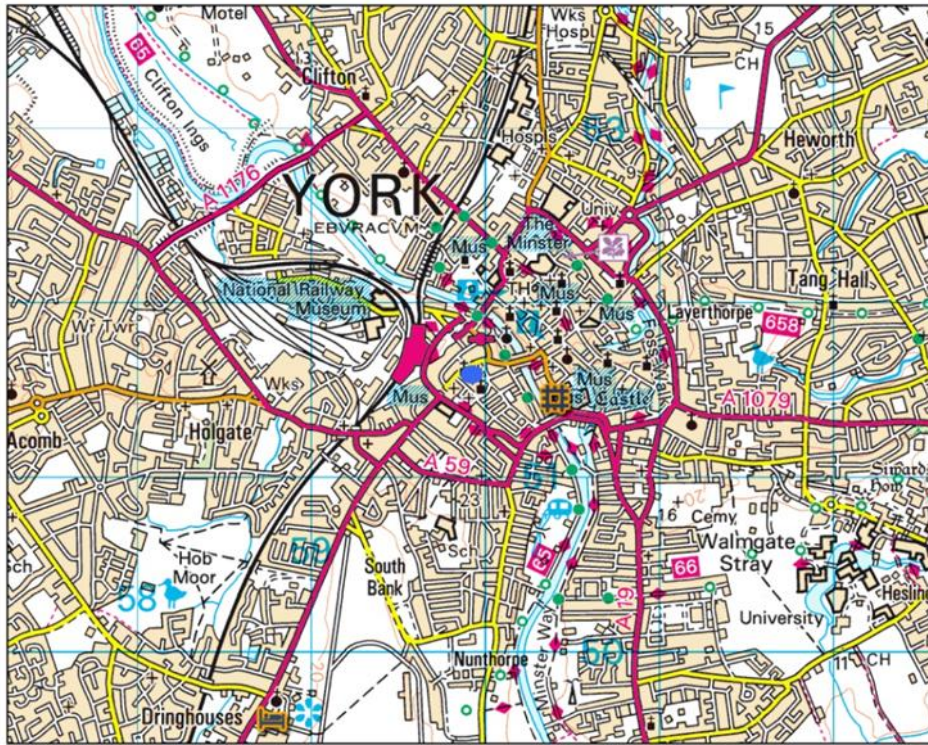


Figure 1: The Location of the Site (blue circle) within Central York.

This report summarises the results of a recent archaeological watching brief carried out at 4 St. Martin's Lane, York (Figure 1). Grade II listed, 4 St Martin's Lane, is located opposite the Grade I listed St Martin-cum-Gregory's Church, Micklegate, York. The property is situated within York's Historic Core Conservation Area and Central Area of Archaeological Importance

A programme of internal and external alterations including the construction of a single-storey, rear yard extension is to be undertaken at 4 St Martin's Lane, York.

Groundworks at the rear of the building were monitored over the course of two days. During these works a brick, single nave, barrel vaulted, cellar and alcove with a lunette vault, was observed. This 19th century structure is likely to have truncated any earlier archaeological deposits.

Planning

This development (19/01188/FUL) was been granted planning permission, however archaeological mitigations were required to fulfil the archaeological condition in accordance with Section 12 of NPPF:

A programme of post-determination archaeological mitigation, specifically an archaeological watching brief is required on this site. No work shall commence on site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (a watching brief on all ground works by an approved archaeological unit) in accordance with a specification supplied by the Local Planning Authority. This programme and the archaeological unit shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before development commences.

The archaeological scheme comprises three stages of work. Each stage shall be completed and approved by the Local Planning Authority before it can be approved.

A) No development shall take place until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief has been submitted to and approved by the

local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI. The WSI should conform to standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

B) The site investigation and post investigation assessment shall be completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition will be secured. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.

C) A copy of a report (or publication if required) shall be deposited with City of York Historic Environment Record to allow public dissemination of results within three months of completion or such other period as may be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: St Martin's Lane is situated within the Central Area of Archaeological Importance, opposite a church with 11th century origins. The extant buildings date to the mid-19th century and are Grade II listed.

The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Importance and the development may affect important archaeological deposits which must be recorded prior to destruction. (City York Archaeologist)

Related Texts

- LS Archaeology 2019; 4 St. Martin's Lane York: A Written Scheme of Investigation.

Development

A programme of internal and external alterations including the construction of a one storey, rear yard extension is to be undertaken at 4 St Martin's Lane, York.

The alterations are compliant with the Grade II listing of the cottage as approved by the City of York Planning Department.

The new extension (Figure 2) extends into the properties rear yard.

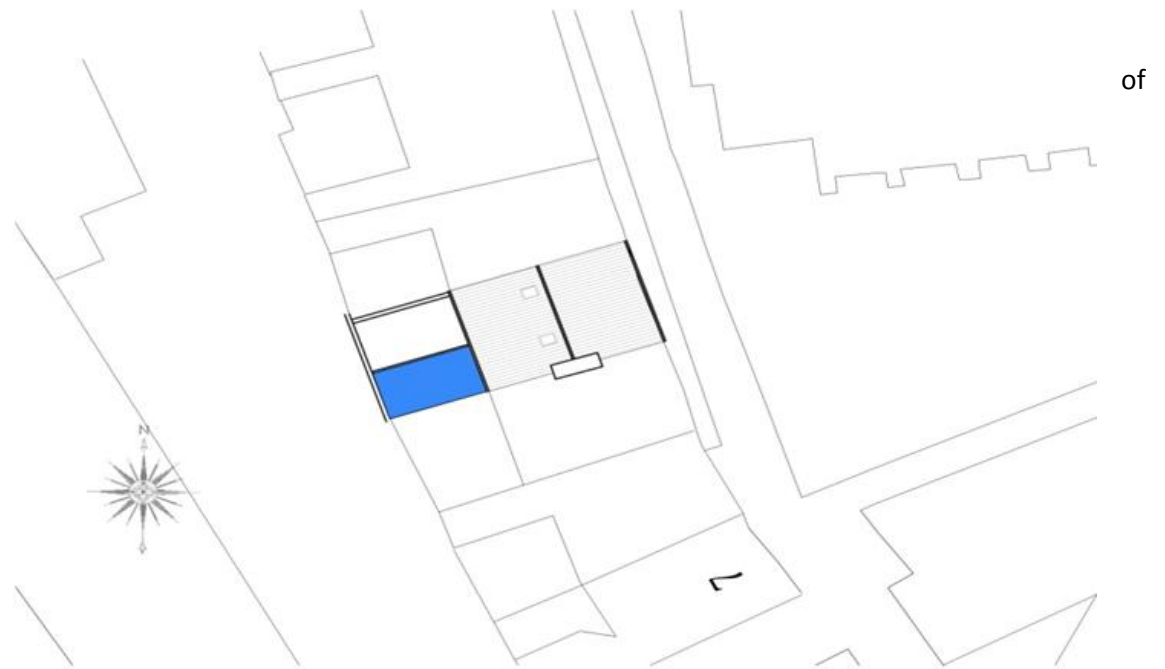


Figure 2: Plan of the development with the location of the extension highlighted in blue.

Aims and Objectives

The broad aims of the evaluation:

To ensure the watching brief, post excavation and archive are carried out and fulfilled in accordance with guidance as stated in ClfA, (2014), Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief.

Site-Specific Value:

If archaeological deposits are encountered, then the information derived from them would be added to the York deposit model.

Geology and Topography

4 St Martin's Lane (SE 59985 51595) is generally low-lying, at 22 metres AOD, however when compared to the land to the east towards the River Ouse and beyond, the site is well elevated.

St Martin's Lane leads to either Micklegate, a historic and principle route into the city of York, or to the right towards Bishopshill, a residential area with its origins in the Romano British period.

The River Ouse is located approximately 250 metres to the east and the historic urbanscape topography slopes gently down towards its banks.

Description	Geology	Characteristic of Natural	Archaeological relevance and preservation potential
1:50,000 scale superficial deposits	York Moraine Member	Glacial till comprising sandy clay, clayey sand and clay with erratic pebbles, cobbles and boulders mainly of Carboniferous sandstone and limestone. (bgs.ac.uk). Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage(landis.org.uk) Soil World Reference Classification: n/a urban deposits	The natural soil layers integrity and original characteristics are unlikely to be preserved due past human urban remodelling.
1:50,000	Sherwood	Sandstone, red, yellow and brown, part pebbly; conglomeratic	

scale bedrock geology description	Sandstone	in lower part; pebbles generally extraformational quartz and quartzite, with some intraformational clasts; subordinate red mudstone and siltstone. (bgs.ac.uk).	
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Central York is prone to flooding however the elevated position of 4 St Martin's Lane ensures it lies outside the flood zone.

Table 1: Geological nature of the site (bgs.ac.uk) and its archaeological relevance and preservation potential (Kibblewhite, Toth and Hermann, 2015)

Archaeological Summary

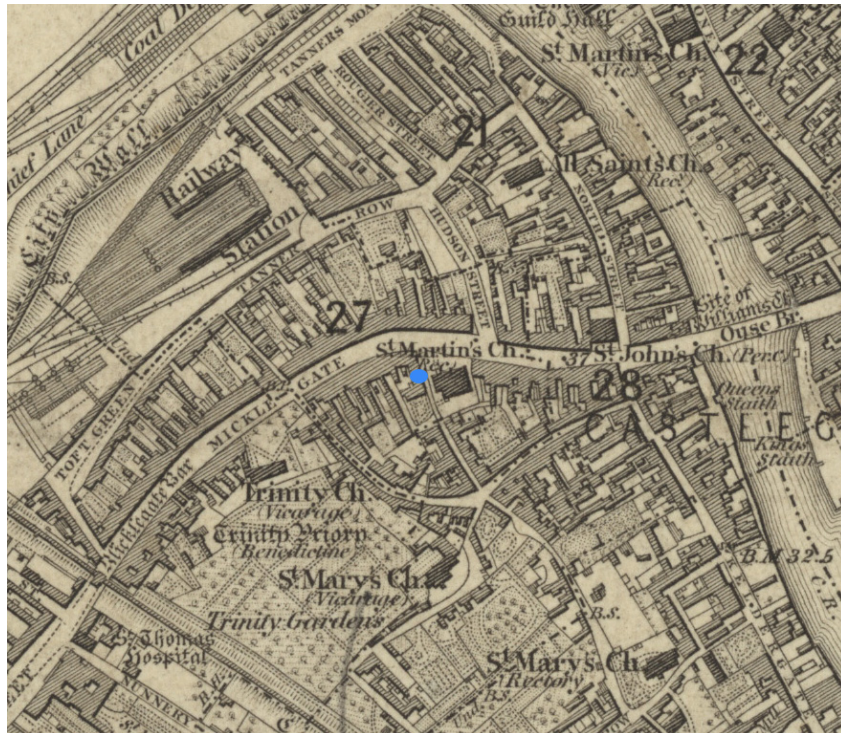


Figure 3: Ordnance Survey Map of York, 1853 (blue circle indicates site)

St Martin's Lane is located within York's Historic Core Conservation Area and Central Area of Archaeological Importance.

There are five areas designated as areas of archaeological importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979:

the historic city centres of Canterbury, Chester, Exeter, Hereford and York.

Designation has the general effect of helping to prevent important archaeological sites from being damaged or destroyed without at least allowing for some investigation and recording first.

Critically, the regime applies to all works that disturb the ground and so allows for some investigation of sites proposed to be dug for utility services, such as water and gas pipes, which otherwise do not need planning permission.

The designation does not mean a separate consent is required nor does it, of itself, make planning permission more or less likely to be given. (Historic England).



Figure 4: St Martin's Lane facing towards Micklegate.

Number 4 St Martin's Lane is a Grade II (List Entry: 1256769) 19th century terraced house constructed of orange red brick in Flemish bond with bands and dressings of cream brick (The List, Historic England).

The terraced row, comprising of seven three storey houses, form a slight crescent and are located on a narrow medieval street fronting onto the 11th century Church of St Martin-cum-Gregory (Figure 4).

St Martin's Lane is one of two routes, the other being Trinity Lane, curving off Micklegate south towards Bishopshill.

The name Micklegate, 'great street or gate' is derived from Norse and Old English.

St Martin's Lane has taken its name from the adjacent church, which has 11th century origins; it would be likely that the lane also dates to at least this period or earlier.

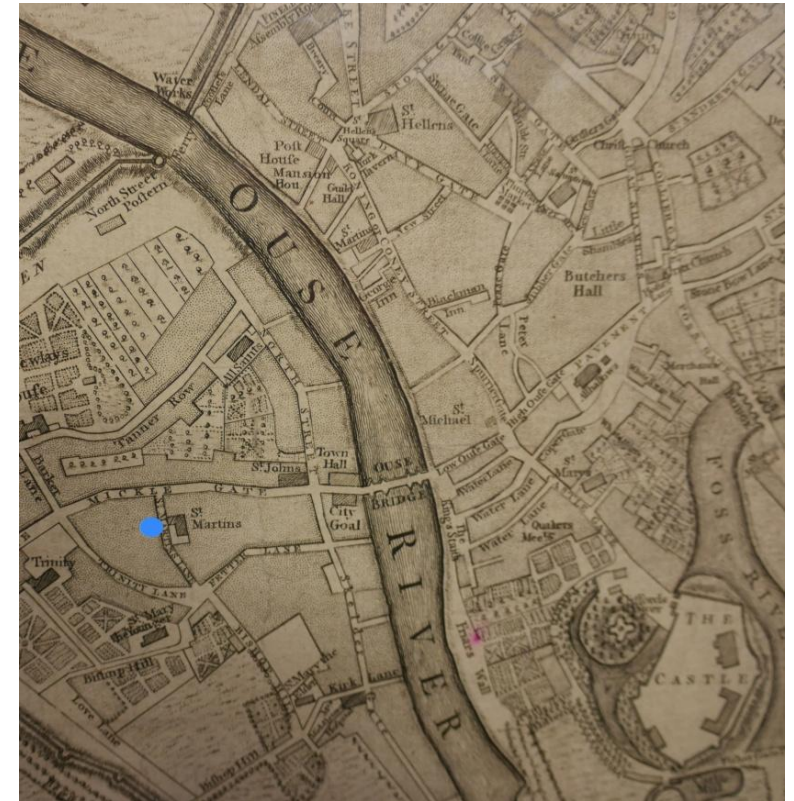


Figure 5: 1772 Thomas Jeffrey's *A Plan of the City of York* (blue circle indicates site).

1st-4th Centuries During the Romano British period, St Martin's Lane lay within the Colonia and many structural remains have been recorded within this area. The Roman road, 28c, (Margary, 1957), from Tadcaster (Calcaria) to York (Eboracum) passed along part of Micklegate, through the civilian settlement towards the fort on the opposite side of the River Ouse. Micklegate slopes downwards towards the Ouse, during this period the land was terraced.

5th-10th Centuries Both St Martin-cum-Gregory and Holy Trinity are pre-Norman conquest in date, asserting activity in Micklegate during the Anglo-Scandinavian periods.

During the 1980's structural remains dating to the 9th-10th century were discovered during excavations at the Queens Hotel.

11th-17th Centuries The walled city of York grew throughout the Medieval period and archaeological deposits and features are common and, in some cases, still standing. In Braun and Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terram*, Vol. VT 1618 based on Speed's Plan of 1610, a row of properties are depicted on St Martin's Lane, suggesting that the current 19th century terrace supersede earlier medieval dwellings (Figure 6).

By 1772, Thomas Jeffrey's *A Plan of the City of York* further depicts the development within central York. The city is more densely populated and has many established areas of gardens (Figure 5).

Trinity Lane and St Martin's Lane, remain unchanged in terms of their width and meandering medieval routes. Both lanes branch off Micklegate and join Fetter Lane; these lanes would have been important thoroughfares from the 'Great Street' of Micklegate towards the settlement at Bishophill.

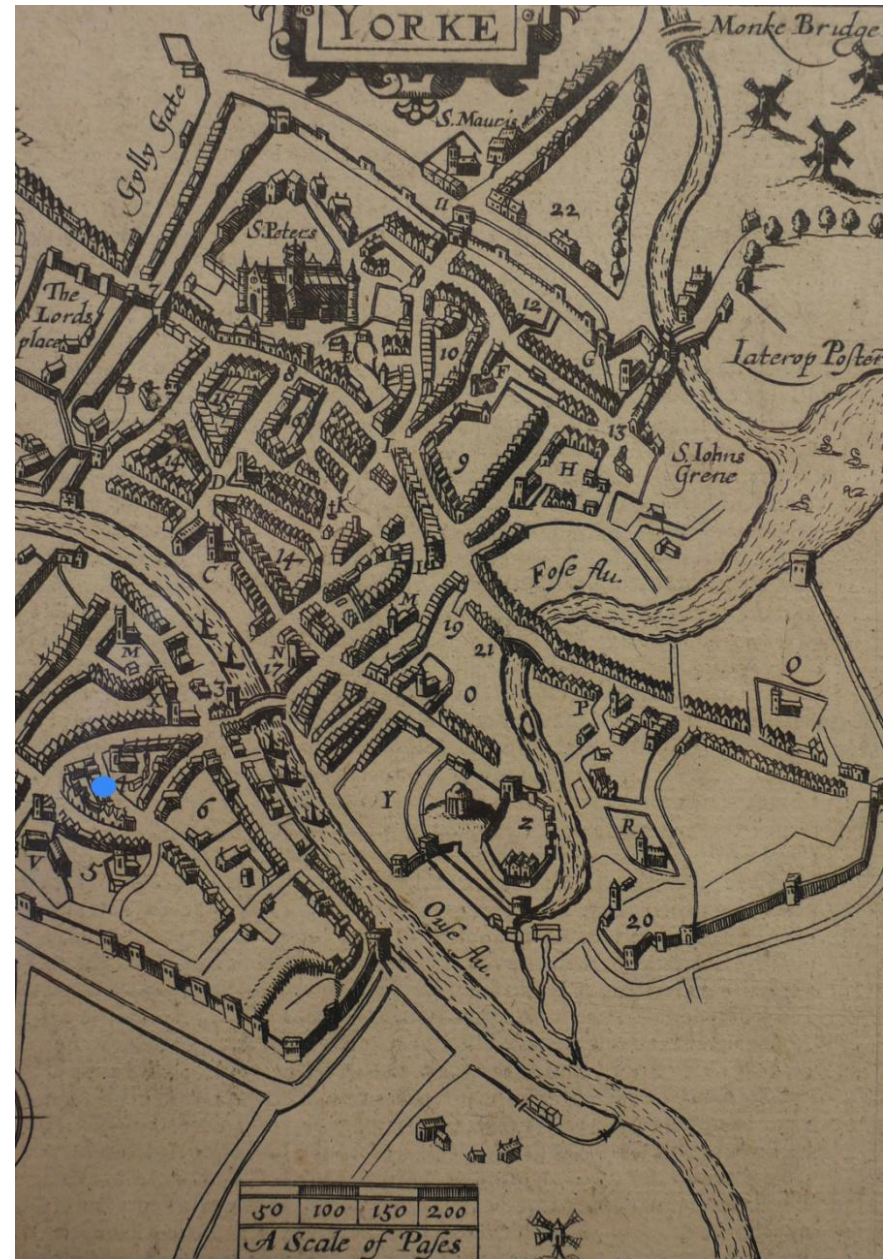


Figure 6: Braun and Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*, Vol. VT 1618 based on Speed's Plan of 1610 (blue circle indicates site).

Archaeological Interventions

Event Name	Event Type	Results	Relevance
12 St Martin's Lane. York Archaeological Trust(1993)	Watching Brief	An opus signinum floor and associated Roman deposits were observed approximately 1.30m below ground. Above this was a thin layer of medieval build-up and modern levelling.	Romano British archaeology was present at 1.30m below ground level.
12 St Martin's Lane. York Archaeological Trust(1994)	Watching Brief	Beneath the modern concrete approximately 0.70m of build-up well preserved, well stratified deposits, relating to a Roman building, possibly a townhouse, with opus signinum floors, limestone walls and post-pads were observed in a contractor's trench.	Romano British archaeology was present at 0.70m below ground level.
13-15 St Martin's Lane. York Archaeological Trust(2003)	Watching Brief	Although the majority of deposits recorded were of post medieval and modern date, two areas of the site were excavated to Roman levels. The material disturbed is suggestive of a high status Roman building in the near vicinity.	Redeposited Romano British evidence, which may indicate the presence of a high-status building.

Table 2: Prior archaeological interventions within the immediate vicinity

Deposit Depths

In 2013, the City of York Historical Characterisation Project, collated archaeological deposit information, (MacRae, 2013). Although the deposit depths can fluctuate they still offer indicative characteristics at certain levels, which can be helpful when trying to predict their presence on site (Table 3).

Intervention Name (s)	Deposit Depth (s) BGL	Type
a. Tanner Row, b. Fetter Lane, c. Central Micklegate, d. Priory Street	a.1.65m, b.3.00-5.20m, c.3.30m, d.6.00m	Natural
a. Micklegate, b. Fetter Lane	a. 1.20m-3.00m+, b. 1.75m	Roman structures and deposits
a. Queens Hotel	a. 0.60m-1.00m	Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian
a. All Saint's Church and Trinity Lane Car Park	a. 1.80m-2.00m	Medieval stratigraphy
a. 94 Micklegate	a. 0.90m	Post Medieval walls and garden soil

Table 3: Deposit Depth



Figure 7: View of the site after the removal of the floor sandstone slab.

Methodology

The archaeological watching brief, monitored the groundworks associated with the rear extension at 4 St. Martin's Lane, York. The impacted space was 12.00m² (Figure 7) measuring 2.5m in width and 5.0m in length. The ground was reduced to 0.45m below ground level.

The ground reduction, due to limited space, was undertaken by hand. Sandstone slabs were lifted then the area was hand dug and cleaned to reveal the first archaeological horizon, 0.15m bgl, which comprised of two 19th century foundation walls which once served as a garden shed.

The ceiling of the barrel-vaulted cellar was exposed and hand excavation along its western edge, revealed the curved angle, of its barrel vaulted roof.

The cellars supporting walls were partially breached by the contractor for further investigation, creating a small entrance to this feature. Claire Mac Rae, the City of York Archaeologist was consulted regarding the cellar. A brief inspection and recording of the cellar located directly underneath the clients property and within their boundary, was undertaken.

A brief internal inspection was carried out with the use of mobile lighting to enable images to be captured as part of the archaeological watching briefs records.

A digital, standard single context recording system was used to keep a documented record of all archaeology encountered.

No finds were encountered or retained.

A plan to a scale of 1:100 and a section drawn at a scale of 1:50 were drawn, on permatrace, on site (Figure 8).

All archaeological features and sections were digitally photographed and stored as Tiff files.

Results

The removal of the yard floor surface (Context 1), which consisted of large sandstone slabs, was positioned on top of a 0.5m deep layer of orange brown sand (Context 2).

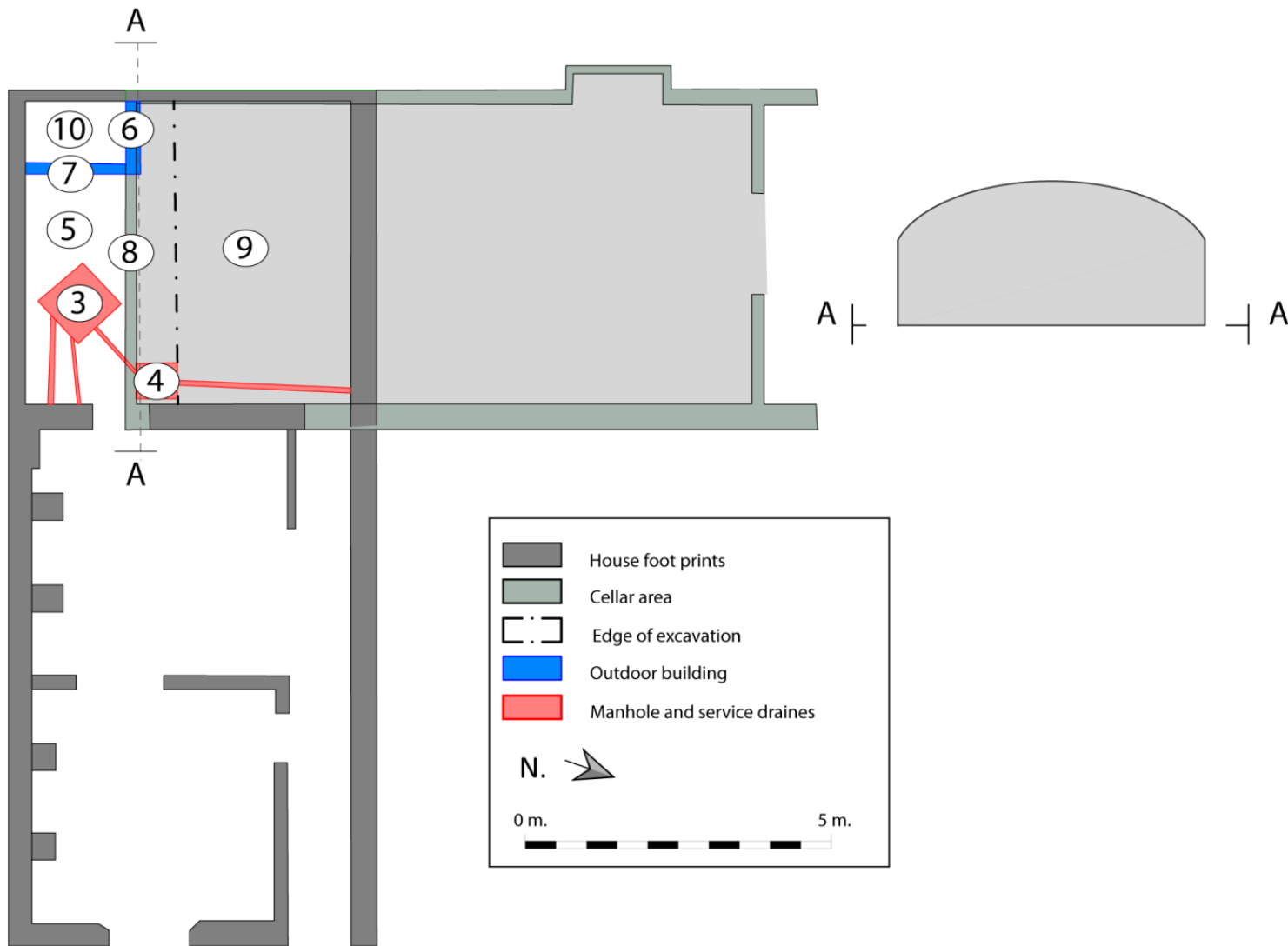


Figure 8: Site plan and cellar section A-A.



Figure 9: Wall (8) and cellar roof (9).

Context 2 was laid above a made-up layer of brown silty clay mixed with sand, gravel and fragmented grey mortar (Context 5).

The removal of context 5, revealed the presence of: two 20th century manholes (Contexts 3 and 4) with associated drain clay and plastic pipes, two foundation brick walls of a former back yard shed (Contexts 6 and 7) and a cellar (Context 8 and 9).

The back yard shed foundation walls (Context 6 and 7) measured 0.95m and 1.50 in length, 0.23m in width and 0.25m in depth.

The shed was located at the north west corner of the yard. Each single brick measured 0.23m in length 0.11m in width and 0.07m in height and were bonded with a strong grey sandy mortar.

The area in between these two foundation walls, was used as garden feature which contained a very dark brown clay silty sand soil (Context 10).

The removal of the made-up ground (Context 5) also revealed the presence of a north south aligned brick wall (Context 8) and the roof of a barrel vaulted cellar (Context 9) (Figure 9).

The brick wall (Context 8) was the western back wall of a large cellar. This feature, built in an English Bond, measured 4.90m in length, 2.30m high and 0.25m wide, and was bonded by a strong grey sandy mortar.

The cellar, which was exposed directly underneath the clients property, measures 6.10m in length, 4.90 width and has a vertical plane of 2.30m. This interconnecting brick single nave, semi circular, barrel vaulted cellar (Context 9) roof was supported by two sidewalls, with frogless red bricks with a sandy grey mortar laid in a stretcher bond and constructed to a height of 1.50m (Figures 10-11). There was a single alcove with a lunette vault set into the western wall. Running on an east to west direction this cellar extended beyond the eastern boundary of the property.

The cellar floor consisted of heavily worn bricks laid in a running bond. All bricks used for the construction of the cellar measured 0.225m in length, 0.10m in width, 0.08m in height (Figure 12).

Natural

Natural was not reached.

Site Stratigraphy

(1) (2) External Sandstone Flagged Flooring	
(5) Made up Ground	(3) (4) Manholes and related drains
(6) (7) Shed bricks foundations	
(8) (9) Cellar	
Natural not exposed	

Table 4: Visual Representation of the Site's Stratigraphy

Context Index

Context No.	Site	Site code	Area	Description	Character
1	SML 20		Patio	Patio floor	Layer
2	SML 20		Patio	Made up ground	Layer
3	SML 20		Patio	Manhole	Structure
4	SML 20		Patio	Manhole	Structure
5	SML 20		Patio	Made up ground	Layer
6	SML 20		Patio	Brick wall	Structure
7	SML 20		Patio	Brick wall	Structure
8	SML 20		Patio	Brick wall	Structure
9	SML 20		Patio	Brick roof	Structure
10	SML 20		Patio	Made up ground	Layer



Figure 10: Internal view of the single nave barrel vaulted cellar.

Conclusion

The archaeological watching brief at 4 St. Martin's Lane, York revealed red brick structural foundations associated with a garden shed.

Surprisingly, underneath the rear yard, was an intact single nave barrel vaulted cellar.

The 19th century cellar extends beyond the eastern boundary of 4 St. Martin's Lane, and appears to be part of a complex of cellars which run underneath properties 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The cellar network appears to be connected to the Grade II listed Public House (Walkers Bar), number 47 Micklegate (Historic England List Entry: 1257330).



Figure 12: Exposed barrel vaulted cellar roof at garden height.



Figure 11: Heavily worn brick flooring inside the single nave barrel vaulted cellar

Archive

The watching brief at 4 St. Martin's Lane produced no physical archive.

A digital copy of this report will be deposited with the City of York Archaeologist and uploaded to OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological Investigations) for subsequent inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service LS Archaeology grey literature records page:

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit/browse.cfm?unit=LS%20Archaeology&sn=26&CFID=b47591b1-c780-4ae6-8f4c-a006b8f3edf3&CFTOKEN=0>

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MacRae, C (2013); City of York Historical Characterisation Project: Character Area 21 Micklegate.

Margary, I (1957); Roman Roads in Britain.

Reeves & Johnson (2003); 13-15 St Martin's Lane, York (York Archaeological Trust).

Watkinson & Neal (2001); First Aid For Finds.

Online Resources

mapapps.bgs.ac.uk

heritagegateway.org.uk

historicengland.org.uk

historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1256769

[Charactor_area_21___Micklegate%20\(1\).pdf](#)

www.york.gov.uk/HistoricEnvironmentRecord

[Area_21_micklegate%20\(3\).pdf](#)

Appendix 1 Context Data

Context	Site	Area	Type	Period	Length in cm.	Width in cm.	Depth in cm.	Soil type	Fill above	Notes
1	SML 20	Patio	Floor	20th C	480	250	5	Concrete	2	Patio floor made up of square concrete slabs each measured 60X60x5 cm.
2	SML 20	Patio	Layer	20th C	480	250	5	Sand	5	Layer of sand deposited as base for the patio floor.
3	SML 20	Patio	Manhole	20th C	100	100	90	Bricks	5	20th century manhole made with bricks and mortar. Each brick measures in cm. 22x11x7 and are bonded with a firm orange brown sandy mortar. Connected to this manhole are three drains, one links to manhole 4 and the other two drains links to the house.
4	SML 20	Patio	Manhole	20th C	80	70	90	Bricks	0	20th century manhole made with bricks and mortar. Each brick measures in cm. 22x11x7 and are bonded with a firm orange brown mortar. A drain running parallel to the house on a northward direction towards property N. 3 of St Martin's Lane is associated with this manhole. Manhole (4) is also connected to manhole (3) by another small drain.
5	SML 20	Patio	Layer	20th C	340	150	30	Sandy gravel	0	Made up ground associated with 20th century patio floor.
6	SML 20	Patio	Wall	19th C	95	23	25	Bricks	0	19th century brick wall. Located at the end of the excavation. Each brick measures 23x11x7 cm, and are bonded with a grey sandy strong mortar. Identified as a brick garden structure. Part of wall (7)
7	SML 20	Patio	Wall	19th C	150	23	25	Bricks	10	19th century brick wall. Located at the end of the excavation. Each brick measures 23x11x7 cm, and are bonded with a grey sandy strong mortar. Identified as a brick garden structure. Part of wall (6)
8	SML 20	Patio	Wall	19th C	490	25	230	Bricks	0	Identified as a brick structure. Associated with the 19th century cellar building. Brick measures 22.5x10x8cm, bonded with a grey sandy strong mortar, wall built with English bond.

Context	Site	Area	Type	Period	Length in cm.	Width in cm.	Depth in cm.	Soil type	Fill above	Notes
9	SML 20	Patio	Brick roof	19th C	610	490	80	Bricks	0	Brick cellar single nave barrel vaulted roof associated with wall (8). Identified as the roof of former cellar. Bricks laid in a stretcher bond and are of the same dimensions as the one recorded for wall (8). The floor of the cellar was made of bricks laid with a running bond pattern.
10	SML 20		Layer	19th C	480	250	30	Sandy silty loam	0	Made up ground which consists of a sandy silty loam mixed with 20% of small fragments