



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	All Saints Church, Pavement, York		
CLIENT NAME	Colin Briden, 18 Edgware Road, York		
YAT PROJECT #	5473	YAT REPORT #	2011/5
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6040 5173
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a

INTRODUCTION

Between 18th January and 4th February 2011 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at All Saints Church, Pavement, York (Figure 1). The objective was to record any archaeological remains exposed during building works at the church. These works included the installation of an indoor toilet in the liturgical north-west corner of the church which required that a hole be broken through the church wall for the foul water drain. The trench for this was originally to run along the High Ousegate end of the churchyard, below the churchyard wall and into a main sewer located in High Ousegate. To avoid major disruption in High Ousegate the drain was re-routed along the (liturgical) east side of the wall marking the east side of the footway between High Ousegate and Coppergate to a point where a connection could be made into an existing drain running across the churchyard into a sewer running below the pavement. The foul water trench was also used for the installation of a fresh water supply but a further section of trench had to be dug along part of the south-west part of the churchyard in order to connect the pipe to the existing fresh water supply (Figure 2). Due to the works being carried out within the church and part of the churchyard an archaeologist was present at all times when excavation, all by hand, was in progress. The works were carried out under a Church of England Faculty (Appendix 1). Recording took the form of written notes and measured sketches supplemented by a large number of colour photographs, some detailed and others general. The disarticulated human bone, no articulated remains were uncovered, was immediately placed within black plastic bags and reburied as soon as the pipes had been installed. The location of these points of reburial is marked on Figure 2.

RESULTS

The first part of the work consisted of the excavation of a hole (Section 1, Figure 2) measuring c.0.6 x 0.3m and c.0.2m deep within the north-west corner of the interior of the church. Only two contexts were noted, the lower being a mixture of mid brown silt and pale brown mortar with moderate brick / tile and small fragments of limestone (1000). The upper context was the modern floor of stone slabs (1001) which were c.0.05m deep. Once this had been excavated a hole was made through the wall. This proved to be easier than envisaged since the wall of limestone blocks (1002) was found to be bonded with a soft mid reddish-brown clay (1003) below the modern floor level.

A trench was then dug outside the church up to the hole in the lower church wall. This trench was c.0.8m wide and 1.3m deep and ran parallel to and c.0.3m from the northern boundary wall of the present churchyard. One specimen section was recorded along this stretch of trench (Section 2, Figure 2). The earliest deposit noted, between 0.3m and at least 1.3m below modern ground level was a mixed, very dark brownish-grey silt with moderate disarticulated human bone and flecks of white mortar and occasional limestone fragments and brick / tile and (1004). Overlying this was a 0.3m deep layer of dark greyish-brown silt with moderate patches of mid orange-brown sand (1005) which was capped by grass (1006). The human bone recovered from this stretch of trench was reburied immediately adjacent to the church wall.

The trench then turned through 90° to run approximately south-east towards Coppergate until it intersected with a pre-existing foul water drain leading into a sewer under the pathway connecting High Ousegate with Coppergate. One section was recorded approximately half way along this stretch of trench Section 3, Figure 2). This length of trench was c.0.4m wide but due to the slope of the churchyard varied in depth from approximately 1.4m at its north-west end to c.0.55m at its south-

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west end. The earliest deposit recorded, at between 0.25 and at least 0.7m below ground level was a dark brown silt with moderate limestone fragments and pale brown mortar and occasional brick / tile and bone (1007). Above this was a 0.2m deep layer of dark greyish-brown silt (1008) capped with grass (1009). This was the final part of the trench shared by both foul and fresh water pipes. The human bone collected during the excavation of the trench was reburied close to the centre of the trench.

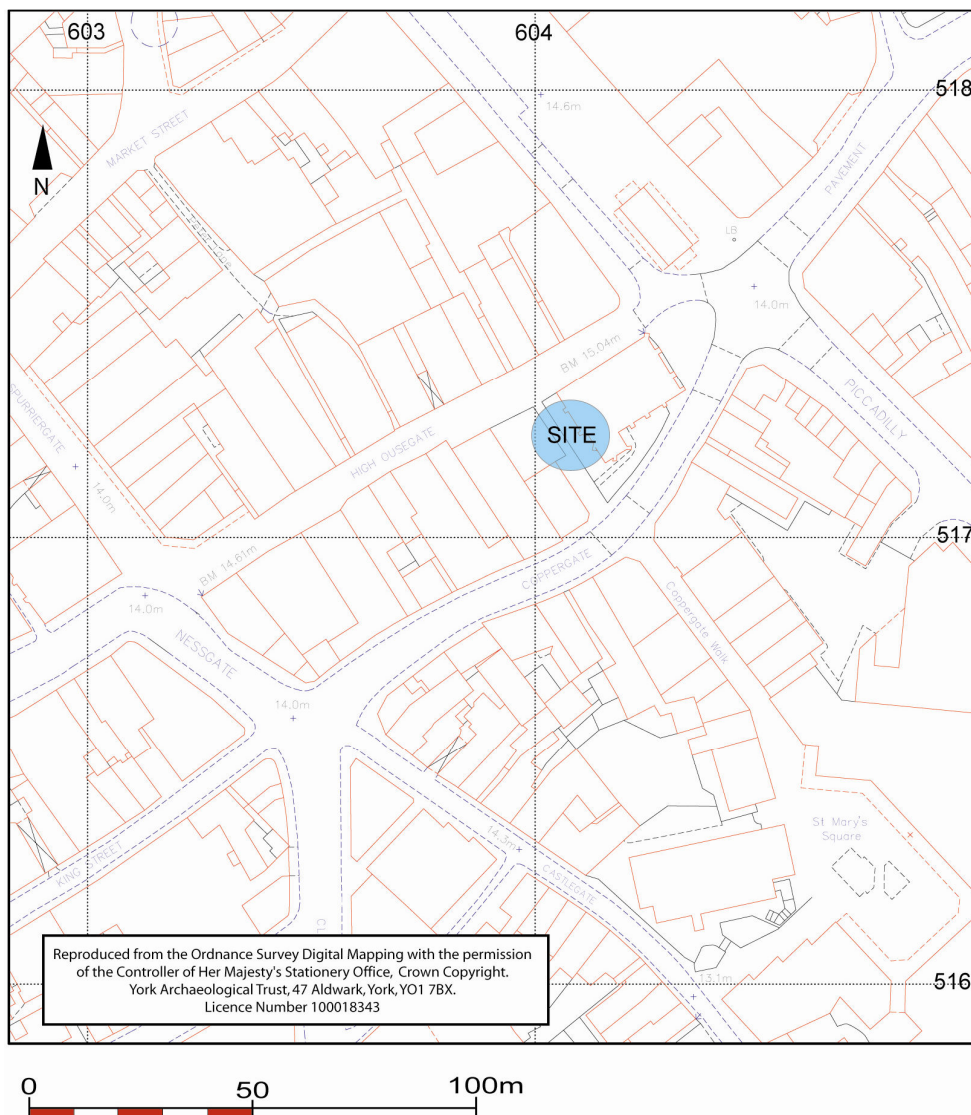


Figure 1 Site location

The final excavation work was purely for the new fresh water supply. This trench continued the line of the combined fresh / foul water trench south-east until it met the stone flagged path to the south porch. It then followed the north-west edge of the path until close to the porch door it turned through

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90° across the path. As soon as it had crossed the path it turned 90° to travel a short distance north-east to a hole measuring c.0.8 x 0.6m and 0.8m deep which was dug to locate the existing fresh water pipe leading into the church and to facilitate the new connection. In this hole (Section 4, Figure 2) the earliest deposit noted, at between 0.2 and at least 0.8m below ground level, was a mid brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (1010). Above this was a 0.15m deep layer of dark brown silt with moderate roots (1011) and this was capped by the modern ground surface of grass (1012). The human bone collected during the excavation of this trench was reburied in the hole dug to connect the new fresh water supply.

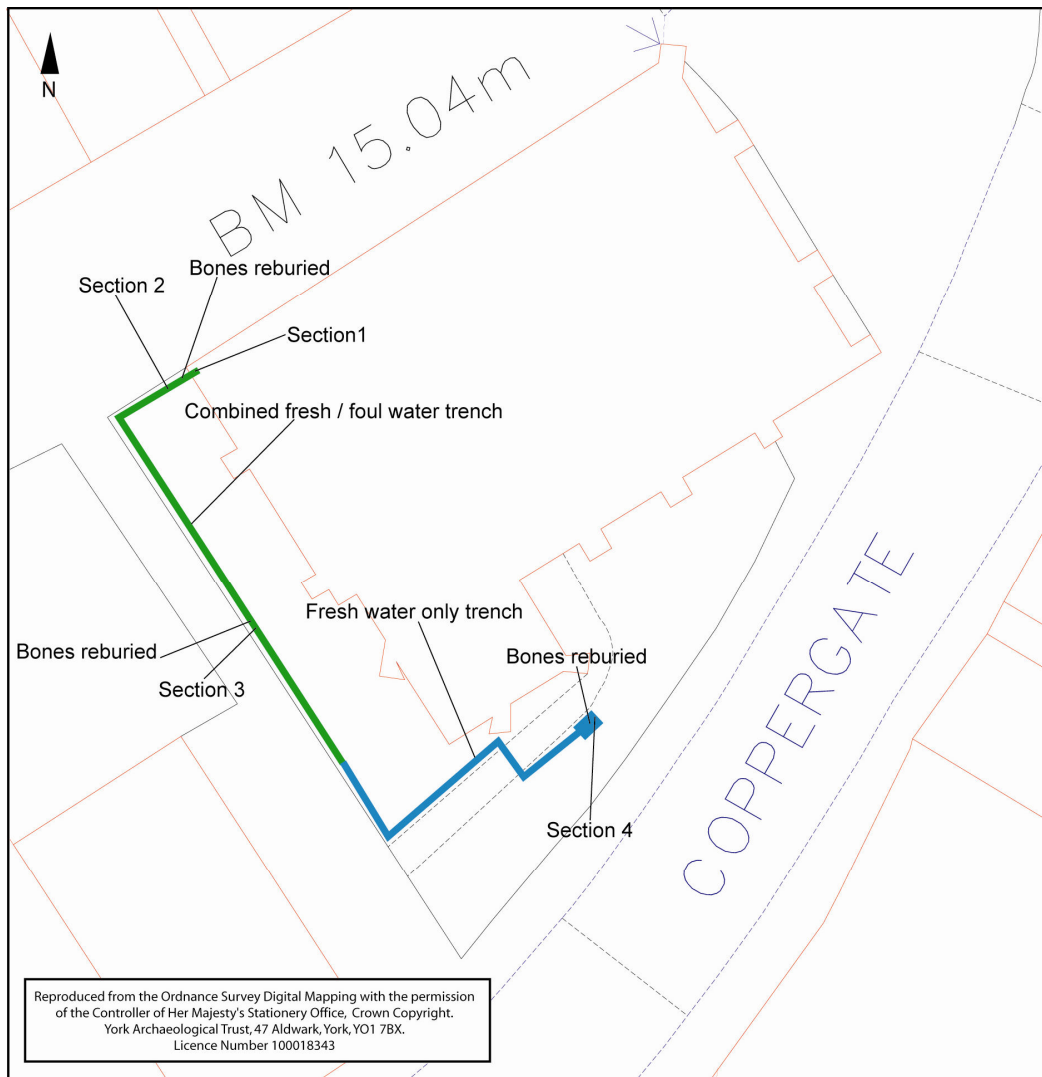


Figure 2 Location of trenches, reburied bones and recorded sections

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Plate 1 Detail of interior drain hole, note clay bonding, looking west



Plate 2 South-west – north-east part of foul water trench, looking north-east

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Plate 3 Part of backfilled foul water trench, looking north



Plate 4 View of churchyard before digging of trenches, looking north-west

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Plate 5 View of fresh water connection hole, looking north-west



Plate 6 Detail of fresh water trench close to connection hole, looking north-west

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*Plate 7 First part of fresh water trench with backfilled foul water trench in background
Looking north-west*

CONCLUSIONS

The hole broken through the church wall was of interest since it showed that at least in its location the church wall below the modern interior ground level was clay bonded rather than with mortar. Whether this is a local phenomenon is uncertain but certainly is unusual and any further work on the below ground walls would be well worth monitoring.

In the exterior trenches no articulated bone was encountered at any point although the quantity of disarticulated bone recovered and reburied indicated that earlier burials had suffered much disturbance from later ones. Throughout the foul and fresh water trenches the observed stratigraphy was generally very simple normally consisting of topsoil and very mixed churchyard soil. Because of this disturbance no finds were retained but it was noted that once below the topsoil none of the finds seen, principally clay pipe fragments and willow pattern pottery, needed to be later than the 19th century. Inspection of the heavily weathered grave slabs in the vicinity also suggested that the latest burials might date to the mid to late 19th century.

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APPENDIX 1 CHURCH OF ENGLAND FACULTY

FACULTY IN UNOPPOSED PROCEEDINGS

In the Consistory Court

The Diocese of York

Parish of All Saints, Pavement with St Crux and St Michael Spurriergate, York

Church of All Saints, Pavement

The Worshipful Canon Peter N Collier QC Chancellor of the Diocese and Official Principal of the Lord Archbishop of York

To: Colonel J G Finlay, Mrs D Lee, churchwardens Mr P J Hulbert, Lay Vice chairman of the PCC

A petition presented by you has been submitted to the Registry of this Court together with designs, plans, photographs or other documents, requesting a Faculty authorising the works or other proposals specified in the petition.

And a public notice was duly displayed giving an opportunity to all persons interested to object and give reasons why a Faculty should not be granted and there are no objections under the Rules to the granting of a Faculty.

This Court now grants a Faculty, until further order, authorising you to carry out the works or other proposals in accordance with the designs, plans or other documents accompanying the petition and subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule below.

The works should be completed within **NINE MONTHS** from the date below or such further period as this Court may allow and the certificate of completion is to be sent to the Registry within the period allowed.

A copy of this Faculty is to be supplied by you to the architect or surveyor and contractors to be employed in respect of the authorised work before any work is commenced.

This Faculty is duly authenticated by the seal of this Court.

Dated 9 August 2010


L P M Lennox
Registrar

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SCHEDULE

Description of Works or Purposes and any conditions attached to the Faculty.

At the Church of All Saints Pavement, York (1) to re-locate within the church one mayoral board and three small memorial plaques, (2) to introduce a new glazed timber framed porch, a disabled-accessible WC and a store at the west end of the north aisle and (3) to introduce new cupboards to accommodate the electrical switchgear at the west end of the aisle and a new notice-board on the westernmost pier of the north arcade all in accordance with drawings numbered 1467/01 Rev A and 1467/002 Rev B by Potts Parry Ives and Young, Architects filed in the Registry of the Consistory Court of York SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:-

- A. (1) Notice shall be given to an archaeologist within 14 days that s/he is required to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the excavations;
- (2) The archaeologist shall be notified of the date for commencement of work no less than 3 weeks before the date of the commencement of any excavations on the site;
- (3) The Petitioners and their contractors shall cooperate with the archaeologist to enable him/her to do his/her work. This will include examination, recording and photographing.
- (4) Copies of the Archaeologist's final report shall be sent by him/her within 14 days of completion of the report to the following bodies:-
- (i) The Parochial Church Council (for keeping with the church log book)
 - (ii) The Diocesan Advisory Committee (for its records)
 - (iii) The Diocesan Registry (for placing with the faculty papers)
 - (iv) The local Sites and Monuments Records office (if the address is not known the archaeologist should obtain it from the local authority planning department).
- B. (1) Prior to the commencement of work the petitioners shall take photographs of the site of the works as it is prior to any alteration. These photographs shall be kept in the Church's log book as a record. The name of the church and the date on which each photograph was taken must be written on the reverse side and, where appropriate a description of the picture. The photographs shall be so taken and placed before works are started. A copy of the photographs shall be supplied to the Secretary to the DAC
- (2) Photographs of the completed works are to be provided by the Petitioners. The name of the church and the date on which each photograph was taken must be written on the reverse side and, where appropriate, a description of the picture. Copies of each photograph are to be kept with the Faculty and accompanying papers in the Church's log book and further copies are to be sent to the DAC Secretary and the Diocesan Registry (for placing with the faculty papers as a record). This shall be done by the Petitioners within 28 days of the date of completing work.
- C. The rear of the toilet petitions shall be painted black as advised in the letter from English Heritage dated 13th April 2010.

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