



**YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT  
ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH, DALTON TERRACE,  
YORK**

*EVALUATION REPORT*

Report Number 2014/49    October 2014



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

A single evaluation trench in the courtyard of the English Martyrs Church Hall identified archaeological features and deposits from c.0.35m below the current ground surface to around 1.8m below the current ground surface. The archaeology consists of a very large ditch that may date to the Civil War, and the effects of landscape during and after its construction. A 0.30-0.40m deep ploughsoil seals the archaeology and may have protected it from the modern development of the area.

## KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	English Martyrs Church, Dalton Terrace, York
YAT Project No.	5800
Report status	Final
Type of Project	Evaluation
Client	RC Diocese of Middlesbrough
Planning Application No.	13/03595/FUL
NGR	SE 59311 51110
Museum Accession No.	Pending following further fieldwork
OASIS Identifier	Pending following further fieldwork
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Illustrations	Ian Milsted
Editor	David Aspden
Report Number and Date	2014/49 24/10/2014

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced and an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at English Martyrs RC Church, Dalton Terrace, York between 31<sup>st</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014 by York Archaeological Trust (YAT) to satisfy condition 7 of the client's planning consent (see Appendix 3 for WSI and consent details).

This report follows an interim statement, report 2014/38, which was produced to facilitate discussions between the client and the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley, as regards the activation of condition 8 of the consent, which relates to excavation requirements arising from the evaluation. The pottery has since been assessed (Appendix 4) to support the dating and interpretation of the archaeological sequence. With the agreement of John Oxley, other classes of material culture will be assessed together with material produced during works associated with condition 8.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

A single trench measuring 6m x 1m was excavated in the courtyard of the church hall (Figures 1 and 2) in accordance with the methodology in the WSI as approved by John Oxley (Appendix 3). Paving slabs were lifted by hand and excavation was conducted using a 1 tonne mechanical excavator until archaeologically sensitive deposits were observed. From this point deposits were excavated by hand until the depth limit of excavation at 1.2m below ground level (BGL) had been reached in the south western half of the trench. Following a site visit by John Oxley on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014 it was agreed to leave the remaining deposits in the north-eastern half *in situ* subject to the completion of excavation sufficient to understand the archaeological sequence.

## 3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located on the north-eastern side of Dalton Terrace, 100m north-west of the junction of Dalton Terrace and The Mount (Figure 1). The trench was located in the courtyard of the church hall (Figure 2).

The church hall courtyard is bounded to the north-west and north-east by the church hall buildings, to the south-east by No. 3 Dalton Terrace and to the south-west by the brick boundary wall separating the church site from the carriage way of Dalton Terrace. The courtyard surface consists of concrete paving slabs and slopes downwards slightly to the south-west. Access from Dalton Terrace is via a gate and a ramp and steps.

The area of Dalton Terrace and The Mount occupy high ground at around 20m AOD. This high ground is formed by a glacial terminal moraine consisting of mixed gravel, boulder clay and sand, and is part of a range of hills that run through the southern part of York from Kimber Hill, Heslington in the east, to the Severan Hills, Acomb in the west.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following is adapted from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1) following further research that has refined the data.

### 4.1 DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTIGATION OF THE AREA

The area of Dalton Terrace is shown as undeveloped in the first edition OS map of 1853. The 1891 OS map shows that the street and the row of three townhouses that currently occupy the south-eastern end of Dalton Terrace were built by then and records suggest this occurred by 1860 (RCHMY 1). The church was built in the 1930s, but the rest of the church area remained open ground until the current church hall buildings appear by the OS map of 1962. The area of the courtyard has remained undeveloped save for the extant raised paving associated with the hall.

There have been a large number of archaeological discoveries and interventions in the immediate area of the site since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, revealing potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric to seventeenth century date.

### 4.2 PREHISTORY

The site lies on top of the terminal glacial moraine that runs through this part of the city. Work at St Paul's Green, Holgate, 200m NNW of the current site identified kettle-holes in the clayey moraine natural where peat had formed (Antoni and Hunter-Mann, 1999). Pottery of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date was recovered from the uppermost peat deposits. Prehistoric activity is very rarely identified in York, and there may be an opportunity at this site to sample more of this landscape.

### 4.3 ROMAN

Roman funerary archaeology represents the primary archaeological activity in this area. The Mount area has provided many of the best known monumental tombs and funerary inscriptions from Roman York, many recovered before the mid-nineteenth century when the area of the site was part of the Mount House estate. This house was demolished in the mid-nineteenth century and the area developed as the 'Driffield Estate'. During this process, and the creation of the nearby railway cutting, more of the Roman cemetery was revealed (RCHMY 1, 95-101), providing much of the material now in the Yorkshire Museum.

Of greatest relevance to the current site are the discoveries made at the junction of Dalton Terrace and The Mount, and particularly at No.2 Dalton Terrace, where the inscribed coffin of Aelia Severa was found in 1859 (RCHMY 1, 99). The inscribed lid from a different burial, that of a Flavia Augustina, had been used to cover this coffin, which despite the inscriptions contained a male skeleton, indicating re-use of monumental funerary material. Other stone coffins are known from the immediate vicinity, suggesting the possibility that they may occur at the current site.

From the nineteenth century (RCHMY 1, 100) work at the Mount School, immediately to the south-west of the current site, has frequently revealed coffined and uncoffined Roman burials,

along with cremations. More recently, a cable trench dug behind the school only 60m south-west of the current site identified disturbed Roman burials along with evidence for several metalled roadways at a depth of between 300 and 500mm below ground level (Milner and Johnson, 2004). A spur-road from the main Roman road to *Calcaria* was observed at the junction of Dalton Terrace and The Mount in the 1950s (RCHMY 1, 3).

Also in 2004, work at Driffield Terrace, 150m south-east of the current site, revealed an extensive area of decapitated, largely unfurnished Roman burials (Ottaway, 2005) that were in stark contrast to the cemetery remains found elsewhere in the area.

Occupation activity, including a timber water pipe and further road surfaces have also been observed in the Holgate area immediately north of the current site (Antoni and Hunter-Mann, 1999).

#### **4.4 ANGLIAN**

The 1858-60 construction of Dalton Terrace revealed early Anglian cremation burials, some of which survive in the Yorkshire Museum. The presence of a 5<sup>th</sup>/early 6th century Anglian cremation cemetery on the north-east side of Dalton Terrace was confirmed by excavations in the 1950s (Tweddle, 1999, 170); this probably used the still-visible Roman burials as a reference. This period is of critical importance to the understanding of the transition of York from the Roman into the Anglian period and the location of the current site is potentially well-placed to recover further information of this date.

#### **4.5 ANGLO-SCANDINAVIAN – MEDIEVAL**

No significant material of this date range is known from this area.

#### **4.6 POST-MEDIEVAL**

The remains of a Civil War sconce have long been held to lie in the area of the Mount, and the disturbance of the area's Roman burials is often ascribed to the building of this mid-seventeenth century feature (RCHMY 1, 97). Some evidence for the sconce may have been revealed in the 2004 Driffield Terrace excavations (B. Antoni, pers. comm.) but definitive evidence for this has never been confirmed.

As already discussed, the area was developed from the 1860s onwards. It now lies within the City of York Conservation Area.

## **5 RESULTS**

**5.1** Although excavation ceased at between 0.80m and 1.2m BGL across most of the trench, a 0.50m wide slot was excavated more deeply in the south-west corner to locate the base of a possible ditch and ascertain whether natural deposits were present beneath it. This sondage ceased at 1.80m BGL and was backfilled to 1.2m BGL immediately after recording. The trench was continually monitored for stability throughout and no one entered the sondage at any point.

Please refer to Figures 3, 4 and 5 and Plates 1-7 in the following discussion.

- 5.1.1 The earliest deposit, 1015, was observed at 18.94m AOD / 1.74m BGL in the 0.50m wide sondage dug to locate the base of a later ditch at the south western end of the trench. 1015 consisted of a clean, soft yellow sand and is interpreted as natural, although it was only observed in a very small area.
- 5.1.2 Overlying 1015 was 1014, a mixture of soft mid orange sand and firm pink-brown sandy clay, observed at 19.50m AOD / 1.18m BGL. This material resembles natural but was not as clean as the underlying deposit and may represent the disturbance of natural material due to landscaping or some other disturbance at an unknown date. To the north-east, beneath later levelling deposits, a deposit of similarly re-deposited friable, mixed orange brown, clayey sandy silt, 1013, was observed, albeit 0.77m higher at 20.27m AOD / 0.50m BGL.
- 5.1.3 Truncating 1014 at the south-western end of the trench at 19.50m AOD / 1.18m BGL was a cut feature, 1008, which contained at least two fills, 1007 and 1006. Cut 1008 was linear and aligned approximately north-south, although only the possible north-eastern edge was visible within the trench. The feature, interpreted as a ditch, was at least 1m wide and at least 0.80m deep, although it is not possible to be sure if the base was definitely located as further digging was prohibited by the depth already reached. The profile was fairly steeply sloped and appeared to be flattening out as it reached the limit of excavation.

The earliest fill of this ditch was 1007, a deposit of soft-friable, mid orange sandy clay with occasional cobbles that was interpreted as deriving from the weathering and slumping of the sides of cut 1008. This was overlain by 1006, a soft mid grey sandy silt that contained frequent cobbles up to 0.15m across. The upper surface of this deposit was observed at 19.34m AOD / 1.34m BGL in the sondage and rose to 19.47m AOD / 1.26m AOD further north.

Fills 1007 and 1006 produced medieval pottery, mainly residual gritty wares of 12<sup>th</sup> century date along with fragments from a slightly later green-glazed jug of 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century date. Additionally, fill 1006 contained a quantity of discarded animal bone, including a relatively high proportion of horn core fragments, suggesting that there may have been secondary processing of carcasses for horn-working in the area when the ditch was back filled.

Fill 1006 is provisionally interpreted as the final fill of ditch cut 1008 and was sealed to the north by later deposits interpreted as site-wide dumps of material used to level the ground. However, the profile of these later levelling deposits in section 3 suggests that the some of them may also fill the ditch, and that the true north-eastern edge of 1008 may lie higher up and beyond the south-east limit of excavation. If so, this feature is even larger than suggested above, and it is possible that it was in-filled in the same event as the site-wide levelling deposits apparent above it.



5.1.4 Overlying ditch fill 1006 was a 0.20m thick layer of cobbles, 1005, in a matrix of soft, mid-grey sandy silt with occasional brick and tile fragments and 4 sherds of 12<sup>th</sup> century gritty ware. This layer had clearly been tipped down the underlying slope of deposit 1013 to the north-east of the ditch and retained a distinctly sloping profile. Sealing it was 1004, a layer of soft to friable, mid-light grey sandy silt up to 0.36m thick that displayed a similarly sloping profile to 1005 and also contained a small amount of 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The animal bone in 1004 displayed a similarly high quantity of horn core waste as ditch fill 1006. Taken together, these appear to represent relatively discrete dumps of material deposited as part of an attempt to level the ground. The source of the cobbles is interesting as they were fairly uniform in size and shape and could represent demolition material from a nearby structure.

5.1.5 The next four deposits, 1012 – 1009, represent further levelling dumps of material. These progressively levelled off the slope exhibited by 1005 and in the south-west end of the trench appeared to fill the possible upper profile of ditch 1008.

1012 overlay 1004 and consisted of friable orange-grey sandy silt with moderate cobbles. 1012 was up to 0.16m thick and was overlain by 1011, a 0.24m thick layer of friable, mid grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and moderate cobbles, concentrated at the base of the deposit. Above this was 1010, a 20-40mm thick lens of soft, orange sand. Over this lay 1009, a friable, mid grey sandy silt with moderate cobbles and charcoal fragments that also produced a few sherds of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century pottery. These are residual, based on the pottery dates from earlier strata, along with a small amount of Roman material. 1009 brought the ground level up to around 20.00 – 20.20m AOD / c. 0.60m BGL across the entire trench.

5.1.6 Sealing the entire trench was 1003, a layer of clean, firm-friable, orange-brown silty sand with a little residual Roman pottery and moderate quantities of cobble that had clearly been sorted to the base of the deposit which is suggestive of ploughing. This had clearly truncated the earlier deposits but, at up to 0.28m thick, had also protected them from later disturbance. The upper surface of the ploughsoil was observed at 20.30 – 20.40m AOD / 0.30-0.40m BGL, and it produced a mixed assemblage of medieval pottery and tile disturbed from earlier deposits.

5.1.7 Overlying the ploughsoil was 1002, a 0.20m layer of compact, dark grey sandy silt with brick and tile fragments that was interpreted as a ground make-up deposit associated with the building of the church hall. Above this was 1001, a layer of gravel and sand up to 0.15m thick that formed the bedding for the modern concrete paving, 1000.

## 6 DISCUSSION

This evaluation had identified well-preserved archaeological features and deposits between c.20.40m AOD and 18.84m AOD (c. 0.30m and c. 1.80m BGL). On the basis of the currently available dating evidence it seems that most of the deposits identified are at least medieval in date.

The deposits of possibly re-worked natural, 1014 and 1013, were only observed in small areas and were not excavated. A date is therefore impossible to ascribe, but as the earliest archaeology identified they could represent Roman activity and could be the source of the Roman material found residually in the later deposits. Alternatively, deposits 1014 and 1013 may relate to later landscaping associated with the deposits that overlay them.

No burials were encountered during this evaluation and no evidence for disturbed human remains was recovered. Whilst this appears to contrast with the Roman funerary archaeology known from the immediate vicinity, the large later ditch allows for the possibility that Roman graves have been completely destroyed in the area of the trench and that they may survive elsewhere on the site. It may be relevant that the nineteenth and twentieth century records of Roman burials in this area include the suggestion that the seventeenth century earthworks of the Civil War sconce had extensively disturbed the earlier cemetery.

The size of ditch 1008 suggests that it at least formed a boundary as well providing drainage. At potentially 2m+ across and at least 1 – 1.5m deep, it is possible that it was also defensive in purpose. The only historically attested defensive earthworks in this area are those of the seventeenth century Civil War sconce, and it is possible therefore that this evaluation has located an element of this structure.

Seventeenth century artefacts or material have not been identified thus far from the fills of the ditch or the material levelled over it. The currently available dating evidence suggests a twelfth or thirteenth century date for the in-filling of the ditch, but the assemblage was small and relatively abraded and so could represent residual material disturbed by the fort construction of the 1640s or by its demolition in the years after the Civil War. The presence of potential industrial waste in the form of horn cores, mixed with possible demolition rubble represented by the cobble spread, may support this interpretation as the construction of the sconce would have required major landscaping that would have incorporated earlier material from a variety of sources. This material then found its way into the ditch as the sconce was destroyed or decayed, with elements of its structure being pushed into its ditches.

The similarity between ditch fill 1006 and levelling deposits 1005 and 1004 supports the suggestion that the ditch was filled in as part of a wider programme of site levelling, represented by deposits 1004-5 and 1009-1012, which would therefore have been deposited immediately after deposit 1006. The slumped, weathered fill 1007 suggests a ditch left open and un-maintained prior to being in-filled, which may support the idea of an abandoned earthwork.

An alternative interpretation is that the ditch is a medieval feature of twelfth or thirteenth century date, possibly in-filled as part of the landscaping that created the sconce. It is also possible that the ditch and levelling deposits relate to completely different activity and have nothing to do with the Civil War.

This depth of deposit in an area on top of the hill formed by the glacial moraine indicates the scale of archaeological activity. The plough soil deposit, 1003, may indicate the area's return to agricultural use after the events of the 1640s, prior to the arrival of the railway and the building of Dalton Terrace in the 1860s, and may be evidenced by the lack of later medieval and post-medieval material from the sequence. Importantly, this soil seems to have protected the earlier archaeology from the impact of the 19<sup>th</sup> century development, meaning that a substantial archaeological sequence survives in this area.

## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GEOTECHNICAL BOREHOLES

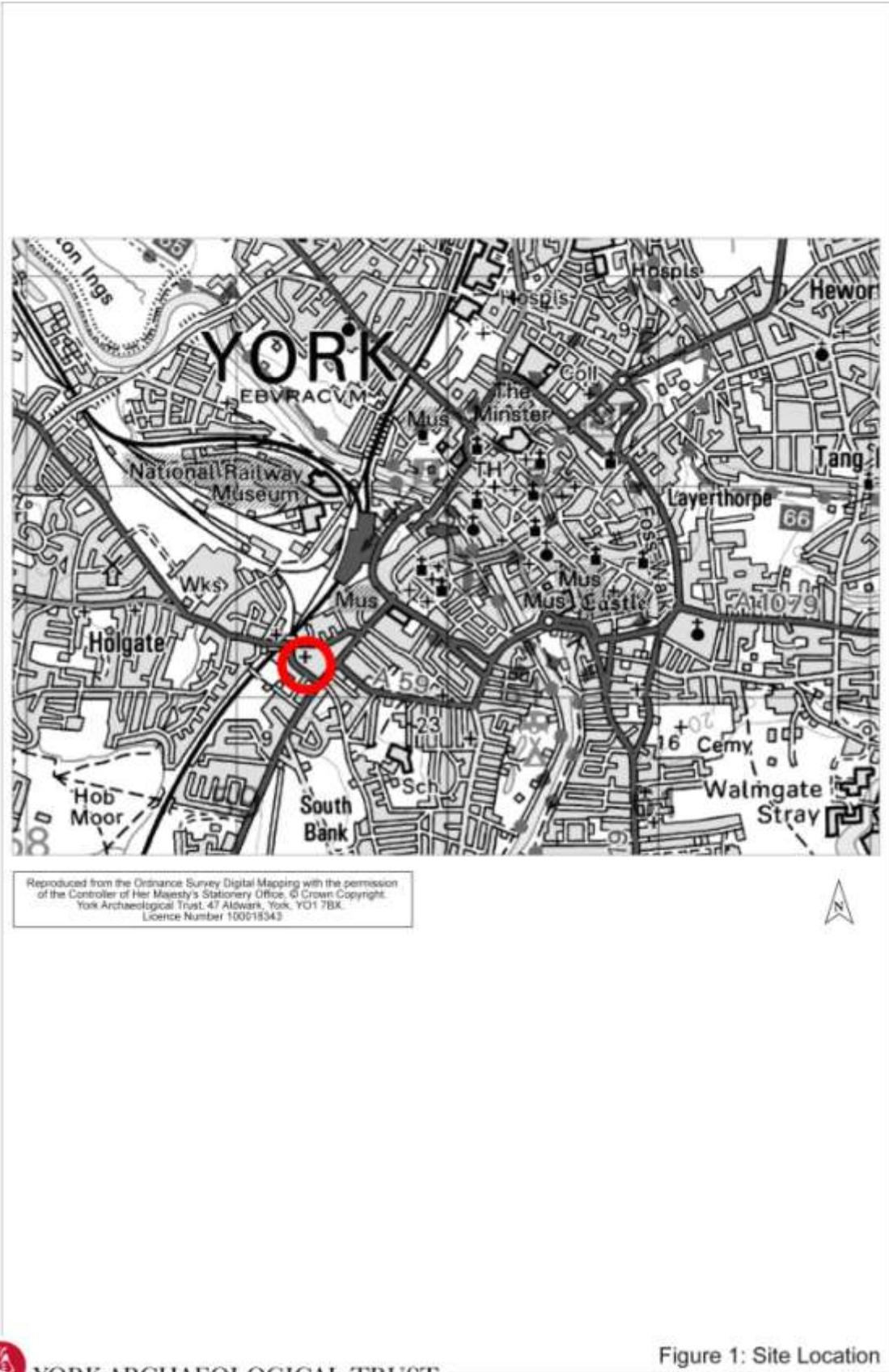
On 17th September 2014 York Archaeological Trust undertook archaeological monitoring of 5 small diameter boreholes excavated for geotechnical purposes within the site. A YAT archaeologist attended site in the morning to observe the methodology being used and returned in the afternoon to visually inspect the cores resulting from the boreholes. One borehole was used to measure penetration values. Boreholes #1-3 were located in the courtyard surrounding the evaluation trench and #4 was positioned behind the church c.60m north-west of the courtyard.

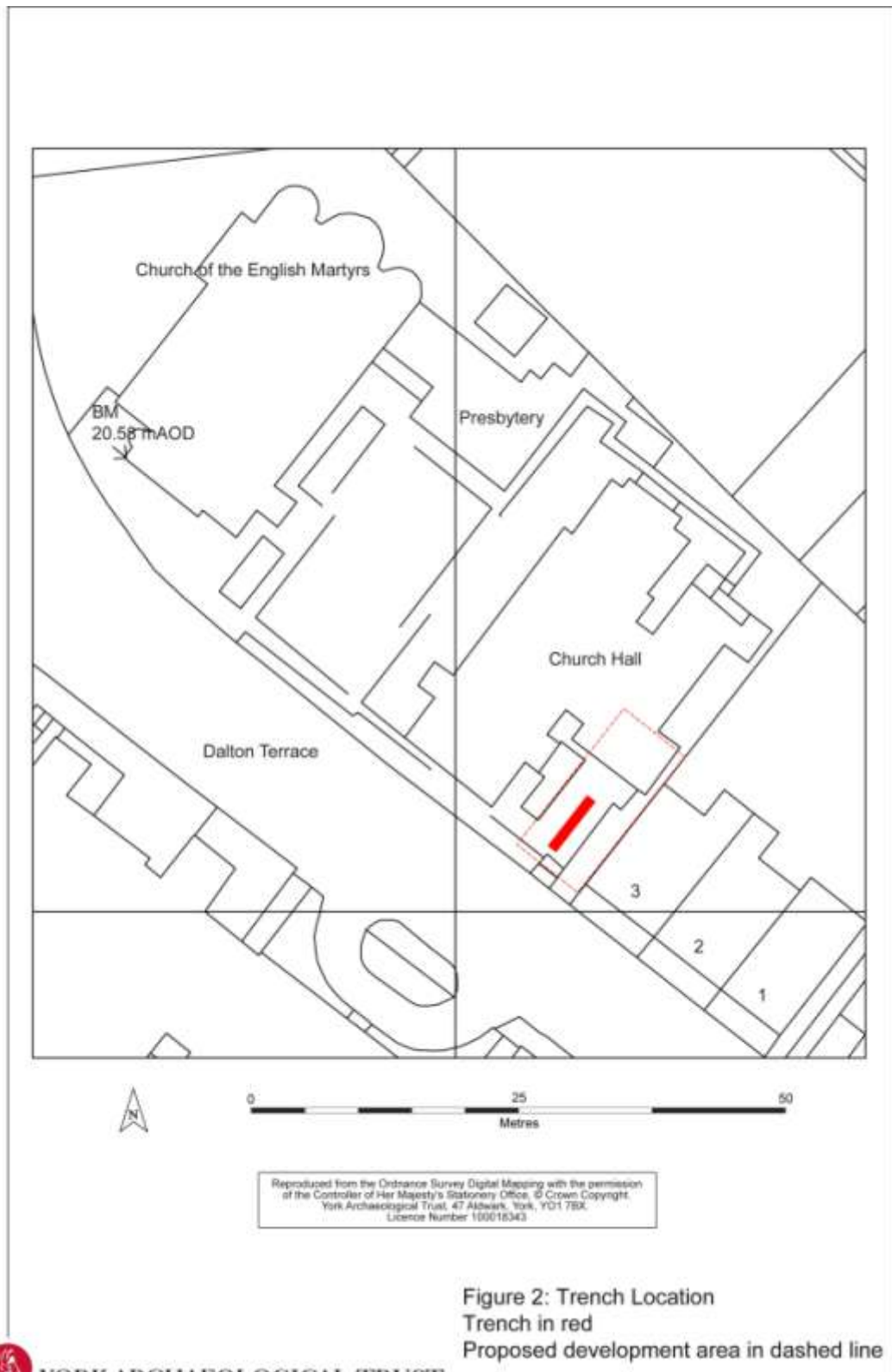
Boreholes 1-3 were located immediately south-west, north-west and north-east of the trench respectively. Natural strata in the form of fine sands and gravelly sandy clay overlying clayey sands were identified at 1m BGL, 1.5m BGL and 0.70m BGL respectively. This pattern suggests that the profile of natural deposits slopes steeply downwards from north-east to south-west, supporting the profile of natural deposits observed in the evaluation trench.

Boreholes 1 and 3 identified the made ground observed in the evaluation trench. Borehole 2 encountered a 0.95m thick layer of possible 're-worked natural deposits' between 0.55m and 1.50m BGL, which correlates reasonably well with the depth of ditch cut 1008 and the infilling deposits described above up to the interface between 1009 and the overlying ploughsoil 1003.

Borehole 4 encountered natural clay at 0.75m BGL, overlain by a 0.70m thick layer of made ground containing slag, ash and concrete, overlain by 0.05m of 'decorative gravel' that forms the current surface.

Although little of specific archaeological interest was observed in boreholes 1-3, they nevertheless support the deposit sequence provided in this report, in particular the suggestion that archaeology had survived across the site below the possible ploughsoil at approximately 0.55m BGL.





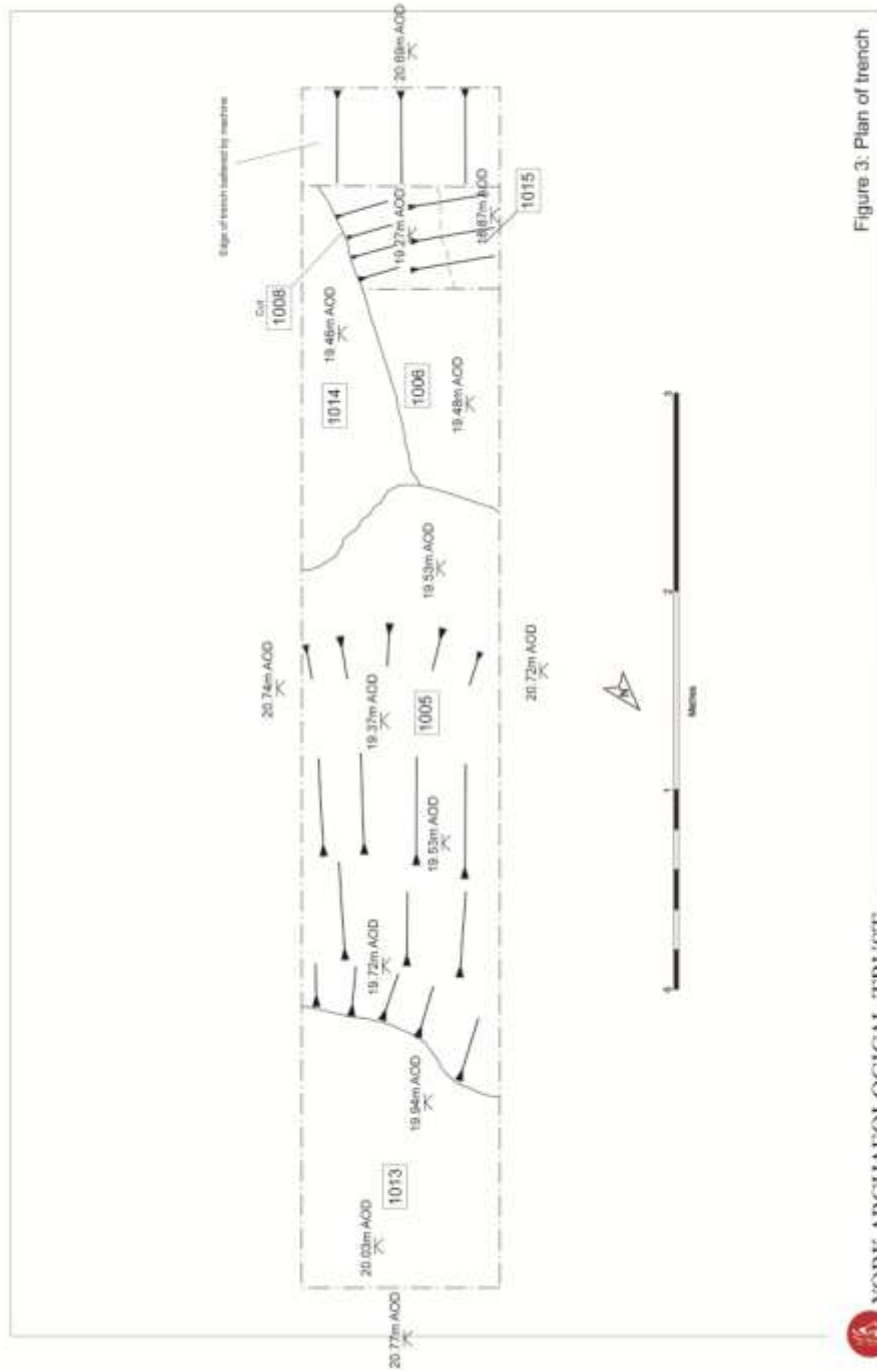
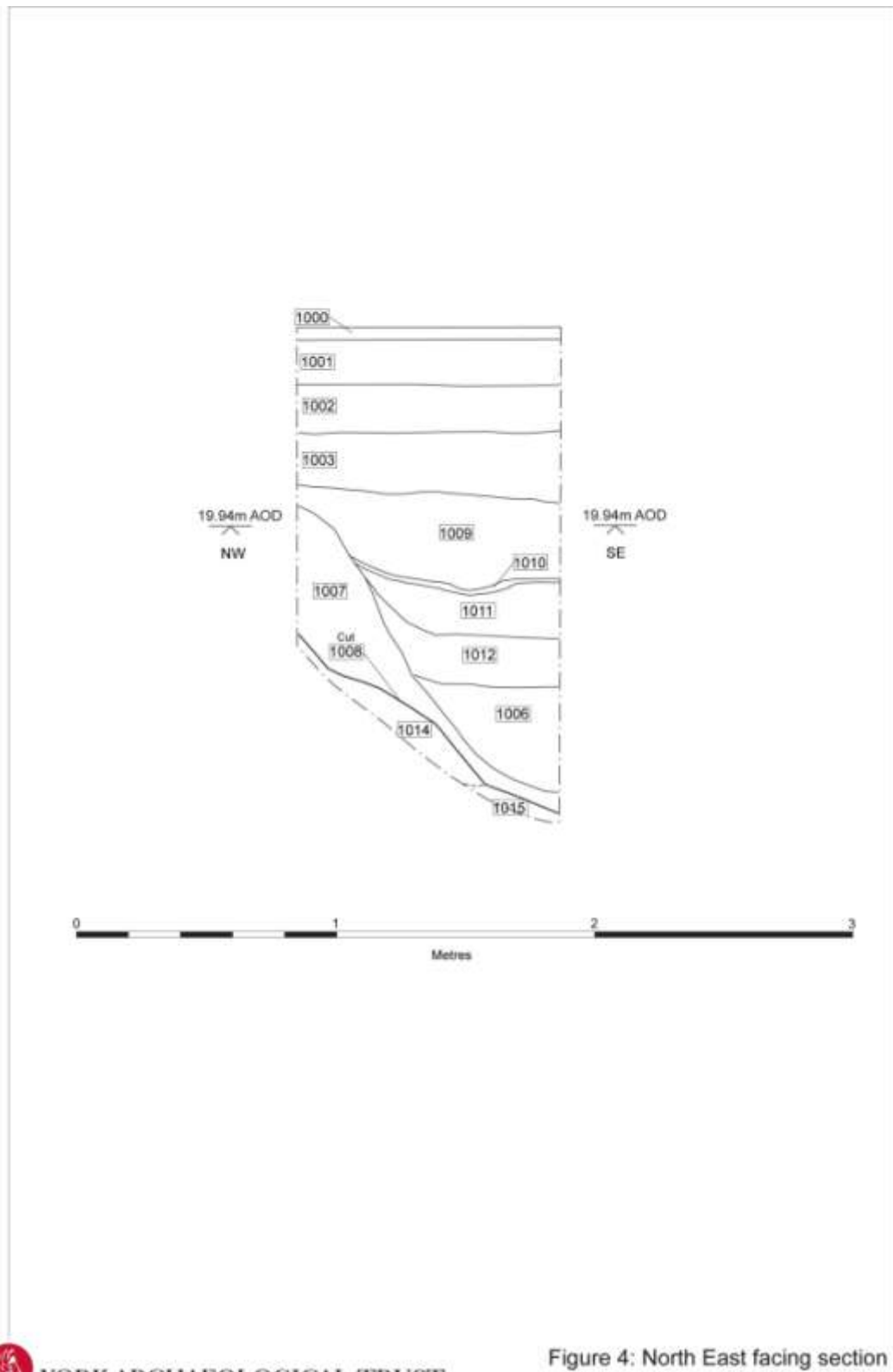


Figure 3: Plan of trench



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Figure 4: North East facing section

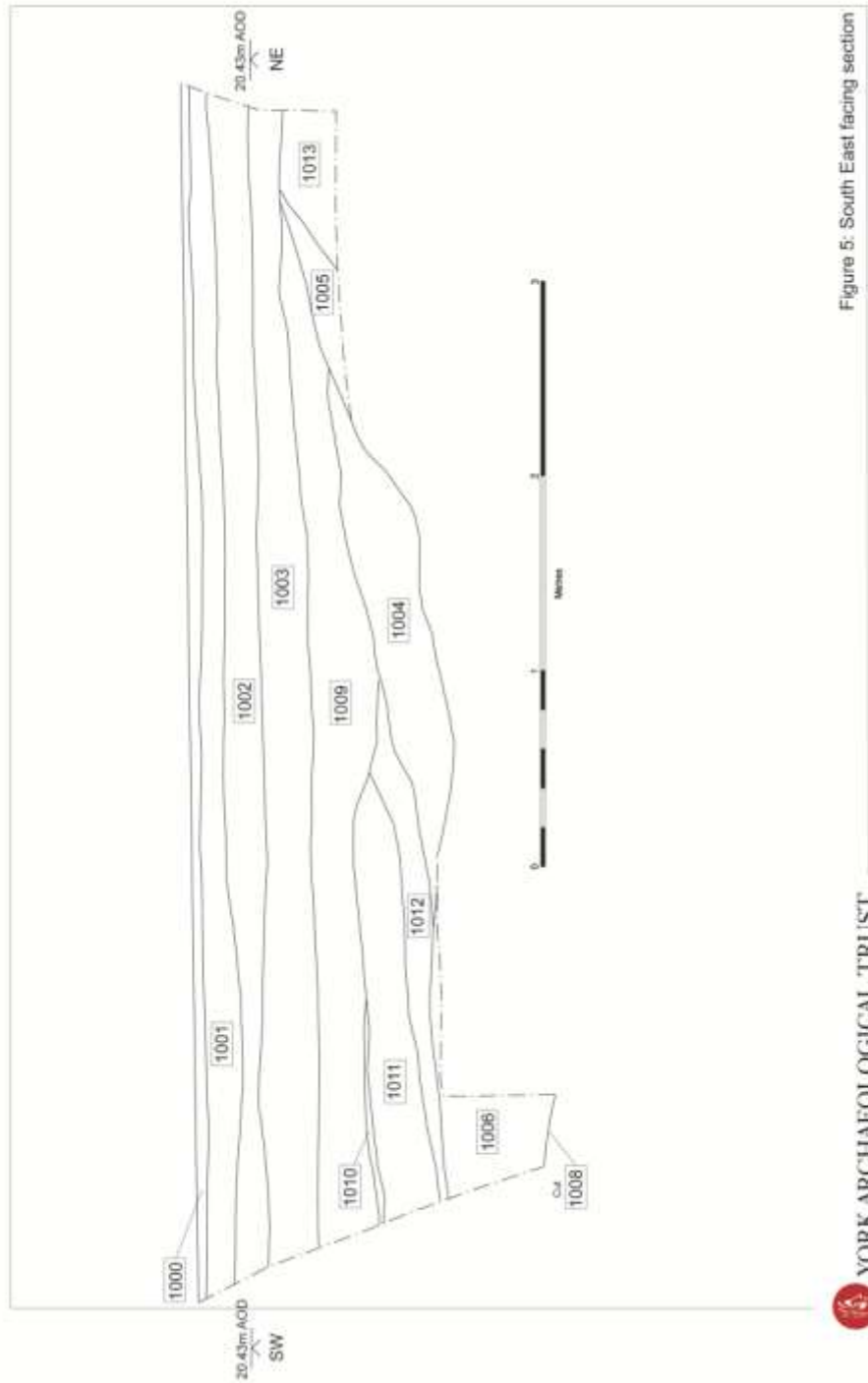


Figure 5. South East facing section





**Plate 1 Final trench view, looking north east**



**Plate 2 Cobble dump 1005, looking north east**



**Plate 3 Ditch cut 1008 with fills 1007 and 1006, looking south west**





**Plate 4 North east facing section**



**Plate 5 South west end of south east facing section**





**Plate 6** South west end of south east facing section, looking north



**Plate 7** North east end of south east facing section

**APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE**

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	15
Levels register	1
Photographic register	-
Levels register	1
Drawing register	-
Original drawings	3
B/W photographs (films/contact sheets)	-
Colour slides (films)	-
Digital photographs	c.100
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

**Table 1 Index to archive**

**APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST**

Trench	Context no.	Description
1	1000	Paved surface
1	1001	Bedding for paved surface
1	1002	Make-up
1	1003	Ploughsoil
1	1004	Dump/levelling
1	1005	Dump/levelling
1	1006	Backfill
1	1007	Slumping/backfill
1	1008	Ditch cut
1	1009	Levelling
1	1010	Lens
1	1011	Levelling
1	1012	Levelling
1	1013	?Re-deposited natural
1	1014	?Re-deposited natural
1	1015	Natural

**Table 2 Context list**



## APPENDIX 3 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

**Site Location:** English Martyrs' RC Church, Dalton Terrace, York

**NGR:** SE 59311 51110

**Proposal:** Residential development

**Planning ref:** 13/03595/FUL

**Prepared for:** Brewster Bye Architects, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014

**Status of WSI:** Final

### 1 SUMMARY

1.1 Brewster Bye Architects have received planning consent for an end terrace residential building at the English Martyrs' RC Church, Dalton Terrace, York (Figure 1). The scheme will include demolition of part of the existing church hall (Figure 2).

1.2 The following archaeological conditions have been imposed:

7. No development shall take place until an archaeological evaluation of the site has been carried out in accordance with a detailed methodology (which will detail a trial trench, analysis, publication and archive deposition) which shall first be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and a report submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. A report on the results of the evaluation shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within six weeks of the completion of the field investigation.

REASON: The site is located within an area identified as being of archaeological interest. The investigation is required to identify the presence and significance of archaeological features and deposits and ensure that archaeological features and deposits are either recorded or, if of national importance, preserved in-situ.

8. If, following the carrying out of the archaeological evaluation required by the above condition, the Local Planning Authority so requires, an archaeological excavation of the site will be carried out in accordance with a detailed methodology (to include trenches, community involvement, post-excavation analysis, publication and archive deposition), which shall first be submitted to and approved in writing by the said Authority. Reasonable access shall be afforded to any Local Planning Authority nominated person who shall be allowed to observe the excavations. A report on the excavation results shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within twelve months of the completion of the field investigation.

REASON: The site is located within an area identified as being of archaeological interest. The investigation is required to ensure that archaeological features and deposits identified during the evaluation are recorded before development commences, and subsequently analysed, published and deposited in an archaeological archive.

1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in response to a brief supplied by Brewster Bye Architects to meet condition 7 of their planning consent for this site. The work will be carried out in accordance with the Brief and this WSI, and according to the principles of the Institute for Archaeology (IfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance. If following this evaluation further work is required under condition 8 of the planning consent this will require a separate WSI.

## **2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION**

2.1 The proposal site is at Dalton Terrace, York (Figure 1). The site is located on the south-eastern side of the church's plot, between the existing church hall and number 3 Dalton Terrace (Figure 2).

## **3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS**

3.1 No Scheduled Ancient Monuments or listed buildings are known on this specific site although it lies within the York Conservation Area and the Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI).

3.2 The access is via a double-gate on the SW side of the site, then via a narrow ramp. The 1.5m tonne mini-digger to be hired-in is 1m wide and will be able to negotiate this space. The delivering trailer will have to park in the carriageway of Dalton Terrace and will require someone to warn on-coming traffic from Holgate.

3.3 The courtyard where the trench is located is accessed by two fire exits, both of which must be kept clear with a minimum 2m buffer from the trench edge, the fence line (including Heras feet) and the spoil heap. The trench position and dimensions take this into account (Figures 2 and 3).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST**

4.1 The area of Dalton Terrace was undeveloped in 1853. The 1891 OS map shows that the street and the row of three townhouses that currently occupy the south-eastern end of Dalton Terrace were built by then and records suggest this occurred by 1860 (RCHMY 1). The area of the church remained open ground until the 1950s, when the church appears on the 1958 OS map, followed by the current church hall buildings by 1962. The area of the courtyard has remained undeveloped save for the extant raised paving associated with the hall.

4.2 There have been a large number of archaeological discoveries and interventions in the immediate area of the site since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, revealing potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric to seventeenth century date.

## **4.3 PREHISTORY**

The site lies on top of the terminal glacial moraine that runs through this part of the city. Work at St Paul's Green, Holgate, 200m NNW of the current site identified kettle-holes in the clayey moraine natural where peat had formed (Antoni and Hunter-Mann, 1999). Pottery of late Neolithic/Early

Bronze Age date was recovered from the uppermost peat deposits. Prehistoric activity is very rarely identified in York, and there may be an opportunity at this site to sample more of this landscape.

#### 4.4 ROMAN

Roman funerary archaeology represents the primary archaeological activity in this area. The Mount area has provided many of the best known monumental tombs and funerary inscriptions from Roman York, many recovered before the mid-nineteenth century when the area of the site was part of the Mount House estate. This house was demolished in the mid-nineteenth century and the area developed as the 'Driffield Estate'. During this process, and the creation of the nearby railway cutting, more of the Roman cemetery was revealed (RCHMY 1, 95-101), providing much of the material now in the Yorkshire Museum.

Of greatest relevance to the current site are the discoveries made at the junction of Dalton Terrace and The Mount, and particularly at No.2 Dalton Terrace, where the inscribed coffin of Aelia Severa was found in 1859 (RCHMY 1, 99). The inscribed lid from a different burial, that of a Flavia Augustina, had been used to cover this coffin, which despite the inscriptions contained a male skeleton, indicating re-use of monumental funerary material. Other stone coffins are known from the immediate vicinity and the possibility of the current site containing more must be regarded as reasonably high.

From the nineteenth century (RCHMY 1, 100) work at the Mount School, immediately to the south-west of the current site, has frequently revealed coffined and uncoffined Roman burials, along with cremations. More recently, a cable trench dug behind the school only 60m south-west of the current site identified disturbed Roman burials along with evidence for several metalled roadways at a depth of between 300 and 500mm below ground level (Milner and Johnson, 2004). A spur-road from the main Roman road to *Calcaria* was observed at the junction of Dalton Terrace and The Mount in the 1950s (RCHMY 1, 3).

Also in 2004, work at Driffield Terrace, 150m south-east of the current site, revealed an extensive area of decapitated, largely unfurnished Roman burials (Ottaway, 2005) that were in stark contrast to the cemetery remains found elsewhere in the area.

Occupation activity, including a timber water pipe and further road surfaces have also been observed in the Holgate area immediately north of the current site (Antoni and Hunter-Mann, 1999).

#### 4.5 ANGLIAN

The 1858-60 construction of Dalton Terrace revealed early Anglian cremation burials, some of which survive in the Yorkshire Museum. The presence of a 5<sup>th</sup>/early 6th century Anglian cremation cemetery on the north-east side of Dalton Terrace was confirmed by excavations in the 1950s (Tweddle, 1999, 170); this probably used the still-visible Roman burials as a reference. This period is of critical importance to the understanding of the transition of York from the Roman into the Anglian period and the location of the current site is potentially well-placed to recover further information of this date.

#### 4.6 ANGLO-SCANDINAVIAN – MEDIEVAL

No significant material of this date range is known from this area.

#### 4.7 POST-MEDIEVAL

The remains of a Civil War sconce have long been held to lie in the area of the Mount, and the disturbance of the area's Roman burials is often ascribed to the building of this mid-seventeenth century feature (RCHMY 1, 97). Some evidence for the sconce may have been revealed in the 2004 Driffield Terrace excavations (B. Antoni, pers. comm.) but definitive evidence for this has never been confirmed.

### 5 AIMS

5.1 The aims of the evaluation are:

- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological remains present, in particular the potential for Roman and Anglian period burials, in respect of condition 7 of the planning consent
- to provide information to enable the local authority to decide any requirements for further archaeological mitigation for the site, in particular with reference to condition 8 of the planning consent which provides for potential excavation of archaeology identified by this evaluation
- to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local, regional, and national context and for an assessment of the significance of the archaeology of the proposal area to be made

### 6 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

6.1 The evaluation will comprise the following elements:

- Trial trenching
- Reporting

**Please note that further stages of work or other mitigation measures could be required by the local authority, depending upon the results of the evaluation.**

6.2 A single trench will be excavated. The location of the trench is shown on Figure 2. The trench will be stepped if necessary, to ensure its stated size at the base of the trench, where site constraints allow.

No.	Size (m)	Rationale
1	6m X 1m	Aligned SW-NE to efficiently characterise the archaeology across the width of the development within the constraints of the courtyard

6.3 The trench location will be plotted using internal features of the courtyard to ensure correct buffer zones around fire exits (Figure 3). It will then be surveyed by measurement to local permanent features shown on published Ordnance Survey maps. All measurements will be accurate to +/-10cm, and the trenches locatable on a 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. This is to ensure that the trenches can be independently relocated in the event of future work.

6.4 Overburden such as turf, topsoil or other superficial fill materials will be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. Mechanical excavation equipment will be used judiciously, under archaeological supervision down to the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural subsoil, whichever appears first. If archaeology is present machining will cease and excavation will proceed by hand. Where deep homogenous deposits, or deposits such as rubble infills, are encountered, these may be carefully removed by machine, after consultation with the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley. The machine will not be used to cut arbitrary sondages down to natural deposits.

6.5 The use of mechanical, air-powered, or electrical excavation equipment may also be appropriate for removing deep intrusions (e.g. modern brick and concrete floors or footings) or through deposits to check that they are of natural origin, after consultation with the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley.

6.6 The trench will be sufficiently cleaned by hand to enable potential archaeological features to be identified and recorded; areas without archaeological features will be recorded as sterile and no further work will take place in these areas. The stratigraphy will be recorded on trench record sheets even where no archaeological features are identified.

6.7 A sufficient sample of any archaeological features and deposits revealed will be excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to establish the aims of the evaluation.

- Discrete features will be half-sectioned in the first instance.
- Linear features will be sample excavated (to a minimum of 25% of their length) with each sample being not less than 1m in length
- Deposits at junctions or interruptions in linear features will be sufficiently excavated to allow relationships to be determined.
- Structures will be sample excavated to a degree whereby their extent nature, form, date, function and relationships to other features and deposits can be established
- Inhumation or cremation burials, if identified, will be cleaned to confirm their presence and recorded. They will not be lifted at this time. See also **7.9**, below.

## **7 RECORDING METHODOLOGY FOR EXCAVATION**

7.1 All archaeological features will be recorded using standardised pro forma record sheets. Plans, sections and elevations will be drawn as appropriate and a comprehensive photographic record will be made where archaeological features are encountered.

7.2 Archaeological deposits will be planned at a basic scale of 1:20, with individual features requiring greater detail being planned at a scale of 1:10 if necessary. Cross-section of features will be

drawn to a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. All drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum. Where it aids interpretation, structural remains will also be recorded in elevation.

7.3 Each context will be described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions. Each context will be given a unique number. These field records will be checked and indexes compiled.

7.4 Photographs of work in progress and post-excavation of individual and groups of features will be taken. This will include general views of entire features and of details such as sections as considered necessary. Digital photography will form the primary record and will be archived on appropriate materials. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.

7.5 Areas which do not contain any archaeological deposits will be photographed and recorded as being archaeologically sterile. The natural stratigraphic sequence within these areas will be recorded.

7.6 All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the IfA guidance for archaeological materials. Unstratified material will not be kept unless it is of exceptional intrinsic interest. Material discarded as a consequence of this policy will be described and quantified in the field. Finds of particular interest or fragility will be retrieved as Small Finds, and located on plans. Other finds, finds within the topsoil, and dense/discrete deposits of finds will be collected as Bulk Finds, from discrete contexts, bagged by material type. Any dense/discrete deposits will have their limits defined on the appropriate plan.

7.7 All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.

7.8 At the discretion of the site manager, other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with York Archaeological Trust specialists and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.

7.9 The primary archaeological activity in this area concerns Roman burials. In the event of human remains being discovered during this evaluation these will be recorded and left *in-situ*. If human remains are identified, the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley, will be informed immediately. An osteoarchaeologist will be available to give advice on site.

## **8 SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT**

8.1 The stratigraphic information, artefacts, soil samples, and residues will be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study. The material will be quantified (counted and weighted). Specialists will undertake a rapid scan of all excavated material. Ceramic spot dates will be given. Appropriately detailed specialist reports will be included in the report.

8.2 Materials considered vulnerable should be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration must be given to possible investigative procedures (e.g.

glass composition studies, residues on or in pottery, and mineral-preserved organic material). Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilization of all objects and a written assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs will be produced. Once assessed, all material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, in accordance with Watkinson and Neal (1998), IfA (2007) and Museums and Galleries (1992).

8.3 All finds will be cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate, prior to assessment. For ceramic assemblages, any recognised local pottery reference collections and relevant fabric Codes will be used.

8.4 Allowance will be made for the recovery of material suitable for scientific dating and contingency sums will be made available to undertake such dating, if necessary. This will be decided in consultation with the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley.

## **9 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION**

9.1 Upon completion of the site work, a report will be prepared to include the following:

- a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
- b) An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
- c) An account of the methodology and detailed results of the operation, describing structural data, archaeological features, associated finds and environmental data, and a conclusion and discussion.
- d) A selection of photographs and drawings, including a detailed plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored, trench locations, selected feature drawings, and selected artefacts, and phased feature plans where appropriate.
- e) Specialist artefact and environmental reports where undertaken, and a context list/index.
- f) Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a context list and catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
- g) A copy of the key OASIS form details
- h) Copies of the Brief and WSI
- i) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report

9.2 Two copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body. A bound and digital copy of the report will be submitted direct to the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley for planning purposes, and subsequently for inclusion into the HER.

9.3 A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs. Catalogues of contexts, finds, soil samples, plans, sections and photographs will be produced. York Archaeological Trust will liaise with the Yorkshire Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork to establish the detailed curatorial requirements of the museum and discuss archive transfer and to complete the relevant museum forms. The relevant museum curator would be afforded access to visit the site and discuss the project results.

9.4 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the Local Authority and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.

9.5 Upon completion of the project an OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

## 10 POST EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & PUBLICATION

10.1 The information contained in the evaluation report will enable decisions to be taken regarding the future treatment of the archaeology of the development site and any material recovered during the evaluation.

10.2 If further archaeological investigations (mitigation) take place, any further analyses (as recommended by the specialists, and following agreement with the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley) may be incorporated into the post-excavation stage of the mitigation programme unless such analysis are required to provide information to enable a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised. Such analysis will form a new piece of work to be commissioned.

10.3 In the event that no further fieldwork takes place on the site, a full programme of post excavation analysis and publication of artefactual and scientific material from the evaluation may be required by the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley. **Where this is required, this work will be a new piece of work to be commissioned.**

10.4 If further site works do not take place, allowance will be made for the preparation and publication in a local and/or national journal of a short summary on the results of the evaluation and of the location and material held within the site archive.

10.5 The results of the work will be publicised locally e.g. by a report in *Northern Archaeology Today* and talking to local societies, as appropriate.

## 11 HEALTH AND SAFETY

11.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.

11.2 A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

## 12 PRE-START REQUIREMENTS

12.1 The client will be responsible for ensuring site access has been secured prior to the commencement of site works, and that the perimeter of the site is secure.

12.2 The client will provide York Archaeological Trust with up to date service plans and will be responsible for ensuring services have been disconnected, where appropriate.

12.3 The client will be responsible for ensuring that any existing reports (e.g. ground investigation, borehole logs, contamination reports) are made available to York Archaeological Trust prior to the commencement of work on site.



12.4 The client has agreed that welfare and storage facilities will be made available to archaeological staff during the evaluation.

### **13 REINSTATEMENT**

13.1 Following excavation and recording the spoil from the trenches will be backfilled unless requested otherwise. The backfill material will be levelled and compressed as far as possible with the mechanical excavator bucket, but will not be compressed to a specification. York Archaeological Trust are not responsible for reinstating any surfaces, including reseeding, unless specifically commissioned by the client who will provide a suitable specification for the work.

### **14 TIMETABLE & STAFFING**

14.1 The timetable is provisionally set to run from Thursday July 24<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup> on site, followed by a maximum 6 week programme of post-excavation assessment and reporting.

14.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:

- Project Manager – Ian Milsted
- Site manager/staff – Ben Savine and Iain McIntyre
- Human Remains – Ruth Whyte (Dickinson Laboratory for Bio-archaeology)
- Palaeoenvironmental remains – Dr Jennifer Miller (Dickinson Laboratory for Bio-archaeology)
- Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
- Finds Researcher - Nicky Rogers
- Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner
- Finds Officer - Rachel Cubitt
- Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues – Rachel Cubitt and Dr Rod Mackenzie
- Conservation - Ian Panter

### **15 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

15.1 As a minimum requirement, the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley will be given a minimum of one week's notice of work commencing on site, and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed and to discuss the requirement any further phases of archaeological work. York Archaeological Trust will notify John Oxley of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with John Oxley.

15.2 With the client's agreement illustrated notices will be displayed on site to explain the nature of the works.

## 16 COPYRIGHT

16.1 York Archaeological Trust retain the copyright on this document. It has been prepared expressly for the named client, and may not be passed to third parties for use or for the purpose of gathering quotations.

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See also the **HELM** website for a full list of English Heritage Guidance documents.

<http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.19701>



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Figure 1: Site Location

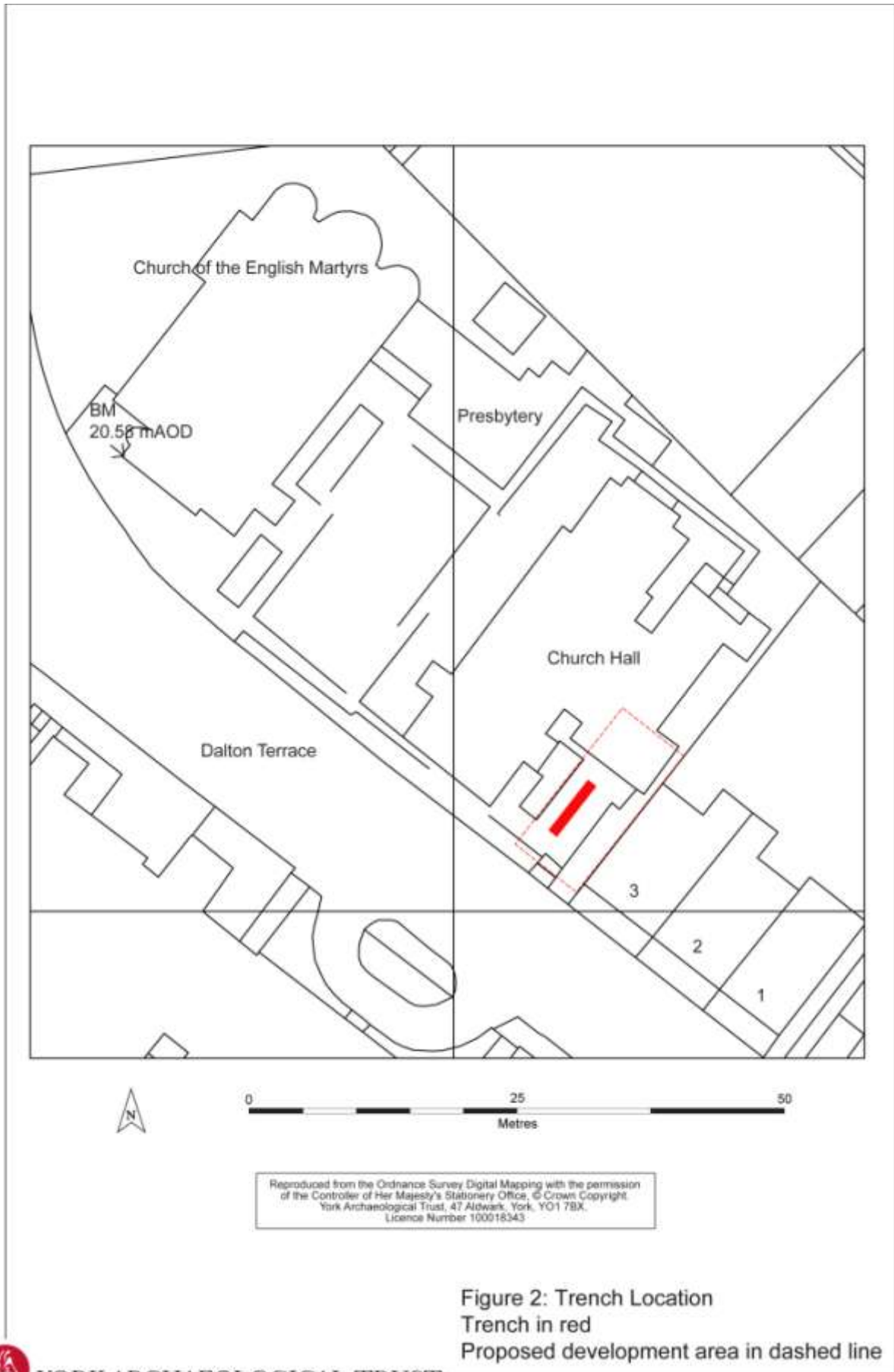






Figure 3: Suggested trench location  
(Approximately scaled for illustrative purposes)



## APPENDIX 4 – POTTERY BY ANNE JENNER

### Summary

Forty-five sherds were retrieved from eight Contexts (see Table 1).. They range in date from Roman to the late 12<sup>th</sup>/early 13<sup>th</sup> century (see Table 2). All wares appear to be domestic rather than industrial.

### Unknown early sherd

One small, very abraded sherd may be pre Roman and needs further research.

### Roman

Only one Context is dated to the Roman period (1003), though Roman pottery occurs in two other Contexts (1009; 1050). The sherds are mostly small (1050), though some are medium sized (1003; 1009).

### Medieval

The majority of the sherds are medieval gritty wares, though the largest sherds are from a York white ware jug (1006). It has a fine white fabric and a light shiny apple green glaze with copper green flecks. A series of horizontal and vertical incised wavy lines decorate the upper body. The rod handle is also decorated with another series of incised wavy lines running down its length.

### Post medieval

There are no wares from the late medieval or post medieval periods.

Context	Fabric	No	Form	Part	Date	Comment
1003	fine white	1	bowl	rim	Roman	
1004	oxidised gritty	4	jar	rim body	12th	
1004	white gritty	2	jar	rim body	12th	
1004	lightly oxidised gritty	2	jar	body	12th	sooted
1004	splashed	2	jar	body ?handle	12th	reduced core oxidised surfaces
1005	gritty ware	4	jar	rim body	12th	
1006	York white ware	6	jug	rim body rod	l12th/e13th	Incised wavy line decoration.

				handle		Copper flecks
1006	gritty	3	jar	rim body	12th	
1007	lightly oxidised gritty	1	jar	body	12th	
1009	York ware	1	jar	body	9-11th	
1009	fine oxidised	1	unknown	body	Roman	
1009	York ware type	1	jar	body	9-11th	
1009	fine white	1	bowl	base	?Roman	abraded
1009	fine oxidised white surfaces	1	bowl	rim	Roman	
1009	white gritty	1	jar	body	11th	
1009	white gritty	1	jar	body	11th?	black concretion ?soot inside
1009	fine oxidised	1	jug/flagon	rim	Roman	upper handle join
1009	reduced core with oxidised surfaces	1	jar	rim	?12th	very abraded ?chewed
1010	oxidised gritty	1	jar	body	?12th	
1050	colour coated	2	?beaker	body	Roman	small vessel v small sherds
1050	coarse ware	3		body	Roman	small sherds fine walled
1050	white gritty	1	jar	body	11/12th	



1050	early York glazed	3	small closed form	body	l12/e13th	
1050	fine reduced sandy	1	unknown	body	unknown	Very abraded and small. Needs further analysis

**Table 1 Pottery quantification**

Context	Date
1003	Roman
1004	12 <sup>th</sup> century
1005	12 <sup>th</sup> century
1006	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> /early 13 <sup>th</sup> century
1007	12 <sup>th</sup> century
1009	Late 11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> century
1010	?12 <sup>th</sup> century
1050	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> /early 13 <sup>th</sup> century

**Table 2 Dates by Context**

## FURTHER WORK

The abraded sherd (1050) should be shown to a specialist in prehistoric pottery. The York white ware (1006) could be drawn as it does not match any drawn (see Brooks 1987; Holdsworth 1978; Jennings 1992; Mainman and Jenner 2013; McCarthy and Brooks 1985, though this type of decoration is not uncommon on medieval and early post medieval wares in general.

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