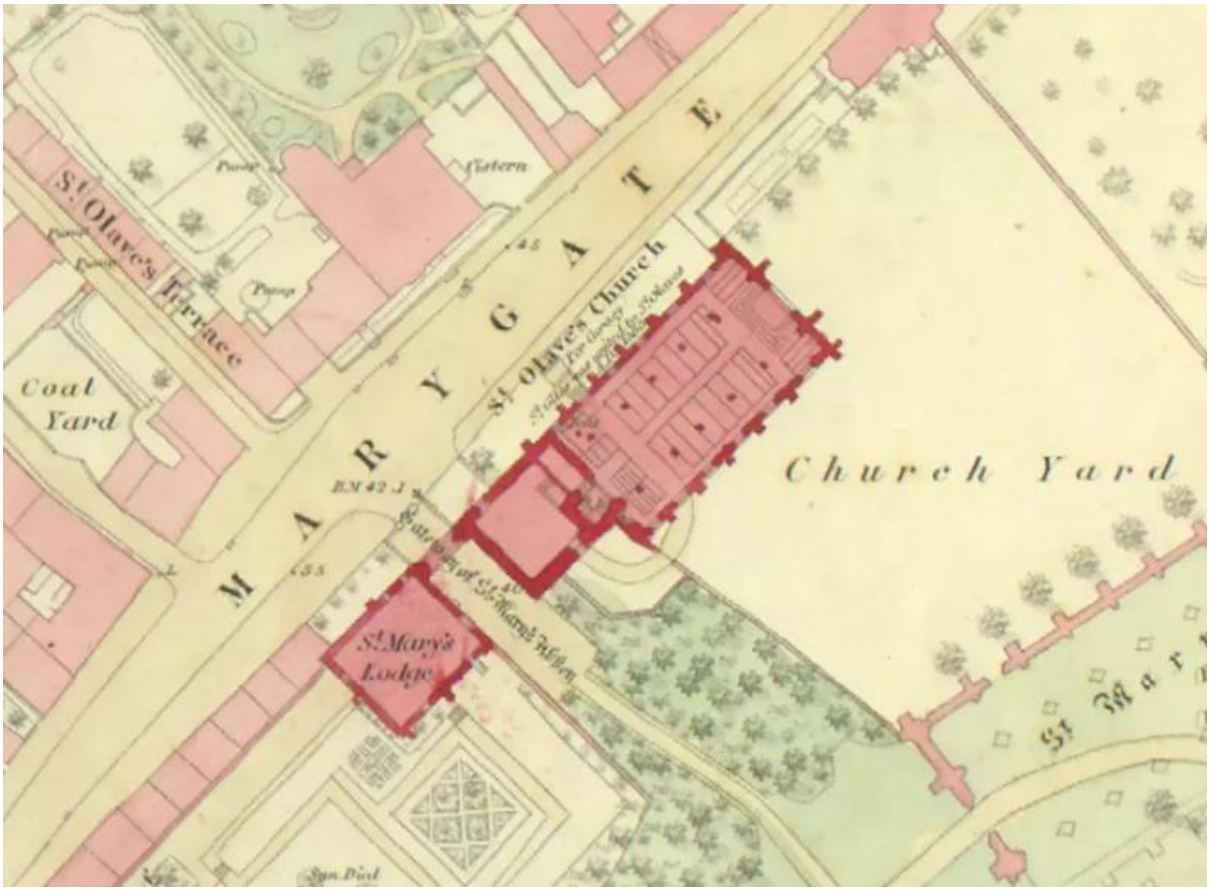
YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT ST OLAVE'S CHURCH, YORK

By Toby Kendall

WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Report Number 2017/32 May 2017

YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

York Archaeological Trust undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for commercial, academic and charitable clients. We manage projects, provide professional advice and fieldwork to ensure a high quality, cost effective archaeological and heritage service. Our staff have a considerable depth and variety of professional experience and an international reputation for research, development and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology. Based in York, Sheffield, Nottingham and Glasgow the Trust's services are available throughout Britain and beyond.

York Archaeological Trust, Cuthbert Morrell House, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024

Email: archaeology@yorkat.co.uk Website: http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk

CONTENTS

Tables

Plates

Figures

Abbreviations

OD	Ordnance Datum
SMC	Scheduled Monument Consent
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
YAT	York Archaeological Trust

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Between January and March 2017 York Archaeological Trust conducted an archaeological watching brief during alterations at St Olave's Church, York (NGR SE 45986 45218).

The work was undertaken for Purcell Architects in relation to planning application 15/02648/FUL. It was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produce by York Archaeological Trust. The watching brief recorded any archaeological remains during excavations for drains, alterations of steps and regrading of a pathway/ramp.

Archaeological deposits were revealed during the work, but these were primarily relatively modern disturbances. However, three separate in-situ inhumation burials were encountered, which dated to the post-medieval period and earlier.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	St Olave's Church, York.
YAT Project No.	5927
Report status	Final
Type of Project	Watching Brief
Client	Purcell Architects
Planning Application No.	15/02648/FUL
NGR	SE 45986 45218
OASIS Identifier	tbc

REPORT INFORMATION

Version	Produced by		Edited by		Approved by	
	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
1	TK	09/06/17	IDM	13/06/17	IDM	13/06/17

1 INTRODUCTION

Between January and March 2017 York Archaeological Trust conducted an archaeological watching brief during alterations at St Olave's Church, York (NGR SE 45986 45218) (Figure 1 Site Location).

The work was undertaken for Purcell Architects in relation to planning application 15/02648/FUL.

The watching brief recorded any archaeological remains exposed during excavations for drains, and the alteration to the steps and a pathway/ramp (Figure 2).

On-site observations showed that there had been significant disturbance across the site linked to the construction of the boundary wall, earlier construction/alterations of the steps, construction of the accessible ramp and finally previous excavation below the external path. These were all clearly post-medieval or modern in date, but there were glimpses of possibly earlier, medieval, archaeology.

During the works disarticulated human bone was encountered along with 3 separate inhumation burials. As the Faculty for the works was limited in its description of a methodology for dealing with in-situ burials, these were left undisturbed and 'built over' once protected.

2 METHODOLOGY

Excavation was completed using hand tools within the boundary of the church. For the external drain a combination of small 360° excavator and hand tools was used.

Where disarticulated human bone was found this was collected for reburial/internment by the church. In-situ burials were not disturbed, but where encountered they were covered over with clean soil and not compacted during the initial backfilling.

Recording was completed with written records, sketch drawings and digital photographs. No individual context numbers were assigned as no complex stratigraphy was encountered and no material was removed from the site.

Finds were not retained.

The paper and digital archive is currently stored with YAT under project no. 5927.

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

St Olave's Church is built on the southeast side of Marygate, a little over halfway along its length (NGR SE 45986 45218). The church is immediately adjacent to St Mary's Abbey which flanks the other side of its curtilage.

It sits a little over 1m higher than the, sloping, road of Marygate which runs past at c.12.5 at the midpoint of the church.

The underlying solid geology is sandstone covered by glacial deposits in the form of clays.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The church was founded at some point before 1055 by Siward Earl of Northumbria. Post-conquest it was granted to the Benedictine Monks who went on to develop St Mary's Abbey. However, its use linked with the Abbey is initially unclear.

Later on in the medieval period it is was clearly used as a parish church and a major campaign of rebuilding took place in the 15th century, giving the basis to the form that is seen today.

In the post-dissolution period the church continued in this role of a parish church until the Civil War. It has been suggested that there was some activity with the building linked with the siege of York in 1644, but this is not conclusive. A further restoration of the building took place in the early 18th century, with the defensive element of the Abbey wall being remodelled.

Further alterations and extension were completed in the late 19th century and early 20th century resulting in the current building.

5 RESULTS

The works that were undertaken can be split into easily identified sections - Path drainage, Front steps & drain, and Ramp. These will be used to divide the following section.

5.1 Path drainage

The path drainage channel was dug c.400mm wide with larger chambers at each end for work connecting and turning the drains enclosed (Plate 1). The trench ran between 500-600mm from the church wall itself. Immediately outside the gate, the north-eastern end of the trench, was c.500mm deep, and this fell to c.1m deep at the south-western end (Plate 2).

The profile (Plate 3) was typically 150mm of tarmac and base layer. Beneath this a further 200mm of disturbance and bedding for the path was present. Below this the rest of the profile was disturbed mixed deposits with hints of what may have been natural towards the base. Along the whole length of the drain run considerable root activity was present, causing further mixing of the deposits.

At the south-western end of the trench a small area of cobbles and rubble was observed (Plate 2). However, it was not clear if this was disturbed archaeological deposits or just backfilling form earlier drain/services installation.

5.2 Front steps & drain

The front steps and drain run was complicated by late alterations to the proposed drain alignment. It was decided, in conjunction with Building Control, to project the drain line further away from the wall before it fell down to a height to discharge below the base of the steps. In essence this was changed to avoid solid, stone, foundation materials and also reduce impact upon potential burials.

Immediately adjacent to the church wall foundations and footings for the steps and threshold were revealed (Plate 4). These were not investigated further, but perhaps dated to the 18th century renovation of the church. Material which made up a disturbance layer beneath the steps contained material from the 18th century plus small amounts of disarticulated bone.

Further away from the church building, where the drain cut was deeper, a deposit of tile and mortar rubble was encountered. This was tipping down away from the church and was revealed at c.700mm below the adjacent ground level where encountered.

Finally at the base of the excavations, c1.3m away and 400mm down from the gate threshold, elements of an in-situ grave were encountered. These were the pelvis and hands of an undated burial, seemingly aligned parallel to the church. These were left in situ, with the drainage altered to continue above this depth. See Figure 3 for location of burial where exposed & projected alignment.

It was clear that the earlier insertion of steps and access in this area had clearly removed any burials that would have been impacted upon by these works. The one inhumation encountered resulted in altering the drain run and thus preserving all elements in-situ.

5.3 Ramp

Excavations linked with remodelling the accessibility ramp were largely of no impact to archaeology below. It was only at the northern extent where excavation of any depth was required. Once the previous paving was removed it was apparent that these had been laid directly on top of in-situ inhumation burials (Figure 4 & Plate 5).

The earliest burial encountered was assumed to be medieval in date. All that survived in the area exposed was a section of the left arm and torso. This had been truncated by a later, post-medieval, burial (see below) to the south-east and the construction of the boundary wall to the north-west.

The later burial was seemingly complete and dated as post-medieval by pottery and an iron coffin handle at the north-east end. This inhumation had been slightly damaged by the installation of the earlier path, with parts of the skull and pelvis being broken. In the backfill a number of other bones had been arranged around the burial; this indicated it had been cut into earlier burials and confirming the disturbance of the earlier inhumation discussed above.

Both burials were within 100mm of the top of the threshold stone of the gateway. Fortunately, with careful planning, it was possible to alter the design of the footing for the path so that both were left in-situ.

It was clear that the existing accessibility ramp had disturbed a significant number of burials during its initial construction and associated landscaping. Any further work in this area will be immediately upon in-situ human remains.

6 DISCUSSION

The site produced the expected inhumation burials and disarticulated human remains. In this case they were probably from the medieval and post-medieval periods. Any further work will have to take into account that these may be encountered at relatively shallow depths, particularly where the ground has been reduced already during landscaping or similar.

Outside of the church, on the pavement of Marygate, there was very little of archaeological interest. This may be due to truncation by services or perhaps that the archaeology there is limited, though it is more likely to be the former. Again any further work should consider the potential for archaeology away from modern service runs.

Perhaps most interestingly the drain run beneath the steps touched upon what may be a significant dumping episode of medieval tile and mortar. This could be evidence of the development and expansion of the church as the aisles were built, or from remodelling of what was already present in the 15th century.

LIST OF SOURCES

British Geological Survey

Ordnance Survey York 1st Edition

https://www.stolave.org.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Keith Lamb and the team from J.Mark on site for taking time to understand the archaeological process, reporting discoveries, as well as enabling recording to take place.

APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE

Item	Number of items
On site notes	4 Sheets
Watching brief note sheets	6 sheets
Digital photographs	29
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

Table 1 Index to archive

APPENDIX 2 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Site Location: **St Olave's Church, Marygate, York**

NGR: **45986, 45218**

Proposal: **Internal and external works including installation of access ramp and alterations to existing steps.**

Planning ref: **15/02648/FUL**

Prepared for: **Purcell**

Document Number: 2016/59

Version	Produced by		Edited by		Approved by	
	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
Final	DA	19/08/16	IDM	26/10/16	DA	26/10/16

1 SUMMARY

1.1 Planning permission has been granted for internal and external alterations at St Olave's Church, Marygate, York including drainage, and alterations to an access ramp and steps.

1.2 An archaeological watching brief during ground works is required by the faculty permission. This written scheme of investigation has been produced in line with guidance on archaeological watching briefs provided by the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

2.1 The proposal site is within the grounds of St Olave's Church, Marygate, York (Figure 1), centred on NGR 45986, 45218. The site lies to the front of St Olave's Church where it faces Marygate.

3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

3.1 The site lies within the City of York Central Historic Core Conservation Area. St Olave's churchyard is immediately adjacent to the Scheduled Monument of St Mary's Abbey, although the site itself is not subject to Scheduling and is to the front of the church where it faces

Marygate. St Olave's Church is a Grade 1 Listed Building. The site does not lie within a Registered Historic Park and Garden or Registered Battlefield.

4 GROUNDWORKS TO BE MONITORED

4.1 This work will comprise a **continuous/comprehensive** watching brief, on the excavation of all foundations, trenches, services and any subsequent groundworks involving excavation. The watching brief may be stepped down **to intermittent monitoring** or **curtailed**, depending on the results, and following agreement from the Development Control Archaeologist.

5 DELAYS TO THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

5.1 It is not intended that the archaeological monitoring should unduly delay site works. However, the archaeologist on site should be given the opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate hand excavate, sample and record any exposed features and finds. In order to fulfil the requirements of this WSI, it may be necessary to halt the earth-moving activity to enable the archaeology to be recorded properly.

6 RECORDING METHODOLOGY (ARCHAEOLOGY)

6.1 A base plan of intervention areas shall be made available by the client and the areas being monitored will be determined using the information.

6.2 Unique context numbers will only be assigned if artefacts are retrieved, or stratigraphic relationships between archaeological deposits are discernible. In archaeologically 'sterile' areas, soil layers will be described, but no context numbers will be assigned. Where assigned, each context will be described in full on a pro-forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions.

6.3 Archaeological deposits will be planned at a basic scale of 1:50, with individual features requiring greater detail being planned at a scale of 1:20. Larger scales will be utilised as appropriate. Cross-sections 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. All drawings will be drawn on inert materials. All drawings will adhere to accepted drawing conventions

6.4 Photographs of archaeological deposits and features will be taken. This will include general views of entire features and of details such as sections as considered necessary. The photographic archive will comprise digital photography at an appropriate resolution of not less than 10 megapixels. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.

6.5 Areas which are inaccessible (e.g. for health and safety reasons) will be recorded as thoroughly as possible within the site constraints. In these instances, recording may be entirely photographic, with sketch drawings only.

6.6 All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the CIFA 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.

6.7 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.

6.8 A soil sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains where suitable deposits are identified. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2011). Environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the evaluation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme. Soil samples of approximately 30 litres for flotation (or 100% of the features if less than this volume) will be removed from selected contexts, using a combination of the judgement and systematic methodologies.

- **Judgement sampling** will involve the removal of samples from secure contexts which appear to present either good conditions for preservation (e.g. burning or waterlogging) or which are significant in terms of archaeological interpretation or stratigraphy. (Given the nature of an archaeological watching brief, it is anticipated that the implementation of a systematic sampling methodology will not be possible).

6.9 If industrial activity of any scale is detected, industrial samples and process residues will also be collected. Separate samples (c. 10ml) will be collected for micro-slags (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) (English Heritage 2001).

6.10 Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with YAT specialists and the Historic England 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.

6.11 In the event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice and curator will be informed immediately. An osteoarchaeologist will be available to give advice on site.

- If **disarticulated** remains are encountered, these will be identified and quantified on site. If trenches are being immediately backfilled, the remains will be left in the ground. If the excavations will remain open for any length of time, disarticulated remains will be removed and boxed, for immediate reburial by the Church.

- If **articulated** remains are encountered, these will be excavated in accordance with recognised guidelines (see 6.12) and retained for assessment.
- Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment.

6.12 Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains must be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law, CIfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and Historic England guidance (2005).

7 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

7.1 Upon completion of the groundworks, 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 results of the operation, describing structural data, associated finds and environmental data, and providing a full description of and an interpretation of the archaeological sequence, setting the site into the context of the known archaeology of the area.

d) A selection of photographs and drawings, including an overall plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored.

e) Specialist artefact and environmental reports as necessary.

f) Index of the archive and details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a 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

7.2 A draft of the report will be submitted within one month of the end of the work on site. The final report will be submitted within three months of the end of the work on site. A minimum of five copies will be submitted to the architect who will keep one copy and will distribute the others to (i) the Parish to be retained with the log-book, (ii) the secretary of the DAC, (iii) the DAA and (iv) the appropriate Sites and Monuments Record.

7.3 The requirements for archive preparation and deposition will be addressed and undertaken in a manner agreed with the recipient museum. In this instance Yorkshire Museum is recommended and an agreed allowance should be made for the curation and storage of this material.

7.4 Provision for the publication of results, as outlined in the Brief, will be made.

7.5 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the County Council 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.

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

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

9 TIMETABLE & STAFFING

9.1 The timetable for monitoring of archaeological works will be agreed upon by consultation with the architect (Purcell). The site work is anticipated to commence during January 2017.

9.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:

- Palaeoenvironemtal remains – Dr Jennifer Miller
- Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
- Finds Researcher - Nicky Rogers
- Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner
- Ceramic Building Materials – Jane McComish
- Finds Officers – Nienke van Doorn
- Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues –Dr Rod Mackenzie
- Conservation – Ian Panter

10 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

10.1 As a minimum requirement, the DAA 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. York Archaeological Trust will notify the DAA 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 the DAA.

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 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.

12 KEY REFERENCES

Brown, D. H. 2007. Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation. CIfA/AAA

Department for Communities and Local Government. 2012. National Planning Policy Framework.

Historic England. 2015. *Archaeometallurgy*. Guidelines for Best Practice.

Historic England. 2002. With Alidade and Tape – graphical and plane table survey or archaeological earthworks.

Historic England. 2015. Where on Earth are We? The Role of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) in Archaeological Field Survey Historic England. 2015. Geoarchaeology: using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record.

Historic England. 2005 Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England.

Historic England. 2006. Guidelines on the x-radiography of archaeological metalwork.

Historic England. 2011 'Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)'.

Historic England. 2015. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide.

Historic England. 2007. Understanding the Archaeology of Landscape – a guide to good recording practice

Historic England. 2008. Investigative Conservation.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 1993. Technical paper No 13 by McKinley, J. I., and C. Roberts. *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2011. Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (second edition) by D.H. Brown.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation

Museum and Galleries Commission. 1992. Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections.

RCHMS. 1999. 'Recording Archaeological Field Monuments – a descriptive specification.

Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM). 2007. *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology*

Neal, V., and D. Watkinson (eds). 1998. *First Aid for Finds: practical guide for archaeologists.* United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, Archaeology Section; 3rd Revised Edition.

Figure 1 Site location plan

PLATES

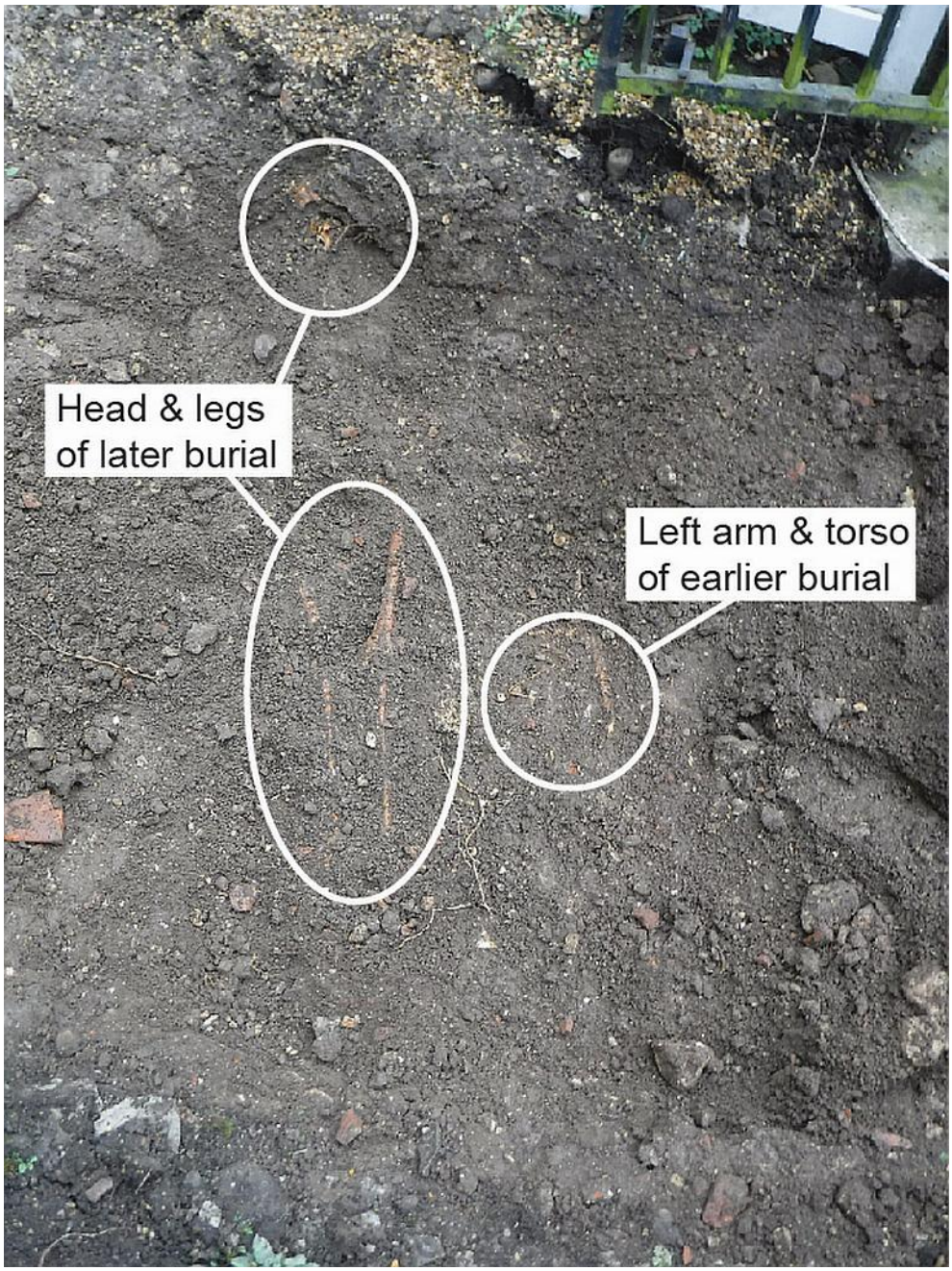
Plate 1 Drain cut along the footpath, facing southwest, scale unit 100mm

Plate 2 South-western end of drain cut, facing northwest, scale unit 100mm

Plate 3 Typical drain cut profile, facing northwest, scale unit 100mm

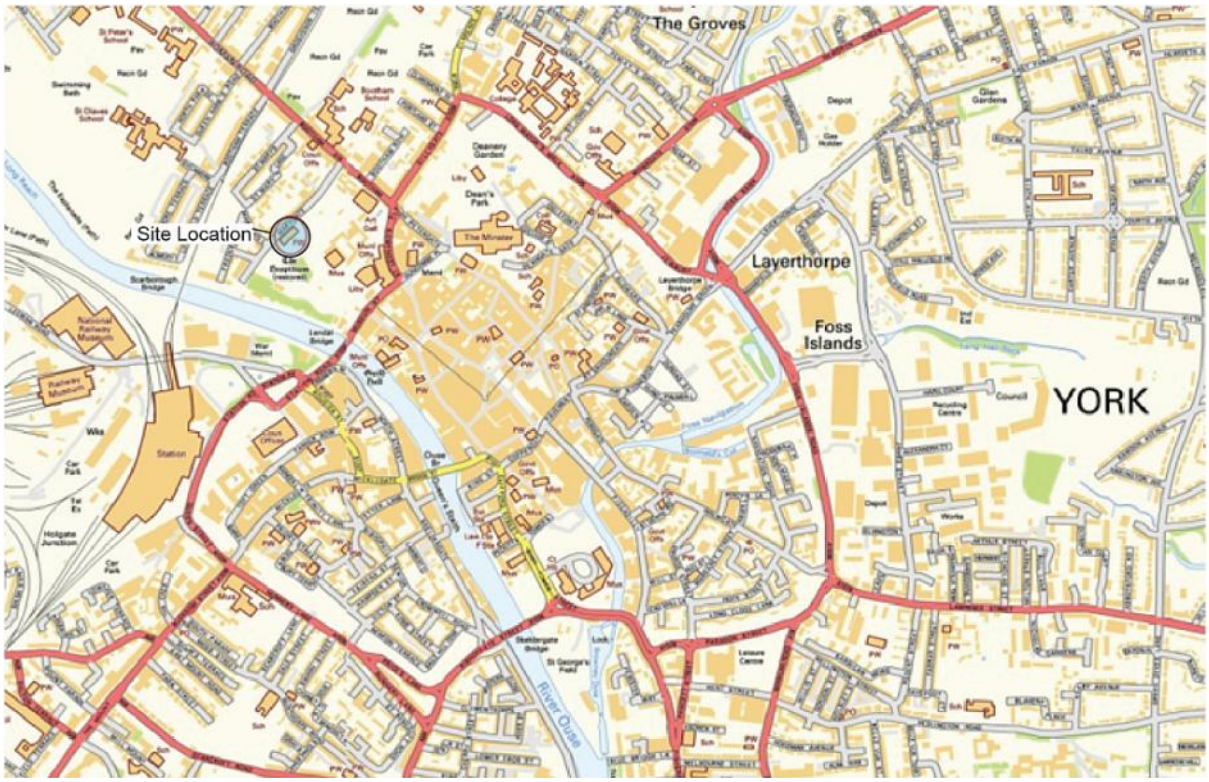
Plate 4 Footings and foundations for steps and threshold, facing southeast, scale unit 100mm

Plate 5 Medieval (right) and post-medieval (left) burials at base of ramp, facing southwest



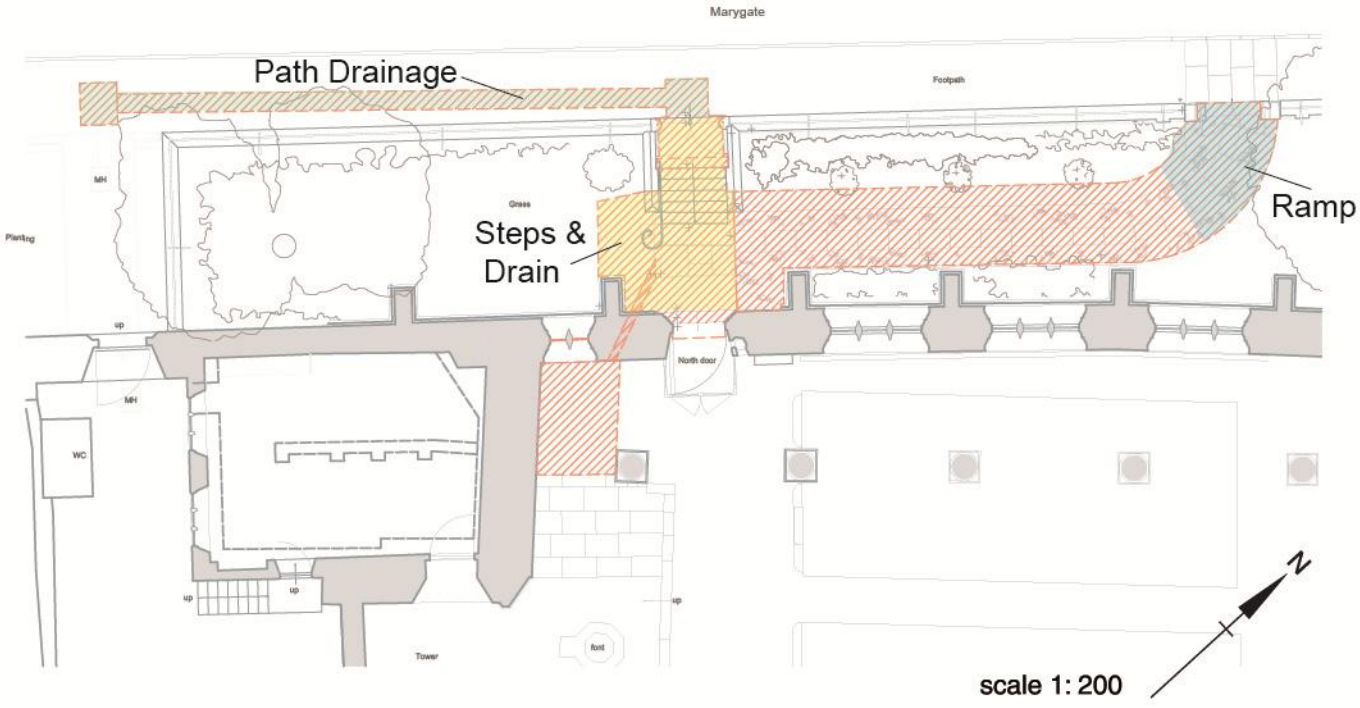
FIGURES

Figure 1 Site Location



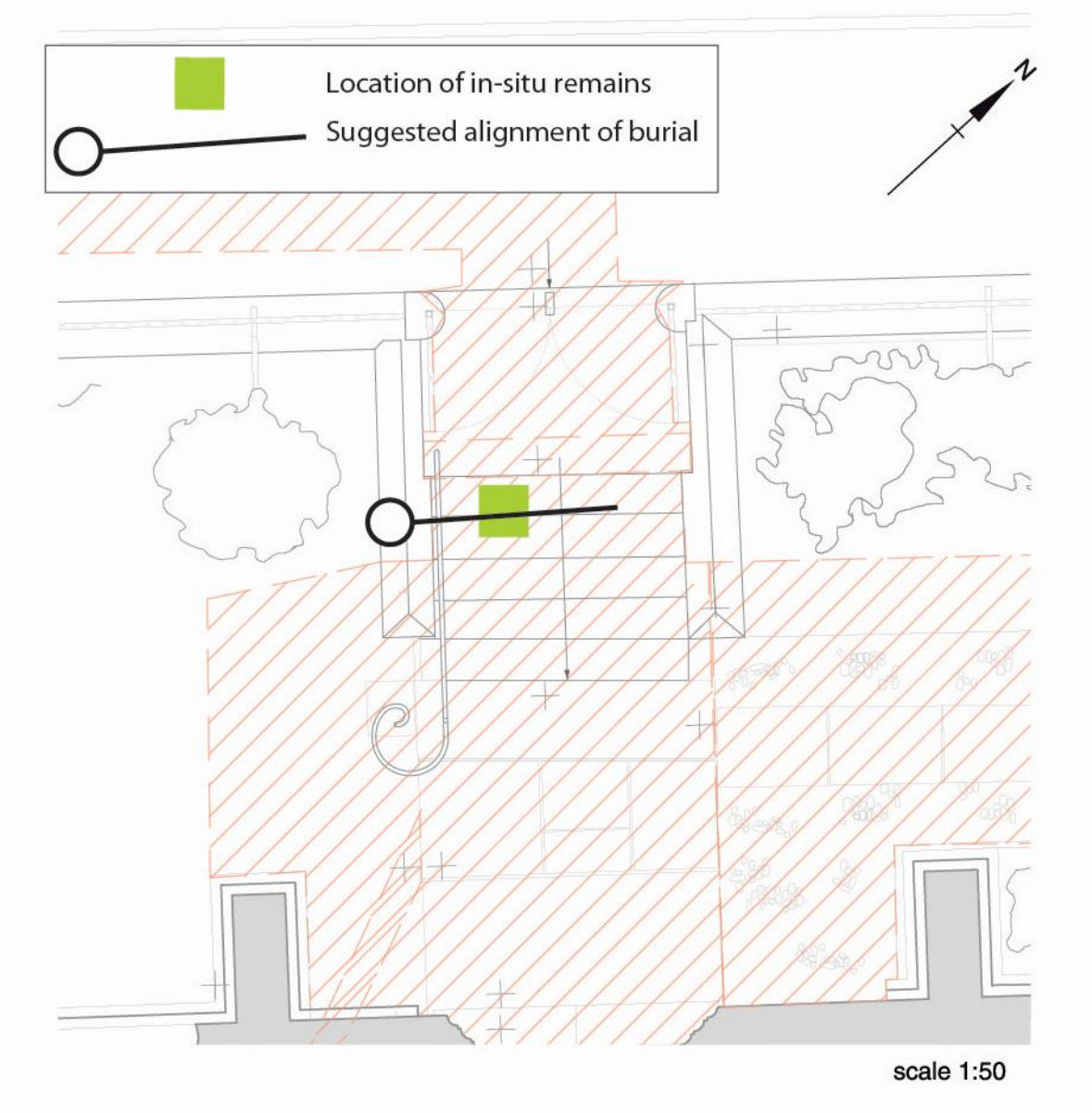
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010

Figure 2 Works Location



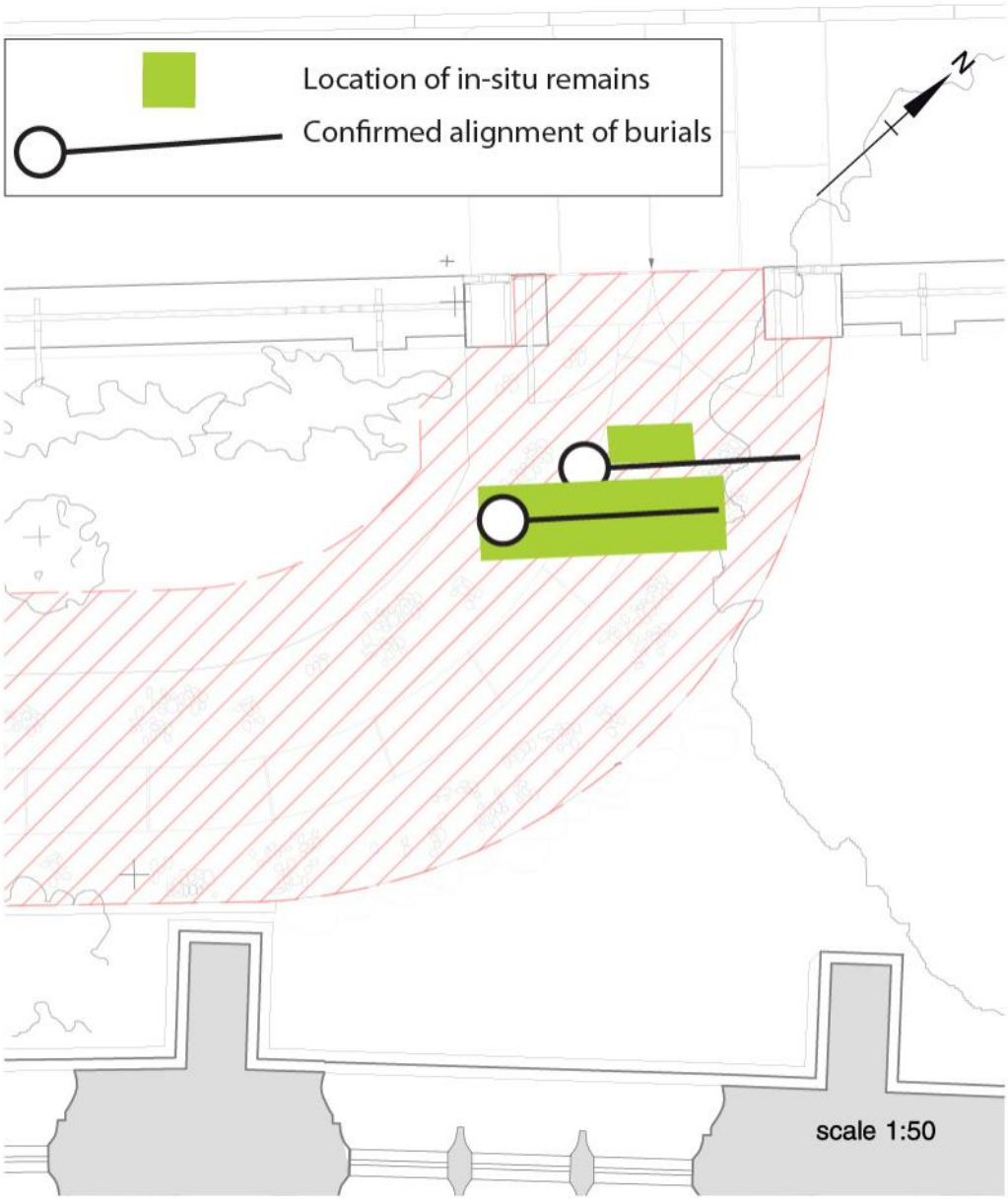
After Drawing - Job234762.Drawing110.RevisionC

Figure 3 Burial beneath steps



After Drawing - Job234762.Drawing110.RevisionC

Figure 4 Ramp burials



After Drawing - Job234762.Drawing110.RevisionC