



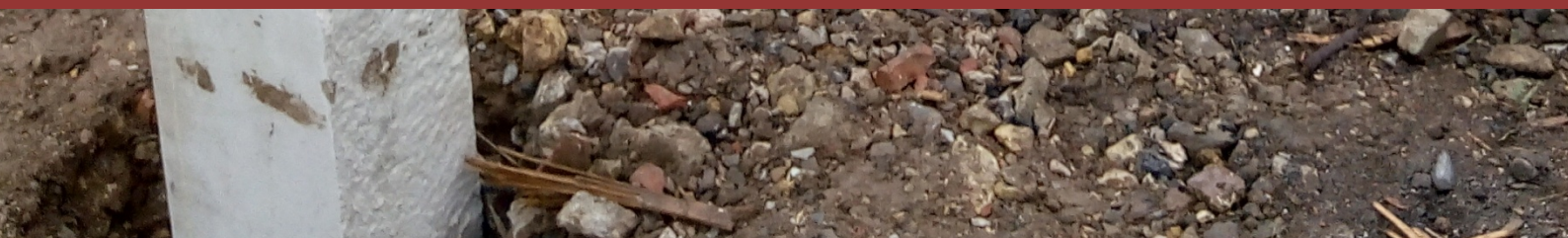
YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



## Archaeological Monitoring at 95 and 97 Priest Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire

By Mary-Anne Slater

YAT Report 2018/140 September 2018





# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



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## CONTENTS

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY .....	ii
KEY PROJECT INFORMATION .....	ii
1 INTRODUCTION .....	1
2 METHODOLOGY .....	1
3 LOCATION & GEOLOGY.....	1
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....	1
5 RESULTS .....	1
6 DISCUSSION .....	2
LIST OF SOURCES .....	2
REFERENCES .....	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	2
PLATES.....	3
FIGURES.....	5
APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE .....	7
APPENDIX 2 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION.....	8

### Plates

Cover: View of site

Plate 1 The site after piling, looking east .....	3
Plate 2 Excavation of eastern footings, looking north-east .....	3
Plate 3 Footing in the western part of the site .....	4
Plate 4 Footing in the eastern part of the site .....	4

### Figures

Figure 1 Site location .....	5
Figure 2 Areas monitored (in pink) .....	6

### Tables

Table 1 Index to archive.....	7
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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 York Archaeological Trust conducted archaeological monitoring at 95 and 97 Priest Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire (SE 31813 71115).

The work was undertaken for Arrowfield Property Ltd as part of an archaeological condition a (18/00388/FUL). The work was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by YAT. The works involved a watching brief on all foundation trenches.

The foundation trenches were cut through demolition rubble or garden soil, no archaeological features were present.

## KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	95 and 97 Priest Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire
YAT Project No.	6077
Document Number	2018/140
Type of Project	Watching brief
Client	Arrowfield Property Ltd
Planning Application No.	18/00388/FUL
NGR	SE 31813 71115
Museum Accession No.	TBC
OASIS Identifier	yorkarch1-329451

## REPORT INFORMATION

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1	MS	24/09/18	IDM	26/09/18	IDM	26/09/18

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Between the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 YAT conducted an archaeological watching brief at 95 and 97 Priest Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire (SE 31813 71115) (Figure 1).

The work was undertaken for Arrowfield Property Ltd as part of an archaeological condition attached to planning application 18/00388/FUL for the construction of five two-storey houses.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

The methodology followed that described in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 2). Foundation trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of 0.7m.

## 3 LOCATION & GEOLOGY

The site lies c.300m to the east of Ripon Cathedral. The site was previously occupied by a pair of semi-detached bungalows, which were demolished prior to excavation.

The underlying bedrock is Edlington Formation - Mudstone. A sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 252 to 272 million years ago in the Permian Period when the local environment was dominated by lakes and lagoons (BGS). The superficial deposits comprise Alluvium - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel (BGS). These deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the environment was dominated by rivers.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest, approximately 50m east of a 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> century cemetery located at Ailey Hill (NYHER MNY19780). Seventh century chroniclers record a Celtic monastery which was built around 660 AD soon being replaced by Abbot Wilfrid's Benedictine Monastery, just north of north-west of the present Cathedral (NYHER MNY19773). The monastery was destroyed in the 10<sup>th</sup> century and rebuilt by the late 10<sup>th</sup> century.

The earliest focus of settlement in Ripon appears to lie within the ecclesiastical precinct, extending east from the Cathedral to Priest Lane and south to Ailey Hill and the River Skell (NYHER MNY23721 and Hall & Whyman 1996). During the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries the precinct was reduced in size and encompassed within a new street layout.

Archaeological investigations to the north of Ailey Hill, at Ripon Cathedral School, recorded evidence of possible monastic boundaries (NYHER MNY37831). Antiquarian sources indicate the existence of a number of churches and/or cemeteries in the vicinity of Ripon Cathedral, and therefore it is possible that further groups of Anglo-Saxon or medieval burials may be located in this area.

## 5 RESULTS

The strip foundations for Plots 1-5 were excavated after the piling had been undertaken. Natural geological deposits were not present in any of the foundations. The strip foundations at the eastern extent of the site revealed rubble relating to the construction and demolition of

the former bungalows, and a mid orange-brown sandy clay subsoil (Plots 4-5). These foundations went to a depth of 0.5m BGL. In the centre of the site (Plots 4-5), mid brown clayey silt garden soil overlay the orange-brown sandy clay subsoil, which was seen at the bottom of the foundations approximately 0.7m BGL. Towards the western extent of the site 0.06m of made ground hardcore sealed 0.25m of dark grey silty topsoil and 0.43m of mid brown clayey silt garden soil (Plots 1-3).

No archaeological features or deposits were present within any of the strip foundations.

## 6 DISCUSSION

Archaeological monitoring of 95 and 97 Priest Lane revealed no evidence of archaeological activity earlier than the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The demolition rubble and garden soil of the former bungalows was seen in the strip foundations, with the rubble used to raise the ground level prior to redevelopment. The depth of the subsoil indicates the extent of the made ground, and the truncation caused by the previous buildings. The relatively shallow depth of the strip foundations ensures that if any archaeological features are present below the subsoil, they were not disturbed and will remain *in situ*.

## LIST OF SOURCES

British Geological Survey - Geology of Britain Viewer

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Arrowfield Property Ltd for commissioning this project and for their help on site.

## PLATES



Plate 1 The site after piling, looking east



Plate 2 Excavation of eastern footings, looking north-east



**Plate 3 Footing in the western part of the site**



**Plate 4 Footing in the eastern part of the site**



FIGURES



Figure 1 Site location

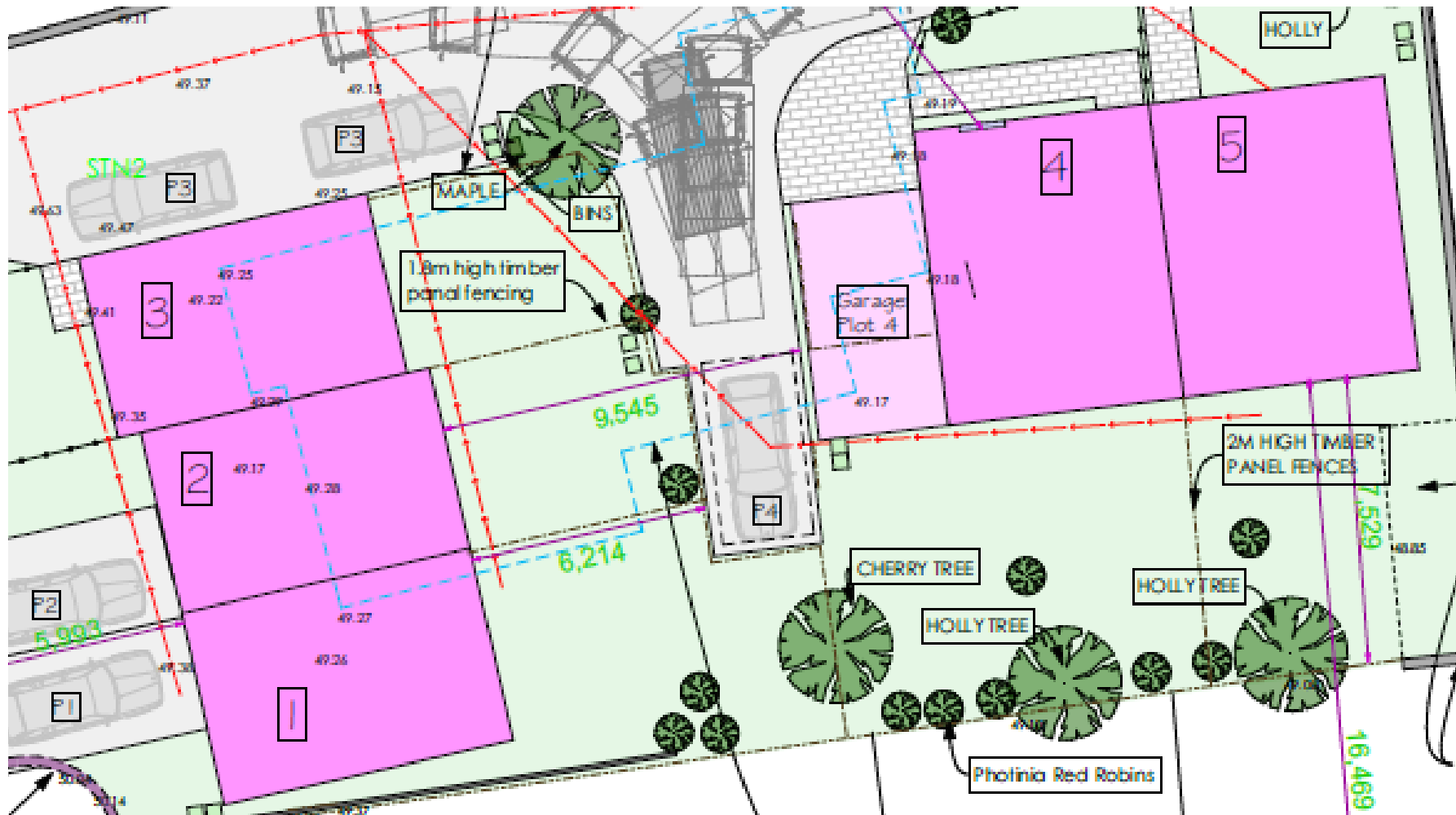


Figure 2 Areas monitored (in pink)

**APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE**

Item	Number of items
Day sheets	2
Digital photographs	26
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

**Table 1 Index to archive**



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

## WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**Site Location:** 95 and 97 Priest Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 1LS  
**NGR:** SE 31813 71115  
**Proposal:** Residential development  
**Planning ref:** 18/00388/FUL  
**Prepared for:** Arrowfield Property Ltd  
**Document Number:** 2018/98

Version	Produced by		Edited by		Approved by	
	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
1	MS	19/07/18	IDM	19/07/18	IDM	19/07/18
2	IDM	02/08/18	BR	02/08/18	IDM	02/08/18

## **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Arrowfield Property Ltd have received planning consent for the construction of five houses at 95 and 97 Priest Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 1LS (SE 31813 71115). The scheme will include the demolition of the existing semi-detached bungalows and erect five, two-storey houses.
- 1.2 The following archaeological condition has been imposed: Archaeological watching brief following the preparation of this Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). The work will be carried out in accordance with this WSI.

## **2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 The proposal site is at 95 and 97 Priest Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 1LS, c.300m to the east of Ripon Cathedral (Figure 1). The site currently consists of a pair of semi-detached bungalows on the eastern side of Priest Lane opposite the junction with Victoria Avenue.

## **3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS**

- 3.1 Priest Lane lies immediately to the east of Ripon's Conservation Area.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST**

- 4.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological interest, approximately 50m east of a 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> century cemetery located at Ailey Hill. Seventh century chroniclers record a Celtic monastery which was built around 660 AD soon being replaced by Abbot Wilfrid's Benedictine Monastery, just north of north-west of the present Cathedral. The monastery was destroyed in the 10<sup>th</sup> century and rebuilt by the late 10<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.2 The earliest focus of settlement in Ripon appears to lie within the ecclesiastical precinct, extending east from the Cathedral to Priest Lane and south to Ailey Hill and the River Skell. During the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries the precinct was reduced in size and encompassed within a new street layout.
- 4.3 Archaeological investigations to the north of Ailey Hill, at Ripon Cathedral School, recorded evidence of possible monastic boundaries. Antiquarian sources indicate the existence of a number of churches and/or cemeteries in the vicinity of Ripon Cathedral, and therefore it is possible that further groups of Anglo-Saxon or medieval burials may be located in this area.

## **5 GROUNDWORKS TO BE MONITORED**

- 5.1 This work will comprise a **continuous** 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**, depending on the results, and following agreement from the Development Control Archaeologist.

## **6 DELAYS TO THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE**

- 6.1 All earth-moving machinery must be operated at an appropriate speed to allow the archaeologist to recognise, record and retrieve any archaeological deposits and material. All mechanical excavators must be fitted with toothless buckets.
- 6.2 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.

- 6.3 Plant or excavators shall not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded and the archaeologist on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

## **7 RECORDING METHODOLOGY**

- 7.1 If a base plan of intervention areas is available, the areas being monitored will be determined using this information. If a plan is not available, or the watching brief work involves monitoring of long linear works, interventions which are not mapped, or large open areas, the location of the monitoring will be determined using a GPS, which will provide accuracy to c.2mm.
- 7.2 Unique context numbers will only be assigned if artefacts are retrieved, or stratigraphic relationships between archaeological deposits are discernable. 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.
- 7.3 A sufficient sample of any archaeological features and deposits revealed will be excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner. Complex archaeology beyond the scope of a watching brief will require consultation with the NYCC Principal Archaeologist to agree an excavation methodology.
- 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.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 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. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the ClfA 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.
- 7.8 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.

7.9 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 Historic England guidelines (Campbell, Moffatt and Straker 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).

7.10 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.

7.11 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, and consultation with relevant parties undertaken to determine re-burial.
- If **articulated** remains are encountered, these will be excavated in accordance with recognised guidelines (see 7.12) and retained for assessment.
- Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment.

7.12 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, ClfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and ABAPE Guidance for Best Practice (2017).

## 8 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

8.1 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.
- 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) 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

- 8.2 Copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body and the HER/SMR (also in PDF format).
- 8.3 The requirements for archive preparation and deposition will be addressed and undertaken in a manner agreed with the recipient museum. In this instance Ripon Museum is recommended and an agreed allowance should be made for the curation and storage of this material.
- 8.4 Provision for the publication of results, as outlined in the Brief, will be made.
- 8.5 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.

## **9 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 9.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- 9.2 A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

## **10 TIMETABLE & STAFFING**

- 10.1 The timetable will be agreed following consultation with the client and the NYCC Principal Archaeologist.
- 10.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:
  - Human Remains - Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd)
  - Palaeoenvironmental remains – PRS Ltd
  - Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
  - Finds Researcher - Nicky Rogers
  - Medieval Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner
  - Finds Officers – Nienke Van Doorn
  - Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues – Dr Rod Mackenzie & Dr Roger Doonan
  - Conservation – Ian Panter



## **11 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

- 11.1 As a minimum requirement, NYCC Principal Archaeologist 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 NYCC Principal Archaeologist 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 NYCC Principal Archaeologist.

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## **13 KEY REFERENCES**

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For the latest Historic England guidance documents see:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/latest-guidance/>



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