



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

<b>SITE</b>	St. Mary's Church, Kirkgate, Thirsk YO7 1PR		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	Hambleton District Council		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	6106	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	2018/165
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 4273 8228
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	N/A	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	N/A

## INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on ground works for the partial demolition and reconstruction of a boundary wall was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of Hambleton District Council on November 26<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Mary's Church, Kirkgate, Thirsk YO7 1PR, NGR SE 4273 8228 (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures that were exposed and to ensure that no *in-situ* inhumations were adversely affected by the ground works.

## METHODOLOGY

Two badly bowing sections of the boundary wall to the south and west of the church were partially dismantled by hand to the lowest above-ground course of masonry (Figure 1). The removal of this stonework revealed two roughly 2.00m wide, 0.70m high sections of the topsoil and subsoil that is retained by the churchyard wall. A photographic record of the exposed deposits was made before the wall was rebuilt. Several smaller areas of the wall were also partially dismantled, although this was limited to the outer face of the wall, with the inner face left *in-situ*. Due to the non-intrusive nature of the works, the remaining ground works (re-building, re-pointing, etc.) were not observed archaeologically.

## RESULTS

In the section of wall to the south of the church, the upper three courses of masonry were removed, along with part of a loose rubble infilling deposit against the inner face (Plate 1). This material was interpreted as construction backfill. In the section to the west of the church, the inner face of the wall was only partially removed, with some roughly coursed masonry left *in-situ* alongside the construction backfill (Plate 2). As the wall was then rebuilt to its original dimensions, it was not necessary to cut into any deposits that pre-dated the construction of the wall. As a result of this methodology, no inhumations or significant archaeological deposits were affected by the works.

## CONCLUSIONS

The sensitive approach to the repair of the wall was successful in avoiding any damage to human remains or archaeological deposits within the churchyard. The lack of any residual finds or disarticulated human remains observed in section supports the interpretation of the deposits removed with the wall as the original construction backfill deposit rather than a graveyard soil.

<b>COMPLETED BY</b>	AJ	<b>CHECKED BY</b>	Ian Milsted	<b>FINISHED</b>	08/01/19
<b>FINDS</b>	0	<b>SAMPLES</b>	0	<b>PHOTOS</b>	10
				<b>PAGE</b>	<b>1 of 3</b>

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:  
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX  
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Without Share Capital Registered  
in England No. 1430801



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

<b>SITE</b>	St. Mary's Church, Kirkgate, Thirsk YO7 1PR		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	Hambleton District Council		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	6106	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	2018/165
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 4273 8228
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	N/A	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	N/A



Plate 1. North facing view of the churchyard deposits exposed behind the boundary wall (0.50m scale).

<b>COMPLETED BY</b>	AJ	<b>CHECKED BY</b>	Ian Milsted	<b>FINISHED</b>	08/01/19
<b>FINDS</b>	0	<b>SAMPLES</b>	0	<b>PHOTOS</b>	10
				<b>PAGE</b>	<b>2 of 3</b>

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:  
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX  
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Without Share Capital Registered  
in England No. 1430801



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

<b>SITE</b>	St. Mary's Church, Kirkgate, Thirsk YO7 1PR		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	Hambleton District Council		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	6106	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	2018/165
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 4273 8228
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	N/A	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	N/A



Plate 2. East facing view of the partially dismantled boundary wall.

*This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of York Archaeological Trust for Excavation & Research Limited ("YAT"). YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. Nobody is entitled to rely upon this Report other than the person/party which commissioned it. YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by anybody other than the commissioning person/party.*

<b>COMPLETED BY</b>	AJ	<b>CHECKED BY</b>	Ian Milsted	<b>FINISHED</b>	08/01/19
<b>FINDS</b>	0	<b>SAMPLES</b>	0	<b>PHOTOS</b>	10
				<b>PAGE</b>	<b>3 of 3</b>

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:  
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX  
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Without Share Capital Registered  
in England No. 1430801

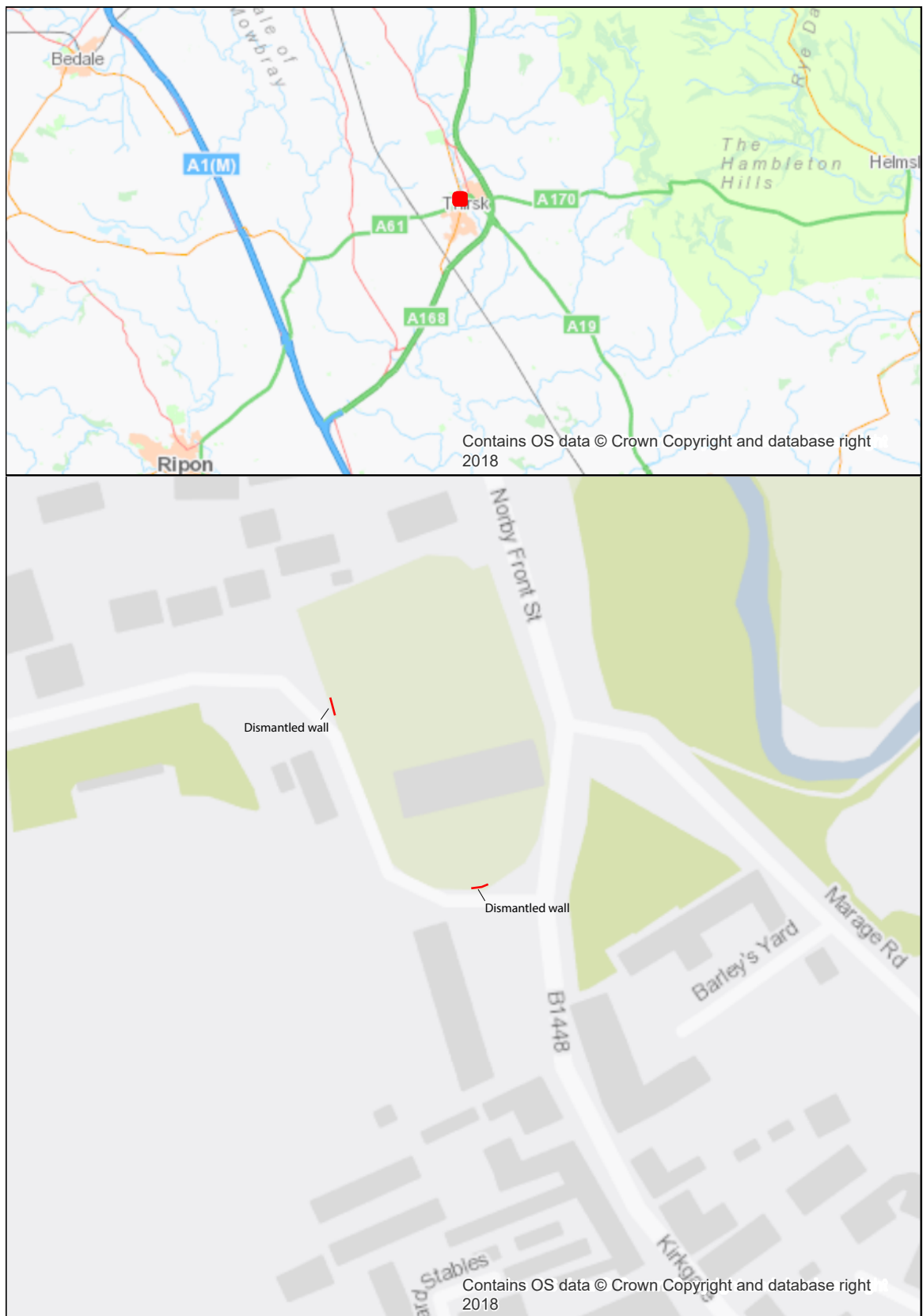


Figure 1. Site location