



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

<b>SITE</b>	St. George's Chapel, York		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	City of York Council		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	6114	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	2018/180
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 60478 51275
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	N/A	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	N/A

## INTRODUCTION

An excavation was carried out by York Archaeological Trust (YAT) on behalf of City of York Council (CYC) on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in a landscaped garden to the north-east of the pumping station situated on the south side of Tower Street, York, NGR SE 60478 51275 (Figure 1). The objective of the excavation was to locate Trench 3 of the 1990 excavation (YAT site code: 1990.17) and expose the south-west wall of St. George's Chapel (Plate 1), as previously encountered, in order to survey its position and height with GPS.

## METHODOLOGY

The location of the 1990.17 Trench 3 had been identified from contemporary records, providing coordinates with which to re-locate the trench position and that of the chapel wall with GPS. Records from the original excavation indicated that the chapel would be present at approximately 1.7m Below Ground Level (BGL) or around 7.25m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum).

Re-excavation of the trench was undertaken primarily with a six-tonne rubber tracked mechanical excavator employing both 1.8m and 0.9m wide flat bladed ditching buckets (Plate 2). To reach the expected depth of the chapel wall it was necessary to step the sides of the excavation to maintain the stability and integrity of the trench sides and enable safe access to the chapel wall once exposed. To facilitate this an approximately 3.6m wide trench was excavated from north-west to south-east across the narrow axis of the original Trench 3, centred on the position of the chapel wall, to a depth of approximately 0.9m BGL. Originally it was intended to dig a 0.9m wide slot on the same axis thereby revealing as much of the chapel wall as exposed in 1990. The presence of water and sewer pipes aligned north-east/south-west along either side of the position of Trench 3 however precluded this approach (Plate 3). Instead a 0.9m wide slot was dug on a north-east/south-west alignment at a point between the two service runs, perpendicular to the line of the chapel wall.

When encountered the chapel wall was exposed and cleaned with hand tools in preparation for survey.

On completion of the survey the up-cast from the excavation was re-instated backfilling the trench.

## RESULTS

The excavation revealed that the south-west wall of St. George's Chapel was located at the position indicated by the 1990 works, and at a height of 7.21m AOD (approximately 1.9m BGL) (Plate 4).

As exposed four points were surveyed on the wall. On the internal face of the wall, facing north-east, were points a and b, on the external face of the wall, facing south-west, were points c and d (Figure 2). The coordinates are tabulated below (Table 1).

Ground level was recorded at 9.12m AOD. The top of the north-west end of the wall was recorded at a height of 7.17m AOD, with the south-west end recorded at a height of 7.21m AOD.

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Table 1 Chapel wall coordinate summary

Point	X	Y	Z
a	460511.121	421295.278	7.196
b	460511.825	421294.948	7.135
c	460511.051	421294.728	6.940
d	460511.676	421294.287	6.824

## CONCLUSIONS

The current excavation and survey has confirmed the position of the south-west wall of St. George's Chapel, and as noted by Hunter-Mann following the 1990 YAT excavation the line of this wall lies approximately 1m to the north of the position indicated by the 1852 OS map.



Plate 1 Trench 3 1990.17. The south-west wall of St. George's Chapel as exposed in the 1990 excavation. Looking west.

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Plate 2 Exploratory trench under excavation. Looking south.

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Plate 3 Fresh and foul water mains running across the line of 1990.17 Trench 3. Looking south-west.

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Plate 4 South-west wall of St. George's Chapel exposed for survey. Looking south-west.

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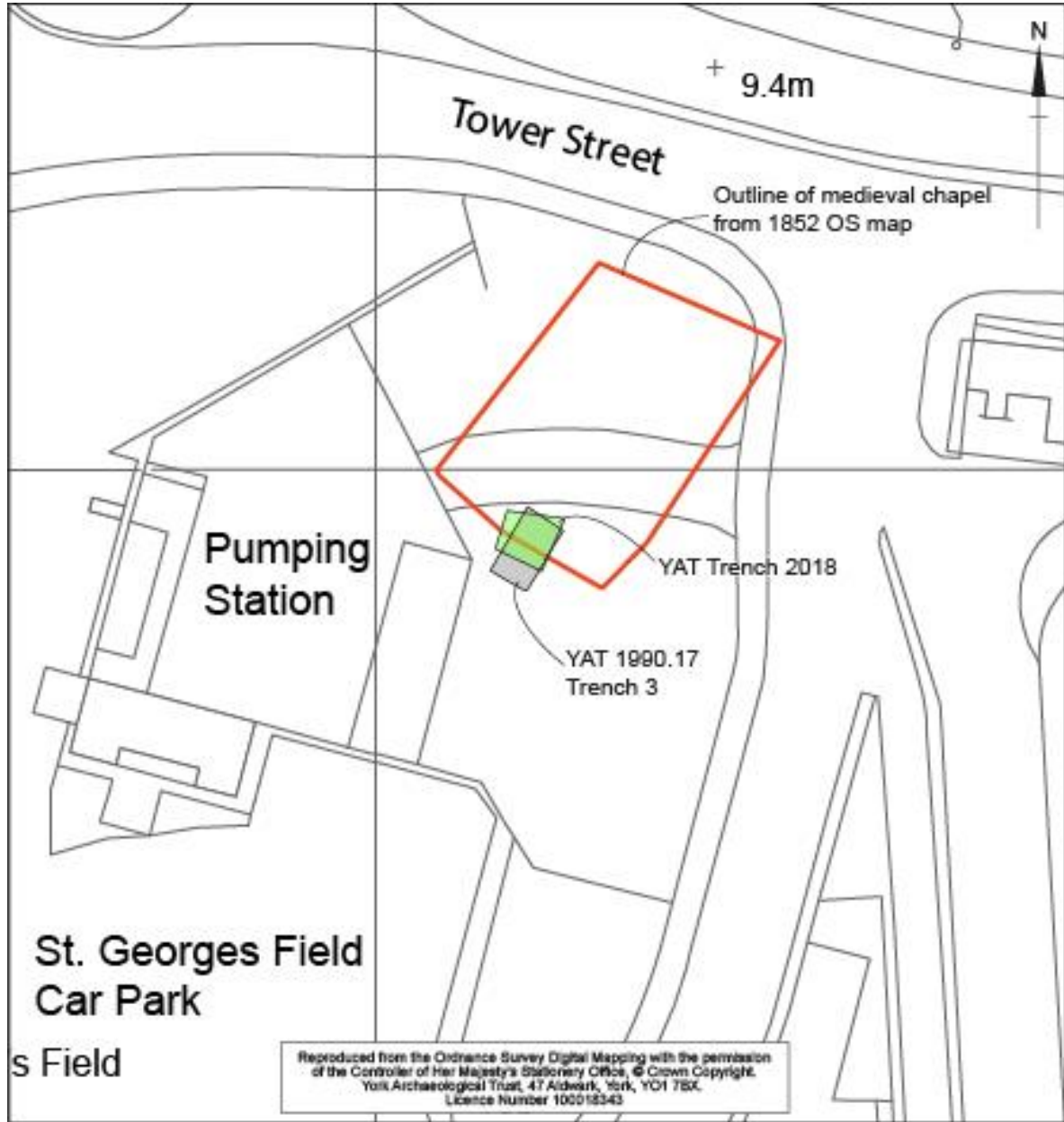


Figure 1 Works location

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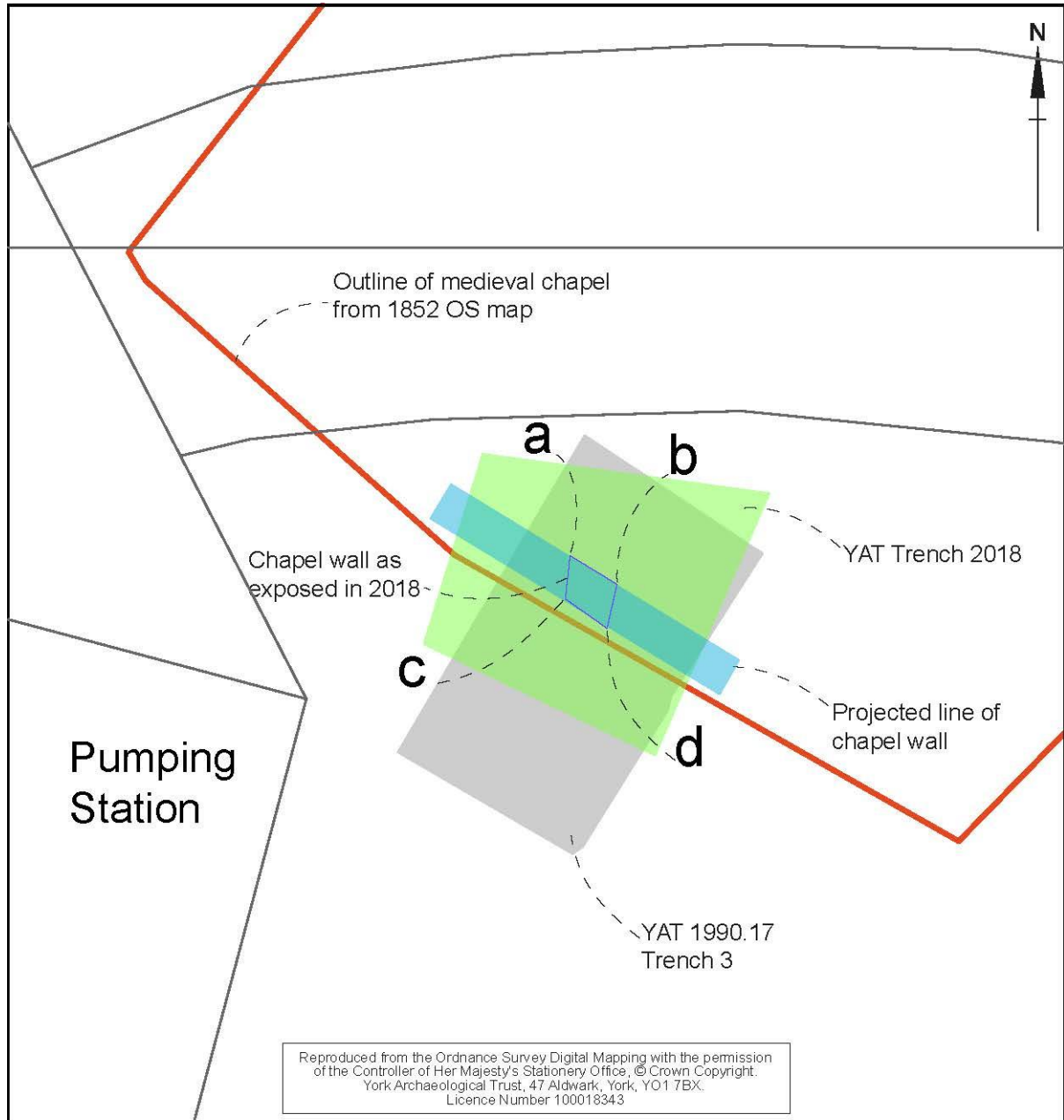
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Figure 2 2018 survey showing position of SW wall of chapel and surveyed points a, b, c and d.

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