



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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| SITE | St Crux Parish Hall, Pavement, York | | |
| CLIENT NAME | PR Standish Project Management | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | N/A | YAT REPORT # | 2019/59 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 6049 5182 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | N/A | AAI OPS NOTICE # | 19003 |

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on ground works for a replacement water pipe was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of PR Standish Project Management on the 4th March 2019 at St Crux Parish Hall, Pavement, York, NGR SE 6049 5182 (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works.

The church of St. Crux, Pavement was first referred to in the Domesday Book, although fragments of Anglo-Scandinavian masonry found on the site may suggest that it was a pre-Conquest foundation. The church was re-buit in the early 15th century and was remarkable among the parish churches of York for its Italianate design, round arches, cupola and balustrades. By the mid-19th century, the church had fallen into disrepair and, despite public outcry and plans to renovate the church in the Gothic Revival style, the church was demolished in 1886–7. The site is presently occupied by the St. Crux parish room, a far smaller structure that incorporates a considerable amount of the original fabric of the church (Wilson and Mee 1998, 62).

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the work was to excavate an old lead pipe for a water supply, and replace it with a new MDPE alkathene pipe. This involved hand-excavating a trench through disturbed ground to dimensions of 0.25m–0.50m wide, 0.4m deep and 10.5m long. An archaeologist did not monitor the excavation itself, but attended afterwards and took photographs and notes.

RESULTS

The only deposits of interest were several fragments of limestone blocks towards the north-eastern end of the service trench (See Figure 1 for approximate location). In both sections of the trench there were limestone blocks that extended beyond the limit of the excavation (Plate 1), as well as four fragments of roughly shaped blocks (Plate 2) on the spoil heap from the same area. The flagstones were approximately 60mm deep. Below the flagstones there was a deposit of friable dark brown silty sandy demolition material that extended to the base of trench except for where the limestone blocks appeared. The top of the wall was visible in the trench at 380mm below ground level, and were some 1.85m south-west of the Church Hall doors. The stone blocks visible in the trench were approximately 900mm long by 400mm wide by 70mm deep (Plates 1 and 3). The wall dimensions are not known due to the narrow window provided by the trench, although the structure was possibly as much as 400mm wide.

CONCLUSIONS

The wall appeared to be on a north-north-west / south-south-east alignment, although very little of the structure could be seen in the narrow trench. An overlay of the trench location on the 1852 OS map (Figure 2) reveals that the structure would have sat within the interior of the church, perhaps acting as a footing for one of the pillars dividing the nave and the north aisle or for some other internal dividing wall. The structure was clearly disturbed during the installation of the lead water pipe, which makes further inference difficult. Some of the stone may have been reused from earlier structures and could have some relation to the demolition of St Crux Church in the late 1880's, however the limited scope provided by these works makes this hard to clearly ascertain. Nothing else of interest was visible in the rest of the trench as the material present consisted of already disturbed ground from the installation of the earlier water supply.

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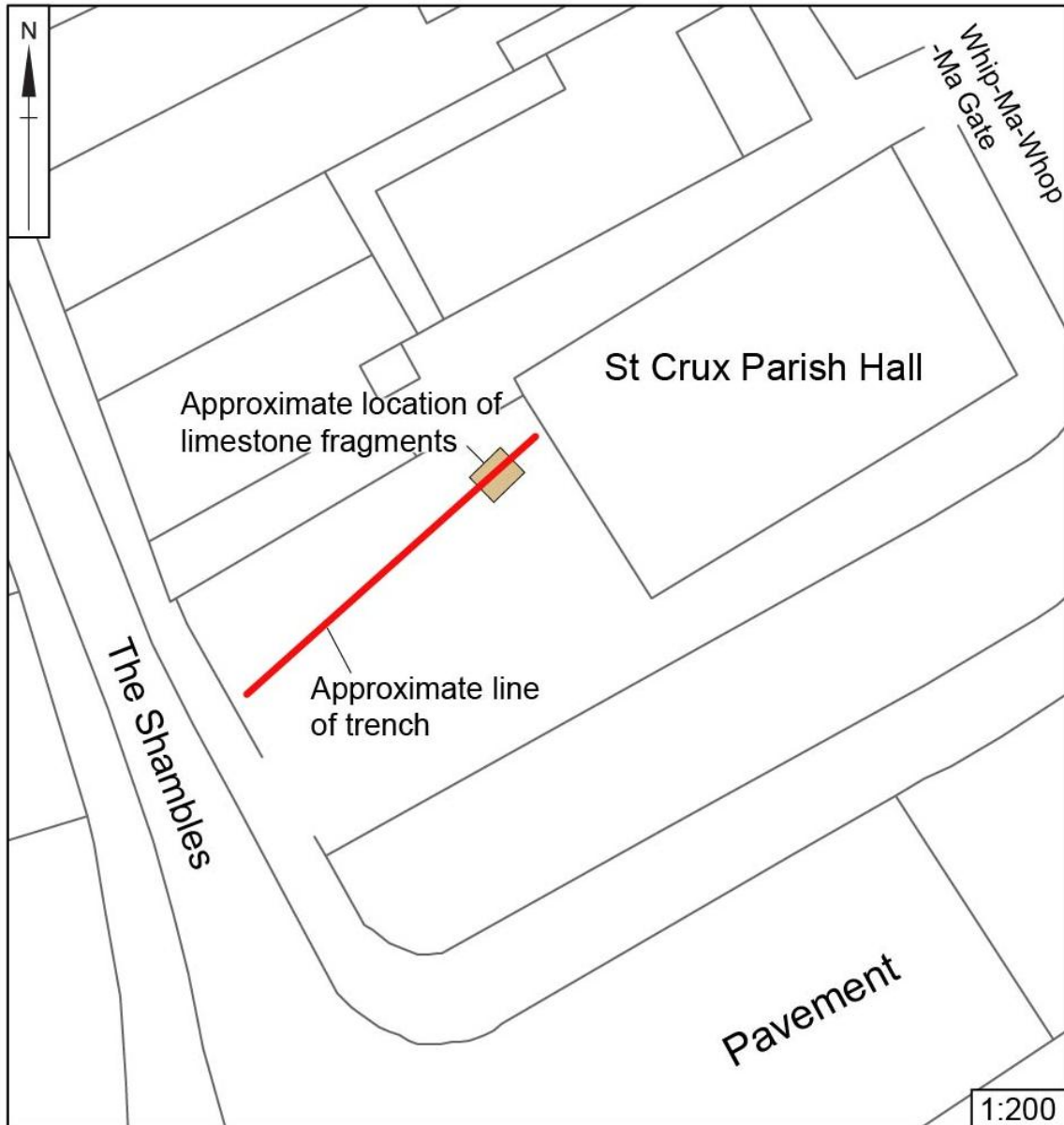


Figure 1 Site map with approximate trench and stone wall locations.

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Figure 2 Works location overlaid on 1852 OS map.

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Plate 1 View of wall in base of trench looking south-west. Scale 20cm

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Plate 2 View of roughly shaped stone blocks from spoil heap. Scale 50cm

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Plate 3 North-west facing trench section showing flagstones, demolition deposit and stone wall. Scale 20cm.

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