



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	St. John's Church, Sleights, North Yorkshire		
CLIENT NAME	GPM (Ripon) Ltd.		
YAT PROJECT #	Pending	YAT REPORT #	2019/67
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	NZ 86681 06925
PLANNING REFERENCE #	Church faculty	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of GPM (Ripon) Ltd. between 27th October and 1st November at St. John's Church, Sleights, North Yorkshire, NGR NZ 86681 06925 (Figure 1).

The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed during the installation of a new surface water drain and associated soakaway and to ensure no burials were adversely affected by the works.

METHODOLOGY

A north-east/south-west aligned trench was excavated from the boiler house of the church to the trackway that runs through the churchyard. The trench measured 5.30m x 0.40m x 0.30m and was excavated by a 4-tonne rubber tracked excavator (Figure 2); a 1m square soakaway was excavated at the north-east end of the trench.

RESULTS

Below the present turf surface, a 300mm thick make-up deposit of soft, dark grayish brown sandy silty clay was observed to overlie a layer of mid-brown silty clay at the base of the trench (Plate 1). Moderate fragments of modern brick rubble and mortar were present throughout. No burials or disarticulated human remains were observed.

CONCLUSIONS

No inhumations, or deposits pre-dating the 20th century, were observed during the watching brief. Significant archaeological remains may be present on-site, but these will be located at a greater depth.

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



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Plate 1 North-east facing view of drain trench

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