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## Archaeological Investigations at Old St. Oswald's Church, Fulford, York

By A. Johnson, G. Fireman, J. McMillan, C. Orriss, S. Taylor, P. Thoresby and D. Yates

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**York Archaeological Trust, Cuthbert Morrell House, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX**

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024

Email: [archaeology@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:archaeology@yorkat.co.uk) Website: <http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk>

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## **Abbreviations**

AOD – Above Ordnance Datum

BGL – Below Ground Level

CBM – Ceramic Building Material

CIfA – Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CYC – City of York Council

FFH – Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington Local History Society

NOS - National Occupational Standards

YAT – York Archaeological Trust

## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Between August 2nd and 13<sup>th</sup> 2021, York Archaeological Trust conducted a trial trench evaluation followed by a week of post-excavation assessment at Old St. Oswald's Church, Fulford, York (SE 60430 49625). The project was a ClfA approved training course funded and carried out entirely by its participants.

The work was undertaken with the kind permission of landowner Allan Francis to help investigate the archaeological resource of what is currently a private garden. The work was based on a Project Design produced by YAT and involved the excavation and recording of three evaluation trenches.

All three trenches contained structural remains dating to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century alongside residual evidence of Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity.

## KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Old St. Oswald's Church, Fulford, York
YAT Project No.	6256
Document Number	2021/91
Type of Project	Training Excavation
Landowner	Allan Francis
Planning Application No.	N/A
NGR	SE 60430 49625
Museum Accession No.	Pending
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Between August 2nd and 13<sup>th</sup> 2021, YAT carried out an evaluation and post-excavation assessment training course at Old St. Oswald's Church, Fulford, York (SE 60430 49625; Figure 1). The work was undertaken with the kind permission of the landowner and current resident, Allan Francis to help investigate the archaeological resource of the site.

The project was carried out under YAT's long-running Archaeology Live! training excavation methodology, a course that received CfA approval in 2020. Archaeology Live! training courses are 100% participant funded, with the core goal of those taking part carrying out as much of the fieldwork, recording, finds processing and post-excavation analyses as possible.

The 2021 site investigation was a pilot project aiming to combine a week of evaluation trench excavation and recording followed by a week of post-excavation work and reporting. The course was designed to be a self-contained unit, covering a broad range of archaeological activities with a particular focus on areas that are not covered by the majority of training excavations, such as specialist assessment of finds, reporting and digitisation of the site archive.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

The methodology followed the Project Design, which outlines in detail the aims and objectives of the project and how it was designed to comply with CfA standards for accredited training programs and learning outcomes laid out in the National Occupational Standards (Appendix 3).

### 2.1 Test Pits/Trenches

A total of three evaluation trenches were excavated (Figure 2):

No.	Size (m)	Rationale
1	2m x 2m	Investigation of possible remains of Well House buildings
2	2m x 1m	Investigation of possible remains of Well House buildings
3	1m x 1m	Investigation of possible remains of Well House buildings

Trenches were laid out and recorded in relation to a site grid laid out using a Leica GNSS GPS unit. All deposits were hand excavated and recorded as per the standard YAT single context recording system. Finds were retrieved and bagged by individual context number and taken to YAT's Aldwark facility for processing.

All trenches were re-instated immediately upon completion.

## 3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located at Old St Oswald's Hall, St Oswald's Road, Fulford, York, YO10 4QF (SE 60430 49625; Figures 1 and 2). The site is roughly rectangular in plan, measures around 4000m<sup>2</sup> and consists of the former church of St Oswald's and its grounds. The church was converted into a private residence in the early 1980s and the churchyard is presently in use as a garden with mature trees around the perimeter. The site is relatively flat, sitting at a height of around 11.00m AOD and is bounded to the west by Love Lane and the south by St Oswald's Road. The



plot to the east of the site is presently an open field containing a radio transmitter and a small residential development adjoins the site's northern boundary.

The site's superficial geology is comprised of Crockey Hill Esker Member sands and gravels, a sedimentary deposit formed between 116 and 118 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period. Bedrock is of the Sherwood Sandstone Group, sedimentary bedrock formed between 272.3 and 237 million years ago during the Permian and Triassic periods (British Geological Survey online viewer, accessed 20/01/20).

The site is situated approximately 1500m south of the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Foss, at a point where the Ouse flows in an alluvial bed as narrow as 40m across. The topography of the site is suggestive of a natural crossing point that is likely to have been exploited for much of the site's history (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 10). Evidence for the site's proximity to a river crossing point can be found in a survey of the river carried out in 1699. Here, the river was found to be just 0.20m deep at low tide (Briden 1997, 166).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 Previous excavations**

The first archaeological investigations within the site involved watching brief observations during the conversion of the church to a dwelling in 1980 and seasonal excavations carried out by YAT in 1980, 1984 and 1986-7 (Kenny et al. 2020, 9).

### **4.2 Prehistoric**

Knowledge of the prehistoric development of Fulford and the greater York area has increased considerably in recent decades, with increasing evidence for human exploitation of a changeable post-glacial landscape. Broadly speaking, activity appears to have focused along the waterways of the Ouse and the Foss and the elevated ridges of the York and Escrick moraines (MAP 2005; 3).

The earliest material recovered from the site to date is a small assemblage of Mesolithic flint discovered in the 1986-7 (Kenny et al 2020, 9). Neolithic activity in the locality has been evidenced by finds including a stone axehead, a palstave and an assortment of flint flakes, cores and tools (Radley 1974, 15, 19; Addyman 1984, 11; Gaffney 1996a, 1996b; Vince 2005). In the immediate vicinity of the church, a large ditch tentatively dated to the Iron Age was observed during an evaluation at Connaught Court some 210m to the east of the site (Bruce 2005).

### **4.3 Roman**

During the Roman period, the Fulford area appears to have been principally in agricultural use, so finds from this period have been sporadic. Roman finds from the area include funerary urns and other objects found in gravel pits near Water Fulford Hall in 1770 (Pickering and Briddon 1975, 2 and 37) and stratified Roman ceramics found during the construction of alms-houses at the top of St Oswald's Road in the 1950s (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 11). Two Roman sarcophagi were discovered on the west bank of the Ouse, opposite St Oswald's in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (RCHME 1962, 109) and, in 1892, a further two sarcophagi were reportedly found during sewage works in the former gravel pits adjacent to the west boundary of the site (Pickering and Briddon 1975,

2 and 37). In addition, a gritstone sarcophagus lid was found re-used in a medieval burial some 2m from the church during its conversion to a dwelling (Kenny et al. 2020, 10).

When considered alongside the proximity of the site to both the communications routes of the Ouse and a Roman road running through Fulford the abundance of Roman funerary material in and around the site is highly suggestive of a cemetery (or cemeteries) occupying the area during the Roman period (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 11–12, 74). The presence of burials on both sides of the river at a possible crossing point may point to the broader area around the site holding some significance at this time.

The Connaught Court evaluation mentioned above in Section 4.2 also revealed Roman ditches, pits and a single post-hole, suggesting that some settlement activity may have been present in the vicinity at this point (Bruce 2005). Roman finds were relatively scarce in the 1980s excavations at Old St. Oswald's, although ceramics including Calcite Gritted ware and sherds of tegulae were recovered alongside bottle glass and a melon bead (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 84). This assemblage is certainly suggestive of Roman activity on-site or close-by, although all of the material was recovered from post-Roman deposits (ibid).

#### **4.4 Early Medieval**

The present settlement of Fulford has its origins in this period, although its boundaries and layout have shifted significantly since this time. Historically, Fulford comprised of two townships, Gate and Water Fulford. These have been equated with the two Domesday Book villis of 'Fuleford', although the boundaries are uncertain. Gate Fulford was situated on the ridge of higher ground that is today occupied by the A19, while Water Fulford occupied lower lying ground to the south, closer to the Ouse (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 13).

There is little evidence for the early-medieval origins in the locality of the site, although historic and archaeological evidence from St. Oswald's itself may offer some insight. Documentary sources do not record the date of the foundation of the first church on the site, but the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle notes that Siward, the Earl of Northumbria, founded St. Olaves in 1035 (Kenny et al. 2020, 22). At this time, the area that would become Fulford was within Siward's estate and it has been suggested that he may have been the founder of the village and, perhaps, St Oswald's (Rainger 2017, 5). The dedication to St Oswald refers either to Oswald, King of Northumbria (d. 642AD) or St Oswald, Bishop of Worcester and York (d. 992) and there are 70 known churches with this dedication, primarily in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire (Binns 1995, 241-271).

In addition to the documentary evidence, excavations in the 1980s revealed numerous features that suggest a pre-Conquest date for the foundation of the church. A series of cobble foundations were identified during excavations around the west end of the nave and the tower; while they had been re-used as part of the present church (Figure 4), they were found to pre-date its 12th century construction (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 41). The structure associated with these foundations may represent a separate pre-Conquest church that was demolished prior to the construction of the present building. In addition, the discovery of a large post-pad may also suggest that an even earlier timber structure may also have occupied the site. Finds of Roman masonry, pottery, glass and a single melon bead, alongside Anglian pottery and a struck flint

flake provide evidence for continued activity on the site dating back to prehistory (Kenny et al. 2020, 19; Rainger 2017, 9–10).

Perhaps the most significant find was a fragment of a 9th–10th stone cross, providing further evidence to the presence of pre-conquest Christian activity at St Oswald's (Kenny et al. 2020, 20). The confirmed early date for the church is significant when considered alongside the development of Water and Gate Fulford as St Oswald's forms a third nucleus of settlement, separate from the main part of Gate Fulford. While the centre of the settlement would eventually settle on higher ground to the east, the site of Old St. Oswald's was evidently significant in early medieval period and this raises numerous questions. Did the early village begin in the area around the church and later relocate to its present site, or could the church pre-date the foundation of the village, serving instead as a chapel associated with a ferry and/or ford across the river Ouse? (Rainger 2017, 2).

#### 4.5 Medieval

St Oswald's Church is first referred to in 1349 when, during the Black Death, temporary permission was granted for the churchyard to receive burials (Kenny et al. 2020, 5). Prior to and following the expiry of this dispensation, Fulford parishioners were to be buried at St Oswald's parent church of St Olave's, Marygate; both St Oswald's and St Olave's were possessions of St Mary's Abbey at this time (ibid). The nave of the church is the earliest part of the present structure and was built in the first half of the 12th century, with the chancel added later that century. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the east wall of the chancel was rebuilt and a large window was added in the first half of the 14th century before the building was re-roofed in the 15th century (ibid). The tower of the church dates to 1795, but appears to have been built over the foundations of an earlier structure of 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century date (Rainger 2017, 7).

#### 4.6 Post-Medieval

Following the dissolution of St Mary's Abbey in 1539, the churchyard of St Oswald's was again used for burials and the church continued to be adapted as the parish of Fulford grew in wealth and size (Kenny et al. 2020, 5). The earliest map to depict the site dates to 1745 and shows the churchyard to be an irregular rectangle measuring approximately 76 x 24m (0.18ha), with the church a little north of the centre (see Figure 5 in Appendix 3). A structure named Well House is marked between the church and the street frontage to the south, although no structural details are present (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 71–72). Well House is discussed in greater detail in Section 4.7 below.

The next map of the site is unfortunately un-dated, but must post-date 1775–6 as the nearby barracks that were built at this time are depicted (ibid). Here, the churchyard appears to have been truncated lengthwise, but widened to 66m x 33m (approximately 0.21ha; see Figure 5 in Appendix 3). A similar arrangement is seen in the 1852 OS map, which also shows a spring between the churchyard and the Ouse and a number of gravel pits to the north and east of the churchyard (Plate 1). This is also the first map to depict the Well House buildings in detail, with three buildings shown around a yard (ibid).

By the mid-19th century, the church was no longer able to meet the needs of the growing parish and a larger replacement was built on Main Street in 1866. In 1869–70, works began to convert the old church into a mortuary chapel. It was at this point that the churchyard was extended to



its present layout, taking in the site of Well House, which stood on the site of the present Lych Gate, next to St Oswald's Road (see Figure 6 in Appendix 3). The redundant church remained in use as a mortuary chapel until the 1970s and it was converted to a private residence in 1980 (Rainger 2017, 7–8).

#### 4.7 Well House

The earliest origins of what would become Well House are presently unknown, as all available sources detail only the post-medieval development of the structure. The original well may have been sited over a known spring, which could have been significant to inhabitants of the area (Francis 2018, 1). It is possible that the dedication of the church to St. Oswald refers to King Oswald of Northumbria (AD 634–642), a key figure in early-Christian history (Kenny et al. 2020, 21). Following his martyrdom in 642, he became venerated as a saint, and the cult that worshipped him was associated with springs and wells (Thacker 1995, 102–103). Although this may be the only possible link between the well of Well House and the church, there was a revived interest in the cult of Oswald in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps overlapping with the putative early medieval predecessor to the current church (Kenny et al. 2020, 21).

By the 18th century, interest in the healing properties of wells was again growing, and it may be at this point that the well was first covered (Francis 2018, 1).

The earliest pictorial evidence for the building range is a panoramic view looking south from Clifford's Tower drawn by Francis Place in 1705. This image, along with a further drawing from 1820, clearly shows two buildings to the south of the church (see Figure 7 in Appendix 3). The location of the structures in the images correspond well with a range of buildings marked on the 1852 OS (Plate 1). The two images are broadly consistent, although the later drawing would suggest that there had been alterations or rebuilding works within the complex in the years between 1705 and 1826 (*ibid*).

Prior to their demolition in 1869–70, the buildings were described as a 'cottage or tenement with the Barn Stables and hereditaments now standing' in the conveyance documents (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 128), suggesting domestic or commercial use at this point. A 1759 document lists an Ellen Taylor as the occupant, paying a considerable annual rent of £14. The arrangement of the buildings around a yard and the possible presence of a stable block could be suggestive of an inn (Francis 2018, 2), although there is no direct evidence for this. A contemporaneous landowner named Bernard Ackroyd was a brewer by trade and owned land to the east of St. Oswald's, although there are no documented links between him and Well House. The operation of the premises as a bath house has also been suggested (Francis 2018, 2), although there is scant evidence for this at present.

Sources from 1832 refer to the addition of a lion headed water spout being fitted during renovation works, although the building was already described as being in decline by 1853 and the water supply may have been cut off at this time (*ibid*).

Excavation in the area occupied by the Well House buildings has been limited, although the excavation of a service trench running from the Lych Gate to the church was monitored in 1980, revealing possible demolition and make-up deposits that may be associated with the building (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 75). A small trial hole excavated in 2018 by the landowner revealed similar material, alongside 18th century ceramics and glass (Allan Francis, pers. comm.).

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Trench 1

The earliest context observed in Trench 1 was a north-east/south-west aligned brick wall surviving to two courses in height (Context 1021; Figure 3; Plate 2). The wall was a single course in width, measured 0.60m x 0.19m x 0.11m and comprised of handmade red brick. The bricks measured 220mm x 110mm x 70mm, were bonded with light grey, gritty, lime mortar and were laid on the bed as stretchers. The brickwork survived from 10.06m AOD and was dated between the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The brick wall may be associated with the Well House buildings.

The next deposit in the sequence was a layer of firm, mid-grey-brown silty clay sand containing moderate charcoal fleck inclusions and occasional flecks of mortar and CBM (Context 1022; Figure 3; Plate 2). The deposit was laid directly against the brickwork of Context 1021 at 9.95m AOD and appears to date to the lifetime of the structure.

Context 1022 was sealed by a substantial deposit of firm, mid-orange-brown, sandy silty clay containing charcoal and mortar flecks, CBM, small to medium cobbles and pebbles (Contexts 1023 and 1024; Figure 3; Plate 2). This deposit was laid between 10.10m and 10.04m AOD and was interpreted as a possible levelling dump.

The aforementioned levelling dump was next truncated by a north-east/south-west aligned linear cut measuring 1.00m x 0.77m x 0.12m (Context 1018; Figure 3; Plate 2). The feature had shallow sides and a concave base and was interpreted as a possible robbing event that was cut to remove bricks from the earlier wall at some point following the demolition of the Well House buildings.

The possible robber cut was infilled with a firm, dark greyish brown sandy silt that was notably compacted at the surface (Context 1012; visible in section on Plate 2). It contained frequent small pebbles, with moderate inclusions of flecks and fragments of mortar and occasional flecks of charcoal and small fragments of CBM.

The backfilled robber cut was overlaid by a 0.23m thick layer of mid-greyish yellow-brown sandy clay silt (Context 1007; visible in section on Plate 2). The deposit was firm and heavily compacted at the surface and raised the ground level to 10.32m AOD. It contained moderate amounts of pebbles and small rounded stones with occasional flecks of charcoal and mortar as well as small to medium fragments of CBM. Two pieces of fired clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from this context alongside two sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century transfer printed ware, providing a date for the context. Evidence of earlier activity was provided by two residual sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century tin-glazed ware and late 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century Brandsby ware. The CBM recovered from this context was exclusively roof tile, and included a mixture of medieval and post-medieval material. Two fragments of micaceous sandstone flags were also recovered, possibly suggesting the presence of demolition material.

The next deposit in the sequence was a 0.16m thick layer of friable mid-greyish brown sandy silt that was compacted at the surface (Context 1004; visible in section on Plate 2). The deposit was laid at 10.45m AOD and contained moderate inclusions of small to large fragments of angular stone and small fragments of CBM, as well as flecks of lime mortar. It also contained occasional

flecks of charcoal and large fragments of concrete. Finds recovered from this context included fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> century transfer printed ware and cream ware and 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century black-glazed earthenware; fragments of glass included window glass and bottle glass with the latter being predominant. Other finds included several fragments of CBM and slag, alongside a metal washer and a resin tobacco pipe fragment with a complete mouthpiece. The most notable find recovered from this context, and perhaps this trench, was a complete folding pocket knife with an antler decorated handle (SF9; Plate 3). The context was interpreted as a dump deposit that may relate to 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping activity.

The latest deposit observed in trench 1 was the present surface of turf and topsoil laid at 10.49m AOD (Context 1002; visible in section on Plate 2). This deposit comprised a friable, mid-greyish brown sandy silt with inclusions of flecks and small fragments of mortar and gravel; this context was heavily affected by tree roots and contained a layer of plastic netting that was laid during the 1980s when the area was briefly used as a car park (Allan Francis, pers. comm). Finds recovered from this deposit included sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century banded slipware, black-glazed earthenware, 19<sup>th</sup> century bottle glass and fragments of CBM.

## 5.2 Trench 2

The earliest deposit observed within Trench 2 was a friable layer of mid-greyish reddish brown sandy clay containing frequent small pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (Context 1017; Plate 4; Figures 4 and 5). The upper surface of the deposit was laid at 10.04m AOD and was observed to be notably compacted. A single fragment of fired clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered, providing a 19<sup>th</sup> century date for the context. This context was interpreted as a make-up deposit.

This deposit was over-laid by a north-west/south-east aligned brick wall footing that continued beyond the north-eastern limit of excavation (Context 1016; Plate 5; Figures 4 and 5). The structure survived to a single course in height at 10.07m AOD and was exposed to a single course in width. The footing comprised of full and fragmentary bricks laid in an irregular coursing; the bricks measured 220mm x 110mm x 60mm and were bonded with a pale grey lime mortar. The brickwork dated to between the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

The remains of the wall were covered by a 0.21m thick layer of demolition rubble consisting of small to large fragments of lime mortar and CBM (Context 1009; Figure 5). The highest point of this deposit was at 10.38m AOD. There were multiple finds recovered from this deposit including one complete medieval brick alongside a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century complete brick, several fragments of painted wall plaster, a large quantity of window glass fragments and a piece of lead window cane.

This deposit was cut by a later 19<sup>th</sup> century service trench (Context 1015; Plate 5; Figure 4) running on a north-west/south-east alignment, which contained a 100mm diameter cast iron pipe (Context 1014; Plate 5; Figure 4) at a height of 10.02m AOD and was exposed to 1m in length. The cut measured 0.40m in width and 0.58m in depth. The trench was back-filled with small to large fragments of lime mortar and CBM (Context 1013). It appears that the cut was immediately filled with the arisings from its excavation.

The service cut was then covered by a thin deposit of mid-yellowish grey brown sandy silt containing occasional flecks of mortar and CBM with a concentration of clinker at the south-west end of the trench (Context 1008; Figure 5). The deposit sloped gently from 10.54m AOD at



the south-west end to 10.49m AOD at the north-east end. This deposit appears to pre-date the area's use as an extension of the burial ground.

The next deposit in the sequence was a layer of friable mid-grey brown sandy silt containing occasional flecks of charcoal and infrequent flecks of mortar and CBM (Context 1003; Figure 5). The upper surface of this deposit was at 10.72m AOD. Finds recovered from this deposit included a sherd of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century banded slipware, an iron spike and a piece of ornamental iron railing. There was also an assortment of broken bottle glass, CBM fragments and three small fragments of disarticulated human bone.

The uppermost deposit was a layer of friable mid-grey brown slightly clayey silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal, mortar and CBM (Context 1001; Figure 5) at a height of 10.78m AOD. A small amount of disarticulated human bone was also recovered from this context. All recovered human bone will be re-buried on-site in an appropriate location.

### 5.3 Trench 3

The earliest context within Trench 3 was a deposit of firm-friable, reddish brown silty sand with inclusions of cobbles and mortar flecks, laid at 10.38m AOD (Context 1020; Figure 7; Plate 6). The spread of cobbles was patchy, with a concentration on the northern side of the trench; the cobbles measured between 65mm x 50mm and 150mm x 120mm. This deposit was interpreted as a heavily worn floor surface or make-up deposit; no dateable material was recovered from this context.

Overlaying the possible surface was a thin, patchy layer of friable, dark reddish-brown silty sand, with frequent flecks of mortar and charcoal (Context 1019; Figures 6 and 7; Plate 7). Finds recovered from this context included a small assemblage of animal bone featuring a cat metapodial, a rib fragment from a small mammal and a partial vertebra from a large juvenile mammal.

The next context in the sequence was a north-west/south-east aligned brick structure comprised of two parallel brick footings set 0.09m apart (Context 1011; Figure 6; Plate 7). The structure was roughly built, one course in width and survived to one course in height at 10.46m AOD. The footings were built of full and fragmentary hand-made red brick measuring 230mm x 105mm x 70mm; the brickwork was laid on bed in an irregular coursing and bonded with a pale grey lime mortar. The bricks dated to between the 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and appear to have been recycled. The feature was interpreted as a possible drain or culvert that was un use during the lifetime of the Well House buildings.

The brickwork was sealed by a layer of loose light grey lime-mortar, mortar up to 0.18m thick with moderate brick fragments (Context 1010; Figure 7). The deposit sloped to the south-west from 10.62m AOD to 10.41m AOD. Fragments of CBM were recovered including a medieval ridge tile of 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century date and a sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century Burmantofts white stoneware pottery was also retrieved. This context may represent the initial demolition of the building in 1869.

The next context was a dump of firm to friable clay and mid-yellowish brown sandy silt up to 0.45m thick (Context 1006; Figure 7). The deposit contained frequent patches of heat-affected clay as well as occasional medium rounded stones, lime mortar flecks and flecks of CBM. Finds included medium to large fragments of CBM and industrial residue. Also recovered from this

context were several sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery as well as one residual fragment of Nene Valley Roman pottery dated between the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century. Animal bone fragments including two partial ribs from a medium sized mammal and a single goose tibia were also found alongside oyster shell, fired clay tobacco pipe stems and a small amount of bottle and window glass dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This deposit was interpreted as a possible landscaping event following the demolition of Well House.

The next deposit in the sequence was a 0.07m thick layer of friable, mid-yellowish grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of pebbles, small cobbles and occasional flecks of charcoal and CBM (Context 1005; Figure 7). The deposit sloped gently to the south-west from 10.97m AOD to 10.90m AOD. Finds recovered from this context included CBM fragments including a single partial fishscale roof tile stamped with the word "Hor". The deposit was interpreted as a possible levelling deposit, although the compacted upper surface suggest that it could also have been in use as an active ground level during the use of the graveyard.

The uppermost deposit within Trench 3 was a 0.10m thick layer of friable mid-grey brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of small fragments of CBM and small to medium-sized rounded and sub-angular stones (Context 1000; Figure 7). Finds included fragments of industrial residue, decorated white opaque glass, Welsh slate and green and white bottle glass shards. This deposit is the present topsoil surface and mirrors the slope to the south-west observed in underlying deposits, in this case from 11.10m AOD to 11.01m AOD.

## 6 POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Anne Jenner

### 6.1 Introduction

Forty sherds were retrieved from eight contexts during archaeological interventions at 'Archaeology Live; Old Street, St Oswald's' (Project 6256). The sherds are all from items that may have been used in a domestic context during the 18th to 20th centuries. The results are outlined in Table 1 below.

### 6.2 Discussion

Most of the sherds were small and relatively modern. Elsewhere in York one might expect to unearth material dating from the Roman to the post medieval period, but this was not the case in this instance.

With such a small assemblage it is difficult to make many accurate assumptions about the precise activities that these wares may have been used in. They simply represent the modest domestic items used for drinking and eating, storage and perhaps cooking.

It is difficult to ascertain any level of wealth from such a small assemblage. Certain items may indicate a lack of wealth. Sponged wares are a poorer person's alternative to transfer printed wares. There are also no hand painted wares, porcelain, or evidence of dining sets that might indicate moderate wealth.

### 6.3 Recommendations for Further Work

There are no recommendations for further work.

Context	Find	Quantity	Dating	Details
1002	BF15	4	Late 18th/19th century+	3 Banded Slipware, plain, small; 1 post medieval oxidised earthenware with dark brown glaze, small.
1003	BF16	1	Late 18th/19th century+	1 Banded Slipware, plain, small.
1004	BF17	12	Late 18th/19th century+	4 Transfer Printed open form with willow pattern in blue, small; 1 Cream ware open form with moulded decoration, small; 4 Post medieval Oxidised Finely Gritted Earthenware with Black glaze, including 2 sherds with whitish concretion, small to large; 3 Post medieval Oxidised Moderately Gritted Earthenware with Black Glaze and whitish concretion, small.
1005	BF18	1	Late 18th/19th century+	1 Terracotta plant pot, small.
1006	BF19	18	19th century+ with Roman	1 Cream ware with 2 incised horizontal lines, large; 1 Banded Slipware with brown horizontal bands, small; 2 Slipware with fine oxidised body, brown external glaze and yellow internal, small; 3 Slipware rim and body with brown external glaze and cream glaze inside with brown mottling, join, small; 1 Sponged ware cup/bowl rim, small; 1 Cut Sponged ware, small; 1 proto Flow Blue, small; 1 English Stoneware tankard base, medium; 4 White dipped earthenware, small; 2 Pearl ware rim, join, small. 1 Nene Valley ware base, medium.
1007	BF20	3	19th century+ with early 14th century	1 Transfer printed with Willow pattern in blue, small; 1 Tin glazed, small 1 Late Brandsby jug neck with ribs and green glaze, slightly abraded, small.
1008	BF21	2	18th century	1 Cream ware with moulded decoration, small; 1 Post medieval earthenware, unglazed, small;
1010	BF22	1	19th century+	1 moulded white stoneware with light blue moulded foliate decoration, small.

Table 1. Pottery quantification

## 7 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

The small assemblage of CBM recovered from the Old St. Oswald's excavation was visually assessed and dated by YAT CBM specialist Jane McComish on August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021 following an initial interim inspection on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 (Table 2). The following is a brief summary of the results.

The Old St. Oswald's assemblage is typical of the type found in similar York sites, with 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century types constituting the majority of the assemblage alongside occasional examples of



medieval and post-medieval fabrics. The dominant forms were brick, roof tile, with occasional occurrences of ridge tile, drain pipe and pan tile.

A single fragment of fishscale tile recovered from Context 1005 was identical to the tiles used on the current roof of the church. These tiles are stamped 'WADE & CHERRY'S PATENT HORNSEA' and were laid in 1870 (VCH 1976, 29-36). As Context 1005 was interpreted as a levelling deposit laid shortly after the dismantling of the Well House complex in 1869, the presence of tile relating to the 1870 reroofing of the church compliments this hypothesis well.

Context Number	Spot Date	Description
1000	1850+	Slate
1001	1850+	Paving?, Plain, Stone floor?, Slate
1002	1750+	Pan, Plain
1003	1850+?	Post med brick, Stone floor?
1004	1750-1850	Brick, Pan, Post med brick
1005	16-18th	Post med brick, fishscale tile
1006	1850+	Brick, Pan, Post med brick, Post med brick?, Plain
1007	1750+	Pan, Paving?, Plain
1008	1750-1850	Brick, Post med brick, Plain
1010	1750-1850	Brick, Ridge, Drain, Other, Pan
1011	1750-1850	Brick
1016	1750-1850	Brick
1021	1750-1850	Brick

**Table 2. CBM by context**

## 8 ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT

By Nienke Van Doorne

Excavations on the Old St Oswald's site, York, have produced a small assemblage of hand collected animal bone (Table 3). These animal bones were recovered from three contexts. Two contexts also contained a small amount of shell. This assemblage has been rapidly assessed focussing primarily on the range of animal taxa present.

Context	Quantity	Description	Taphonomy	Comments
1001	1	1 ?crab claw		Material to be confirmed
1006	4	1 bird distal tibia (goose), 2 medium (2) mammal ribs, 1 oyster valve	Pale to light brown colour	
1008	3	1 bird femur, 1 bird ulna, 1 bird tibia (?passerine)	Pale to light brown colour, orange hue	
1019	3	1 large mammal vertebra, 1 cat metapodial, 1 medium (2) mammal ribs	Light brown colour	

**Table 3. Animal bone by context**

The assemblage shows a wide range of different taxa, but no evidence of a specific activity taking place on the site. It might be worth to retain the small bird bones to be identified with help from a reference collection. The suspected crab claw was investigated by microscope, but could be a fragment of glassworking debris rather than shell. The material could not be determined conclusively at the time.

## 9 DISCUSSION

A key objective of the project was to establish whether any physical remains of the Well House buildings survive, so the presence of structural remains in every trench is an extremely encouraging discovery. Furthermore, an overlay of the 2021 trench locations on the 1852 OS map shows the structures to correspond well with the location of two of the Well House buildings (Figure 8).

### 9.1 Trench 1

Although overlaying modern survey data over historic maps comes with a certain margin of error, the overlay (Figure 8) does suggest the small section of brick wall exposed in Trench 1 (Context 1021; Figure 3) to be part of, or in close proximity to the north-west wall of the main Well House building that fronted on to St. Oswald's Road. As the wall was only built to a single course in width, it would certainly seem more likely to be a small boundary wall or part of a lean-to structure abutting the main building as opposed to a major load-bearing wall.

The date of the brickwork (1750-1850; see Section 7) corresponds quite well with the date for the lifetime of the building, from its first appearance in Francis Place's drawing of 1705 (see Figure 7 in Appendix 3) to its demolition in 1869-70. The survival of a wall relating to the final phase of the building suggests that remains of earlier iterations of the building may also survive at greater depth; although evidence of earlier activity recovered from the 2021 works was limited to a single re-deposited sherd of Brandsby ware from Context 1007.

### 9.2 Trench 2

The map overlay (Figure 8) shows the wall footing observed in Trench 2 (Context 1016; Figure 4) to align well with the south-west wall of the northernmost building of the Well House complex; with the small section of brickwork projecting to the south-west potentially representing the remains of a buttress or a lean-to structure. A fragment of fired clay tobacco pipe recovered from the make-up deposit beneath the wall (Context 1017) provides a broad 19<sup>th</sup> century date for the structure, which survives to at least two courses in height.

Painted plaster and lead window cane recovered from demolition deposits overlaying the footings (Context 1009) suggest the presence of glazed windows and painted walls, although no further evidence for the function of the building was found.

A number of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century service cuts observed within Trench 2 will have truncated much of the remains of the south-west wall of the building and the location of these services should be considered when planning any future investigations in this area.

### 9.3 Trench 3

The possible cobbled surface (Context 1020; Figure 7) and the brick drain or culvert overlaying it (Context 1011; Figure 6) appear to have been laid inside the building discussed above in

Section 9.2 (Figure 8). Little evidence regarding the function of the building was recovered, although the presence of drainage features set into the floor may suggest a working building such as a stable as opposed to a domestic dwelling.

Residual Roman and post-medieval ceramics recovered from the demolition and make-up layers discussed above in Section 5.3 provide further evidence for activity on the site pre-dating the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century buildings of Well House. These deposits appear to represent a deliberate raising of the ground level against the north-eastern site boundary prior to its use as a graveyard in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 9.4 Conclusions

The archaeological sequence observed during this investigation has demonstrated that well-preserved structural remains of the Well House buildings survive between 10.46m and 10.06m AOD.

Although limited in scope, the three evaluation trenches provided dating evidence for all of the structures, alongside residual remains of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. It is, therefore, apparent that the archaeological resource of the site is of considerable interpretive value; both in terms of better understanding the sequence within the site itself, but also in providing useful information regarding the development of the broader area.

The ceramic assemblage of post-medieval through to 19<sup>th</sup> century date was primarily domestic, with no examples of fine wares (Section 6.2). Although this material sheds little light on the use of the Well House buildings at this time, it does not preclude the possible interpretation of the structures as serving both working and domestic functions as discussed above in Section 4.7.

## 10 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Any future site investigation should consider a number of constraints detailed below in Section 10.1 and apply appropriate mitigation strategies. With these measures in place, there is certainly scope to learn more about the site's considerable archaeological resource.

### 10.1 Constraints

The 2021 investigations have highlighted numerous issues that will affect any future projects on the site. These include:

- *In-situ* burials

Disarticulated human bone was present in two contexts (1001 and 1003), this was collected and will be re-buried on-site in a suitable location as per standard YAT practice. Intact burials are known to occupy much of the site, and great care must be taken in any future works to ensure these are recorded in plan, but not disturbed. No grave cuts were observed in any of the 2021 trenches, suggesting that the burial ground was not densely occupied. As such, it should be possible to identify workable spaces between grave cuts for future works.

- Extensive tree roots

The root network of established trees around the perimeter of the site continues across much of the current lawn area. While it is possible to remove many of the smaller roots without

harming the trees, this can be difficult work and should be considered in any accessibility plans for future work.

- Protected garden areas

The garden is presently in excellent condition and the landowner has stated that the main lawn area will not be open to any intrusive works in the future. Permission has been granted in principle to further investigate the areas surrounding the three trenches of the present investigation. This means any future works will need to be of a similar small scale and low impact to the garden.

- Compacted deposits

The modern make-up deposits in Trench 1 were extremely compacted and topped with a synthetic netting. As a result of this, excavation in this area was difficult and this should also be considered in any accessibility plans for future work.

- Modern services

The area around Trench 2 contains a number of modern services that must not be disturbed by any future investigations. Care would have to be taken to identify and demarcate and service cuts running through any interventions. To the same end, this area would not be suitable to auger survey.

## 10.2 Research themes

With well-preserved remains of the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings known to survive and residual finds suggesting the possibility of earlier remains being present at a greater depth, there are numerous areas that could be investigated during a future similar scale investigation:

- Can the use of the buildings be inferred?

The assemblage from the 2021 works was principally domestic in nature, with a small amount of industrial residues also present. A larger assemblage from targeted excavation in and around each of the three Well House buildings may be able to expand on this working theory.

- Can the form of the buildings be investigated further?

Trench placement would have to be considered carefully against the constraints detailed above in Section 10.1, however, as the location of parts of the building complex have now been identified, it should be possible to find suitable locations to expose more of the structural remains. This process may also allow the investigation of earlier iterations of the buildings.

- Can any evidence be found for the presence of a bath house?

No evidence for this has been found at present, however, it may be possible to place further trenches or test pits in the interior of the buildings to investigate contemporaneous surfaces, services and fittings that may survive.

- Is there scope for any non-intrusive survey?

It would be worthwhile to explore the possibility of collaborating with a local community group or professional body to assess the site for geophysical survey. If it were possible to accurately



plot the location of any grave cuts or structural remains, this would be extremely useful in informing the placement of any future trenches.

- Can any areas be targeted outside the Well House complex to investigate earlier phases in the site's history?

Although the investigation of Well House has been a key goal during this project, investigation of earlier deposits may provide useful information to place the buildings in context and to inform broader research themes about the development of the site as a whole and the Fulford area.

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### YAT Staff:

Arran Johnson – Site manager

Additional training was delivered by Jane McComish (CBM specialist session), Anne Jenner (pottery specialist session), Charlotte Wilkinson (conservation specialist session) and Nienke Van Doorn (introduction to finds management).

### Archaeology Live! Trainees:

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Thanks to Gideon Fireman for his excellent assistance with the delivery and logistics of the project.

Special thanks to Allan Francis for allowing us to excavate in his beautiful garden and sharing his passion for history.

PLATES



Plate 1. Excerpt from 1852 OS map (image courtesy of FFH).





**Plate 2. Post-excavation view of Trench 1 facing north-east (0.50m scale)**



**Plate 3. Antler folding knife handle (SF9).**





**Plate 4. North-east facing view of Context 1017 (0.20m scale).**



**Plate 5. North-east facing view of Contexts 1013, 1014, 1015 and 1016 (0.20m scale).**





**Plate 6. North-east facing view of Context 1020 (0.50m scale).**



**Plate 7. North-facing view of Contexts 1011 and 1019 (0.50m scale).**



## FIGURES

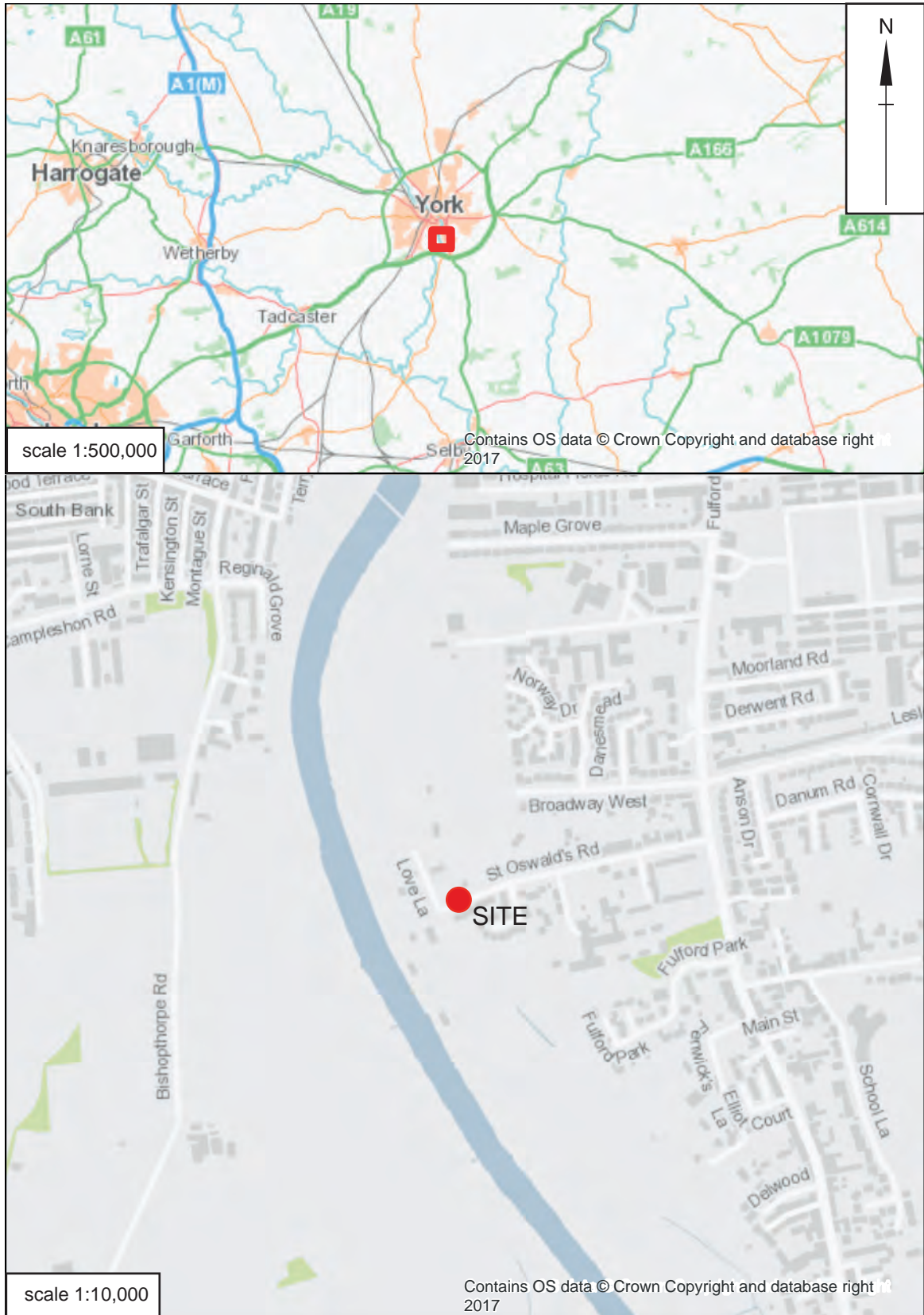


Fig. 1. Site location

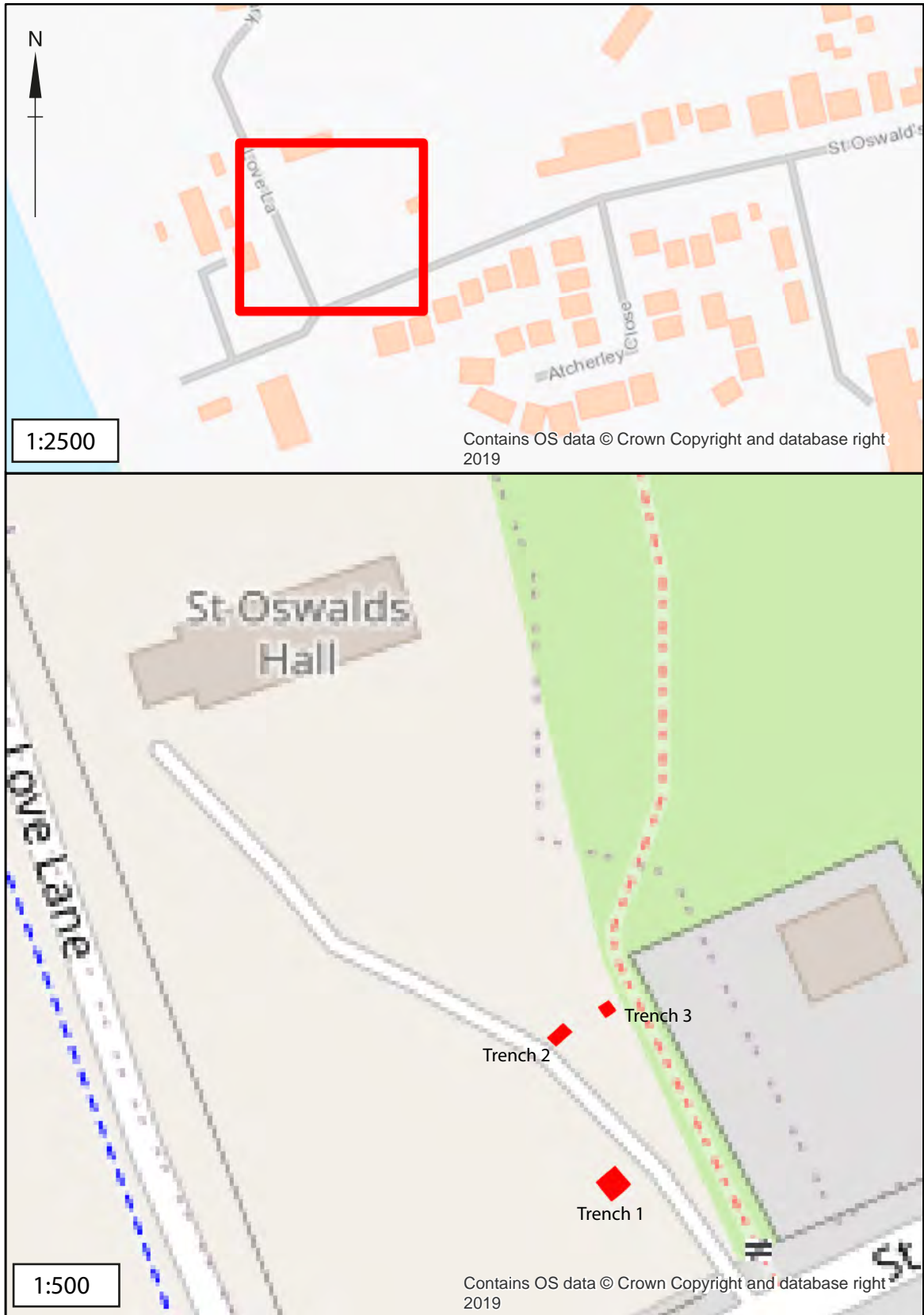


Fig. 2. Works location



Figure 3. Trench 1 Composite Plan

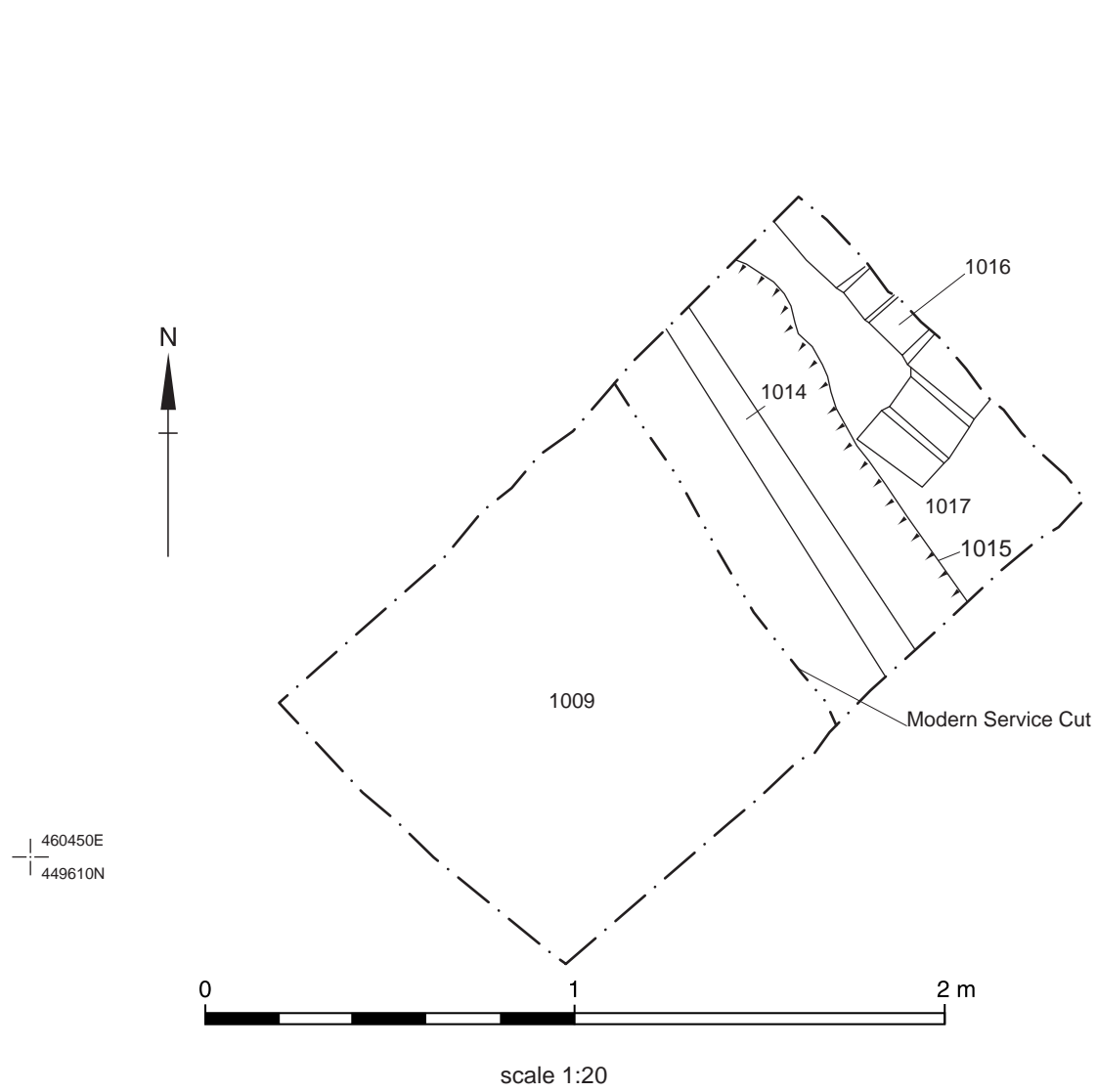


Figure 4. Trench 2 Composite Plan

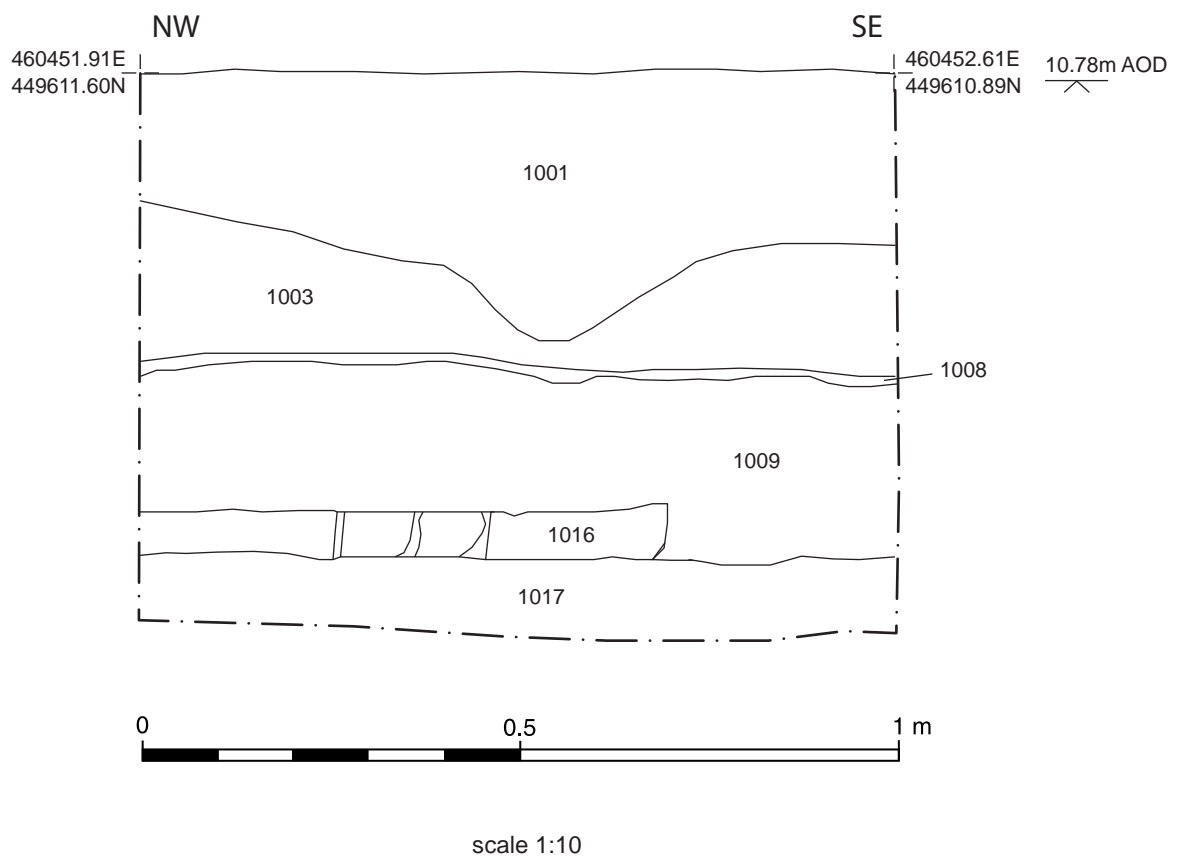


Figure 5. South West Facing Section of Trench 2

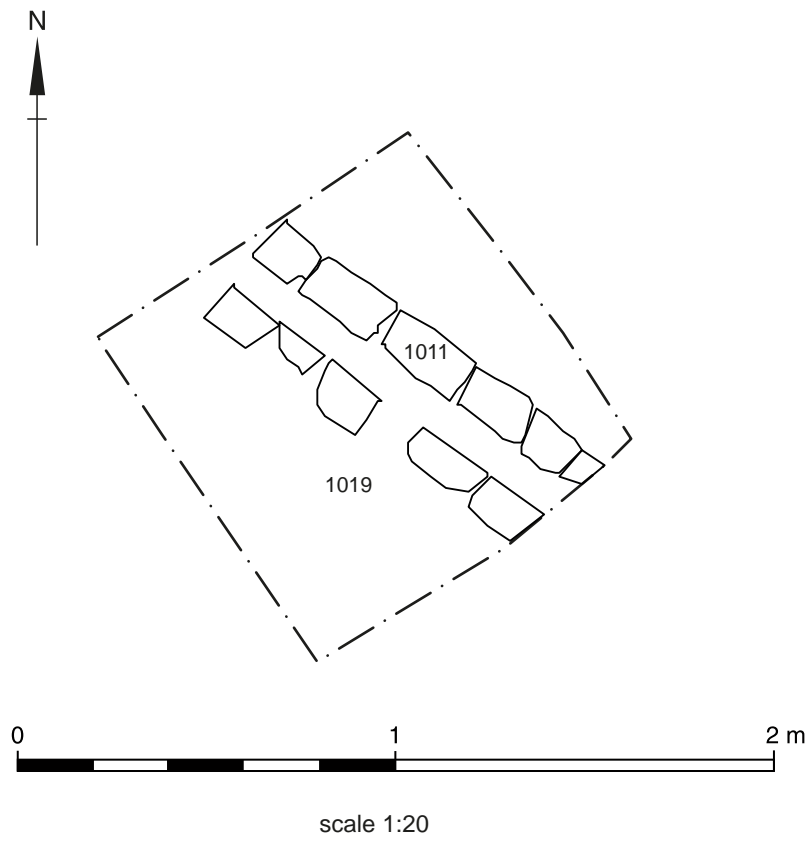


Figure 6. Structures in Trench 2



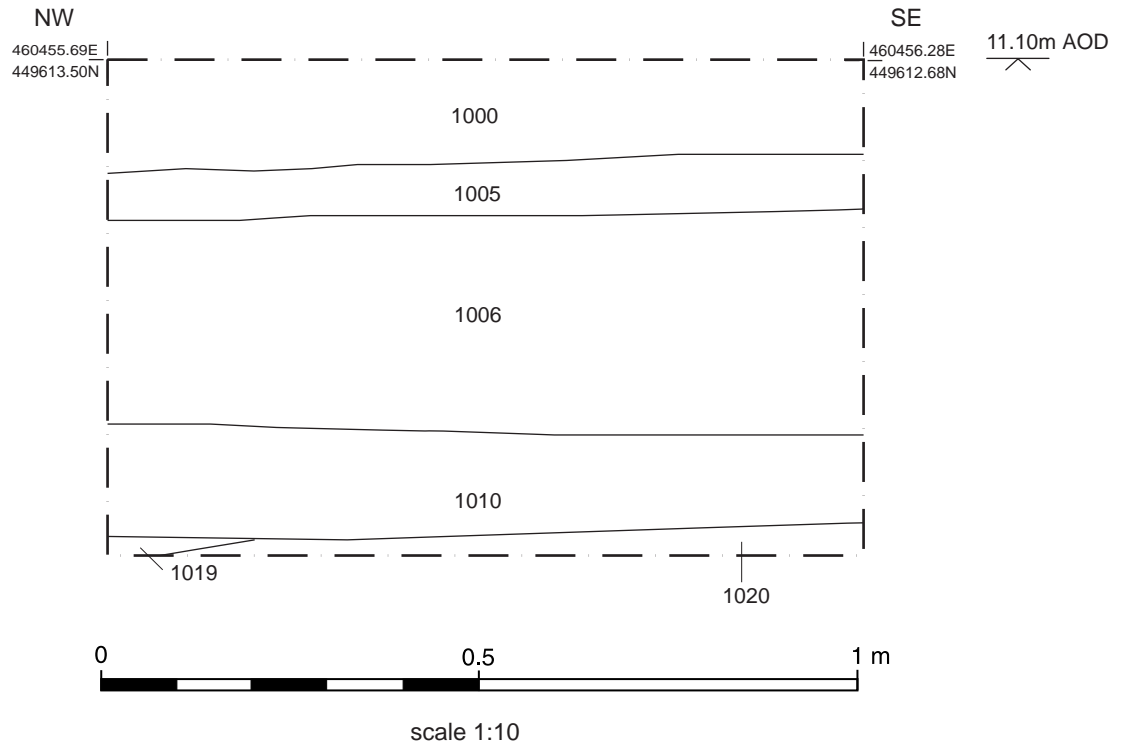


Figure 7. Trench 3 Section



Figure 8. Trenches overlaid on 1852 OS map

**APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE**

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	1
Levels register	4
Original drawings (sheets)	32
Digital photographs	270
Project Design	1
Report	1

**Table 4. Index to archive****APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST**

Context Number	Trench	Description
1000	3	Topsoil
1001	2	Topsoil
1002	1	Turf/topsoil
1003	2	Dump
1004	1	Dump
1005	3	Stony dump
1006	3	Dump
1007	1	Dump
1008	2	Rubble dump
1009	2	Rubble dump
1010	3	Mortar dump
1011	3	Brick drain/culvert
1012	1	Fill of robber cut C1018
1013	2	Backfill of service trench C1015
1014	2	Iron pipe within service trench C1015
1015	2	Cut of service trench
1016	2	Brick footing
1017	2	Make-up deposit
1018	1	Robber cut
1019	3	Spread
1020	3	Possible cobble surface/dump
1021	1	Brick footing
1022	1	Dump
1023	1	Made ground
1024	1	Made ground

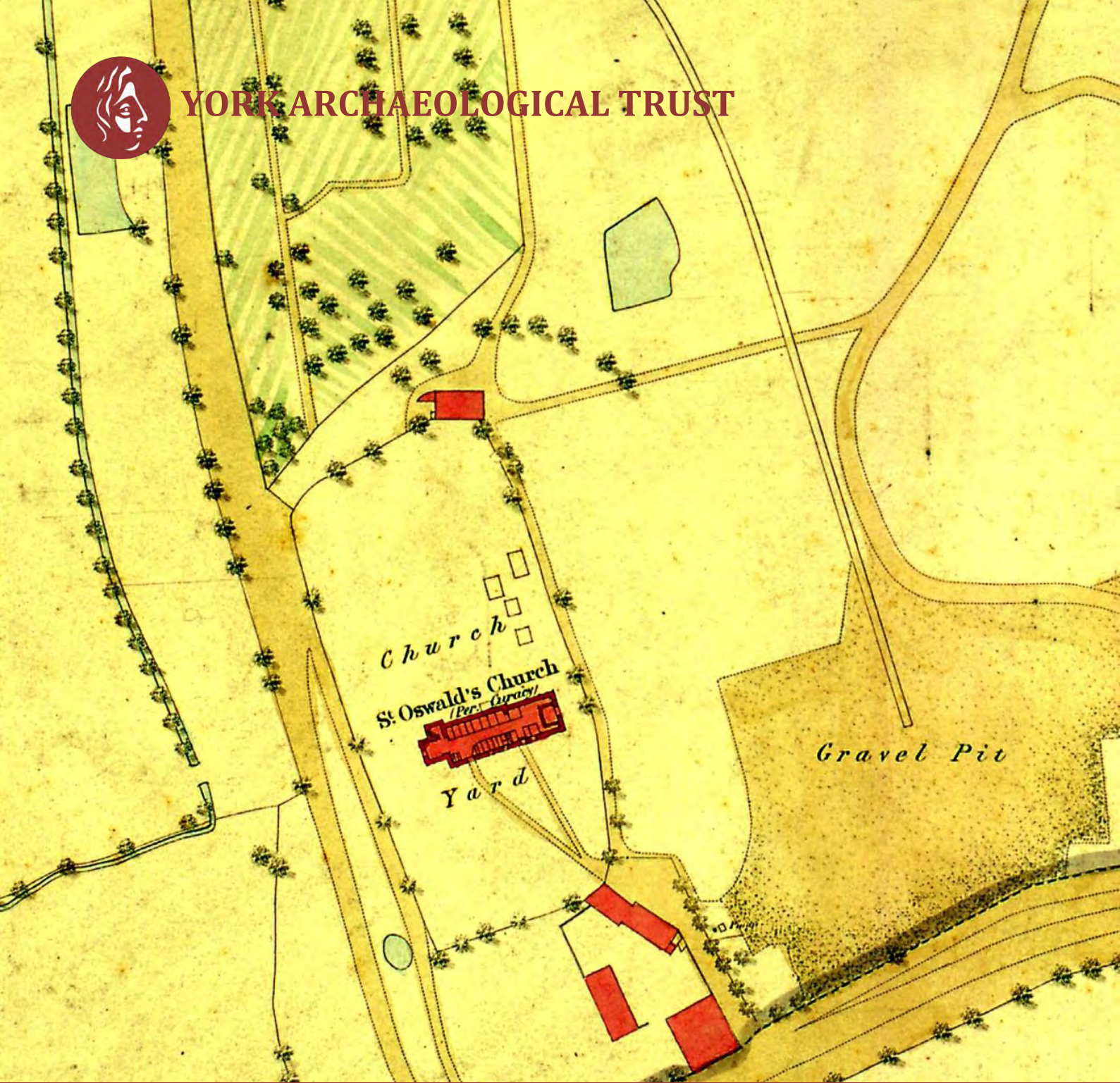
**Table 5. Context list**

## APPENDIX 3 – PROJECT DESIGN





YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



*Archaeology Live!* Training Excavation at  
Old St. Oswald's Church, St. Oswald's Road, York

By A. Johnson

YAT Project Design 2020/7

July 2021



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



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**York Archaeological Trust, Cuthbert Morrell House, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX**

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024

Email: [archaeology@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:archaeology@yorkat.co.uk) Website: <http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk>

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### **Abbreviations**

AOD – Above Ordnance Datum

BGL – Below Ground Level

CIfA – Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CYC – City of York Council

CPD – Continuing Professional Development

FFH – Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington Local History Society

IADB – Integrated Archaeological Database

NOS – National Occupational Standards

TBM – Temporary Benchmark

YAT – York Archaeological Trust

## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This document outlines a proposed training project to be carried out by York Archaeological Trust (YAT) at Old St. Oswald's Church, York (SE 60430 49625; Figure 1).

The proposed works have been designed following consultation with the landowner, Allan Francis and Christopher Rainger of the Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington Local History Society (FFH) and aim to investigate the site's archaeological resource.

The works will be carried out as an Archaeology Live! training excavation, YAT's established model of participant-funded public archaeology projects. The project will comply with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards for accredited training programs and all learning outcomes will be related to National Occupational Standards (NOS).

The proposed project will comprise a week of test pit excavation in the south-east corner of the site followed by week of post-excavation processing and reporting. All works will be carried out by trainees under the guidance and supervision of experienced YAT staff.

## KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Old St. Oswald's Church, York
YAT Project No.	6256
Document Number	2020/7
Type of Project	Training excavation (B4 site-based participatory experience)
Client	Allan Francis
Planning Application No.	N/A
NGR	SE 60430 49625
Museum Accession No.	Pending
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This Project Design outlines a proposed training excavation and post-excavation project to be carried out by York Archaeological Trust (YAT) at Old St. Oswald's Church, York (SE 60430 49625; Figure 1).

The proposed works have been designed following consultation with the landowner, Allan Francis and Christopher Rainger of the Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington Local History Society (FFH) with the dual aims of investigating the site's archaeological resource and offering high quality training in archaeological practice.

The works will be carried out as an Archaeology Live! training excavation, YAT's established model of participant-funded training projects and part of the broader 'Box of Tricks' portfolio of public engagement activities. The project will comply with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards for accredited training programs and all learning outcomes will be related to National Occupational Standards (NOS).

The proposed project will comprise training in both the excavation and recording of archaeological test pits, post-excavation assessment of the finds assemblage, digitisation of the site archive and report production; there will also be introductory sessions to a number of archaeological specialisms. All works will be carried out by trainees under the guidance and supervision of experienced YAT staff. The proposed scheme will be a pilot project, falling within YAT's 'Box of Tricks' public engagement program and providing an opportunity to expand upon the existing training course portfolio.

As the works will take place within a private residence, the project has been designed to offer minimum disruption to local residents.

## 2 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The proposal site is at Old St Oswald's Hall, St Oswald's Road, Fulford, York, YO10 4QF (SE 60430 49625; Figures 1–3). The site is roughly rectangular in plan, measures around 4000m<sup>2</sup> and consists of the former church of St Oswald's and its grounds. The church was converted into a private residence in the early 1980s and the churchyard is presently in use as a garden with mature trees around the perimeter. The site is relatively flat, sitting at a height of around 16.65m AOD and is bounded to the west by Love Lane and the south by St Oswald's Road. The plot to the east of the site is presently an open field containing a radio transmitter and a small residential development adjoins the site's northern boundary.

The site's superficial geology is comprised of Crockey Hill Esker Member sands and gravels, a sedimentary deposit formed between 116 and 118 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period. Bedrock is of the Sherwood Sandstone Group, sedimentary bedrock formed between 272.3 and 237 million years ago during the Permian and Triassic periods (British Geological Survey online viewer, accessed 20/01/20).

The site is situated approximately 1500m south of the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Foss, at a point where the Ouse flows in an alluvial bed as narrow as 40m across. The topography of the site is suggestive of a natural crossing point that is likely to have been exploited for much of the site's history (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 10).

### 3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

St Oswald's Church is Grade II\* listed. The site does not sit within a conservation area and is outside of York's Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI). It is known that there are burials of 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century date in the churchyard, although the proposed investigation of the site will not impact on these.

### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following brief overview is primarily reproduced from a draft report by Lorna Watts and Phillip Rahtz on the archaeological investigations by York Archaeological Trust during and after the conversion of Old St. Oswald's into a private residence in 1980–81, and in 1984 and 1986–87 by students from the University of York (Watts and Rahtz 2000; Figure 4). Additional information is reproduced from a summary of the history of the site compiled for the FFH (Rainger 2017) and research into the history of Well House by the landowner, Allan Francis (Francis 2018). All of these resources are accessible on the FFH web pages regarding Old St. Oswald's (<https://ffhyork.weebly.com/old-st-oswalds.html> - accessed 24/01/20).

#### 4.1 Prehistoric

Knowledge of the prehistoric development of Fulford and the greater York area has increased considerably in recent decades, with increasing evidence for human exploitation of a changeable post-glacial landscape. Broadly speaking, activity appears to have focused along the waterways of the Ouse and the Foss and the elevated ridges of the York and Escrick moraines (MAP 2005; 3).

In the immediate vicinity of the church, a large ditch tentatively dated to the Iron Age was observed during an evaluation at Connaught Court some 210m to the east of the site (Bruce 2005). Discoveries of a Neolithic axe, a palstave and other flakes, cores and implements from Fulford provide further evidence of prehistoric activity (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 11). A small assemblage of flint was recovered from the site during the 1980s excavations, although all of this material was discovered as residual finds in later deposits (*ibid.*, 79).

#### 4.2 Roman

During the Roman period, the Fulford area appears to have been principally in agricultural use. Roman finds from the area have, however, been numerous and include urns and other objects found in gravel pits near Water Fulford Hall in 1770 and ceramics found during the construction of alms-houses at the top of St Oswald's Road in the 1950s. Two Roman sarcophagi were discovered on the west bank of the Ouse, opposite St Oswald's in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and, in 1892, a further two sarcophagi were reportedly found during sewage works in the former gravel pits adjacent to the west boundary of the site. In addition, a gritstone sarcophagus lid was found re-used in a medieval burial 2m from the church during its conversion to a dwelling. When considered alongside the proximity of the site to both the communications routes of the Ouse and a Roman road running through Fulford the abundance of Roman funerary material in and around the site is highly suggestive of a cemetery (or cemeteries) occupying the area during the Roman period (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 11–12, 74). The presence of burials on both sides of the river at a possible crossing point may point to the broader area around the site holding some significance at this time.

The aforementioned Connaught Court evaluation also encountered Roman ditches, pits and a single post-hole, suggesting that some settlement activity may have been present in the vicinity (Bruce 2005). Roman finds were relatively scarce in the 1980s excavations at Old St. Oswald's, although ceramics including Calcite Gritted ware and sherds of tegulae were recovered alongside bottle glass and a melon bead (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 84). This assemblage is certainly suggestive of Roman activity on-site or close-by, although all of the material was recovered from post-Roman deposits.

### 4.3 Early Medieval

The present settlement of Fulford has its origins in this period, although its boundaries and layout have shifted significantly since this time. Historically, Fulford comprised of two townships, Gate and Water Fulford. These have been equated with the two Domesday Book villis of 'Fuleford', although the boundaries are uncertain. Gate Fulford was situated on the ridge of higher ground that is today occupied by the A19, while Water Fulford occupied lower lying ground to the south, closer to the Ouse (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 13).

There is little evidence for the early-medieval origins in the locality of the site, although historic and archaeological evidence from St. Oswald's itself may offer some insight. Documentary sources do not record the date of the foundation of the first church on the site, but the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle notes that Siward, the Earl of Northumbria, founded St. Olaves in 1035. At this time, the area that would become Fulford was within Siward's estate and it has been suggested that he may have been the founder of the village and, perhaps, St Oswald's. The dedication to St Oswald refers either to Oswald, King of Northumbria (d. 642AD) or St Oswald, Bishop of Worcester and York (d. 992) and there are 70 known churches with this dedication, primarily in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire (Rainger 2017, 3–5).

In addition to the documentary evidence, excavations in the 1980s revealed numerous features that suggest a pre-Conquest date for the foundation of the church. A series of cobble foundations were identified during excavations around the west end of the nave and the tower; while they had been re-used as part of the present church (Figure 4), they were found to pre-date its 12<sup>th</sup> century construction (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 41). The structure associated with these foundations may represent a separate pre-Conquest church that was demolished prior to the construction of the present building. In addition, the discovery of a large post-pad may also suggest that an even earlier timber structure may also have occupied the site. Finds of Roman masonry, pottery, glass and a single melon bead, alongside Anglian pottery and a struck flint flake provide evidence for continued activity on the site dating back to prehistory (Rainger 2017, 9–10).

Perhaps the most significant find was a fragment of a 9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> stone cross, providing further evidence to the presence of pre-conquest Christian activity at St Oswald's. The confirmed early date for the church is significant when considered alongside the development of Water and Gate Fulford as St Oswald's forms a third nucleus of settlement, separate from the main part of Gate Fulford. While the centre of the settlement would eventually settle on higher ground to the east, the site of Old St. Oswald's was evidently significant in early medieval period and this raises numerous questions. Did the early village begin in the area around the church and later relocate to its present site, or could the church pre-date the foundation of the village, serving instead as a chapel associated with a ferry and/or ford across the river Ouse? (Rainger 2017, 2)

#### 4.4 Medieval

St Oswald's Church is first referred to in 1349 when, during the Black Death, temporary permission was granted for the churchyard to receive burials. Prior to and following the expiry of this dispensation, Fulford parishioners were to be buried at St Oswald's parent church of St Olave's, Marygate. Both St Oswald's and St Olave's were possessions of St Mary's Abbey at this time. The nave of the church is the earliest part of the present structure and was built in the first half of the 12th century, with the chancel added later that century. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the east wall of the chancel was rebuilt and a large window was added in the first half of the 14th century before the building was re-roofed in the 15th century. The tower of the church dates to 1795, but appears to have been built over the foundations of an earlier church of 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century date (Rainger 2017, 7).

#### 4.5 Post-Medieval

Following the dissolution of St Mary's Abbey in 1539, the churchyard of St Oswald's was again used for burials and the church continued to be adapted as the parish of Fulford grew in wealth and size. The earliest map to depict the site dates to 1745 and shows the churchyard to be an irregular rectangle measuring approximately 76 x 24m (0.18ha), with the church a little north of the centre (Figure 5). A structure named Well House is marked between the church and the street frontage to the south, although no structural details are present (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 71–72). Well House is discussed in greater detail in Section 4.6 below.

The next map of the site is unfortunately un-dated, but must post-date 1775–6 as the nearby barracks that were built at this time are depicted. Here, the churchyard appears to have been truncated lengthwise, but widened to 66m x 33m (approximately 0.21ha) (Figure 5). A similar arrangement is seen in the 1852 OS map, which also shows a spring between the churchyard and the Ouse and a number of gravel pits to the north and east of the churchyard (Plate 1). This is also the first map to depict the Well House buildings in detail, with three buildings shown around a yard.

By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the church was no longer able to meet the needs of the growing parish and a larger replacement was built on Main Street in 1866. In 1869–70, works began to convert the old church into a mortuary chapel. It was at this point that the churchyard was extended to its present layout, taking in the site of Well House, which stood on the site of the present Lych Gate, next to St Oswald's Road (Figure 6). The redundant church remained in use as a mortuary chapel until the 1970s and it was converted to a private residence in 1980 (Rainger 2017, 7–8).

#### 4.6 Well House

The earliest origins of what would become Well House are presently unknown, as all available sources detail only the post-medieval development of the structure. The original well may have been sited over a known spring, which could have been significant to inhabitants of the area. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, interest in the healing properties of wells was growing, and it may be at this point that the well was first covered (Francis 2018, 1).

The earliest pictorial evidence for the building range is a panoramic view looking south from Clifford's Tower drawn by Francis Place in 1705. This image, along with a further drawing from 1820, clearly shows two buildings to the south of the church (Figure 7, reproduced courtesy of Allan Francis). The location of the structures in the images correspond well with a range of buildings marked on the 1852 OS (Plate 1). The two images are broadly consistent, although the



later drawing would suggest that the main building fronting on to St. Oswald's Road had been replaced or reduced in height between 1705 and 1820.

Prior to their demolition in 1869–70, the buildings were described as a 'cottage or tenement with the Barn Stables and hereditaments now standing' in the conveyance documents (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 128), clearly indicating domestic or commercial use at this point; other historic sources could suggest the latter to be more likely. A 1759 document listing an Ellen Taylor as the occupant paying a considerable annual rent of £14. The arrangement of the buildings around a yard and the possible presence of a stable block could be suggestive of an inn. A contemporaneous landowner named Bernard Ackroyd was a brewer by trade and owned land to the east of St. Oswald's, although there are no documented links between him and Well House. The operation of the premises as a bath house is, therefore, also a possibility (Francis 2018, 2).

Sources from 1832 refer to the addition of a lion headed water spout being fitted during renovation works, although the building was already described as being in decline by 1853 and the water supply may have been cut off at this time (*ibid.*).

Excavation in the area occupied by the Well House buildings has been limited, although the excavation of a service trench running from the Lych Gate to the church was monitored in 1980, revealing possible demolition and make-up deposits that may be associated with the building (Watts and Rahtz 2000, 75). A small trial hole excavated in 2018 by the landowner revealed similar material, alongside 18<sup>th</sup> century ceramics and glass (Allan Francis, pers. comm.).

## 5 RELEVANT RESEARCH THEMES AND POLICIES

Although small in scale, this project has the potential to contribute to a number of ongoing research strategies. The project will also comply with industry standards on the provision of training in archaeological practice.

### 5.1 City of York Council Review of 1991 York Development and Archaeology Study

In 2014, CYC published a review of the 1991 Ove Arup and Partners York Development and Archaeology Study, a document that has been highly influential in guiding the practice of developer-led archaeology in York (CYC 2014). The review appraised the original document in light of changes within the industry since 1991 and put forward numerous suggestions to improve the management of York's archaeological resource. In addition, the review also put forward a series of emerging themes that were worthy of further consideration.

#### 5.1.1 *Deciding Where to Dig: The Deposit Model and Research Framework*

This section of the report focused on appraising the deposit model established in the report and identifying areas for improvement. The following sub-sections are of particular relevance to the Old St. Oswald's project:

- Prehistory – Our understanding of the prehistoric development of the Vale of York has been growing since 1991 and new discoveries add valuable context to the later history of York (CYC 2014, 26).
- Urban hinterlands – York is well-placed to explore the impact of historic towns on their environs and the results of new research in accessible suburban sites will be a useful addition to the established chronology (*ibid.*).

- Local/regional trajectories – As York has been the main administrative, political, military and economic centre in the area since at least Roman times, specific understanding of its development (and that of its satellite settlements) will offer a useful comparison to the well-established context of the broader Yorkshire region (ibid.).

#### 5.1.2 *Core Vs. Hinterland*

The establishment of the Area of Archaeological Importance under the Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 has led to a larger level of intervention in York's central historic core than in the greater York area. Although the work in central areas is of high importance, there is a definite need to promote the interpretive potential of sites beyond the core (CYC 2014, 32). With this in mind, a well-promoted public archaeology project well outside City Walls could be a valuable exercise in highlighting the importance of extra-mural areas.

#### 5.1.3 *Where Does the 'Value' in Archaeology Lie?*

The original Arup report placed a great deal of focus on 'archaeological value' in determining appropriate levels of mitigation within a development. The 2014 review suggests that consideration should also be given to 'public value'; the measure of how archaeology can contribute to the educational, entertainment and commercial needs of York residents and tourists (ibid., 33).

The application of a more flexible approach to mitigation that goes beyond achieving minima laid out in planning conditions can achieve transformative results. A recent example of this is the 2015 community archaeology project at the site of York's new Community Stadium. Here, hundreds of local people were involved in activities such as excavation, survey, school visits, open days, aerial photography, geophysics, metal detecting and introductory sessions in specialisms such as pottery identification (McComish 2015).

The opportunity to carry out a public archaeology project that is designed to be small in scale and low-impact offers the opportunity to develop a more flexible model of participant funded archaeology project that is equally applicable in a commercial or research setting.

## 5.2 **Historic England Research Strategy**

In 2016, Historic England released a revised Research Strategy that outlined key research themes, aims and objectives that will ensure that research into heritage sites continues to be relevant, inclusive and effective in today's changing and challenging environment. The Old St. Oswald's project will compliment several of these research themes.

#### 5.2.1 *#value - Understanding the value of heritage to society*

Understanding how people feel connected to or excluded from their heritage will be key in maintaining a sustainable level of public engagement with the past (Historic England 2016, 9). All YAT public participation projects offer the opportunity to actively engage members of the public with the past and to formally evaluate their experience. This will contribute useful data in relation to this research theme. Furthermore, as discussed in Section 5.1.3, interaction with heritage can demonstrably improve the lives of communities and individuals. By researching this relationship, it will be possible to better understand the value of heritage to the economy, wellbeing and social cohesion (ibid.). The location of Old St. Oswald's in a quiet suburban environment and its use as a private dwelling means that the history of the site is not well known

in the local community. The proposed project offers a chance to disseminate new findings to the broader community and to raise awareness of the activities and research opportunities offered by local groups such as the FFH. The suburban location is also significant as it will work to address a perceived lack of focus on areas beyond York's historic core, which will hopefully resonate with local people who participate in or follow the project.

#### 5.2.2 *#conserve – Caring for England's most important heritage*

Research is required to advise the management and conservation of archaeological remains (Historic England 2016, 9). The Old St. Oswald's Project will contribute to this research by providing data regarding the nature, preservation and significance of the site's archaeological resource.

#### 5.2.3 *#skill – Supporting and improving the heritage sector*

Understanding the training needs of those looking to become involved in heritage and archaeology will allow training providers and professional bodies to better develop skilled staff and volunteers (Historic England 2016, 9). This project will support this research theme as it has been designed to offer a more complete introduction to archaeological practice, from site setup to the submission of an assessment report. This project design was also informed by market research carried out by YAT (see Section 5.5) and has, therefore, been created with a view to meet contemporary interests and requirements of the participants.

#### 5.2.4 *#inspire – Inspiring others with our research*

There is a need to develop how research outcomes are disseminated to ensure that they are best positioned to inspire engagement with heritage; it is also important to understand how the public consume these resources (Historic England 2016, 9). The Old St. Oswald's project will centre on the experience of the participants, but will also look to engage the local community and local interest groups. As an educational charity, YAT is well placed to communicate archaeological discoveries to a diverse audience and continually seeks to improve public engagement.

### 5.3 National Occupational Standards

National Occupational Standards (NOS) are developed by Standard Setting Organisations and are assessed by SQA Accreditation (<https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/EN> - accessed 29/01/20). They provide statements of the standards of performance that individuals must achieve when carrying out functions in the workplace, as well as specifications of the necessary underpinning knowledge and understanding. NOS can be used for developing skills and knowledge in several ways:

- Direct transfer into vocational and other qualifications.
- Providing a framework for training programmes.
- Providing measures of workplace competence.
- Informing job descriptions.

A training course built with reference to the NOS can deliver three levels of learning outcome depending on its length and level of specialism:

- **Delivers** – A participant undertaking the course will have gained the necessary skills/knowledge to meet all performance or knowledge criteria of a given NOS unit.

- **Contributes to** - A participant undertaking the course will have gained the necessary skills/knowledge to meet some performance or knowledge criteria of a given NOS unit.
- **Supports** – The course is designed to provide a baseline of knowledge that will help the participant to achieve the requirements in the future.

The learning outcomes of the proposed Archaeology Live! training excavation at Old St. Oswald's will **contribute to**:

- AC5 – Contribute to intrusive investigations  
<https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/PublishedNos-old/CCSAPAC5.pdf>

The learning outcomes of the proposed Archaeology Live! training excavation at Old St. Oswald's will **support**:

- AB1 - Propose and plan a research project  
<https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/PublishedNos-old/CCSAPAB1.pdf>
- AC1 - Research and analyse information to achieve objectives  
<https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/PublishedNos-old/CCSAPAC1.pdf>
- AC8 - Undertake analysis and interpretation of archaeological material and data  
<https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/PublishedNos-old/CCSAPAC8.pdf>
- AD2 - Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ  
<https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/PublishedNos-old/CCSAPAD2.pdf>
- AE3 - Classify, compile and maintain data on the material remains and intangible heritage of past communities  
<https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/PublishedNos-old/CCSAPAE3.pdf>
- AH9 - Reduce risks to health and safety in the workplace  
<https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/PublishedNos-old/CCSAPAH9.pdf>
- AH10 - Contribute to health and safety in the workplace  
<https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/PublishedNos-old/CCSAPAH10.pdf>

#### 5.4 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Approved Training and CPD

The Archaeology Live! training excavation at Old St. Oswald's has been designed to comply with the standards and guidelines for training and CPD projects laid out by CifA (<https://www.archaeologists.net/careers/info-for-training-providers> accessed 29/01/20).

The course was awarded CifA approval in September 2020 (Appendix 3).

#### 5.5 Audience Research

Between November 2019 and January 2020, YAT carried out an online survey to find which areas of archaeological practice our audience was most interested in learning more about. The survey was sent to members of the Archaeology Live! mailing list and to followers of YAT social media accounts and received 91 responses (Appendix 1).

The data reveals our audience to be diverse in terms of age and interest and highlighted a prevalent desire for introductory level courses in fieldwork practice. The data also demonstrated interest in a wide range of theories and techniques, both on and off-site. In response, this project design has been produced to offer a gateway into archaeological research that covers the fundamentals in detail and offers introductions to a wide range of specialisms such as conservation and pottery research.

## 5.6 'Box of Tricks'

This is the working title of a portfolio of public engagement activities that is currently being developed by YAT. The aim of the scheme is to produce a standardised program of activities that can be offered across the YAT organisation with detailed information regarding logistics, audience, evaluation and funding. The proposed project at Old St. Oswald's falls within Box of Tricks project code B4 for site based participatory experiences. This is described as:

- A structured curriculum of specific excavation and/or post-excavation tasks that are taught in both a classroom and on-site setting, including the provision of unpaid placement opportunities. The participants/placements will be taught to meet professional 'best practice' standards and will be working directly to create or analyse the site archive. In the case of excavation training, the participant/placement will experience all excavation processes - recording, digging, site paperwork, sampling and find handling. The training will be provided by a team of experienced archaeologists, who will direct and supervise participants.

The project will also incorporate elements of project code D1 (creation and hosting of digital content to publicise the results of the project) and has the potential to offer project code B1 (short one or two day 'taster' experiences).

## 5.7 BAJR Skills Passport

Archaeology Live! training projects support the British Archaeological Jobs and Resources Skills Passport scheme. The site supervisor will fill out and sign off Skills Passports for all trainees or placements attending the course.

## 5.8 Continued Professional Development (CPD)

Although the project is designed to be equally accessible to those with a casual interest in archaeology and those looking for formal training, the value of CPD will be promoted during all activities. Trainees and placements will be encouraged to record and reflect on the skills, theories and techniques they engage with during the course. For trainees, this process will benefit in particular from the layout of the course in two distinct weeks of fieldwork and post-excavation assessment. Records created on-site will be checked and cross-referenced in the second week prior to being digitised and added to the Integrated Archaeological Database. This workflow allows trainees to review their work as it progresses from their first on-site records through to the final professional-quality outcome.

In addition to returning to and assessing the primary site archive, participants will also be encouraged to contribute to creative outcomes in the form of social media content, site diaries and group discussions regarding the future management of the site and its archaeological resource. This process provides both an opportunity to reflect on the experience and to consider areas where further development and training may be beneficial.

The placement system is aimed at experienced individuals with a good grasp of the fundamentals of single context recording and excavation. As a result of this, a more holistic approach is taken towards learning in which individuals are invited to identify areas where further experience would be beneficial. Over the duration of the course, opportunities can then be provided to allow individuals to further their experience. A common example of this is the substantial step up in complexity from creating records for individual features to the process of

managing a complete site archive and considering contexts in relation to the whole sequence. The supervisory element of the placement position is also an opportunity to take the step from learning theories and techniques to teaching them, a process that is constantly supported by the site manager.

## 5.9 Ethics and Archaeology

Participants will be made aware of the relevant guidelines regarding any ethical considerations connected with the project. In the first instance, this will come in the form of a recommended reading list included with an information pack sent to participants prior to the commencement of the project.

As the proposed excavation area was used as a burial ground in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, understanding the ethical treatment of human remains will be of particular importance even though no *in-situ* human remains will be disturbed by the works. In addition to providing access to links to current guidelines (APABE 2017, Historic England 2017) and legislation (Burial Act 1857, Disused Burial Grounds Act 1981), their relevance and application will be discussed during both on-site and report writing teaching sessions.

## 6 RESEARCH DESIGN

### 6.1 Aims

The proposed Archaeology Live! excavation at Old St. Oswald's is a small-scale pilot project with five main aims:

1. To gain a baseline understanding of the nature, condition and date of the archaeological resource at the southern end of the churchyard of Old St. Oswald's.

*There has been very little formal investigation of this part of the site.*

2. To assess the archaeological potential of the site with a view to gauge the feasibility of carrying out a longer term and/or larger scale investigation in the future.

*Should the archaeological resource be well-preserved and accessible, the site may be suitable for an expanded and potentially ongoing research project.*

3. To provide training in all aspects of archaeological fieldwork on a multi-period site.

*YAT has a proven track record of delivering high-quality fieldwork training. This and the potential for complex stratigraphy provides a meaningful opportunity for trainees.*

4. To provide a detailed introduction to post-excavation processes and analyses and report production and to promote the importance of archaeological processes outside of on-site work.

*Very few archaeological training providers offer the opportunity to learn about and carry out post-excavation work. In addition, trainees will have the opportunity to contribute to the final assessment report.*

## 6.2 Objectives

The project has a number of specific objectives that relate to the aims and research themes outlined above.

### 6.2.1 *Archaeological and Historical Objectives*

- What is the nature of archaeological stratification in this area? (Aims 1 and 2).
- At what depths within the sequence do deposits dating to the major historical periods survive? Can a basic deposit model be built? (Aims 1 and 2).
- Can anything be learned regarding the date, form and use of the Well House buildings marked on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century maps and is there any evidence of earlier, pre-existing structures? (Aims 1 and 2).
- Can any information be found regarding the early development of Fulford? (Aims 1 and 2).
- Did the original settlement at Fulford have its focus closer to the river crossing, or was the church always in a peripheral setting? (Aims 1 and 2).
- It has been suggested that the naming of Well House could be evidence of an earlier holy well. Can any evidence of this be found? (Aims 1 and 2).
- If evidence for an earlier well is present, can any evidence of pre-Christian activity be found? (Aims 1 and 2).
- Previous site investigations have found residual finds of prehistoric, Roman and early medieval date. Will the residual assemblage from the 2021 works provide any more context for the nature of early occupation of the site? (Aims 1 and 2).

### 6.2.2 *Conservation and Site Management Objectives*

- To gain further information regarding the depth, condition and significance of the area's archaeological resource (Aims 1 and 2).
- To gain further knowledge of the location, depth and concentration of inhumation burials in the area and to assess the level of truncation afforded to earlier remains by these burials (Aim 2).
- To find information regarding the accessibility and quantity of archaeological remains that pre-date the 19<sup>th</sup> century burial phase (Aim 2).
- To assess the potential of the site for further investigation and identify any constraints or limitations that may affect this (Aim 2).

### 6.2.3 *Education, Training and Public Engagement Objectives*

- To provide high quality training in a safe and supportive environment (Aims 3 and 4).
- To provide practical training in all of the main aspects of archaeological fieldwork to a professional standard (Aims 3 and 4).
- To provide training that complies with all professional codes of practice and health and safety regulations (Aims 3 and 4).

- To provide training that is suitable for a diverse audience and is equally suitable to individuals with a casual interest and individuals considering a career or further education in archaeology/heritage (Aims 3 and 4).
- To provide training that is accessible to people from a variety of backgrounds and that places as few barriers to participation as possible (Aims 3 and 4).
- To provide training in and promote the importance of techniques beyond excavation, i.e. finds processing, report production, stratigraphic analysis, etc. This will address a shortfall in public access to this side of archaeological practice (Aims 3 and 4).
- To introduce aspects of cultural heritage management and to explain the differing processes of research and commercial archaeology and the importance of ethical considerations (Aims 3 and 4).
- To develop a project that allows participants, local residents and those from further afield to deepen their appreciation of archaeology in suburban locations through an appropriate programme of public engagement (Aims 3 and 4).
- To encourage participants to take ownership of their work in an environment that supports them in finding meaning in the remains and creating their own interpretations (Aims 3 and 4).

## 7 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

In the event that this Project Design is approved by the landowner and the City Archaeologist, Claire MacRae, a final WSI will be produced that will form the basis of all further work. The proposed project will take place over two weeks, with a week of site work focused around the excavation of 1.5m x 1.5m test pits followed by a week of post excavation processing, analysis and reporting.

### 7.1 Site Security and Access

The site is located on privately owned land within a walled garden and is accessed by via a gate at the south-east corner of the garden; there is no public access to the site. To provide a safe working environment, the gate will remain closed at all times during working hours and any open trenches will be fully fenced off when unattended. All staff and participants will remain within the investigation area at all times to minimise disturbance to the residents.

### 7.2 Excavation

#### 7.2.1 Test Pit Excavation

To fulfil the aims of achieving a meaningful evaluation of the archaeological resource while creating minimal disruption, the excavation will comprise of test pits measuring 1.50m x 1.50m. The trenches will be sited over the approximate locations of the yard and buildings associated with Well House at an appropriate distance from any mature trees and a tarmac access road running from the gate to the church. There is a degree of flexibility in the precise location of the trenches as the landowner has granted permission to excavate anywhere in the lawned area of the garden close to the Lych gate (Figure 2). All trench locations will be decided upon following consultation with the landowner; no excavation will begin without the approval of the landowner.

Each test pit will be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m unless natural geological deposits are encountered, in which case excavation will cease. Should significant remains be present that



continue beyond the 1.20m limit of excavation, a 0.50m x 0.50m exploratory sondage may be excavated in the centre of the test pit to a maximum depth of 0.50m.

Trench locations will be CAT scanned by a suitably trained member of YAT staff prior to the commencement of intrusive works. In addition, turf will be cut and set aside for storage by a YAT staff member prior to the arrival of the trainees.

Although the test pits will be positioned away from mature trees, it is anticipated that there will be a large number of roots across the excavation area. Where necessary, these will be cut by a member of YAT staff to avoid potential injury to participants with limited fieldwork experience.

The test pit excavation will follow YAT's standard single context recording methodology. All contexts will be 100% excavated with the exception of significant structural remains of medieval or earlier date. In the event that burials are present, these will be cleaned and recorded before being covered and left *in-situ*. If disarticulated remains are encountered, these will be identified and quantified on site before being re-buried upon completion of the test pit. No human remains will leave the site and all re-interred remains will have their locations recorded. Participants will be made aware of the current guidelines relating to both standards in recording human remains and their ethical treatment in an archaeological context (see Section 5.9).

All spoil will be inspected or sieved as appropriate to maximise small finds recovery before being stored in rubble sacks or on a tarpaulin in a location agreed with the landowner.

#### 7.2.2 Sampling strategy

No environmental samples will be taken during the project. If well-preserved organic remains are identified, they will be recorded and left *in-situ*.

### 7.3 Recording Methodology

Each context will be assigned a unique number and will be described in full on a proforma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions. All drawings will be recorded from a 5m grid that will be laid out using a GPS unit prior to the commencement of the project. If a GPS is unable to achieve sufficient accuracy due to the presence of mature trees, an arbitrary floating grid or baseline will be laid out using a TST. The location of these grid points, the site boundary and the church will be recorded to allow the survey to be related to the Ordnance Survey grid. A temporary benchmark (TBM) will be established by reference to the nearest OS benchmark.

Contexts will be planned at a basic scale of 1:20, while cross-sections of features or test pits will be drawn to a basic scale of 1:10. 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.

Each context will be individually photographed using a digital camera. This record will be supplemented by general views of entire features, working shots and of details such as sections as considered necessary. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines. All staff and participants will be made aware of their image rights in relation to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and will sign a consent form if they are willing to be photographed during the project.

All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the ClfA guidance for archaeological materials (CIFA 2014). 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. General finds from discrete contexts will be collected as Bulk Finds. Should any finds be identified that require conservation work, the YAT Conservation team will be consulted and the finds will be left *in-situ* to ensure their long-term preservation. The 3D location of these finds will be recorded.

All completed test pits will be immediately backfilled using the excavated materials. Backfills will be manually compacted and turf will be returned. Any significant remains left in-situ will be covered with plastic membrane to mark their position in case of any further investigations in future.

All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication First Aid for Finds. Finds will be processed, catalogued and assessed at YAT's Aldwark facility before being returned to the landowner for storage on-site. Only finds that are sufficiently stable for storage in an ambient environment will be removed from site. An appropriate discard policy for generic bulk materials such as animal bone or ceramic building materials will be agreed with CYC Principal Archaeologist, Claire MacRae and the landowner.

#### 7.4 Archaeology Live! On-Site Training Model

The Archaeology Live! training excavation model is entirely funded by the trainees that attend the project. The work is carried out by a combination of YAT staff, placements and trainees.

##### 7.4.1 Definitions

- **Staff members** – Full time professional archaeologists employed by YAT
- **Placements** - Individuals undertaking set programmes of involvement for a time limited period to gain skills and experience (See Section 7.4.3)
- **Trainees** – Individuals undertaking paid for training opportunities offered with a set learning outcome (See Section 7.4.4)

##### 7.4.2 Excavation Team

The project will be led by a YAT Project Officer with suitable experience of delivering training in archaeological theory and practice. Should additional staff be required, only individuals at Project Supervisor level or above will be deployed.

##### 7.4.3 Placement Scheme

The YAT staff member(s) will be supported by up to four Placements. A placement is an individual with a minimum of three weeks experience of a YAT fieldwork training project or a reputable equivalent. Unlike trainees, placements do not work through a set curriculum; the position is designed to gain experience of the practice of archaeological fieldwork through assisting with logistics (spoil management, etc.) and low-level supervision of trainees.

Placements are recruited following YAT's standard procedures regarding volunteering. Positions will be publicised via YAT's wide-ranging web presence and mailing list. As there hasn't been an Archaeology Live! training excavation since 2017, applications for placement positions will only be offered to people with prior experience on YAT projects in this instance. This will ensure a

uniform level of supervision. Once the project is re-established, Placement positions will again be made available to external candidates during future projects.

Placements are supported in their position by YAT staff and are encouraged to use the experience to build upon their existing skill set. Prior to the commencement of a placement, each individual must sign up to the YAT code of conduct and will attend a three hour orientation session that will refresh their knowledge of recording systems and methodologies.

#### 7.4.4 Trainees

Archaeology Live! trainees are participants who pay for training in archaeological theory and practice. Trainees must be aged 16 or above, although 14 and 15-year olds can attend if accompanied by a guardian who is also completing a course. Trainees of all backgrounds and levels of experience are welcome, as training can be adapted to suit the needs of the individual. The target audience is anyone with an interest in archaeology that would like to learn more about how it is carried out. An Archaeology Live! training module is designed to be a standalone practical introduction to the practice, although it can be used to compliment higher education studies.

By its nature as a practical training course, the training course is not fully accessible, although efforts are made to make the program as open as possible to people with limited mobility (See Section 7.4.8 for more information).

The maximum ratio of professional staff to trainees on an Archaeology Live! project is one staff member for every eight trainees, however, due to the smaller scale of this project, the ratio at Old St. Oswald's will be one to six.

#### 7.4.5 Course Layout

The precise program for the week is dependent on variations in weather and will sometimes be adapted to suit. On-site hours are 9.30am to 5pm and the days are broken into four sessions, with 15-minute tea breaks at 10.30am and 3pm and a 45-minute lunch break at 12pm.

The first session will comprise a detailed induction which will cover health and safety matters, course content and site background. Participants will have an opportunity as a group or individually to ask any questions and raise any potential issues or reservations. The aim of the induction is to ensure participants are informed, at ease and confident prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

Each subsequent day will begin with a short daily briefing to outline the plans for the day, to provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions or raise concerns and to highlight any health and safety issues that may have arisen.

A typical week will be laid out as follows:

Day	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
<b>Monday</b>	Inductions and orientation	Site tour and introduction to Single Context system.	Excavation and recording	Excavation and recording

Day	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
<b>Tuesday</b>	Excavation and recording	Specialist session	Excavation and recording	Excavation and recording
<b>Wednesday</b>	Excavation and recording	Excavation and recording	Specialist session:	Excavation and recording
<b>Thursday</b>	Excavation and recording	Specialist session	Excavation and recording	Excavation and recording
<b>Friday</b>	Excavation and recording	Specialist session	Excavation and recording	Excavation and recording

**Table 1. Example week (excavation)**

This layout means that trainees do not carry out more than two consecutive sessions of on-site work which limits the risk of fatigue for inexperienced individuals and breaks the day into self-contained units.

During excavation and recording sessions, trainees are taught how to:

- Identify, define and clean an individual context within a stratigraphic sequence
- Create a photographic record (single context record shots and photogrammetric survey)
- Create a single context plan drawing of a context in relation to a site grid or baseline
- Add AOD heights to a hand-drawn plan using a Dumpy Level
- Describe a context on a proforma context card to a professional standard, detailing all relevant information such as dimensions, orientation, soil description, interpretation, etc.
- Add a context to the site's stratigraphic matrix
- Carefully excavate a feature or deposit
- Identify finds and employ the appropriate method of recovery

A holistic approach is taken to the teaching methodology, with a mixture of group and individual tuition. Concepts are explained in detail prior to their execution and one-to-one tuition can be maintained for any individual struggling with any aspect of the work. Trainees are constantly accompanied by a staff member or placement who can offer guidance and advice. Reference materials such as the YAT site manual, flash cards, illustrative sketches are also available. In a given week, every trainee will complete the identification, recording, excavation and interpretation of at least one context. This process will be repeated as often as time allows.

Trainees are encouraged to actively engage with the archaeology and, as they take responsibility for the full excavation and recording of a given context, there is the opportunity to create their own theories and ideas about the material they work on. The process contributes to National Occupation Standard **AC5** by allowing participants to gain practical experience in the full suite of on-site activities.

Additional activities such as site tours and orientation sessions allow the trainees to consider the archaeology in relation to the wider area and how this may impact upon existing research themes or strategies. This process supports an understanding of National Occupational Standards **AB1, AC1, AC8, AD2, AE3, Ah9** and **AH10** (see Section 5.3).

Prior to the commencement of the course, all participants will receive an information pack detailing times and logistics, learning outcomes and course content. The pack will also include a copy of the WSI and Risk Assessment and any other appropriate background material. Detail will be included regarding expectations of participant behaviour and participants will be encouraged to make the site supervisor aware of any relevant issues or areas of particular interest. There will be clear and frequent communication in advance of the project to ensure all parties are fully informed and prepared.

#### 7.4.6 *Specialist Sessions*

During a week-long course, each day will have one session of up to two hours devoted to learning about a more specialised area of archaeology. These sessions are taught at an introductory level in a relaxed and encouraging environment and combine elements of formal lectures, artefact handling and creative input. The teaching is supplemented by visuals and handouts, as well as information on resources available to individuals interested in learning more about a subject. Lesson plans are compiled for each session to ensure that aims and learning outcomes are properly met and evaluated. See Appendix 2 for an example specialist session lesson plan.

On Mondays, the specialist session is based around health and safety, site background and an introduction to the concept of Single Context methodology. During the week, other sessions that can be offered include:

- **Pottery.** Trainees are shown through a reference collection that is typical for York, with information on how changes in technology and style have led to the variety of wares and forms that are found. The team are then shown the key differences between these wares (colour, inclusions, form, etc.) that can help a field archaeologist produce a working date for the context they are working on. See Appendix 2 for full Lesson Plan.
- **Small finds.** This session is delivered in a similar manner to the pottery session, with a handling collection of small finds used as a method to show trainees how to differentiate between material types and how to approach the excavation and recovery of a variety of artefacts. Trainees are also encouraged to interpret how objects may have been produced and used.
- **Photography.** To build upon the general site photography experience they will have already gained, this session introduces other aspects of on-site photography, such as aerial photography, rectified photography, publication shots and photogrammetry. A full Lesson Plan for this session is presently in development.
- **Stratigraphy.** This session has proved to be the most popular of the specialist sessions over the 16 seasons of Archaeology Live!, and is usually held at the end of the week to allow trainees to build up a baseline understanding. Working as a team, the trainees create a fictional section through an archaeological site, from prehistory to the present day. The team then work through the sequence, assigning context numbers and fitting them into a Harris Matrix. Although stratigraphy is one of the more complex concepts for an inexperienced individual to grasp, the light-hearted tone of this session has been very successful in helping people gain an understanding in an enjoyable environment.

#### 7.4.7 *Review and Monitoring*

During on-site work, YAT staff will remain in close contact with the landowner to ensure that he is happy that the work is being carried out with minimal impact on his daily life. Regular updates on progress and significant discoveries will be communicated to the landowner and City of York Council Principal Archaeologist, Claire MacRae via telephone or email as appropriate.

The experience of the trainees who fund and carry out the work is of paramount importance to the project, so open avenues of communication will be maintained throughout the works for individuals to comment on their experience. As mentioned in Section 7.4.6, lesson plans for each session provide detail of both the content and evaluation methodology of each sub-section.

A formal process of review will also be put into place to ensure that the project continues to improve. This will follow the standard YAT protocol for reviewing projects with a public participation aspect and will ensure that the experiences of the participants can drive the project to consistently improve and adapt.

#### 7.4.8 *Access Statement*

A full access statement will be produced as part of the WSI prior to the commencement of any site works. All YAT public participation projects aim to be as inclusive as possible, although there are some limitations when carrying out on-site work. All practicable measures will be put in place to maximise the opportunity for as diverse audience as possible to participate.

#### 7.4.9 *Adverse Weather Plan*

Test pits and breaktime areas will be covered by gazebos to provide shade and shelter and to ensure that works can continue in wet or hot weather. Paperwork and other activities away from the test pits can be carried out below the Lych Gate (Plate 2).

In the event of extreme weather, the timetable can be rearranged to prioritise off-site work such as specialist sessions that can be carried under cover or indoors. If extreme weather persists, the course will be relocated to suitable YAT premises and will focus in greater detail on post-excavation processes. Trainees and placements will be made aware of this during the booking process.

## 8 **POST-EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY**

Under the proposed scheme, the trainees who carried out the one-week test pit excavation will also carry out the majority of the post-excavation processing and will contribute to the final assessment report. As the complexity of the archaeological resource at Old St. Oswald's is presently unknown, it is not possible to quantify what amount of post-excavation work will be possible to complete in one week. The following methodology has been designed working on the assumption that it will not be possible to produce a full report in one week. Any remaining work will be carried out by a member of YAT staff; this will be funded by surplus income generated by the project.

To ensure both meaningful learning outcomes and quality post-excavation processing, trainees will carry out as much of the processing as possible in the week, while also attending introductory sessions on specialist areas such as photogrammetry, illustration and CBM dating. As discussed above in Section 7.4.6, formal lesson plans will be produced and adhered to for each sub-section of the course. The post-excavation element of the course will contribute to

National Occupation Standard **AC5** by allowing participants to engage with the processing of the archive they produced on-site and to better understand the importance of recording archaeological features to a professional standard. The course will also support an understanding of National Occupational Standards **AB1, AC1, AC8, AD2, AE3, Ah9** and **AH10** (see Section 5.3).

### **8.1 Specialist Assessment**

All finds will be cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate, prior to assessment. For ceramic assemblages, any recognised local pottery reference collections and relevant fabric Codes will be used. The material will be quantified (counted and weighted). Specialists will undertake a rapid scan of all excavated material and ceramic spot dates will be given. Appropriately detailed specialist reports will be included in the report and recommendations for future research will be made.

As only well-preserved and stable artefacts will be recovered from the site, it is not anticipated that any finds will require any conservation work. To ensure that no finds require any further attention, however, a rapid condition assessment will be carried out by the Conservation department.

### **8.2 Digitisation of Archive**

All context cards, context photographs, plans and section drawings generated during the excavation will be digitised and entered into York Archaeological Trust's Integrated Archaeological Database (IADB). Each recorded context will be assigned first to a set (e.g. two context numbers assigned to represent the cut and fill of a stakehole can be collectively referred to as a single set), then to a group (e.g. a row of contemporary stakeholes representing a former fence line) and, finally, to a phase (e.g. all groups associated with a particular period of activity; the construction of an animal enclosure for instance).

All contexts, sets and groups will receive a unique three-digit ID number beginning with the same number as the test pit within which they were identified. For instance, stratigraphic units recorded in Test Pit 1 will have the prefix 1\*\*.

### **8.3 Report and Archive Preparation**

An assessment report will be prepared in adherence to relevant standards and guidance (Cifa 2011) to include the following:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
- An introduction which will include the grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
- An account of the methodology and detailed results of the operation, describing structural data, archaeological features, associated finds and environmental data, and a conclusion and discussion.
- A selection of photographs and drawings, including a detailed plan of the site accurately identifying the trench locations, selected feature drawings, and selected artefacts, and phased feature plans where appropriate.
- Specialist artefact and environmental reports where undertaken, and a context list/index.

- Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a context list and catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
- A copy of the key OASIS form details
- Copies of the Project Design and WSI
- Additional photographic images can be supplied to the HER via a file-transfer service

Copies of the report will be submitted to the landowner and the HER (also in PDF format).

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.

#### 8.4 Archaeology Live! Post-Excavation Training Model

The training aspect of the post-excavation course will broadly follow the model established during nine week-long courses held between 2014 and 2017 with a number of revisions. The course layout will be slightly less rigid than the fieldwork element as it is difficult to quantify the volume of finds and records that will be generated. The following is an example course layout, although there is a degree of flexibility within the sessions.

##### 8.4.1 Possible Course Layout

Day	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
<b>Monday</b>	Inductions and orientation	Tour of finds room and introduction to finds processing	Finds washing and cataloguing	Finds washing and cataloguing
<b>Tuesday</b>	Tour of Conservation lab and introduction to condition assessments	Record checking	Introduction to IADB and digitisation of archive	Digitisation of archive
<b>Wednesday</b>	Digitisation of archive	Digitisation of archive	Specialist session: CBM analysis	Introduction to report production
<b>Thursday</b>	Specialist session: Introduction to photogrammetry	Report writing and production of blog & web content	Digitisation of archive	Creation of illustrations
<b>Friday</b>	Digitisation of archive and OASIS form	Specialist session: Introduction to HER and useful software (i.e. GIS).	Creation of illustrations	Report writing and summary of achievements

**Table 2. Example week (post-excavation)**

The first day of the post-excavation course will demonstrate how finds are processed and catalogued. Following inductions and a tour of the Aldwark and DIG premises, the team will be



introduced to this process and will wash the finds recovered from the test pit excavation. This session will be led by a Finds Officer from the YAT Collections team and trainees will have the opportunity to practice identifying material types, species types within the animal bone assemblage and pottery dating. The team will also learn how incoming finds are logged and tracked using the IADB and how they are marked and prepared for long-term storage.

The remainder of the week will be divided between sessions of archive digitisation, illustrations, report writing, production of web content and specialist sessions. Trainees will be accompanied by staff and placements at all times during this process to offer guidance and to answer questions. Trainees will also be given a detailed illustrated guide to the post-excavation process.

#### 8.4.2 *Digitisation of archive*

The paper archive will be fully digitised and uploaded to the IADB, as detailed in Section 8.2 above. The first digitisation session will begin with an introduction to the IADB, with examples of a range of project archives that have been fully uploaded to the database. Trainees will then be divided into pairs to carry out the following tasks:

- **Record checking and cross-referencing.** All records must be filled out to a professional standard, with no missing fields.
- **Scanning of context cards and hand-drawn plans, sections and elevations.**
- **Uploading facsimile images of context cards to the IADB and entering metadata.** All recorded information regarding a given context will then be searchable and accessible for reference during stratigraphic analysis and report writing.
- **Digitising plans, sections and elevations.**
- **Uploading stratigraphic information to the IADB and building a phased digital matrix.** A phased and digitised matrix can then be used to assign context numbers to their appropriate Set, Group and Phase.
- **Uploading context photographs.**

#### 8.4.3 *Illustrations*

Trainees will be given detailed introductions to the use of programs such as Adobe Illustrator and will be supported through the process of creating illustrations for the report. These will follow standard YAT guidelines and are expected to include location plans, map regressions, trench plans and section drawings.

#### 8.4.4 *Report Writing*

It is not anticipated that one week will allow for the completion of a full assessment report, however, trainees will be introduced to the methodology and relevant guidelines associated with the process before beginning to compile appropriate sections of the report. This will be a valuable experience and will reinforce knowledge regarding the current standards detailed above in Section 5. The team will also work as a group to develop the initial interpretation of the results of the excavation and will consider the findings in the context of contemporaneous activity in the local and broader area.

In addition to the compilation of a formal site report, trainees will also work to produce creative output. This will include contributions to:

- A reflective site diary blog to be hosted on the YAT website. The blog will detail the background and findings of the project, but will also focus on the experience of the

trainees and their personal response to the process of excavating and analysing archaeological materials.

- A video diary of the excavation and post-excavation phases, with regular updates that will allow participants to share a 'live' experience of an archaeological research project with a broader audience.
- Content for frequent social media posts that will publicise discoveries as they are made (see Section 9 for further detail).
- Any other suitable output that is devised by participants during the project, i.e. art, posters, updates for local heritage groups, etc.

Appearing in or contributing to material such as social media posts will not be a mandatory element of the training program; YAT will respect the wishes of any individuals who would prefer not to have their name or image shared online (See Section 9.1).

#### 8.4.5 *Specialist sessions*

During the week, each day will have one session of up to two hours devoted to learning about a more specialised area of post-excavation processes. These sessions are taught at an introductory level in a relaxed and encouraging environment and combine elements of formal lectures, artefact handling and creative input. The teaching is supplemented by visuals and handouts, as well as information on resources available to individuals interested in learning more about a subject.

On the Monday, the specialist session will be an introduction to the curatorial process; detailing how finds recovered from excavations are processed, assessed and stored. During the week, other sessions that can be offered include:

- **Conservation.** The team will receive a tour of the YAT Conservation lab at Aldwark and will learn about the daily workings of the facility. In particular, the team will learn about how finds are given an initial condition assessment.
- **Assessment of ceramic assemblages.** Trainees are shown through a reference collection that is typical for York, with information on how changes in technology and style have led to the variety of forms that are found. The team are then shown the key differences between these forms (colour, inclusions, shape, etc.) that can help a field archaeologist produce a working date for the context they are working on. The team will also be shown how ceramic finds are assessed and will work alongside the session leader to compile provisional spot dates for the site's CBM assemblage.
- **Photogrammetry.** This session will complement the photography course held on-site during week one. Trainees will be introduced to the process of creating 3D models using Agisoft Metashape. They will then be shown how to process the photographs they took on-site to create models of their features/test pits. Finally, the team will be shown how these models can be used as an educational resource online by uploading them to publically accessible websites such as Sketchfab.
- **HER Research.** Trainees will be introduced to publically available data sources such as the HER and the Heritage Gateway. They will then be shown how this information can be used to inform reports and how it can be presented using programmes such as GIS. As a group exercise during this session, the trainees will fill out an OASIS form for the site and will be shown how data and site reports can be deposited.

## 8.5 Outcomes for Trainees

By the end of the course, it is anticipated that trainees will have demonstrated basic competence in all of the theories and techniques outlined above at an introductory level or greater. This will satisfy the goal of the project in contributing to NOS learning outcome **AC5**. The theories and techniques covered during the rest of the course will have supported the trainees in understanding NOS learning outcomes **AB1, AC1, AC8, AD2, AE3, AH9** and **AH10** (Section 5.3).

During the final session, the team will discuss the extent to which the project has contributed to the research themes detailed in Section 5. Participants will then consider options for the ongoing management and investigation of the site's archaeological resource. For example, the improved knowledge regarding the nature and condition of the archaeological deposits may highlight areas that would be suitable for larger-scale excavation. In addition, accurate plotting of any 19<sup>th</sup> century burials in the area could highlight areas that are suitable for geoarchaeological investigation (i.e. hand auger survey) in the future. The process will also highlight potential hinderances to future works, such as tree roots, animal burrowing, etc. while emphasising the importance of prioritising the ethical implications of working in and around burial grounds.

This closing discussion will allow for consideration of issues going beyond the archaeology of the site and will introduce trainees to the process of considering a site investigation in the context of regional research themes, ethical considerations and cultural heritage management.

A theme within the aims and objectives detailed above in Section 6 is to encourage ongoing engagement with archaeological practice and the broader world of heritage. To this end, trainees will be provided with materials and resources that will encourage continued engagement with the discipline.

Upon completion of the course, trainees will receive a certificate of attendance and a copy of all photographs taken during the project. Trainees will also have the opportunity to receive a digital copy of any records compiled during the excavation and any teaching resources that they found useful. Read-only access to the project's IADB page will be provided to the trainees for future reference and all participants will receive a copy of the assessment report upon completion. To promote ongoing engagement with the project and archaeological practice in general, trainees will have the opportunity to sign up for quarterly updates on relevant projects and future opportunities.

Trainees will also receive a complimentary pass for entry to JORVIK Group attractions.

## 8.6 Outcomes for Placements

Placements will have the same resources made available to them as those received by the trainees and staff will offer advice and guidance in the logistics of continued involvement or employment in archaeological research. The key aim of the Placement scheme is to allow a vehicle for an individual to put existing skills into practice and to consider the theories and practice involved in the management of an archaeological research project as a whole, as opposed to the excavation and recording of an individual feature.

Placements will also receive a complimentary pass for entry to JORVIK Group attractions.

## 9 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PUBLICITY

Prior to the commencement of the program, the landowner and CYC Principal Archaeologist Claire MacRae will be consulted to agree an appropriate program of public engagement that will be operated throughout the lifetime of the project. The proposed methodology for this scheme is detailed below, although this remains subject to change.

### 9.1 Social Media

YAT has a wide-reaching and established social media presence that can be utilised to share updates on the progress of the project. It is anticipated that 'live' updates from the excavation will be posted through the Archaeology Live! accounts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram:

- <https://twitter.com/ArchaeologyLive>
- <https://www.facebook.com/ArchaeologyLivePage/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/archaeologylive/?hl=en>

Posts to these accounts would focus on the experiences and discoveries of the trainees. Less frequent updates can also be shared from the general YAT accounts at:

- <https://twitter.com/YATNews>
- <https://www.facebook.com/YATNews/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/YATNews>

In the event of the discovery of any majorly significant remains, no public posts would be made until an appropriate press release had been drafted and agreed by the landowner and CYC Principal Archaeologist Claire MacRae. All participants will be reminded of their right to anonymity during site inductions and daily briefings. All individuals who consent to appearing in any publicly available media will sign the standard YAT GDPR disclosure forms. No images of human remains will be posted in any public forum during the project.

### 9.2 Website

Following the completion of the project, a more detailed blog post could be made and published on the YAT website <https://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/>. The post could include detail on the history of the site, the aims of the project and what discoveries were made; it could also include media such as video, photographs, embedded 3D models hosted on Sketchfab. It is anticipated that content for any blog, vlog or other social media posts will be produced at least in part by the participants. This will encourage participants to take ownership of the material they work on and to stimulate engagement with the interpretive process. This activity will support understanding of National Occupational Standard **AC8** (see Section 5.3).

### 9.3 Public Access

As the site is a private residence, the site is not suitable for a public open day. With the landowner's consent, it may be possible to mount an information board at the site entrance to explain the project and direct people to the appropriate web pages.

## 10 INSURANCE

The project will be insured in the standard manner of all YAT public participation projects.

## 11 ARCHIVE AND PUBLICATION

All records and finds will be stored at an appropriate YAT facility in the first instance. Should the site prove suitable for future research and/or publication, a revised project design will be produced following consultation with CYC Principal Archaeologist, Claire MacRae, the landowner and YAT.

## 12 HEALTH AND SAFETY

All staff, trainees and placements will attend a health and safety induction prior to gaining access to the excavation area and any other YAT facilities. A copy of the YAT Health and Safety Policy and the site-specific Risk Assessment will be made available to all participants.

### 12.1 Personal Protective Equipment

The excavation area will be clearly demarcated by Netlon fencing. When working in or around the excavation area, all staff and participants must wear the following at all times:

- Safety boots with ankle protection (not provided by YAT)
- High visibility vest (provided by YAT)
- Gloves (provided by YAT)
- Hard hat (provided by YAT)

Access to the excavation area will be prohibited for anyone not wearing full PPE.

### LIST OF SOURCES

British Geological Survey - <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain3d/> (Accessed 20/01/20).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance for providers of training courses and CPD - <https://www.archaeologists.net/careers/info-for-training-providers> (Accessed 29/01/20).

National Occupational Standards - <https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/EN> (Accessed 29/01/20).

UK Government Legislation, 1857. *Burial Act*. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/20-21/81/resources>

UK Government Legislation, 1981. *Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act*, <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/18/contents>

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Many thanks to Allan Francis and Christopher Rainger for their assistance and co-operation with the production of this Project Design.

Special thanks also to the numerous YAT staff members who have provided advice and guidance in the production of this document.

## APPENDIX 1 – AUDIENCE RESEARCH

# Training dig Nov 2019

This report was generated on 30/01/20. Overall 91 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes.

## What areas of archaeology would you most like to gain more experience in? Please tick all that apply.

General excavation and on-site recording (81)	89.0%	Conservation (46)	50.5%	Animal bone (37)	40.7%
Small finds identification and research (58)	63.7%	Urban archaeology (44)	48.4%	Rural archaeology (34)	37.4%
Finds processing (49)	53.8%	Ceramics (39)	42.9%	Photography (31)	34.1%
Human bone (49)	53.8%	Post-excavation analyses, illustration and report writing (38)	41.8%	Building recording (30)	33.0%

## What length of course are you most interested in attending?

1 week (32)	35.2%	Weekend (13)	14.3%
1-2 day taster session (23)	25.3%	4 week (7)	7.7%
2 week (13)	14.3%	3 week (3)	3.3%

## Which of these best describes the kind of course you'd like to attend?

A course for people with some prior experience to further develop and expand upon existing skills (44)	48.4%
An introductory level course that requires no prior experience (25)	27.5%
An intensive course that will provide me with a basic working knowledge of a method or technique (10)	11.0%
A fully accredited course (10)	11.0%
An archaeological experience – i.e. a behind the scenes tour of an excavation. (2)	2.2%

## What kind of course interests you most?

A combination of both (51)	56.0%
On-site training (40)	44.0%
Classroom-based training (-)	-



Training dig Nov 2019

**Why do you wish to attend an archaeological training course? Please tick all that apply.**

I'm interested in archaeology and like to get involved in my spare time (65)	71.4%	I'm considering studying archaeology or changing career and would like to try it out (12)	13.2%
Other (17)	18.7%		
I'm involved with a community archaeology project and would like to gain some useful skills (16)	17.6%	It is a requirement of my university course (5)	5.5%
To get a look behind the scenes of a live excavation (13)	14.3%	I'd like to book a course as a gift for a friend or family member (3)	3.3%

**Have you attend a training course before?**

Yes, with YAT (48)	52.7%
No (30)	33.0%
Yes, with another project (13)	14.3%

**What most attracts you to taking part in a York Archaeological Trust project?**

YAT's reputation and history (36)	40.0%	I am considering a career in archaeology and would like to work in the area (10)	11.1%
The deeply stratified and well-preserved archaeology of York (22)	24.4%	Other (3)	3.3%
YAT carries out archaeological research and public presentation and I am interested in both (16)	17.8%	I'm visiting the city and this is one of numerous activities I would like to take part in (2)	2.2%
		YAT is an educational charity (1)	1.1%

**Would you be interested in YAT/Archaeology Live! memorabilia such as T-shirts, hats, mugs, etc?**

Yes (57)	63.3%
No (33)	36.7%

**Is there a particular type of archaeology that you'd like to learn more about?**

No, I'm interested in all kinds of archaeology (41)	45.1%	Medieval (27)	29.7%	Modern (i.e. WW2) (4)	4.4%
Early medieval (Viking, Saxon) (37)	40.7%	Prehistoric (26)	28.6%	Victorian (3)	3.3%
Roman (36)	39.6%	Post-medieval (9)	9.9%	Industrial (3)	3.3%

**Please state what age bracket you fall into.**

56-65 (24)	26.4%	46-55 (12)	13.2%
66-75 (21)	23.1%	26-35 (9)	9.9%
17-25 (13)	14.3%	Under 16 (-)	-
36-45 (13)	14.3%	Over 75 (-)	-

## APPENDIX 2 – EXAMPLE LESSON PLAN

**Archaeology Live! 2020 – Pottery handling session  
Lesson Plan**

	<b>Teacher:</b>	Arran Johnson		<b>Date:</b>	TBC		<b>Location:</b>	Old St. Oswald's	
	<b>Course/Topic:</b>	Pottery handling session		<b>Time:</b>	TBC		<b>Duration:</b>	2.25 hours	
<b>Aims:</b>		<b>To introduce trainees to:</b> How the production of pottery was developed and how this has changed. How assemblages can differ in different localities. How to handle objects in the reference collection safely. How to recognise key clues in the form, fabric, colour, etc. that may provide a spot date. The differences between on-site and specialist assessment. What ceramics can (and can't) tell you about a site.			<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>		<b>Participant will be able to:</b> Understand how and why ceramic artefacts change over time. Understand the broad historic context of York in each major historic period. Understand the concept of a spot date and typological dating. Be confident holding and inspecting ceramic artefacts. Be able to look at a pot sherd and consider key elements that may be able to provide a spot date. Be able to recognise broad trends within a typical York assemblage Understand the importance of pottery in relation to understanding trade, economics and social status.		
<b>Time</b>		<b>Topics</b>	<b>Sub Section</b>	<b>Content</b>		<b>Resources</b>	<b>Evaluation Method</b>	<b>Initials</b>	
10:45	5 mins	Introductions							
10:50	5 mins	Non-specialist assessment	Producing on-site spot dates	Diagnostic elements of ceramic finds, i.e. rim, fabric, reduced vs. oxidised, etc. How a spot date is defined What is a typology? Relative dating vs. absolute dating Importance of spot date to initial interpretation		Handling collection		AJ	
10:55	10 mins	Prehistoric wares	Technology and typical forms and fabrics	Historic overview Absence of wheel-thrown and kiln-fired wares Typical diagnostic elements Risk of confusion with Anglian period wares		Handling collection and images/replicas of complete examples	Q+A	AJ	
11:05	15 mins	Roman wares	Technology and typical forms and fabrics	Historic overview Introduction of wheel-thrown and kiln-fired wares Mass production and increased variety of wares Highly diagnostic wares (i.e. Samian, amphorae)		Handling collection and images/replicas of complete examples	Q+A	AJ	

11:20	15 mins	Early medieval wares	Technology and typical forms and fabrics	Historic overview Retraction of technology in post-Roman period Re-introduction of wheel-thrown and kiln fired wares Anglo-Scandinavian wares (and introduction to different tradition outside of the Danelaw)	Handling collection and images/replicas of complete examples	Q+A	AJ
11:35	15 mins	Medieval wares	Technology and typical forms and fabrics	Historic overview Transition from unglazed gritty wares to ornate glazed wares Impact of Black Death, shift in focus towards Humber type wares Pottery as performance on the 'high table'	Handling collection and images/replicas of complete examples	Q+A	AJ
11:55	10 mins	Post-medieval wares	Technology and typical forms and fabrics	Historic overview Impact of industrialisation of production and increase of international trade	Handling collection and images/replicas of complete examples	Q+A	AJ
12:05	10 mins	Imported wares	Technology and typical forms and fabrics	Possibility of confusion in dating (i.e. German Stonewares) Importance of local clays, minerals, etc.	Handling collection and images/replicas of complete examples	Q+A	AJ
12.15	10 min	Practical exercise		Group activity sorting a mixed unstratified assemblage into rough chronological order.	Reference collection	Group activity	AJ
12.25	5 mins	Conclusions and Q+A		Pottery useful but over-represented in archaeological record Useful for dating but also offers insight to other aspects of life Importance of day to day objects in understanding and visualising life in the past			AJ
12:30		Close					

**Differentiation:**

Learning disability; hand out and power points in advance.

Difficulty using equipment; buddying.

Differing objects for variation

## APPENDIX 3 – CIFA APPROVED TRAINING LETTER



York Archaeological Trust  
Cuthbert Morrell House  
47 Aldwark  
York  
YO1 7BX

10 September 2020

**Subject: Approval of excavation training/field school(s)**

Dear Arran,

This letter is to confirm that York Archaeological Trust's **Archaeology Live! Training Excavation** has been approved by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists as delivering high quality training which meets Cifa criteria and is mapped to appropriate National Occupational Standards.

Approval is for a three year term, subject to annual updates, and within that time period the training can be run as many times as you like. If you would like it advertised on our website and in our regular jobs bulletin (JIST) please send us advertising copy.

I have attached colour and black & white versions of the training approval logo, plus directions for its use. You are welcome to use the logo to publicise the approved excavation training/field school detailed above.

Please do contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Welch BA MA ACIFA  
Professional Development and Practice Coordinator, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

[www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net) [anna.welch@archaeologists.net](mailto:anna.welch@archaeologists.net)  
Power Steele Building, Wessex Hall, Whiteknights Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 6DE  
T: 01189 662841

A professional institute for the study and care of the historic environment

Power Steele Building, Wessex Hall, Whiteknights Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 6DE  
T: 01189 662841 | [admin@archaeologists.net](mailto:admin@archaeologists.net) | [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net)

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PLATES



Plate 1 Excerpt from 1852 OS map (image courtesy of FFH).





**Plate 2** North facing view of Old St. Oswald's taken from the Lych Gate

## FIGURES



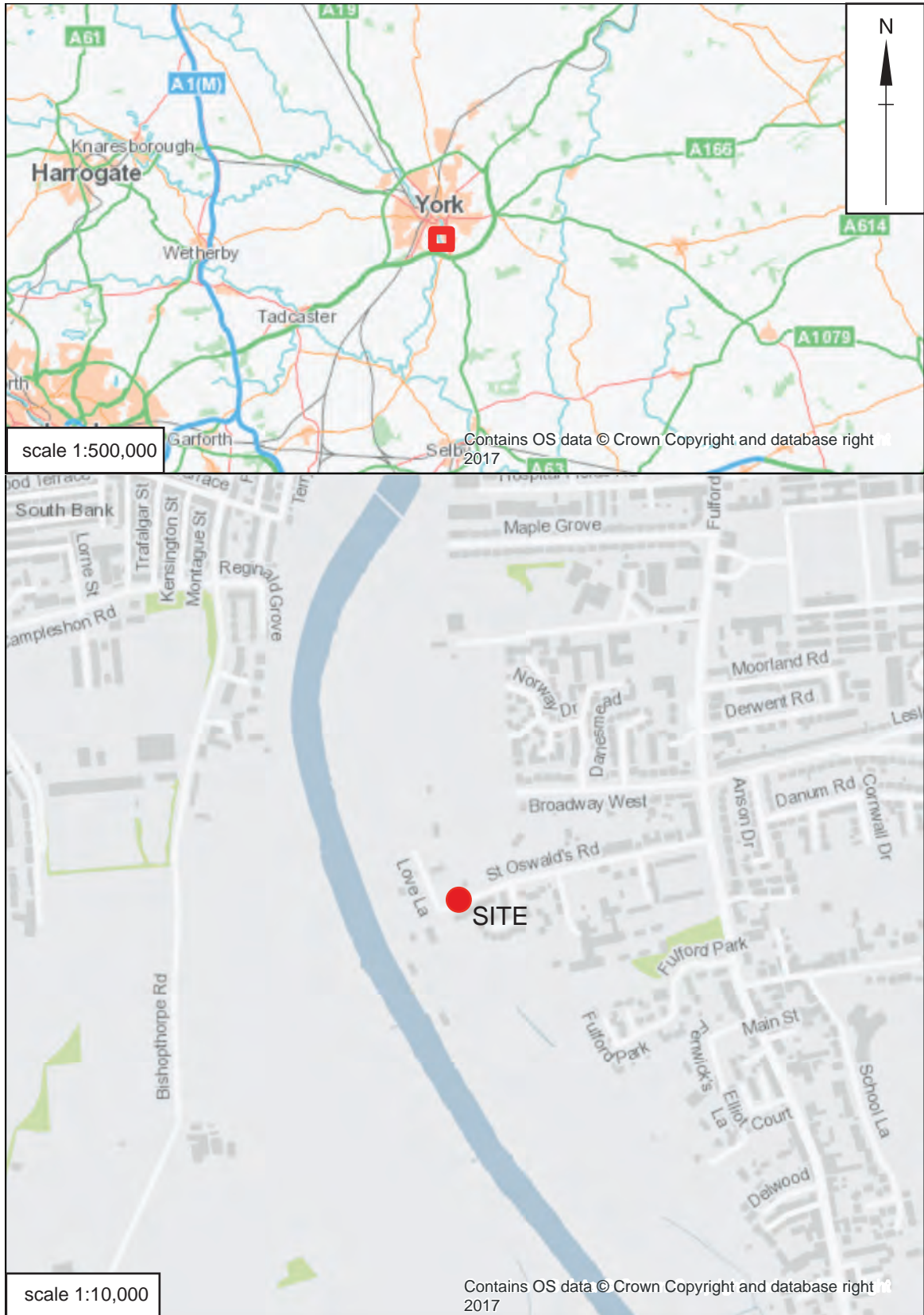
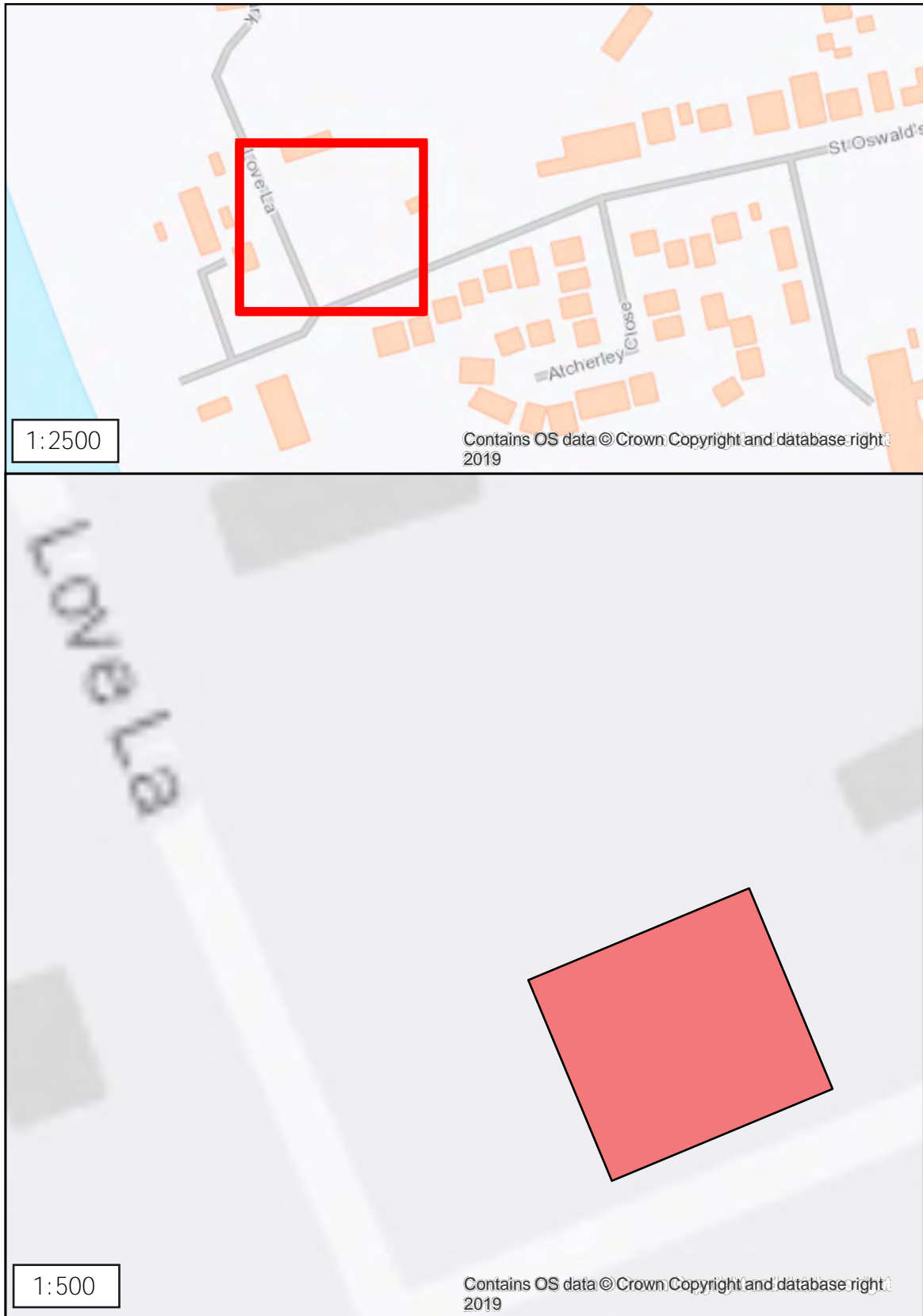


Fig. 1. Site location



 Approximate location of possible excavation area.

Fig. 2. Works location

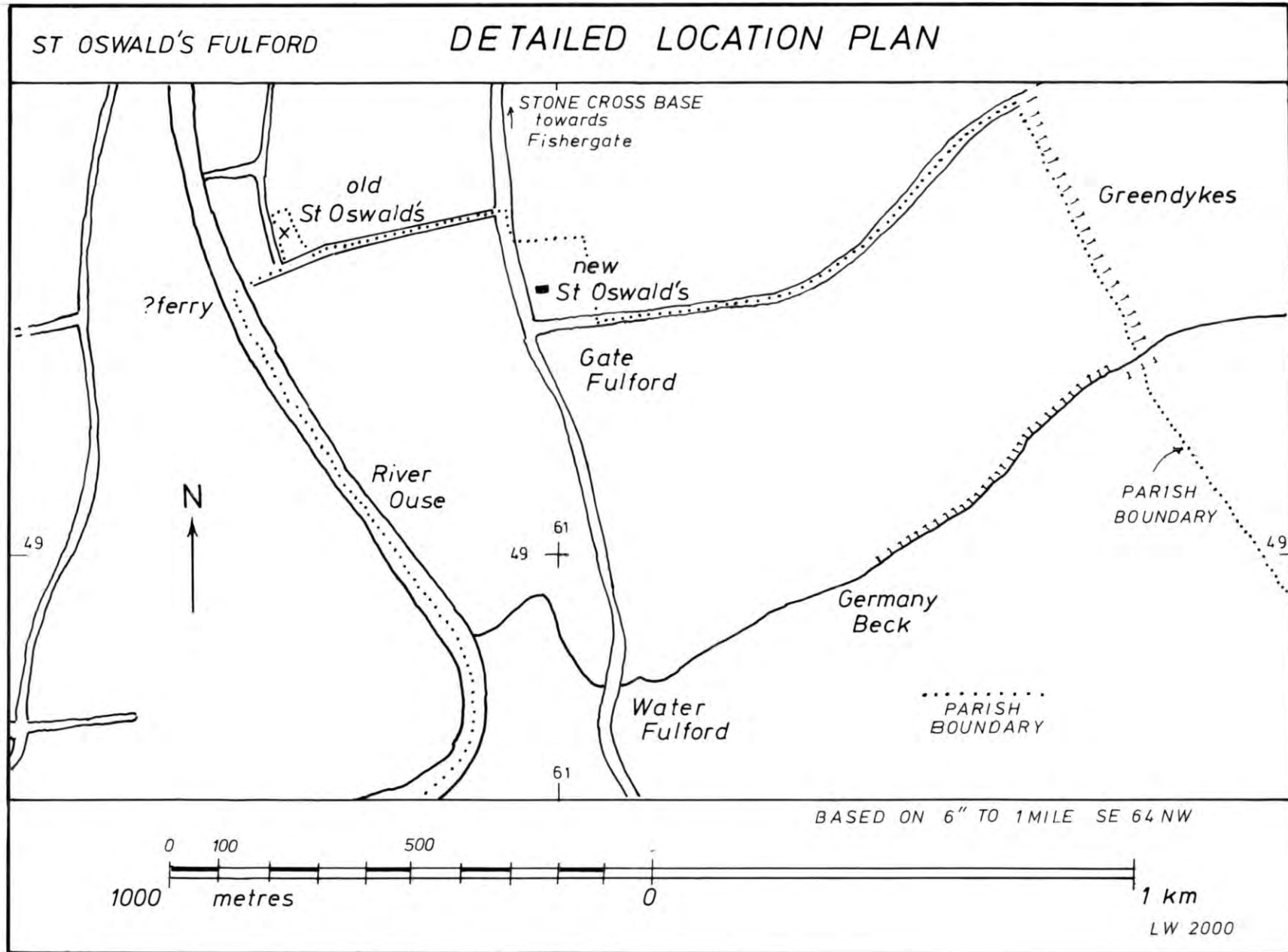


Fig. 3. Site location (Reproduced from Wailes and Rahtz 2000).

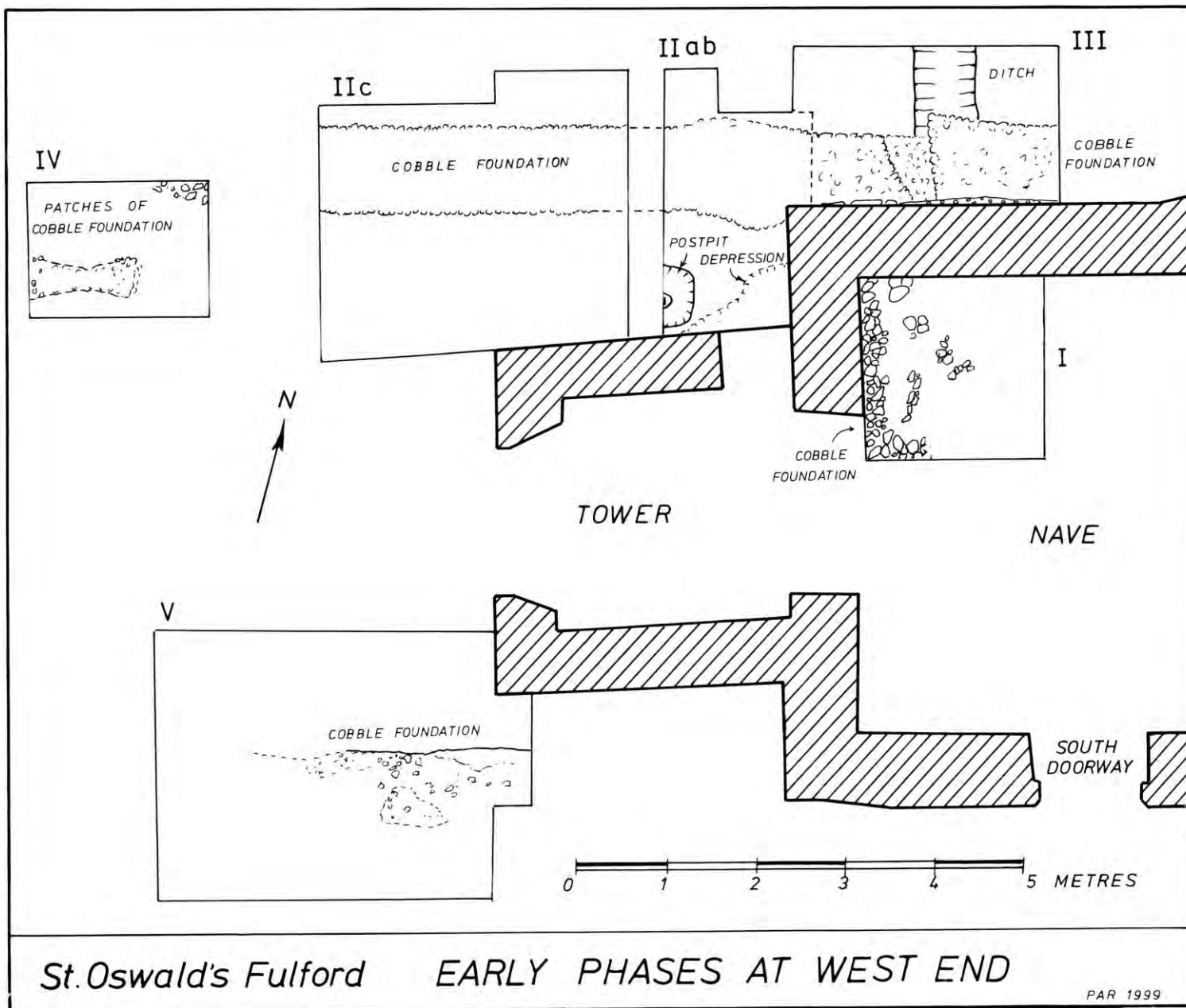
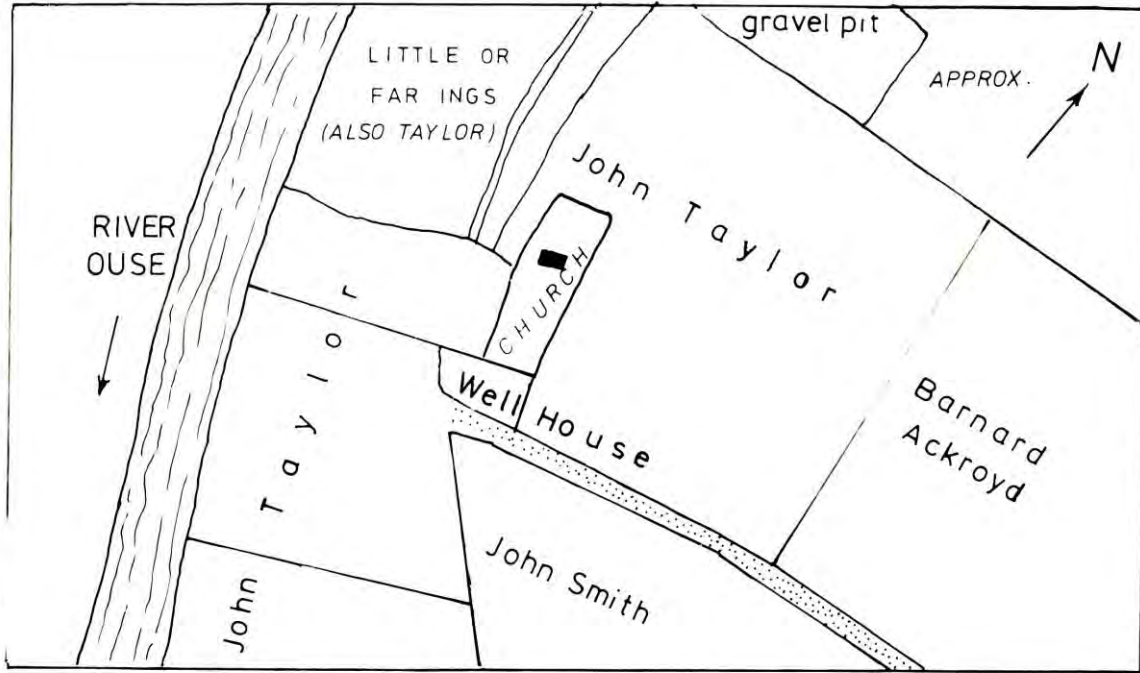


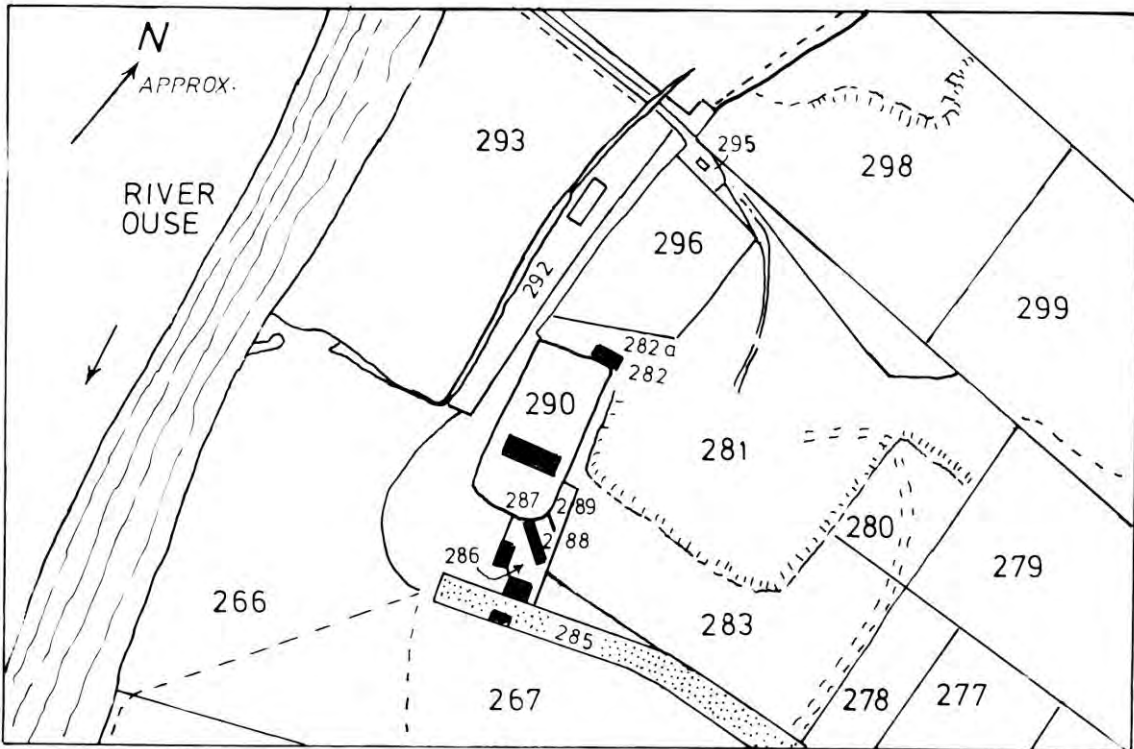
Fig. 4. Location of 1980-87 excavations (Reproduced from Watts and Rahtz 2000).



St Oswald's Fulford THE CHURCHYARD I



1745 YAS DD 88/8 part



NOT DATED, BUT post ~1775

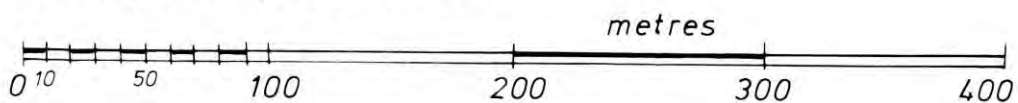


Fig. 5. 18th-19th century site layout (Reproduced from Wailes and Rahtz 2000).

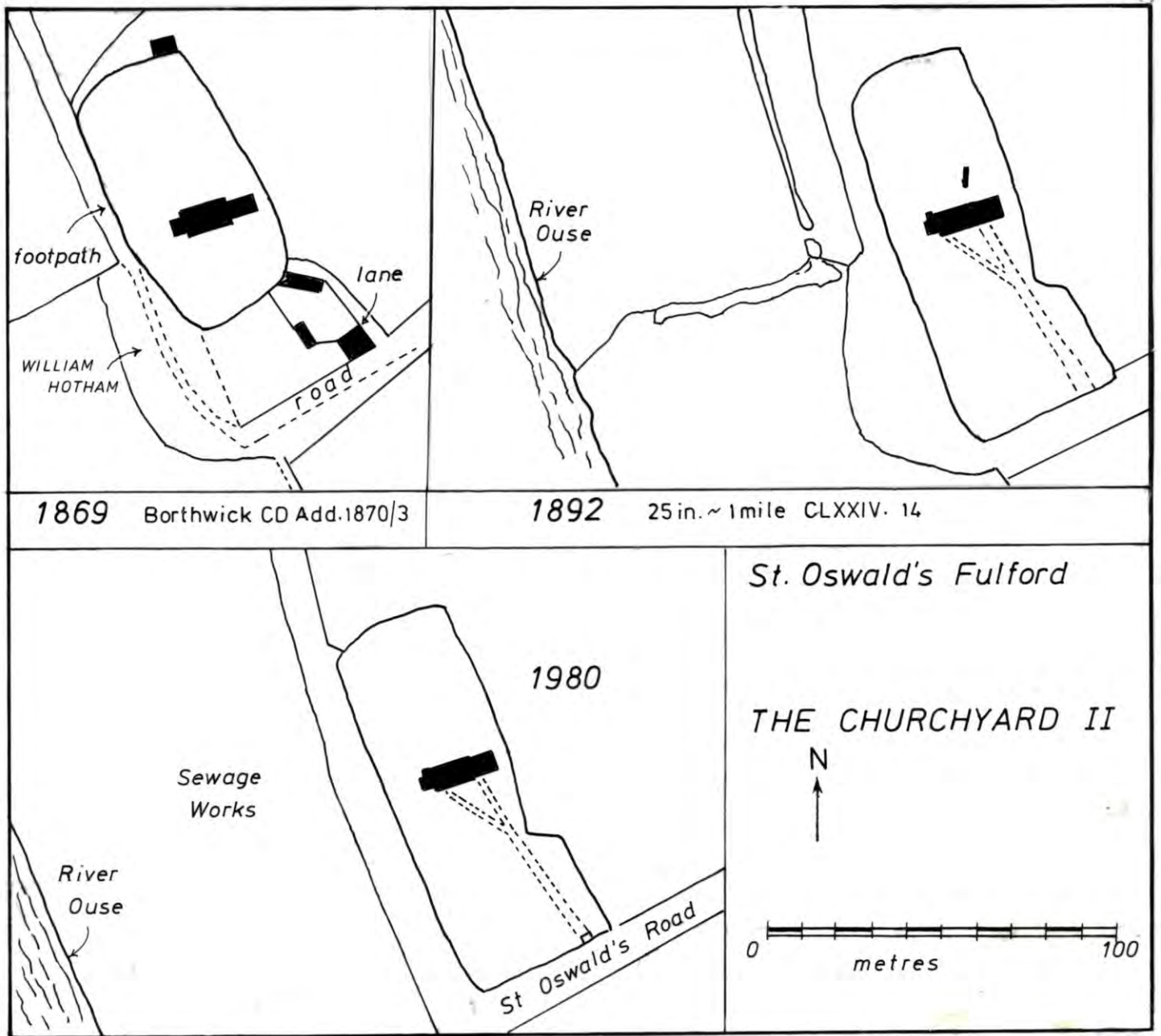


Fig. 6. Late 19th century development of the site (reproduced from Wailes and Rahtz 2000).



Fig. 7. Excerpt from Place's drawing of 1705 (top) and Nicholson's drawing of c. 1820 (bottom). The Well House buildings are highlighted in red. Images courtesy of Allan Francis.





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York Archaeological Trust undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for commercial, academic and charitable clients. We manage projects, provide professional advice and fieldwork to ensure a high quality, cost effective archaeological and heritage service. Our staff have a considerable depth and variety of professional experience and an international reputation for research, development and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology. Based in York, Sheffield, Nottingham and Glasgow the Trust's services are available throughout Britain and beyond.



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**York Archaeological Trust, Cuthbert Morrell House, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX**

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024

Email: [archaeology@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:archaeology@yorkat.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk>

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