

# Old St Oswald's Church, Fulford

## The Churchyard

- 1 -

StO.7

(St Oswald's Old Church, Fulford)

### THE CHURCHYARD

X From AD1100, St Oswald's was owned by St Mary's Abey, York. It was administered by St Olaf's church, the parish church of St Mary's and its grounds; the Fulford dead had normally to be taken to St Olaf's for burial. At the time of the Black Death, the graveyard of St Oswald's was consecrated for burials, though the mandate clearly states this was only a temporary measure and afterwards burials had to be made again at St Olaf's, at least until the 16th century (p 000 LW text; and J Kaner). The earliest documented burial was in 1691 (from Roy Grant's notes - but now see JK). In 1721, the Parochial Return ordered 'the deal fence of the churchyard to be railed and painted' (Borthwick Institute Y/V.Ret.2.2).

The first map to show the churchyard is of 1745 (fig 000, from part of Y.A.S.DD88/8, kindly provided for us in 1987 by Judith Boardman, then at the Archive section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society in Leeds). Here the churchyard is shown as an irregular rectangle c 76 x 24m (c0.18ha), with the church a little north of the centre. To the south the map shows a property named Well House, though its location is ambiguous and there is no plan of it; but it was certainly between the churchyard and the road later to be St Oswald's Road.

X Another map (also from Y.A.S.DD 88/8) is not dated, but is clearly later than 1775-6, as it shows the open fields, and also the Barracks (built in 1775-6, Allison ed 1976, 30). In this, the churchyard has apparently been truncated lengthwise, but widened, being now 66 x 33m (0.21ha) (but both pairs of measurements may not be accurate in the

plans). The church is now shown rather south of centre; and there are now three buildings between the churchyard and the road. A similar arrangement is seen in the 1853 6 inches to 1 mile <sup>map</sup> (sheet 174). This ~~map~~ also shows a spring in the land between the churchyard and the river, close to the river bank; and a number of gravel pits in the area to north and east of the churchyard.

//  
X In 1869, the churchyard was extended: a 'piece or parcel of grass land', containing 'one rood and eight perches' (c0.1ha), and a 'cottage or tenement with the Barn Stables and hereditaments now standing' were granted to the church for this extension; these are the buildings which are indicated in the post-1745 plan; and more accurately in a plan of 1870 (fig 000; from Borthwick CD. Add 1870/3), presumably that made for the 1869 grant arrangements. here the churchyard is with a sub-oval plan of c0.25ha (with church still to south of centre), separated by properties from the road, with a footpath on the west side and a lane leading from the road, on the east side.

X The extended churchyard is shown in the 1892 OS 1:1250 map (Yorkshire Sheet ~~EXIV~~<sup>174</sup>.14). It has by this time a nearly straight west side and an eastern side, whose 'kink' reflects the earlier lane; the south side fronts St Oswald's Raod<sup>oa</sup>. The maximum dimensions are 110 x 44m, enclosing c0.45ha; now with the church nearly central.

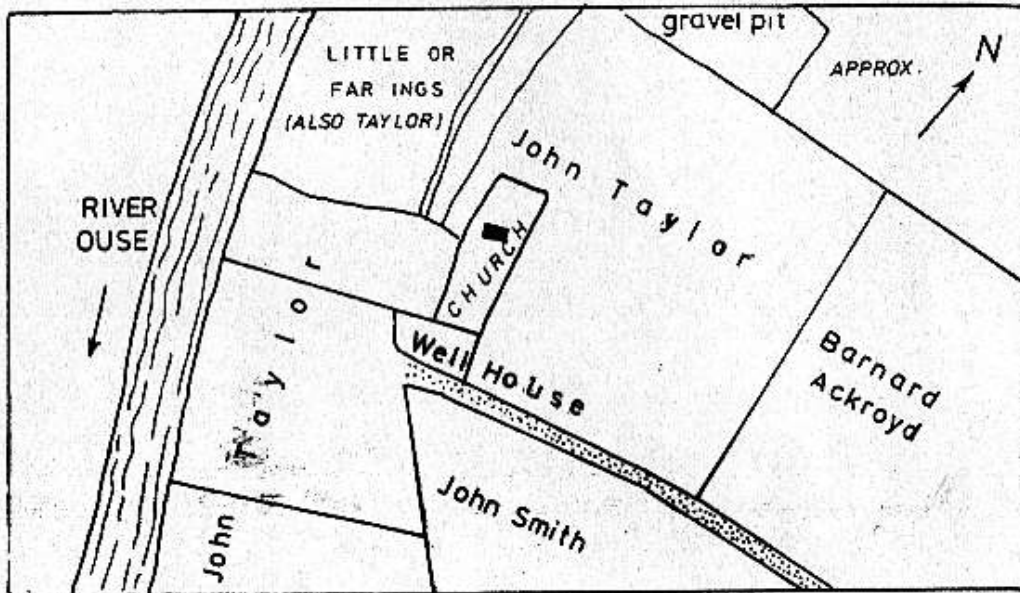
By 000, the lych-gate has been added (1:1250 map, ref....) and the sewage works have been built to the east.

In 1980, the churchyard was again truncated, by the cutting off of the northern part (see fig 000), in part of the church conversion. The gravestones in the surviving part were largely cleared in the spring of 1980, and stacked around the perimeter. This was part of the conditions

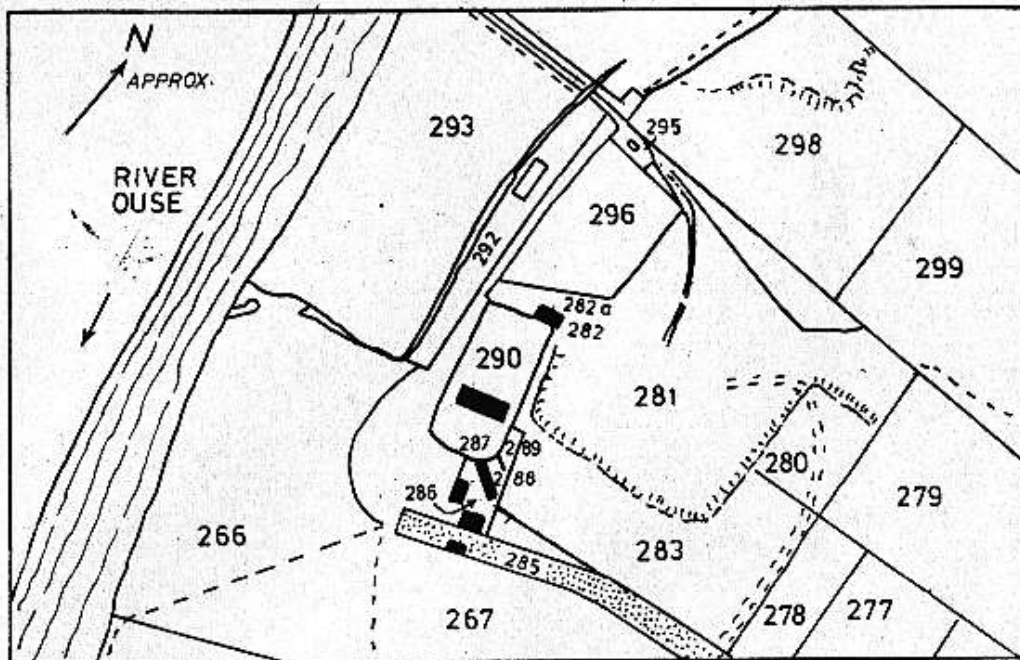
of sale of the church property to Roy Grant, who 'wanted a garden rather than a graveyard' (pers comm Roy Grant). We had not been contacted by Mr Grant at that stage, so we did not have any opportunity to persuade him to leave the stones.

The gravestones have been variously recorded, partly while they were still *in situ* (Pickering and Briddon 1975, 59-60). A record also exists in the Borthwick Institute; this comprises a plan, and a list of inscriptions, but not the iconography or other data <sup>have been</sup> ~~are~~ thought necessary in recent times. All the available data were, however, <sup>collected</sup> ~~collected~~ by Kate Buckingham in 1980, for a BA Thesis in the Department of Archaeology, University of York (refs needed).

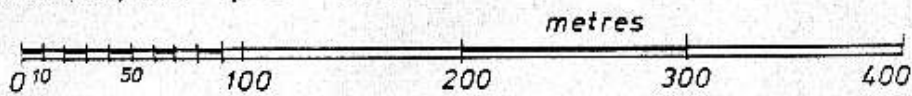
St Oswald's Fulford THE CHURCHYARD I

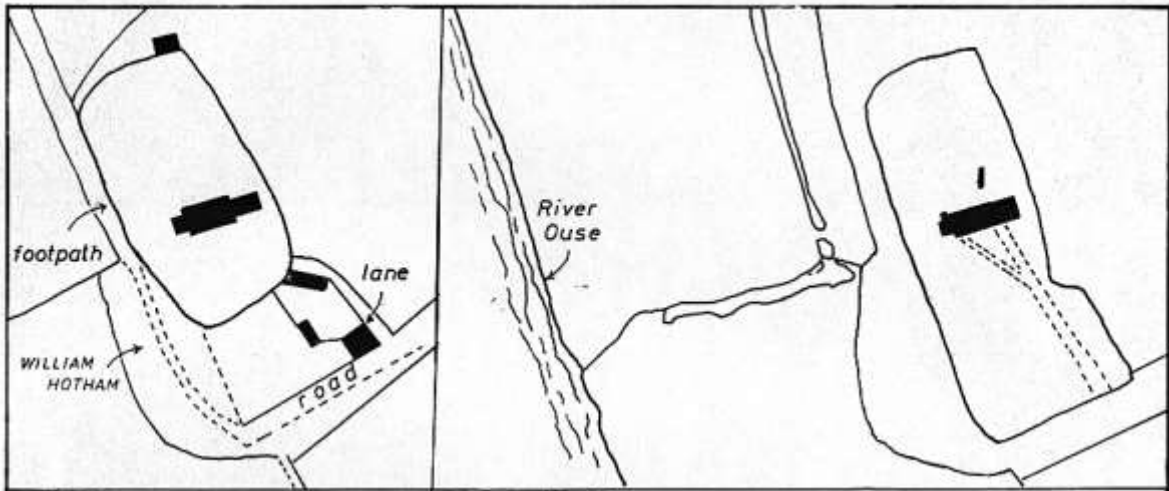


1745 YAS DD 88/8 part



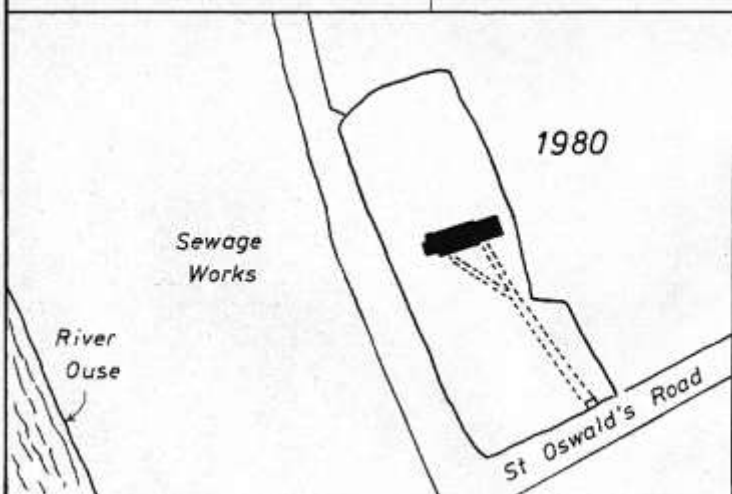
NOT DATED, BUT post-1775





1869 Borthwick CD Add.1870/3

1892 25in. ~ 1mile CLXXIV. 14



1980

St. Oswald's Fulford

THE CHURCHYARD II

