

York Museums Trust

*Data Structure Report (DSR) for an Archaeological Watching
Brief: York Museum Gardens, St Mary's Abbey (South
Transept)*



Adam Parker
Assistant Curator of Archaeology
April 2015

YORYM : 2015.127

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
 - 1.1 Location
 - 1.2 Geology
 - 1.3 Site History
 - 1.4 Recent Archaeological Investigations
 - 1.5 Methodology
- 2.0 Results
 - 2.1 Contextual Report
 - 2.1.1 Trench 1
 - 2.2 Finds
 - 2.3 Interpretation
- 3.0 Conclusions
- 4.0 Bibliography
- 5.0 Appendix

List of Figures

- Figure 1: *Maps showing the location of the investigations within York.*
- Figure 2: *Map showing the location of St Mary's Abbey and its adjacent structures.*
- Figure 3: *Photograph, looking north-west, of the Abbey ruins in drought, 2013.*
- Figure 4: *CAD digitisation showing location of fibre optic cable trench through Abbey ruins, marked as a green line.*
- Figure 5: *CAD digitisation showing location of archaeological trench (red) on the line of the fibre optic cable trench (green).*
- Figure 6: *CAD digitisation showing topographical survey results (Greenhatch Group, 2011). The reduction in level of the investigation area is show. An approximate location of the trench is included in red.*
- Figure 7: *1902 plan of St. Mary's Abbey, based on 1827-9 and 1901-2 excavations. Offprint in the archive of the Yorkshire Museum.*
- Figure 8: *Central section of the Abbey church plan, as drawn by Edwin Ridsdale Tate, 1912, based on plans originally published by G.T. Andrews and R.H. Sharpe, 1827-8.*
- Figure 9: *South transept, as drawn by Ridsdale Tate (close up of Fig.8).*
- Figure 10: *Plan of excavation overlaid with Ridsdale Tate's 1912 plan. The NW wall of the Yorkshire Museum is shown as a broken line at the right extremity of Tate's plan.*
- Figure 11: *Photograph, looking NE, of consolidation works on the north transept in advance of planning out of the Abbey. Photo by RCHME in the archive of the Yorkshire Museum.*
- Figure 12: *Photograph, looking NW, of consolidation works on the north transept in advance of planning out of the Abbey. Photo by RCHME in the archive of the Yorkshire Museum.*
- Figure 13: *Plan of Trench 1. Note the consolidated remains of the NE wall of the south Transept. The Yorkshire Museum building is located 1m from the eastern terminus of the trench.*
- Figure 14: *Section of Trench 1. Note the consolidated remains of the NE wall of the south Transept plotted in for reference. See Fig. 13 for the relationship between the wall and the trench. The Yorkshire Museum building is located 1m from the eastern terminus of the trench.*

1.0 Introduction

A major landscaping and gardening project by York Museums Trust (YMT) intends to reclaim unused land between the York Art Gallery and Kings' Manor area and develop the North-West corner of the precinct of St. Mary's Abbey as part of a wider scheme of landscaping developments within the environs of the Museum Gardens, York.

In advance of the installation of a fibre optic cable across the line of the site, investigations to establish the nature and condition of deposits immediately below the ground surface of St. Mary's Abbey were required. An archaeological watching brief, undertaken by York Museums Trust from 30th-31st March 2015, recorded the three trenches excavated as part of this scheme of works. Ground penetrating works undertaken after the evaluation trenches encountered further *in situ* archaeological remains. An excavation was carried out from 10th-15th April 2015 by York Museums Trust staff to investigate the nature of the remains.

1.1 Location Geology

The area of investigation is a publically accessible area within the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey (a Grade I listed property¹), centred at NGR SE 59941 52176 (FIG. 1). The abbey precinct is bordered by a stone wall, itself a Scheduled Monument.² The immediate vicinity also encompasses a 20th Century bowling green (the 'South Bowling Green') on the site. At the south-west edge the abbey is bordered by the boundary wall of St. Olaf's Church, and is open to the York Museum Gardens at the south and south-east. The east wall of the abbey church is adjacent to the Yorkshire Museum (FIG.2).

The entire investigation area, including the southern bowling green, is contained within the bounds of York Museum Gardens, a Grade II listed Park and Garden.³ It is, additionally, within the bounds of the Scheduled Monument areas of both St. Mary's Abbey and the Abbey Precinct Walls. The Museum Gardens are under the management of York Museums Trust.

All of the features listed above are within the York Central Historic Core Conservation Area and Area of Archaeological Importance. Full planning permission for the redevelopment project was granted by City of York Council on 2nd January 2015 (ref: 14/02246/FUL) and Scheduled Monument Consent for the project granted by English Heritage on 12th December 2014 (ref: S00097484). The investigations exceeded the arrangements of the original SMC in consultation with Keith Emerick (Historic England), Inspector for Ancient Monuments.

¹ English Heritage monument no: 56602 http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=56602 (accessed 31-03-2015)

² English heritage monument no: 534946 http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=534946 (accessed 31-03-2015)

³ English Heritage, Heritage List No. 1000117 <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1000117> (Accessed 31-03-2015)

1.2 Geology

The underlying bedrock is of the Sherwood Sandstone Group. This sedimentary bedrock formed in the Triassic and Permian periods approximately 229- 271 million years ago. The local environment was previously dominated by rivers. These rocks were formed by rivers depositing sand and gravel within channels creating river terraces, while overbank flooding deposited silt and clays in the form of alluvium. The bedrock is covered by a superficial layer of gravelly sandy clay deposits formed in the Quaternary period, up to two million years ago. During these ice age conditions, seasonal and postglacial melt-waters deposited sand and gravel till moraines⁴.

⁴ www.bgs.ac.uk accessed (21-03-2014)

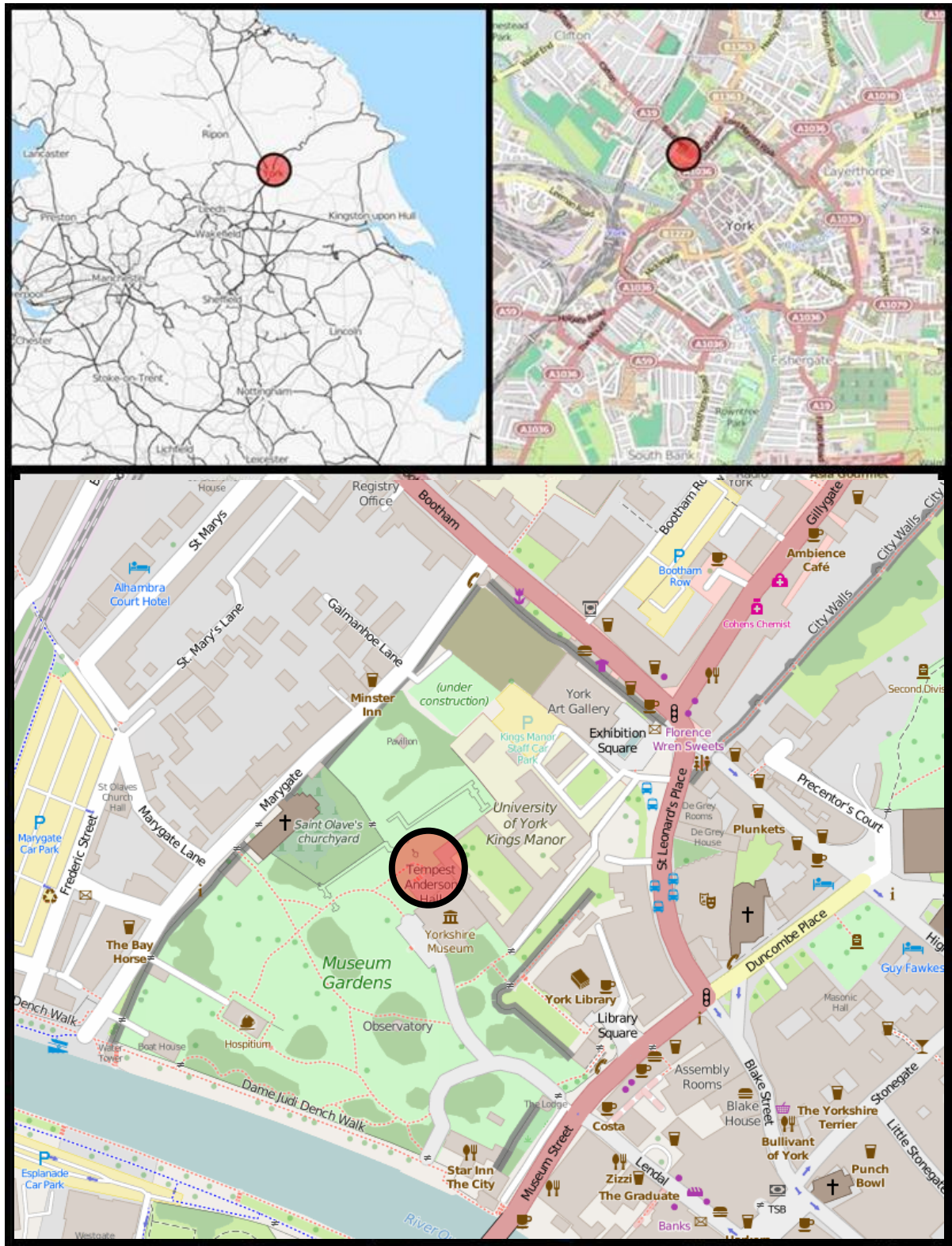


Figure 1: Maps showing the location of the investigations within York.

© OpenStreetMap Contributors

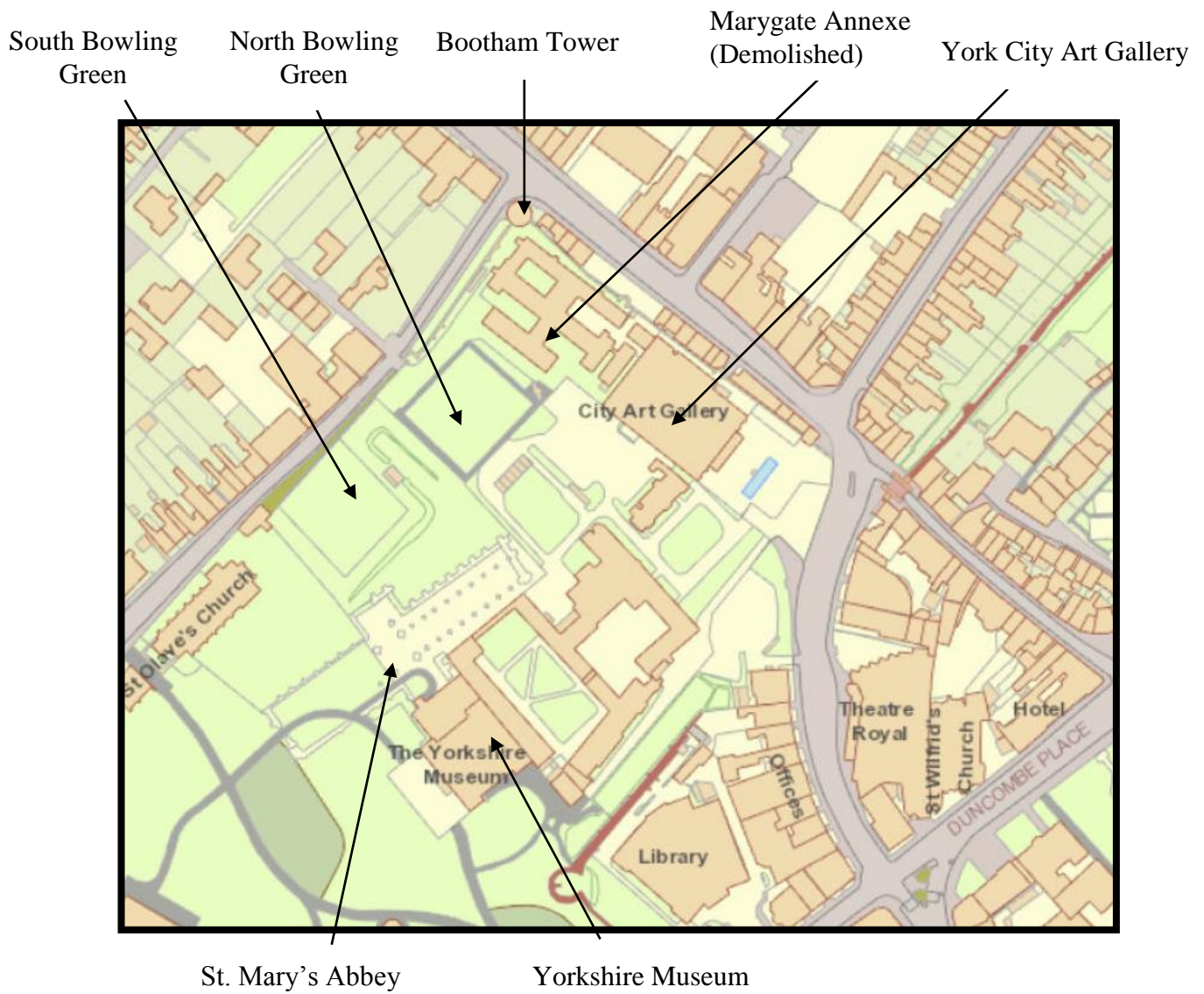


Figure 2: Map showing the location of St Mary's Abbey and its adjacent structures.

© Crown copyright and database rights 2014 Ordnance Survey 10002081

1.3 Site History

Roman

The north-east side of the St Mary's Abbey precinct is bounded by one of the main Roman approach roads from the north-west, approximately along the line of present day Bootham⁵. It entered the Roman fortress by the north-west gate (*porta principalis dextra*) on the site now occupied by Bootham Bar, immediately to the north-east of the precinct. Inhumations and cremations are recorded further west along this road.

A feature about which there has been some speculation is a proposed 'annexe' or 'fortified enclosure' on the north-west side of the fortress.⁶ Within the proposed enclosure Roman discoveries include those by S.E. Miller in 1928 in the garden of King's Manor (c. SE6001 5224). A street running north-west / south-east, building remains and occupation deposits were found. Excavations in the early 1950s by George Willmot, the then curator of the Yorkshire Museum, have never been formally published but identified a series of Roman layers and structures dating from the late first century AD beneath the south aisle of the church.⁷

Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian

Little is known of the abbey precinct between the end of the Roman period and the foundation of St Mary's Abbey in the late 11th century. During his excavations of 1952-6 George Wilmott claimed to have found some Anglian pot sherds including a sherd of Ipswich ware. In addition, 9th century metal work from his sites included a strap-end, pin, buckle and ring.⁸ A single rim sherd of Stamford ware was recovered during a watching brief in the Abbey site by YMT.⁹

In the Anglo-Scandinavian period (c.866 – 1066) it is thought that the precinct was the site of Earlsburh, referred to in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in connection with Siward, Earl of Northumbria, who died in 1055. He was buried in the church of St Olaf in Marygate which he is said to have founded.

Medieval

St Mary's Abbey was founded in 1088 on land given to monks of the Benedictine Order by William II. The plan of the Norman church and some of the claustral buildings were revealed in excavations in the 1820s.¹⁰ In the 13th Century a major rebuilding of the church began under Simon de Warwick and work subsequently took place on renewing and expanding the surrounding buildings and infrastructure – the Abbey became the wealthiest and most powerful monastery in the north.¹¹ Dissolution

⁵ RCHME 1962, 2-3

⁶ RCHME 1962, 45-7

⁷ Willmot 1953, 22-3

⁸ Tweddle *et al.* 1999

⁹ Parker 2015b, 18

¹⁰ Willmot 1953; Wellbeloved 1829; Wilson and Mee 2009

¹¹ Wilson and Burton 1988, 1

of the abbey in the early 16th Century under the Reformation established the extent to which much of the structure has survived.

Post-Medieval to Modern

From the 16th century onwards this land was used as gardens as part of the King's Manor complex and were retained in private ownership. The Yorkshire Philosophical Society acquired the gardens in 1828 in advance of construction of the Yorkshire Museum on the site in 1830. The gardens were landscaped by architect Sir John Murray Naysmith in a gardenesque style, and opened to the public in 1835. In 1960 the gardens and abbey site passed into the trust of the City of York Council, where it became a free public park. Since 2002 the Museum Gardens site has been managed by York Museums Trust.

1.4 Recent Archaeological Investigations

The area beneath the modern Yorkshire Museum was excavated by Charles Wellbeloved in 1827-9. Excavations of the Abbey Church were undertaken in the early 20th Century under Brierly and added to by Walter Harvey-Brook, the Honorary Curator of Medieval Archaeology at the Yorkshire Museum, in 1912-14. Further investigations were undertaken in the 1950s by George Willmot.¹²

Very little archaeological investigation has occurred in the immediate vicinity of the abbey in the previous 30 years. A 1995 watching brief was undertaken by YAT in advance of a cable trench dug during the renovation of St. Mary's Tower on the northern corner of the precinct.¹³ An archaeological evaluation and training dig in 2005 encompassed trenches within the immediate vicinity of the Marygate complex,¹⁴ and a 2014 watching brief centred on the Marygate Annexe complex to the north.¹⁵ Investigations by York Archaeological Trust (YAT) in 1986 sought to establish the relationship between the Tempest Anderson Hall and the south eastern wall of the south transept.¹⁶ Watching briefs undertaken by York Museums Trust, as part of the current scheme of investigations, in September 2014 and January 2015 on the North and South Bowling Greens, respectively, recorded the nature of deposits on these sites.¹⁷ An earlier 2015 watching brief undertaken as part of this scheme of works investigated three trenches across the north transept wall boundary and the nave, following the line of a proposed fibre optic cable.¹⁸ Additionally, areas containing *in situ* archaeological deposits and architectural features near the surface were revealed as grass marks during drought in 2013 (FIG.3).



Figure 3: *Photograph, looking north-west, of the Abbey ruins in drought, 2013.*

¹² Brierly 1901; 1902; Brook 1914; Willmot 1953

¹³ YAT Gazetteer ref: 1995.0360

¹⁴ Kendall 2005

¹⁵ Parker 2014a

¹⁶ YAT 1986.19; Wilson and Mee 2009, 7, n.b. A full copy of this report was not available from YAT at the time of writing

¹⁷ Parker 2014b; Parker 2015a

¹⁸ Parker 2015b

1.5 Methodology

This archaeological watching brief is undertaken following a scheme of investigations requested by Historic England in advance of landscaping work to ascertain the nature and condition of any deposits immediately beneath the surface level of St Mary's Abbey penetrated by the line of a fibre optic cable installation trench (FIG. 4).¹⁹ Trenches were located along the agreed line of the cable trench to investigate subterranean features potentially at risk from its installation. All archaeological excavation work was undertaken by YMT staff. Landscaping work was all undertaken by Simpson (York) Ltd and the sub-contractor SRC Construction.

Investigations were undertaken in compliance with excavations guidelines outlined by City of York Council.

The line of the cable trench was established by SRC, following the submitted plan. The line of the trench between its second (eastern) junction and the terminal at the north west wall of the Yorkshire Museum had not originally been excavated as part of the investigation requirements of the SMC. YMT staff were on site in advance of the final phase of this work. Archaeological deposits were encountered on the morning of 10th April 2015 and YMT archaeological staff requested to investigate.

The site was taken over by YMT following consultation with site staff and the excavation of deposits to a max depth of 50cm undertaken. Consultation with Historic England was undertaken the same day and the decision made to extend the width of the trench from 20cm to 1m to establish the nature of deposits and attempt to locate an alternative route for the cable.

Trench 1, the only trench excavated as part of this brief, followed the line of the cable trench from a point adjacent to the junction of the northeast wall of the south transept and the southeast wall of the north section of the nave, to its junction with the paving immediately exterior of the northwest of the Yorkshire Museum.

All archaeological features were planned and recorded by Adam Parker (Assistant Curator of Archaeology, York Museums Trust) on 10th-15th April 2015. In addition to excavation, a minimum 50% representative sample of the spoil was manually sifted for surviving archaeological material.

Destruction layers surrounding this site contain unstratified small finds of a Roman to Modern date. Previously encountered remains from landscaping and demolition layers within the Museum Gardens include large quantities of fragmentary animal bone, architectural fragments associated with St. Mary's Abbey and occasional ceramics of a Roman or Medieval date.²⁰ At depths above 1m pre-19th century finds are usually residual.

¹⁹ Parker 2015b

²⁰ Turner and Parker 2011; Parker 2013; Parker 2015b

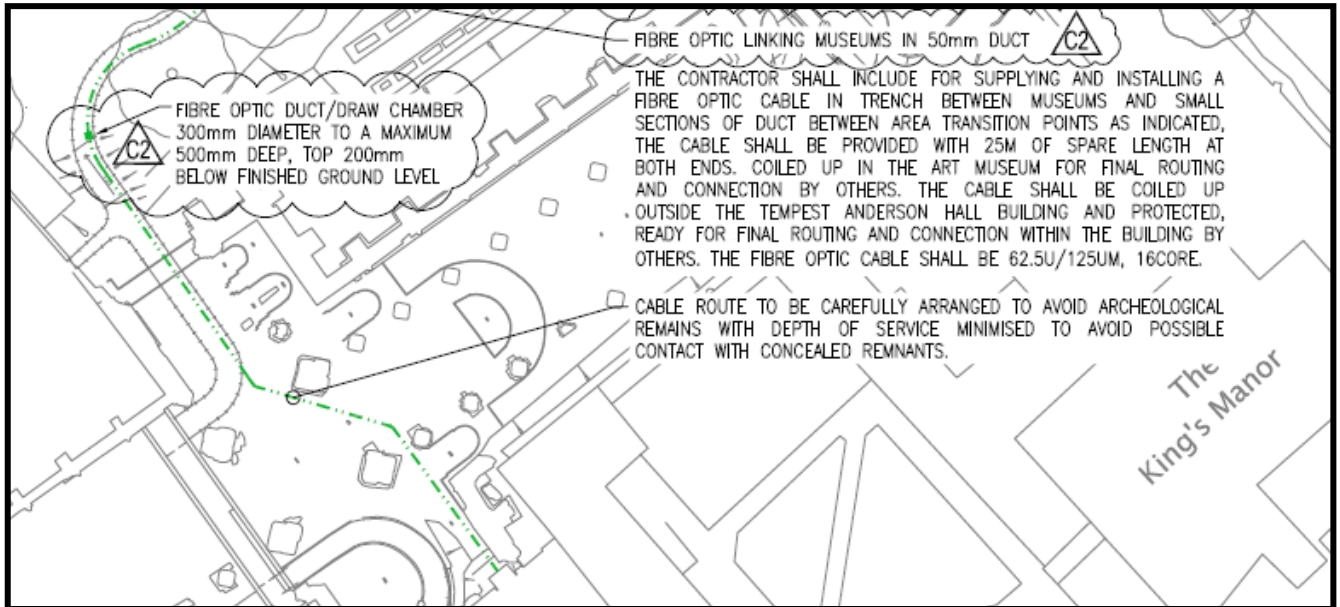


Figure 4: CAD digitisation showing location of fibre optic cable trench through Abbey ruins, marked as a green line.

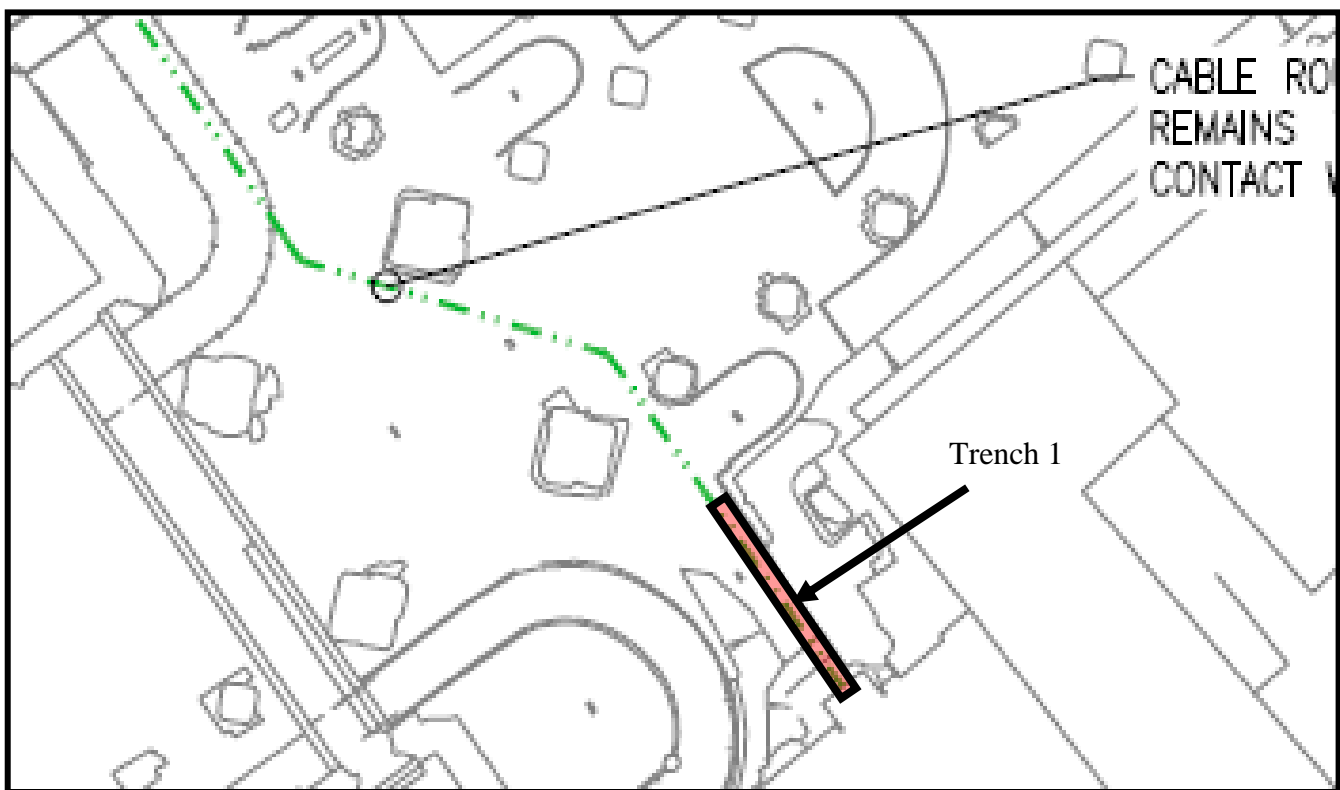


Figure 5: CAD digitisation showing location of archaeological trench (red) on the line of the fibre optic cable trench (green).

2.0 Results

2.1 Contextual Report

2.1.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was centred at NGR SE 59951 52166, adjacent to the consolidated remains of the northwest wall of the south transept of St. Mary's Abbey. The remains are visible above ground. The trench measured 8.7m northwest-southeast and 1.05m (max) northeast-southwest. It was excavated only to the depth of the *in situ* archaeological remains – 7cm-35cm variable from ground surface.

The site sloped down at the southeast edge. No levelling tools were available for this project; both plan and section utilise the consolidated remains of St. Mary's Abbey as a reference point for depth and size as these areas are elsewhere well recorded and georeferenced. A 2011 topographical survey of the Abbey site (FIG.6) shows a reduction in level from 16.43m to 15.57m - a reduction in 86cm vertical height from the northwest to southeast trench edges.

Context [101] – Fill. Sandy-soil, mid brownish-black, capped with grass across trench. Well compacted. Frequent limestone inclusions c.0.5-3.0cm diameter, rare CBM inclusions c.1.0-5.0cm. Variable depth across site, from 35cm at northwest edge to 7cm at 6m SE. Landscaping fill.

Context [102] – Fill. Sandy-soil, dark brownish-black, flecked with white, orange and brown. Well compacted. Frequent limestone inclusions c.0.5-10.0cm diameter, rare CBM inclusions c.1.0-5.0cm. Occurring only at northwest edge of trench, immediately adjacent to [103]

Context [103] – Feature. Mortar surface, associated with foundation layer. Pale yellow-brown with frequent stone inclusions. Scars visible in mortar from previous removal/robbing of stone. Linear boundary is related to the consolidated wall foundation visible at surface level. Context is a single layer representing the mortar compaction of the wall foundation and extends 7m northwest-southeast. No northeast-southwest extent of [103] was located due to restrictions of the trench dimensions.

Context [104] – Feature. Dark orange-red sand. Loose compaction and friable. Square fill running laterally above [103]. Assumed works/service investigation backfill; no cut in surface visible and no visible services associated.

Context [105] – Feature. Limestone blocks remaining *in situ* above [103].

Context [106] – Feature. Faced limestone blocks constructed into a curvilinear feature. NE terminal of chapel apse.

Context [107] – Fill within the interior boundary of [106] Sandy-soil, mid brownish-black. Heavily compacted. Small of 19th and 20th century date associated. Compaction of [107] represents an interaction between the backfilling and landscaping of [101], which it is beneath, and mortar of [106] and [103]. Lower extent of [107] was not located.

Context [108] – Fill. Clay-soil, dark brown-black. Heavily compacted. Frequent limestone inclusions c.0.5-10.0cm diameter, frequent CBM inclusions c.1.0-5.0cm and abundant flecks of orange, brown, yellow and white. Destruction layer truncating [103]. Southeast 2m of trench only.

Context [109] – Fill. Sandy-soil, mid-brown. Lightly compacted. Frequent limestone inclusions c.0.5-10.0cm diameter, frequent CBM inclusions c.1.0-5.0cm.

2.2 Finds

Trench	Context	Description	Date
1	[101]	Animal remains – Oyster shell fragment	-
		Animal remains – rodent upper mandible	-
		Animal remains – rib	-
		Animal remains – mammal bone fragment	-
		Lead – window moulding fragment	-
		Ceramic – clay smoking pipe bowl fragment	17 th Century
		Ceramic – clay smoking pipe stem fragment	17 th -19 th Century
		Ceramic – white china handle	19 th -20 th Century
		Ceramic – white china plate rim	19 th -20 th Century
		Ceramic – blue and white china plate fragment	19 th -20 th Century
		Ceramic – blue and white china plate fragment	19 th -20 th Century
		Ceramic – blue and white china plate fragment	19 th -20 th Century
		Ceramic – blue and white china plate fragment	19 th -20 th Century
		Ceramic – salt-glazed stoneware bottle body fragment	18 th -19 th Century
		Ceramic – salt-glazed stoneware bottle body fragment	18 th -19 th Century
		Glass – blue/green glass waste	-
		Glass – brown bottle glass fragment	19 th -20 th Century
		Glass – brown bottle glass fragment	19 th -20 th Century
		Glass –green glass with polychrome corrosion	17 th Century
		CBM – tile fragment	18 th -20 th Century
		CBM – tile fragment	18 th -20 th Century
		CBM – tile fragment	18 th -20 th Century
		CBM – tile fragment	-
[107]	Glass – clear window glass	20 th Century	
	Glass – dark brown bottle glass	19 th Century	

2.3 Interpretation

Trench 1

The excavation of trench 1 was necessitated through the discovery of *in situ* archaeological remains, outlined above. Several key features are presented within the stratigraphic record. It is clear that the mortar foundation [103] is associated with the consolidated foundation of the north-east wall of the south transept, visible at ground level. The linear boundary of the foundation at the northwest edge of the trench (junction of [102] and [103]) follows an approximate north east/south west line set by the wall of the nave and the consolidated remains. The nature and content of context [102] is comparable with context [302] - a fill encountered in Trench 3 of the Abbey investigations of March 2015 (approx. 4m north-west of the start of this trench).²¹

The extent and condition of [103] was not expected during the expansion of the trench following its discovery. [103] and its associated features [105] and [106] represents a considerable piece of *in situ* medieval architecture not previously encountered during modern excavation on this site. The southeast edge of Trench 1 ([108] and [109]) shows clear evidence of disturbance, truncating the full extent of [103].

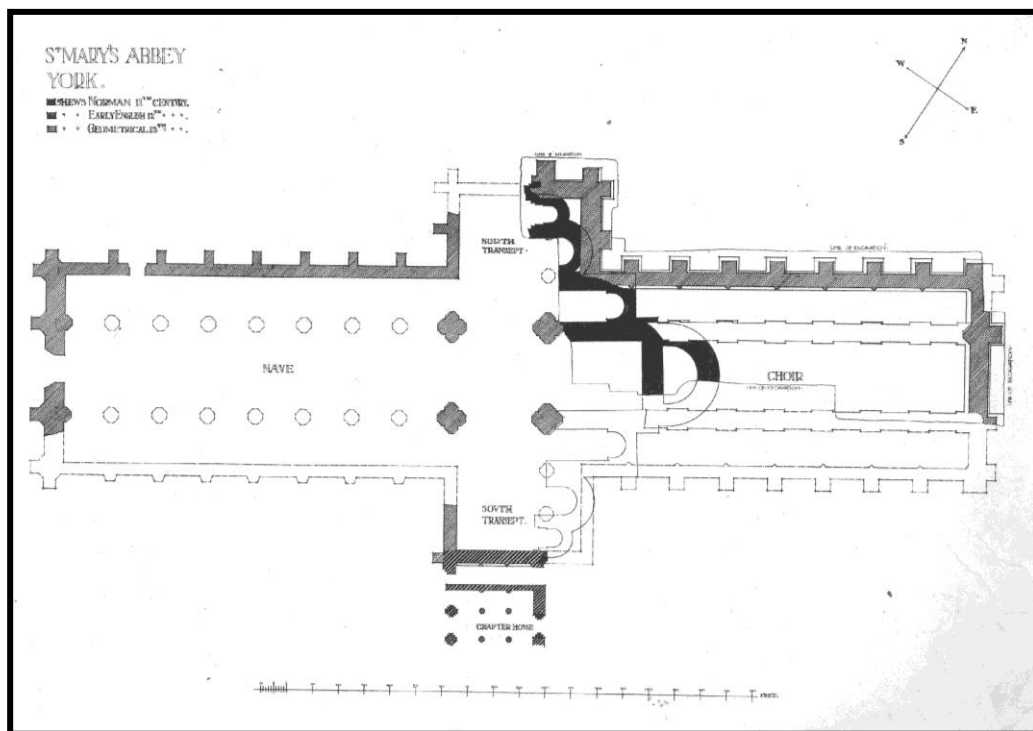


Figure 7: 1902 plan of St. Mary's Abbey, based on 1827-9 and 1901-2 excavations. Offprint in the archive of the Yorkshire Museum.

²¹ Parker 2015b, 13

Apsidal Feature, Excavation and Landscaping

Post-excavation research has focussed on the previous excavation work associated with the transepts of the Abbey church and their various interpretations over time. The 1827-8 plan of the Abbey site focussed on the areas excavated by Wellbeloved, and planned multiple phases of development. A reproduction of this map in 1902 (FIG.7), from a copy in the archive of the Yorkshire Museum, shows the two apsidal chapels in the north transept in relation to the altar niche in the centre of the north range of the nave, forming the major ground plan of the Romanesque church. This plan conjecturally draws in the chapels in the south transepts as identical in plan to those in the north transept – excavation has shown that this is not the case.

The drawing of the abbey plan by Edwin Ridsdale Tate in 1912 (following excavation by Walter Harvey Brook, FIGS.8-9) utilised the 1827-8 plan.²² Tate planned in the south transept architectural features as identical to those in the north transept by showing a larger apsidal feature at the west edge of the south transept and a smaller apsidal feature set further south-east at the east edge: a mirror image to those planned in the north transept. All apsidal features are recorded as part of the 11th Century Norman phase of the Abbey church. The size, nature and location of the apsidal features in the north transept is shown in two photographs (of four total) in the archive of the Yorkshire Museum (FIGS.11-12). These photographs, dated to April 1971, show ground penetrating works exposing the chapel apses in the north transept in advance of consolidation and the setting out of the line now visible as limestone blocks on the current surface level of the Abbey church.

Both Tate's plan, the 1902 plan and the modern consolidated remains visible in the Abbey church show the centre point of the larger chapel apse occurring at 3.3m from the junction point of the transept and nave walls. The same is planned for the south transept. Excavations have shown that the only currently visible apse occurs at 5m from the wall junction between nave and transept in the south transept (FIG.10). This raises several questions regarding the interpretation of the architectural features: What is the nature and condition of the southern walls of the excavated apse? Is this apse the only chapel apse in the south transept? If not, which of the two (or three?) is it part? Do any plans or photographs of the full original excavations exist? It is clear that the limits of excavations have not excluded the possibility of a secondary apse occurring either east or west of this architectural feature, although the destruction fill [108] may have removed surviving *in situ* remains located in this area. The narrow depth of ground cover over the archaeological remains can be interpreted as a deliberate feature of the landscaping of the site to facilitate access to the basement level of the Yorkshire Museum. The North West wall of what is now the medieval gallery of the museum, includes a significant portion of the consolidated remains of the abbey wall and a 'viewing bay' area projecting into the ruins of the abbey from the Museum. This viewing bay is also used as a fire escape. The door space was originally used as the entrance to the 'Museum of Medieval Architecture' set out and designed by Walter Harvey Brook (Honorary Curator of Medieval Archaeology) and Edwin Ridsdale Tate in 1912.²³ The architectural museum occupied the basement level of the Tempest Anderson Hall, constructed over the remains of the Chapter

²² Brook 1914

²³ YPS 1913, 8

House (FIG.8). The only recorded excavations by Tate and Brook in advance of the development of the Hall were centred on the western end of the choir and the north transept. Brook “thoroughly cleared out six bays of the Choir South Arcade – the central Norman Apse and the ApSES of the North Transept and North and East Cloister Alleys”.²⁴ Reports given to the council of the YPS do not account for Tate’s inclusion of the south Transept apses on his 1912 plan as being anything other than idealised.

A further possible explanation for the positioning of the apse is raised from questioning which building phase the apse belongs to. The *in situ* stone remains were clearly limestone; Wilson and Mee assert that the Romanesque church was gritstone and that this was only visible beneath the 13th Century north transept.²⁵ The possibility, therefore, that the surviving apse relates to the 13th Century rebuilding programme of the Abbey under Abbot Simon de Warwick, and that this later phase has not yet been recorded successfully by Wellbeloved, Brook, Tate or Willmot is a compelling one. The correct phasing of the architectural remains is somewhat dependent upon the availability of a full stratigraphic record for this area – something that currently remains unavailable.

Non-archaeological excavations in advance of the construction of the Hall may account for the destruction levels [108]-[109] given their proximity to the building. It is perhaps unlikely, given the careful consolidation and reporting given to the remains under their care, that Brook and Tate would not have recorded the discovery of an apse during construction of the Tempest Anderson Hall.

²⁴ YPS 1913, 11

²⁵ Wilson and Mee 2009, 7

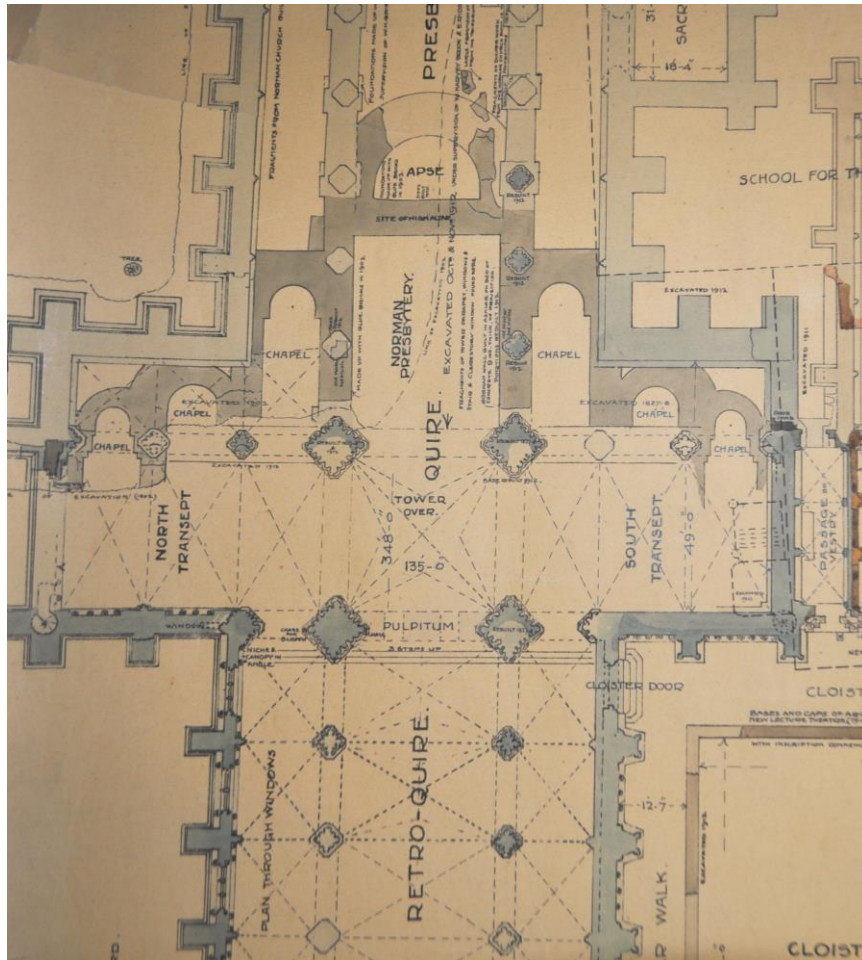


Figure 8: Central section of the Abbey church plan, as drawn by Edwin Ridsdale Tate, 1912, based on plans originally published by G.T. Andrews and R.H. Sharpe, 1827-8.

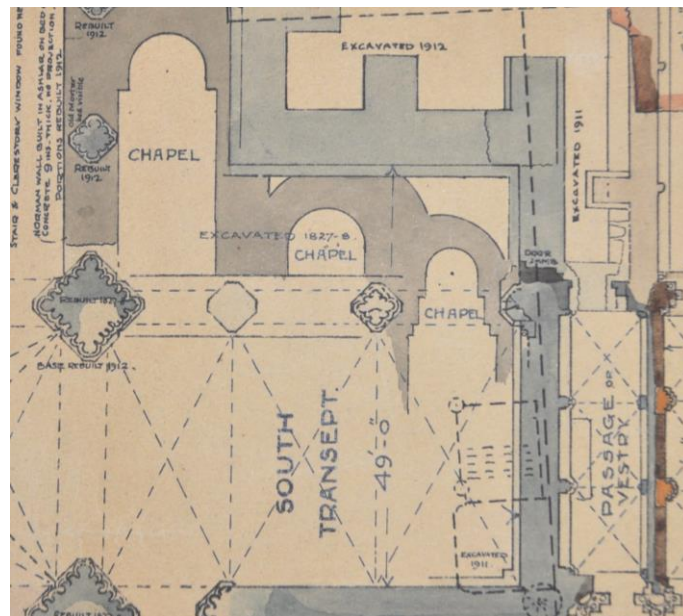


Figure 9: South transept, as drawn by Ridsdale Tate (close up of Fig.8).

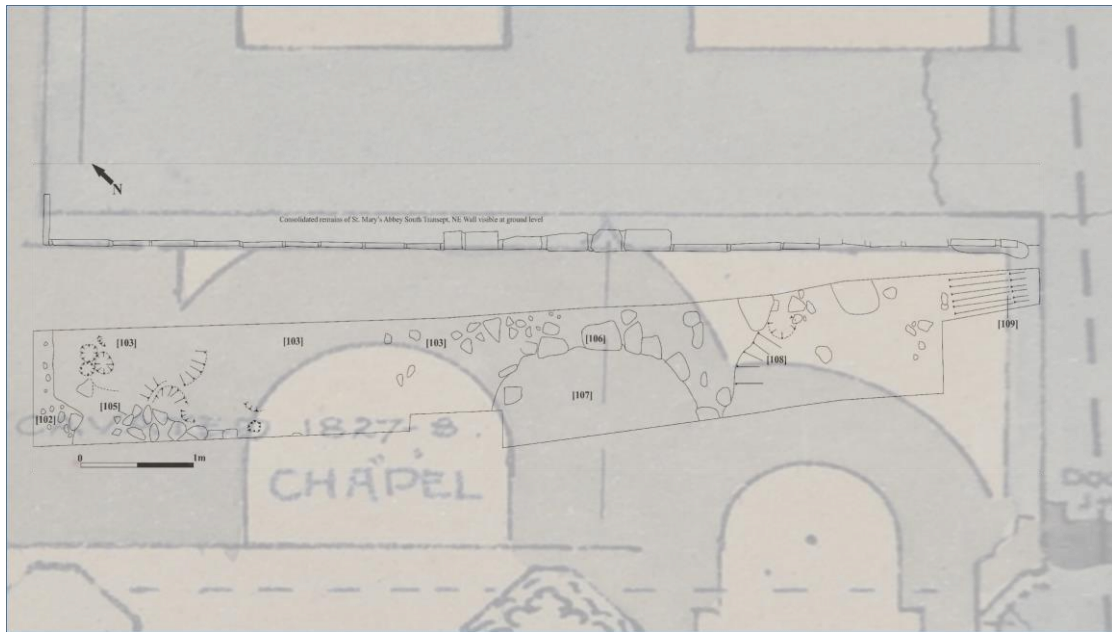


Figure 10: *Plan of excavation overlaid with Ridsdale Tate's 1912 plan. The NW wall of the Yorkshire Museum is shown as a broken line at the right extremity of Tate's plan.*



Figure 11: *Photograph, looking NE, of consolidation works on the north transept in advance of planning out of the Abbey. Photo by RCHME in the archive of the Yorkshire Museum.*



Figure 12: *Photograph, looking NW, of consolidation works on the north transept in advance of planning out of the Abbey. Photo by RCHME in the archive of the Yorkshire Museum.*

3.0 Conclusions

The excavation of a single trench on the site of St. Mary's Abbey, Museum Gardens, York, was required following the discovery of archaeological deposits immediately beneath the ground surface by building contractors undertaking a programme of landscape development. Architectural features, including wall foundations and an apsidal feature associated with a medieval chapel were recorded. The location of the apsidal feature in the centre of the south transept's north east wall contradicts early 20th century assumptions regarding the positions of two features at equal distances along the length; the possibility remains that the apse relates to the 13th Century rebuilding of the Abbey church and is thus not accounted for by the plans of the first, Romanesque, phase of the south transept. The possible location of a second apse remains open ended.

The extremely narrow depth of cover for the *in situ* archaeological remains is a point of note for the site; at least partly facilitated by the reduction in ground height on the slope from the abbey church to the Yorkshire Museum north-west wall. In combination with recent work on the St. Mary's Abbey church, it has been shown that *in situ* archaeological and architectural deposits unplanned on 20th Century maps and plans remain immediately beneath the top soil cover, at depths of less than 50cm from the surface.²⁶ This will be an important factor for future development on the site and is an observation of note for YMT, Historic England and York City Council.

No deposits have been removed to allow access for the fibre optic cable trench. At the time of writing, proposals to raise the ground level to provide minimum cover for the cable are being produced. No small finds were retained as part of this archaeological archive.

²⁶ Parker 2015b

4.0 Bibliography

Grey Literature

- Kendall, T. 2005. ‘*St. Mary’s Abbey Precinct, North Marygate, York. Report on an Archaeological Evaluation*’. York Archaeological Trust.
- Morrison, A. 2011 “Archaeological Scheme of Investigation: Recording of a Standing Building. World War II Hutments, Marygate”. (York Museums Trust)
- Parker, A. 2013. Data Structure Report (DSR) for an Archaeological Watching Brief: York Museum Gardens, York. (York Museums Trust)
- Parker, A. 2014a. Data Structure Report (DSR) for an Archaeological Watching Brief: York Art Gallery/York Museum Gardens (Asbestos Test Pits). (York Museums Trust) [OASIS ID – yorkmuse1-191122]
- Parker, A. 2014b. Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief: York Museum Gardens (North Bowling Green). (York Museums Trust) [OASIS ID: yorkmuse1-193957]
- Parker, A. 2015a. Report on an Archaeology Watching Brief: York Museum Gardens (South Bowling Green). (York Museums Trust) [OASIS ID: yorkmuse1-193957]
- Parker, A. 2015b. Data Structure Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief: York Museum Gardens, St. Mary’s Abbey. (York Museums Trust) [OASIS ID: yorkmuse1-208456]
- Turner, B. and Parker, A. 2011. Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief: York Museum Gardens, York. (York Museums Trust)

Text Sources

- Brierly, W. H. 1901. “Report on the excavations made in the chancel of St.Mary’s Abbey church”, *Annual Report of the Council of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society for 1900*, 38-40
- Brierly, W. H. 1902 “ Further Report on the excavations made in the chancel of St.Mary’s Abbey church”, *Annual Report of the Council of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society for 1901*, 102-103
- Harvey Brook, W. 1914. "Excavation of Cloister & Restoration of South Nave Wall etc." in *Annual Report of the Council of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society for 1913*. York, xvii-xviii
- RCHME. 1962. *Eboracum: Roman York*. London
- Tweddle, D., Moulden, J. and Logan, E., 1999. *Anglian York: a Survey of the Evidence* (The Archaeology of York 7/2). York
- Wellbeloved, C., 1842. *Eboracum or York under the Romans* .York
- Willmot, G. F. 1953. “Interim Report on the 1952 Excavation in St. Mary’s Abbey”, *Transactions of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, 1952*, York: Yorkshire Philosophical Society
- Wilson, B and Mee, F., 2009. *St Mary's Abbey and The King's Manor, York: The Pictorial Evidence*. York: York Archaeological Trust
- Wilson, C. and Burton, J. 1988. *St Mary’s Abbey, York*, York: Yorkshire Museum
- YPS. 1913. *Report of the Council of the Yorkshire Philophysical Society, February 1913*, York: YPS

YPS. 1954. *Report of the Council of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society for 1953*.
York: YPS

Websites

British Geological Survey. www.bgs.ac.uk accessed (21-03-2014)

English Heritage monument no: 56602

http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=56602 (accessed 04-09-2014)

English Heritage, Heritage List No. 1000117

<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1000117> (accessed 04-09-2014)

PastScape (English Heritage) Monument no: 535055

http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=535055 (accessed 04-09-2014)

PastScape (English Heritage) Monument no: 53946

http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=534946 (accessed 24-09-2014)

York Archaeological Trust Gazetteer, www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/gaz/index.htm
(accessed 2014-09-11)

Abbreviations

RCHME – Royal Commission Historic Monuments (England)

SMC – Scheduled Monument Consent

YMT – York Museums Trust

YPS – Yorkshire Philosophical Society

5.0 Appendix

Photographic Register

Photo Number	Direction Facing	Description	Date	Initials
001	-	Trench 1	14/04/2015	ANP
002	-	Trench 1	14/04/2015	ANP
003	-	Trench 1	14/04/2015	ANP
004	-	Trench 1	14/04/2015	ANP
005	-	Trench 1	14/04/2015	ANP
006	-	Trench 1	14/04/2015	ANP
007	-	Trench 1	14/04/2015	ANP
008	-	Trench 1	14/04/2015	ANP
009	-	Trench 1	14/04/2015	ANP
010	S	Site	14/04/2015	ANP
011	SE	Site	14/04/2015	ANP
012	NW	Site	14/04/2015	ANP



001



002



003



004



005



006



007



008



009



010



011

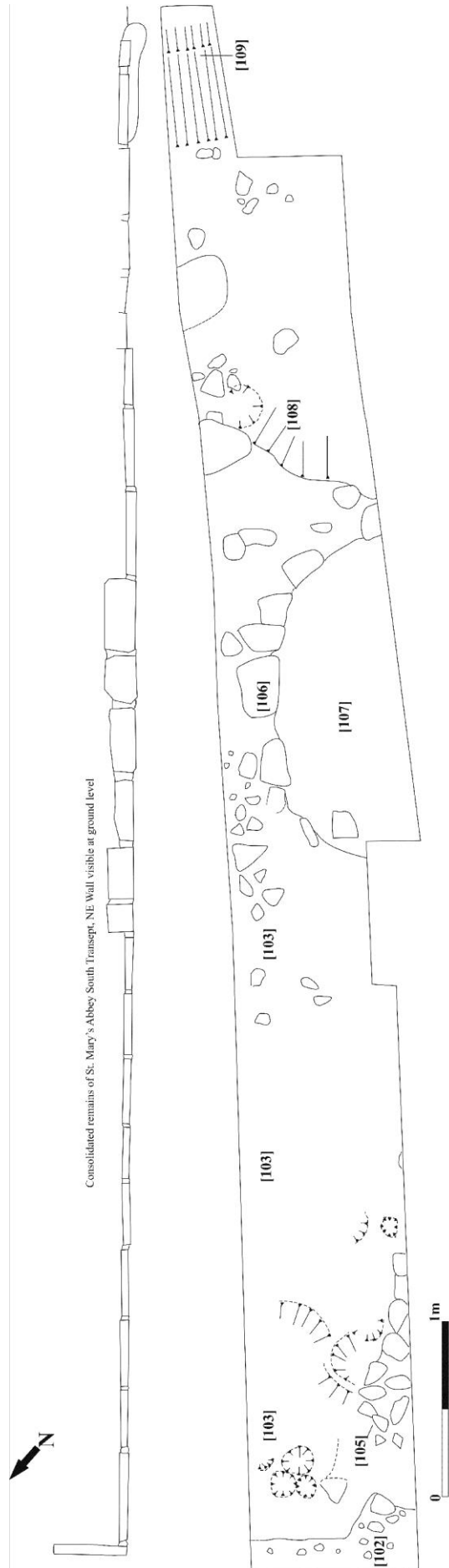


Figure 13: Plan of Trench 1. Note the consolidated remains of the NE wall of the south Transept. The Yorkshire Museum building is located 1m from the eastern terminus of the trench.

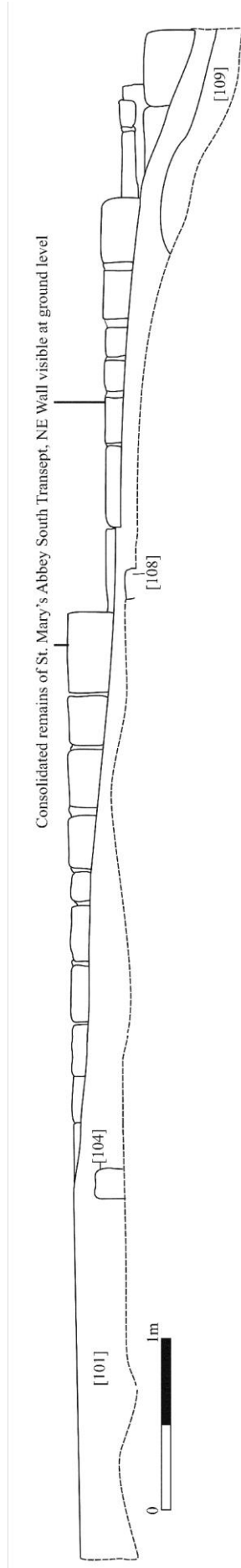


Figure 14: Section of Trench 1. Note the consolidated remains of the NE wall of the south Transept plotted in for reference. See Fig. 13 for the relationship between the wall and the trench. The Yorkshire Museum building is located 1m from the eastern terminus of the trench.