

Y O R K



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
T R U S T

**48 ST. ANDREWGATE,
YORK**

**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**2000 FIELD REPORT
NUMBER 28**

48 ST. ANDREWGATE, YORK

REPORT ON AN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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ABSTRACT

A watching brief was undertaken during ground works associated with a small extension to the rear of 48 St. Andrewgate, York. A post-medieval brick structure was found, together with evidence for medieval occupation in the vicinity.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust during the excavation of foundation trenches required for an extension to the rear of 48 St. Andrewgate, York. The site lies close to the south-west corner of St. Andrewgate and Aldwark and some 45m north-east of St. Andrew's Church (NGR SE 6059 5208; Figure 1).

The watching brief was maintained during the period 22nd May-2nd June 2000, on behalf of the owner as a result of an Operations Notice served on the City of York Council under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. All site records are currently stored with York Archaeological Trust under the Yorkshire Museum accession code YORYM:2000.573.

1.2 Brief and methodology

The aim of the watching brief was to attempt to establish the character and date of any archaeological deposits encountered during the ground works. All recording work followed the procedures laid down in the York Archaeological Trust Context Recording Manual (1996).

Trenches 0.5m wide by 0.75m deep were dug for the foundations of the north-east and south-east external walls, and of the south-west wall, alongside the extension at 46 St. Andrewgate (Figure 2). The trenches were excavated by the building contractor, Sorrell (York) Ltd., and archaeological recording was undertaken during or after each day's work.

2. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies only 40m south-east of the Roman legionary fortress. This part of the Roman settlement was probably an industrial zone serving the fortress. Little is known about the character of Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian activity in this area.

The street Aldwark was documented first around 1200. The original name (*Aldewerke*) is Old English in origin, which suggests that the street was extant long before the Norman Conquest (Palliser 1978, 4). St. Andrewgate was also first recorded around 1200; the name indicates a connection with St. Andrew's Church, probably originating in the Anglo-Scandinavian period (Palliser 1978, 14). This evidence suggests that the site lay within properties fronting onto St. Andrewgate or perhaps Aldwark by the Norman Conquest.



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LICENCE NUMBER AL854123



Figure 1 Location of watching brief (highlighted)

Archaeological evidence for medieval activity in the vicinity, in the form of medieval deposits and pottery, has been obtained from previous watching briefs in the vicinity (Finlayson 1997, 23-4, 888-9)

Speed's 1610 map of York shows buildings lining St. Andrewgate but not the adjacent part of Aldwark (Figure 4). The maps of Chassereau (1750), Todd (1811) and Baines (1822) show the area as open ground, apparently forming the backyards to properties on Spen Lane/Penny Lane to the south-west. However, there is documentary evidence that buildings were constructed along the St. Andrewgate frontage during the earlier 19th century (RCHM 1981, 203), and the 1852 Ordnance Survey map depicts the area as heavily built up. The site of the watching brief appears to have been situated to the rear of the Anglesey Arms, a public house fronting onto St. Andrewgate (Figure 5).

3. RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

The earliest deposits were located along the south-west side of the site (Figure 2). The lowest of these was a layer of friable mid grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, at least 0.6m thick (1003). This deposit is interpreted as a levelling deposit, which was formed in order to raise the ground level. It was recorded in detail at the south-east end of the north-east facing section (Figure 3) and appeared to continue to the north-west.

Overlying (1003) towards the south corner of the site was friable mid brown silty clay loam with occasional charcoal flecks (1002), which was in turn overlain by mid-dark grey silty clay with moderate pottery and ceramic tile fragments and charcoal flecks, and occasional small animal bones (1000). The top of these deposits was 0.45m below ground level (BGL). Overall, they were about 0.45m thick, but appeared not to continue to the south-east end of the section. It is possible that they were layers which tapered out, but it is more likely that they were the fills of a pit cut into 1003. The pottery and tile from 1000 indicates a 14th/15th century date for these deposits. Sealing 1000 and 1003 was friable dark grey silty clay loam with moderate mortar flecks, some 0.2m thick (1001).

Cut through these deposits was a construction cut (1004), which had a vertical south-west edge, observed mid-way along the south-east trench; and a flat base, some 0.65m BGL. This cut contained a sunken brick structure that measured 2.75m long (north-west/south-east) by 1.05m wide. It comprised a bedding of flat-laid bricks (1016); outer single-thickness walls (1005-7); and a double-thickness internal wall, aligned south-west/north-east, that divided the structure into two roughly equal parts (1008). The walls survived to a height of 0.5m, and their tops were 0.1m BGL. The hand-made bricks measured 9 x 4.75 x 3" (228 x 120 x 76mm) on average, indicating an 18th/early 19th-century date. The internal surfaces of the structure were covered in a mortar render that was 10mm thick on the floor and 5mm thick on the walls (1014-15). All but the south-east wall were removed as part of the ground works.

The north-west end of the structure was formed by a double-thickness wall that continued beyond the north-east and south-west limits of the watching brief (1009), which suggests that the structure was an annexe of a larger building towards St. Andrewgate. This wall, like the other walls of the structure, rested on brick bedding 1016, indicating that the structure and the building

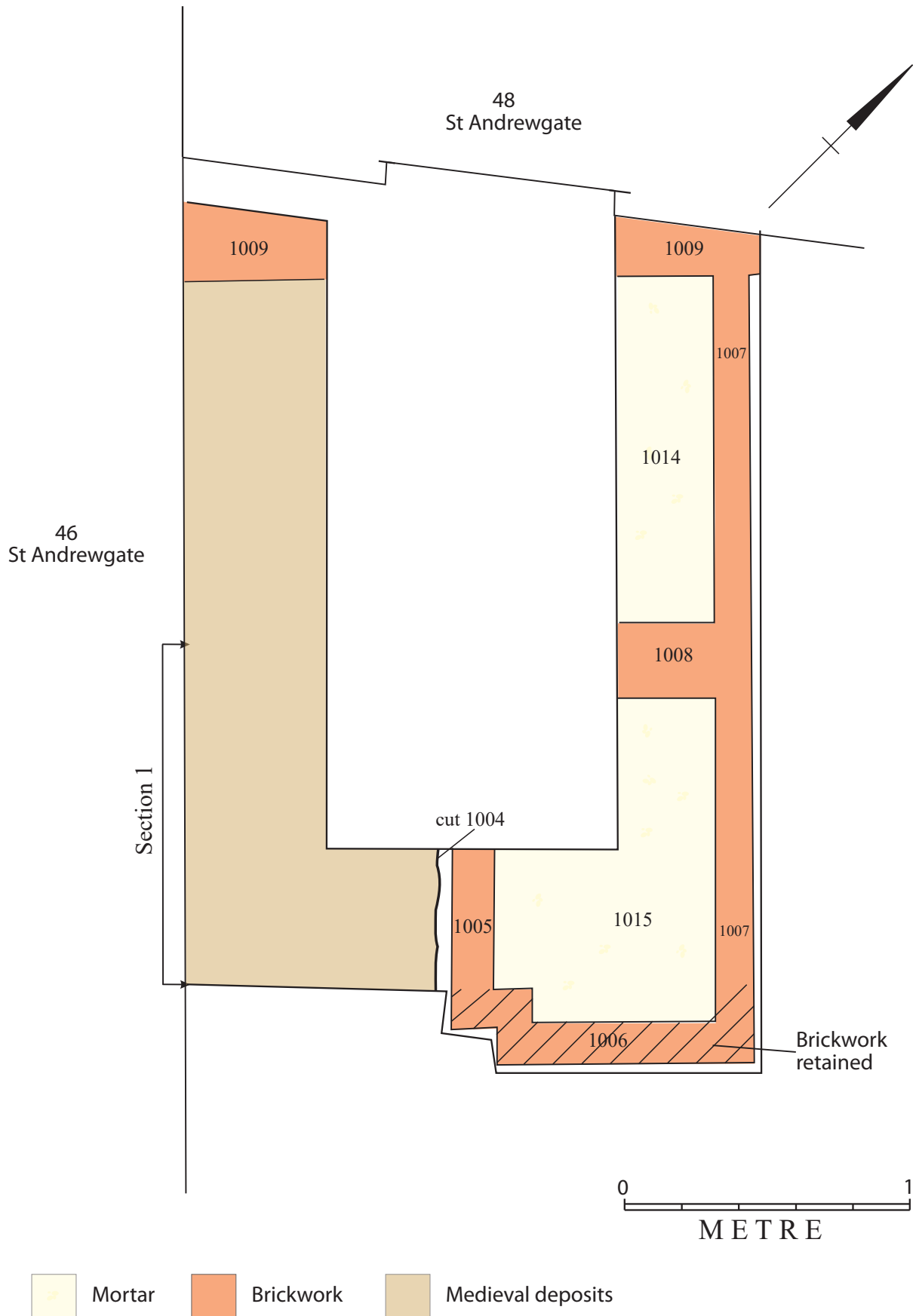


Figure 2 Plan of main archaeological features

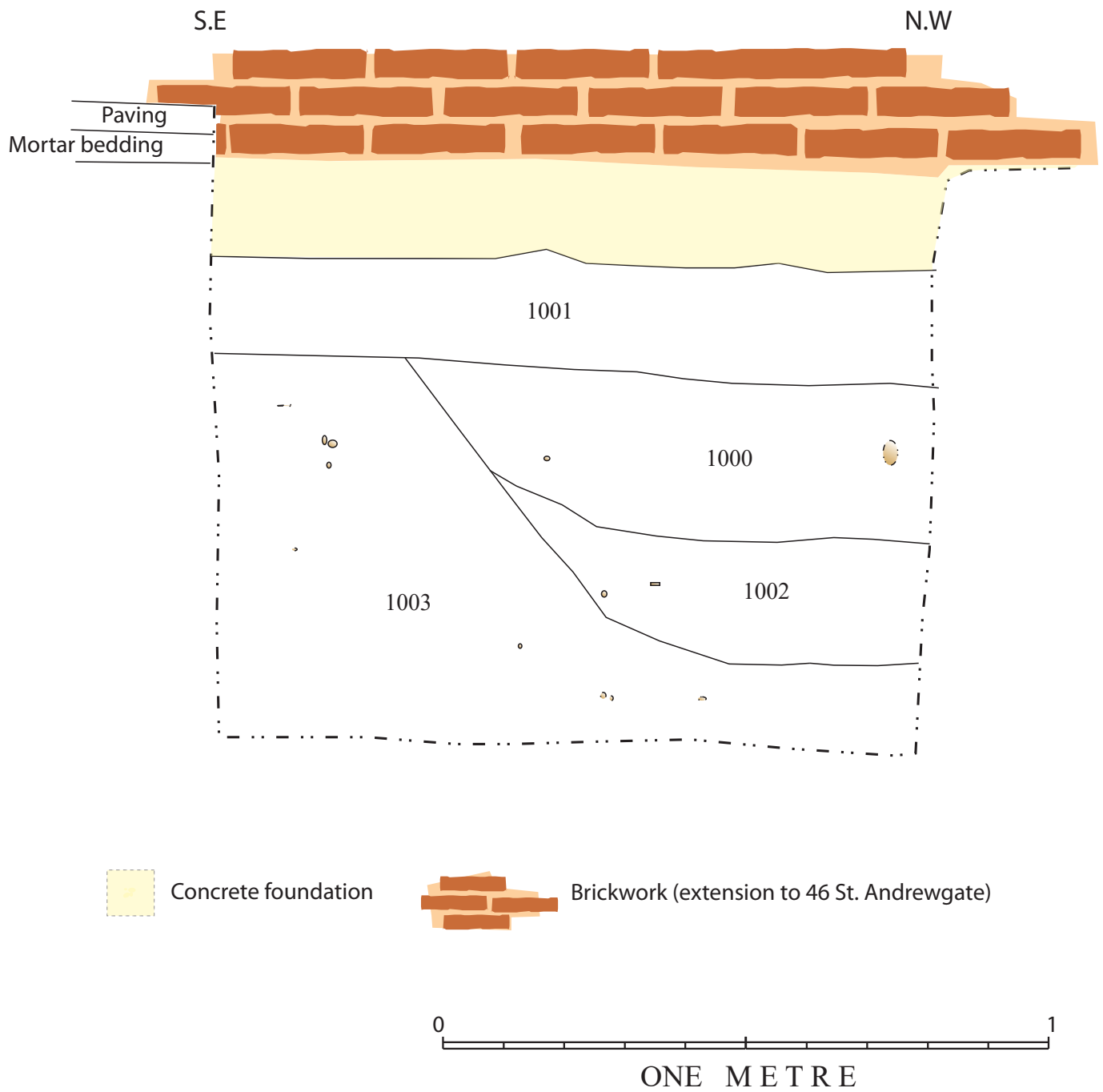


Figure 3 Section 1, North-east facing.

were all one build. The orientation of these walls was eight degrees closer to north-south than the standing building at 48 St. Andrewgate.

The sunken structure was backfilled with mortar and small-medium brick and pan-tile fragments (1012-13), which presumably were derived from the demolition of its superstructure. The north-west wall had been further truncated by the concrete foundations for the rear wall of the standing building, to a depth of 0.35m BGL. Sealing the remains of the sunken structure and butting against the rear wall of the standing building was the current paving with its mortar bedding, 0.1m thick overall (1010).

4. FINDS ASSESSMENT

4.1 Pottery report

Context 1000 contained mainly Humber and Brandsby-type wares, dating to the 14th-15th centuries.

4.2 Ceramic Building Materials

This small sample comprised peg tile and plain tile. The peg tile has a square peg hole, which is a very typical York trait. The plain fragments may come from nib tile, but are more likely to be fragments of peg tile, the commonest medieval roof tile form in York

These tiles are very probably medieval, dating to between the 13th and 16th centuries, but it is possible that they date from the early post-medieval period. The sample should be retained until such time as it can be fully recorded by a ceramic building materials specialist, who can match it with the York ceramic building materials fabric series. This may help give a closer dating for the sample.

4.3 Context Listing

Cxt	Form	Len	Bre	Thi	Comments	Date range	Spot date
1000	Plain				x 5 frags	13-16th	13-16th
"	Peg		101	17	Square peghole	13-16th	

5. CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief showed that archaeological deposits survived no more than 0.45m below the current ground surface. Despite their position so close to the surface, these deposits were damp and displayed fair organic preservation. This phenomenon suggests that the ground level has been lowered, probably as part of one or both of the more recent building episodes.

The ground works were too shallow to encounter Anglo-Scandinavian or earlier deposits. The medieval deposits and finds are thought to represent waste disposal in backyards, most probably

to the rear of medieval buildings along the St. Andrewgate street frontage. The buildings shown standing in this position on Speed's 1610 map could, therefore have been medieval buildings that were subsequently demolished, leaving the site open, as shown on later 17th to early 19th century maps of York.

Although the RCHME survey regarded the standing building at 48 St. Andrewgate as having been constructed early in the 19th century (RCHME 1981, 203), it seems that this is not the case. The buildings shown on the 1852 Ordnance Survey map do not correspond to the standing buildings. Furthermore, the orientation of the sunken brick structure found during the watching brief corresponds more closely than the standings building to the orientation of the buildings on the 1852 map. Indeed, the sunken structure appears to have stood to the rear of the Anglesey Arms, which largely occupied the position of the current 46 St. Andrewgate. Such sunken structures are thought to have produced a cool, damp environment suitable for the storage of perishable goods, which would have been a useful to a public house. It is, therefore, suggested that the sunken brick structure is part of the buildings constructed in the earlier 19th century; and that those buildings were replaced after 1852 by the current buildings, on a different layout.

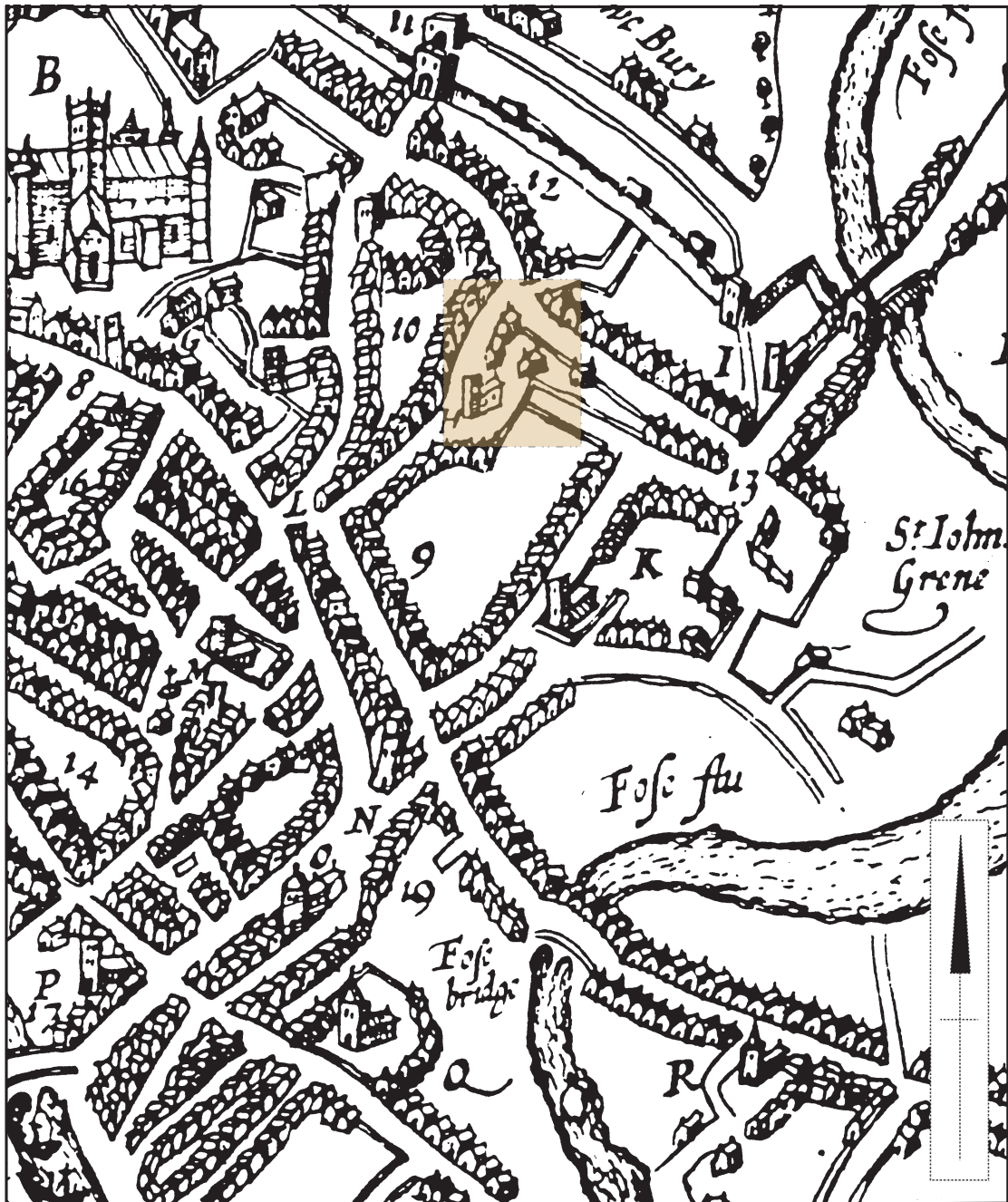


Figure 4 Speed's map of York 1610, showing St. Andrew's Church and buildings fronting onto St. Andrewgate (highlighted)

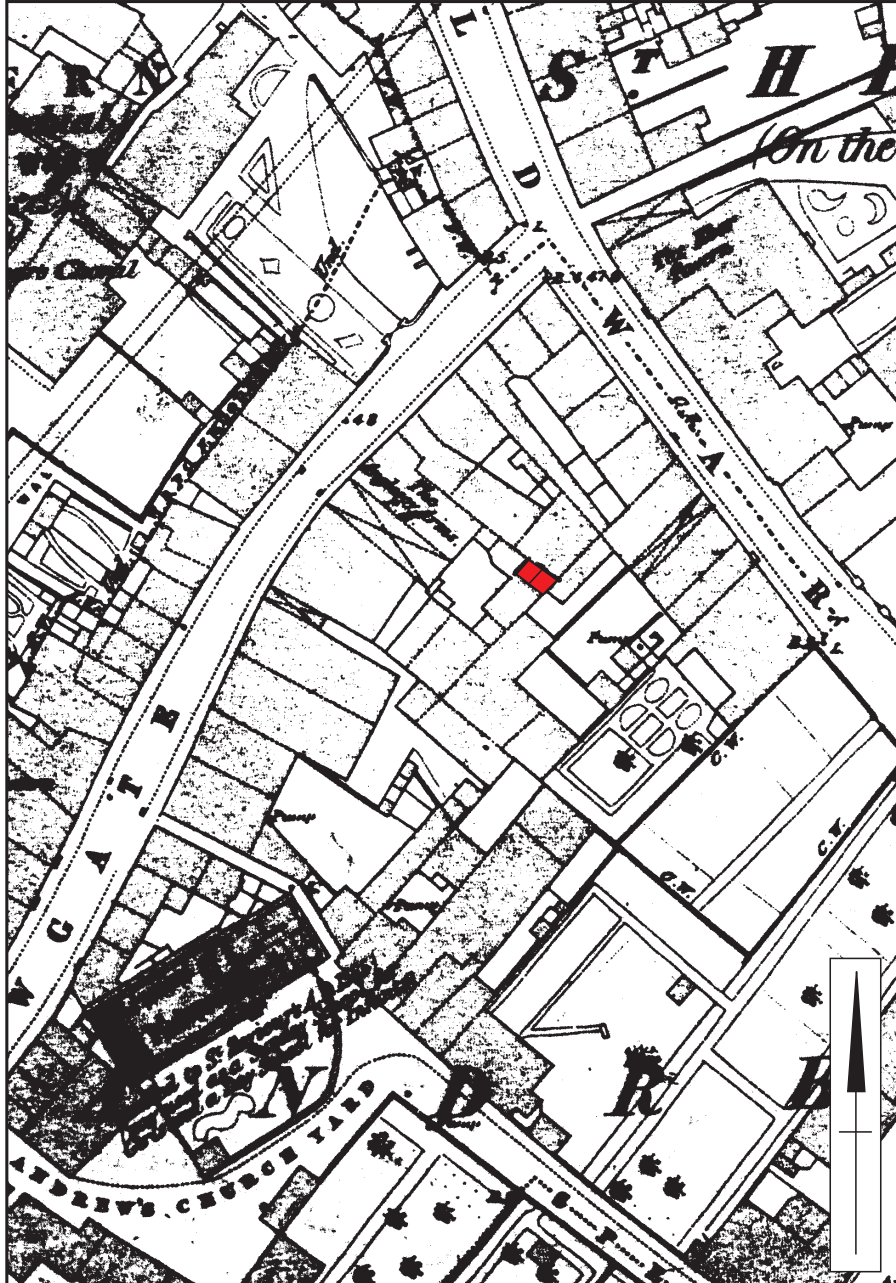


Figure 5 Part of 1852 Ordnance Survey map showing approximate position of sunken brick structure (highlighted)

6. LIST OF SOURCES

Finlayson, R. 1997. *York Archive Gazetteer* (York Archaeological Trust)

Palliser, D.M., 1978. 'The medieval street names of York.' *York Historian* 2, 2-16

RCHME = Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England, 1981. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York: Volume V, The Central Area* (Her Majesty's Stationery Office)

7. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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