



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



Archaeological Investigations at York Minster Centre of Excellence

By G Loffman

YAT Report 2022/23 February 2022



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Abbreviations

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
BGL	Below Ground Level
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
CBM	Ceramic Building Material

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Between the 14th and the 15th February 2022 York Archaeology conducted an evaluation at the proposed site of the York Minster Centre of Excellence located on the York Minster grounds at NGR SE 60392 52359.

The work was undertaken for the Dean & Chapter of York Minster and was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by YA. The works involved the excavation and recording of one trench and two test pits.

Trench 1 uncovered probable garden soils and construction demolition material. In Test Pit 1 brick footings for the deanery boundary wall were found. The deposits encountered were garden soils and construction spreads associated with the wall construction. Test Pit 2 contained garden soil and made ground deposits. No significant archaeology was encountered at the depths reached by the evaluation.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	York Minster Centre of Excellence
YAT Project No.	6281
Document Number	2022/23
Type of Project	Evaluation
Client	Dean & Chapter of York Minster
Planning Application No.	N/A
NGR	SE 60392 52359
Museum Accession No.	pending
OASIS Identifier	pending

REPORT INFORMATION

Version	Produced by		Edited by		Approved by	
	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
V1	GL	02/03/22	IDM	14/03/22	IDM	14/03/22

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1 INTRODUCTION

Between the 14th and the 15th February 2022 York Archaeology (YA) conducted an evaluation at the proposed site of the York Minster Centre of Excellence located on the York Minster grounds at NGR SE 60392 52359 (Figure 1).

The work was undertaken for the Dean & Chapter of York Minster. The development proposal is for the repurposing of the existing garages at the rear of the Deanery along with construction of a new mason's workshop and associated residential buildings. In addition, the Deanery boundary wall is to be moved closer to the Deanery, to widen the access from Minster Yard to the new mason's workshop.

Historic England specified that an archaeological evaluation should be carried out on the proposed development site. This consisted of one trench measuring 2m x 5m positioned to verify and characterise possible ephemeral anomalies identified during a previous geophysical survey, and two test pits measuring 2m x 2m next to the Deanery boundary wall. A provision was made for an additional 20m of trenching should the results of the first trench confirm archaeological origins for the geophysical survey results or encounter significant archaeological features.

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared in response to a Specification supplied by the client, in consultation with Keith Emerick, Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments. The work was carried out in accordance with the specification and the WSI (YAT 2022/08, and according to the principles of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014) and all relevant standards and guidance (CYC G05).

2 METHODOLOGY

The methodology followed the WSI (YAT 2022/08) (Appendix 3) save where amendments were required by restricted site access and tree roots within the excavation area.

Due to restricted site access the largest plant available was a mini excavator. It was agreed with Keith Emerick, Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments that Trench 1 be changed to an L shape, with each limb measuring 1m x 3m.

Test Pits 1 and 2 were slightly smaller than the stated size due to presence of tree roots and the restricted reach of the machine.

2.1 Test Pits/Trenches

A total of three test pits/trenches were excavated (Figure 2):

No.	Size (m)	Rationale
Trench 1	1m x 6m x 1m in depth	To verify geophysical survey results and characterise any archaeology within the footprint of the proposed structure.
Test Pit 1	1.5m x 1.7m x 1m in depth	To investigate footings of Deanery boundary wall and deposits.
Test Pit 2	1.8m x 1.8m x 1m in depth	To investigate deposits in the location of the proposed new location of the Deanery boundary wall.

Trenches were located using a Leica GNSS, except for Test Pit 1 which was due to overhead tree coverage preventing accurate measurements. Test Pit 1 was instead located using features visible on Ordnance Survey mapping as a baseline. Levels were taken using a dumpy level from a temporary benchmark set up using a Leica GNSS.

The trench and test pits were excavated using a mini excavator equipped with a 0.7m wide toothless ditching bucket.

All deposits were recorded as per the standard YA single context recording system (YAT 2009). Contexts were individually recorded onto proforma cards, and Representative sections of the trench and test pits were recorded at 1:10 scale. Finds were retrieved and bagged by individual context number. Photography consisted of digital shots taken with a Nikon D3500 capable of 24.2 megapixel photographs.

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed development site is located at York Minster, to the east of the Deanery at SE 60392 52359 (Figure 1). It is a rectangular area measuring approximately 40m x 35m in size, with the north-western half of the site containing garages and sheds and the south-eastern half containing part of the gardens of Minster Court. The two trial pits were excavated on the north-western side of the Deanery boundary wall that runs north-east/south-west to the north-west of Minster Court.

The bedrock is Sherwood Sandstone Group, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 237 to 227 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian periods. This is overlain by superficial deposits of clay, sand and gravels formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (www.bgs.ac.uk).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A desk-based survey was carried out by Stuart Harrison (2021), Cathedral Archaeologist York Minster, researching the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development site. This is summarised below.

4.1 Roman

The proposed development site is located within the north-eastern part of the legionary fortress of *Eboracum*, in an area thought to have been the barracks. The *Porta Decumana*, the north-eastern gateway of the fortress, was served by the *Via Decumana*. A road ran parallel to the Roman rampart from the *Porta Decumana*, and is projected to run through the proposed development site.

Roman foundations and walls were encountered at a depth of 12.77m AOD during excavations of the former medieval Archbishop's Palace, now part of the York Minster Library. The present ground surface level at the proposed site is approximately 15.15m AOD, which suggests Roman foundations and remains lie around 2.3m BGL.

4.2 Medieval

During the medieval period the proposed site spanned two distinct areas: the Archbishop's Palace and the Prebendal Houses.

Remains of the Archbishop's Palace consist of the chapel built by Walter de Grey (1215-1245) and one wall of another medieval building attached to it alongside a separate row of seven (originally nine) arches from another, earlier large building, perhaps the 12th century Great Hall constructed by Archbishop Roger (1154-81). Geophysical survey and excavations on the library extension in the 1990s further clarified the layout of the palace; however, a coherent overall plan has yet to be established.

To the south of the proposed development site was a row of medieval prebendal houses fronting on to Minster Yard. These included the Treasurer's House, Gray's Court and the Minster Court complex. The Mansion of Ullerskelf occupied the area of the Minster Close and the Mansion of Stillington was located on the site of the current Deanery.

4.3 Post-medieval

According to Speed's 1610 Map of York the area behind Minster Close comprised gardens. Horsley's 1694 map shows mainly gardens, and largely omits the prebendal houses. A more detailed map of the gardens from 1782 shows Minster Close divided into rented plots. A new deanery was built in 1827-30; this was a large neo-Gothic structure designed by architects Watson and Pritchett.

4.4 Modern

In 1937 the 19th century deanery was demolished. The present deanery was constructed from August 1938. To make space for the new building several buildings were demolished. Several of these appear in earlier engravings and formed part of the Mansion of Stillington.

Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19th century to the 20th century show the 1830 deanery disappearing, the loss of the Mansion of Stillington (parts of which survived until the 1930s), and the appearance of the present deanery.

The proposed development site is shown as gardens during this period.

4.5 Geophysical survey

A geophysical survey was undertaken in 2022 on the proposed development site (Dennis 2021). The survey showed possible evidence for the Roman rampart on the eastern side of the site. A curvilinear anomaly and strong resistance recorded along the southern edge of the site probably correspond to a garden path and garden features respectively, which were marked on the 1852 OS map. There were also three parallel lines of high resistance running north/south, which were of unknown origin.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1

The earliest deposit encountered within Trench 1 was Context 1002, a layer of made ground consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. The top of the deposit was found at 0.72m BGL, and it extended to the limit of excavation at approximately 1m BGL. Finds including late 17th/early 18th century pottery, animal bone (cattle and sheep), Common Whelk shell and clay pipe stems were recovered. This deposit is likely to have been garden soil, particularly as the area is depicted as gardens on Speed's 1610 map of York.

A rubble and brick dump, Context 1001, was encountered in the north-eastern part of the trench. The top of the deposit was found at 0.33m BGL; it was 0.6m thick on the eastern side of the trench, disappearing completely on the western side. It is probable that this was a discrete dumping of demolition material. Three sherds of pottery dating to the Late 16th century were recovered from this deposit

The latest deposit was the topsoil, Context 1000, which was 0.2m thick.

5.2 Test Pit 1

The earliest deposit within Test Pit 1 was a layer of made ground, Context 2004. This was found at the base of the trench at 0.83m BGL and was at least 0.05m in thickness. It is possible this is the same deposit to Context 1002, a post-medieval garden soil.

Above Context 2004 was a dump of soft, mid-brown sandy clay with occasional CBM and limestone fragments, Context 2003. This was approximately 0.10m in thickness and the top of the deposit was found at 0.72m BGL.

A made ground deposit, Context 2002, overlaid Context 2003, which was approximately 0.25m in thickness. The top of the deposit was encountered at 0.45m.

Constructed through made ground layer 2002 was brick footing 2001, the footing for the stone-built boundary wall of the Deanery. It was constructed of red bricks measuring 225mm x 110mm x 55mm and bonded with a firm cream lime mortar. At the base of the footings three bricks were lain on their side against the wall. The base of the footing was at 0.5m BGL.

The latest deposit was a garden soil contained within the flower bed, Context 2000. This was approximately 0.4m in thickness, and is built-up against footing 2001. Numerous tree roots were present.

5.3 Test pit 2

The earliest deposit encountered within Test Pit 2 was Context 3001, a demolition deposit. The deposit was encountered at 0.3m BGL, extending at least 0.7m in depth. The deposit contained frequent stone and brick rubble within a clayey silt matrix.

Running south-west/north-east through Context 3001 at a depth of 0.9m BGL was a cast iron pipe, probably used for drainage. It is aligned with a manhole located within the driveway of the Deanery and is likely to be 19th or 20th century in date. No cut was visible for the pipe, probably as a result of the pipe trench being backfilled with its original contents.

The latest deposit was garden soil Context 3000, which was contained within the flowerbed of the front garden of the Deanery. This was approximately 0.3m in thickness.

6 POTTERY ASSESSMENT

BY A. JENNER

6.1 Introduction

Seven sherds of medieval and later pottery were retrieved from 4 contexts during archaeological intervention at York Minster Centre of Excellence proposed site (Project 6281). They are all of a domestic nature, including a cooking vessel, jugs and the base of a Tin Glazed bowl or dish.

6.2 Wares

This small assemblage consists of medieval and post-medieval wares. There are no Roman or Anglo-Scandinavian wares present.

The medieval wares include late 12th/early 13th century Early York Glazed ware and late 13th century Brandsby ware. These ware types are discussed in more detail by Mainman and Jenner (2013).

6.3 Medieval wares

Splash Glazed ware – late 12th to mid-13th century

These ware types were produced in a range of different fabrics including oxidized, red coloured, white and reduced grey coloured. Some have lightly reduced cores and thick white margins. The latter are similar to York Glazed wares and may be a precursor. Unfortunately, no kilns producing these wares have been discovered, though it is likely that they were produced in the Howardian Hills. This is because their constituent clay and mineral inclusions are not dissimilar from those of the York Glazed and Brandsby wares that are also thought to emanate from this area.

Splashes of glaze can be seen on other later wares, making it difficult to be certain of its type, particularly when sherds are small. This is the case with the 2 sherds from the Deanery gardens.

York Glazed ware – late 12th to mid-13th century

York Glazed wares are made from a light firing clay which was probably sourced in the Howardian Hills, though no kiln sites have yet been found. Forms within this assemblage are from jugs (few other forms have been noted within the York Glazed tradition). They have typical watery shiny yellow and green flecked glazes.

The tripod cooking vessel from the site may have been a cauldron or pipkin, however there isn't enough of the vessel to be sure. Although the pinkish-coloured clay body resembles what the Authors called Early York Glazed ware, it would have been in use at the same time as York Glazed ware. Both have a watery shiny suspension glaze which is often yellow or light green.

Brandsby ware – late 13th to mid 14th century

Brandsby wares follow on from York Glazed wares and it has sometimes been difficult to tell them apart in the late 13th century (ibid, 1230), as these earlier Brandsby wares often have a similar open fabric. Later Brandsby vessels have a finer, denser, biscuit coloured fabric and darker mottles glaze, as well as plainer decoration.

The rod handle from the site would have been part of a jug. Many similar ones have been found at the Bedern, though they are common amongst late 13th century assemblages from York.

6.4 Post-medieval wares

The post-medieval wares include late 16th/early 18th century Ryedale type ware and late 17th/early 18th century Tin Glazed ware.

Ryedale wares – late 16th – early 18th century

As the name suggests, these wares were thought to be made in the Ryedale area. Documentary evidence suggests that they were made in or near to Yearsley, by predecessors of Josiah Wedgwood. Excavations by the late Raymond Hayes suggest that they were also made at many other places in the area (Wilson (ed.), 1988).

Tin Glazed ware – Late 17th – early 18th century

These wares have a soft body and ill-fitting glaze with tin added. Many are decorated as copies of Chinese porcelain, but the base sherd from the site is plain.

Tin Glazed wares were made in a number of places across England. These include London, Bristol and Liverpool. It is difficult to identify the source of undecorated pieces.

6.5 Discussion

This small assemblage consists of medieval and post-medieval sherds. These wares are all commonly found during excavations in York; there is nothing unusual about them. What is perhaps more unusual is the lack of Roman and Anglo- Scandinavian wares. Certainly, this close to the location of the Roman fort, one might have expected to see Roman material.

6.6 Recommendations for further work

There are no recommendations for further work.

7 ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT

BY N.K. DOORN

7.1 Introduction

Excavations on the site have produced a small assemblage of hand-collected animal bone from two contexts. The two contexts also contained a small amount of shell. This assemblage has been rapidly assessed focussing primarily on the range of animal taxa present.

7.2 Methodology

The faunal remains were examined and recorded with guidance from Schmid (1972) and O'Connor (2008). Evidence of butchery, gnawing, burning or post-depositional damage was recorded where present, with reference to Shipman et al. (1984) and Stiner et al. (1995).

Wherever identification to species could not be achieved, bone fragments were classified using the following categories: unidentified mammal, unidentified bird, or unidentified fish. Mammalian fragments that retained characteristics that enabled estimation of the size of the animal were assigned to one or more of the following categories: large mammal (the size of horse/cow/large cervid [i.e. deer]), medium mammal 1 (the size of sheep/goat/pig/small cervid), medium mammal 2 (the size of dog/cat/hare) or small mammal (the size of rodents, mustelidae (badger/otter/polecat family) etc). Very small bone scraps (usually smaller than 10mm) were recorded as unidentifiable and only counted approximately.

7.3 Discussion

The results are outlined in Tables 3, 4 and 5.

7.4 Conclusion

The animal bone recovered contained mostly mammalian bone, and consists of domestic taxa such as cattle and sheep, as well as a small amount of bird bone. A very small amount of shell was found: two oyster valves and one common whelk.

Most of the assemblage seems to be consistent with undifferentiated domestic refuse. The preservation of the bones was overall fair; however, most elements are incomplete.

There was one spot of copper alloy staining on a bone from Context 1002. This could be accidental with a copper alloy fragment having been deposited next to the bone in question; no copper alloy finds have been recovered from the context. There were a few small incisions in the bone possibly suggesting it's use as a pinner's bone, however the incisions do not seem to be deep enough for this purpose.

The sheep tibia from Context 1002 has been perforated lengthwise. This is not an uncommon find in York, however it is unclear whether these perforations were made for a specific purpose.

7.5 Recommendations for further research

The collection of animal bone has limited potential for further research. It does not reflect any specific activity taking place on the site and, while in a fair condition, nearly all elements are incomplete or fragmented.

7.6 Recommendations for retention/discard

It is recommended that the animal bone collection is discarded after recording according to museum disposal guidelines.

8 DISCUSSION

The results of the evaluation indicate that the stratigraphic sequence of the proposed development area consists of deposits related to post-medieval gardens and the dumping of demolition material. This substantiates the cartographic evidence, which suggested that the area was taken up by gardens from the 17th century. The origin of the demolition material is unknown; no evidence of a building is shown within the site boundary on the historic maps. It is therefore likely to have originated from outside the site.

Deposits on the north-western side of the boundary wall of the Deanery appear to be related to gardening and the construction of the present-day Deanery residence. In the base of Test Pit 1 was a made ground deposit that may be related to the gardens depicted on the historic mapping. A clay dump above this, Context 2002, may represent dumping of construction material possibly associated with the construction of the Deanery. The thick rubble made ground deposit found within the base of Test Pit 2 was possibly formed by demolition and building-up the land for the construction of the deanery.

At the depth of the evaluation no significant archaeological features or deposits were uncovered.

LIST OF SOURCES

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YA also wish to thank Claire MacRae, city archaeologist, Keith Emerick, Historic England, Stuart Harrison, York Minster Archaeologist.

The site team was George Loffman and Katherine Bradshaw, and illustrations were prepared by Marius Ilie, all of York Archaeology

APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	10
Levels register	1
Photographic register	0
Sample register	0
Drawing register	1
Original drawings	3
B/W photographs (films/contact sheets)	0
Colour slides (films)	0
Digital photographs	44
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

Table 1 Index to archive

APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Type	Description
1000	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish/blackish brown soft to friable clayey silt. Roots and occasional small stone inclusions, the latter especially towards the base.
1001	Deposit	Mid greyish brown friable gritty clayey silt. Frequent rubble (brick, stone; small, medium and large) inclusions. Finds of green glaze pottery, animal bone, and glass. Deposit slopes (declines) to the west.
1002	Deposit	Dark greyish brown soft silty clay. Occasional bone and small-medium charcoal inclusions. Finds of white glaze pottery, clay pipe stems and shells.
2000	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark brown friable clayey silt.
2001	Structure	Wall footing. Red bricks measuring 225mm x 110mm x 55mm. Cream lime mortar. Some of the bricks are stood on their sides against the footing at the base.
2002	Deposit	Mid grey friable clayey silt. Moderate charcoal and CBM flecks.
2003	Deposit	Mid brown soft sandy clay. Occasional CBM flecks and limestone fragments.
2004	Deposit	Dark grey friable sandy clay. Moderately frequent small subangular stone inclusions. Occasional charcoal flecks.
3000	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish/blackish brown soft clayey silt. Roots and occasional medium stone inclusions.
3001	Deposit	Mid brownish grey friable gritty clayey silt. Frequent rubble (stone, brick; small, medium, and large) inclusions. Pipe running across base of trench, within the deposit, from north corner to south-west wall.

Table 2 Context list

APPENDIX 3 – ANIMAL BONE DATA

CONTEXT	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	TAPHONOMY	COMMENTS
1001	7	Cattle: 1 humerus head Bird: 1 skull, 1 tibiotarsus Large mammal: 2 ribs Medium (1) mammal: 1 scapula, 1 rib	Light brown, mottling	
1002	8	Cattle: 1 radius with fused ulna Sheep: 1 proximal radius, 1 distal tibia Large mammal: 3 ribs, 1 radius shaft Medium (1) mammal: 1 rib	Pale to light brown, copper staining on radius shaft, mottling	The sheep tibia is perforated lengthwise

Table 3 Animal bone

CONTEXT	CATTLE	HORSE	LARGE MAMMAL	PIG	SHEEP	GOAT	ROE DEER	MEDIUM MAMMAL	CAT	FISH	BIRD	TOTAL
1001	1		2					2			2	7
1002	1		4		2			1				8

Table 4 Animal bone by context

CONTEXT	BELON OYSTER <i>Ostrea edulis</i>	BLUE MUSSEL <i>Mytilus edulis</i>	COMMON COCKLE <i>Cerastoderma edule</i>	COMMON WHELK <i>Buccinum undatum</i>	GARDEN SNAIL <i>Cornu aspersum</i>	TOTAL
1001	2					2
1002				1		1

Table 5 Shell

APPENDIX 4 – POTTERY DATA

Context	Find	Quantity	Dating	Details
1000	BF1	1	Late 12th/early 13th century	1 Early York Glazed ware tripod cooking vessel with pulled foot, large
1001	BF2	3	Late 16th century	2 Splashed join, small 1 Ryedale type, reduced, large
1002	BF3	2	Late 17th/early 18th century	1 Early York Glazed with copper flecked glaze, small 1 Tin Glazed pedestal foot ring, medium
2000	BF4	1	Late 13th century	1 Brandsby rod shaped jug handle with dark mottled green glaze, medium

Table 6 Pottery data

PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south-east, 0.5m scale.



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking north-east, 0.5m scale.



Plate 3: Trench 1, looking north-east, 0.5m scale.



Plate 4: Trench 1, looking north-west



Plate 5: Test pit 1, looking south-east, 0.5m scale.



Plate 6: Test pit 2, looking south-east, 1m scale.



Plate 7: Test pit 2, looking south, 1m scale

FIGURES

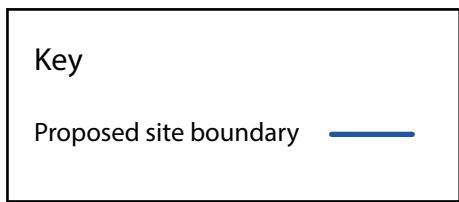
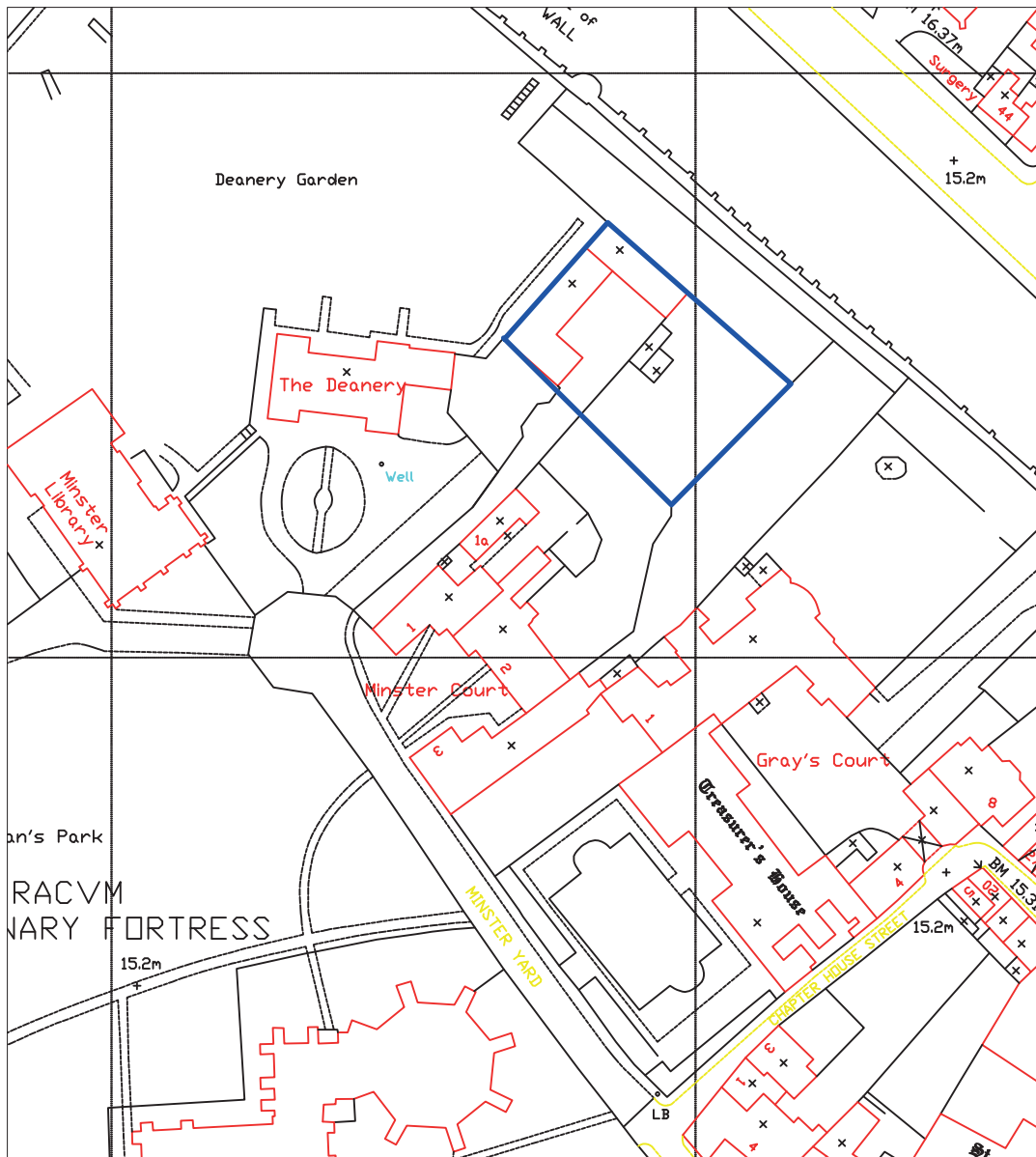


Figure 1 Site location 1:1250 @ A4

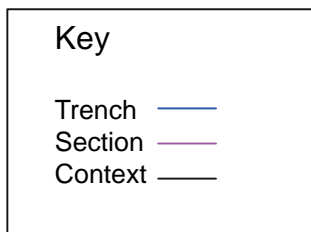
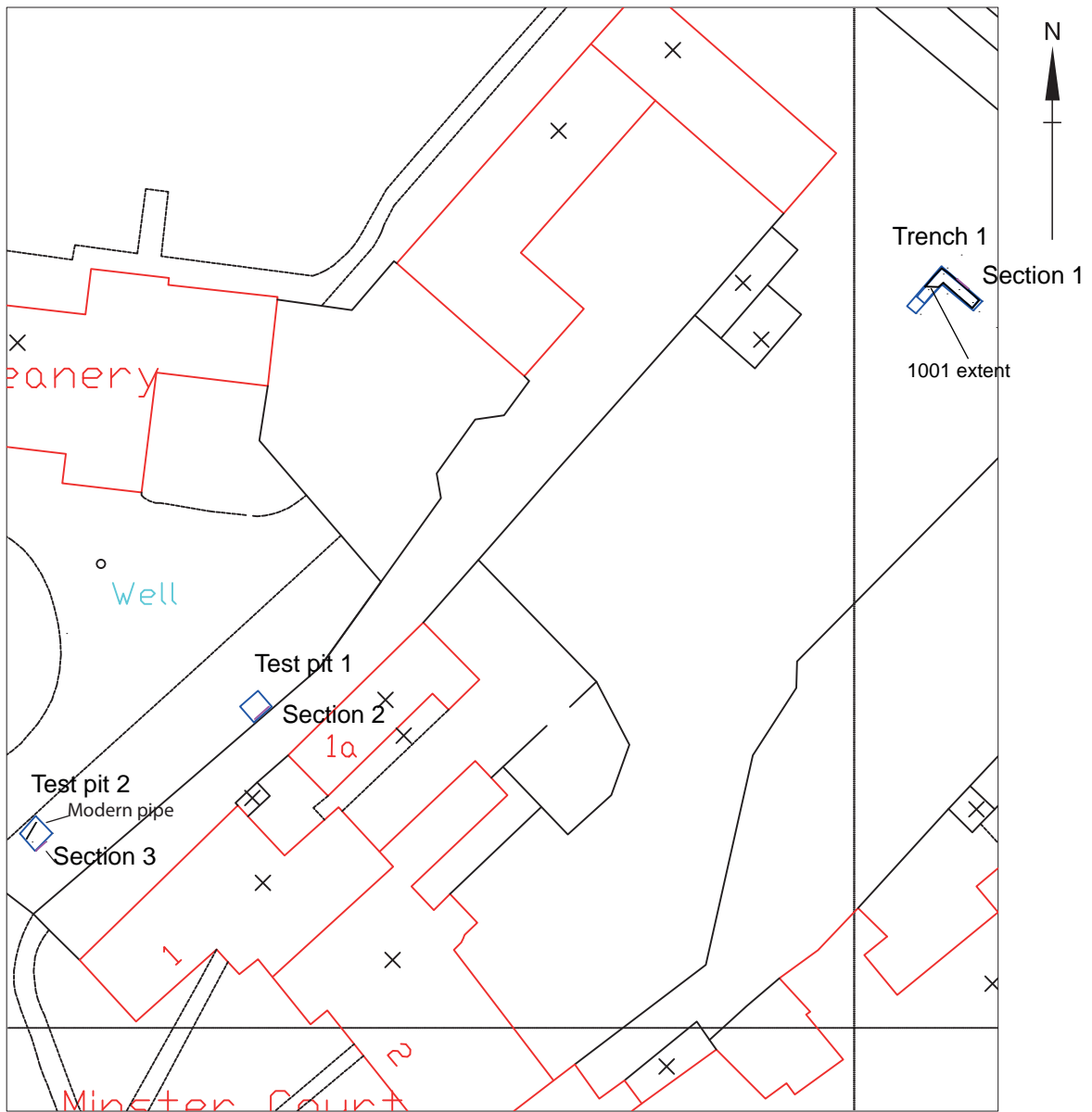
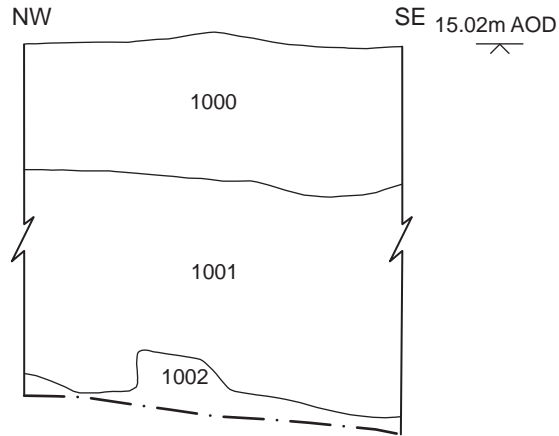
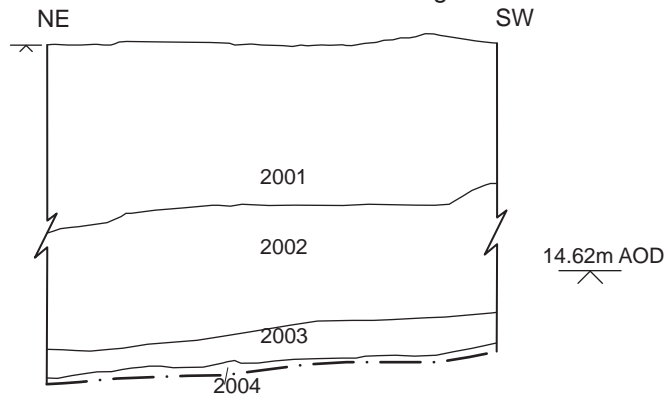


Figure 2 Trench locations 1:500 @ A4

Section 1 south-west facing



Section 2 north-west facing



Section 3 north-west facing

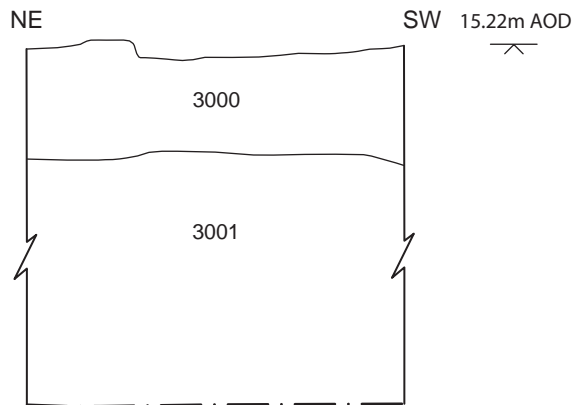


Figure 3 Section 1, 2 and 3 1:20 @ A4



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS, HERITAGE QUAD DEVELOPMENT, YORK MINSTER

Site Location: Land behind the Deanery and gardens of Minster Court
NGR: SE 60392 52359
Proposal: The Heritage Quad which will replace the existing mason's workshop located in the Stoneyard.
Planning ref: N/A
Prepared for: York Minster
Document Number: 2022/8

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	Curator	Date
1		

1 SUMMARY

The Dean & Chapter of York Minster is proposing the construction of The Heritage Quad, a new structure which will replace the mason's workshop located in the Stoneyard. The proposed site is located on the York Minster grounds at NGR SE 60392 52359. The scheme comprises the repurposing of the existing garages at the rear of the Deanery and construction of a new mason's workshop and associated residential buildings.

Historic England have specified that an archaeological evaluation be carried out on the proposed site. This will consist of 1no 2m x 5m trench to verify the results of the geophysics survey and characterise the archaeology; and 2no 2m x 2m trial pits next to wall. A provision has been made for an additional 20m of trenching should the results of the first trench confirm the geophysics survey or encounter significant archaeology.

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in response to a Specification supplied by Keith Emerick / Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments. The work will be carried out in accordance with the specification and this WSI, and according to the principles of the Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance.

2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

The proposal site is located at the York Minster, to the east of The Deanery at SE 60392 52359 (Figure 1). The proposed development site is a rectangular area measuring approximately 40m x 35m. The north-western half of the site contains garages and sheds and the south-eastern half contains part of the gardens of Minster Court. The two trial pits are to be excavated against a wall running north-east/south-west to the north-west of Minster Court.

The bedrock is Sherwood Sandstone Group, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 237 to 227 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian periods. This is overlain by superficial deposits of clay, sand and gravels formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS viewer).

3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

The proposed development is within the area of the Scheduled Monument of York Minster cathedral precinct: including Bootham Bar and the length of City Walls extending round the precinct up to Monk Bar, List Entry 1017777.

The proposed development is within the York Central Historic Core: 6 Conservation Area Appraisal Area (CYC). It is also within Character Area Nine: The Minster Precinct (CYC).

The proposed site is within the York City Centre Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI).

The Deanery a Grade II Listed Building (List UID 1257230) is located just outside the proposed development site. To the south of the proposed site are Nos 1, 2, 2a and 3 Minster Court, which is a Grade II* Listed Building (List 1257243).

Application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) must be made before any work can be carried out which might affect a monument either above or below ground.

Access to the proposed site area is via a narrow access road off Minster Yard. Access to the wall maybe constricted by trees.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HISTORICAL INTEREST

A desk-based survey was carried out by Stuart Harrison (2021), Cathedral Archaeologist York Minster, researching the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development site. This is summarised below.

4.1 Roman

The proposed development site is located within the north-eastern side of the legionary fortress, thought to have been the barracks. The Porta Decumana, the north-eastern gateway of the fortress, was served by the Via Decumana. A road ran parallel to the Roman rampart from the Porta Decumana, and is projected to run through the proposed development site.

Roman foundations and walls were encountered at a depth of 12.77m AOD during excavations of the former medieval archbishop's palace, now part of the York Minster Library. The present ground surface level at the proposed site is approximately 15.15m AOD, which suggests Roman foundations and remains lie around 2.3m below ground level.

4.2 Medieval

During the medieval period the proposed site spanned two distinct areas, the Archbishop's Palace and the Prebendal Houses.

Remains of the Archbishop's Palace consist of the chapel built by Walter de Grey (1215-1245) and one wall of another medieval building attached to it alongside a separate row of seven (originally nine) arches from another large earlier building, perhaps the 12th century great hall constructed by Archbishop Roger (1154-81). Geophysics and excavations on the library extension in the 1990s has further clarified the layout of the palace, however, a coherent overall plan has yet to be established.

To the south of the proposed development was a row of medieval prebendal houses. The cobbled road of Minster Yard served a row of medieval prebendal houses which fronted on to its eastern side. These include the Treasurer's House, Gray's Court and the Minster Court complex. The Mansion of Ullerskelf occupied the area of the Minster Close and the Mansion of Stillington was located on the Deanery.

4.3 Post-medieval

According to the 1610 Speed map of York the area behind Minster Close was gardens. Horsley's 1694 map shows mainly gardens and largely omits the prebendal houses. A more detailed map of the gardens in 1782 shows the close divided into rented plots. A new deanery was built in 1827-30. This was a large neo-Gothic structure designed by architects Watson and Pritchett.

4.4 Modern

In 1937 the 19th century deanery was demolished. The present deanery was constructed from August 1938. To make space for the new building several buildings were demolished. Some of these appear in earlier engravings and formed part of the Mansion of Stillington.

Ordnance Survey maps in the late 19th century to the 20th century shows the 1830 deanery disappearing, the loss of the Mansion of Stillington parts of which survived until the 1930s, and the appearance of the present deanery.

The proposed development site was shown as gardens during this period.

4.5 Geophysics survey

A geophysics survey was undertaken in 2022 on the proposed development site (Dennis 2021). The survey showed possible evidence for the Roman rampart on the eastern side of the site. A curvilinear anomaly and strong resistance recorded along the southern edge of the site, probably correspond to a garden path and garden features respectively, marked on the 1852 OS map. There were also three parallel lines of high resistance running north/south of unknown origin.

5 AIMS

The aims of the evaluation are:

- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological remains present
- to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local, regional, and national context and for an assessment of the significance of the archaeology of the proposal area to be made
- to provide information to enable the local authority to decide any requirements for further archaeological mitigation for the site
- To verify geophysics survey

6 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

The evaluation will comprise the following elements:

- Test pitting
- Trial trenching
- Reporting

Please note that further stages of work or other mitigation measures could be required by the local authority, depending upon the results of the evaluation.

1no trench will be excavated within the garden area. The trench location may be adjusted but an indicative location is shown on Figure 2. 2no test pits will be excavated next to the existing wall to the north of Minster Court shown in Figure 2. It may be necessary to adjust the position and size of these test pits, to avoid tree roots and vegetation. Trenches will be stepped if necessary to excavate safely whilst ensuring their stated size at the base of the trench. A contingency has been made for an additional test pit/trench should trench 1 reveal significant archaeology.

No.	Size (m)	Rationale
1	2 x 5 (to max 1m in depth)	To verify geophysics and characterise archaeology
2	2 x 2 (to max 1m depth)	To investigate wall and deposits
3	2 x 2 (to max 1m depth)	To investigate wall and deposits

The trench locations will be accurately plotted by measurement to local permanent features shown on published Ordnance Survey maps using an EDM Total station or GPS unit. All measurements will be accurate to +/-10cm, and the trenches locatable on a 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map to ensure our interventions can be independently relocated in the future.

Turf, agricultural or garden soil, overburden or other superficial fill materials may be removed by a mechanical digger fitted with a toothless bucket. Mechanical excavation equipment would be used judiciously, under archaeological supervision down to the top of archaeological deposits, or natural deposits, whichever is first identified. If archaeological material is present machining will cease and excavation will normally proceed by hand. Where deep homogenous deposits, or deposits such as rubble infill, are encountered, these may be carefully removed by machine with the approval of Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

The use of powered digging equipment may sometimes be appropriate to remove hard building materials or deep intrusions such as brick or concrete floors or footings. Powered digging equipment will only be used with the agreement of Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and will not be used to cut arbitrary test pits through archaeological deposits.

All trenches will be sufficiently cleaned by hand to enable potential archaeological features to be identified and recorded. Areas will be recorded as sterile if devoid of archaeological material, the stratigraphic sequence will be recorded after which investigation of those areas will cease.

A sufficient sample of archaeological features and deposits will be stratigraphically excavated in the following manner to fulfil the evaluation aims and objectives:

- Discrete features will initially be half-sectioned, full excavation may follow if deemed necessary or appropriate
- A minimum 25% proportion of the total length of linear features will be excavated in sections of not less than 1m in length
- Relationships at junctions, interruptions or terminations of linear features will be sufficiently explored to determine relationships
- Structures will be investigated sufficiently to understand their form, function, extent and morphology, as well as their date and relationships to other features and deposits

7 RECORDING METHODOLOGY FOR EXCAVATION

All archaeological features will be recorded using standardised pro forma record sheets. Plans, sections and elevations will be drawn as appropriate and a comprehensive photographic record will be made where archaeological features are encountered.

Archaeological contexts will be planned at a basic scale of 1:50, with individual features requiring greater detail being planned at a scale of 1:20. Larger scales will be utilised as appropriate. Sections drawings will be made at a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. All drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum. Where it aids interpretation, structural remains will also be recorded in elevation.

Archaeological contexts will be allocated unique numerical identifiers and described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with conventional archaeological record methods. All records will be checked and indexes of records compiled.

All site photography will follow accepted archaeological photography guidelines. Work in progress, general views, groups of contexts or features, individual contexts and sections will be digitally photographed

Areas devoid of archaeological material will be photographed and recorded as being archaeologically sterile. The natural stratigraphic sequence within these areas will be recorded.

All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the ClfA guidance for archaeological materials. 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, and located on plans. Other finds, finds within the topsoil, and dense/discrete deposits of finds will be collected as Bulk Finds, from discrete contexts, bagged by material type. Any dense/discrete deposits will have their limits defined on the appropriate plan.

All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.

Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with York Archaeological Trust specialists and the Historic England Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.

Any human remains discovered will be left in situ, covered and protected pending notification of the discovery to Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and the submission to the Ministry of Justice of an application for excavation. Exhumation of human remains will take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and only with a valid licence from the Ministry of Justice. An osteoarchaeologist will be available to give advice on site.

- Any **disarticulated** human remains discovered will be recovered and removed in appropriate packaging/identified and quantified on site. If trenches are to be immediately backfilled the remains will be left in the ground. If the excavations are to remain open for any length of time disarticulated remains will be removed and boxed, for later reburial in, or as close as possible to, the location of their discovery / for reburial by the Church.
- Any **articulated** human remains that are found will be excavated in accordance with recognised guidelines (see 7.10) and retained for assessment.
- Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment.

Human remains will be removed in accordance with the Burial Act 1857 and the Ministry of Justice exhumation licence, and with the guidance of ClfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and APABE (2017).

Where excavation is in a church or within its precinct, where a Ministry of Justice exhumation licence is not required, permissions will be sought under the Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011 Part 2 (1) (a) (iv), the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE) and cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC). The treatment of human remains in these instances will be in accordance with the requirements of ClfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) (2017).

8 SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT

The stratigraphic information, artefacts, soil samples, and residues will be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study. The material will be quantified (counted and weighted). Specialists will undertake a rapid scan of all excavated material. Ceramic spot dates will be given. Appropriately detailed specialist reports will be included in the report.

Materials considered vulnerable should be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration must be given to possible investigative procedures (e.g. glass composition studies, residues on or in pottery, and mineral-preserved organic material). Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilization of all objects and a written assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs will be produced. Once assessed, all material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, in accordance with Watkinson and Neal (1998), ClfA (2014) and Museums and Galleries (1992).

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.

Allowance will be made for the recovery of material suitable for scientific dating and contingency sums will be made available to undertake such dating, if necessary. This will be decided in consultation with Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments

9 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

Upon completion of the site work, a report will be prepared to include the following:

- a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
- b) An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
- c) 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.
- d) A selection of photographs and drawings, including a detailed plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored, trench locations, selected feature drawings, and selected artefacts, and phased feature plans where appropriate.
- e) Specialist artefact and environmental reports where undertaken, and a context list/index.
- f) 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.
- g) A copy of the key OASIS form details
- h) Copies of the Brief and WSI
- i) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report if required for archival purposes

The report will be submitted in digital format to the commissioning body as well as direct to Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for planning purposes and inclusion into the SMR/HER.

A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs. Catalogues of contexts, finds, soil samples, plans, sections and photographs will be produced. York Archaeological Trust will liaise with the York Minster Archives prior to the commencement of fieldwork to establish the detailed curatorial requirements of the museum and discuss archive transfer and to complete the relevant museum forms. The relevant museum curator would be afforded access to visit the site and discuss the project results.

The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the Local Authority 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.

Upon completion of the project an OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

10 POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & PUBLICATION

The information contained in the evaluation report may enable decisions to be taken regarding the future treatment of the archaeology of the development site and any material recovered during the evaluation.

If further archaeological investigations (mitigation) take place, any further analyses (as recommended by the specialists, and following agreement with Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments) may be incorporated into the post-excavation stage of the mitigation programme unless such analysis are required to provide information to enable a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised. Such analysis will form a new piece of work to be commissioned.

In the event that no further fieldwork takes place on the site, a full programme of post-excavation analysis and publication of artefactual and scientific material from the evaluation may be required by Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Where this is required, this work will be a new piece of work to be commissioned.

If further site works do not take place, allowance will be made for the preparation and publication in a local and/or national journal of a short summary on the results of the evaluation and of the location and material held within the site archive.

The results of the work may be publicised locally e.g. by presenting a paper and talking to local societies, as appropriate.

11 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.

A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

12 PRE-START REQUIREMENTS

The client will be responsible for ensuring site access has been secured prior to the commencement of site works, and that the perimeter of the site is secure.

The client will provide York Archaeological Trust with up to date service plans and will be responsible for ensuring services have been disconnected, where appropriate.

The client will be responsible for ensuring that any existing reports (e.g. ground investigation, borehole logs, contamination reports) are made available to York Archaeological Trust prior to the commencement of work on site.

13 REINSTATEMENT

Following excavation and recording the spoil from the trenches will be backfilled unless requested otherwise. The backfill material will be levelled and compressed as far as possible with the mechanical excavator bucket, but will not be compressed to a specification. York Archaeological Trust are not responsible for reinstating any surfaces, including reseeding, unless specifically commissioned by the client who will provide a suitable specification for the work.

14 TIMETABLE & STAFFING

The timetable will be agreed with the client.

Specialist staff available for this work:

- Human Remains – Vicky Owens, York Archaeology
- Palaeoenvironmental remains – Stacey Adams, York Archaeology
- Head of Curatorial Services – Christine McDonnell, York Archaeology
- Finds Researcher – Nicky Rogers, Freelance
- Pottery Researcher – Anne Jenner, York Archaeology
- Finds Officers – Nienke Van Doorn, York Archaeology
- Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues – Rachel Cubitt and Dr Rod Mackenzie, Freelance
- Conservation – Ian Panter, York Archaeology

15 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

As a minimum requirement, Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments will be given at least one week's notice of work commencing and will be informed prior to completion on site. Any changes to this WSI may only be made with the written approval of Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments will be afforded opportunity to visit the site during the works to inspect the site and the archaeological recording, and discuss the project and any further mitigation requirements. York Archaeological Trust will notify Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments of any significant archaeological discoveries that are made during the course of the project.

With the client's agreement illustrated notices may be displayed on site to explain the nature of the works.

16 COPYRIGHT

York Archaeological Trust retain the copyright on this document. It has been prepared expressly for The Dean & Chapter of York Minster, and may not be passed to third parties for use or for the purpose of gathering quotations.

17 SOURCES

BGS viewer <https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/>

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For current Historic England guidance documents see:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/latest-guidance/>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/archaeological-science/>

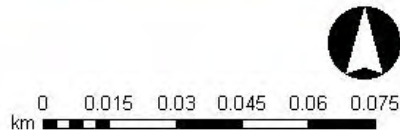
Heritage Quad Archae Eval Location Plan



Date: 18 Jan 2022

Author: n/a

Scale: 1:1,250



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Figure 1 Proposed development site (from client supplied drawing)



Figure 2 Trench location (1:25000)



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