

SITE	Stonegate, Colliergate and Church Street		
CLIENT NAME	City of York Council		
YAT PROJECT #	N/A	YAT REPORT #	2022/64
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 60237 52039, SE 60493 51893, SE 60382 51927
PLANNING REFERENCE #	N/A	AAI OPS NOTICE #	22001

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of City of York Council on the 5th January and 21st February 2022 at Stonegate, Colliergate and Church Street, NGR SE 60237 52039, SE 60493 51893, SE 60382 51927 (Figures 01, 02, 03). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works during the replacement of paving stones.

METHODOLOGY

An archaeological watching brief was required during all groundworks to monitor and record any archaeological features and deposits which may have been disturbed.

Works at Colliergate and Stonegate were monitored on the 5th January and Church Street the 21st February. Paving slabs were removed to a depth of approximately 100mm below ground level, by hand digging and with a pneumatic drill. The excavation was periodically monitored and digital photographs were taken by the attending archaeologist to illustrate the lack of archaeological features present.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Stonegate, Colliergate and Church Street are located in York city centre, in an area which falls within the Central Area of Archaeological Importance and the Historic Core Conservation Area. As listed by the City of York Historic Characterisation Project, the streets of Colliergate and Stonegate are within Character Area 10 - The Medieval Streets. Church Street sits outside this area, but within Character Area 11 – Central Shopping Area.

The sites all sit within the historic core of the city which has been occupied for the past 2000 years. Limited evidence of prehistoric activity exists within York; the majority of archaeological evidence in this area begins with the arrival of the Roman legion in AD71.

York Minster is built over the location of the Roman Legionary fortress of Eboracum. Nearby Stonegate is within the boundary of the fortress, with the present-day road following the line of the *Via Praetoria*, the Roman road that ran from a crossing point on the Ouse to the *principa* (RCHMY 1962, 1). During foundation piling on Church Street in 1972 excavations were undertaken after the discovery of a Roman sewer system within the Roman fortress boundary and close to the legionary baths building (Whitwell 1976), which may have drained the bathhouse found below St Sampson's Square. Numerous finds were also recovered from this excavation including ornaments, gaming pieces and silk (Addyman 1976). More domestic activity has also been found nearby, including in Colliergate and the Shambles which are within the area of the *Canabe*, one of the principal industrial

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and residential areas of Roman York (MacRae 2013).

Stonegate is first referred to as Stonegate in 1118-1119, meaning 'stone paved street'. Anglo-Scandinavian timbers were found on Little Stonegate, which may have been used for the construction of a medieval house (MacRae 2013). In the medieval period evidence for stone houses indicated wealthy inhabitants; the late 12th century Norman House behind 48 Stonegate was excavated in 1939 revealing an open courtyard and showing that the original floor existed at a depth of 1.00m BGL. These areas in York city centre had a mix of industrial and residential activity, including Colliergate which derives from a word relating to charcoal merchants. Originally part of the Shambles, which referred to 'the street of the butchers', Colliergate became a separate street at the time that it was named (Pallister 1978).

RESULTS

No archaeological remains were observed during the groundworks. Beneath the paving slabs was a layer of mixed rubble containing frequent red brick fragments and angular stones, with mid-yellowish brown gritty sandy silt (Plate 1, Plate 2, Plate 3). This layer was interpreted as a bedding layer for the paving stones.

CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological finds, deposits or features were observed during the monitoring of the replacement of paving stones at Stonegate, Colliergate and Church Street. This is due to the shallow depth to which excavations occurred, with the work not extending below the modern bedding layer for the paving slabs.

REFERENCES

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Whitwell, J.B. 1976. *The Church Street sewer and an adjacent building*. York: Council for British Archaeology.

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Plate 1: Colliergate, facing west.

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Plate 2: Colliergate, facing north.

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Plate 3: Excavated area at Stonegate, view north-east.

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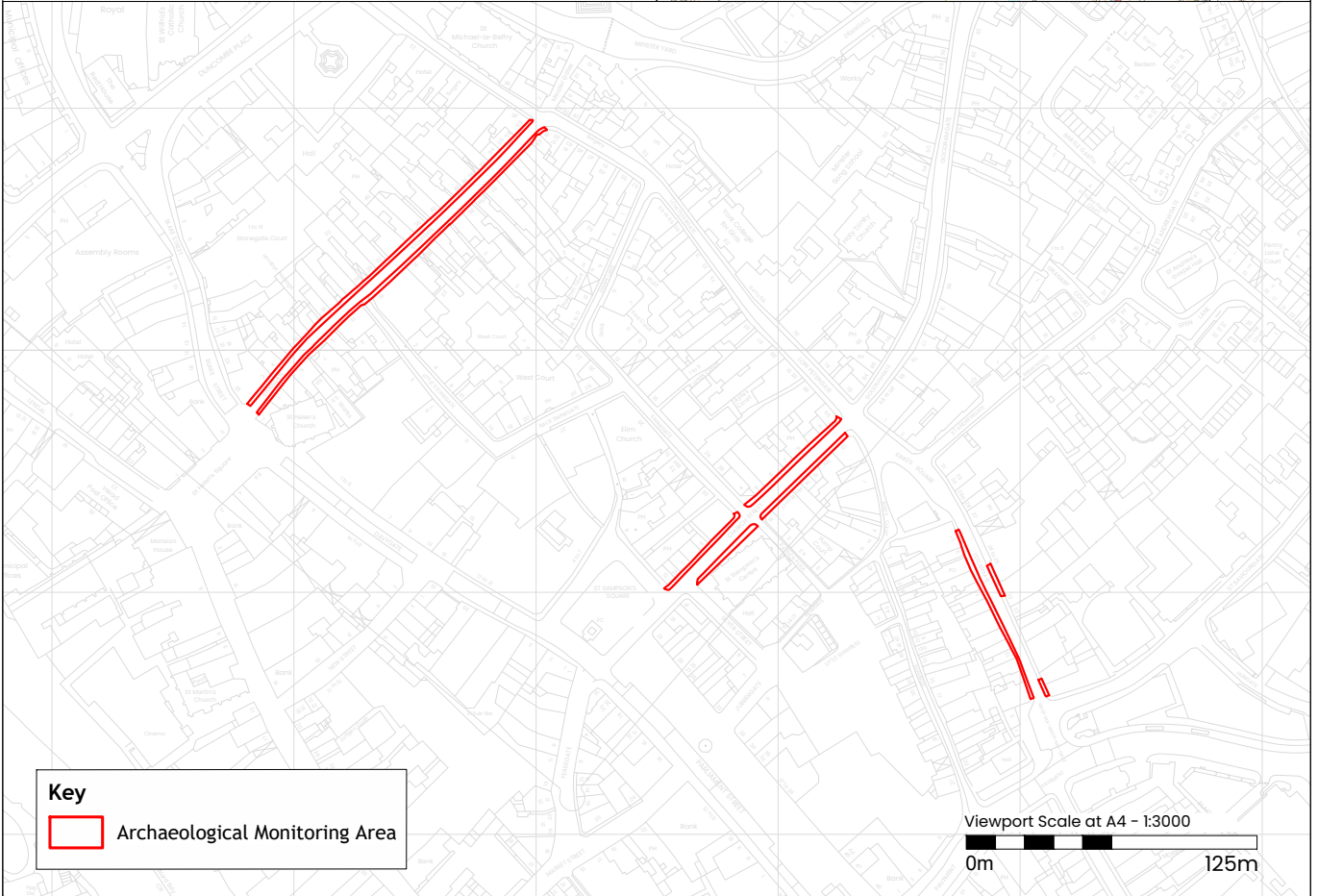
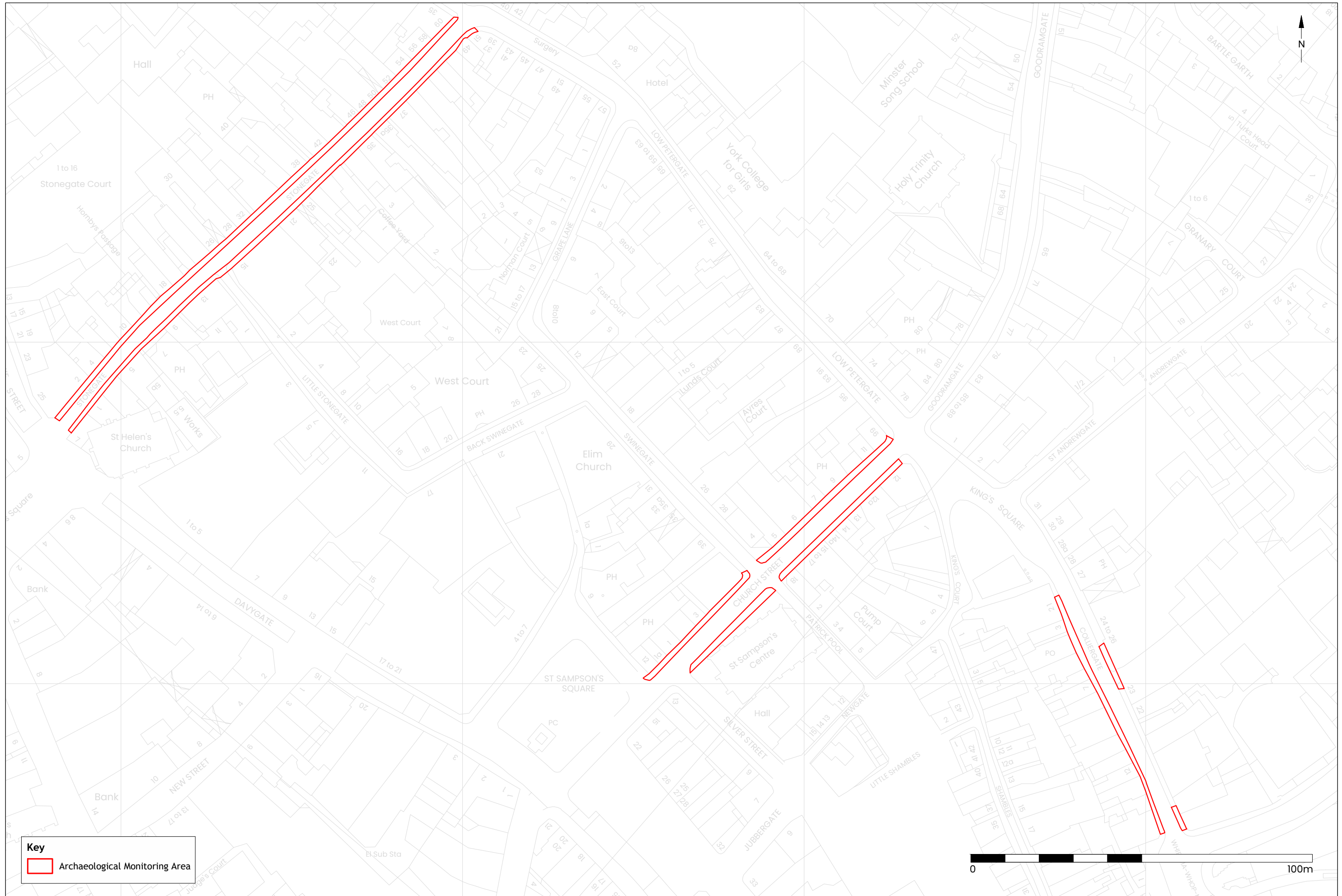


Figure 01 - Location Map
 Stonegate/Colliergate/Church Street Ops Notice 22001

Scale at A4 - varies
 Drawn by MI



Key
 Archaeological Monitoring Area

0 100m



Figure 02 - Site Plan
 Stonegate/Colliergate/Church Street Ops Notice 22001

Scale at A3 - 1:1000
 Drawn by MI

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