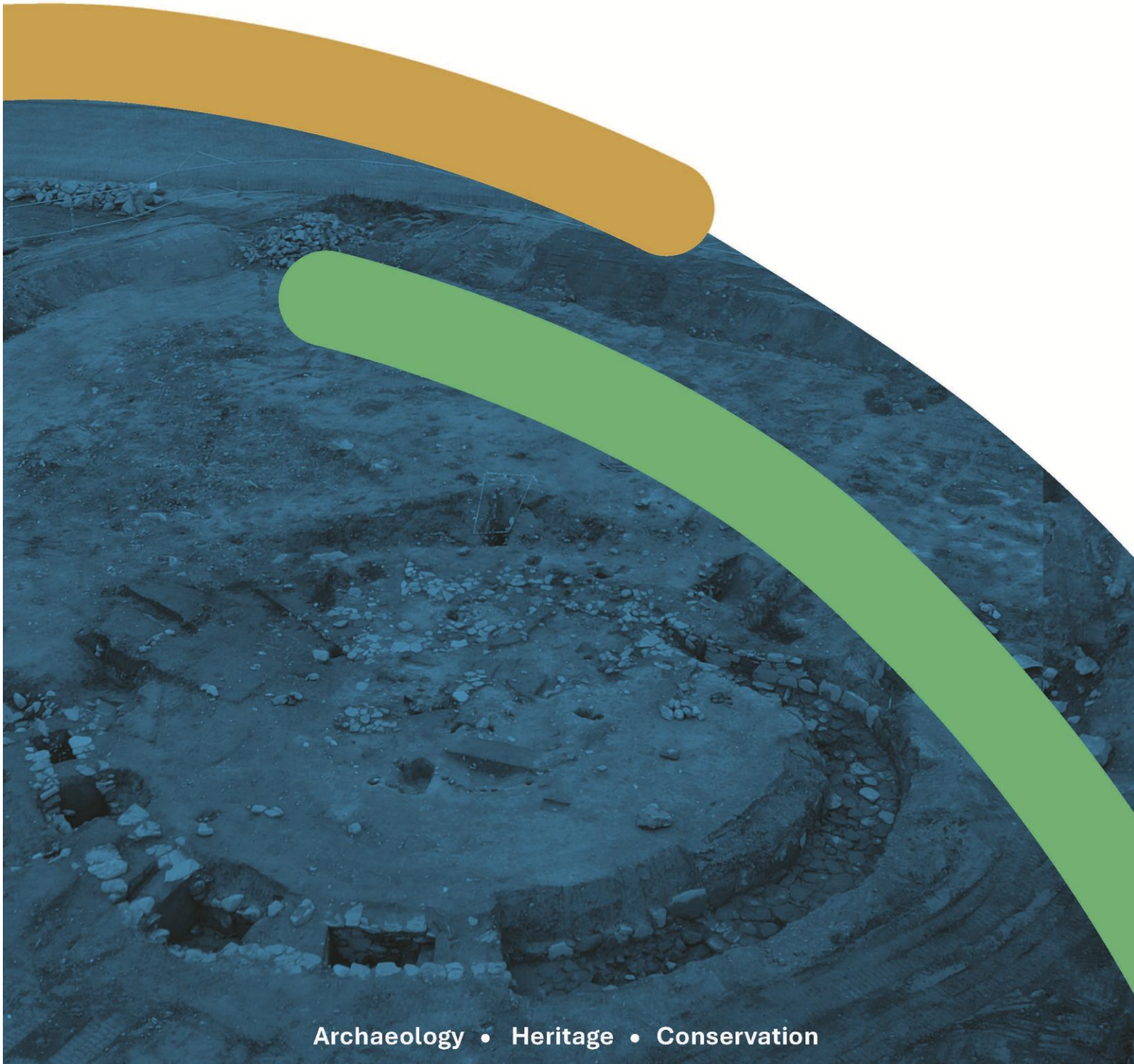
ST LEONARD'S PLACE, YORK, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

53260

4th August 2025



Archaeology • Heritage • Conservation

On Behalf of: *City of York Council*
Highway Maintenance
Eco Department
Hazel Court
York
YO10 3DS

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Contents

Non-Technical Summary ..... **iii**

1 Introduction **1**

2 Site Location and Description **1**

3 Summary Archaeological and Historical Background **1**

Prehistoric 2

Roman (AD 71 – AD410) 2

Anglo-Saxon and Anglo Scandinavian (AD 866 – AD 1066) 2

Medieval (c.1066 to c.1600) 3

Post-medieval period (c.1600 – Present) 3

4 Aims and Objectives **5**

5 Methodology **5**

6 Results **6**

6.1 Trench 1 6

6.2 Trench 2 7

7 Conclusions **8**

8 Bibliography **9**

8.1 Documentary References 9

Appendix 1 ..... **11**

Context Summary Tables 11

Appendix 2 ..... **13**

York Deposit Model Data 13

Appendix 3 ..... **15**

Pottery Report 15

Appendix 4 ..... **18**

Ceramic Building Material (CBM) Report 18

Appendix 5 ..... **21**

Architectural Fragment Report 21

Appendix 6 ..... **25**

Metal Objects Report 25

Appendix 6 ..... **31**

OASIS Form 31

List of Illustrations

Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Plan of Trenches 1 & 2

Figure 3: Plan of Trenches 1 & 2 showing Ortho Image from Photogrammetry

Figure 4: Excavated sections, Trenches 1 and 2

Plates

Plate 1: Initial excavation of Trench 1 following removal of tarmac rubble. Facing south-west.

Plate 2: Trench 1, Stone surfaces [105] and [103] sitting on red make up deposit (106) and (107) in sondage. Facing west.

Plate 3: Trench 1, surface [103], detail of makeup deposit (106) and rubble (107) within sondage. Facing east

Plate 4: Trench 1, overall shot of Trench 1 showing stone surfaces [103] and [105]. Facing south-west.

Plate 5: Trench 1, west facing section showing sequence of made ground deposits including concrete (101) and tarmac (100). Facing east.

Plate 6: Trench 2, Stone footings [208], [210] cuts [212] [213] and [216] deposits (205) and 209. Facing north-west.

Plate 7: Stone footings [208], [210] cuts [212] [213] and [216] deposits (205) and 209. Facing south-east.

Non-Technical Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by City of York Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during roadworks on St Leonard's Place, York, adjacent to the York Theatre Royal.

The watching brief involved monitoring during groundworks to repair a sinkhole that appeared on the carriageway of St Leonard's Place. The watching brief was carried out in two stages covering the western and eastern sides of the road which were excavated separately (Trenches 1 and 2) to allow one lane to remain open.

The groundworks involved the excavation of a trench to investigate the cause of the sinkhole, the removal of rubble and unstable material, consolidation of the ground and repair to the road surface. The archaeological watching brief was designed to record any structures, features, deposits and finds of archaeological significance.

On the eastern side of the road in Trench 1 and below modern tarmac, concrete and rubble, a surface made up of large limestone blocks was found which was thought to have formed the foundation or original base for St Leonard's Place which was constructed in the 1830s. The stone may have derived from demolition material from St Leonard's Hospital and the city walls or other structures which were demolished during historic development of this part of York. On the western side of the road in Trench 2 the footings or remains of two limestone structures were found which may relate to a medieval building known to exist in this area, possibly St Leonard's Hospital or an associated structure.

An OASIS form has been completed: OASIS (UID) aocarcha1-535956.

1 Introduction

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by City of York Council, Highway Maintenance, to undertake a watching brief during groundworks to repair a sinkhole that appeared within the carriageway of St Leonard's Place (Figure 1). No formal written scheme of investigation (WSI) was issued for the archaeological watching brief but the City of York Council Archaeologist (CYCA) approved the archaeological monitoring and recording of the roadworks.

1.1.2 The work met the requirements of nationally recognised guidance for archaeological excavations, including the professional standards published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (specifically, the *Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording* (CIfA 2023a) and the *Universal Guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording* (CIfA, 2023b)).

1.1.3 The archaeological investigation was managed to the standards laid down in the Historic England guideline publication *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Managers Guide* (2015), and the *MoRPHE: Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation* (PPN3) (2008). It also met the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Chapter 16: 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'; DLUHC 2025).

2 Site Location and Description

2.1.1 The site is located on St Leonard's Place, York, in the roadway adjacent to the York Theatre Royal, centred at National Grid Reference SE 60096 52160 and at a height of 16.75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). A row of 19th century houses is located immediately west of the site, a fragment of Roman wall approximately 30m to the north, and Bootham Bar and the city walls approximately 70m to the north. The De Grey Rooms and the York City Art Gallery are situated either side of the carriageway to the north and numerous historic buildings lie in close proximity to the site.

2.1.2 The work involved the excavation of two trenches on either side of the carriageway (Trenches 1 and 2) undertaken separately to allow one lane of the road to remain open (Figure 2).

The bedrock geology within the site consists of the Sherwood Sandstone Group – sedimentary bedrock formed between 272.3 and 237 million years ago during the Permian and Triassic Periods. Superficial deposits comprise Vale of York Formation clay, sand and gravels, formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS 2025).

3 Summary Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1.1 The following brief overview is derived from the City or York Historic Environment Record (HER) and links to reports therein (www.her.york.gov.uk).

Prehistoric

3.1.2 There is limited evidence of prehistoric activity in central York but the nearest evidence was found from the St Leonard's Hospital excavations in 2002 c. 200m to the south-west of the site where a ditch thought to be part of an Iron Age field system was found (YAT 2003).

Roman (AD 71 – AD410)

3.1.3 St Leonard's Place lies within the south-western quadrant of the former Legionary Fortress which was established by the Ninth Legion Hispana in AD 71-74 and known as Eboracum (Monument record MYO 2015). The fortress was rebuilt in stone in AD 107-108 and covered an area of 20.25 hectares (www.her.york.gov.uk)

3.1.4 In the Roman period the site lay within the *praetentura,* part of the fortress that lay in front of its administrative buildings. The south-western part of the *praetentura* was occupied by barrack blocks and a large baths complex also lay in the south-eastern part of the *praetentura*. Charred grain recovered during works at the Cresent off St Leonard's Place suggests that the site lay close to granaries (YAT 2003).

3.1.5 Between the site and Bootham Bar, opposite the De Grey Rooms, is the site of a former Roman Interval Tower. In 1835 the tower stood to a height of 5ft above the fortress wall (Monument record MYO 4760).

3.1.6 During pavement works in 1986/87 on St Leonard's Place a fragment of the Roman fortress wall was found (HER Event EYO 7898). The wall had been cut away to allow the roadway and pavement construction but remained intact beneath. Most of the facing stones of the wall had been robbed away but tile courses (also seen on the Multangular Tower) were intact (www.her.york.gov.uk). Other fragments of Roman walls and metalled surfaces have been recorded during construction works around the site (YAT 1998).

3.1.7 The medieval city walls and Bootham Bar to the north of the site replaced the *porta principalis dextra* (gateway) of the legionary fortress. The Roman gate was probably in use in the late 7th century when it was mentioned as a boundary in a land grant known from an early 11th century summary (www.her.york.gov).

Anglian and Anglo Scandinavian (5th to 11th centuries)

3.1.8 Evidence for Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian activity in the vicinity of the site remains elusive. Evidence for Anglian activity within York is largely confined to findspots of metal objects within the Roman walls and a settlement and industrial site at Fishergate (Hall 2007). Notably, two fragments of Anglian cross shafts dating from the 7th to 9th centuries were found at St Leonard's Place in the 1830s and 1850s (YAT 2008). Anglo-Scandinavian remains are more widespread but are generally concentrated to the southeast and south of the fortress (Hall 2007). However, several of the streets within the footprint of the former Roman fortress could be of Anglo-Scandinavian origin, suggesting some occupation of this area prior to the Norman conquest. Furthermore, in 1842 an Anglo-Scandinavian coin hoard was found on St Leonard's Place by workmen whilst digging a drain. The hoard was found close to Bootham Bar close to the foundations of the old city

wall passing from the bar to the multangular tower near St Mary's Abbey. The hoard comprised thousands of coins supposedly within a pot (Find spot record MYO4959). A small timber-framed structure of Anglo-Scandinavian date was also investigated at Little Stonegate (YAT 2008). In contrast, excavations at 9 Blake Street, to the south of the site, suggest that occupation in this area commenced no earlier than the late 10th century (YAT 2003).

3.1.9 St Leonard's Hospital, which was known as St Peter's Hospital until the late 12th or early 13th century, is thought to have 10th century origins. However, at this time it was most likely located near the Minster; it is suggested that it was relocated to the north-western corner of the former Roman fortress in the late 11th century (YAT 1998).

Medieval (c.1066 to c.1600)

3.1.10 The site covered by this watching brief report lies within the precinct of the relocated hospital. The precinct covered a large area and was defined on two sides by the city walls and by precinct walls on its eastern and south-eastern boundaries (Monument Record MYO 3491). Parts of the east precinct wall, including a blocked gateway, form the east wall of the Theatre Royal and are visible at the rear of the stage. Parts of two 12th century vaulted undercrofts also survive within the theatre. The partial, ruined remains of a chapel, infirmary and entrance passage lie adjacent to Museum Street and the Museum Gardens. These structures were built in approximately 1240. Watching briefs undertaken in Museum Street have also revealed stone walls thought to have been associated with the hospital. In 1986 a medieval well was recorded below the stage of the Theatre Royal (Event EYO 638; YAT annual report 1985-1986 / Appendix 1).

3.1.11 The hospital, which was a monastic institution, had become the largest and wealthiest hospital in England by the 13th and 14th centuries. It was dissolved in 1540 and for varying periods of time it was held by the Crown, privately and municipally (YAT 1998).

3.1.1 The site also lies c. 80m south of the city walls and Bootham Bar, the earliest surviving parts of which date to the 11th century (Monument record MYO 4226). St Mary's Abbey had the right to hold a weekly market at the Bar, a custom which may pre-date the abbey's foundation in 1089. When St Leonard's Place was constructed in 1831-35 the barbican, a length of wall and the rampart were removed to the south-west of the Bar.

Post-medieval period (c.1600 – Present)

3.1.2 A royal mint operated within the former hospital site between 1546 and 1698. After several changes of ownership the Corporation of York acquired the hospital estate in 1675. The premises were then divided and leased (YAT 2003).

3.1.3 The south-eastern boundary wall of the hospital was gradually dismantled during the post-medieval period, and Finkle Steet was widened in order to provide better access for the properties fronting onto it; in 1782 part of the hospital undercroft near Lendal was demolished for this purpose. The widened lane was named Back Lendal until it was re-named Museum Street in 1852 (YAT 2003).

3.1.4 In 1744 Joseph Baker leased the undercroft from York Corporation and built a small playhouse above it. The theatre was rebuilt or remodelled in 1763-5, and a Royal Patent was granted in 1769. Tate Wilkinson took over the premises and opened the Theatre Royal in 1771. St Leonard's Place was constructed in 1835, cutting through the former hospital precinct, and the theatre was given a new western façade fronting onto the new street (YAT 2003).

3.1.5 The theatre went through further remodelling in 1880 and 1895, and, in 1901, internal works involved the demolition of much of the 12th century undercroft (Monument record MYO941).

3.1.6 The nine properties on the western side of St Leonard's Place were built in 1834 and are Grade II* listed. The City Art Gallery, built in 1878-79, is Grade II listed and situated further to the north, on the western side of St Leonard's Place. The De Greys rooms are situated between the site and Bootham Bar were built in 1841-42 as an officers' mess and ballroom and are grade II* listed (www.her.gov.uk).

3.1.7 A number of archaeological excavations and watching briefs have been carried out within the theatre which have recorded archaeological material from a number of different periods.

3.1.8 In 1998 a watching brief and limited excavation were carried out on the site of the 12th century undercroft at the Theatre Royal (YAT 1998). Several phases of activity were recorded. The first phase represented dumping form the 11th century, and the second phase the construction of the undercroft itself. Phase three represented alteration and maintenance work whilst phase four may have related to internal re-ordering of the undercroft, possibly during the early 16th century (the construction of dividing walls and mortar floors). Later phases of activity related to dumping and demolition and the raising of floor levels and modern development (YAT 1998).

3.1.9 In 2003 a watching brief was carried out during works to install a disabled access ramp where the remains of a post-medieval building were recorded. There was also evidence of a late medieval or early post-medieval occupation deposit within a timber building north of the undercroft (YAT 2003).

3.1.10 In 2014 a watching brief was carried out at 1-9 St Leonard's Place during the excavation of seven test pits. Most interventions revealed late post-medieval levelling associated with the construction, use and alteration of 1-8 St Leonard's Place and associated modern buildings to the rear. The test pits contained residual Roman and medieval pottery, animal bone and clay tobacco pipe fragments. A section of stone wall was recorded in the test pit at the rear of no. 7 St Leonard's Place, approximately 0.5m below ground level which may have been of Roman or medieval date (AOC 2014).

3.1.11 In 2015 a watching brief and excavation were carried out at the Theatre Royal which recovered evidence for the occupation and use of part of the undercroft of the 12th century. Remains that were found during the works included floors and occupation deposits which pre-dated the 12th century building (YAT 2016).

4 Aims and Objectives

4.1.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site and to assess the character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological remains within the area impacted by the groudnworks.

4.1.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were to:

- Locate, record, characterise, and determine the extent of any surviving sub-surface archaeological remains within the trenches;
- Excavate and record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance if possible within the confines of the trenches;
- Report the results of the fieldwork and place them within their local and national context; and
- Produce a site archive and a descriptive and interpretive report

5 Methodology

5.1.1 The two trenches were excavated separately on either side of the carriageway of St Leonard's Place; this allowed the road to remain open during the works (Figures 1 and 2). Trench 1 was located on the eastern side of the carriageway, Trench 2 to the west. The tarmac surface was cut with an asphalt cutting saw and broken out mechanically using a six tonne 360-degree excavator (Plate 1). Once rubble and modern debris were removed from the trenches a toothless bladed bucket was employed to remove deposits. The trenches were excavated to a depth of 2.00m below ground level (BGL) so access into the deepest parts of the trenches was restricted.

5.1.2 A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of the sequence of deposits within the trenches in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Archaeological Field Manual (MOLAS 1994). Plans were completed at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 (as appropriate), and section drawings at a scale of 1:10. Written descriptions, comprising both factual and interpretive elements, were recorded.

5.1.3 Digital photography was undertaken using a camera with a resolution of at least 10 megapixels. A sequence of photographs was taken of each trench from which a photogrammetry model was produced (Figure 3). The locations of the trenches were tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

5.1.4 All identified finds and artefacts were collected and retained. Finds were bagged according to their context, and significant finds were allocated a recorded finds number and their positions surveyed individually. Finds were exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and stored in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guidelines No. 2* and the CIfA

guidelines *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2020). Where required, conservation was undertaken by approved conservators in line with the *First Aid for Finds* guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

6 Results

6.1 Trench 1

6.1.1 Trench 1 lay on the western side of St Leonard's Place and was L-shaped in plan, the longest axis measuring 6m long. The trench was 4m wide at its northern end and 2m wide at its southern end. The current ground level lay at 16.65m aOD and the trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m BGL (14.64 aOD).

6.1.2 The earliest deposit within Trench 1 was >0.8m deep (deposit (104)=(107)). It was a mixed dark brown silty clay containing stones (Figures 2, 3 and 4, Sections 2 and 4). Deposit (104) contained four Ceramic Building Material (CBM) fragments which comprised three brick fragments (14th to 15th century) and one unglazed floor tile or paver (17th century or later) (Appendix 4). Deposit (107), excavated within a sondage in the northern part of the trench, contained one small fragment of post-medieval pottery, three iron objects and three CBM fragments (Appendices 2-4). The pottery was identified as a small fragment of fine grey stoneware probably dating to the 18th or early 19th centuries (Appendix 3). The metalwork proved to be two copper plated iron screws missing their heads, with partially threaded shanks, common from the 19th century onwards (Appendix 6). The CBM fragments comprised one ridge tile fragment and one peg tile fragment dated to the period between the 13th century and the 15th century and one brick fragment dated to the 14th or 15th centuries (Appendix 4). This deposit represents dumped levelling material and the finds recovered from it, which indicate a 19th century (or later) date, derived from its uppermost portion. It could be interpreted as having been laid in the 19th century as part of the original construction of St Leonard's Place, or as an earlier deposit with intrusive material in its upper levels.

6.1.3 It should be noted that, in the northeastern corner of the trench, the sides of the trench were particularly unstable and it was not possible to enter this part of the trench safely in order to examine and record the exposed deposits.

6.1.4 Overlying deposit (107) in some parts of the trench was a thin (0.06m deep) deposit of clay (106) containing crushed CBM fragments but no finds. This material appeared to represent a discontinuous bedding deposit for stone surface (103) which had been laid directly above it (Figures 2, 3 and 4, Section 2 and 4; Plates 2, 3 and 4).

6.1.5 Stone surface (103) ran from the northern end of the trench southwards for 5.05m; it was 2.8m wide (Figures 2, 3 and 4; Plates 2, 3 and 4). The surface lay at a height of between 16.03m and 16.30m aOD, which was 0.60m BGL. It was constructed partially from re-used limestone blocks, presumably from a former structure once or in proximity to the site, possibly the city walls, St Leonard's Hospital or another building. This surface appears to have been laid during the construction of St Leonard's Place in the 1830s,

probably helping to stabilise and level the ground prior to the laying of the upper surface of the road. Two worked architectural /masonry fragments (registered finds (RF) 1 and 2), were incorporated into surface (103); their locations are shown on Figure 2. One once formed part of stone door jamb, the other may represent part of window tracery or a mullion. The door jamb is considered medieval in date, and it is likely that window fragment also derives from a demolished medieval structure (Appendix 5).

6.1.6 Surface (105) lay immediately to the west of (103) and is most likely a contemporary structure. It measured 2.7m by 0.40m and lay at a height of 16.29m aOD (0.45m BGL) (Figures 2 and 3). This surface was constructed in a similar manner to (103) and was associated with 44 fragments of CBM and one animal bone fragment (Appendices 4 and 7). Of the CBM fragments, eight were identified as Roman brick, their dimensions comparable with bricks used in hypocausts and walls. One fragment had marks on one face that may represent a legionary stamp (Appendix 4). The Roman CBM is residual but likely derives from a Roman building in the vicinity. The remaining CBM fragments from (105) were all dated as 13th to 15th century, with three small fragments dated as 11th century or later. (Appendix 4). The animal bone fragment was a sheep/goat femur, likely food refuse reworked into the rubble deposit (Appendix 7).

6.1.7 The upper 0.60m of the trench was occupied by a deposit of modern concrete (101) (0.2m thick) and then tarmac (100) (0.4m thick), representing the modern roadway of St Leonard's Place (Figure 4, Section 2; Plate 5).

6.2 Trench 2

6.2.1 Trench 2 lay on the eastern side of St Leonard's Place and measured 6m by 3.5m. The current ground level lay at 16.83m aOD (Figures 2 and 3).

6.2.2 At the north-eastern of the trench the earliest deposit encountered was a soft dark grey silty clay (206) covering an area of 2.2m by 1.7m and lying at a height of 15.45m aOD. It contained CBM fragments and two sherds of medieval pottery. The pottery was identified as York Glazed ware of mid-12th to 13th century date (Appendix 3). The CBM comprised three plain tile fragments which were all dated to the period between the 13th century and the 15th century (Appendix 4). Overlying this deposit was a deposit of mid to red brown silty clay (0.2m thick) which covered similar area but had with no notable inclusions or finds (205). These two deposits are interpreted as potentially medieval dumping or levelling events.

6.2.3 In the south-western corner of the trench a deposit similar to (206) was recorded at the base of the trench which measured 2.20m by 1.70m and lay at a height of 15.21m aOD. This deposit (209) comprised a green mottled dark grey to black silty clay (209) which produced no finds (Figures 2 and 3; Plate 6).

6.2.4 Deposits (206), (205) and (209) were all cut by construction cut [212]=[213] for a stone footing for a wall or other structure (210)/(208) (Figures 2, 3 and 4; Plates 6 and 7). The stone footings (208) and (210) appeared to form the corner of a building or structure and were identified c.1.25m BGL at heights of between 15.05m and 15.18m aOD. Structure (208), which measured 1.5m square, was constructed from limestone blocks and slabs

that were up to 0.75m x 0.60m x 0.40m in size; the stones were roughly shaped with no obvious toolmarks. The wall survived as a single course within a coarse sand matrix. The alignment of the footing was NNE to SSW.

6.2.5 The adjoining structure (210) was constructed from similar pale coloured limestone blocks in a sandy matrix and it varied from one course to two in height; it measured 3.95m long and 1.8m wide. The construction cuts for the structures, [213] and [216], contained backfill material abutting the stones. To the north, cut [216] contained dark grey to black silty clay (214) which contained one medieval pottery fragment dating to the mid-12th to 13th centuries and one CBM fragment, identified as peg tile of 13th to 15th century (Appendices 3 and 4). To the south, cut [213] contained mid-greyish yellow clayey coarse sand containing small limestone fragments (215) but no finds. Given that one of the deposits truncated by the construction cuts for the structures and one of the backfills within the cuts contained medieval pottery, it seems likely these features represent medieval construction.

6.2.6 Overlying parts of structure (210) was a deposit of soft yellow sand (211) which contained rough limestone fragments but no finds; it likely accumulated during the demolition of structure [210] (Figures 2-4 & Plates 6 & 7).

6.2.7 Structures (208) and (210), and deposit (211), were overlain by the remains of a stone surface [207] which is interpreted as the continuation of the rough stone surface recorded in Trench 1 as (103). However, in Trench 2 the stone blocks making up the surface were only visible in the north-facing section of the trench as they had been truncated elsewhere in the trench during an earlier repair to the road. The visible part of the surface measured 2.5m long and 0.25m thick; it lay c.0.55m BGL (Figure 4, Section 11).

6.2.8 Overlying surface (207) was a dump of loose rubble (bricks and mortar) (202) which sealed the whole area of the trench and was up to 0.8m thick. It appeared to represent dumped levelling (Figure 4, Section 11). This deposit was truncated by a modern drain [204] with a gravelly backfill (203).

6.2.9 The upper 0.40m of the trench overlying surface (207) comprised 0.2m of compact hardcore and broken tarmac (201), and then 0.2m of tarmac road surface (200) (Figure 4, section 11).

7 Conclusions

7.1.1 No in situ deposits of Roman date were encountered, although residual Roman building material was recovered, which is perhaps unsurprising given the location of the site within the former fortress. Roman deposits may survive at greater depth (the watching brief excavations ceased at 2m BGL).

7.1.2 The watching brief recorded deposits and stone footings in Trench 2 (1.25m BGL) that are likely to be medieval in date, although it is acknowledged that the dating evidence is sparse. These features were associated with three pottery sherds all dating from the period between the mid-to-late 12th century and the mid-to-late 13th century (Appendix

3), and a fragment of peg tile of 13th to 15th century date (Appendix 4), periods during which the site lay within the precinct of St Leonard's Hospital. The structures were heavily truncated. Two stone architectural fragments recovered as residual finds in a later context in Trench 1 also testify to the demolition of medieval structures in the vicinity of the site. Further research, beyond the scope of this watching brief report, would be required to ascertain how (if at all) the stone structures relate in alignment and height to the medieval remains of St Leonard's Hospital that have been recorded within the Theatre Royal. One example, however, is of note. A watching brief undertaken by YAT in 2003 in the theatre recorded potentially 'late medieval or early post-medieval' deposits at the base of a trench lying at 16.2m aOD, and the *in situ* undercroft floor at 15.9m aOD (YAT 2003, 14). Levels taken on the truncated upper surfaces of structures (208) and (210), and deposits (206) and (209), were lower at between 15.05m a OD to 15.57m aOD, perhaps indicating a greater level of truncation.

7.1.3 Evidence for the construction of St Leonard's Place in the early 19th century was also recorded during the watching brief, in the form of a rough stone surface which incorporated medieval architectural fragments.

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Appendix 1

Context Summary Tables

Trench 1	Dimensions:	6.5m x4.30m		Alignment:	N-S
Context No	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
100	Modern road surface	Successive layers of tarmac	6.5m	4.30m	0.50m
101	Concrete	Concrete slab, base of retaining wall.	6.5m	4.30m	0.25m
102	Made Ground	Mixed brick, concrete and stone demolition rubble	6.5m	4.30m	0.30m
103	Stone surface	Limestone surface make up for St Leonards Place.	5.02m	2.80m	0.40m
104	Deposit	Mixed dark brown silty clay with limestone fragments and cobbles.	2.40m	0.80m	0.90m
105	Stone surface / foundations	Limestone surface make up for St Leonards Place.	2.70m	0.45m	N/A
106	Deposit	Brown clay with small crushed CBM fragments.	2.5m	0.7m	0.08m
107	Deposit	Dark olive brown silty clay with limestone fragments and cobbles.	2.35m	0.85m	0.90m+

Trench 2	Dimensions:	6.6m x4.00m		Alignment:	N-S
Context No	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
200	Tarmac	Tarmac yard surface	6.60m	4.00m	0.17m
201	Made ground	Compact hardcore with broken tarmac.	6.60m	4.00m	0.25m
202	Made Ground	Brick, mortar and limestone blocks	6.60m	4.00m	0.80m
203	Deposit	Gravel fill of service trench [204]	N/A	N/A	0.65m+
204	Cut of modern service trench	Modern service trench filled by (203)	N/A	N/A	0.65m+
205	Deposit, dumped material	Firm to mid red brown silty clay	2.10mm	1.90m	0.20m
206	Deposit, dumping or levelling	Dark grey silty clay with CBM fragments	2.20m	1.70m	N/A
207	Limestone surface	Limestone blocks forming surface			0.25m
208	Limestone wall footing	Limestone blocks with a matrix of coarse sand	1.50m	1.50m	N/A
209	Deposit,	Firm dark grey to black humic	1.80m	1.10m	N/A

Trench 2	Dimensions:	6.6m x4.00m		Alignment:	N-S
Context No	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
	dumped organic material	clay, possible cess pit dumping.			
210	Limestone wall footing	Pale3 coloured limestone blocks forming wall footing	3.55m	1.80m	N/A
211	Deposit	Soft mid yellow coarse sand with frequent rough limestone fragments. Fill of construction cut [212]	3.40m	1.60m	N/A
212	Cut	Construction cut for footing [210] north side	3.50m	3.20m	N/A
213	Cut	Construction cut for footing [210] south side	3.50m	3.20m	N/A
214	Deposit	Soft dark grey to black silty clay with CBM fragments. Fill of [212]	2.00m	0.20m	0.05m
215	Deposit	Soft mid greyish yellow clayey sand. Fill of [213]	1.70m	0.10m	N/A
216	Cut	Construction cut for wall [208]			

Appendix 2

York Deposit Model Data

Trench and Section number	Figure	Centre or cardinal point	Grid ref	mAOD of section	Context number	Context description from context list	mBGL Depth Top	mBGL Depth base	Comments
Trench 1 Section A	3 & 4		SE 60092 52164	16.71 (top of trench)	100	Tarmac layers including existing road surface	0	0.40m	Level is taken from GPS survey.
					101	Concrete below tarmac	0.40m	0.60m	
					102	Modern made ground	0.60	0.40m+	
					103	Limestone surface, reused stones.	0.60m	1.08m	Contained two architectural fragments. Same as [207].
					104 = 107	Post-medieval made ground ?	1.08m	2.00m	Contained CBM, Iron and post-medieval pottery.
					105	Limestone surface, possibly same as 103	0.45m	0.65m	Contained post-medieval CBM fragments.
					106	Deposit sandy natural or dumped sand.	0.88m	0.96m	
					107 = 104	Post-medieval made ground ?	0.96m	2.00m+	
Trench 2	3 & 4		SE60099 52164	16.83 (top of trench)	200	Tarmac road surface	0	0.20m	Level is taken from GPS survey.
					201	Rubble layer of broken tarmac	0.20m	0.40m	
					202	Loose brick, mortar and limestone blocks	0.40m	1.20m	
					203	Backfill of modern service trench	0.40m	1.10m	
					204	Cut of modern service trench	0.40m	1.10m	
					205	Grey brown silty clay	1.10m	1.38m	Probably medieval or post-medieval.
					206	Dark grey silty clay	1.38m+	1.38m	At base of trench, 2x sherds of medieval/post medieval pottery and CBM found.
					207	Surface of reused limestone blocks	0.55m	0.80m	Same as [103]

Trench and Section number	Figure	Centre or cardinal point	Grid ref	mAOD of section	Context number	Context description from context list	mBGL Depth Top	mBGL Depth base	Comments
					208	Wall footing	0.90m	1.08m	Remains of probable medieval building or structure.
					209	Dark greenish grey humic clay deposit at base of trench, pre-dates wall [210]	0.80m	1.38m+	Medieval dumped material / midden waste
					210	Wall footing	0.90m	1.08m	Possibly contemporary with [208].
					211	Modern made ground.	0.60m	1.08m	Made ground below surface [207].
					212	Cut for wall footing [210]	1.27m+	1.27m	
					213	Cut for wall footing	1.27m+	1.27m	
					214	Dark grey to black silty clay fill of wall footing cut [214]	1.27m+	1.27m	
					215	Mid greyish yellow clayey coarse sand backfill of wall footing cut [213]	1.30m+	1.30m	
					216	Cut for wall footing [208]			

Appendix 3

Pottery Report

By C. G. Cumberpatch BA PhD, Freelance Archaeologist

Introduction

The pottery assemblage from St Leonard's Place, York was examined by the author on 28th July 2025. It consisted of four sherds of pottery weighing 82 grams from three contexts. The data are summarised in Table 1.

The assemblage

The pottery from contexts 206 and 214 was all of the same type; York Glazed ware, dating to the period between the mid/late 12th and mid/late 13th centuries. York Glazed ware has been extensively documented by Mainman and Jenner (2013) whose account includes examples of vessels very similar to those in the present assemblage. The sherd from context 214 includes part of a seal or applied plaque which may be similar to the example published as Figure / Plate 4260 by Mainman and Jenner (see Figures 477 and 478) although the sherd includes only part of the moulded design. The sherds from context 206 lack the distinctive design elements but the dark green mottled glaze and the fabric are also definitive of the type.

Despite the name, this type of pottery was probably manufactured to the north of York with the city's markets providing an outlet for many potters located in its hinterland including those who manufactured the York Glazed wares and the slightly later Brandsby type wares (Mainman and Jenner 2013, Vince 2004).

The sherd from context 107 was somewhat later than those from contexts 206 and 214. It was a small piece of fine grey stoneware with thin salt glaze on the internal and external surfaces. It probably dates to the 18th or early 19th century. The origin of the sherd is uncertain.

Discussion

The small size of the assemblage precludes any detailed discussion but it seems clear that contexts 206 and 214 were earlier in date than was context 107. The sherds were all unabraded, suggesting relatively rapid deposition and burial.

References

Mainman, A and Jenner, A 2013 Medieval pottery from York The Archaeology of York The Pottery 16/9 York Archaeological Trust / Council for British Archaeology

Vince, A. 2004 Characterisation studies of medieval glazed wares from York AVAC Report number 2004 / 151

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range
107	Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Pale greenish-brown salt glaze int & ext	C18th – EC19th
206	York Glazed ware	1	18	1	BS	Jug	Bright green mottled glaze int & ext; applied vertical strip	M/LC12th – M/LC13th
206	York Glazed ware	1	43	1	BS/Handle stump	Jug	Bright green mottled glaze ext	M/LC12th – M/LC13th
214	York Glazed ware	1	19	1	BS	Jug	Bright green mottled glaze ext w/ part of an applied plaque or seal	M/LC12th – M/LC13th
	Total	**4**	**82**	**4**				

Appendix 4

Ceramic Building Material (CBM) Report

By Sandra Garside-Neville (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction

The assemblage from St Leonard's Place, York, was examined on 6th August 2025. There are 44 fragments, weighing a total of 6.110 kg.

Methodology

The fragments were examined with a x10 hand lens, looking for any indication of manufacturing surfaces and to generally observe the fabrics. The information was recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, which provides the basis of Table 1 below. Fragments deemed worth keeping for future reference were bagged as 'Retain', and those where no further information could be gleaned were bagged as 'Discard'.

The assemblage

Condition

The assemblage is fragmentary and abraded, with no complete items.

Material

The material ranges from Roman brick to medieval roofing tile and fragments of brick. There is also one piece of possible post-medieval plain floor tile.

Roman brick

There are eight fragments of Roman brick, all from context 105. There are two thickness measurements: 38mm and 62mm. Both measurements are associated with bricks used in hypocausts and walls. One fragment has some marks on its top face (context 105), which might be a legionary stamp

Medieval roof tile

There are three joining fragments of a form with a small flange (context 105). There is a curved and flanged system which is very similar to the Roman roofing type. However, the flanges are much smaller and the whole tile tends to taper. These have been found on York excavations (e.g. Parliament Street) and were used from the late 11th century but which went out of favour by the early 13th century. The identity of this fragment is very uncertain, as it is atypical, having a very small flange plus the fabric is very fine.

Most of the assemblage comprises plain roof tile. Many fragments are designated 'plain' and this covers the main forms of plain tile: peg tile or nib tile. However, the major form in

medieval York is a single holed peg tile, and there are two fragments with partially square peg holes from contexts 107 and 214. Peg tiles are the most common form in medieval York, with nib tiles only occasionally occurring.

There is only one fragment of possible ridge tile (context 107), which has a slight curve to it.

Medieval brick

Brick was used in York from at least the fourteenth century on ward. The main feature of medieval bricks from York are their dimensions. The measurements tend to be longer, broader and narrower than post-medieval bricks. These bricks are scattered throughout the assemblage (see Table 1 below).

Post-medieval paver

There is a fragment of a possible post medieval paver from context 104. It stands out from brick as the edges are smooth and knife cut, plus there is a slight bevel to those edges. It is unglazed. This type of paver was used from the 17th century onwards.

Post-medieval brick

There is one fragment of possible post-medieval brick (context 105). The thickness (53mm) is indicative of a post-medieval brick. It also has a bow mark on the base (where a string, usually attached to a curved handle, is used to remove excess clay), which is associated in York with post-medieval bricks. However, it is possible that this is an outlier of medieval bricks.

Con	Fab	Form	Cor	Wei	Bre	Thi	Mor	Comments	Spot date
104	F8	Brick	1	293		38	Yes	Mortar on broken edge	14-15th
104	F8	Brick		310		42	Yes	Mortar on broken edge; light mortar on moulded edge	14-15th
104	F10	Floor?	1	855		50	Yes	Trimmed, bevelled edges?; possible plain, unglazed floor tile; medium amounts of mortar on all moulded edges	17th+?
104	F8	Brick		225		32*	Yes	Mortar on broken edge	14-15th
105	F1	Plain	1	141		13		Grip marks: right hand, top and bottom surfaces	13-15th
105	M0	Mortar		9		0		Occasional brick, c 2mm, frequent quartz <1mm, occasional grog	Medieval?
105	F1	Plain		78		14			13-15th
105	F2	Plain		56		16	Yes	Sparse mortar	13-15th
105	F3	Plain		45		12	Yes	Slightly raised edge	13-15th
105	F4	Flanged?		63		8*		Three joining fragments; very small flange 23mm high; could be modern	11th+
105	F2	Plain		29		14*			13-15th
105	F1	Plain		35		14			13-15th
105	F1	Plain		61		13	Yes	Mortar on broken edge; grip mark on base	13-15th
105	F1	Plain		80		14			13-15th
105	F1	Plain		32		0	Yes	Mortar on moulded edge	13-15th
105	F5	Plain		11		10		Reduced core	13-15th
105	F3	Plain		30		15		Reduced core	13-15th
105	F1	Plain		30		15			13-15th
105	F3	Plain		13		14			13-15th
105	F2	Plain		19		13			13-15th
105	F3	Plain		16		13*			13-15th
105	F3	Plain		8		0			13-15th
105	F6	Rbrick		69		37*		Reduced core	Roman
105	F6	Rbrick		31		0		Reduced	Roman

Con	Fab	Form	Cor	Wei	Bre	Thi	Mor	Comments	Spot date
105	F7	Rbrick		121		62	Yes	Reduced core; mortar skim on base	Roman
105	F7	Rbrick		287		38	Yes	Two joining fragments; marks on upper surface; reduced core; mortar on broken edge; possible tile stamp?	Roman
105	F7	Rbrick		165		33*	Yes	Reduced core; mortar on broken edges	Roman
105	F6	Rbrick		121		0	Yes	Mortar on broken edge	Roman
105	F6	Rbrick		24		0			Roman
105	F8	Brick	1	503		43	Yes	Mortar on broken edge; medium mortar on moulded edge	14-15th
105	F9	Brick		216		38	Yes	Mortar on moulded edges	14-15th
105	F9	Brick	1	445		53	Yes	Bow mark; slop moulded; mortar on broken & moulded edges	16-m18th
	F9	Brick	2	1295	126	43	Yes	Slop moulded; medium amount of mortar on moulded edges	14-15th
107	F1	Peg		39		13		Partial square peg hole	13-15th
107	F3	Ridge		82		15	Yes	Light mortar on all surfaces; gently curved	13-15th
206	F1	Plain		68		15		Sooted; soot on broken edges	13-15th
206	F1	Plain		70		15	Yes	Mortar on smooth upper surface	13-15th
206	F1	Plain		89		16	Yes	Sparse mortar	13-15th
214	F3	Peg		46		11		Partial square peg hole; slight reduced core	13-15th

Table 1 – Record of CBM from 53260

Key: Con = Context, Fab = Fabric, Cor = Corner, Wei = Weight; Bred = Breadth, Thi = Thickness, Mor = Mortar, m18th = mid eighteenth century, a figure with an asterisk (e.g. 33) means that the measurement is not complete, but is close to a moulded edge*

Discussion and statement of significance

This a small assemblage but it characterises the variety of CBM materials available in York. There is a range of peg tile forms and fabrics. In addition, there are medieval bricks, which were widely in use in in York from the fourteenth century onward. This CBM was presumably part of the St Leonard's Hospital buildings – from the roof, and bricks from the footings for timbered buildings and walls. Roman CBM is also present, albeit in a small amount.

Recommended further Work

Further work is recommended. Though this is a small assemblage, there is a good variety of CBM which can usefully contribute to the study of CBM of all eras within the city of York, as well as regionally. For example, peg tiles are the most common medieval roof tile form York, but East Yorkshire is different, where nib tiles are more numerous. This assemblage lends further data. There are various marks on the plain tiles (e.g. grip marks) which could be illustrated

The Roman brick with markings on it needs further work to clarify if it is stamped. Photography under different lighting might help with this.

The post-medieval paver needs further research to see if any other pavers have been found in York and regionally. The flanged fragments need the same.

The fabric samples need further exploration, with basic descriptions added, and they could also be photographed to make an easier reference for others.

Appendix 5

Masonry Fragment Report

By Dawn McLaren (AOC Archaeology Group)

Two re-used masonry fragments (RF01 and RF02) were found incorporated into the limestone surface (103), Trench 1, during the archaeological watching brief at St Leonard's Place, York. The area covered by the watching brief has potential for archaeological remains dating to the Romano-British period, early medieval (Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian), medieval, post-medieval and up to the present day, and, most significantly, is close to the original location of the medieval hospital of St Leonard's. The masonry fragments both pre-date the construction of the stone surface and have been examined and reported on here with the aim of classifying their type and date based on the surviving form, shape and tool marks.

The finds have been assessed by photograph only and are summarised in Table 1 and described in full below. Both masonry fragments were assigned Registered Find numbers (abbreviated here to 'RF') in the field.

Context	Context description	RF no./Bulk Find	Object	Quantity	Description	L mm	D mm	T mm	W (g)
130	Limestone surface incorporating re-used masonry	RF01	Architectural stone fragment	1	Damaged door jamb block. Squared wooden baton surviving *in situ* within rebate. Mortar adhering on one extensive face.	285	260	230	23kg
130	Limestone surface incorporating re-used masonry	RF02	Architectural stone fragment	1	Heavily damaged and incomplete fragment from a possible window tracery/mullion or voussoir. Mortar is present towards the centre of one extensive face	305	230	210	23kg

Table 1: catalogue of the masonry fragments

RF 01 (Plate 1) is a large, damaged, door jamb stone carved from a honey-coloured fine-grained sedimentary limestone or sandstone. The stone is 285 mm in length, 260 in width and 230 mm in thickness and weighs 23kg. It consists of a squared block, damaged at one end. At the opposite end, the block is rebated giving it a L-shaped profile. This tall face of the stone is damaged on its top surface and its external vertical face has been neatly dressed with a series of closely spaced, parallel, diagonal chisel marks which remain clear

and visible. The inner surface of this corner has a square socket (still soil infilled) which would have held a wooden baton. The corresponding outer face (Plate 2) was presumably once rectangular but is now damaged. What remains of this outer face is also smooth and flat and displays a series of closely spaced diagonal chisel marks from dressing, especially visible at the damaged end of the face. The undamaged outward facing corner between the two neatly dressed faces has a narrow-rounded moulding which retains traces of dark brown staining or paint. Mortar adheres thickly in patches to two opposing 'interior' surfaces.



Plate 1: Rebated interior surface of RF1 door jamb stone showing soil-filled socket for wooden baton.



Plate 2: External flat face of RF1 door jamb stone with tool marks towards damage end (left) and mortar adhering to the damaged upper face

RF 02 is a possible heavily damaged fragment of a window tracery or mullion fragment. The stone is also fine-grained and honey-coloured and appears to have been made from a block of sedimentary limestone. It survives to 305 mm in length, 230 mm in width and 210 mm in thickness.



Plate 3: Damaged hollow chamfered face of RF02, possibly the remains of a window tracery/mullion stone or voussoir

All the edges have been damaged, some with clear fractured surfaces where substantial flakes have detached, apparently the result demolition and perhaps from subsequent breaking up or reduction in size for re-use as a building stone. Very little of the original faces survive. One face is flat, squat, asymmetrical L-shape and is heavily coated in mortar,

particularly towards the middle of the face. Most of the edges appear to have been flat and vertical originally but are now largely lost. The one long face that does retain some original features from an external surface consists of a narrow frontal fillet to one side of which is a broad hollow chamfer and to the other is a much deeper hollow chamfer or cusp. The identification of this fragment as window tracery or a mullion stone is not certain and there is the possibility that this is a voussoir from a vaulted ceiling.

Both stones were found incorporated into a stone surface (103) made up of large limestone blocks which formed the foundation for St Leonard's Place constructed in the 1830's. There are several structures known in the area which were demolished prior to this date that could have been the source of these blocks, including St Leonard's Hospital and sections of the city wall. St Leonard's Hospital was originally endowed in the late 10th century but it went through several phases of modification and rebuilding (including after a fire around c.1100 AD) until the Reformation (1st half of the 16th century) after which it was largely destroyed. A medieval date for RF01 is likely and it probably derives from St Leonard's which is known to have had high-ceilings and large windows. The date of RF1 is less certain and may be later (post-medieval) however a medieval date and an association with the hospital cannot be ruled out and on the balance of probability it seems likely that the hospital is the source for this stone too.

Recommendations

Both masonry fragments are recommended for retention as part of the site archive.

Appendix 6

Metal Objects Report

by Julie Shoemark BA MA MCIfA (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction

This report presents an assessment of two iron / copper alloy objects (fragment count: 2; total weight 5.14g) recovered during a watching brief carried out at St Leonard's Place, York. Finds were hand-collected during excavation. A single water-worn pebble (weight: 4.02g) with a patch of copper alloy staining on one side was also submitted for assessment; however, it shows no evidence of anthropogenic modification and will not be discussed further in this report.

Methodology

The finds were examined, recorded and reported upon in February 2025 in compliance with appropriate national guidance (ALGAO 2015; Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2020; Historic England 2015).

Material was examined macroscopically using a jeweller's loupe with x15 magnification, measured using a 0–150mm digital caliper and weighed using a digital scale accurate to 0.01g. The assemblage was organised by material and quantified by count and weight.

The assemblage was then considered in terms of its stratigraphic relationships. Artefacts were assigned a broad period according to their stratigraphic relationships where possible and by reference to relevant typologies and comparators from the literature.

Summary inventories of the assemblage are provided in Appendix A, with additional information recorded in a separate inventory spreadsheet.

The Assemblage (quantification and characterisation)

The assemblage comprises two incomplete copper alloy or copper-plated iron screws from deposit (107) within Trench 1. Both screws were missing their heads and had partially threaded shanks, the threading missing in places due to post-depositional damage; both are of late post-medieval to modern date. Screws of this form became common in the 19th century and have changed little in form to the present day.

Discussion and Statement of Significance

The assemblage is considered to be of limited significance and has no potential for further research.

Recommended Further Work

No further work, including specialist analysis, conservation or illustration is recommended for this assemblage. It is not recommended that the finds be retained as part of the site archive, rather they should be discarded following the conclusion of this project.

References

ALGAO, (2015) Advice Note For Post-Excavation Assessment, Available from: https://www.algao.org.uk/sites/algao.org.uk/files/2023-07/ALGAO-England-PXA-Advice-Note.pdf [Accessed 10/02/2025]

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), (2020) Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials, Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GFinds_2.pdf [Accessed 15 Oct 2024]

Historic England, (2008) MoRPHE (Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment) Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation

Historic England, (2015) Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide, HEAG024 v1.2, Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/morphe-project-managers-guide/heag024-morphe-managers-guide/ [Accessed 14 Oct 2024]

Context #	Context description	Material	Object	Quantity	Description	Period	L mm	W mm	T mm	W g
107	Mixed dark brown silty clay with stone inclusions and CBM fragments	Copper alloy	Screw	1	Copper alloy or copper plated screw; head missing; worn breaks at either end; screw thread visible across much of surface but missing in places due to post-depositional damage; no taper along length	Post-med/Modern	36.9	6.7		1.91
107	Mixed dark brown silty clay with stone inclusions and CBM fragments	Copper alloy	Screw	1	Copper alloy or copper plated screw; head missing; worn breaks at either end; screw thread visible across much of surface but missing in places due to post-depositional damage; tapers along length from one end to the other	Post-med/Modern	37.8	Max: 11.1; Min: 4.9		3.23

Context #	Context description	Material	Object	Quantity	Description	Period	L mm	W mm	T mm	W g
107	Mixed dark brown silty clay with stone inclusions and CBM fragments	Stone	Natural	1	Natural rounded pebble with one patch of copper alloy staining on one side	N/A	24.6	13.1		4.02

Appendix 7

Animal Bone Report

By Jackaline Robertson (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction

A single fragment of animal bone collected from the archaeological work undertaken at St Leonard's Place, York was submitted for assessment in August 2025. The bone was collected from rubble deposit [105]. The aim of this assessment was to catalogue the bone fragment, assess its suitability for radiocarbon dating and give recommendations for further analysis if needed.

Methodology

This assessment was undertaken in line with published standards and guidelines (CIfA 2014). The animal bone was collected by hand and was then washed and air dried prior to assessment. The fragment was identified to element and species with the aid of skeletal atlases and the reference collection stored at AOC Archaeology Group, Edinburgh (Hillson 1992; Schmid 1972). When studying the assemblage, the following criteria were recorded: context, feature, element, species, side, fusion, age, fragmentation, size and evidence of staining on the bone surface. The bone was also inspected for butchery marks, pathologies, bone working, burning and carnivore gnawing. These results are reported in full in catalogue 1 stored in the site archive.

Epiphyseal fusion was assessed to establish the age of the individual (Silver 1969). The proximal and shaft areas of the fragment were recorded to determine the level of fragmentation (Dobney *et al* 1988). Assessing the level of staining used the following method: no staining was rated '0'; some staining affecting less than 25% of the bone surface was designated as '1'; 25-50% surface staining was '2'; while 50 – 75% was described as '3' and greater than 75% was rated as '4'. A four-point system was used to assess preservation with excellent, good, adequate and poor recorded where appropriate.

Results

The bone assemblage (8.7g) was formed of a single sheep/goat femur recovered from rubble deposit (105). Assessment of this fragment revealed that the proximal epiphysis was unfused meaning this animal was younger than 36 months at time of death. There was no evidence of any butchery marks, pathologies, burning, gnawing or bone working. This fragment is likely food refuse reworked into the rubble deposit.

Recommendations

The bone assemblage has been fully assessed, and no further work is recommended. As only a single fragment was recovered it has no further information to offer concerning the dietary and economic role of domesticated animals at this site. If needed for radiocarbon dating this fragment should be large enough to provide sufficient carbon. Once all work is completed at this site the bone is recommended for discard as its potential for further study is negligible.

References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*.

Dobney, K. & Rielly, K. (1988). A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones. *Circaea* **5**, 79-96.

Hillson, S. (1992). *Mammal bones and teeth: An introductory guide to methods of identification*. University College London.

Schmid, E. (1972). *Atlas of Animal Bones*. London Elsevier.

Silver, I. A. (1969). 'The ageing of domestic animals', in Brothwell, D & Clark, G (eds), *Science in Archaeology: a survey of progress and research*. 283-302.London: Thames & Hudson.

Appendix 8

OASIS Form

OASIS Summary for aocarcha1-535956

OASIS ID (UID)	aocarcha1-535956
Project Name	Watching Brief at St Leonards Place
Sitename	St Leonards Place
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	53260
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Emergency recording
Organisation Responsible for work	AOC Archaeology Group
Project Dates	28-May-2025 - 11-Jun-2025
Location	St Leonards Place NGR : SE 60096 52160 LL : 53.9620408516598, -1.08553364495647 12 Fig : 460096,452160
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : York Local Authority District : York Parish : York, unparished area
Project Methodology	The watching brief involved monitoring during groundworks to repair a sinkhole that appeared on the carriageway of St Leonards Place. The watching brief was carried out in two stages covering western and eastern sides of the road excavated separately (Trenches 1 and 2) to allow one lane to remain open. The groundworks involved the contractors excavation of a trench to investigate the cause of the sinkhole, the removal of rubble and unstable material, consolidation of the ground and repair to the road surface. The archaeological watching brief was designed to monitor all groundworks and record any structures, features, deposits and finds of archaeological significance.
Project Results	On the eastern side of the road in Trench 1 and below modern tarmac, concrete and rubble, a surface made up of large limestone blocks was found which was thought to have formed the foundation or original base for St Leonards Place built in c. the 1830's. The stone may have been the demolition material from St Leonards Hospital and the city walls or other structures, which were demolished during historic development of this part of York. On the western side of the road in Trench 2 the footings or remains of two limestone walls were found which may have related to a medieval building known to exist in this area, possibly St Leonards Hospital or an associated structure.
Keywords	Wall - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pot - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Pot - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Demolition Layer - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Architectural Fragment - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	District, borough or city council City of York Council

HER	City of York HER - noRev - LITE
Person Responsible for work	Charlie Morris, Stephen Potten
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Yorkshire Museum (York Museums Trust);

Report generated on: 06 Aug 2025, 15:17

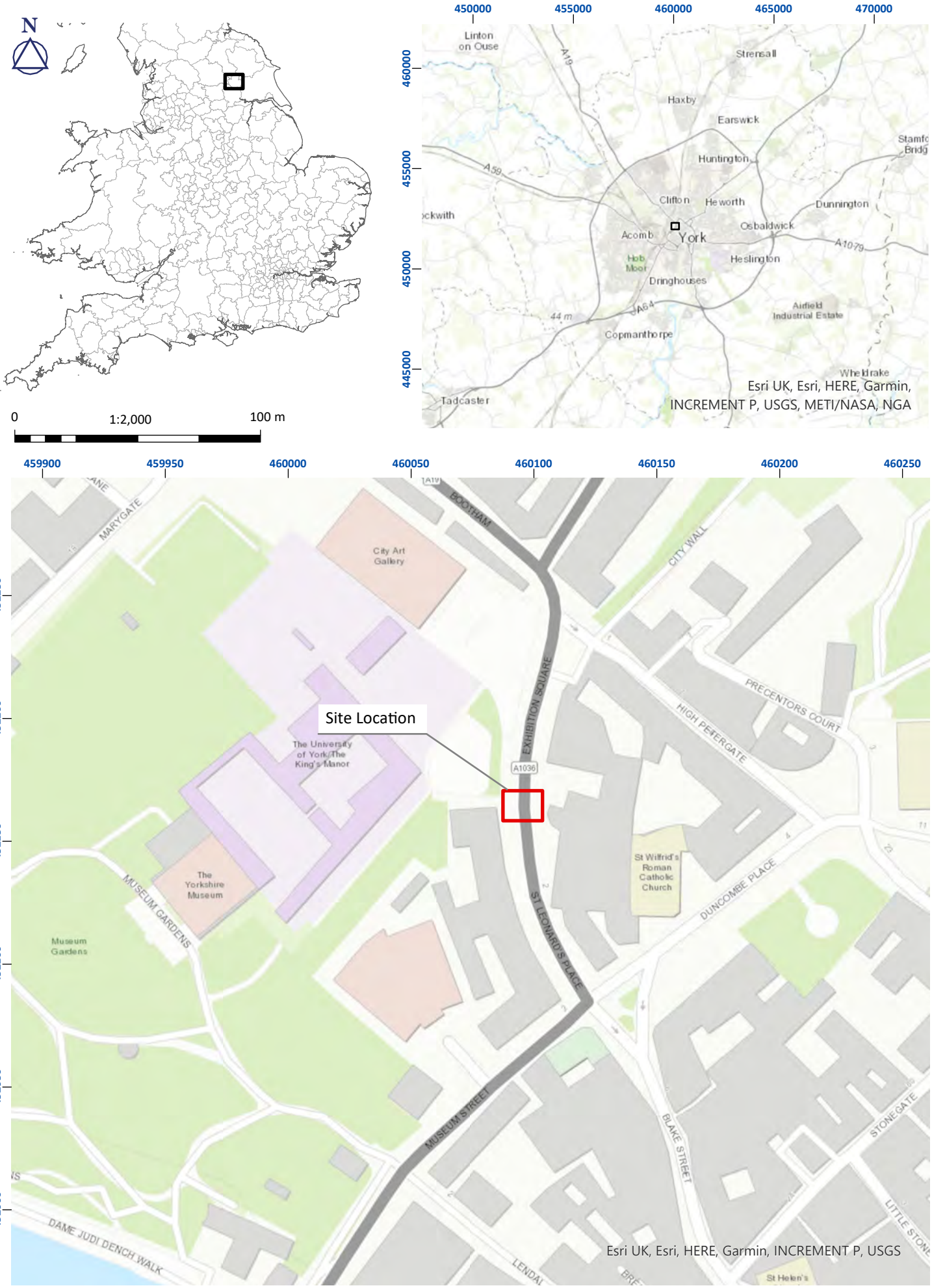
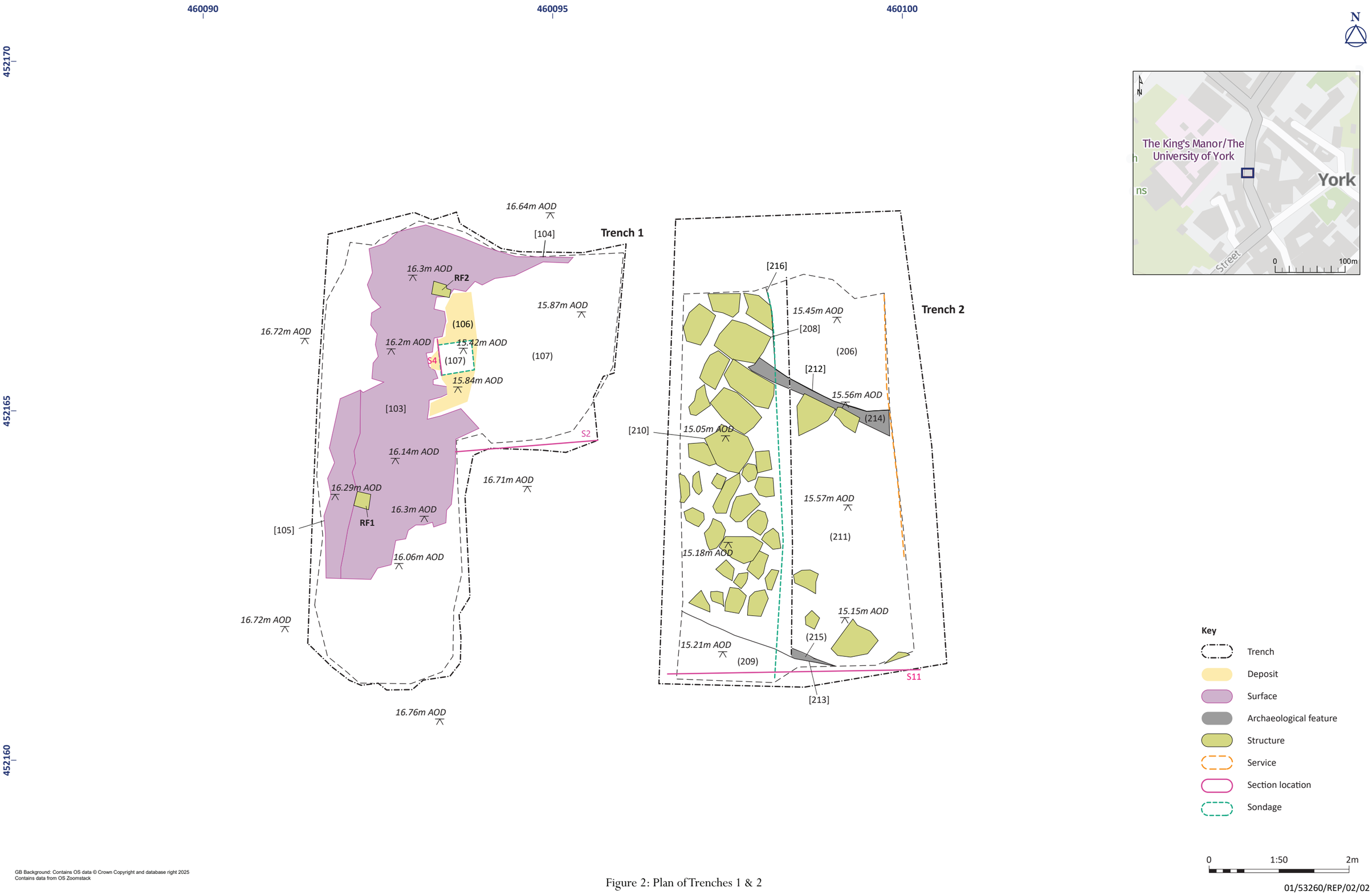


Figure 1: Site location plan

01/24000/REP/01/01



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Figure 2: Plan of Trenches 1 & 2

460090 460095 460100

452170

452165

452160



Key

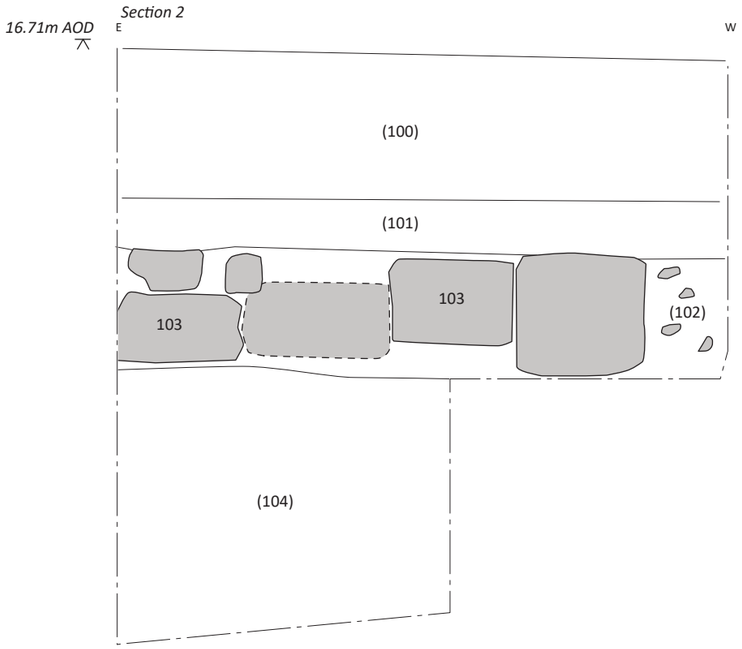
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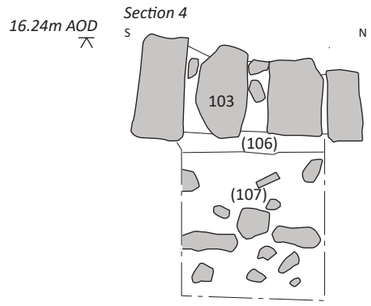
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Figure 3: Plan of Trenches 1 & 2 showing Ortho Image derived from Photogrammetry.

01/53260/REP/03/02





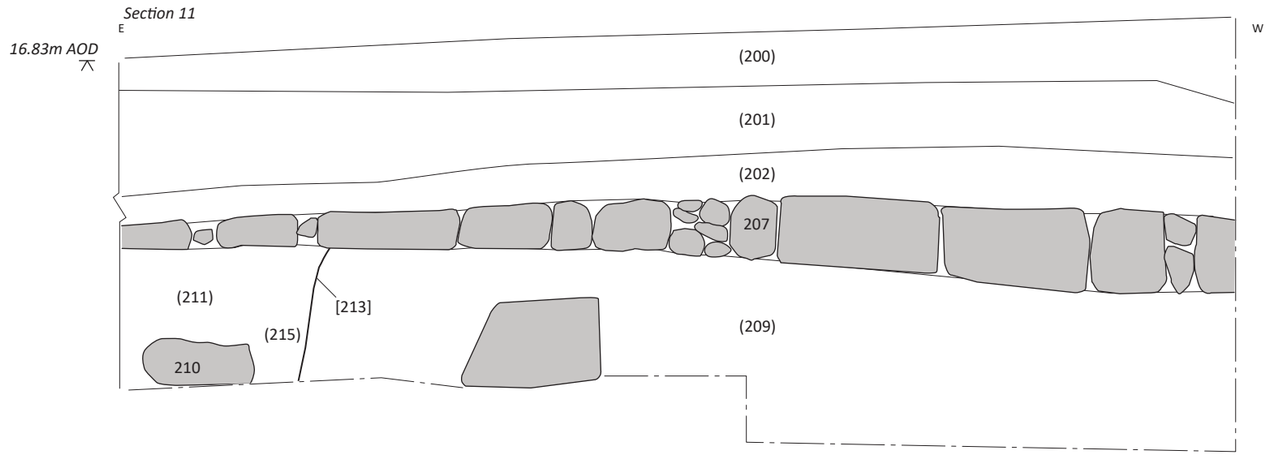






Figure 4: Excavated sections, Trenches 1 and 2

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Plates



Plate 1: Initial excavation of Trench 1 following removal of tarmac and rubble. Facing south-west.



Plate 2: Trench 1, Stone surfaces [105] and [103] sitting on red make up deposit (106) and (107) in sondage. Facing west.



Plate 3: Trench 1, surface [103], detail of makeup deposit (106) and rubble (107) within sondage. Facing east.



Plate 4: Trench 1, overall shot of Trench 1 showing stone surfaces [103] and [105]. Facing south-west.



Plate 5: Trench 1, west facing section showing sequence of made ground deposits including concrete (101) and tarmac (100). Facing east.



Plate 6: Trench 2, Stone footings [208], [210] cuts [212] [213] and [216] deposits (206) and 209. Facing north-west.



Plate 7: Stone footings [208], [210] cuts [212] [213] and [216] deposits (206) and 209. Facing south-east.

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