WYAS Archaeological Services

Christ Church

Harrogate

North Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report no. 3083
May 2018

Client: Christ Church PCC

West Yorkshire Joint Services

Christ Church, Harrogate
North Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

A watching brief was carried out during trial excavations by structural engineers to investigate the cause of structural instability at Christ Church, Harrogate. Three test pits were monitored and the foundations of the structures were recorded. No stratified finds or in situ human bone were encountered although a single piece of disarticulated bone was identified and subsequently reburied.

WYAS
Archaeological
Services

Report Information

Client:	Christ Church PCC
Address:	Church Square
Report Type:	Archaeological Watching Brief
Location:	Harrogate
County:	North Yorkshire
Grid Reference:	SE 31192 55416
Period(s) of activity represented:	Modern
Report Number:	3083
Project Number:	6767
Site Code:	CCH17
Date of fieldwork:	September 2017
Date of report:	May 2018
Project Management:	Jane Richardson PhD MCIfA
Fieldwork supervisor:	Matt Wells BSc MA
Report:	Zoe Horn, Matt Wells
Illustrations:	Matt Wells
Photography:	Matt Wells

Authorisation for distribution: ----------

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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Andrew Barff, secretary to the PCC to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground investigation works relating to the overall assessment of ground conditions and stability of the foundations around the south-east side of Christ Church. Three test pits were excavated, one to the west of the south transept and one to the east of the vestry. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the requirements of a Church of England Faculty, employing a strategy and scope of work agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales (Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) in Appendix 1). The archaeological work complied with the relevant standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014a; 2014b; 2014c) and Historic England (2006; 2008).

Site location and topography

The site is centred on SE 31192 55416, *c.*1km to the east of Harrogate town centre, 125m north of Knaresborough Road and to the south-west of Church Square (Fig. 1). It is bounded by a graveyard and mature trees. The land is generally flat and situated at around 122m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). (Fig. 2).

Soils and geology

The underlying bedrock comprises Warley Wise Grit – Sandstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 322 to 326 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment was dominated by rivers. This is overlain by Harrogate Till Formation - Clay, Sandy, Gravelly - superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by Ice Age conditions (BGS 2017). The soils are unrecorded urban deposits (SSEW 1983).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The name Harrogate is first attested in the 1330s as Harwegate, Harougat and Harrowgate. Harrogate's development is owed to the discovery of its chalybeate and sulphur-rich spring water from the 16th century. The first mineral spring was discovered in 1571 by William Slingsby who found that water from the Tewit Well in High Harrogate possessed similar properties to that from springs in the Belgian town of Spa, which gave its name to spa towns. The medicinal properties of the waters were publicised by Edmund Deane. His book, Spadacrene Anglica, or the English Spa Fountain, was published in 1626.

In 1749 a chapel of ease was built. A plan of Harrogate Chapel in 1811 shows a simple rectangular building with a small square vestry projecting to the north side near the west end and a semi-circular apse to the east end. In 1829 it was resolved that a new church be built for the growing population.

The new church of 1831 was built by John Oates (1793-1831) of Halifax in partnership with James Pickersgill (*c.* 1807-69) of York. John Oates had a busy practice in the 1820s, during

which he built several Gothic churches. His best-known secular works were Huddersfield Infirmary and Halifax Assembly and Concert Rooms. The plans of 1831 do not show the west porches, and suggest that originally there was no projecting chancel. Transepts and the present chancel were added in 1861 by Henry Lockwood (1811-78) and William Mawson (1828-1889), architects of Bradford, in a more archaeological Early-English style. They are best known for their work at Saltaire, Yorkshire. A vestry was added in 1920 to the south-east corner of the church. In 1988 a parish centre was added on the north side of the church, with a link from the north entrance to the nave. The burial ground is situated to the south of the church where 26 extant grave markers record 76 people, ranging in date from 1807 to 1917.

3 Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of the trial excavations was to investigate the condition of the foundations to the east corner of the church and to make a record of the exposed foundations.

Archaeological monitoring of the excavations was required to ensure that the disturbance of graves, and particularly human remains, was avoided wherever possible, but where such disturbance was unavoidable, such human remains were recorded and excavated appropriately.

The required archaeological monitoring was designed to mitigate the destruction of any buried archaeological remains through ‘preservation by record’.

4 Methodology

All work was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards and guidelines (CIfA 2014a), the ASWYAS site recording manual (2016) and the WSI (Appendix 1).

Excavations for the test pits were carried out under direct archaeological supervision using a 360 excavator mini-digger with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in level spits down to the top of undisturbed natural. All spoil was searched as practicably for finds and human remains.

The site archive contains all the information gathered during the investigations, and its contents are listed in Appendix 2. A concordance of contexts is provided in Appendix 3. The archive is currently held at ASWYAS in a stable and secure location but will be deposited at a suitable repository in due course.

5 Results

Test Pit 1 (Figs 2 and 3)

Test Pit 1 was located on the outside of the church, where the south transept (a later extension, dated to 1862) abutted the original southern wall of the church (Plate 1). The test

pit measured 1m by 1m and up to 1m in depth with its northern edge abutting the exterior church wall and its eastern edge against the south transept. This test pit was placed to investigate structural instability, particularly within the south transept. It encountered a series of structural backfills, drainage and wall footings (Plate 2). Occasional finds including brick fragments and a clay pipe stem were noted but not retained.

The footing of the main church wall (103) were revealed in the pit (Fig. 3). A total of four courses of stone were observed measuring approximately 1m below the current ground surface. No cut for the footing or any natural deposits were observed and it appeared that the wall footing extended beyond 1m below ground level. The footing was well constructed, consisting of rectangular, lime-mortar bonded sandstone blocks.

The uppermost deposit consisted of mortar bedded flagstone path (100). The subsequent deposits consisted of two deep layers of backfill of the original church wall (102) and the later transept's foundation (104). These deposits were a mixed light yellowish-brown sandy clay and a mid-grey silty sand with occasional brick and fragmented sandstone respectively. A group of sandstone blocks/flags (105) were encountered within the backfill layer which could have been foundations which have collapsed or part of a base for the foundations. Isolated sandstone blocks appeared to be the remains of the south transept's foundation (106, not seen in plan or section), the mortar having been eroded and the stone collapsing into voids in its backfill. This appeared to be the cause of the south transept's structural instability but Test Pit 3 was excavated as an extension southwards to clarify this interpretation.

Test Pit 2 (Figs 2 and 3)

Test Pit 2 was located on the eastern side of the vestry (a later extension dated to 1920, Plate 3). The test pit measured 1m by 1m and averaged 1m in depth (Plate 4), with the western edge of the trench abutting the exterior church wall. The footing of the wall (202) was 0.95m deep in total, consisting of three courses of rectangular sandstone blocks, sitting on a 0.30m thick concrete base.

The sequence of deposits recorded in Test Pit 2 consisted of a layer of turf which sealed a dark brown, sandy clay topsoil deposit (200) which sealed a mid-orange-brown sandy clay (201) with frequent sandstone inclusions (probable backfill) which contained modern pottery and a single piece of human cranium. Natural deposits (203) of light yellowish-brown sandy clay were found at 0.95m below ground level against the wall foundations. The human remains were considered to have originated from a burial disturbed during the vestry's construction.

Test Pit 3 (Figs 2 and 3, Plate 5)

Test Pit 3 was a southwards extension to Test Pit 1, excavated against the western side of the southern transept extension. The test pit measured 1.3m x 0.4m with a depth of up to 1m (Plate 5). As with Test Pit 1, the uppermost deposit (300) consisted of mortar bedded flagstone path. The pit was then excavated through the backfill of the transept's foundation

trench (301) which was the same as a backfill deposit 104. A deposit of stone flags (302) were encountered in a backfill layer and appear to be a tip of unbonded stone used as a base for the foundations. When the foundations (303) were cleaned, the sandstone blocks where roughly shaped and badly placed, bonded with lime mortar in places but voids were seen where the mortar has been washed away.

No in situ human remains were identified within the test pit, and no archaeological features (e.g. grave cuts) were identified.

6 Artefact Record

No artefacts were retained either due to their modern date or the disturbed nature of the deposit in which they were found. The disarticulated human remains encountered in Test Pit 2 were reburied before the pit was backfilled.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of three test pits to assess the condition of the foundations of the south-east corner of Christ Church, Harrogate. The test pits were excavated to an average depth of 1m below the present ground surface. Possible natural deposit were encountered at the base of the test pits.

No in situ human burials were identified but the size of the test pits was limited and the depth did not allow for an inspection of the natural. Disarticulated human bone was encountered during the excavation of Test Pit 2, which suggests that burials were disturbed when the 1920 extension was built.

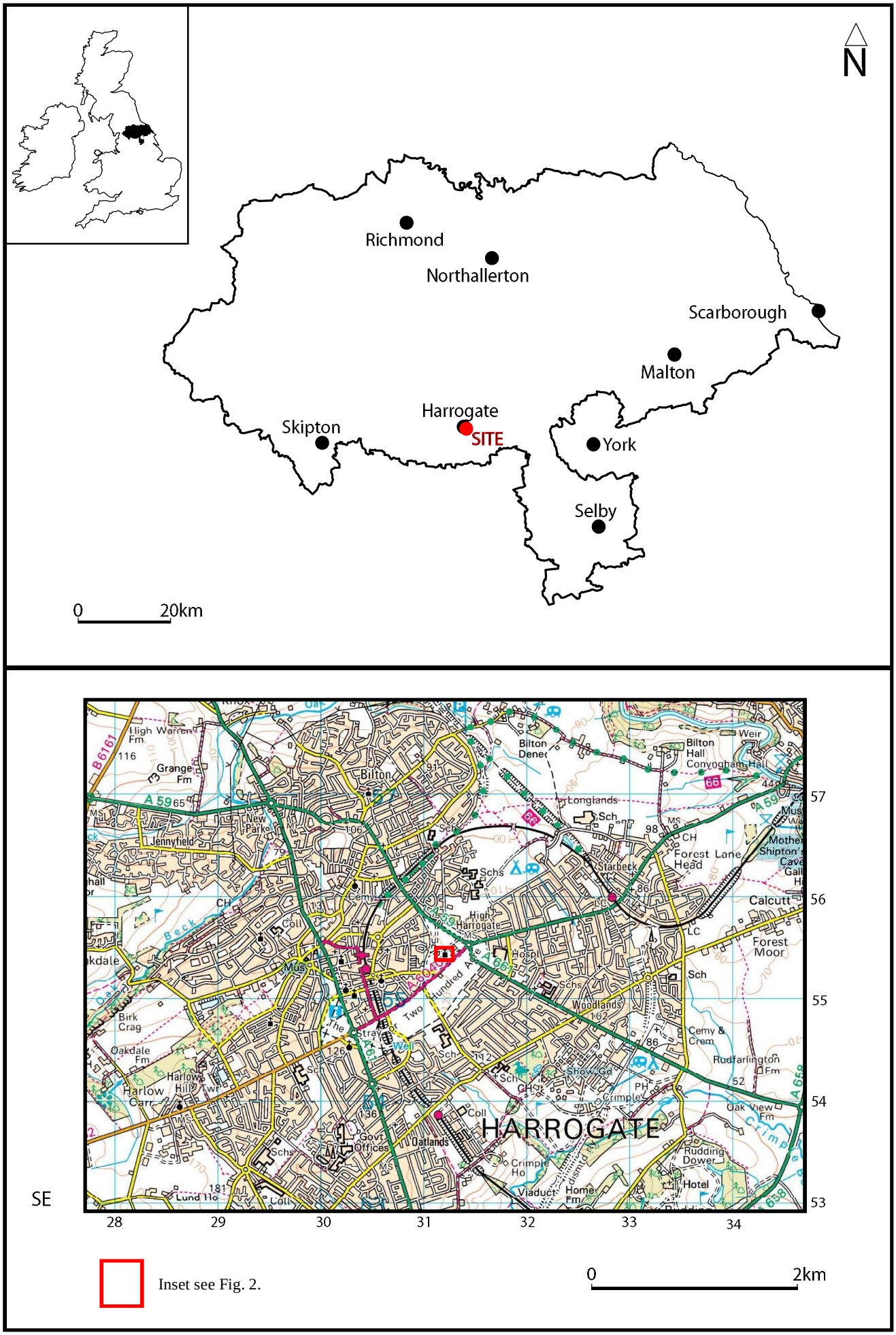


Fig. 1. Site location

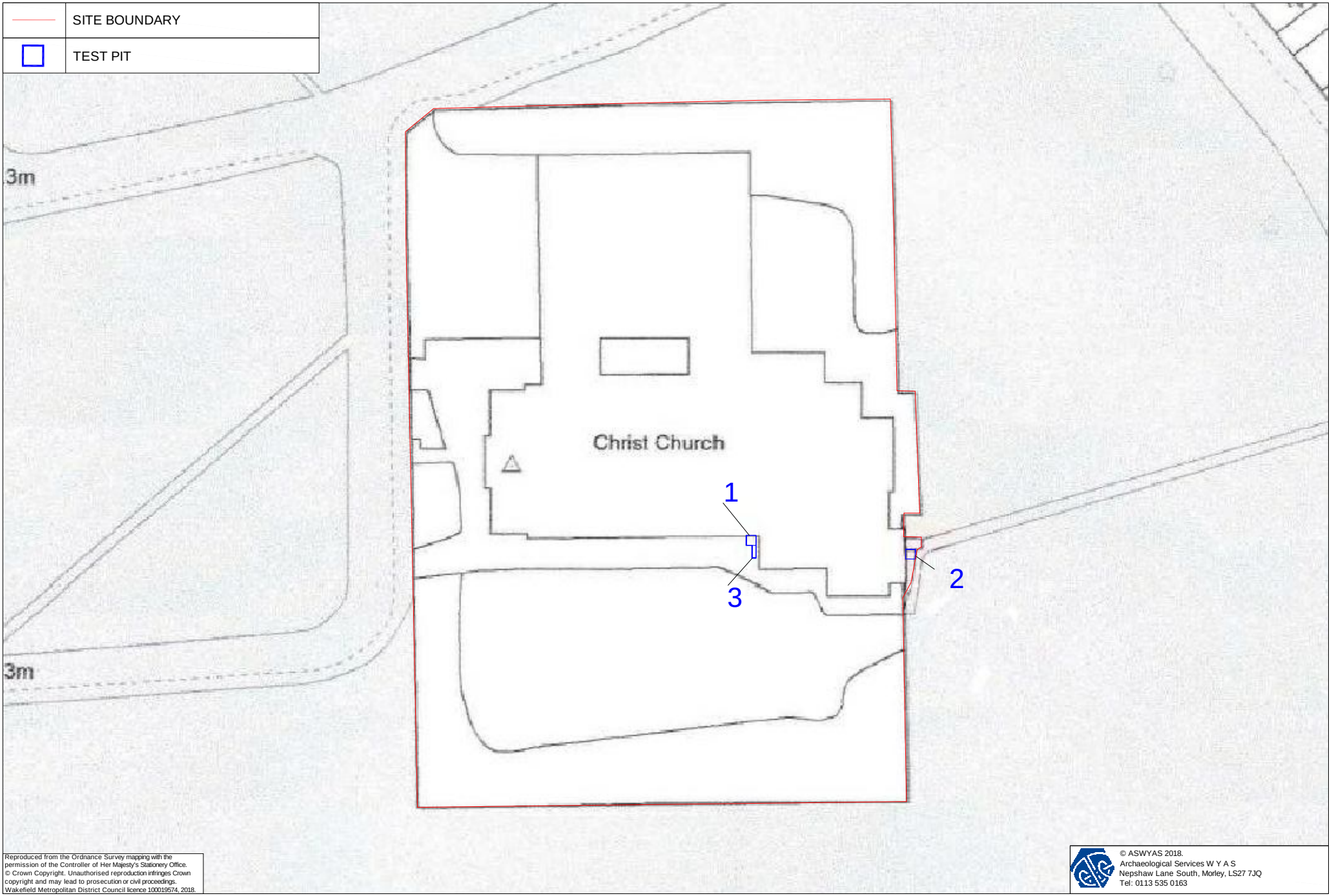
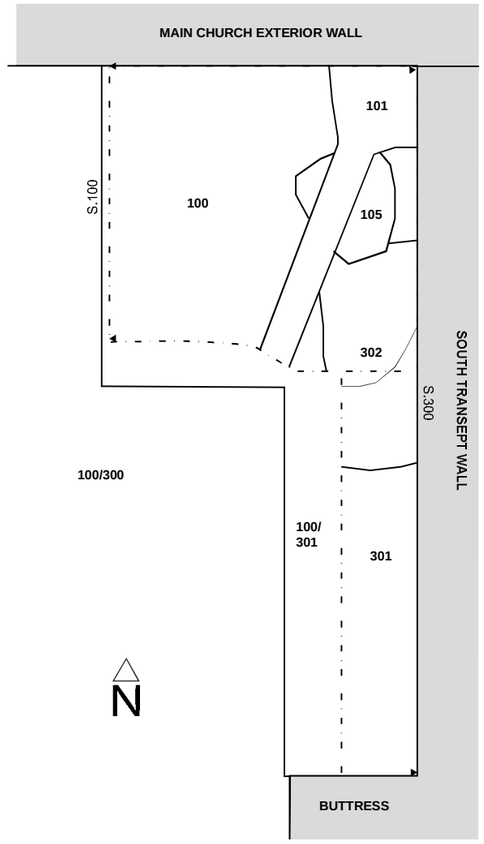
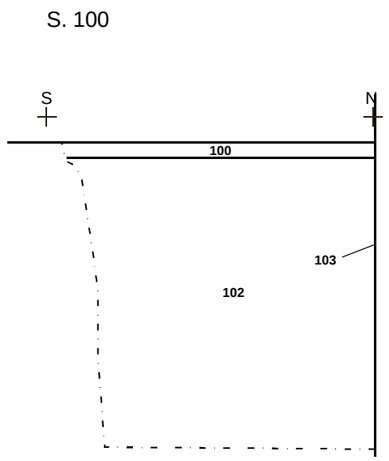
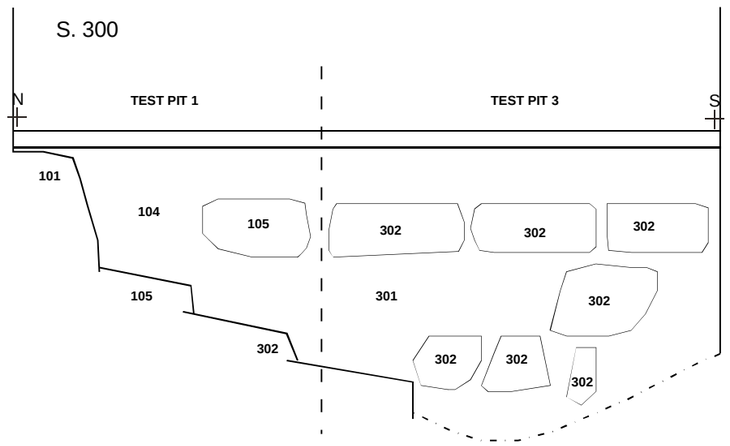


Fig. 2. Site plan showing location of test pits (1:500 @ A4)

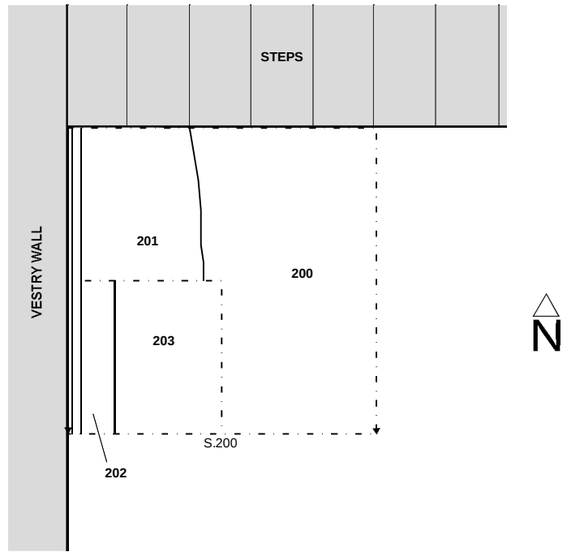
Plan of Test Pit 1 and 3

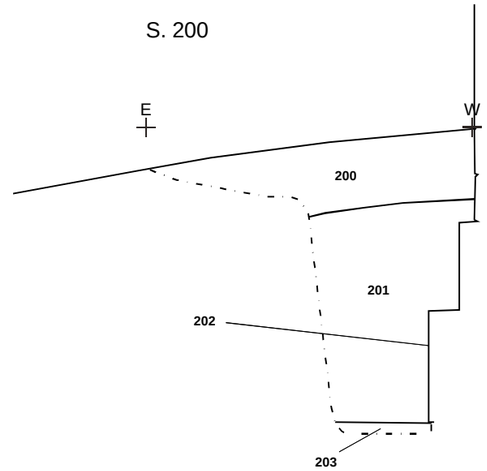






Plan of Test Pit 2





Plans and sections
0 1m (1:20)

Fig. 3. Test pit plans and sections

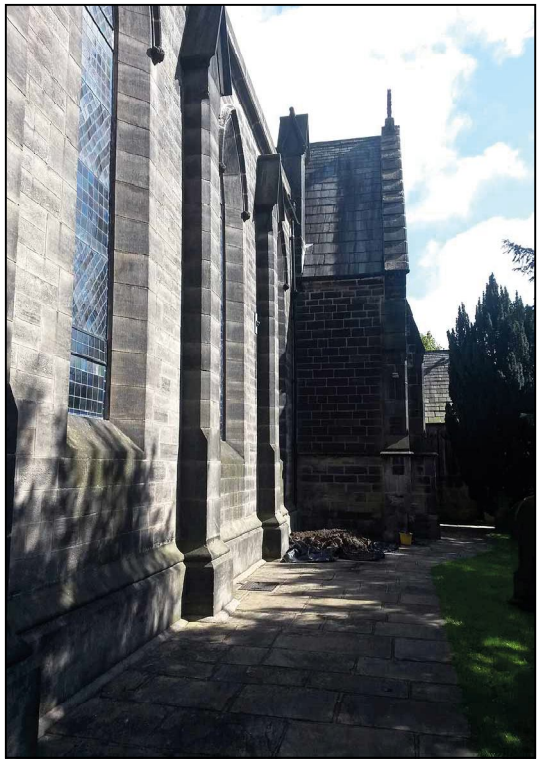


Plate 1. General view Test Pit 1 and 3 location, looking east

Plate 2. Test Pit 1, partially excavated, looking north

Plate 3. General view Test Pit 2 location, looking north-west

Plate 4. Test Pit 2, looking north

Plate 5. Test Pit 3, showing poor condition of foundations, looking north-east

Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation

Christ Church

Harrogate

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared by: Zoe Horn
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On behalf of: Andrew Barff, secretary Christ Church PCC

Nat. grid ref.: SE 31192 55416

July 2017

Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Christ Church, Harrogate

1. Introduction

1.1 This Project Design has been prepared by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) for Andrew Barff, secretary to the PCC. It details a scheme of an archaeological watching brief at Christ Church, Harrogate. The works are associated with the digging of two trial trenches to investigate the foundations of the church.

1.2 This document details a programme of archaeological watching brief and has been produced to the standards laid down in English Heritage's guideline publication *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Managers Guide* (2006) and the MoRPHE *Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation* (PPN3) (2008).

2. Site Location, Description and Topography

2.1 The site is centred on SE 31192 55416, *c.*1km to the east of Harrogate town centre, 125m north of Knaresborough Road and to the south-west of Church Square (Fig. 1). It is bound by a graveyard and mature trees. The land is generally flat and situated at around 122m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

3. Geology and Soils

3.1 The underlying bedrock comprises Warley Wise Grit - Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 322 to 326 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. Which is overlain by Harrogate Till Formation - Clay, Sandy, Gravelly. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions, the soils are unrecorded.

4. Aims and objectives

4.1 The proposed trial holes (TH 1 and 2) will investigate the ground conditions to the south-east corner of the church. Archaeological monitoring of the excavations is required to ensure that the disturbance of graves, and particularly human remains, is avoided wherever possible (Church of England and English Heritage 2005, Annexe E4).

4.2 Archaeological monitoring of the work will ensure that no archaeological deposits or features, or extant historic fabric, are disturbed unnecessarily. Where such disturbance is unavoidable the commissioned archaeologist shall ensure that an appropriately detailed archive is created, such that the remains can be regarded as having been preserved by record.

4.3 The work shall be carried out to nationally recognised standards and be discharged through the production of a detailed report and the deposition of the archive with the local museum service.

5. Methodology

5.1 All excavations will be undertaken in line with the CIfA guidelines *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014a), and in compliance with the English Heritage MoRPHE *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (2008).

5.2 All excavations shall be carried out using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Stripping will take place in level spits to the top of the first archaeological horizon, undisturbed natural or the maximum depth of the foundations (*c*. 0.30m). The resulting surface will be inspected for archaeological remains. Where archaeological remains require clarification, the relevant area will be cleaned by hand. Under no circumstances will the machine be used to cut arbitrary trenches down to natural deposits.

5.4 ASWYAS will first plan and then manually excavate a sample of all archaeological features in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to meet the aims and objectives outlined above.

5.5 Under no circumstances will deep holes be dug at random. No graves, grave furniture, and any other archaeological features, are to be disturbed unless it is required in order to mitigate the ground works required to fulfil the needs of the reordering works. Any archaeological features/deposits which need to be mitigated through preservation by record will be manually excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner, in order to meet the aims and objectives outlined above.

5.6 Features will be excavated and recorded employing the following strategy:

- Non-burial features: sufficient excavation will be carried out to investigate the depth, profile and fills of any ditches, pit and post-holes to recover dating and environmental evidence from their fills;
- Any buried walls, tombs, vaults or memorial stones etc. will be recorded in plan and elevation, and will only be dismantled/excavated to facilitate the required works being carried out;
- If exposed, grave cuts will be recorded in plan, but graves will only be excavated to the depth required of the re-ordering works;
- In the event of human remains being encountered they will, in the first instance, be left in situ, covered and protected. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with the relevant legislation, and under a church faculty.

- Graves will be recorded in plan and the human remains within them only disturbed if are to impacted by the ground works. There will be a presumption

for preservation in situ wherever possible. Human remains will be cleaned and recorded both photographically and using pro forma context and skeleton recording sheets. All exposed human remains will be concealed from the public gaze by the employment of appropriate fencing or tents. Provision will be made for the specialist analysis and reporting of any recovered articulated remains by a recognised osteoarchaeologist, before the remains are reburied.

5.7 A full written, drawn and photographic record of all material revealed during the course of the work shall be made. The excavation limits will be surveyed with hand drawn plans of features, at 1:20 or 1:50 being created as appropriate. Sections of linear and discrete features will be drawn at 1:10. All sections, plans and elevations will include spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres, as correct to two decimal places. Tie-in information will be undertaken during the course of the evaluation and will be fixed in relation to nearby permanent structures and roads and to the National Grid.

5.8 All excavated archaeological contexts shall be fully recorded by written records, giving details of location, composition, shape, dimensions, relationships, finds, samples, and cross-references to other elements of the record. All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them will be given unique numbers. Any bulk finds (e.g. pottery CBM, bone etc.) will be collected by context.

5.9 The photographic archive will comprise monochrome negative photographs at a minimum format of 35mm. The black and white record should be supplemented by a colour digital photographic record taken using cameras with a resolution of at least 10 megapixels. Digital images must be supplied in three file formats (RAW, DNG and JPEG files). Metadata included in the DNG file must include the name of the site, an O.S. six-figure grid reference, the date of the photograph, the subject and the organization creating the image.

5.10 All artefacts will be removed from the site for assessment and analysis and, where it is appropriate, their find spots shall be recorded three dimensionally. Non–modern artefacts from the excavated topsoil and subsoil will be collected. Finds material will be stored in controlled environments, where appropriate. All artefacts recovered will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines laid out in the CIfA (2014b). Any necessary conservation work will be undertaken by approved conservators working to UKIC guidelines.

5.11 If appropriate, a soil-sampling programme shall be undertaken during the course of the investigation for the identification and recovery of carbonised and waterlogged remains, vertebrate remains, molluscs and small artefactual material. English Heritage's Regional Science Advisor, environmental and soil specialists may be consulted during the course of the excavation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme, should waterlogged

deposits be identified. Particular attention will be paid to the sampling of primary feature fills, any surviving buried soils beneath banks or other positive features, and basal deposits within graves. Environmental material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines set out by the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995) and English Heritage's Environmental Archaeology Guidelines (http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/environmental-archaeology-2nd/environmental-archaeology-2nd.pdf). In addition, the processing of environmental samples will only take place within facilities approved for such purposes by English Heritage's Regional Science Advisor.

5.12 All finds of gold and silver and associated objects shall be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1997.

6. Analysis and Reporting

6.1 Within four weeks of the watching brief finishing, a report shall be produced. This may be subject to extension if archaeological/artefactual/ecofactual evidence of particular significance is identified that requires a longer period of study.

6.2 The site archive will be assembled in line with the recommendations provided in English Heritage's MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (PPN3).

6.2 In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive shall contain all the data collected during the excavations, including records, finds and environmental samples. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. Adequate resources will be provided during fieldwork to ensure that all records are checked and internally consistent. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork and will involve:

- the site record being checked, cross-referenced and indexed as necessary;
- all retained finds being cleaned, conserved, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum;
- all retained finds being assessed and recorded using pro forma recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Initial artefact dating will be integrated within the site matrix; and
- all retained environmental samples being processed by suitably experienced and qualified staff and recorded using pro forma recording sheets.

6.3 In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive shall contain:

- site matrices where appropriate;
- a summary report synthesising the context record;
- a summary of the artefact record; and
- a summary of the environment record.

6.4 The integrity of the primary field record will be preserved. Security copies will be maintained where appropriate.

6.5 Provision will be made for the deposition of the archive, artefacts and environmental material, subject to the permission of the relevant landowner (and if no further archaeological work is to be initiated), in the appropriate recipient museum. The museum will be advised of the timetable of the proposed investigation prior to excavation commencing. The archive will be prepared in accordance with industry guidelines (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990; Museums and Galleries Commission 1994). Provision will be made for the stable storage of paper records and their long-term storage.

6.6 Upon completion of the investigations, the artefacts, ecofacts and stratigraphic information shall be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis.

6.7 A report will be prepared within two weeks following the completion of on-site archaeological investigations and will include the following:

- a non-technical summary of the results of the work;
- a summary of the project's background, including the planning application number;
- the dates the fieldwork took place;
- the site location, including National Grid Reference;
- an account of the method;
- the results of the excavations, including phasing and interpretation of the site sequence;
- plan(s) showing the location of the proposed development site at least 1:10,000;

- general and detailed plans at appropriate scales, showing the location of the trenches accurately positioned on an up-to-date Ordnance Survey base;
- detailed plans and sections of individual features where necessary;
- all scales used on any drawings should be standard scales such as would appear on a normal scale rule;
- the analysis of each category of data;
- conservation assessment;
- an assessment of the stratigraphic and other written, drawn and photographic records;
- a catalogue of the archaeological material recovered during the excavations;
- a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location;

6.8 The report will outline the archaeological significance of the deposits identified, and provide an interpretation of the results in relation to other sites in the vicinity where appropriate.

6.10 One copy of the complete draft report including figures will be submitted to Andrew Barff for review. In finalising the report, ASWYAS will take into account all comments and remedy any faults identified by Andrew Barff.

6.11 Copies of the report (paper and/or digital as required) will be supplied to Andrew Barff and the appropriate planning officer at Harrogate Borough Council.

6.12 Upon completion of the work, ASWYAS will make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/).

7. Copyright, Confidentiality and Publicity

7.1 Copyright in the documentation prepared by ASWYAS and specialist sub-contractors should be the subject of additional licences in favour of the repository accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory educational and museum service functions, and to provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions.

7.2 Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR), information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as ‘confidential’ or ‘commercially sensitive’.

7.3 Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. ASWYAS should inform the client of EIR requirements, and ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.

7.4 Unless the Client commissioning the project wishes to state otherwise, the copyright of any written, graphic or photographic record and reports will rest with the originating body (ASWYAS).

8. Health and Safety

8.1 Archaeological Services WYAS has its own Health and Safety policy which has been compiled using national guidelines. These guidelines conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation.

8.2 In addition each project undergoes a 'Risk Assessment' which sets project specific Health and Safety requirements to which all members of staff are made aware of prior to on-site work commencing. Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters. Necessary precautions will be taken over underground services and overhead lines at the outset of the project. Archaeological Services WYAS will ensure that Health and Safety requirements of the main contractor are adhered to.

9. Insurance

9.1 ASWYAS is covered by the insurance and indemnities of the West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee. Insurance has been effected with: Zurich Municipal, Zurich House, 2 Gladiator Way, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 6GB (policy number QLA-03R896-0013). Any further enquiries should be directed to: Head of Finance, Wakefield Council, Wakefield One, PO Box 700, Wakefield, WF1 2EB

10. Monitoring

10.1 Access to the site should be arranged through Andrew Barff

10.2 The project will be monitored by Harrogate Borough Council planning officers, and where appropriate, the advice of the English Heritage Science Advisor for Yorkshire will be called upon.

10.3 It is the responsibility of ASWYAS to ensure that any significant results are brought to the attention of Harrogate Borough Council planning officers via Andrew Barff as soon as is practically possible.

11. Bibliography

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Annexe E4: The presumption of non-disturbance of archaeological remains and the question of research excavations
Annexe E5: Excavation of skeletons lying partially under baulks
Annexe S2: Minimum standards for site assessment, evaluation and mitigation
Annexe S3: Minimum standards for archaeological excavation
Annexe S4: Minimum standards for post-excavation procedures
Annexe S5: Health and Safety aspects specific to human remains
Annexe S6: Retention of skeletal collections and factors affecting the scientific value of collections
Annexe S7: Archiving, longer term access and storage
Annexe S8: Reinterments: Technical aspects

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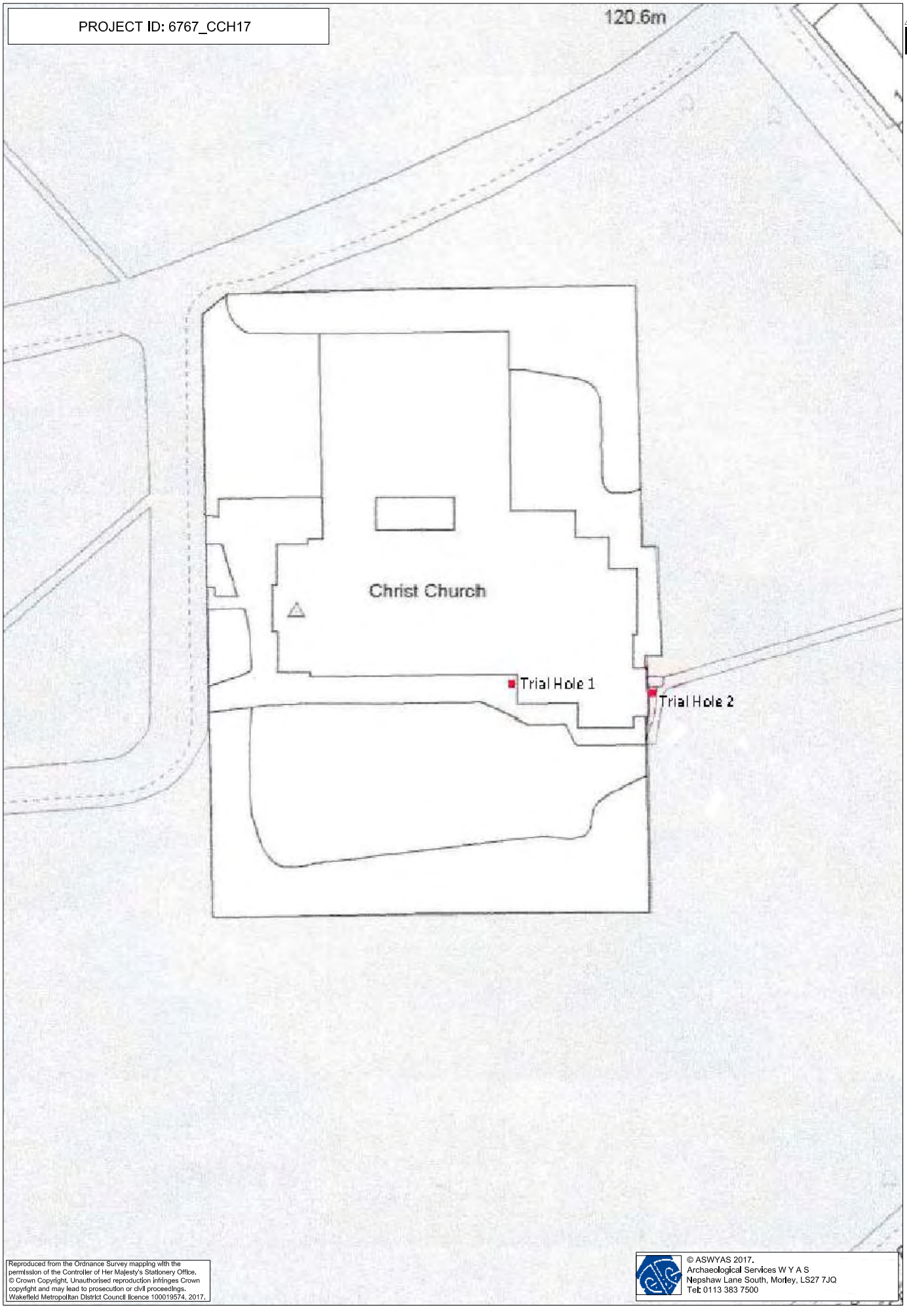

Fig. 1. Location of trial holes 1 and 2

Appendix 2: Inventory of primary archive

Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Watching Brief	File no.1	Watching Brief Daily Monitoring Form	2
		Photograph Record Sheet (Digital)	1
		Trench Record Sheet	3

Appendix 3: Concordance of contexts

Context	Test pit	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
100	1	Stone flag path	
101	1	Drainage	
102	1	Original church wall foundation backfill	
103	1	Original church wall foundation	
104	1	Transept foundation backfill	
105	1	Possible footing base	
106	1	Collapsed footing of south transept	
200	2	Topsoil	
201	2	Footing backfill	Disarticulated cranial fragment (reburied)
202	2	Vestry wall foundation	
203	2	Natural clay	
300	3	Stone flag path	
301	3	Transept foundation backfill	
302	3	Possible footing base	
303	3	Collapsed footing of south transept	

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