
HEXHAM MEMORIAL GARDEN HEXHAM ABBEY

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

OCTOBER 2019



<i>Prepared for:</i> Hexham Abbey PCC	<i>By:</i> The Archaeological Practice Ltd.
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HEXHAM MEMORIAL GARDEN HEXHAM ABBEY

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared by:

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.



Frontispiece: The rebuilding of Hexham Abbey in the 19th century.

PROJECT: Archaeological mitigation at a Development Site
LOCATION: Hexham Abbey
CLIENT: Hexham Abbey PCC
SITE GRID REF: NY 93533 64068
FIELDWORK: September 2019
OASIS REF: thearcha2-373421

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SUMMARY

This document reports on a programme of archaeological monitoring carried out during shallow groundworks for the Priory and Parish Church of St Andrew in the area known as Hexham Memorial Garden, or Garden of Remembrance on the south-east side of the abbey complex, bordering Beaumont Street. The monitoring work was required because the garden is situated in what was the basement of the medieval east claustral range, usually identified as the calefactory, or warming house.

The site was considered to offer potential for the survival of archaeological remains because it lies within the scheduled monument, which is protected by Scheduled status and national planning guidance and, specifically, it lies close to the site of the former Chapter House and partly within the area of the former East Range (presumed Calefactory), upstanding remains of which survive. Ryder's assessment of the 'calefactory' site in 2019 described the lower part of the north wall (in effect the south wall of the chapter house vestibule) and three bays of the west wall, along with a stub of the east wall at its north end. The building is 8.8 m wide internally, and appears to have been 21 m long, originally of five bays. The assessment concluded that it was highly likely the significant archaeological remains exist at a relatively shallow depth beneath the present ground level, which is approximately that of the medieval floor.

The focus of archaeological watching brief was a triangular shaped plot extending southwards from the Abbey Chapter House for approximately 15 metres in length, and eastwards from the East Range wall for approximately 13 metres in length, before reaching the Beaumont Street pavement on the east side and following the southwestern alignment of the street, tapering to approximately 4 metres in width at its southern extent.

The remains uncovered and recorded there comprised spreads of rubble, within which was a likely wall base running north-south through the centre of the current building and, cut within it, a possible robbing trench for the putative former east wall of the East Range with, east of it, a possible contemporary surface. These remains are broadly of medieval character, including demolition deposits and the surface to the east which may be contemporary with the robbed out east wall of the East Range, represented by an apparent robbing trench. The north-south wall footings are likely to be of early post-medieval origins but contain rubble and some decorative architectural elements derived from the demolished medieval buildings. Finds from the groundworks were restricted to pottery and a single piece of carved stonework in rather coarse sandstone, perhaps forming part of a seat rail or other largely decorative feature.

The excavations, carried out at relatively shallow depths, did not uncover structural remains of high archaeological import, but the recovery of medieval stone and pottery artifacts at shallow depths confirms that medieval deposits lie close to the present surface in this part of the priory grounds and that more significant remains may well survive at greater depth. Thus, the results of the investigation reported here, which support the suggestion that significant archaeological remains survive within the Memorial Garden area, lead to the recommendation that any future works on the site requiring groundworks should be designed to avoid impact upon surviving remains or should be accompanied by measured archaeological intervention.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE WORK

This document reports on a programme of archaeological monitoring carried out during shallow groundworks for the Priory and Parish Church of St Andrew in the area known as Hexham Memorial Garden, or Garden of Remembrance on the south-east side of the abbey complex, bordering Beaumont Street. The monitoring work was required because the garden is situated in what was the basement of the medieval east claustral range, usually identified as the *calefactory*, or warming house.

1.2 The work was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared following recommendations of the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments and itself follows a series of archaeological investigations carried out by the Archaeological Practice Ltd. for the Priory and Parish Church of St Andrew (commonly referred to as Hexham Abbey) in advance of major development works carried out there in late 2013 up to the Summer of 2014, and specifically in relation to the current scheme in 2015.

NCC Notice of Planning Permission was provided on 29th April, 2019 [**Application No. 19/00337/FUL**] and an Historic England (HE) Notice of *Scheduled Monument Consent* was also provided on 29th April, 2019 [Ref S00215574].

1.3 The main findings of the assessment and subsequent investigations were, broadly, that the archaeological potential of the abbey site is very high, being sited entirely within a Scheduled Area designed to protect remains of internationally important early medieval, Norman and later medieval origin. Since the current site of proposed development is not known to have been significantly disturbed by modern developments, it is considered possible that remains of very considerable archaeological significance will be revealed or disturbed by the proposed works.

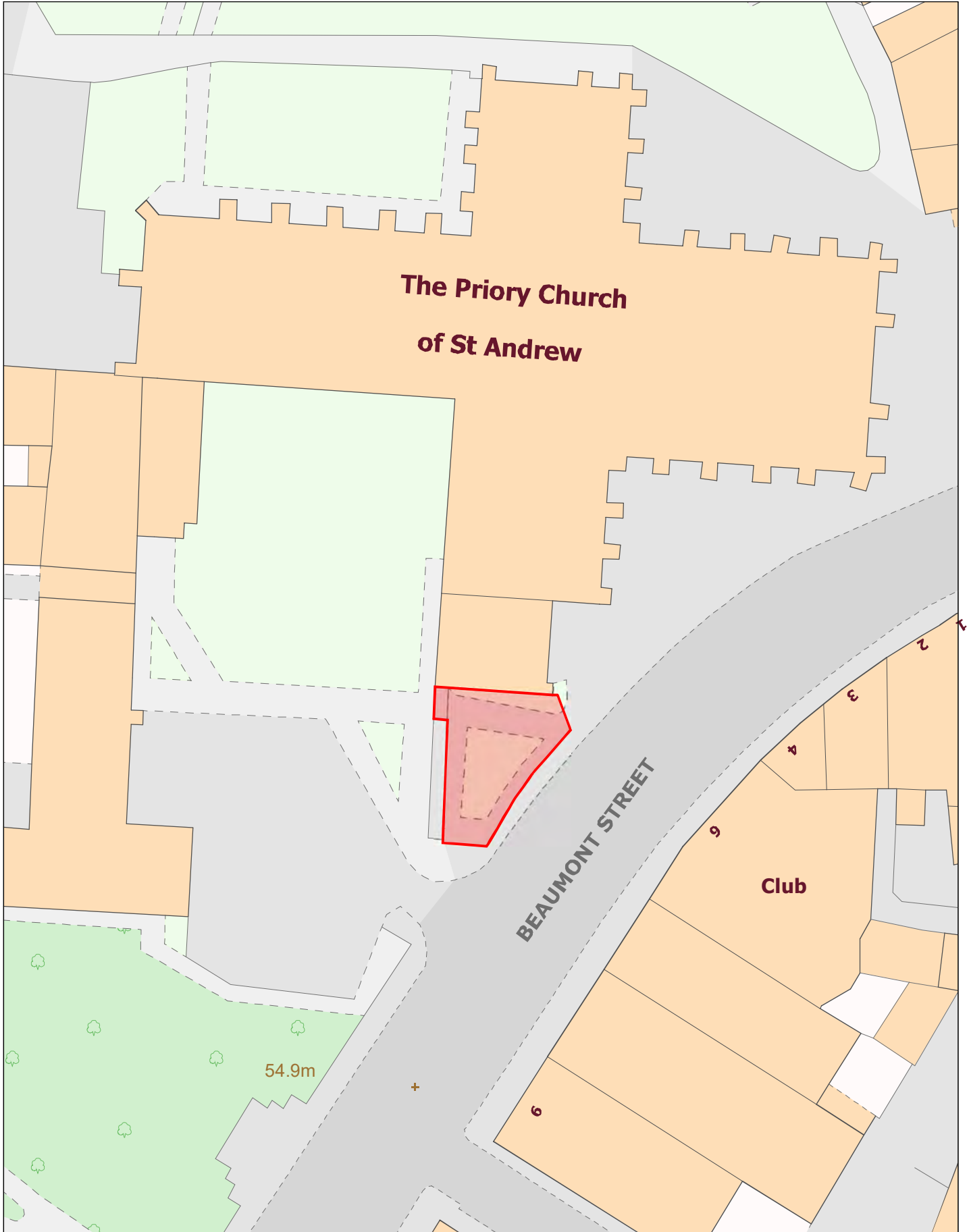
1.4 The findings of a further assessment report, produced by Peter Ryder in February 2019, informed by the results of the 2012-15 (and earlier) works, tend to confirm the archaeological sensitivity of the site. The Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Northumberland County Archaeologist have accordingly stipulated that the archaeological potential of the proposed development area should be subject to monitoring as the proposed development of the area is likely to impact on features and/or deposits associated with the various known phases of the Priory church and associated structures and features.



Illus. 01: Regional view, showing the location of Hexham (circled in red) in southern Northumberland.



Illus. 02: Town view, showing the location of the Abbey (circled in red) in the historic town centre of Hexham.



Scale 1:500

0 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40 m

Illus. 03: Street view, showing the location of the watching brief site (highlighted in red) at Hexham Memorial Garden.

2. CULTURAL HERITAGE BACKGROUND AND POTENTIAL

2.1 Background

Although long suggested as a site of Roman occupation, and topographically highly suitable for prehistoric settlement, there is no known evidence for human activity within the bounds of the assessment area or, indeed, the wider vicinity, until Wilfrid, an Anglo-Saxon noble, founded a monastery there in the late 7th century, dedicating the main church of his monastic establishment to St Andrew. The main surviving structural fragment of this early monastery is the crypt, abandoned and lost sometime in the late medieval period, rediscovered in 1725 but correctly identified only in the 19th century. The early church itself is on the same alignment as and largely occupies the footprint of the Augustinian (and modern) nave, although its north wall falls within the nave and its south wall within the cloister to the south.

The Saxon monastery was reconstituted as an Augustinian Priory in 1113 and a new church erected shortly afterwards; the eastern arm and transepts of the church are largely of this period (late 12th and early 13th century). Construction of the new church was followed by the addition of stone-built ranges around a cloister, probably by the 1130s, some fragments of which survive in the lower east wall of the West Range. This was a smaller version of the succeeding 13th century cloister garth, but there is still uncertainty over the extent and positioning of its enclosing ranges. Above-ground structural evidence has mostly been lost for the Romanesque church, but a reconstruction of the church and its ranges (Cambridge and Williams 1995, 84), suggests a church with an eastern apse and transepts, possibly a long chancel, and with a nave probably only aisled on the north side, falling largely with the footprint of the 13th century (and modern) church.

The Romanesque church was replaced during the late 12th and early 13th century by a building largely in the Early English style; the present church is largely of this period or rebuilt in the same style on the original footprint. The southern ranges set around a cloister were extended in this period; the west range survives (with original masonry in its lower courses) along with fragmentary parts of the east range.

The West Range was remodelled in the late 15th century under Prior Leschman (1480-1491) and it is generally accepted that the north-west range was built in the same period; some older fabric survives in the east part of its north wall, although externally this building is almost entirely of late 18th or early 19th century appearance. Following the Dissolution of the Priory in February 1537, the Crown granted the monastic buildings in 1538 to Sir Reginald Carnaby, who probably added the Carnaby Building within the angle between the Prior's House and the northern part of the west range. The building of the Carnaby Building completed the complex of buildings now collectively known as the 'Abbey House', consisting of the west range of the cloister and buildings around the 'Prior's Court'. The history of the monastic buildings to the east of the cloister remains unclear, but the chapter house, which projected to the east, seems to have disappeared quite early on. Ryder (2019) has described the history of the site based on detailed maps as early as 1802, noting that the creation of Beaumont Street in the 1860s destroyed any evidence of the monastic buildings, such as the rere dorter and infirmary, adjacent to the current site, and at the same time caused ground levels to be reduced to their present levels, which are close to their medieval originals.

The Abbey House continued to be altered and extended in the 17th and 18th Centuries, as detailed by Ryder (2012), but medieval fabric was not extensively impacted at ground and under-floor levels. By the end of the 19th century parts of the Abbey House were used by the police and parts as a court house; in 1976 the basement of the northern section of the conventual west range, now known as 'The Monastic Workshop', was converted into a meeting room for the Abbey.



Illus. 04: The site (highlighted in red) shown on a map of 1802 (see Ryder 2019)

2.2 Previous Archaeological Work in the Vicinity

Prior to 2011 when a renewed phase of archaeological exploration was initiated, Hexham Abbey had been subject to numerous investigations since the end of the 19th century (see Cambridge & Williams 1995, Hodges 1921 & 1924, Hodges & Gibson 1919, Pevsner *et al* 2001 and Savage & Hodges 1907).

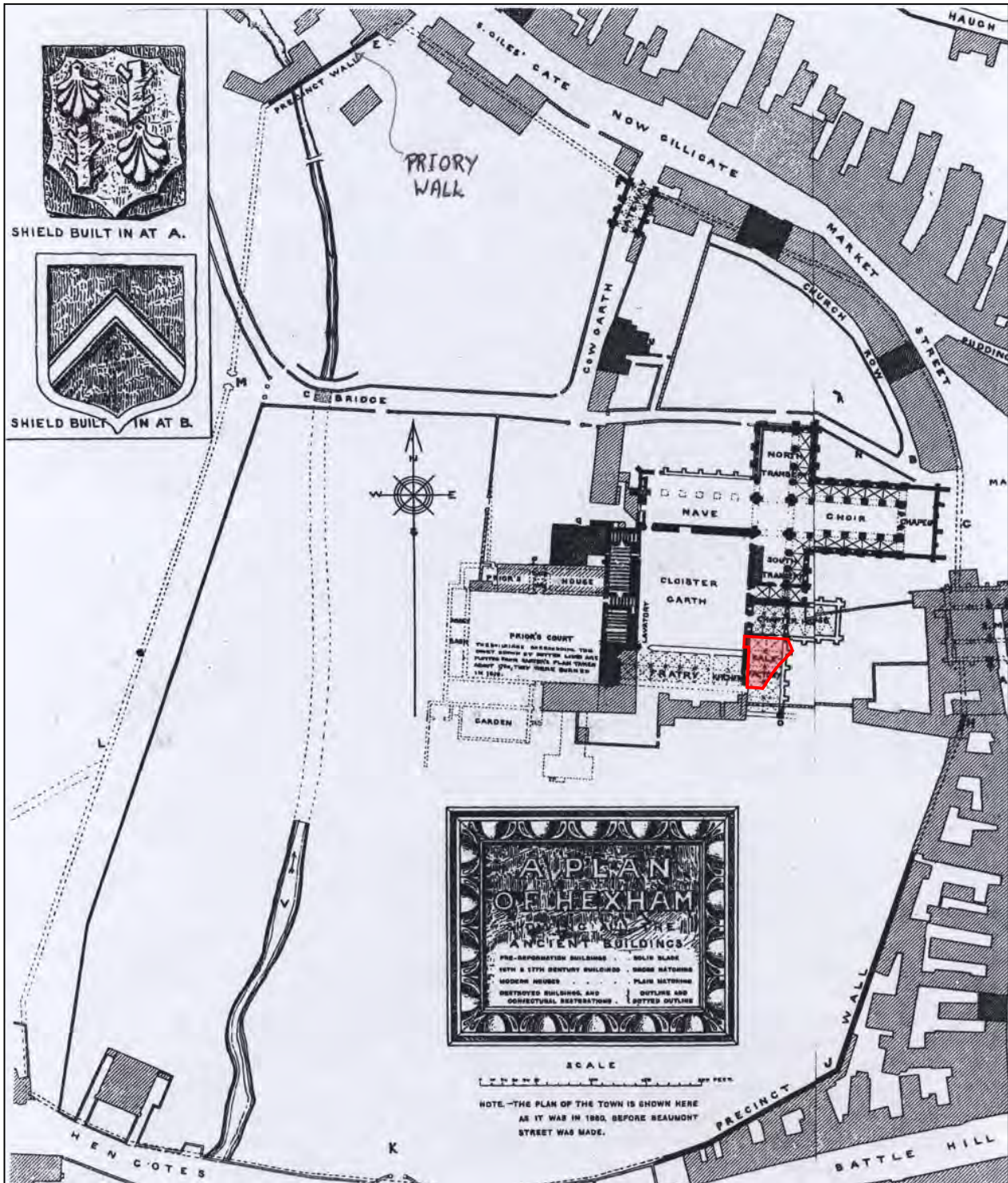
From 2012, several phases of archaeological investigation were carried out at Hexham Priory by The Archaeological Practice Ltd., with Peter Ryder carrying out historic buildings recording, including evaluation excavations undertaken in February and March 2013 and mitigation in the form of monitoring during groundworks and work on the standing buildings during late 2012 and throughout 2013, until completion in early 2014 (see Carlton & Ryder 2018). This work followed an archaeological desk-based assessment produced in 2012 which led to requests for evaluation and mitigation work by English Heritage (now HE).



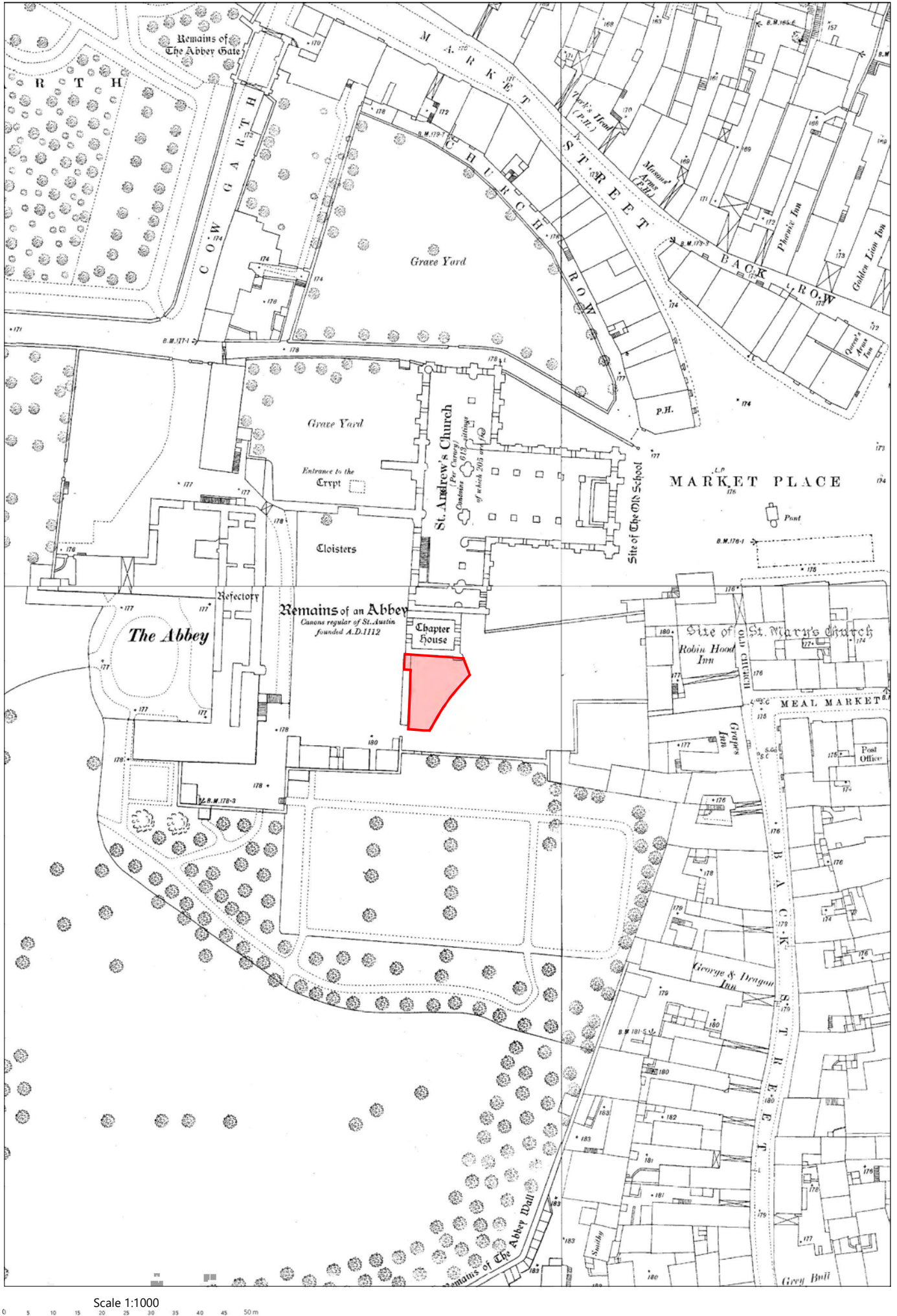
Illus. 05 Extract of Wood's map of Hexham c.1826, showing the watching brief site (circled in red).



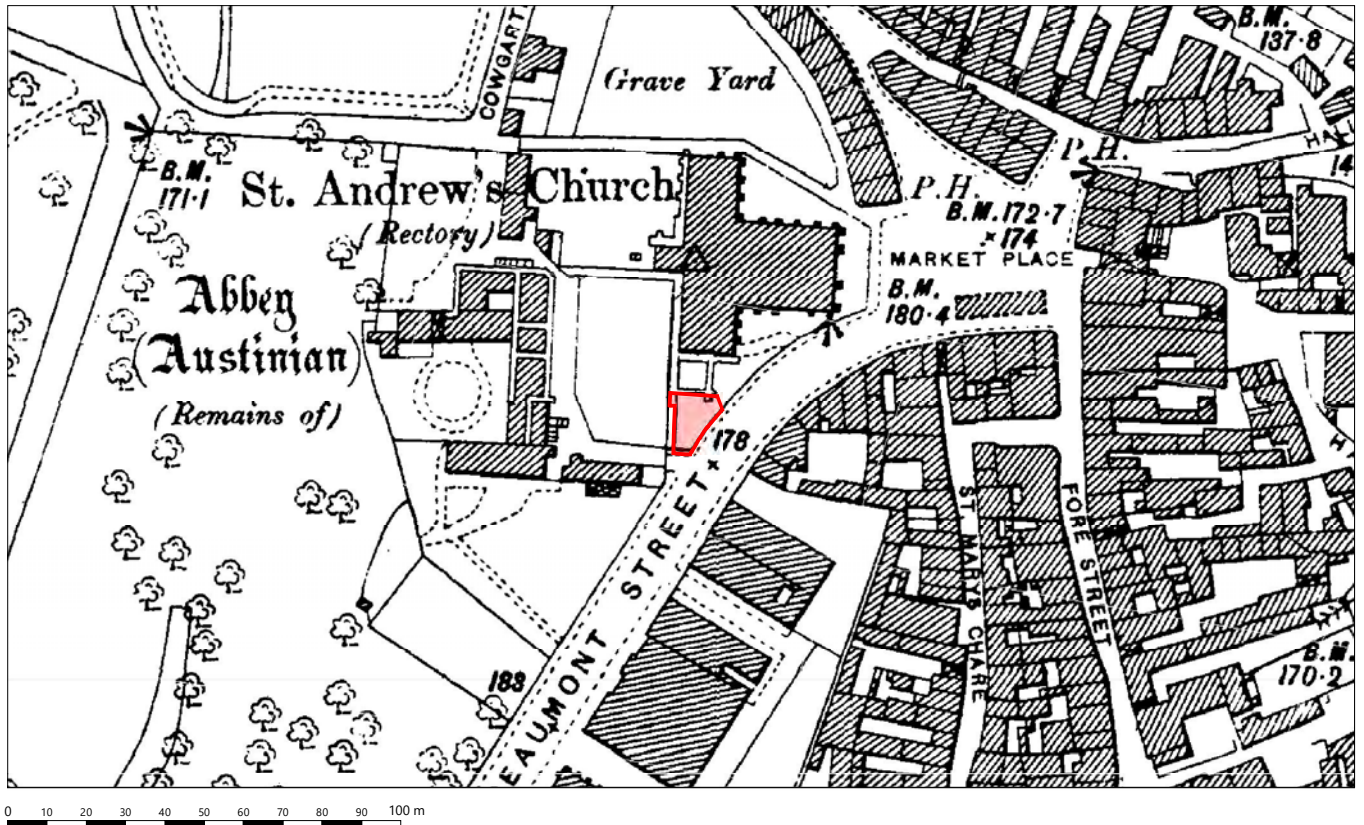
Illus. 06: Extract of the Hexham Tithe Map c.1844, showing the watching brief site (circled in red).



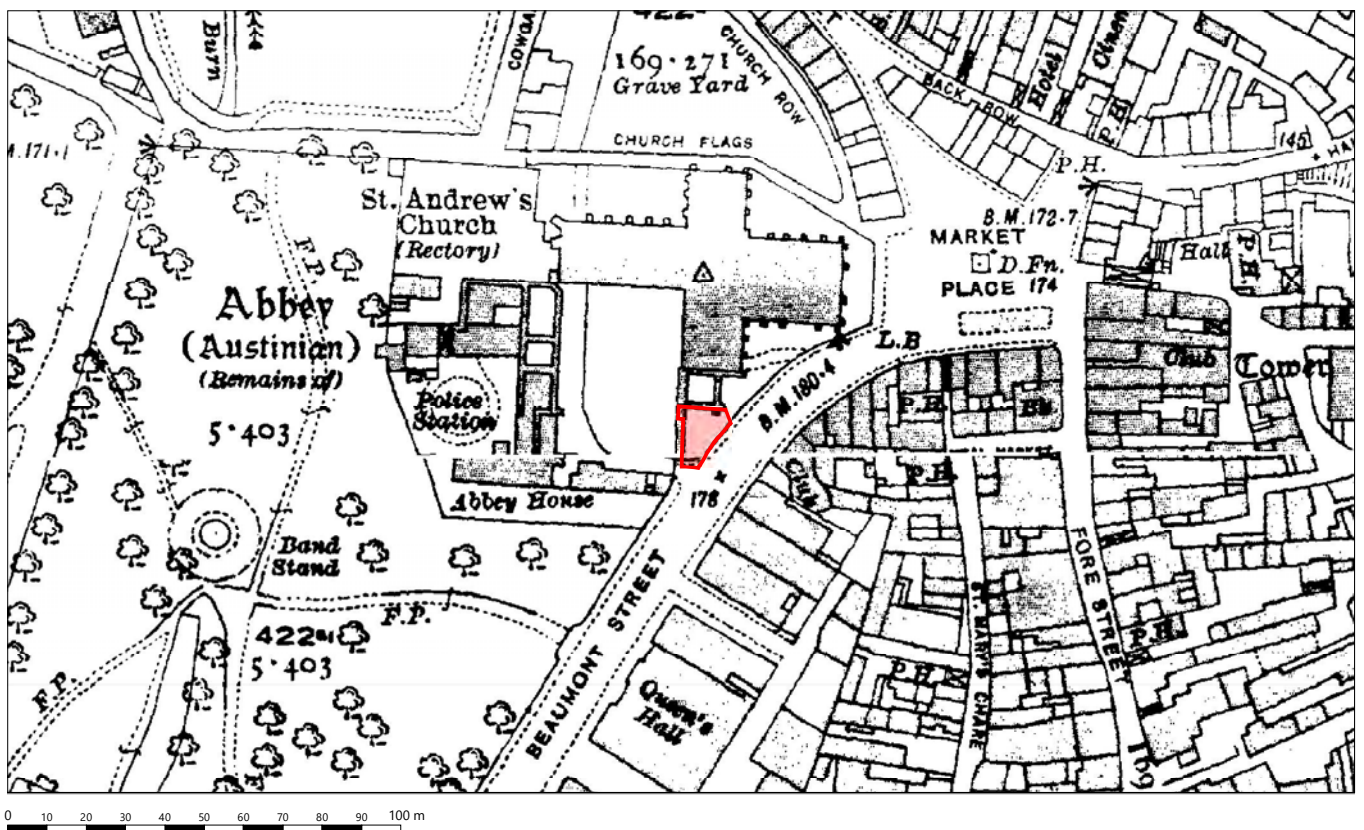
Illus. 07: Extract from C. C. Hodges map of Hexham, produced in c.1888 but illustrating how it was in c.1860. The approximate area of watching brief is highlighted in red.



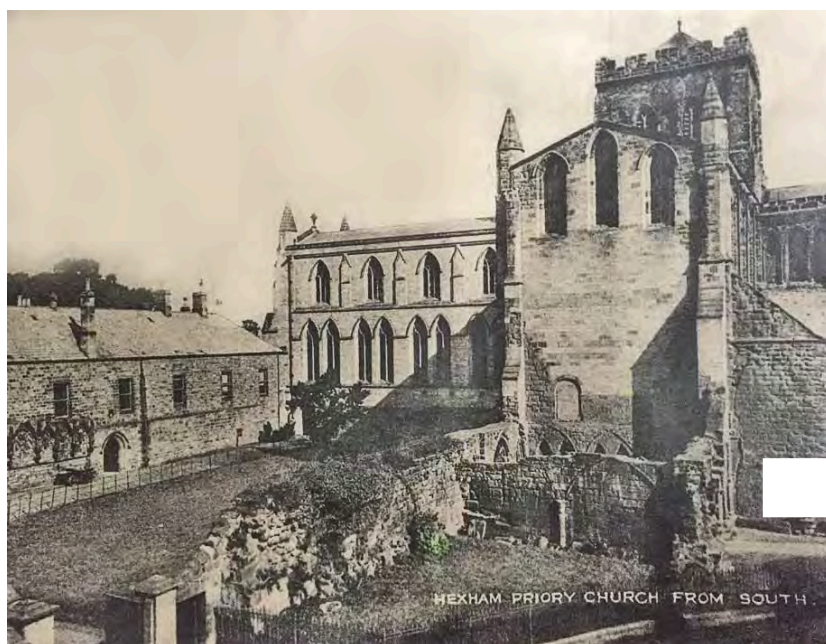
Illus. 08: Extract of the 1st Edition OS Town Plan of Hexham c.1863, showing the watching brief area in red.



Illus. 09: Extract of the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Plan of Hexham c.1896, 1:2500 scale, showing the watching brief area (highlighted in red).



Illus. 10: Extract of the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Plan of Hexham c.1922, 1:2500 scale, showing the watching brief area (highlighted in red).

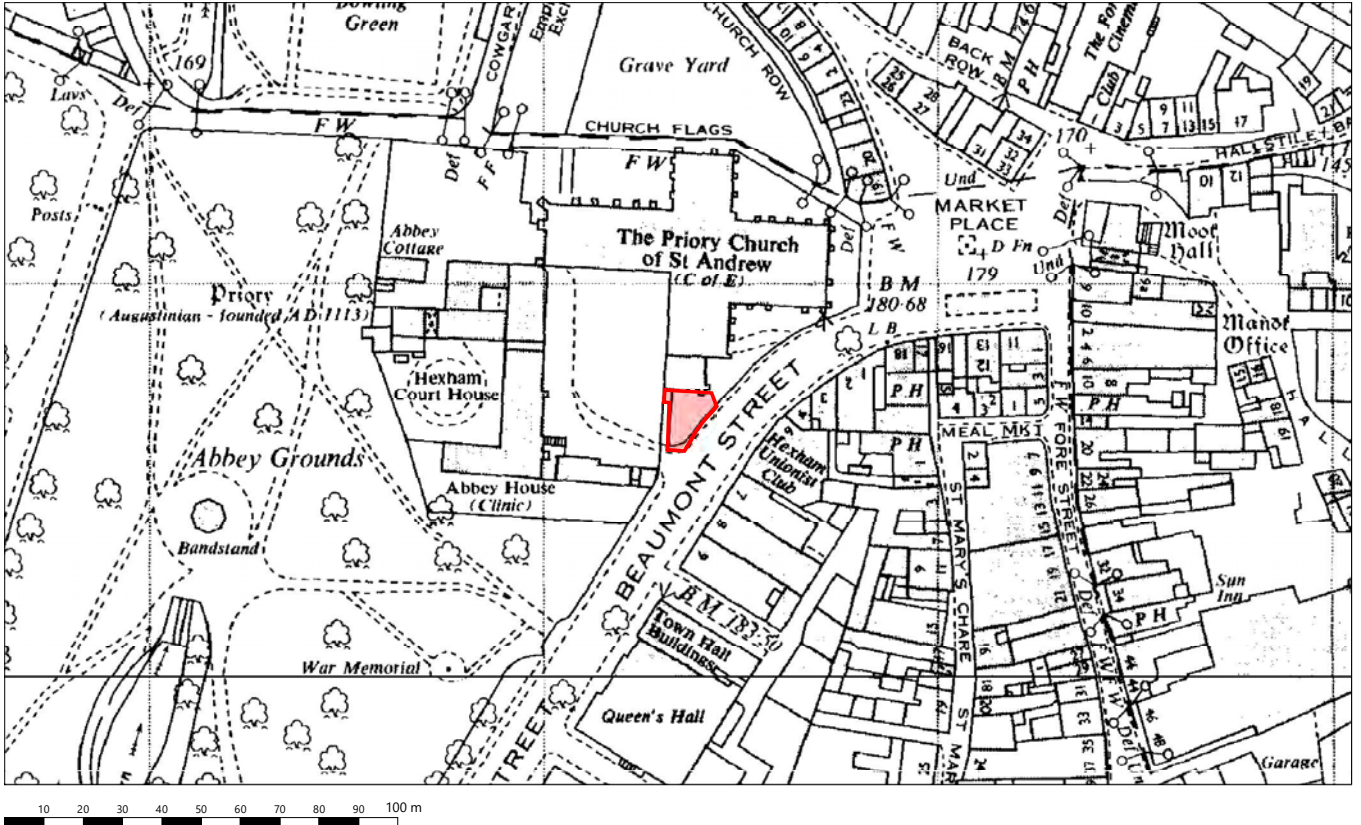


Illus. 11: 1920s view over the remains of the East Range, with The cloister beyond, from the south-east.

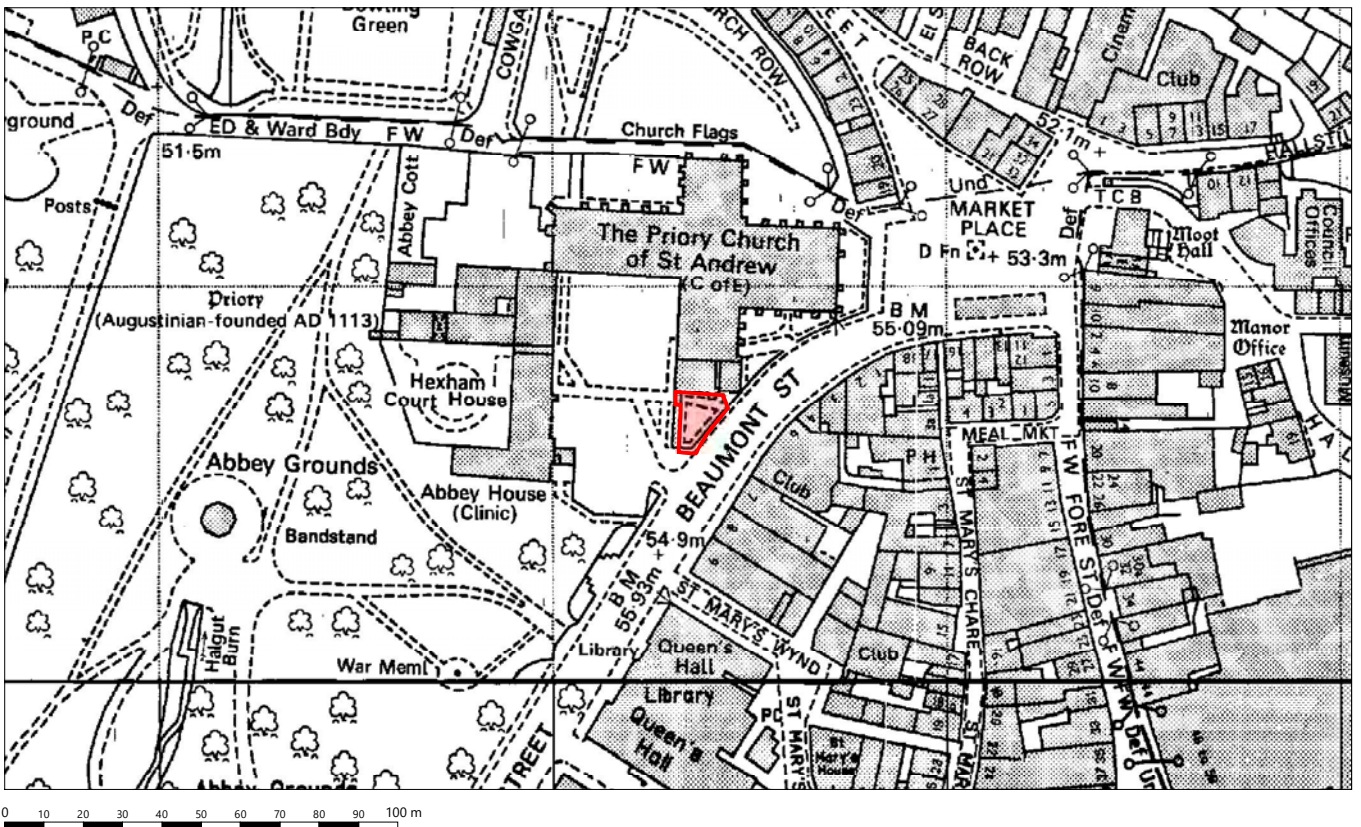
While none of this work directly concerned the area of current interest and is of only contextual relevance to it, the route of Site G, a service trench, followed the existing route of the old Health Centre gas supply from the abbey buildings to Beaumont Street. A watching brief held during groundworks in that location revealed no archaeological remains of significance.

In addition to the 2012-14 works, invasive archaeological evaluation by test-pitting was carried out within the Prior's Court over the course of three days in late December, 2015. The works comprised test-pit excavations to determine the archaeological potential of the site in advance of an application for Scheduled Monument consent for groundworks associated with the proposed construction of a formal garden. These excavations did not reveal significant archaeological remains within the Prior's Court at depths likely to be impacted by the proposed garden works, however.

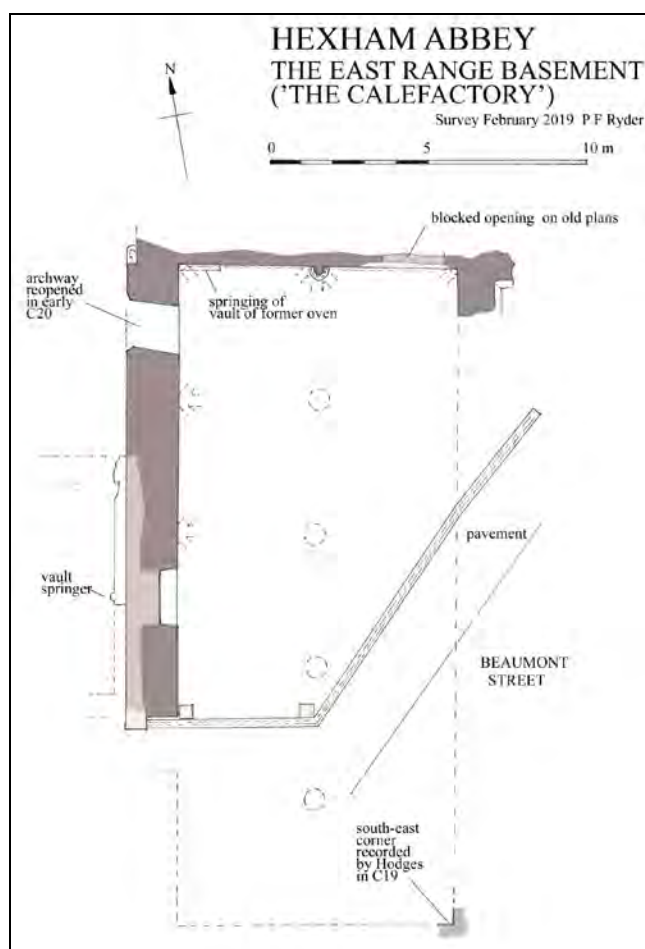
Ryder's 2019 assessment of the 'calefactory' is the most recent cultural heritage work carried out on at the Priory. Ryder notes that the structure comprises the lower part of the north wall (in effect the south wall of the chapter house vestibule) and three bays of the west wall, along with a stub of the east wall at its north end (see *Illus. 14*). The building is 8.8 m wide internally, and appears to have been 21 m long. However, Hodges identified its south-east corner, now under Beaumont Street, showing that it was originally five bays long.



Illus. 12: Extract of the c.1963 Edi on Ordnance Survey Plan of Hexham, 1:2500 scale, showing the watching brief area (highlighted in red).



Illus. 13: Extract of the c.1984 Edi on Ordnance Survey Plan of Hexham, 1:2500 scale, showing the watching brief area (highlighted in red).



Illus. 14: Ryder's (2019) plan of the East Range Basement, or Calefactory.

2.2 Potential

The current development site was considered to offer potential for the survival of archaeological remains because it lies within the scheduled monument, which is protected by Scheduled status and national planning guidance, which notes that there will be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of nationally important archaeological remains. More specifically, it lies close to the site of the former Chapter House and partly within the area of the former East Range (presumed Calefactory), upstanding remains of which survive. Additionally, it is noted that, since the layout of the later and, particularly, early medieval monastery is at least partially obscure, the nature of potential archaeological remains in this area is not precisely quantifiable.

Ryders assessment (2019) concluded that it was highly likely the significant archaeological remains exist at a relatively shallow depth beneath the present ground level, which is approximately that of the medieval floor.

3. WATCHING BRIEF

The watching brief took place during all groundworks carried out as part of the development, its aims being to identify and determine the character of any remains uncovered during groundworks on the site, and to make an appropriate record of such finds by photographic and other means.

Groundworks were undertaken until archaeological remains were reached. Thereafter, the remaining deposits were excavated by hand as appropriate. All excavations were closely monitored by a suitably trained and experienced archaeologist from The Archaeological Practice Ltd.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Location and Dimensions

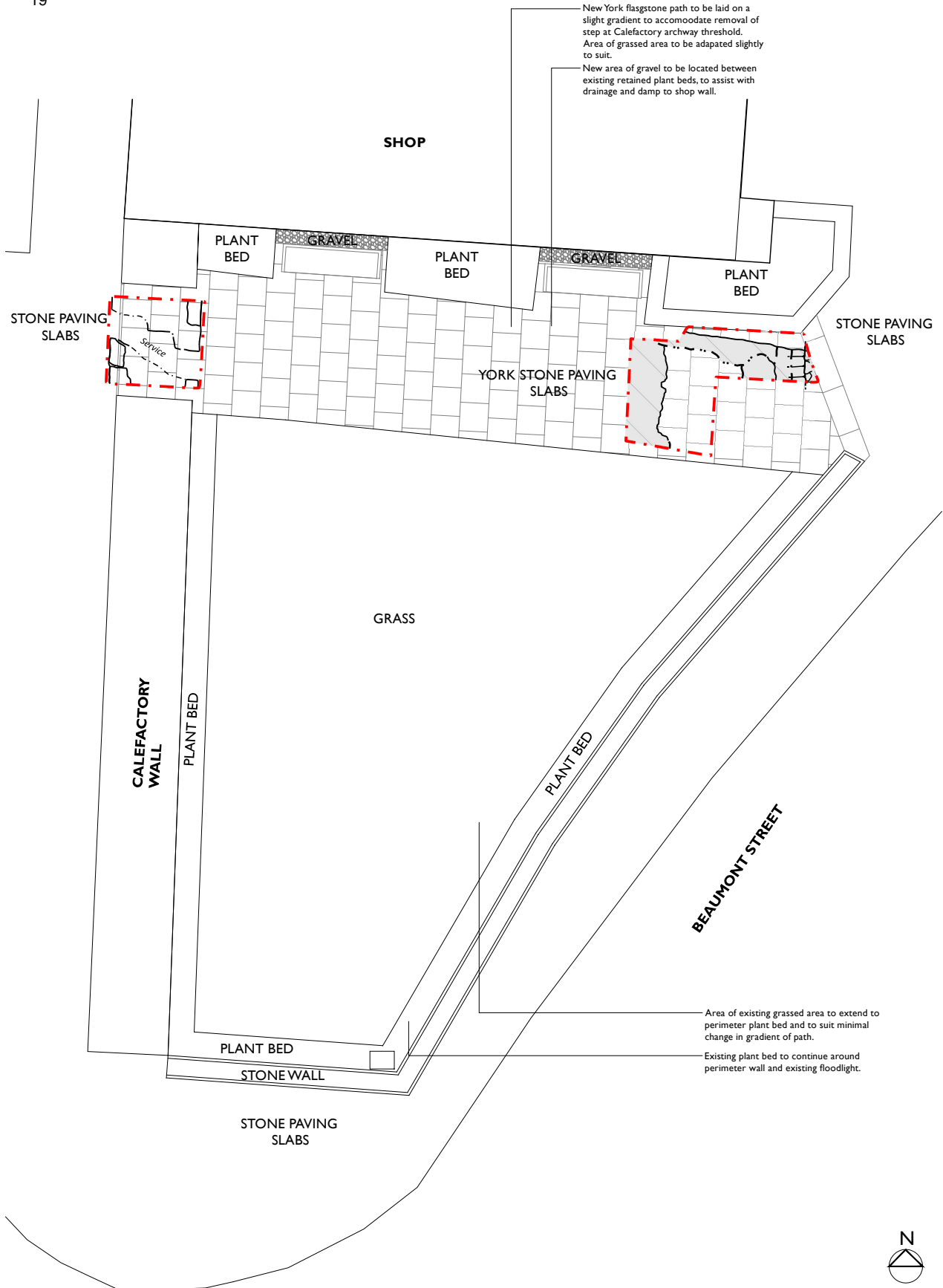
The focus of archaeological watching brief centred upon NGR: NY 93533 64068, located on the south side of Hexham Abbey in a triangular shaped plot extending southwards from the Abbey Chapter House for approximately 15 metres in length, and eastwards from the Calefactory Wall of the Abbey for approximately 13 metres in length, before reaching the Beaumont Street pavement on the east side and following the southwestern alignment of the street, tapering to approximately 4 metres in width at its southern extent (*see Illus. 03, 15 & 16*).

Within this plot, two distinct areas were excavated to depths in which archaeological features were revealed. The first area was located towards the northeast corner of the plot, extending southwards from a walled plant bed attached to the southeast corner of the Abbey Chapter House (*see Illus. 15 and 16; Photos 1-3*). In plan this was an L-shaped trench, with the east-west arm measuring approximately 3 m (length E-W) x 0.85 m (width), and the north-south arm measuring approximately 2.30 m (length N-S) x 1.50 m (width). The maximum depth of the trench was approximately 1 metre (*see Illus. 18*).

The second area of excavation was located towards the northwest corner of the plot, in the entrance gap through the Calefactory Wall (*see Illus. 15 & 17; Photos 4-6*). The excavation measured 1.70 m (length) x 1.50 m (width) x 0.10 m (depth).

4.2 Stratigraphy and Archaeology

Beneath the present paving was a layer of loose small sandstone (s/s) rubble and black sandy loam overlaid by a 0.02 m deep dressing of fine black ash and spent coal [01] which appeared to be of 19th/20th century character. Beneath this was a layer comprising loose s/s pieces and occasional riverine cobbles interpreted as the footings [02] of a building shown on the town maps of 1826 and 1844. The possible building foundations [02] sat within and may be considered part of a wider spread of demolition material [03] which contained two fragments of late medieval green-glazed pottery. On the east side of the excavated area a cut [06] had been made through [03], perhaps representing the robbing of the east wall of the Calefactory, or 'warming room', while a deposit of small sandstone pieces forming a surface on its east lip [04] may represent the remains of the external surface east of the East Range, or 'Calefactory' [05] which appeared to sit upon natural boulder clay [07]. The suspected robbing cut [06], containing a fill of sandy loam containing mortar and crushed s/s pieces but no dateable artifacts, had also been cut into the natural boulder clay deposit [07].



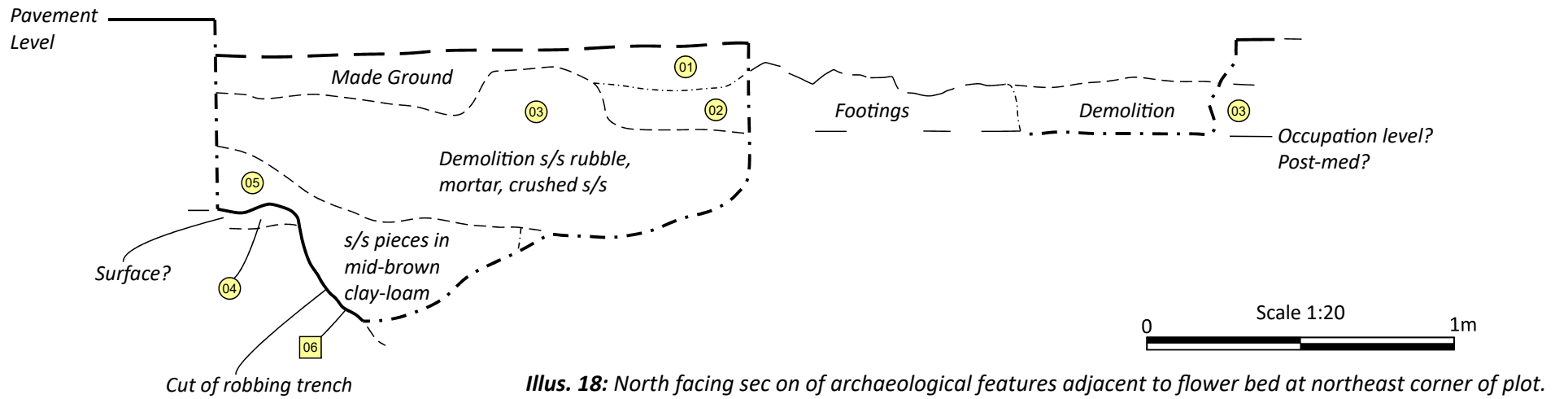
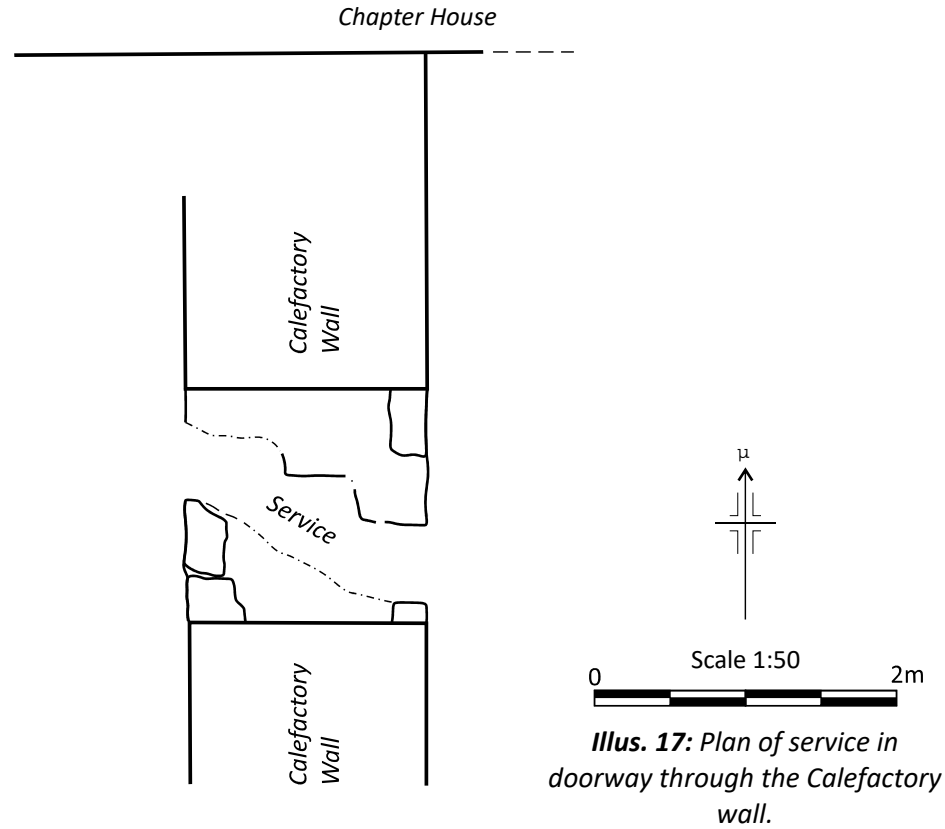
2 Plan as Proposed
100 1:100

- PATH BUILD UP**
- 60mm York flag stones with 10mm jointing in lime mortar. (To be set on a gradient to ensure they are flush with existing flooring adjacent to shop and to the top step of the Calefactory archway threshold.)
 - 50mm lime bed
 - Allow for 150mm well-compacted sulphur free hardcore base as necessary, pending lifting of existing paving.
 - Permeable gravel to be 6-10mm in size, loose-laid to a uniform thickness of 150mm. Sample to be provided for CA approval.

Illus. 15: Architect's plan of the Memorial Garden site, amended to show location of archaeological trenches (outlined in red).



Illus. 16: Plan of archaeological features adjacent to flower bed at northeast corner of plot.



4.3 Interpretation

The remains uncovered during groundworks include some of medieval character, likely including demolition deposit [03] and surface [04] which may be part of a surviving surface contemporary with the robbed out east wall of the East Range, possibly represented by robbing trench [05]. Wall footings [02] are likely to be of early post-medieval origins but contain rubble and some decorative architectural elements derived from the demolished medieval buildings.

The excavations, carried out at relatively shallow depths, did not uncover structural remains of high archaeological importance. However, the recovery of medieval stone and pottery artifacts at shallow depths confirms that medieval deposits lie close to the present surface in this part of the priory grounds and that more significant remains, including may well survive at greater depth, including the north-south wall, suggested as the east wall of the east range of the original 12th century priory, seen at a depth of c 0.30 in the adjacent chapter house vestibule (now the Abbey Shop) in 1984 (Cambridge & Williams 55).

4.4 Context List

[01] Beneath the present paving, a layer of loose small sandstone (s/s) rubble and black sandy loam overlaid by a 0.02 m deep dressing of fine black ash and spent coal. Appears to be of late 19th/20th century character.

[02] A layer of loose s/s pieces and rare riverine cobbles, 1.4 m wide, max. depth 0.20 m. Interpreted as the footings of the east wall of building shown on the town maps of 1826 and 1844. No brick rubble was observed at this level indicating that the building was of stone masonry construction, probably using recycled Abbey material. A broken column incorporated into the footings is similar to decorative columns in the Chapter House. Deposits on the same level to the west of [02] may be the post medieval occupation level.

[03] A layer of loose demolition material, incorporating s/s rubble, mortar and crushed s/s extending to a max. excavated depth of 0.50 m.

[04] A layer along the east lip of cut [06], possibly the remains of the external surface east of Calefactory ('warming room') wall, comprising small s/s pieces laid face up.

[05] A fill of loose mid-grey brown sandy loam, with common mortar and crushed s/s pieces, incl. concentrations of angular s/s pieces up to 0.15 m. max. diam. and 0.02- 0.10 m. pieces. Fill of cut [06].

[06] A cut, on the east side of cut aligned n-s, representing the robbing of the east wall of the Calefactory, cutting [04]. The cut had a smooth, steep incline and max. excavated depth of 0.40 m.

[07] The material beneath [4] appeared to be natural boulder clay, consisting of orange, silty clay.

4.5 Finds (see Photos. 07 & 08)

Finds from the groundworks were restricted to pottery and a single piece of carved stonework in rather coarse sandstone, in the form of a shaft, forming a right angle, the longer branch 13.1 cm long and 4.8 cm diameter, the other 10.0 cm long and 5.7 cm diameter, the latter topped with a rounded rolled capital, 1.5 cm deep and extending 2 cm beyond the shaft, which actually forms part of the narrower shaft. This well-made but slightly worn fragment seems best fitted to the role of architectural ornament, perhaps forming part of a seat rail or other largely decorative feature.

In addition to several fragments of modern pottery from the upper deposits of the excavations, two fragments of late medieval green-glazed pottery were also recovered from rubble in the fill [05] of a suspected robbing trench. This pottery is of little significance other than attesting to medieval activity close to its findspot.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the investigation reported here support the suggestion that significant archaeological remains survive within the Memorial Garden area at shallow depths. Thus, any future works on the site requiring groundworks should be designed to avoid impact upon surviving remains or accompanied by measured archaeological intervention.

6. REFERENCES

Cambridge, E & Williams, A (1995) Hexham Abbey: A review of recent work and its implications. *Archaeologia Aeliana* 5th ser XXIII, 107.

Ryder, P F, 2019, *Hexham Abbey: The Garden of Remembrance 'The Calefactory': An Archaeological Assessment*. Unpublished Report for Hexham Priory PCC, February 2019.

Carlton, R J & Ryder, P F, 2019, Hexham Abbey 2013-14: Report on archaeological and buildings recording work carried out during a programme of development at Hexham Abbey in 2012. *Durham Archaeological Journal*, 2019, 6-81.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record.



Photo 1. View looking north across archaeological features in the northeast corner of the development plot.



Photo 2. View looking south at detail of archaeological features in the northeast corner of the development plot.



Photo 3. View looking east at detail of archaeological features in the northeast corner of the development plot.



Photo 4. View looking west through an opening in the Calefactory Wall, shown prior to works.



Photo 5. View looking SW through an opening in the Calefactory Wall, shown during the works.



Photo 6. View looking west through an opening in the Calefactory Wall, showing services truncating the wall foundations.



Photo. 07: Body and handle sherds of late medieval green-glazed pottery found amongst medieval rubble in the Hexham Memorial Garden.



Photo. 08a&b: Views of a fragment of worked stone, perhaps part of a decorative rail, frame or handle, found amongst medieval rubble in the Hesham Memorial Garden.

APPENDIX 2:

HEXHAM MEMORIAL GARDEN HEXHAM ABBEY NORTHUMBERLAND

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF by THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE LTD.

August 2019

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1 This document is a project design for a programme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks to be carried out for the Priory and Parish Church of St Andrew in the area known as Hexham Memorial Garden, on the south-east side of the abbey complex, bordering Beaumont Street.

1.2 This project design for evaluation follows the recommendations of the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments and itself follows a series of archaeological investigations carried out by the Archaeological Practice Ltd. for the Priory and Parish Church of St Andrew (commonly referred to as Hexham Abbey) in advance of major development works carried out there in late 2013 up to the Summer of 2014, and specifically in relation to the current scheme in 2015.

1.3 The main findings of the assessment and subsequent investigations were, broadly, that the archaeological potential of the abbey site is very high, being sited entirely within a Scheduled Area designed to protect remains of internationally important early medieval, Norman and later medieval origin. Since the current site of proposed development is not known to have been significantly disturbed by modern developments, it is considered possible that remains of very considerable archaeological significance will be revealed or disturbed by the proposed works.

1.4 The findings of a further assessment report, produced by Peter Ryder in February 2019, informed by the results of the 2012-15 (and earlier) works, tend to confirm the archaeological sensitivity of the site, the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Northumberland County Archaeologist have accordingly stipulated that the archaeological potential of the proposed development area should be subject to monitoring as the proposed development of the area is likely to impact on features and/or deposits associated with the various known phases of the Priory church and associated structures and features.

1.4 NCC Notice of Planning Permission was provided on 29th April, 2019, as follows:

Application No. 19/00337/FUL

Conditions

1 The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

2 The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in complete accordance with the approved plans. The approved plans for the development are:

1. Existing & Proposed Plans Memorial Garden Landscaping, Drawing No: 100 (Date: 02/11/18) (Received On: 30/01/2019).

2. Hexham Abbey: Memorial Garden Design - Design, Access & Heritage Statement

(Date: January 2019) (Received On: 30/01/2019)

3. Hexham Abbey The Garden Of Remembrance 'The Calefactory' An Archaeological Assessment (Date: February 2019) (Received On: 04/03/2019).

1.5 Historic England (HE) Notice of *Scheduled Monument Consent* was also provided on 29th April, 2019, as follows:

Ref S00215574

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2 control of works.

Application for Scheduled Monument Consent.

REMAINS OF MEDIEVAL PRIORY AND ANGLO-SAXON MONASTERY UNDER AND AROUND HEXHAM ABBEY AND ITS PRECINCTS, HEXHAM

Scheduled Monument No: SM ND 51, HA 1006593.

1.6 The current WSI is prepared at the behest of the Inspector of Ancient Monuments in response to the recommendations of the evaluation report.

1.7 The planned programme of development includes proposals to create level access through the Memorial Garden to Cloister Garth, which will involve lifting modern crazy paving, laying new Yorkstone paving on a slight gradient to create level access, providing a gravel perimeter to the wall adjacent to the Abbey Shop and laying turf.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site of the current works is the Memorial Garden bordering the north-east side of the abbey complex and Beaumont Street (see **Appendix 1** for its Location, current appearance and extent of proposed works – document supplied by *Purcell Architects, York*).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE

3.1 The site is of considerable archaeological significance and potential with respect to the medieval ecclesiastical history of south Northumberland, being the site of an early medieval monastery, later medieval and post-medieval priory within a medieval and later town.

3.2 Although long suggested as a site of Roman occupation, and topographically highly suitable for prehistoric settlement, there is no known evidence for human activity within the bounds of the assessment area or, indeed, the wider vicinity, until Wilfrid, an Anglo-Saxon noble, founded a monastery there in the late 7th century, dedicating the main church of his monastic establishment to St Andrew. The main surviving structural fragment of this early monastery is the crypt, abandoned and lost sometime in the late medieval period, rediscovered in 1725 but correctly identified only in the 19th century. The early church itself is on the same alignment as and largely occupies the footprint of the Augustinian (and modern) nave, although its north wall falls within the nave and its south wall within the cloister to the south.

3.3 The Saxon monastery was reconstituted as an Augustinian Priory in 1113 and a new church erected shortly afterwards; the eastern arm and transepts of the church are largely of this period (late 12th and early 13th century). Construction of the new church was followed by the addition of stone-built ranges around a cloister, probably by the 1130s, some fragments of which survive in the lower east wall of the West Range. This was a smaller version of the succeeding 13th century cloister garth, but there is still uncertainty over the extent and positioning of its enclosing ranges. Above-ground structural evidence has mostly been lost for the Romanesque church, but a reconstruction of the church and its ranges (Cambridge and Williams 1995, 84), suggests a church with an eastern apse and transepts, possibly a long chancel, and with a nave probably only aisled on the north side, falling largely with the footprint of the 13th century (and modern) church.

3.4 The Romanesque church was replaced during the late 12th and early 13th century by a building largely in the Early English style; the present church is largely of this period or rebuilt in the same style on the original footprint. The southern ranges set around a cloister were extended in this period; the west range survives (with original masonry in its lower courses) along with fragmentary parts of the east range.

3.5 The West Range was remodelled in the late 15th century under Prior Leschman (1480-1491) and it is generally accepted that the north-west range was built in the same period; some older fabric survives in the east part of its north wall, although externally this building is almost entirely of late 18th or early 19th century appearance. Following the Dissolution of the Priory in February 1537, the Crown granted the monastic buildings in 1538 to Sir Reginald Carnaby, who probably added the Carnaby Building within the angle between the Prior's House and the northern part of the west range, although Ryder (2012, 13) suggests that the building may have been constructed a few years before the Dissolution. The Carnaby building seems to have been little impacted by late 18th and early 19th century fires which largely destroyed the Prior's House to the south. The building of the Carnaby Building completed the complex of buildings now collectively known as the 'Abbey House', consisting of the west range of the cloister and, to the west of it, buildings around the 'Prior's Court', including the north west range (the Prior's House) and, behind it, the early 16th century 'Carnaby Building'.

3.6 The Abbey House continued to be altered and extended in the 17th and 18th Centuries, as detailed by Ryder (2012), but medieval fabric was not extensively impacted at ground and under-floor levels. By the end of the 19th century parts of the Abbey House were used by the police and parts as a court house; in 1976 the basement of the northern section of the conventual west range, now known as 'The Monastic Workshop', was converted into a meeting room for the Abbey.

3.7 Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Site of Development

3.7.1 The proposed development site is considered to offer potential for the survival of archaeological remains.

3.7.2 Most pertinently, the site lies adjacent to the south wall of the refectory, but, since the layout of the later and, particularly, early medieval monastery is at least partially obscure, the nature of potential archaeological remains in this area is not precisely quantifiable.

3.8 The development area lies within the scheduled monument, which is protected by Scheduled status and national planning guidance, which notes that there will be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of nationally important archaeological remains.

4. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN THE VICINITY

Prior to 2011 when a renewed phase of archaeological exploration was initiated, Hexham Abbey had been subject to numerous investigations since the end of the 19th century (see Cambridge & Williams 1995, Hodges 1921 & 1924, Hodges & Gibson 1919, Pevsner *et al* 2001 and Savage & Hodges 1907).

From 2012, several phases of archaeological investigation were carried out at Hexham Priory by The Archaeological Practice Ltd., with Peter Ryder carrying out historic buildings recording, including evaluation excavations undertaken in February and March 2013 and mitigation in the form of monitoring during groundworks and work on the standing buildings during late 2012 and throughout 2013, until completion in early 2014 (see Carlton & Ryder 2018). This work followed an archaeological desk-based assessment produced in 2012 which led to requests for evaluation and mitigation work by English Heritage (now HE).

While none of this work directly concerned the area of current interest and is of only contextual relevance to it, the route of Site G, a service trench, followed the existing route of the old Health Centre gas supply from the abbey buildings to Beaumont Street and was, in consequence, considered likely to cause minimal disturbance to archaeological deposits, as confirmed during a watching brief which revealed no remains of significance.

In addition to the 2012-14 works, invasive archaeological evaluation by test-pitting was carried out within the Prior's Court over the course of three days in late December, 2015. The works comprised test-pit excavations to determine the archaeological potential of the site in advance of the determination of Scheduled Monument consent for groundworks associated with the proposed construction of a formal garden.

A total of four pits were excavated to depths between 0.40 and 0.80 m. Three of four test-pits produced no results of archaeological interest, encountering natural boulder clay below made gravel surfaces at depths between 0.30 – 0.49 m, while the fourth, also excavated through a compacted gravel road surface, revealed a much greater depth of mixed overburden sitting upon a stone-built feature, likely to be a drain made of re-used masonry, 0.70 m below current ground level. This, in turn, had cut two other, earlier pit- or gully-like features of unknown character and origin.

These results did not reveal significant archaeological remains within the Prior's Court at depths likely to be impacted by the proposed garden works. However, in view of the small sample taken and the variable depth of overburden, there remains some potential for the survival of underlying archaeological remains, particularly in the central and east parts of the area, closer to the known position of important archaeological remains associated with the medieval and later abbey.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT

5.1 The proposed developments have the potential to impact on archaeological remains of presumed medieval (and potentially earlier) origin.

5.2 Given this likelihood, the following course of action is required: **Monitoring by Archaeological Watching Brief.**

6. METHODOLOGY FOR WATCHING BRIEF DURING GROUNDWORKS

It is proposed to monitor all groundworks associated with the excavation of the new service supply trench and erection of associated poles.

6.1 Archaeological Fieldwork

6.1.1 The Field Investigation will be carried out by means of an Archaeological Watching Brief; all work will be carried out in line with the Institute for Archaeologists *By-Laws – Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010) and the *Yorkshire, The Humber and the North East Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (2009).

6.1.2 All archaeological staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. Before commencement of work they will have been made aware of what work is required under the specification and they will understand the aims and methodologies of the project.

6.1.3 In order for the Archaeological Watching Brief to be successfully implemented, the project architect will keep the archaeological contractor fully apprised of the timetable for groundworks, including any changes to the schedule and will notify the contractor when the various stages of the groundworks are about to commence so that visits can be timetabled accordingly. The archaeological contractor will, in turn, keep the Inspector of Ancient Monuments apprised of any significant discoveries.

6.1.4 A constant presence will be maintained during the following intrusive groundworks carried out over 100 mm depth:

- Groundworks associated with site clearance and landscaping
- Excavations for service trenching

6.1.5 The site will be examined prior to invasive works in order to identify and record any potentially significant topographic features, or other indications suggestive of sub-surface remains.

6.1.6 All sections and deposits exposed during construction operations will be systematically examined to identify, excavate, sample and record, as appropriate, any previously unidentified archaeological features which survive within the area of excavation and which are threatened by development works.

6.1.7 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded photographically. Photographic recording shall also be undertaken where no archaeological features are encountered, and include general working shots.

6.1.8 Should any archaeological features be identified, sufficient time will be allowed to investigate and record these features within practicable operational parameters.

6.1.9 In the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of greater significance than anticipated, work will cease and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments and the project architect will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the remains and a mitigation strategy for recording or preservation *in situ*, as appropriate, will be agreed upon by all the parties.

6.1.10 In the event of human burials being discovered, the archaeological contractor will procure and comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Burial Act 1857. Where any part of a human burial is disturbed the whole burial will be archaeologically exhumed. Excavated human remains (see sections 3.2-3.5) will be treated in accordance with the guidance set out in McKinley & Roberts 1993 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains* Institute of Field Archaeologists Technical Paper No. 13 and English Heritage/The Church of England 2005 *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* English Heritage.

6.1.11 Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artifacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.

6.2 Recording

6.2.1 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic, as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Written descriptions should comprise both factual data and interpretative elements. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate. Sections will be related to Ordnance Datum (i.e. levels will be recorded as above Ordnance Datum – aOD).

6.2.2 The stratigraphy of the excavation will be recorded even when no archaeological deposits have been identified.

6.2.3 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled.

6.2.4 The excavation will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:1250 or 1:500 map of the area, using a total-station-theodolite.

6.2.5 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. The location of all photographs will be recorded on a plan base.

6.2.6 Drawings, photography and written records of discrete features, where deemed necessary, will be sufficient to allow interpretation of the material and the preparation of a report on the site.

6.3 Finds Processing

6.3.1 All processing, storage and conservation of finds will be carried out in compliance with the relevant IFA and UKIC (United Kingdom Institute of Conservation) guidelines as specified in. Watkinson, D. and Neal, V.: *First Aid for Finds* (1998) and Rescue and IFA: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2008).

6.3.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be fit for the defined purpose.

6.3.3 Finds will be scanned to assess the date range of the assemblage with particular reference to pottery. Artefacts will be used to establish the potential for all categories of finds, should further archaeological work be necessary.

6.3.4 All bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds must be appropriately bagged and boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

6.3.5 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged. Vulnerable objects must be specially packaged, and textiles, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

6.3.6 Assessment and analysis of artefacts and environmental samples will be carried out by an approved, named specialist.

6.3.7 The deposition and disposal of artefacts has been agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum, the Great North Museum. Should the landowner decide to retain artefacts, adequate provision will be made for recording them.

6.3.8 During and after the excavation and watching brief, all objects will be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

6.4 Environmental Sampling and Dating

6.4.1 If significant archaeological deposits are encountered, selective sampling will be carried out in a manner consistent with *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and *Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions: Best Practice for Curators and Commissioning Archaeologists* (English Heritage 2003). The Historic England Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (0191 3743643) will be consulted prior to the inception of works for advice regarding a sampling strategy for dating and environmental evidence.

6.4.2 Bulk samples of 30 litres will be taken from fills/deposits evidently resulting from or modified by human activity. Deposits fills totalling less than 30 litres in volume will be sampled in their entirety. Samples will be taken from all deposits/fills containing charcoal, unless the contexts are evidently subject to modern contamination.

6.4.3 Laboratory processing of samples shall only be undertaken if deposits are found to be reasonably well dated, or linked to recognisable features and from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence.

6.4.4 The potential requirement for specialist analyses is an unavoidable risk in all such investigations. Although the likelihood of such analyses being required in this case is relatively low, the possibility cannot be entirely dismissed, and the investigation of any features/deposits which are considered significant would be undertaken as a non-negotiable part of this specification. Any such analyses would be carried out by specialists and priced to the client on a cost-only basis.

7. EXECUTION OF THE SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

7.1 The Developer will allow the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments and the appointed contractor all reasonable access to the site for the purposes of carrying out the archaeological scheme, subject to safety requirements.

7.2 The archaeological contractor appointed to manage the execution of the scheme shall ensure that:

- *The appropriate parties are informed of the objectives, timetable and progress of the archaeological work;*
- *The progress of work is adequately and effectively monitored and the results of this are communicated to the appropriate parties;*
- *Significant problems in the execution of the scheme are communicated at the earliest opportunity to the appropriate parties in order to effect a resolution of the problems;*
- *The archaeological contractor will carry, and will ensure that other archaeological contractors involved in the scheme carry appropriate levels of insurance cover in respect of Employers Liability, Public and Third Party Liability & Professional Indemnity;*

7.3 Assessment of the likely archaeological potential of the site has led to the definition of a number of research objectives which identify with a high degree of likelihood the kind of archaeological deposits which the investigation will encounter. Nevertheless, it is possible that discoveries will be made which could not reasonably have been foreseen on the basis of all the information currently available. Any difficulties arising from unforeseen discoveries will be resolved by discussion between all the parties involved. There will be a presumption, the investigation having been carried out in accordance with the schedule set out in this document, and to the satisfaction of the Heritage England Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and all other considerations being equal, that no executive or financial obligation shall attach to any particular party in the event of unforeseen discoveries being made, and that the executive and financial responsibility for dealing with such unforeseen discoveries shall rest outside the currently agreed scheme of investigation.

7.4 The Archaeological Contractor(s) appointed to execute the scheme will procure and comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 regarding the exhumation and interment of any human remains discovered within the site, and will comply with all reasonable requirements of any church or other religious body or civil body regarding the

manner and method of removal, re-interment or cremation of the human remains, and the removal and disposal of any tombstones or other memorials discovered within the site. The Developer will incur all costs resulting from such compliance.

8. REFERENCES

Cambridge, E. and Williams, A., 1995, "Hexham Abbey: a review of recent work and its implications" *Archaeologia Aeliana* 5th series, XXIII, 51-138.

Carlton R J & P F Ryder, 2018, Hexham Abbey, Northumberland: Archaeological Excavation, monitoring and Historic Buildings Recording in 2012-14. *Durham Archaeological Journal* 2018.

By Richard Carlton & Peter Ryder

Hodges C.C., 1921, *Guide to the Priory Church of St. Andrew, Hexham.*

Hodges, C.C., 1924, "The conventual buildings of the priory of Hexham, with a description of a recently discovered twin capital in the cloisters" *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 3rd series, XXI, 214-23.

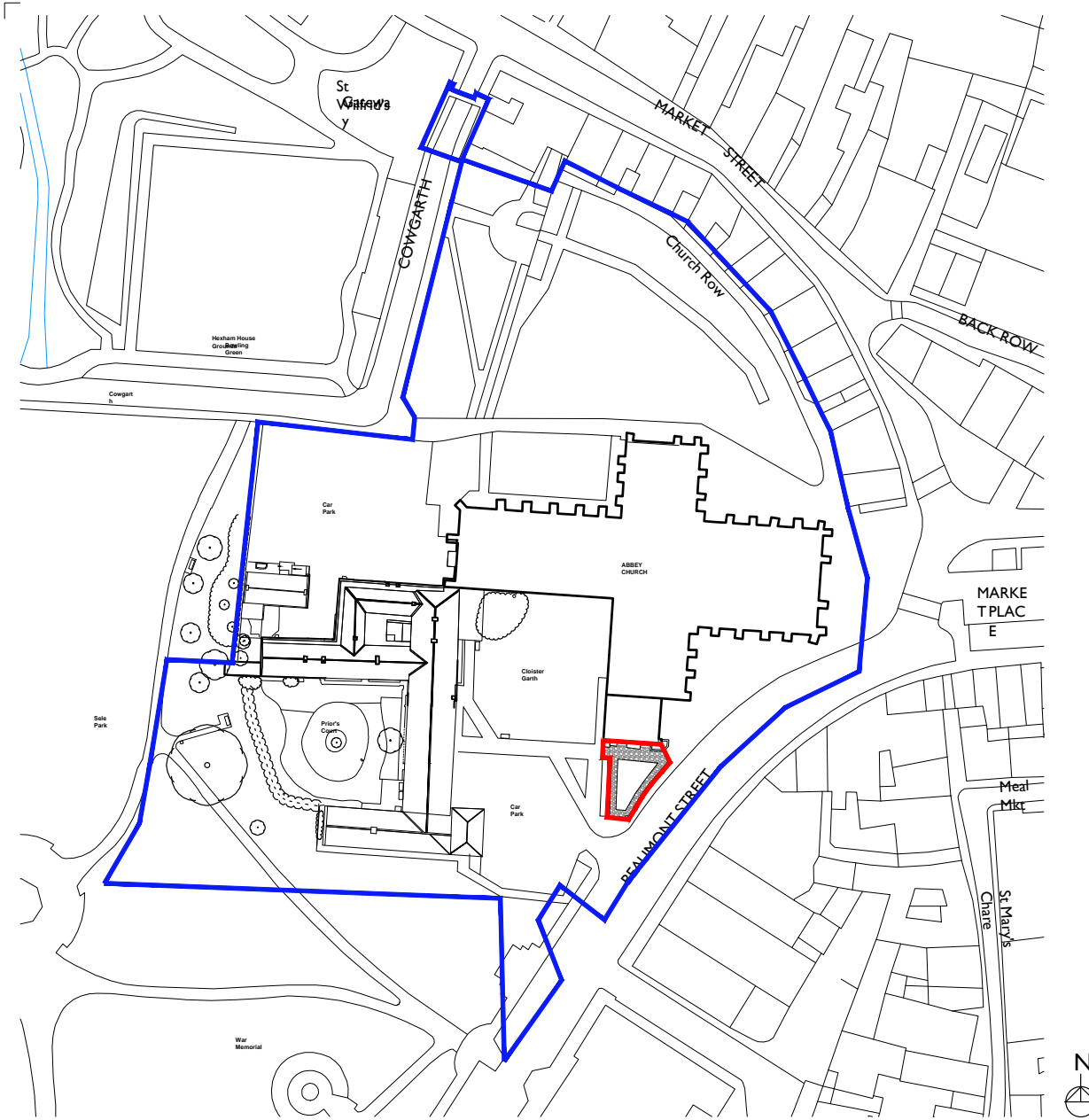
Hodges, C.C. and Gibson, J., 1919, *Hexham and its Abbey.* Hexham and London.

Pevsner, N. *et al*, 2001, *The Buildings of England: Northumberland.*

Ryder, P F, 2003, *Abbey House, Hexham, Recording of Abbey House.* Unpublished report for the Priory and Parish Church of St Andrew.

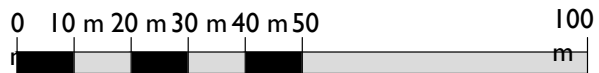
Savage, E.S. and Hodges, C.C., 1907, *A Record of All Works Connected with Hexham Abbey Since January 1899 and now in Progress.* J. Catherall & Co., Hexham.

APPENDIX I: Hexham Memorial Garden Location, Current Appearance and Proposals for Development (Supplied by Purcell Architects, York).



100
10
1
Site Location Plan

1:1250 Scale



Notes:
 Drawings are based on survey data and may not accurately represent what is physically present.
 Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions are to be verified on site before proceeding with the work.
 All dimensions are in millimeters unless noted otherwise.
 Purcell shall be notified in writing of any discrepancies.

Key Plan
 not to scale

KEY

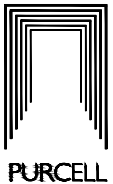
— Boundary of Scheduled Ancient Monument

— Area of proposed works

	24/04/2018	SL	SL	
A	24/04/2018	SL	SL	Boundary update
First Issue	28/09/17	SL	SL	

ISSUE	DATE	DRAWN	CHECKED	DESCRIPTION
CLIENT	Hexham Abbey PCC			
PROJECT	Hexham Abbey Inspecting Architect			
DRAWING TITLE	Site Location Plan			
SIZE & SCALE	A4L 1:1250			

DRAWING STATUS WORK IN PROGRESS

JOB NUMBER	235016	
DRAWING NO.	001	
REVISION	-	



1
011 Photo 1
NTS



2
011 Photo 2
NTS



3
011 Photo 3
NTS



4
011 Photo 4
NTS



5
011 Photo 5
NTS

Notes:
Drawings are based on survey data and may not accurately represent what is physically present.
Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions are to be verified on site before proceeding with the work.
All dimensions are in millimeters unless noted otherwise.
Purcell shall be notified in writing of any discrepancies.

Key Plan
not to scale

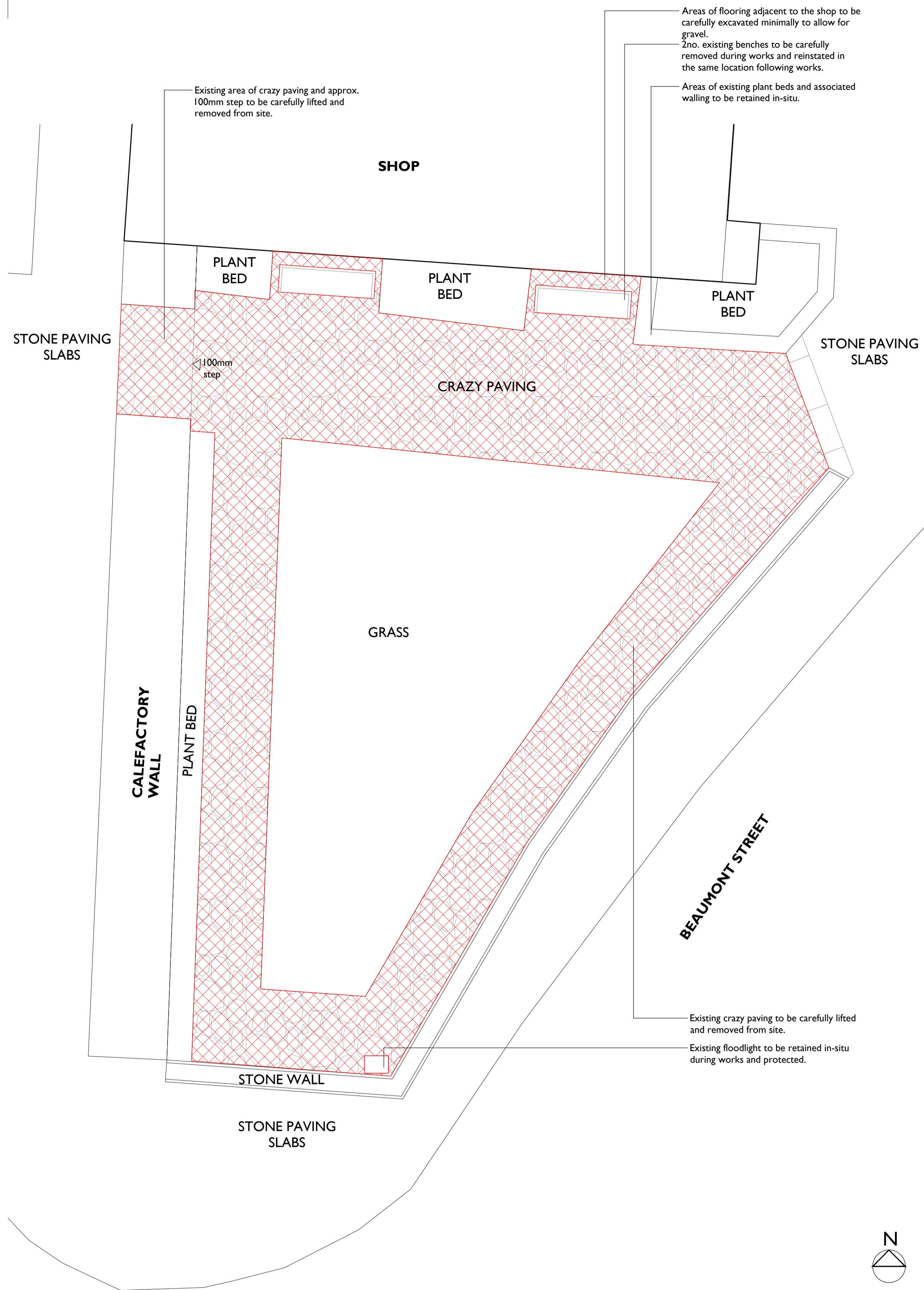
24/04/2018	SL	SL
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First Issue 24/04/18 SL SL

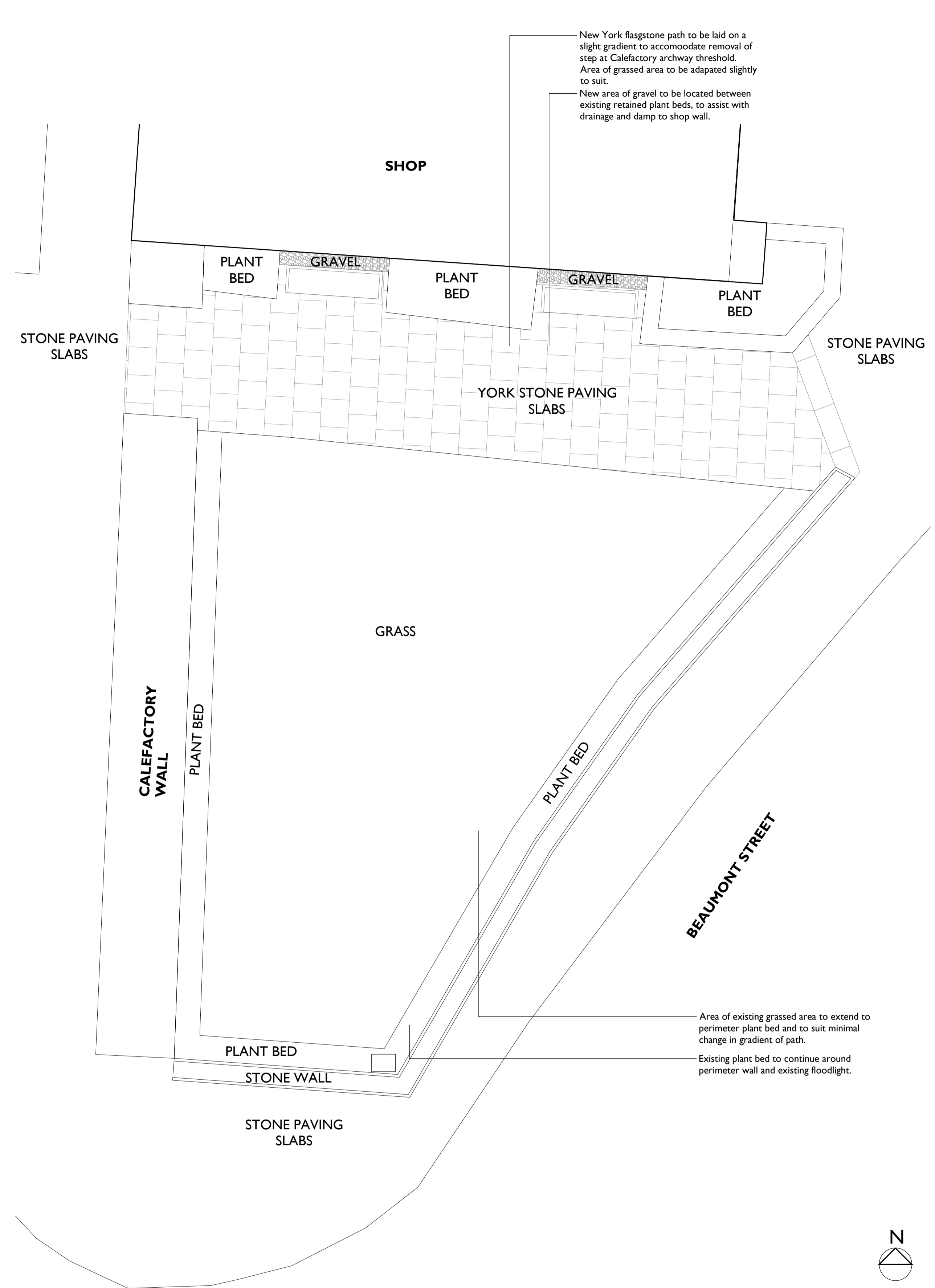
ISSUE	DATE	DRAWN	CHECKED	DESCRIPTION
CLIENT		Hexham Abbey PCC		
PROJECT		Hexham Abbey Inspecting Architect		
DRAWING TITLE		Site Photographs		
SIZE & SCALE		A3L NTS		
DRAWING STATUS		WORK IN PROGRESS		

JOB NUMBER	235016
DRAWING NO.	003
REVISION	-





1 Plan as Existing
100 1:50



2 Plan as Proposed
100 1:50

- PATH BUILD UP**
- 60mm York flag stones with 10mm jointing in lime mortar. (To be set on a gradient to ensure they are flush with existing flooring adjacent to shop and to the top step of the Calefactory archway threshold.)
 - 50mm lime bed
 - Allow for 150mm well-compacted sulphur free hardcore base as necessary, pending lifting of existing paving.
 - Permeable gravel to be 6-10mm in size, loose-laid to a uniform thickness of 150mm. Sample to be provided for CA approval.

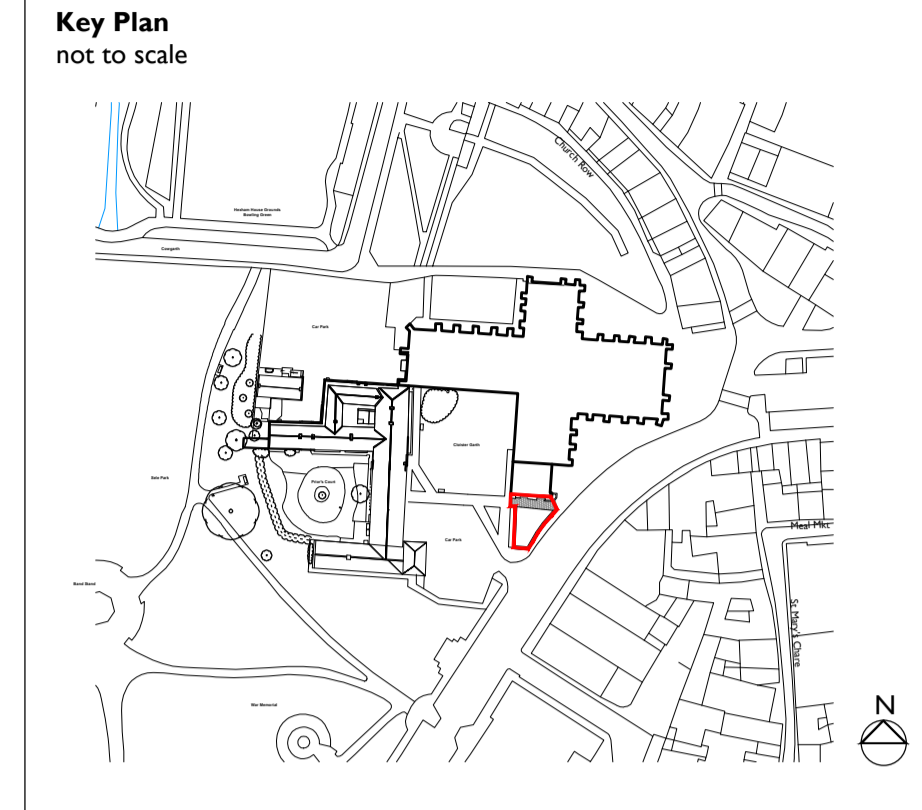
Notes:

Drawings are based on survey data and may not accurately represent what is physically present.

Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions are to be verified on site before proceeding with the work.

All dimensions are in millimeters unless noted otherwise.

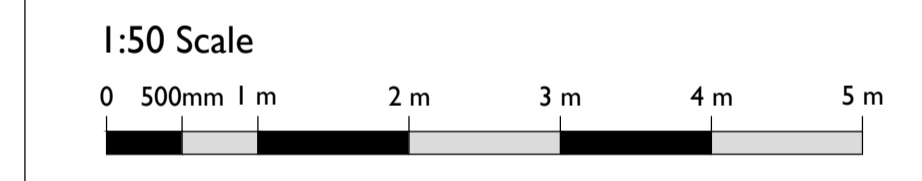
Purcell shall be notified in writing of any discrepancies.



KEY

Area to be carefully removed and excavated for new build up

- NOTES**
- Allow for archaeological watching brief during the works
 - Digging to be carefully undertaken to avoid disruption to any wiring.



First Issue	02/05/18	SL		
ISSUE	DATE	DRAWN	CHECKED	DESCRIPTION
CLIENT	Hexham Abbey PCC			
PROJECT	Hexham Abbey Inspecting Architect			
DRAWING TITLE	Existing & Proposed Plans			
SIZE & SCALE	A1L	1:50		
DRAWING STATUS	WORK IN PROGRESS			

JOB NUMBER 235016

DRAWING NO. 100

REVISION -