
ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH
NEWTON UNDER ROSEBERRY
NORTH YORKSHIRE

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

OSA REPORT NO. OSA21WB21

APRIL 2021.

OSA

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA19WB21

SITE NAME: St. Oswald's Church, Newton Under Roseberry

COUNTY: North Yorkshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NZ 5693 1326

ON BEHALF OF: St. Oswald's Church
Newton under Roseberry
North Yorkshire
TS9 6QR

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TIMING: Fieldwork
April 2021
Post excavation & report preparation
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1.0 Abstract.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by On Site Archaeology during drainage improvements to the church of St. Oswald's in the village of Newton Under Roseberry in North Yorkshire. The work involved the monitoring of the excavation of a single trench running from the southeastern graveyard boundary, adjacent to the Lychgate, to the southern wall of the church tower, largely along a gravel path. No archaeological deposits or features were found during this watching brief.

2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use.

Newton Under Roseberry is a small village located in North Yorkshire c.5 miles southeast of Middlesbrough. The church of St. Oswald's is located in the northwestern part of the village to the west of Church Lane.

The natural geology underlying this site is mudstone (Redcar Mudstone Formation) with overlying superficial deposits of clay, sand and gravel (Vale of York Formation). (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home>).

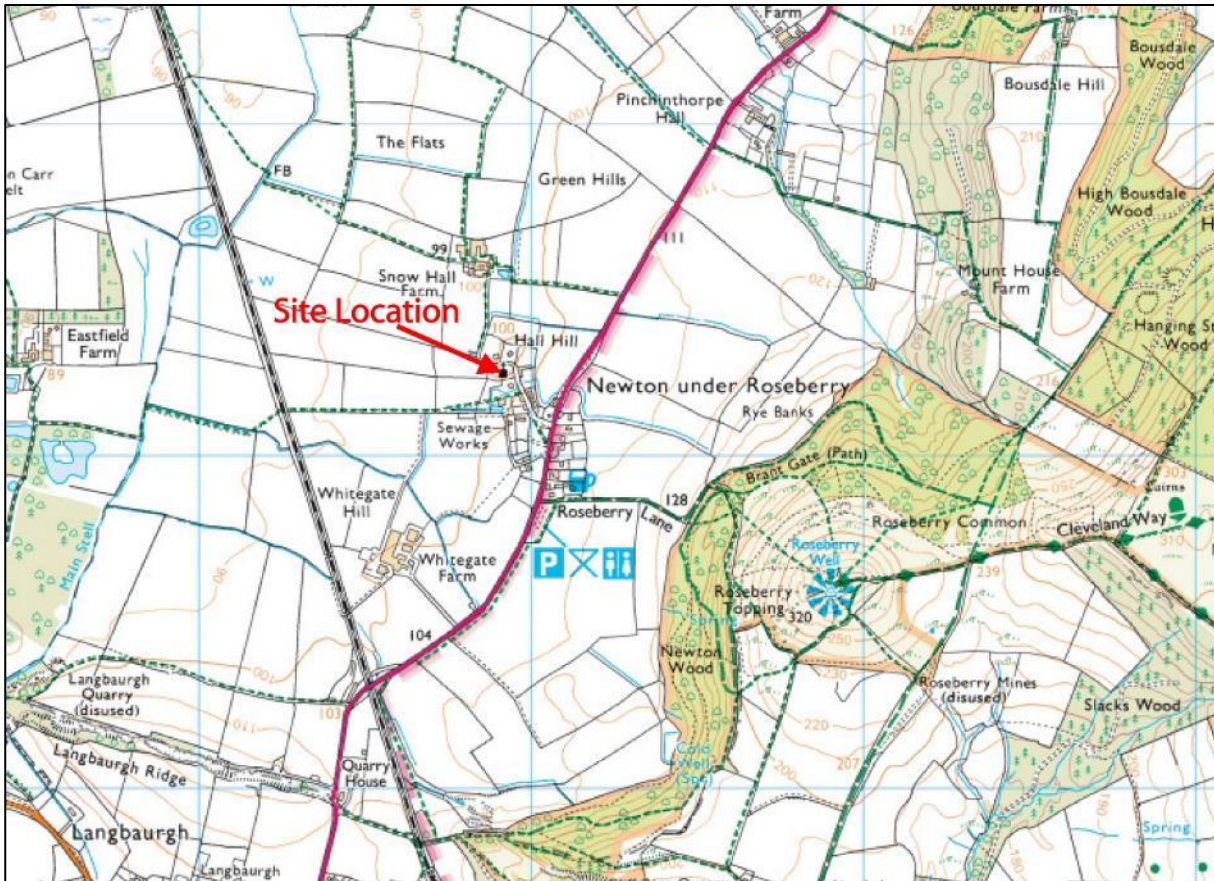


Figure 1. Site location (NZ 5693 1326).

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3.0 Archaeological Background

The listing of the Grade II* church at Newton Under Roseberry reads:

NZ51SE GUISBOROUGH CHURCH LANE (WEST SIDE) NEWTON-UNDER-ROSEBERRY 4/54 Church of St. Oswald.

Church, C12, on earlier foundation (north side), with chancel of 1857, west tower of 1901 by Temple Moore and mid/late C17 porch. Dressed sandstone, except for tower of sandstone ashlar; Westmorland slate roofs. Blocked round-headed doorway in north wall of nave. Other openings in nave and chancel inserted or altered mid C19 to early C20. Gabled porch with Columbus cross finial, and medieval grave cover used as lintel. Broad, squat 3-stage tower, with embattled parapet, angle buttresses and Anglo-Saxon carved corner stone in south side of vice. Internally, the tower is open to full height of nave by two-centred arch with inner vestry screen wall. C12 chancel arch, either side of which are squints (10cm square). Traces of medieval fresco on south wall of nave. Medieval cross-head used as lintel above piscina of c1900. Norman circular drum-shaped font, the sides of which have continuous intersecting blind arcading and imposts and cable moulding at rim. (V.C.H. North Riding, Vol. II, pp. 275-6; and N. Pevsner, " North Riding", 1966, p.268).

4.0 Methodology

The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of a single drainage trench extending from the southeastern graveyard boundary, north of the Lychgate, to the southern wall of the church tower. The eastern part of the trench (c.3m) was excavated through the graveyard and the rest of the trench was excavated along the existing gravel pathway. The location of the trench may be seen on Figure 2.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the excavation. A photographic record was also maintained.

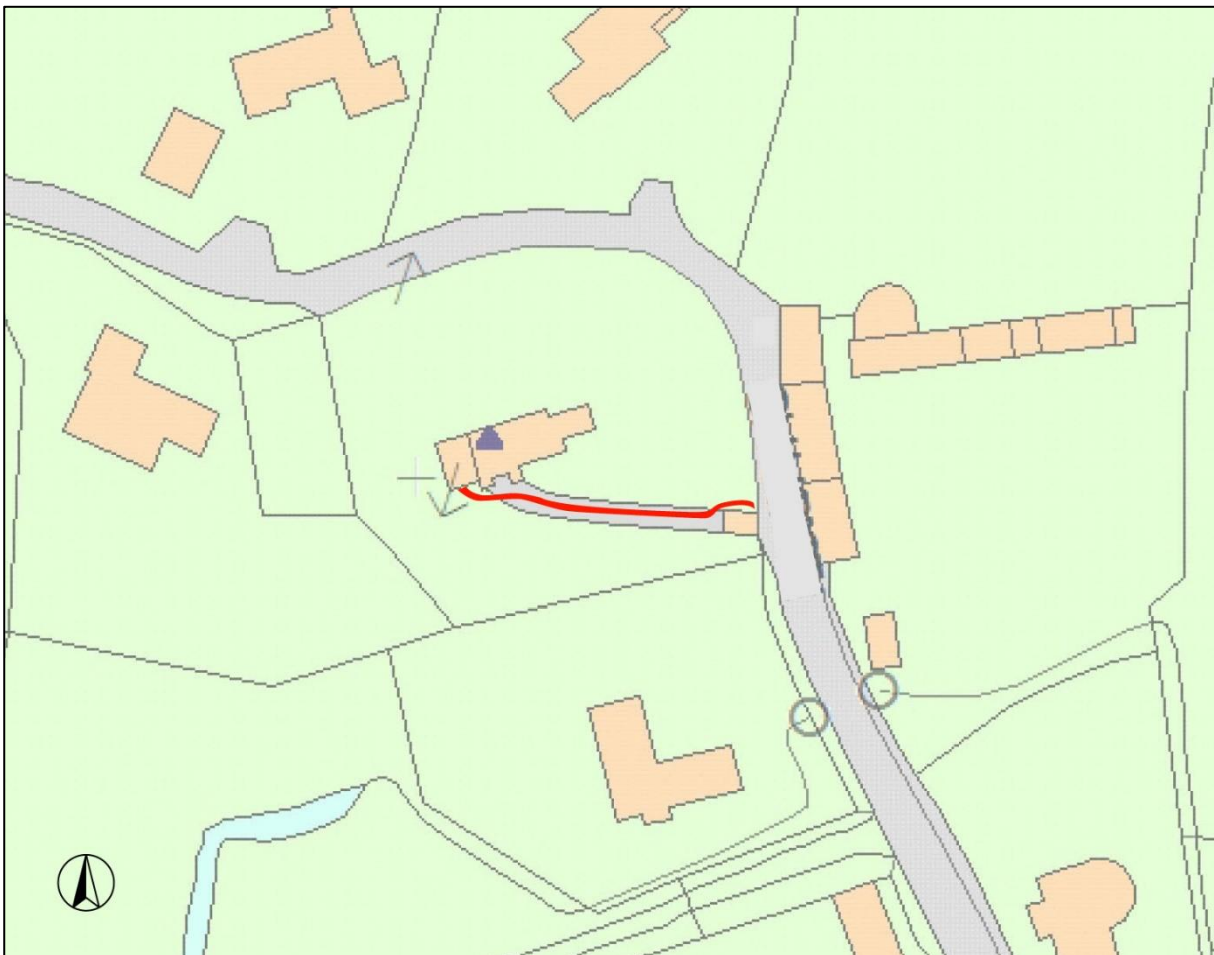


Figure 2. Location of trench (red).

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5.0 Results.

Trench 1

The trench extended from the southeastern graveyard boundary, north of the Lychgate, to the southern wall of the church tower and measured approximately 0.45m wide, c.40m long and 0.80m deep. At the eastern end of the trench within the graveyard the earliest deposit encountered was the graveyard soil (102) consisting of dark orangey brown clayey silt with a depth of over 0.40m. Above was 0.40m deep layer of a dark grey sandy silt topsoil. The sequence of deposits in the remainder of the trench, within the existing footpath, consisted of a mid brownish orange sandy clay natural (103) seen at the base of the trench, a 0.50m deep layer of the graveyard soil (102) and a grey sandy silt and gravel layer (100) representing the existing footpath.

Excavation revealed no significant archaeology or evidence of grave cuts. The only features identified consisted of existing and redundant shallow services located adjacent to the church tower.

6.0 Appendix 1 ~ Archive Index.

6.1 List of contexts.

Context no.	Description	Thickness	Extent
<i>Trench 1</i>			
100	Dark grey sandy clayey silt. Topsoil	0.40m	0.45m x 3.00m+
101	Grey sandy silt and gravel. Footpath deposit.	0.20m	Trench (within footpath)
102	Dark orangey brown clayey silt. Subsoil deposit / graveyard soil.	0.50m	Trench
103	Mid brownish orange sandy clay. Natural.	-	Trench (within footpath)

6.2 Photographic register.

Frame no.	Description	Date	Initials
<i>Digital Download 05/04/19</i>			
1-27	General shots.	05/04/21	JS
28-30	Northwest facing section – trench (churchyard).	05/04/21	JS
31-32	General shots.	05/04/21	JS
33-35	South facing section – trench (pathway).	05/04/21	JS
36-44	General shots.	05/04/21	JS

7.0 Appendix 2 ~ Plates.



Plate 1. Eastern part of trench within graveyard, looking east.



Plate 2. Trench within gravel path, looking northwest.



Plate 3. Trench within gravel path, looking east.



Plate 4. Northwest facing section of trench (graveyard).



Plate 5. South facing section of trench (pathway).