
ST. MICHAEL LE BELFRY CHURCH,
YORK.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
OSA REPORT No: OSA21DT19.

January 2022.

OSA

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Report Summary.

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SITE NAME: St Michael le Belfry church,

COUNTY: York

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 60275 52135

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1.0 Abstract.

On-Site Archaeology was commissioned by LDN Architects to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment to provide archaeological information in relation to a proposed re-ordering of the interior of St. Michael le Belfry church, York, together with some limited landscaping of the exterior.

The site lies within the historic core of the city of York, close to the Minster. The church was constructed between 1525-1536, replacing an earlier medieval church. The west front was rebuilt in the second half of the 19th century, when a scheme of re-ordering the interior was also undertaken.

The site is located in an area of highly significant archaeological deposits, including remains of the Roman legionary fortress and probably early medieval deposits, which may include an early version of the church. Any such early archaeological deposits are likely to be in excess of 1.50m to 2.00m below the current ground surface. The earliest documentary references to the church dates to 1294, but this was entirely removed before the building of the current church in the early 16th century. Remains of the medieval church, potentially including foundations, floor surfaces and burials, are likely to be preserved on the site. Elements of the late medieval and post-medieval church may also survive beneath the current, 19th century floor. There is evidence for the presence of burials within the church, including vaults which were in use into the mid-19th century. Any such vaults will clearly have truncated a significant depth of archaeological deposits.

In general the proposed re-ordering will entail relatively shallow ground reduction, between 300mm and 500mm. This would impact upon post-medieval, and possibly medieval deposits at the earliest, where these had not already been removed by the construction of vaults. Localised deeper excavations, for the construction of lift, to a maximum depth of 700mm, would also probably only impact medieval deposits. The deepest anticipated groundworks would be for the construction of an immersion font, which would be approximately 2.20m deep, and would therefore have the potential to encounter the top of Roman archaeology.



Figure 1. Site location (NGR SE 60275 52135)

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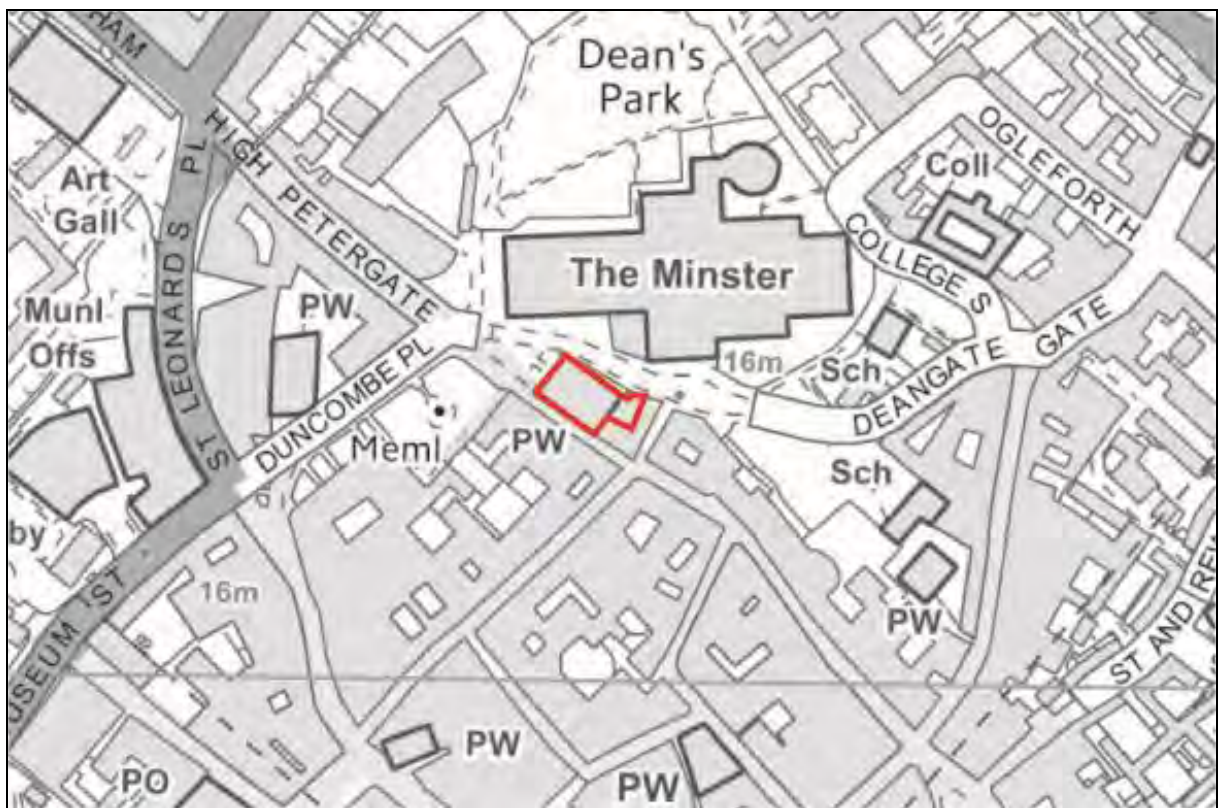


Figure 2. Detailed site location.

2.0 Introduction.

In November 2021 to January 2022 this archaeological desktop study was prepared by *On Site Archaeology* to provide archaeological information in relation to a proposed re-ordering of the interior of St Michael le Belfry church, and an associated building. The historical and archaeological significance of the site was assessed using a variety of sources including the City of York Historic Environment Record (HER), cartographic evidence, and published archaeological reports.

3.0 Methodology.

The archaeological potential of the site was assessed using a variety of sources in relation to the proposed below ground impact of the re-ordering works. Sources include records held at the City of York Historic Environment Record (HER), cartographic evidence, online archaeological catalogues held by the Archaeological Data Service, Heritage Gateway and the Historic England Archives, and published archaeological and historical reports.

Archaeological data has been collected from the vicinity of the site. As the focus of this assessment is on the below ground archaeology, rather the built heritage the only Listed buildings that have been included are those that make up the site itself. The locations of the collected data points are indicated on Figures 3-5.

A site visit was undertaken to enhance the understanding of the modern landuse of the site, especially with regards to its effect upon the archaeological record. A photographic record was made of the site and the surrounding area during this site visit, a selection of these photographs is used to illustrate this report (see Plates 1-11). The assistance of Rob Hill, Facilities Manager at the church, was invaluable during the site visit.

Site research notes are currently stored with On-Site Archaeology.

4.0. Site Location, Landuse and Geology.

The site considered by this assessment comprises the church of St. Michael le Belfry, together with the attached 12 Minster Yard and small areas outside the buildings to the northwest (front) (Plate 1) and northeast (side) of the church (Plate 2). This small northern garden area lies a little above the level of the adjacent pavement.

The church was constructed in the early 16th century and is unusual in that it does not incorporate any visible earlier medieval fabric (Plates 3 and 4). The western frontage was rebuilt in 1867 and the interior was also re-ordered in the 19th century. The masonry forming the 19th century rebuild is clearly distinguishable from the 16th century fabric (Plate 5). The western end of the church includes a late 18th century timber gallery, accessed via two sets of timber stairs.

Within the interior of the church the floors are represented by several different materials. The majority of the nave and side aisles re covered by 19th century timber pews, constructed on slightly raised wooden platforms (Plate 6). The processional aisles between the pews include

several substantial stone slabs. Some of these are inscribed as grave markers, including examples referring to vaults beneath (Plate 7). Within the centre of the nave is a very large dark grey marble slab, believed to be an altar, or mensa. Despite close inspection no evidence for inscribed crosses was observed during the site visit. At the east end of the church the chancel has been re-floored with decorative ceramic tiles, likely to be of later 19th century date. These tiles butt up against the steps leading up to the altar (Plate 8). The tiles have clearly been cut to fit around the existing steps as the patterned design is interrupted. Within the eastern part of the south aisle a modern raised stage is present (Plate 9), constructed above the tiled floor and wooden platform for the adjacent 19th century pews.

The west end of the church includes a small porch / vestibule area, the floor of which comprises a number of re-used grave slabs (Plate 10). In the northernmost corner of the church a 19th century basemented boiler room is present, servicing a metal piped heating system.

At the southeast end of the church is number 12 Minster Yard, a mid 19th century, three storey Grade II listed building used as church offices (Plate 11). This is connected to the church via a narrow single storey link building, which also contains toilets.

The underlying drift geology of the site clay sand and gravel of the Vale of York Formation, dating from the Quaternary Period. Beneath this the solid geology is Sherwood sandstone (bgs.ac.uk) laid down in the Triassic and Permian Periods.

5.0 Gazetteer of Sites and Artefacts.

The following sections list the sites and artefacts of archaeological or historical potential that are recorded in the various sources consulted.

The locations of the recorded sites are plotted on Figures 3-5. The first sections deal with designated heritage assets (Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings), whilst the second section includes non-designated assets included within the City of York Historic Environment Record.

5.1 *Scheduled Monuments*

The closest Scheduled Monument comprises York Minster Cathedral Precinct: including Bootham Bar and the length of City Walls extending round the precinct to Monk Bar (List Entry Number 1017777). The full extent of the scheduled area is shown on Figure 3.

The present cathedral church known as York Minster is at least the fourth major church to have stood on this site. The earliest ecclesiastical use of the site can be traced back to the early seventh century when Paulinus baptised King Edwin of Northumbria in a wooden oratory considered to have been located in the vicinity of the present Minster. This event was of particular importance as it marked the post-Roman rebirth of Christianity in northern Britain. As a result of the adoption of Christianity by the Northumbrian kings, a bishopric was established in York, this being one of the earliest such foundations in post-Roman England. Pre-Conquest cathedrals are a rare and poorly understood monument class, there having been only twenty-four known examples. York is of particular note because its chief

incumbents were archbishops second in ecclesiastical authority only to the archbishops of Canterbury. Evidence for the ecclesiastical importance of York in the pre-Conquest period is provided by contemporary references to its library, the episcopal see and, in particular, its monastic school whose most famous pupil, Alcuin, became Charlemagne's adviser. This importance has been maintained down to the present day. Even during the Viking period, when York was conquered and became part of an independent Viking kingdom that lasted from 866 to 954, there was an unbroken succession of archbishops suggesting that the pagan Vikings quickly converted to Christianity. After the Norman Conquest, the see rose in power and prosperity when its Norman archbishops began a series of major building works which culminated in the construction of the present Minster in the thirteenth century and after. During the medieval period, the cathedral gained considerably from its position within a thriving and wealthy town; one of the most flourishing urban centres in England and the major town of the North. The wealth of York was reflected in the magnificent, extensive and costly building programme which characterised much of the cathedral precinct throughout the medieval period. These works were funded in part by pious donations and endowments to the church made by leading secular individuals. With the exception of the present Minster many of the buildings and features of the pre- and post-Conquest cathedral precinct are no longer visible. However, extensive below-ground deposits are known to survive across the majority of the precinct area. This is due in part to the fact that the area has remained largely in ecclesiastical hands since earliest times. This has limited development within the precinct; hence, below-ground archaeology survives here in much better condition than in other more intensively developed areas of the city. In some areas of the precinct, up to 4m of archaeological deposits are preserved. Because of this depth of stratigraphy, extensive remains will survive well beneath the present ground surface and will include not only those of the pre- and post-Conquest cathedrals and their ancillary buildings but also the Roman legionary fortress which formerly occupied the site and the remains of the seventeenth century Ingram Mansion. The survival of the Roman fortress is of particular note as it was one of the earliest military foundations in the north of England and also one of the most long-lived. It led to York being granted the status of *colonia* and also, in the fourth century, to it becoming, for a time, the Imperial capital of the Emperor Constantine. This and the degree to which its remains are preserved make it a monument of national importance in its own right.

Details

York Minster cathedral precinct is a multi-period site comprising a single area containing a number of nationally important archaeological features which also extend beyond the area of the scheduling. These include part of the Roman legionary fortress at Eboracum, the site of the Anglian and early Norman minsters, the sites of the Anglian and medieval churches of the Alma Sophia, St Sepulchre and St Mary ad Valvas, the sites of the medieval archbishops' palace and deanery, St William's College, the precinct boundary, gates and gatehouses, part of the City Wall including Bootham Bar, cemeteries dating from the ninth to fifteenth centuries, the site of the Ingram Mansion and the sites of the cathedral prebendal houses. The boundary of the scheduling has been drawn to identify the main area of the cathedral precinct. The legionary fortress, founded in AD71 by Petilius Cerialis, occupied a roughly square site on the north-east bank of the River Ouse above its confluence with the Foss. The cathedral precinct

lies largely within the north quarter and includes the remains of barracks, the commandant's house, the principia or headquarters, sections of the road known as the Via Decumana and parts of the north-west and north-east walls. In the seventh and eighth centuries AD the Roman fortress was taken over as a royal centre by the Anglian Kingdom of Northumbria. The principia survived in use as a palace down to c.AD800 and the commandant's house is thought to have been reused as the Anglian archbishop's residence. The fortress walls were maintained throughout the Anglian period and refortified with a new rampart and palisade during the Viking era. After the Norman Conquest the Viking defences were added to and, during the twelfth century, the four main city gateways, or Bars, were built. Of these, Bootham Bar lies adjacent to the Minster precinct at the junction of Bootham and High Petergate. The walls form the northern part of the cathedral precinct boundary while the southern part correlated with the boundaries of adjacent parishes. Four cathedral precinct gates were still extant in 1736: Peter Gate, the main gate at Minster Gates, a gate 'in Ogleforth' and a gate at the junction of College Street and Goodramgate. The latter allowed access from the main precinct to the Bedern, a cluster of buildings which housed the Vicars Choral who supported the medieval cathedral canons in services in the Minster. Although a Bishop of York is known to have existed in AD314, no Roman church has so far been identified. The present see was founded in 625 when Paulinus, arriving from Kent to convert the Northumbrians to Christianity, built a small wooden church dedicated to St Peter within the Anglian royal centre. This church was restored and repaired several times in the succeeding centuries until, in 1069, work began on the first Norman minster. The remains of Paulinus's church and its Anglian and Viking successors have not yet been located, but fragments of sculpture have been recovered from the cemeteries of both periods and include seventh and eighth century grave-slabs, and Viking grave-markers have been excavated from beneath the south transept of the present Minster. Excavation has shown that the pre-Conquest cathedral does not underlie the Norman foundation and therefore it is presumed to lie either south of the south transept or north of the present church beneath Dean's Park. The latter is considered the most likely since it would explain the alignment of the medieval archbishops' palace which does not match that of the medieval church. The substantial stone foundations of the first Norman minster have, however, been found beneath the present church, overlying the north corner of the Roman principia and adjacent barrack blocks. Begun by Archbishop Thomas of Bayeux in 1069, this church was extended by Archbishop Roger of Pont l'Eveque in the mid-twelfth century. The present Minster dates from the second quarter of the thirteenth century and is not included in the scheduling, being in current ecclesiastical use. The remains of a number of churches dating to the Anglian and medieval periods are also known to survive within the cathedral precinct. These are the Alma Sophia, or church of the Holy Wisdom, built between 767 and 780 and so far not precisely located, the church of St Mary and the Holy Angels, also known as St Sepulchre, founded in the late twelfth century, and the church of St Mary ad Valvas, demolished in the 1380s. One wall of the latter was uncovered in the late 1960s, close to the east end of the Minster, and remains relating to St Sepulchre were found near the gate of the archbishops' palace, partially built over by the fourteenth century extension of the cathedral nave. The post-Conquest palace of Archbishop Thomas and his successors lay to the north of the Minster and comprised an open court surrounded by buildings. Its visible remains consist of six bays of a late twelfth century

blind arcade, known as the 'Cloister', and an L-shaped block to the north which housed the thirteenth century chapel and is now the Minster Library. Documentary sources refer to an aisled medieval hall, a south-west range and a buttressed building to the south-east of the chapel. During the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the palace fell out of use and, by 1600, had become ruinous. In 1618 the site was leased to Sir Arthur Ingram who incorporated the south-west range into a mansion known as York Palace. Plans and surveys show the layout of the mansion but, by the eighteenth century, this too was in ruins and was demolished and the site cleared in 1814. Other features of the cathedral precinct include the site of the medieval deanery, originally constructed in the reign of William II at the junction of Minster Yard and Deangate, St William's College, built in 1465 to provide accommodation for the chantry priests, and numerous prebendal houses, some of which, like St William's College and some of the service buildings of the deanery, are still extant or incorporated into current buildings. The remains of the medieval Treasurer's House survive beneath the extant seventeenth century building and adjacent Gray's Court while a late medieval cemetery lies around the east end of the current Minster. The current seventeenth century Treasurer's House is considered adequately protected by its Grade I Listed status and is not included in the scheduling, although the ground beneath is incorporated. This also applies to St Williams College, the Minster Library, Gray's Court and the present Minster, which are protected by Grade I Listed status. In addition other buildings, considered adequately protected by Listed status are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is included: York College for Girls (Grade II*), the Minster Song School and the Purey-Cust Chambers (both Grade II), together with other buildings including private houses and premises Listed Grade I, II* and II). Also excluded from the scheduling are the present Deanery, the Purey-Cust Nursing Home, all buildings, the surfaces of all paths, roads and driveways, all modern walling and railings; all fixtures such as lamp-posts, bins, benches and signs, although the ground beneath all these exclusions is included.

Whilst St Michael le Belfry church and 12 Minster Yard are located just outside the scheduled area the forecourt immediately to the northwest of the main entrance to the church and narrow strip of garden along the northeast side are included within the scheduled monument boundary.

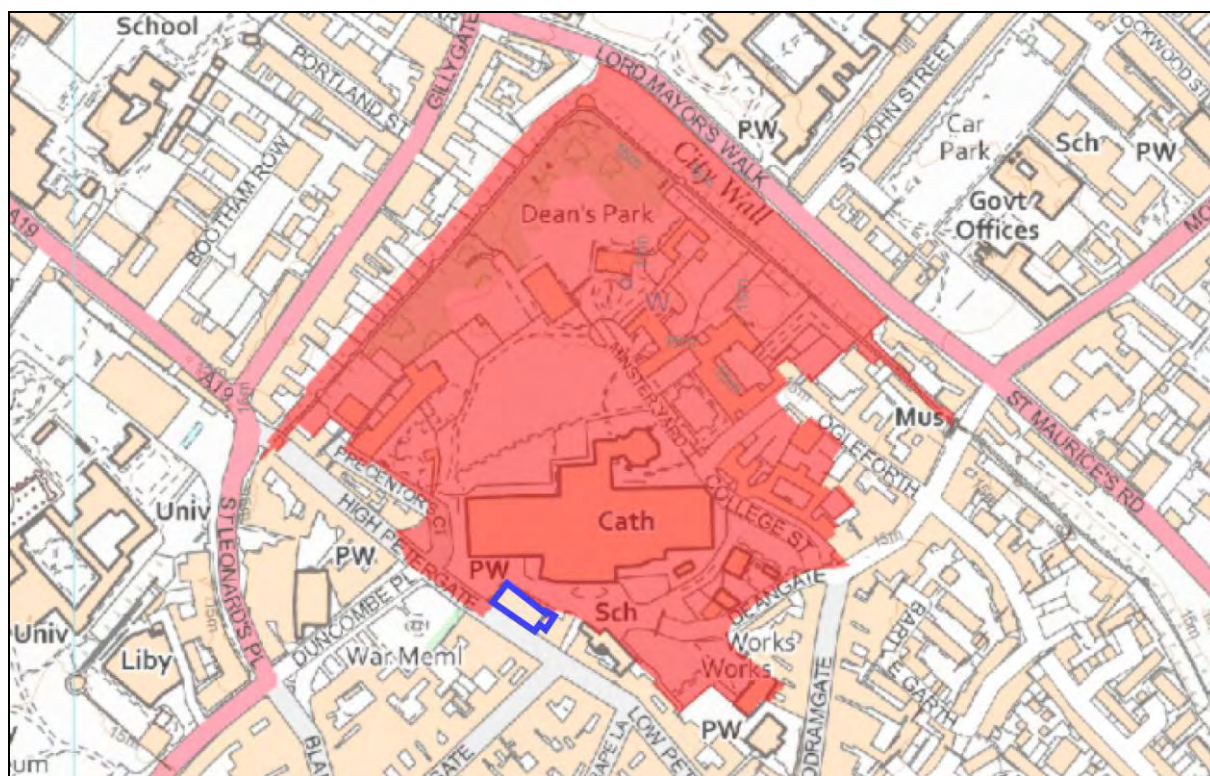


Figure 3. Extent of Scheduled Monument (shaded red), in relation to site (in blue).

5.2 Listed Buildings

There are a substantial number of Listed Buildings in the vicinity of the site. As the purpose of this assessment is to establish the below ground archaeological potential of the site the only listed buildings that are included here are those that are actually within the site boundary itself as they provide information relating to the most recent sequence of construction of the site (see Figure 4).

1 Church of St Michael le Belfrey, High Petergate (List Entry number 1257228).

Grade I Parish church. 1525-37 with vestry, west front and bellcote of 1867. C19 alterations by G Fowler Jones. PLAN: Six-bay continuous aisled nave and chancel with clerestory; east vestry; west porch and bellcote.

INTERIOR: nave arcades of four-centred arches on shafted piers and responds with moulded capitals and bases. Above, continuous hoodmould on heraldic angel stops and spandrels carved with quatrefoils enclosing roses, fruit, etc. Moulded clerestory string and trefoiled panels beneath windows. Three-bay reredos of raised and fielded panelling, articulated by fluted Composite columns with entablature and small segmenta pediment filled with cartouche and palm fronts. Bolection-moulded centre panel has painted representation of the Adoration of the Shepherds, outer panels the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Communion rails have bulbous balusters carved with foliage and spirals, bowed gates in centre, and heavy flat rail.

At west end, gallery with panelled front two staircases cased in raised and fielded panelling, with Gothick balustrades, serpentine handrails, wreathed at foot around column newels on

shaped curtail steps. Six-panel doors at stair heads, shaped to fit pier responds, give access to gallery. Four-centred chamfered doorway at foot of south staircase, leads to turret. Hatchment of Royal Arms, originally above reredos, attached to gallery front. Benefaction boards: in gallery, two in bolection moulded surrounds, two with four-centred heads: in north aisle, two with semi-circular heads. Lord Mayoral boards: beneath gallery, one 1711-1720, one 1764-1859, one 1872-1969.

Glass re-arranged and restored in C19 and C20, includes mid C14 glass in east window and early C16 in aisle windows.

MONUMENTS AND BRASSES: include at east end: carved stone cartouche to Ann, wife of William Walker, d.1687; carved stone cartouche to John White, d.1716/7. North wall: pedimented tablet with floral side scrolls to Mary Grammar, d.1738; scrolled cartouche to Thomas James, d.1732; sarcophagus tablet to Baldwin Wake, MD, d.1842, signed by Flintoft.

Brasses to Thomas Dawnay, d.1683; Frances, wife of William Farrer, d.1680/1, signed Joshua Mann. South aisle, east end: large wall monument to Sir Robert Squire, d.1707, and wife Priscilla, d.1711, two sculpted figures beneath swagged open pediment on fluted Corinthian pilasters; shaped tablet with cornice and floriated sides, to an infant Vavasour, d.1728; scrolled cartouche to Mary Woodyeare, nee Drake, d.1728.

South wall: pilastered monument with cornice and apron, to Catherine and Christine North, d.1734; tablet with shield of arms to Sir Thomas Fothergill, d.1735; tablet with urn to John Blanshard, d.1770, and wife, Mary, d.1789; tablet with urn in broken pediment to children and wife, Elizabeth, d.1790, of John Metcalfe; separated monument with sarcophagus and military emblems to Lieutenant and Adjutant John Crossland of York City Regiment of Local Militia, d.1813, signed by Fishers, York; oval tablet of black marble to Mary Lawson, d.1774.

2 12 Minster Yard. (*List Entry Number 1257262*).

Grade II. Offices. c1840, incorporating late C18 structure. By JB Pritchett for the Dean and Chapter. Limestone ashlar fronts, rear of squared limestone and orange-brown brick; wing of squared limestone; pantile roofs, hipped to wing. STYLE: Gothick. INTERIOR: re-used staircase rising to second floor has open string, turned balusters, square newels and plain handrail. Ground floor: front room has fireplace with sunk-panel jambs enriched with wheatear drops and dentilled shelf beneath later shelf. Rear room has alcove fitted with built-in shelving, supported in part on colonnade of squat columns. First floor: rear room retains fireplace with dentilled shelf. (City of York: RCHME: The Central Area: HMSO: 1981-: 166).

5.3 *Non-Designated sites and monuments*

The following section includes data on events and monuments obtained through a search around the site. They are drawn from published and unpublished sources, including the City of York Historic Environment Record. The locations of these data points are shown on Figure 4.

3 *Via Principalis (shown in blue on Figure 4).*

Street running E-W through the praetentura of the Legionary fortress beginning and ending at Porta Principalis Dextra and Porta Principalis Sinistra. High and Low Petergate partly run along the former line of Via Principalis. It is believed that the road was c12m wide. (CoYC HER Mon MYO4204). RCHME (1962, p.37) additionally reports that the street was found in Duncombe Place and Petergate in 1893. Cobbles have been found in Petergate at a depth of 10 ft. In 1912 and 1915 well-worn cobbled paving was found at the junction of Kings Square and Church Street at a depth of 12 ft.

4 *Via Praetoria / Stonegate (shown in blue on Figure 3).*

Probably ran the length of what is now Stonegate leading from the Basilica, the headquarters of the Roman military and crossing the Ouse to the civilian west bank. The route was used to bring stone to the Minster from boats at the river. Hence the name Stonegate. The name Stonegate appears on records as early as 1118. (CoYC HER Mon MYO4202). RCHME (1962, p.37) additionally reports that the road, as described in the late 19th century, was 6 ft deep, paved and concreted. Alongside and under the road was a well-built sewer, constructed with limestone blocks and tiles.

5 *Roman Legionary Fortress. (CoYC HER Mon MYO2015).*

Legionary fortress established by the Ninth Legion, "Hispana", in AD71-74. Known as Eboracum (form used by Ptolemy, and three inscriptions) and Eburacum (form used by Antonine Itinerary, Ravenna Cosmography and one inscription). Rebuilt in stone AD 107-8. Fortress of normal size for a legion covering 20.25 hectares (50 acres) and designed as a rectangle with rounded angles, 417m (1370 feet) by 484m (1590 feet). Within the immediate vicinity of site the RCHME (1962, p.38), records the discovery in 1892, of three column bases, each nearly 3 ft in diameter, at a depth of 10ft (number 5 on Figure 4 marks this location). These were parallel and close to the line of the *Via Principalis* and presumably belonged to the monumental front of the *principia*. An element of the fortress wall (possibly a guardhouse associated with the main gateway) is visible beneath the former public toilets (now a café) to the southwest of Bootham Bar (CoYC HER Mon MYO3889).

6 *Cathedral Church of St Peter, York Minster. (CoYC HER Mon MYO1127).*

Founded on the site of a Roman fortress in 627. Present building is the fifth rebuilding dating from the 11th century. It may be reasoned that York had a cathedral in 314 from the fact that Bishop Eborius of York was a representative of the English church at a convocation in Arles in that year. King Edwin of Northumbria was baptised in the Ouse in 627, after which he

ordered an oratory to be constructed on the site. He later instructed Bishop Paulinus to build a stone church, square in plan with at least one porticus, on the same site as the oratory. This was repaired and extended by Bishop Wilfrid from 669. This was destroyed by fire in 1069. Rebuilt after 1070 on a cruciform plan with apsidal chancel, and apsidal chapels east of the transepts. That church was in turn burnt down in 1137. Rebuilding was undertaken from 1171 by Bishop Roger of which the choir and crypt remain. The nave and transepts were begun under Archbishop Thomas after 1181. The transepts were completed between 1225-55, the Chapter House between 1260-90, the nave was remodelled between 1290-1320, the west towers built 1320-50, and the choir and Lady Chapel remodelled between 1385-1410. The Old Library, to the South of the nave was built between 1410-25. The South transept was badly damaged by fire in 1984 and repaired 1984-8. Excavations in the cathedral have shown that although there was continuance of occupation in the vicinity of the site from the 5th-11th centuries, the present minster does not stand on the site of the Saxon minster. The latter may have stood a little to the North of the present site. Furthermore, it is probable that the Roman 'cathedral' of Bishop Eborius stood within the colonia on the North bank of the Ouse, rather than on the South bank.

7 *Medieval cemetery. MYO4184.*

Cemetery close to the Minster. Limits undefined. A watching brief close to the west face of the Minster in June 2015 revealed truncated medieval burials barely 20cm beneath the modern paving stones. The soil indicated, from the inclusions of brick and tile that it was composed of mortary demolition material. Eighteenth century depictions of the west end of the minster show that there were then no steps up into the building. It therefore seems likely that demolition material was brought in to raise the height of the ground to the level of the doorways. The ground must then have been used as a cemetery for some considerable time. The truncation and overlapping of the skeletal remains suggest multiple reuse of the areas for burials. A suggestion also supported by the amount of disarticulated charnel in the soil. Subsequently the area was reduced in level by skimming off the soil and steps were reintroduced to the west end of the minster. This has left some skeletons barely a few centimetres under the modern paving. Presumably this lowering of level and landscaping of the area was done in the nineteenth century. The burials all seem to have been in shrouds and not coffined. This might suggest that the cemetery was used by poorer elements of the local population. It is also clear that the area continued in use for a considerable period with new burials inserted over older ones.

8 *Archbishop's Palace, Dean's Park. MYO4962.*

Palace, built circa 1154-1181. It was the principal residence of the archbishop's until Walter de Gray bought Bishopthorpe in 1241. Fifteenth century archbishops preferred to live, when in Yorkshire at Cawood Castle, or at their manor-houses. The remains of the Archbishop's Palace, consists of a late 12th century arcade and a building known as the chapel, probably of early 13th century date, and now used as the Minster Library.

9 *St Leonard's Hospital Precinct. MYO3491.*

According to tradition, King Athelstan founded a hospital to the West of the minster in 935. William I confirmed the hospital, but it was moved to a new site in the reign of William Rufus. Two fragments of Anglian cross-shafts have been found in St Leonard's Place, near the site of St Peter's Hospital. The first, found by 1852 is late 7th - early 9th century, and the second found in 1833-4 is 9th century. St. Leonards Hospital was re-founded in 1137 and was amongst the largest, if not the largest, medieval hospitals in the north of England. The hospital was erected on the site of the former hospital of St. Peters which was severely damaged in a fire in 1137. The hospital sat within a large precinct, defined on two sides by the city walls, and a precinct wall on the east and south-east boundary. Parts of the east precinct wall, including a blocked gateway, form the east wall of the Theatre Royal, and are visible at the rear of the stage. The structure adjacent to Museum Street and the Museum Gardens contains the partial, ruined remains of a chapel, infirmary and entrance passage of St Leonard's Hospital. This structure was built c. 1240AD. A 4-bay entrance passage now leads from the Museum Gardens into what was the inside of the hospital precinct. The adjacent undercroft, with a 4x3-bay vault, is now open on one side to the Library Lawn. Above the undercroft are the remains of a chapel. Further remains dating to the 12th century are preserved within the Theatre Royal.

10 *St William's College. MYO1655.*

College for chantry priests built 1465-7 for the priests of York Minster, dissolved in 1548. Alterations of various dates, including frontispiece and staircase extension of mid-17th century to north range; east range sub-divided and remodelled with entrance extension in the early 18th century; south range converted to commercial use in the late 18th and early 19th century. Substantially restored in 1902 by Temple Moore.

11 *The Old Deanery. MYO5265.*

This area, and part of what later became Deangate was the minster Deanery. It had been the residence of the deans from the 11th century as far as can be ascertained once archbishop Thomas had established the collegiate foundation of a dean and chapter in place of the Anglo-Saxon establishment. The construction of a new deanery in Dean's Park north of the minster in the late 1820s sealed the fate of the old building, and demolition apparently began in 1830 with the taking down of part of the back of the building. This can now be seen as part of a wider policy of demolition that began with the Chapter obtaining private acts of parliament in 1814 and 1825 to compulsorily purchase various buildings within the minster close and demolish them to open up vistas of the cathedral. Eventually houses were demolished to create what is now College Green and Duncombe Place. The old deanery stood relatively close to the cathedral and had a secondary building, the former prebendal residence of Warthill, attached to its east side which had apparently been annexed to it at some time. It seems that there is no known detailed plan of the building, but several basic outlines show its ground footprint overall.



Events

Between May 1975 and January 1976 two areas were excavated by York Archaeological Trust and the York Excavation Group at the City Garage site, 9 Blake Street. The uppermost deposits (post-dating the 12th century) were all removed by machine. However, this allowed detailed examination of a complex sequence of deposits and structures dating from the late 1st century AD to the 11th century AD. The earlier Roman activity comprised a series of features representing timber buildings, dated between c. 71 and 160 AD, which had initially been cut into the underlying natural. These timber buildings were replaced around 160 AD, by a series of stone founded buildings, which in some instances survived to a height of four or five courses. Elsewhere post-Roman robbing had reduced the walls to their foundations. The Roman buildings continued in use, being successively modified, until c. 400 AD. The upper surviving parts of the Roman masonry buildings were recorded at a height of 13.50m -13.60m AOD, approximately 2m below the modern street level. (Hall. R.A. 1997.)

In February 1999 a number of trenches were excavated in the basement of the former Methodist Chapel at 3 Little Stonegate. All of the trenches penetrated stratigraphy of archaeological significance including structures, features and deposits of the Roman period dating to the 2nd – 4th centuries. The structures encountered were mainly stone built barrack blocks belonging to the Roman Legionary Fortress although at the bases of some of the trenches was possible evidence of timber buildings belonging to the late 1st or early 2nd centuries. The two stone barracks investigated displayed up to three phases of construction

and sub-division and contained hearths and very distinctive floor levels. Only limited medieval stratigraphy survived, generally in the form of truncated pits, due to the construction of the chapel basement. Natural deposits were not reached at the basal limit of excavation (12.40m AOD). The top of the archaeological sequence (including Roman structures) was encountered at a height of 13.35m AOD, approximately 1.65m below the modern ground level (15m AOD). (YAT. 1999).

14 12-18 Swinegate excavations, 1989-90. EYO4583.

Investigations were carried out between October 1989 and July 1990. Area excavation of medieval and post-medieval levels was concentrated on the Grape Lane, Little Stonegate and Back Swinegate street frontages. Deep trench excavations were located over areas of maximum destruction to reveal the entire sequence of occupation. A total of fifteen trenches were excavated and these revealed a complex sequence of deposits dating from Roman times to the present day. Incomplete preservation of the structures of early modern date were revealed fronting Swinegate. These included a rectilinear brick-lined drain, a roughly built limestone structure with a timber and cobbled threshold and a semi-sunken stone-lined feature with a brick floor. An extensive area on the Grape Lane frontage was stripped down to the late 15th century levels. This spanned three properties and a lane. Two of the properties were aligned with their gable adjacent to the street. An area was also stripped at the junction of Little Stonegate and Back Swinegate. On the Little Stonegate frontage the plans of the two properties dating to the early 16th century were recorded. Buildings of this date appear to have been robbed on Back Swinegate and the plans for four of their predecessors were revealed. The late medieval sequences were encountered within 0.50m of the modern ground level.

In the deep excavations the backyards of the four properties running between Swinegate and Petergate were investigated and showed evidence of cess pits, dumping and cultivation as well as two alleys of different dates running between the two streets. Between these deposits part of the medieval cemetery of St Benet's church was excavated. In all 27 inhumations were removed, the majority being within oak coffins. The church became redundant in the first quarter of the 14th century. Roman levels were encountered in 2 deep trenches beneath the cemetery, including an extensive metalled surface, possibly a palaestra or a parade ground within the Roman fortress. This overlay a timber floor of interleaved planks, which may have been used for mixing mortar within the fortress when the fortress was rebuilt in stone, and a robber trench for a stone wall. Below again were pits and post-holes from the earliest timber structures on the site. In the second deep trench a limestone wall measuring over 1m wide with an offset foundation course was excavated. It was aligned north-north-west/south-south-east and was associated with a number of subsidiary walls and compact surfaces of clay and crushed stone and mortar. These features are clearly part of a substantial late Roman building of some importance, although its function is uncertain. The two deep excavation areas were both a total of 4.30m deep, down to natural deposit.

The investigation of foundation pile positions continued following the main excavations. This was necessitated by the discovery of burials presumed to be within the cemetery of the church

of St Benet. A total of 99 inhumations was removed from trenches designed to investigate the limits of the cemetery. Many of the burials were within oak coffins; the lid of one was decorated with an incised Nine Mens Morris board. Further masonry walls of Roman date, parts of the legionary fortress were encountered. (McComish, 2015).

15 *Duncombe Place watching brief, 2019. EYO6539.*

A watching brief on the excavation of a cable trench was undertaken in 2019. The cable trench was excavated in the footpath from existing ducting on Duncombe Place around the corner to the Jackson Stops estate agents on High Petergate opposite St Michael-le-Belfrey. The dimensions of the trench were approximately 40m long by 0.35m wide by 0.30m-0.45m deep. Several walls were exposed and recorded during the course of these works, which may relate to the old properties that originally extended from High Petergate along what is now Duncombe Place. A layer of dark material below the footpath bedding would appear to be associated with the demolition of these houses, and the subsequent construction of Duncombe Place in the late 18th century. (YAT. 2019).

16 *St Michael le Belfry church, geophysics, 2010 and 2019.*

Two separate phases of geophysical survey have been carried out at St Michael le Belfry church.

In August 2010 a ground penetrating radar survey was carried out by Dr Anthony Masington of the University of York, within the interior of the church. The survey recorded the probable presence of a series of voids, the majority of which are likely to represent burials, including substantial vaults. There was a distinct concentration of probable burials towards the western end of the church. One of the detected voids, located towards the northwest, is likely to be associated with the 19th century cellared boiler room. Further east, within the chancel, two possible wall foundations were recorded. (Masington, 2010).

In January 2019 Magnitude Surveys carried out a further ground penetrating radar survey of the site. This survey also suggested the presence of voids, most likely representing vaults and burials within the nave. An anomaly interpreted as a possible casket was recorded approximately 5m west of the chancel, whilst a series of complex responses were recorded in the uppermost 1m in the chancel. The external forecourt was also subject to survey. This recorded the presence of a thick layer of rubble, up to 1m deep. Isolated responses below and within the rubble layer may represent archaeological features. (Magnitude Surveys. 2019).

17 *12 Minster Yard, watching brief, 2013 (EYO300).*

An archaeological watching brief was maintained on alteration works within the church in 2003. Floor surfaces were removed revealing disarticulated human remains, an early doorway, possibly two articulated skeletons, a drain and substantial limestone footings.

18 *Minster Yard and Minster Gates, excavation and watching brief, 2008. EYO4853.*

Four trial holes were excavated in association with the proposed redevelopment of the south transept approach to York Minster in 2008. This had been preceded by a desk-based assessment. Some of the trial trenches encountered archaeological deposits very close to the modern ground surface, whilst others recorded disturbance by recent services. Where truncation had not occurred, structures associated with 17th to 19th century buildings were present within 0.25m of the modern ground level. (Dean, G. 2008).

19 *York Minster excavations, 1966-1973. EYO4853.*

A major programme of archaeological investigations was carried out both inside and outside The Minster between 1966 and 1973, comprising a substantial number of separate trenches. Natural deposits were only occasionally reached but were recorded at a level of 12.50m AOD. Complex sequences of archaeological structures, features and deposits were recorded across the full area investigated. In the area to the south of the Minster trenches revealed substantial column bases forming elements of the basilica building. These were present within 2.50m of the modern ground surface (at around 13.50m AOD). The Roman structures were overlain by post-Roman deposits, including part of an early medieval cemetery. The earliest grave excavated dated to c. 800 AD and the latest to the 11th century. The graves were recorded at c. 14.30m AOD. The cemetery was sealed by a sequence of cobble surfaces, presumed to form part of the medieval to early modern Minster precinct. These cobble surfaces were recorded within 0.25m of the modern ground surface. (information derived from Phillips. 1985 and Evans, 2008.).

20 *Queens Path watching brief, 2018. EYO6431.*

A watching brief was conducted in March 2018 during excavations for installing a new lighting scheme. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m from the modern ground level and did not reach any deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period. A brick structure, provisionally dated to the 16th to 18th century on the basis of the sizes of bricks in its construction, was recorded at the base of the trench. (YAT. 2018).

21 *7 Minster Yard, evaluation, 2013 and watching brief 2017. EYO5238 and EYO6855.*

A small scale evaluation, comprising a single hand excavated trench, was undertaken in 2013. This was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m below the modern ground level, at which depth early 18th century dump deposits were recorded. A sequence of early modern culverts was also encountered. (Johnson, & Savine. 2013).

A watching brief of 9 trenches carried out in 2017 on the same site identified the stone sill walls for the timber framed building incorporated into the present building. The sill walls included 12th century architectural fragments derived from the choir of the Minster. These sill walls and analysis of the timber frame exposed during work on the building suggested a building dating to c.15th century. Associated deposits recorded in the watching brief produced

15th and 16th century pottery. There was also extensive evidence for yard surfaces and walls dating to the 18th 19th century associated with buildings shown on the 1852 Ordnance Survey.

22 *College Street cable trenches watching brief, 1999. EYO7721.*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavations of new cable trenches in January and February 1999. The trenches were only 0.40m deep. Trenches between the Minster and Minster School revealed several features of archaeological interest, including evidence for a number of buildings, in the form of wall foundations and demolition deposits. These suggest that the Minster Yard was extensively built up by the 14th-15th centuries. (Hunter-Mann, 1999).

23 *Purey Cust, excavations, 1985 and 2013. EYO7666 and EYO5847.*

Excavations in 1985 and in 2013 associated with renovation and extension to the Purey Cust Nuffield Hospital site recorded element of timber and masonry buildings interpreted as forming the remains of Roman barracks within the fortress. The excavations were either within proposed lift shaft, small foundation trenches or below a cellar, and were recorded at a depth of c. 3m below the modern ground surface. (Milstead, 2013. Pp. 15-17).

24 *Minster Library Gardens, geophysics, 2005. EYO715.*

In September 2005 a geophysical survey was carried out as part of a community archaeology training project within the Minster Library Gardens. The survey recorded two linear anomalies, interpreted as either recent services, or possibly earlier archaeology, together with areas of high resistance that may represent an 18th century riding school or landscaping. (Gore. 2005).

25 *Minster Library, evaluation and excavation, 1980 to 1997. EYO65 and EYO75.*

A series of archaeological investigation have been carried out at the Minster Library. These included recording of a borehole that suggested that a total of 2.60m depth of archaeological deposits were present above the natural (recorded at 12.05m AOD). A Roman to 13th century sequence of deposits and structures was examined during excavations carried out in 1980. An excavation carried out in 1995 revealed natural at a depth of c. 3m (12.58m AOD). This was overlain by a sequence of cobble, gravel and limestone rubble surfaces forming a road and totaling 0.60m in thickness. The surface of the latest road was found at 13.20m AOD. (Phillips, 1995). A further phase of archaeological investigation was carried out in 1997. This recorded natural at 12.45m AOD. Following initial site preparation, a series of timber building had been constructed in the late 1st century. These were replaced by masonry buildings from c. 120 AD, which were maintained and altered for a substantial period, until c. 375 AD. These building were interpreted as barracks within the fortress. (Garner-Lahire. 2016).

26 *Treasurer's House, excavations, 1954. EYO5020.*

Archaeological excavations carried out in the cellar of the Treasurer's House in 1954 recorded the surface of a Roman road at c. 43ft AOD (13.10m AOD). Three large gritstone column bases were also identified, representing a substantial building. The same article includes a reference to a column base recorded in York Minster crypt at a height of c. 45.5 ft AOD (13.87m AOD). (Wenham. 1958. Pp 266-275).

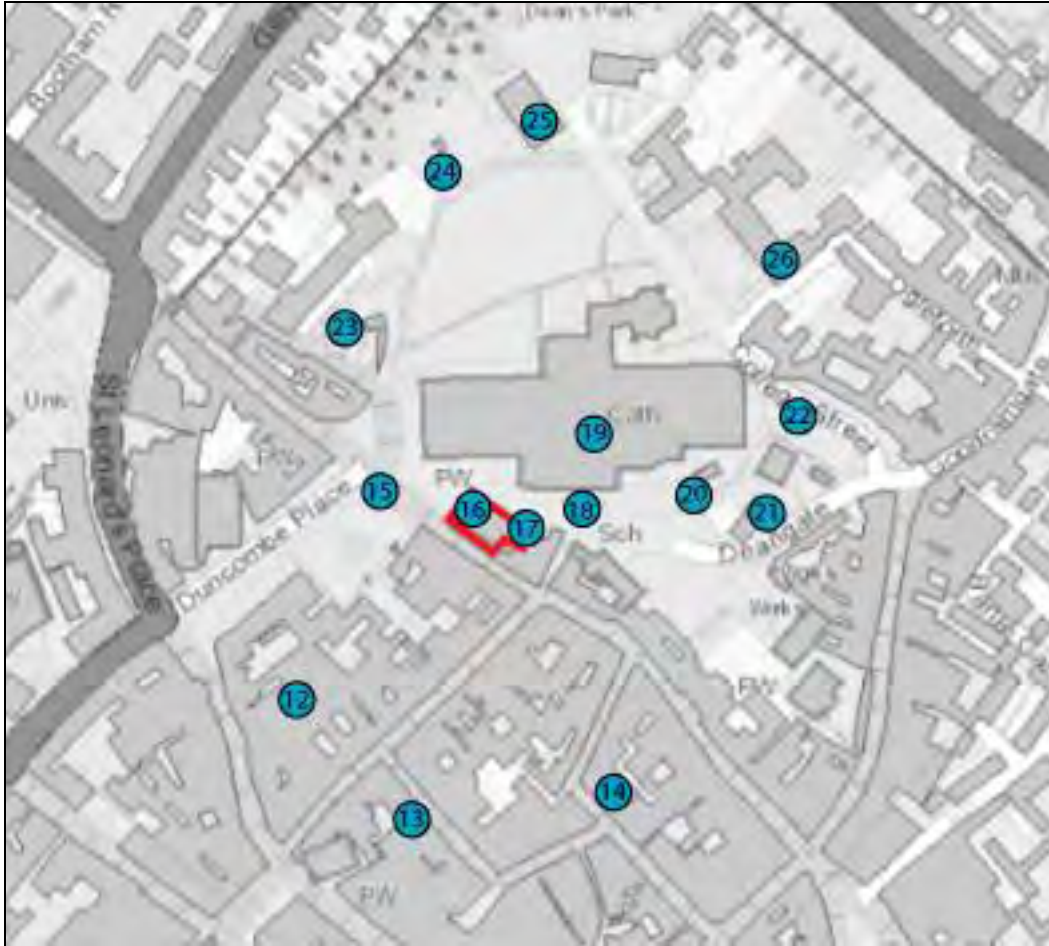


Figure 5. Locations of events (blue) (site in red).

6.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.

6.1 *The Prehistoric Period (to the 1st Century AD)*

There is no definitive evidence for prehistoric activity in the search area. Despite the long history of antiquarian and archaeological investigation in York little evidence for prehistoric activity has been found within the urban core of the city. Relatively few of the investigations carried out in this area of York have reached natural deposits, into which any prehistoric features would be anticipated to be cut. Excavations at the Minster Library (gazetteer entry 25) reached natural deposits at c. 12.50m AOD, which appeared to have been deliberately stripped and levelled in advance of the construction of the first legionary fortress (see below). If such pre-construction activity was widespread then shallow prehistoric features are likely to have been destroyed or disturbed. Investigations within the surrounding hinterland of the city, for example at Heslington East (Antoni et al, 2009, OSA, 2012) have shown that York was situated within a farmed, managed landscape during the later prehistoric period.

6.2 *The Roman Period (1st to the 5th centuries AD)*

The site is located within the core of the Roman fortress that developed in the late 1st century and early 2nd century. As suggested above the initial construction of the first fortress appeared to be preceded by levelling of the site, after which timber buildings were constructed. Evidence for these buildings has been identified during several excavations in the vicinity (12, 13, 14, 23, 25). The timber buildings were consistently replaced by masonry ones c. 120-160 AD, which remained in use for significant periods, until the late 4th century in some instances (12, 25). The surviving tops of the Roman masonry buildings have generally been encountered at heights of between 13.10m AOD (26), and 13.60m AOD (12), at depths of between 1.65m and 3m below the modern ground level.

St Michael le Belfry church sits alongside Petergate, which is the successor of one of the main roads within the fortress, the Via Principalis (3), which has been recorded by antiquarian observations as being between 10 and 12ft below the contemporary ground level. The junction with a second major street, the Via Praetoria (4), lay a short distance to the southeast of the church. The fortress headquarters, the Principia, was located to the north of the road junction, almost certainly including the location of St Michael le Belfrey. A series of column bases, recorded immediately to the west of the church in the 19th century (5) at a depth of 10 ft (c. 3m), almost certainly represent part of this major complex of buildings. The unusual alignment of the church (on a northwest to southeast alignment, rather than east-west) is likely to be due to the survival of the Roman street pattern in this area, and possibly also these major buildings.

6.3 *Early Medieval Periods (5th to 11th centuries AD)*

The continued significance of the former Roman fortress site is shown by the choice of this location for the foundation of the first Anglo-Saxon church in the 620s AD, following the conversion to Christianity of King Edwin of Northumbria by Paulinus. The location of the

first timber church, or of the subsequent pre-Conquest masonry rebuilds, has not been established through excavation. However, almost fifty fragments of Anglian stonework, dated to between the 7th and 11th centuries have been found during excavations at the Minster (MYO4964). An early medieval cemetery, dating to between 800 AD and the 11th century was excavated on the southern side of the Minster (19). The graves were encountered at a height of 14.30m AOD. One suggested location for the early medieval churches is therefore on the south side of the medieval Minster, close to St Michael le Belfry. An alternative location is to the north, within Dean's Park. The Cathedral precinct included at least one other early medieval church, the Alma Sophia, built between 767 and 780 AD, and again, not precisely located. The original foundation of St Michael le Belfrey may also date to the pre-Conquest period, as is suggested by the alignment being so strongly influenced by the Roman topography, rather than that of the Norman and later medieval Minster. An early medieval hospital is recorded as being founded in 935 AD by King Athelstan (9) although the location of this is uncertain. It is likely to have been to the west of the Minster and fragments of masonry discovered in the 19th century appear to support this.

6.4 *The Medieval Period (11th to the mid 16th centuries AD)*

Construction began on the first post-Conquest Minster in 1069, being extended in the mid 12th century. The present Minster dates from the second quarter of the 13th century. Several other significant medieval buildings are included within the search area, including the 12th century Archbishops Palace (8), St Leonards Hospital (9), which had been re-founded in 1137 AD, the 15th century St William's College, and the Old Deanery (11), the residence of deans of the Minster from the 11th century. Elements of a medieval cemetery have been recorded immediately to the west of the Minster, within 0.25m of the modern ground surface (7), whilst cobble surfaces forming parts of the Minster precinct have been excavated to the south of the Minster at a similar depth (19).

As indicated above, the church St Michael le Belfrey may have originated in the pre-Conquest period. The earliest documentary reference dates to 1294, although document may have been lost in major fires of 1069 and 1137. The parish was one of the wealthiest in late medieval York. It comprised an aisled nave, chancel, tower, two chantries (founded in 1399 and 1473) and several altars and images. From the 15th century the structure had begun to fall into disrepair, whilst a complaint of 1416 relates to noise from a market being held in the churchyard hindering services and horses trampling on graves (Wilson, & Mee. 1998). The church was therefore rebuilt between 1525 and 1536 and is the only example of a medieval church in York being entirely built during this period (1). No fabric relating to the pre-16th century rebuild is visible within the current structure suggesting that it was entirely levelled in advance of the rebuild, with no earlier structure being incorporated.

6.5 *The Post-Medieval to Modern Periods (mid 16th to 21st centuries)*

Much of the post-medieval topography of the site and the surrounding area had been established during the medieval period. The dominance of this area of the city by the Minster has to a great extent avoided significant levels of redevelopment, as have been identified elsewhere. One significant period of redevelopment did, however, take place in the early 19th

century through the demolition of houses to the west of the church to open up the Minster Yard to Duncombe Place. The formation of a continuous thoroughfare through the Minster Yard was completed in the early 20th century through the construction of Deangate linking through to Goodramgate to the east.

The church of St Michael le Belfrey also underwent significant alteration during this period. This included the rebuilding of the west front of the church in 1867 to the designs of George Fowler Jones. Further to the east the floor has been raised with late 19th century ceramic decorative tiles butting against the communion steps.

To the east of the late medieval church, 12 Minster Yard (2) forming part of the site, was constructed as offices in c. 1840 incorporating elements of a late 18th century building.

7.0 Cartographic Evidence.

The earliest map illustrated is the John Speed map of 1611 (Figure 6). This shows the location of St Michael le Belfrey church (captioned C) within the historic core of the city. To the west of the church the north side of Petergate is occupied by a continuous line of buildings, dividing the Minster Precinct to the north from the secular city to the south. A similar situation is shown on the map produced by John Cossins in 1745 (Figure 7) where the church is labelled as *Bellfrays church*. Access to the Minster Precinct was via an entrance through the north side of Petergate, opposite Lop Lane (the forerunner of Duncombe Place), and through Minster Gates at the north end of Stonegate. On the Jefferys map published posthumously in 1775 (Figure 8) a similar picture is presented and the church is named in full as St Michael le Belfrey. It is interesting to note that on both of the two earlier maps the church is drawn with a stylised tower, presumably representing the belfry, at the east end of the church, rather than at the west end. 18th and 19th century illustrations (see Wilson & Mee, 1998) clearly show that the belfry was only ever at the west end.



Figure 6. Extract from Speed's map of 1611 (St Michael le Belfrey captioned C).

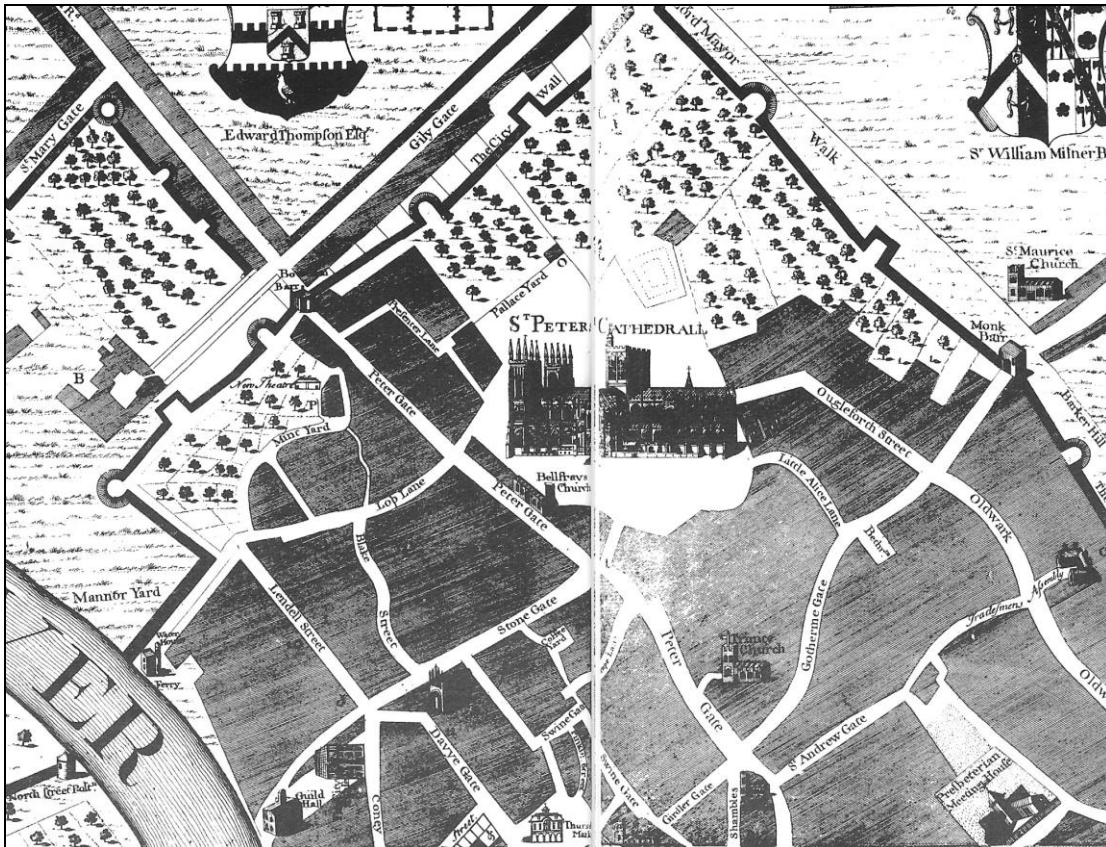


Figure 7. Extract from Cossin's map of 1745

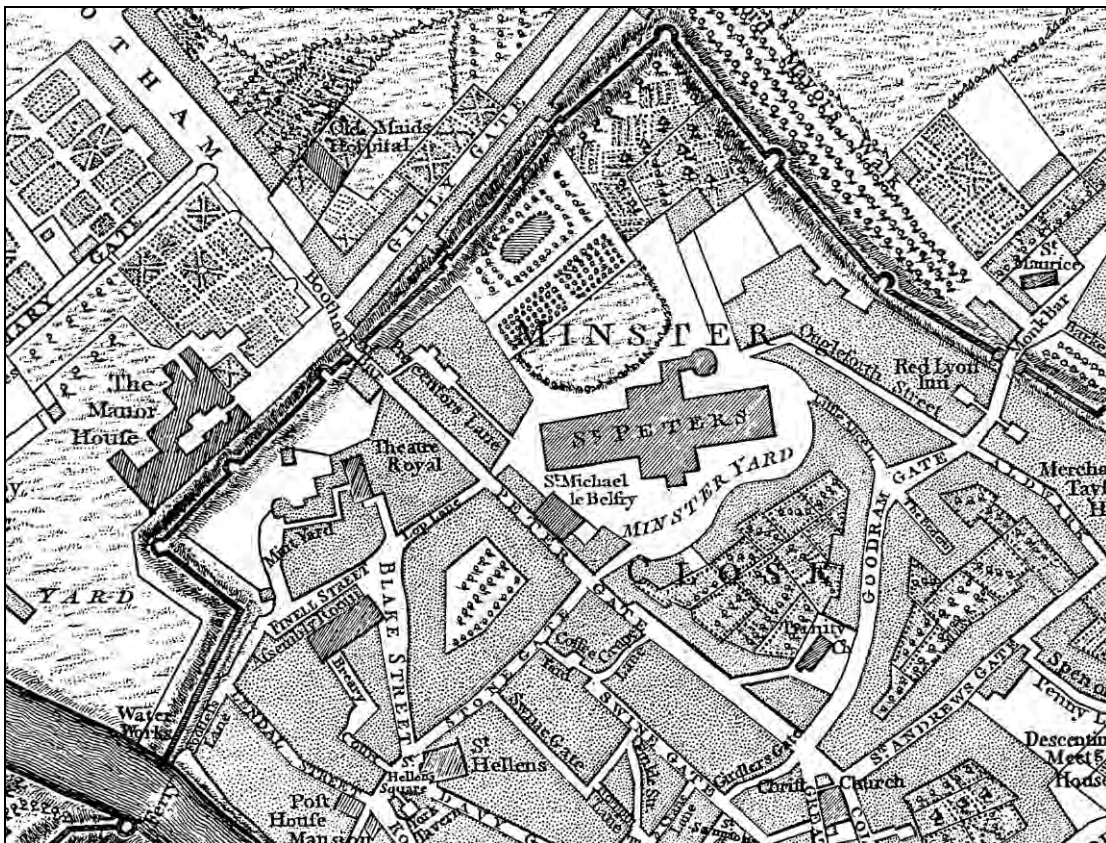


Figure 8. Extract from the Jefferys map of 1775.

A much greater level of detail is provided by the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey dating from 1852 (Figure 9). This map was produced relatively soon after the removal of houses

fronting Petergate to the west of the church. The level of detail provided by the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey includes the layout of pews within the interior of the church (Figure 10), prior to the rebuilding of the west end and internal re-ordering.

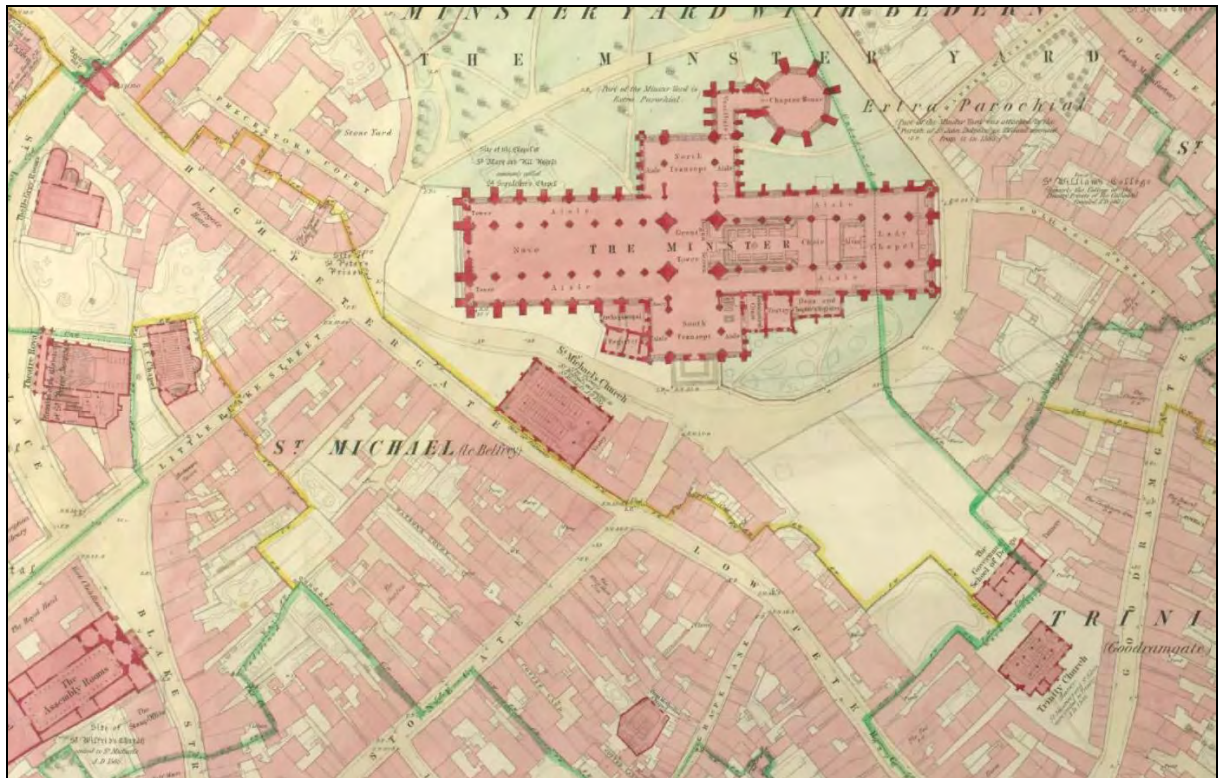


Figure 9. Extract from the 1852 Ordnance Survey map.

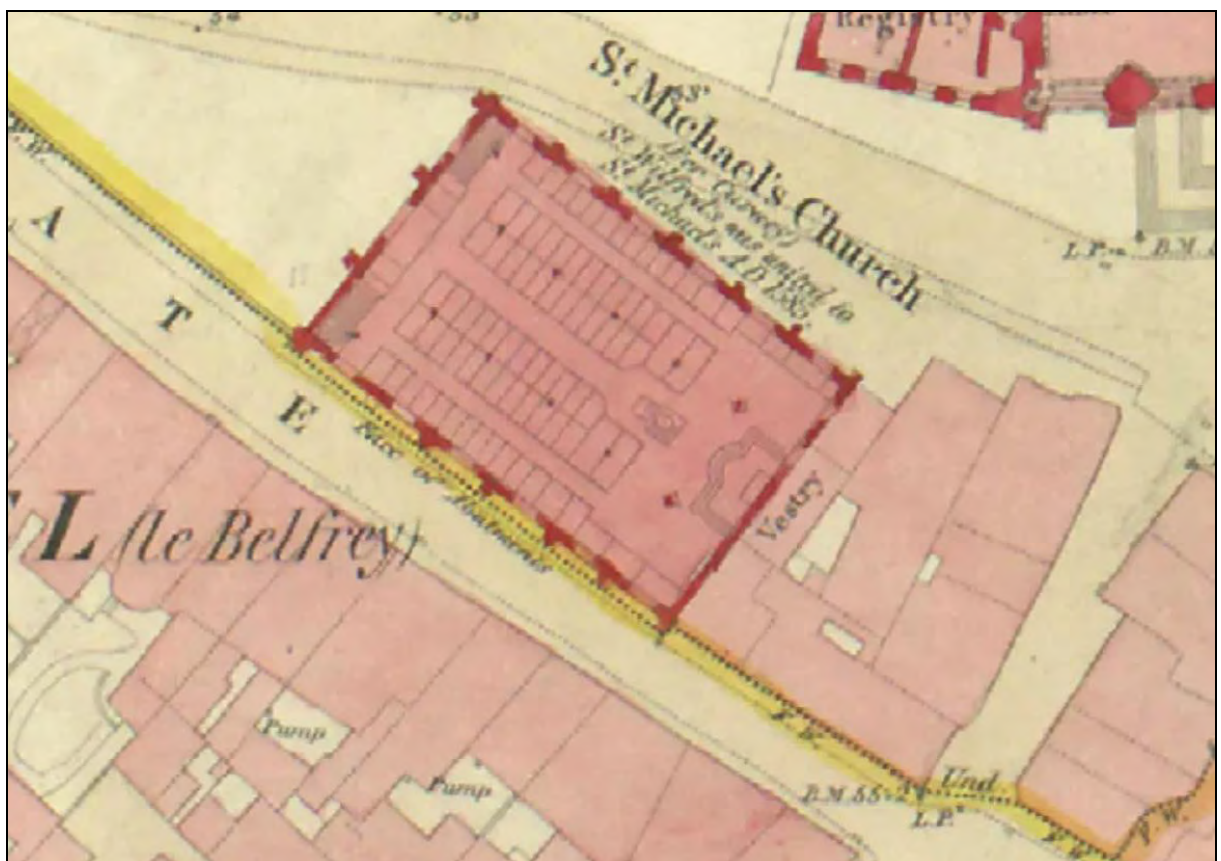


Figure 10. Close up of the 1852 Ordnance Survey map illustrating the interior of the church.

The final map illustrating the site is the 1891 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 11). Although no detail is provided for the interior of the church, outside the west end a formal path had been created, presumably as part of the 1867 rebuild of the west end of the church.



Figure 11. Extract from the 1891 Ordnance Survey map.

8.0 Discussion and Archaeological Implications.

The research undertaken to prepare this assessment has confirmed that the site lies within a very rich archaeological location, as indicated by the designation as an Area of Archaeological Importance, and immediately to the north as a Scheduled Monument.

Extensive Roman deposits underlie the site, forming elements of the Roman legionary fortress. However, based upon previous antiquarian and archaeological recording in the area, these are likely to survive at approximately 13.50m AOD, at a depth of at least 2m below the current ground surface. It is likely that the Roman deposits will be overlain by significant early medieval to medieval archaeology. The early medieval cemetery recorded in the vicinity of the south transept of the Minster recorded graves at a level of 14.30m AOD. A similar level would be between 1.50m and 2m below the modern ground level. However, if we assume that the ground level from which the graves were dug was at least a metre above the level of the recorded inhumations then the early medieval ground surface in this area of the city may have been above 15m AOD, so within a metre of the modern surface. The extensive excavations carried out in York Minster provided a ground surface for the late 11th century, when the Norman Minster was constructed as 15.97m AOD (Phillips, 1985, p.137), and therefore close to the modern ground level. The discovery of medieval graves to the west of the Minster at a depth of only 0.25m below the modern ground surface suggests that rather than any significant depths of post-medieval material being present to seal earlier archaeology, episodes of landscaping have taken place resulting in minimal later deposits being present in the area. Whilst some minor changes in level may have taken place over the past five centuries the modern ground level is likely to broadly reflect what was present when St Michael le Belfry church was rebuilt in the early 16th century.

Unlike the surrounding domestic occupation sites the church, and immediate surroundings, will have a very specific sequence of deposition relating to burial. Although the churchyard was detached by the mid 19th century (located outside the city walls between Monkgate and The Groves) the medieval and earlier post-medieval graveyard was adjacent to the church, as indicated by the early 15th century complaint regarding horses trampling graves during markets. The presence of disarticulated and possibly articulated human remain was confirmed during a watching brief in 12 Minster Yard, carried out in 2003 (gazetteer entry 7), whilst the Jefferys map of 1775 (Figure 8) shows a small, enclosed space at the east end of the church, possibly representing a graveyard.

The interior of the church will also clearly include evidence for below ground burial. Several of the extant grave slabs within the floor of the church refer to the presence of burials within vaults beneath. The two ground penetrating radar surveys carried out in the interior of the church recorded what were interpreted as burial vaults (gazetteer event 16). These surveys also identified possible grave cuts. Within the eastern part of the church anomalies suggestive of buried walls were identified. These may be the remains of the medieval church, removed before the current building was constructed in the early 16th century.

The floor within the eastern part of the church differs from that further to the west as it comprises late 19th century ceramic decorative tiles. Inspection of the relationship between the tiles and the communion step shows that the tiles have been constructed butting against the lowest step. Presumably this has led to a slight raising of the floor and formed part of the re-ordering work carried out when the west front of the church was rebuilt in 1867. An illustration of the interior of the church by Joseph Halfpenny, dating from 1810 (Figure 12), shows extra steps than are visible today (see Plate 8). Whilst it is possible that the illustration employs a degree of artistic licence (for example with no pews shown) the other details shown, of the communion rail, and columns, appear to be genuine.



Figure 12. The 1810 Halfpenny illustration of the interior of the church (from Wilson & Mee, 1998, Fig 99).

The proposed scheme of re-ordering and development will include a number of activities that have the potential to impact upon below ground deposits.

Externally this will include landscaping proposals to both the north and west of the church, which would require excavations to a depth of between 400mm and 500mm. It is likely that at this depth deposits of post-medieval and potentially medieval date may be encountered. These may include evidence for burials, either in the form of in-situ graves, or disarticulated human bone. To the west of the church, along the Petergate side of the forecourt, there are likely to be remain of post-medieval, and potentially medieval buildings as indicated on the early cartographic sources. These buildings were removed in the 1830s. It is uncertain to

what extent modern services, or groundworks associated with the rebuild of the west end of the church in 1867, have truncated any potentially earlier deposits.

Internally it is intended to form a new level floor throughout the church. This will entail the removal of the raised modern stage and late 19th century tiled floor at the east end of the church. General reduction of between 300mm and 500mm depth is anticipated to form the new floor. Reduction of this depth is likely to reveal the upper parts of burial vaults, but probably not be of sufficient depth to reach any burials within these. Shallow graves, not enclosed within vaults may be disturbed and it is likely that disarticulated human bone will be encountered. Depending upon the degree of robbing and sub-surface demolition that was undertaken in the early 16th century it is also possible that the remains of the medieval church could be exposed during this ground reduction exercise. These may be represented by the remains of wall and column foundations (as hinted by the ground penetrating radar survey) but could also include areas of surviving medieval, or post-medieval floors. The latter could be present beneath the current floor and relate to the use of the church between the early 16th and later 19th century. Features such as foundation walls for the post-medieval to early modern box pews (as shown on the 1852 Ordnance Survey map – see Figure 10) may also be present at shallow depths.

The deepest intended groundworks would be required for the construction of the immersion font. This will require excavation over the limited footprint to a depth of approximately 2200mm. At this depth there is clearly the potential to penetrate the medieval and post-medieval stratigraphy and encounter deposits and structures of early medieval, and possibly even of Roman date. However, it is possible that any such early deposits have already been removed at this location by the construction of otherwise unidentified burial vaults.

The re-ordering will ensure that all areas of the reconfigured church are accessible. It will, therefore, be necessary to construct a number of small lifts. One will be placed within the western end of the church, a second is intended within 12 Minster Yard and a smaller stage lift will be located in the east end of the church, where a new raised stage will be constructed. Each of the lifts will require excavation to a depth of between 600mm and 700mm. As with the general ground reduction it is likely that this depth of excavation would encounter medieval and post-medieval deposits.

To date no intrusive investigation has been undertaken. Any investigation, even of small scale, should be archaeologically monitored to maximise information available to assist in designing archaeological mitigation associated with the proposed re-ordering.

9.0 Bibliography

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10.0 The Plates.



Plate 1. General view of west end of church including forecourt area.

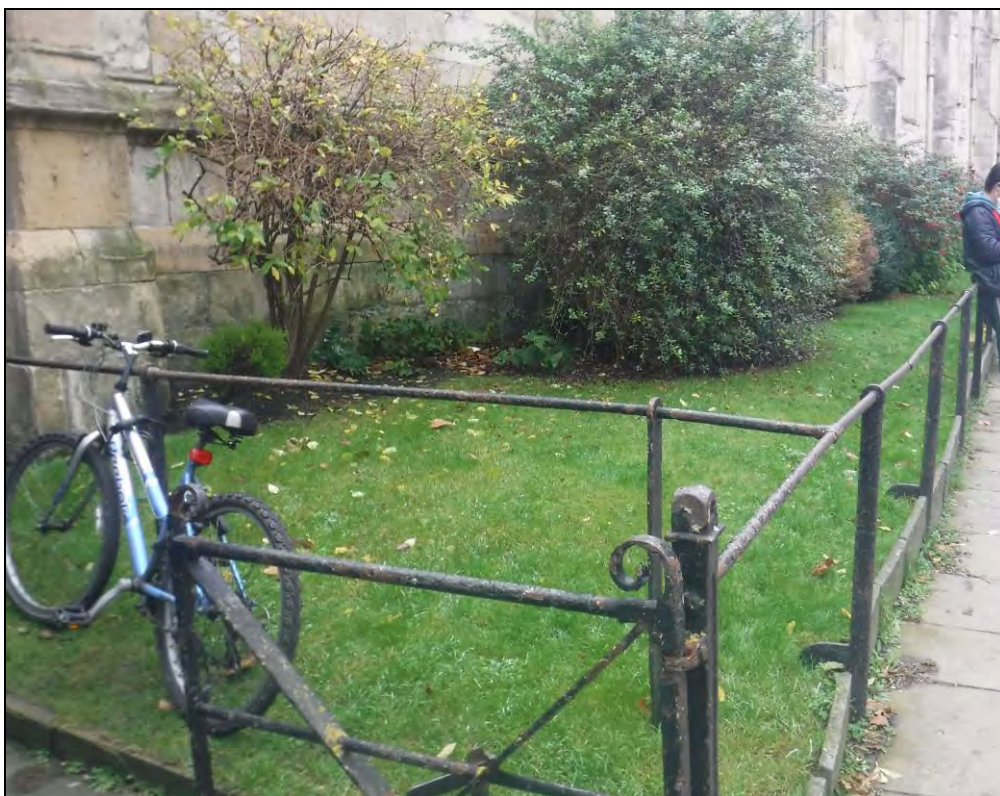


Plate 2. Small exterior garden area on the northeast side of the church.



Plate 3. General view of the north wall of the church, looking west.



Plate 4. General view of the south wall of the church, looking northwest.



Plate 5. South and west walls illustrating the difference between 16th and 19th century masonry.



Plate 6. General view of the church interior, from gallery.

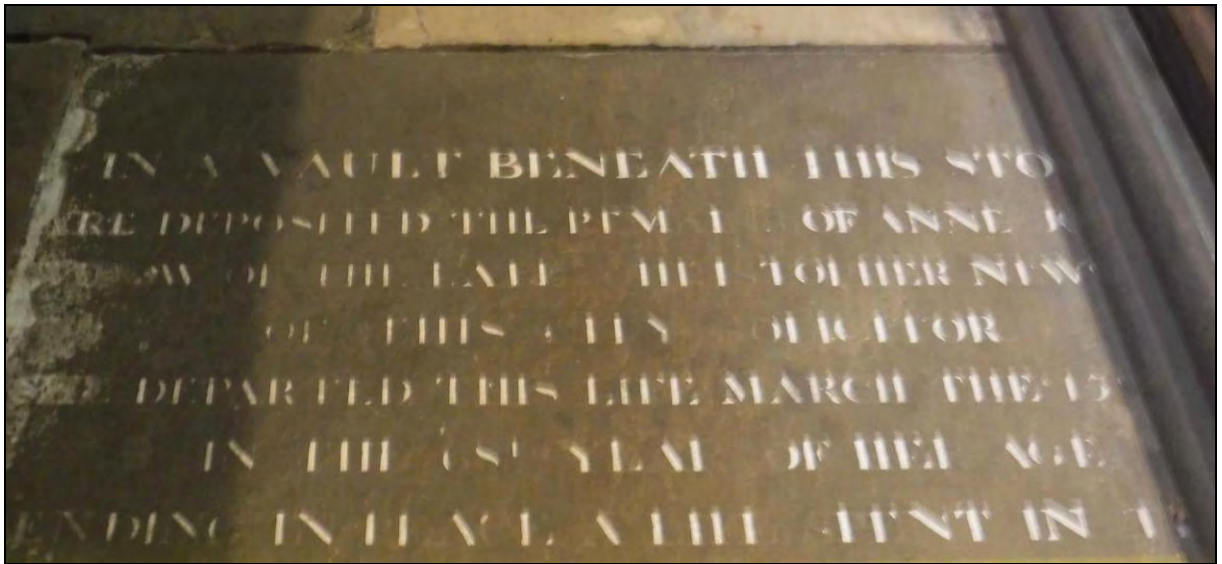


Plate 7. Example of a grave slab referring to a vault beneath.



Plate 8. Late 19th century decorated tile floor and communion steps.



Plate 9. Decorated tile floor and modern stage.

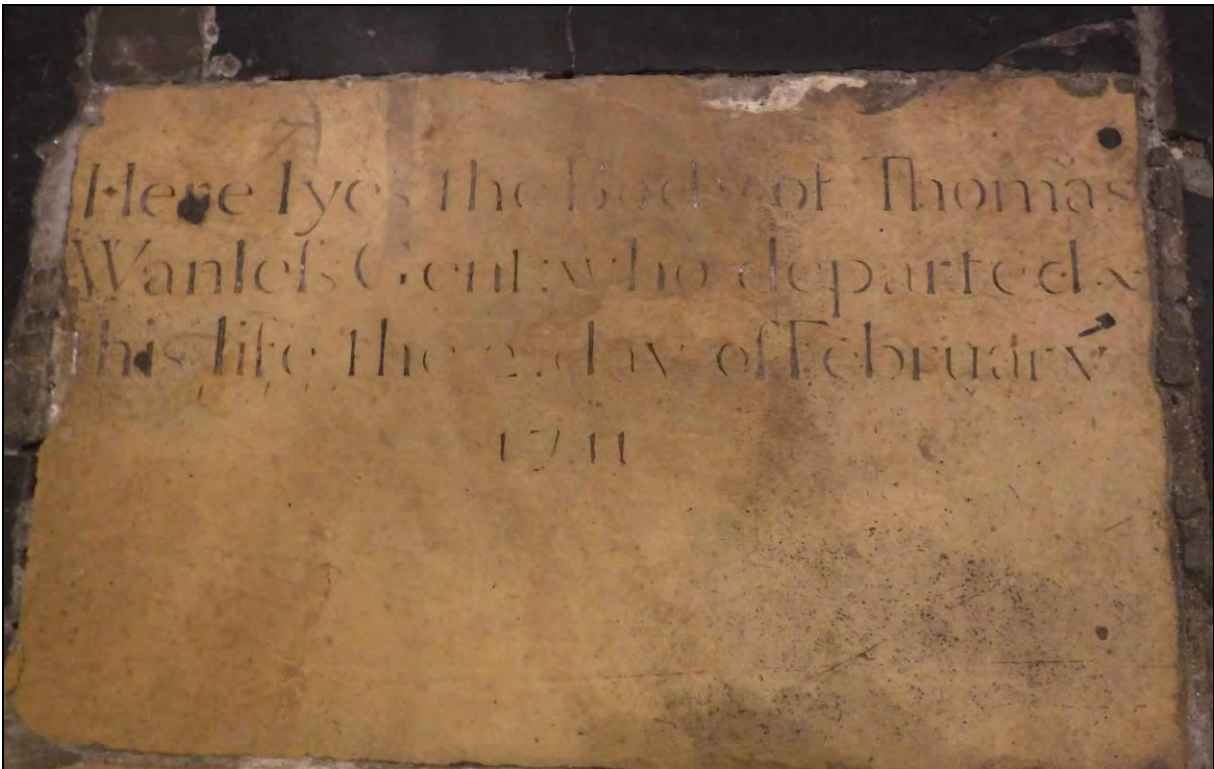


Plate 10. Example of 18th century grave slab inside west end of church.



Plate 11. 12 Minster Yard.