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ST PETERS CHURCH, HUDDERSFIELD,  
WEST YORKSHIRE.

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REPORT ON AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

OSA REPORT NO: OSA21WB12

July 2021

**OSA**

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**Report Summary.**

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**REPORT NO:** OSA21WB12

**SITE NAME:** St Peters Church, Huddersfield.

**COUNTY:** West Yorkshire

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 14580 16775

**PLANNING REFERENCE NUMBERS:**2019/62/93789/W

**ON BEHALF OF:** One17 Architects  
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**TIMING:** Fieldwork  
July 2021  
Post excavation & report preparation  
July 2021

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## 1.0 Abstract.

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*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by On-Site Archaeology Ltd at St Peter’s Church, Huddersfield, West Riding of Yorkshire in July 2021, during groundworks associated with the renovation of the church crypt.*

*The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the recommendations presented in a Heritage Statement prepared by One17 Architects (dated 3rd August 2020, reference 3060) submitted as a supporting document with the planning and faculty applications (Planning Reference No. 2019/62/93789/W). The investigation comprised the archaeological monitoring during the excavation of a drainage run for a new kitchen facility within the crypt.*

*No archaeological features or finds were detected during the investigation and no human remains were disturbed or observed.*

## 2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use.

The church of St Peter’s is located in a prominent position within the historic core of the town of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. The church is centred at approximately National Grid Reference SE 14580 16775 (Figure 1). The church lies within its churchyard and is flanked by Byram Street, Kirkgate, Lord Street and St Peter’s Gardens/St Peter’s Street (Figure 2).

The site lies above Clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits laid down in the quaternary period that overlay a solid geology of middle band rock – sandstone, formed in the Carboniferous Period (<http://mapsapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

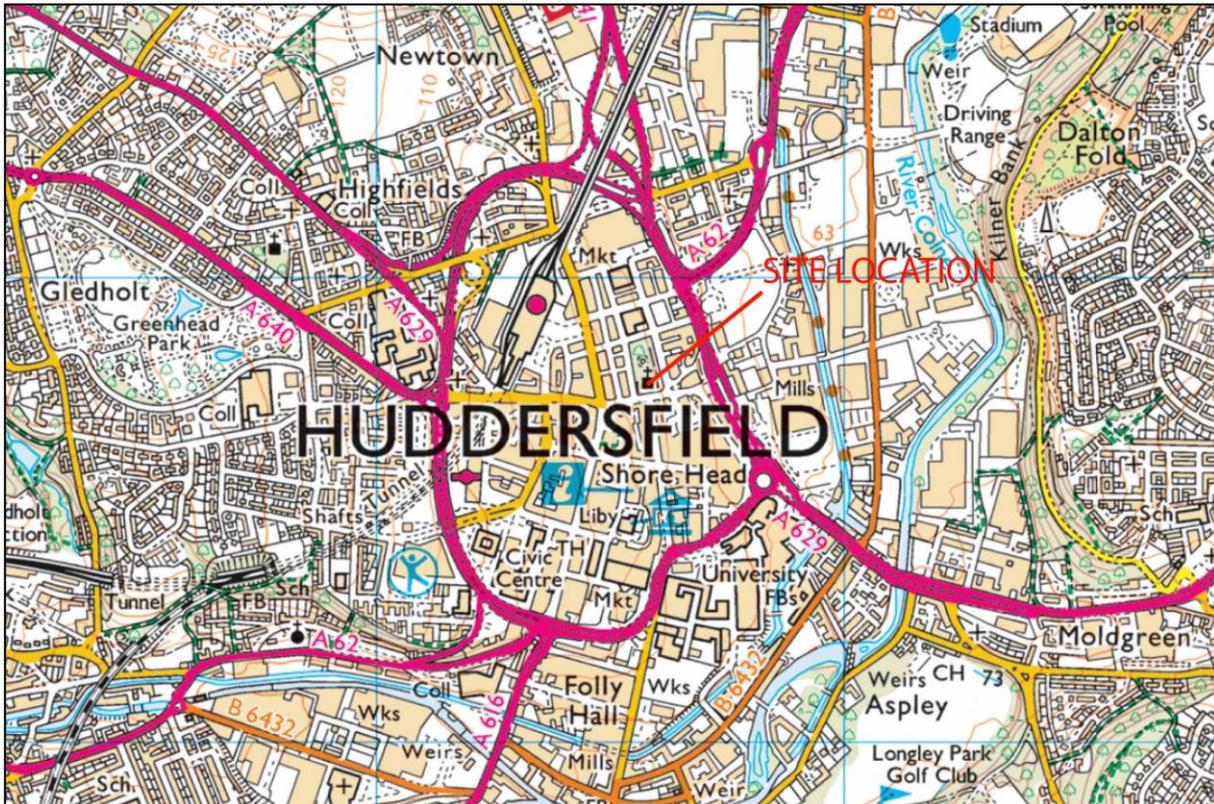


Figure 1. Site Location (centred) NGR SE 99865 37155

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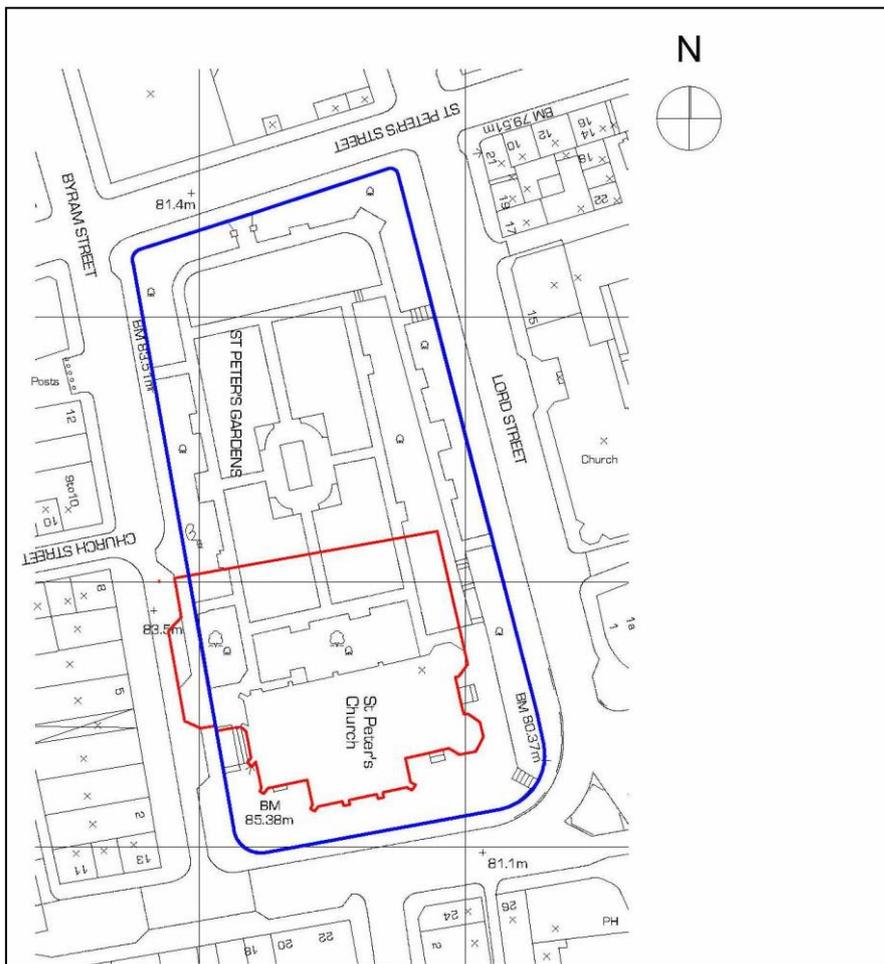


Figure 2. Detailed site location.

### 3.0 Archaeological Background

The Parish Church of St Peter is a Grade II\* Listed Building. The listing description (List Entry ID 1134977) includes the following:

The first church of St Peter's dated to the eleventh or twelfth century. It was rebuilt at the beginning of the sixteenth century and again in 1834-6 when the previous church had fallen into disrepair. It was designed by J P Pritchett of York, a leading non-conformist chapel builder, and what was initially intended to be a straight rebuilding became more ambitious, involving the construction of a crypt, the extension of the nave by 30 ft and the raising of the tower to 120 ft. Some items from the earlier church were incorporated. Two octagonal vestries were added at the east end, the northern by 1851 and the southern, a choir vestry, in 1879. The interior was reordered in 1873 with the renewal of pews and a new pulpit. In 1923 the Sanctuary was reordered, and a baldachino and east window by Sir Ninian Compton installed as a War Memorial. The south transept was redesigned in the 1940s with an oak screen by Robert Thompson as a Second World War Memorial. Further internal reordering took place in the 1980s, with a dais installed in the body of the church and a Robert Thompson altar.

Two previous archaeological investigations at the site are recorded in the English Heritage National Monuments Record Excavations Index. In 1983 lowering of the ground level

revealed disturbed burials and building debris. A deep excavation at the East end of the church produced a few fragments of human bone. In 2006 evaluation trenches recorded post-medieval burial activity overlying an earlier feature.

## 4.0 Methodology

The aim of this archaeological investigation was to preserve by record any archaeological remains disturbed by the development of the site and to avoid, or keep to a minimum, any disturbance to human remains.

The watching brief comprised the monitoring of the hand excavation of a drainage trench required to service a new kitchen facility within the crypt (Figure 3), in order to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and preservation of any archaeological remains and to ensure that any archaeological deposits encountered could be recorded.

Standard On-Site Archaeology techniques were followed throughout the investigation and a photographic record was also maintained. A full catalogue of context descriptions and photographs is provided in Appendix 1.

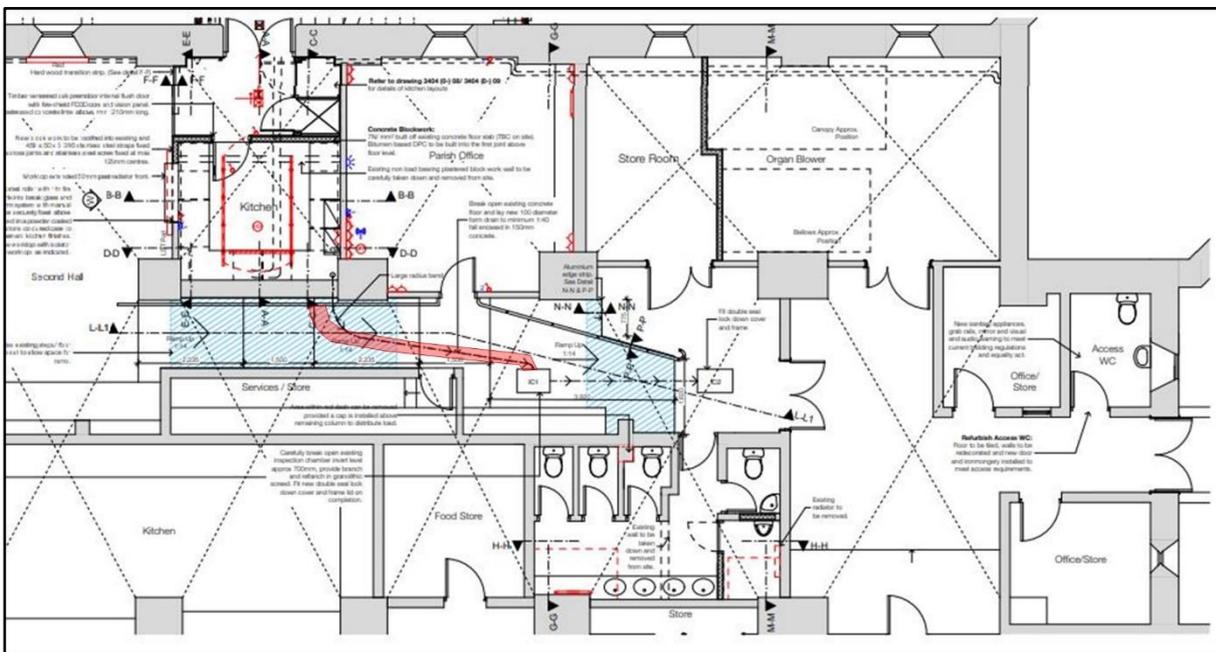


Figure 3. Watching brief area, monitored area shaded red.

## 5.0 Results.

The monitored drainage trench (Plate 1) measured 0.25m wide and between 0.25m and 0.35m deep (to allow for adequate fall). The modern ground covering consisted of a slab of concrete (100) which measured 0.10m thick. Directly beneath the concrete slab was a layer of compacted stone, levelling deposit (101) which was 0.08m thick. The compacted stone sealed a layer of blue plastic sheet (102) which had presumably been placed to prevent the stone layer from mixing with the deposits beneath. Directly below the plastic sheet was a layer of brownish grey, loose sand mixed with frequent fragments of stone rubble and fragments of CBM (103) which was 0.12m thick. The deposit appeared to be another layer of made

ground. Finally the earliest deposit within the sequence was discovered at the base of the trench, consisting of a compacted dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions (104). The deposit extended beyond the base of the trench and did not contain any identifiable archaeological material. It is possible that the deposit represented the original burial horizon, however, an absence of human bone makes the interpretation inconclusive. With the exception of one modern brick-built inspection chamber (which the monitored drain was intended to connect to) at the western end of the trench, no features were observed, and no pre-modern artefacts were present.

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## 6.0 Conclusion

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No archaeological features or finds were detected during the watching brief and no human remains were observed or disturbed.

It is most likely that the investigated area did not extend to sufficient depths to encounter archaeological features.

## 7.0 Appendix 1 ~ Archive Index.

### 7.1 *List of contexts.*

Context	Description	Thickness	Extent
100	Concrete, modern ground surface	0.1m	trench
101	Compacted stone, levelling deposit	0.08m	trench
102	Plastic sheeting	-	trench
103	Brownish grey, loose sand mixed with frequent fragments of stone rubble	0.12m	trench
104	Dark greyish brown clayey silt, possible burial soil	0.2+m	trench

### 7.2 *Drawing Register.*

Drawing No.	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
1	Plan of monitored drainage trench	-	22/07/21	KK

### 7.3 *Photographic register.*

Frame No.	Description	Date
Photo download 22/07/21		
1-61	General site shots and site sections	22/07/21

## 8.0 Appendix 2 ~ Plates.



*Plate 1. General view of foundation trench looking west.*