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47 LOW PETERGATE,  
YORK.

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REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OSA REPORT NO: OSA16WB37

November 2016.

**OSA**

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**Report Summary.**

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**REPORT NO:** OSA16WB37

**SITE NAME:** 47 Low Petergate, York.

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 60315 52070

**PLANNING REF NO:** 14/01166/FUL

**COMMISSIONED BY:** Space Property Corporation Ltd  
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**TIMING:** Fieldwork:  
September 2016  
Post excavation & report preparation:  
November 2016

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## 1.0 Abstract.

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*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by On-Site Archaeology during excavations to the rear of 47 Low Petergate, York. The work, as part of the conversion of the standing property from a retail unit to a restaurant, were the subject of an archaeological condition. The monitoring of these excavations revealed a remnant of buried wall to the northeast side of the rear of the property. Though undated, the material used in the construction appeared to be of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century origin. A stone lined, capped well was also revealed, which is likely to be of similar date.*



Figure 1. Site Location.

Reproduced from the 2000 Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
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## 2.0 Site Location

The site is located on the southwest side of Low Petergate, within the historic core of the city of York, centred at National Grid reference SE 60315 52070. The site comprises a former shop, associated buildings to the rear and a small courtyard. It is surrounded on all sides by other similar properties.

## 3.0 Archaeological Background.

The building was erected in the 1850's along with no. 45 Low Petergate and is listed at Grade II. It is situated within the Central Historic Core Conservation Area. It is a three-storey property with attic, that has a two storey and part single storey extension at the rear which extends the length of a shared enclosed rear yard. The extension is linked to the original building by a glazed roof at first floor level that was approved in the 1980s. It would appear that the extension was a workshop and it is constructed in brick, part timber cladding, tiled main roof, felted monopitched roof on the single storey extension. The listing highlights the cantilevered staircase from basement to second floor in the main part of the building.

The application site is situated within the York City Centre Area of Archaeological Importance.

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## 4.0 Methodology.

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The watching brief comprised of the monitoring of groundworks required for the development 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 maintained. A full catalogue of context descriptions, drawings and photographs is provided in Appendix 1

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## 5.0 Results.

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The trenching to the rear of the property involved the removal of up to 0.60m of material across the whole area of the plot (Plate 1). The earliest deposit recorded was (104) a trench wide layer of mixed loose very dark greenish grey gritty sand with frequent mortar and ceramic building material (CBM) throughout. The material within this deposit pointed to an 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century origin and was an average of 0.30m thick. Along the northwest side of the plot the surface of this material was cut by wall construction cut [106] that contained a surviving single course of red brick walling (105). This, and deposit (104) were sealed by (103) 0.05m of mid orange/green brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal. This was interpreted as a levelling dump. It was then sealed by (102) a later dumping event of loose fine black silt and sand, a maximum of 0.05m thick. Sealing this was a yard surface (101) of 4" red brick sealed by the current concrete yard surface (100). The excavations within the rear yard of the plot do not seem to have disturbed archaeological features or deposits, which are likely to survive deeper than the 0.60m excavation required for the current redevelopment. A stone lined, flagstone capped well was revealed within the yard area (Plate 2). This was resealed and retained in situ.

No deposits, features or artefacts pre-dating the early modern period were encountered during the watching brief.

## 6.0 Appendix 1: Archive Index.

### 6.1 Context Register

Context no.	Description	Thickness	Extent
Trench 1			
100	Concrete yard surface.	0.10m	Tr.
101	Red brick yard surface.	0.10m	Tr.
102	Loose fine black silt and sand.	0.05m	Tr.
103	Mid orange/green brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal.	0.05m	Tr.
104	Loose very dark greenish grey gritty sand with frequent mortar and cbm.	0.30m+	Tr.
105	Red brick wall.	N/A	4m x 0.40m
106	Wall construction cut.	N/A	4m x 0.40m

### 6.2 Drawing Register

Drawing no.	Description	Scale	Initials	Date
1	Sketch plan of rear wall section.	N/A	TPR	23/09/16

### 6.3 Photographic Register

JPEG No.	Description	Scale	Initials	Date
1 - 5	Yard rear section	0.50m	TPR	23-09-16
6-13	Stone lined well	-	GB	29-09-16



## 7.0 Appendix 2: Plates.



*Plate 1. Typical sequence of deposits.*



*Plate 2. Well revealed in the yard area.*