



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

|                             |  |                         |              |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------|
| <b>SITE ADDRESS</b>         | Electric cable trench, Heslington East, York |                         |              |
| <b>CLIENT NAME</b>          | The University of York                       |                         |              |
| <b>YAT PROJECT #</b>        | 5112   | <b>YAT REPORT #</b>     | 2010/29      |
| <b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>   | YORYM: 2007.6006                             | <b>GRID REFERENCE</b>   | SE 6340 5076 |
| <b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b> | n/a  | <b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b> | n/a          |

On 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010, York Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological watching brief during the machine excavation of a designated length of cable re-alignment trench at Heslington East, off Field Lane, Heslington, York (figure 1). A series of ducts were installed in the base of the trench for the diversion of overhead power lines, prior to the removal of several electricity pylons that ran across the development site. The work was undertaken on behalf of the University of York, the section of trench to be monitored and recorded (Figure 1) was decided by their archaeological consultant, Dr. P.J. Ottaway. This was undertaken in compliance with specifications set for a programme of on-going archaeological works, by J. Oxley, Principal Archaeologist for City of York Council.

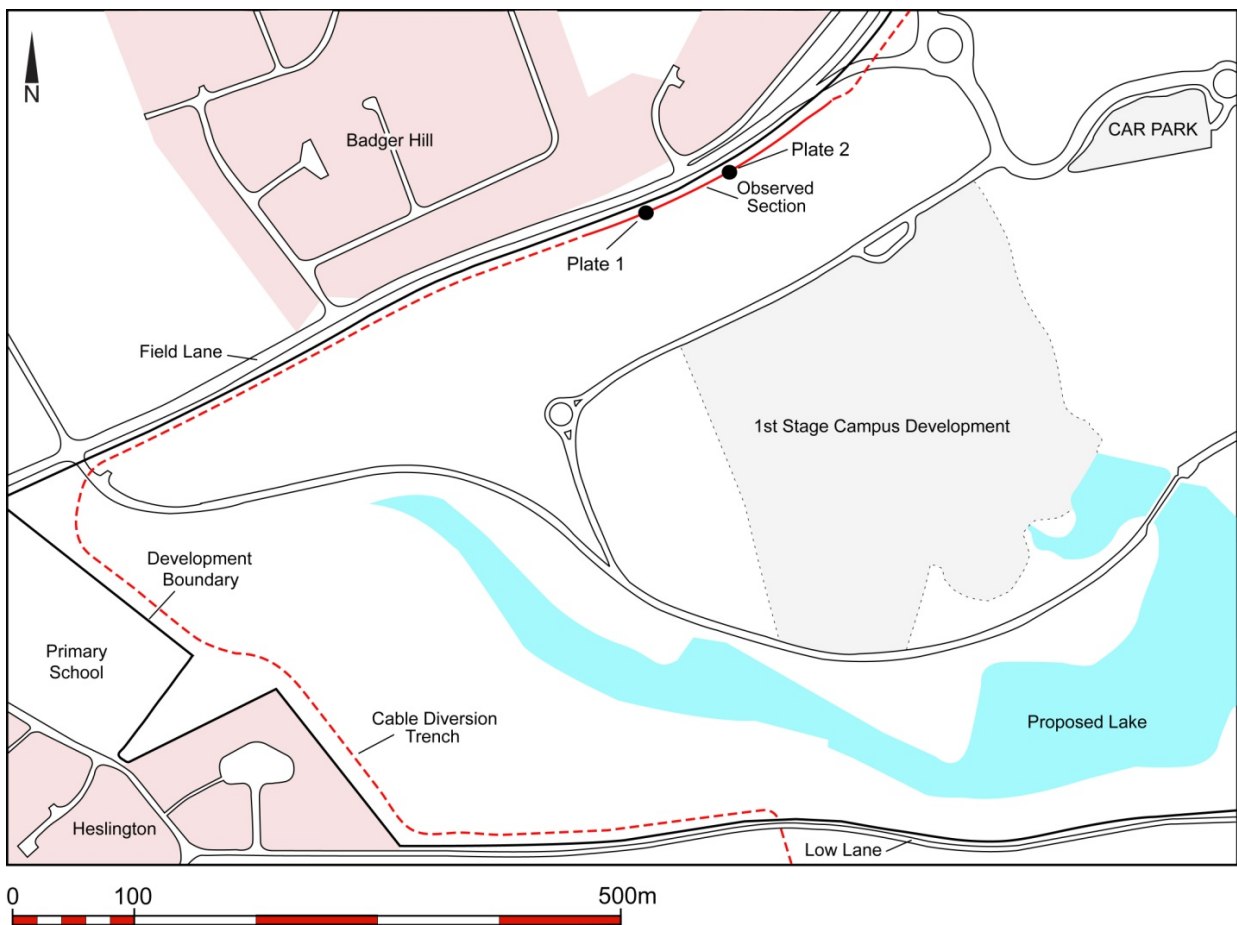


Figure 1 Location of site and route of cable re-alignment trench

The observed section of trench was located just inside the northern boundary of the development and it was approximately 240m long, 0.70m wide and up to 1.60m deep. Archaeologically significant deposits and features were absent. All groundworks were undertaken by the use of a 360° tracked mini digger, fitted with a back acting hoe, under archaeological supervision. The trench was

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| <b>COMPLETED BY</b> | B. Antoni | <b>CHECKED BY</b> | M. Stockwell | <b>FINISHED</b> | 18/10/13 |
| <b>FINDS</b>        | N/A       | <b>SAMPLES</b>    | N/A          | <b>PHOTOS</b>   | 2        |
|                     |           |                   |              | <b>PAGE</b>     | 1 of 3   |

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Registered Office:  
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX  
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



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excavated from west – east and for the first 40m the earliest deposit observed comprised natural loose, pale to mid brown yellow sand with moderate patches of small to medium pebbles, up to 0.95m thick (Plate 1). At its thickest point, this deposit was observed at c.0.40m BGL (Below Ground Level) and continued beneath the base of the trench. The top of it was sealed beneath an up to 0.65m thick deposit of topsoil comprised a pale – mid brown grey, slightly clay sand silt, under grass, which formed the ground surface at the time the excavations were undertaken.



*Plate 1 Cable trench west end; south-east facing section. Scale unit 0.5m*

Around 20m further east, the ground level fell away gently and the topsoil (see Plate 1) was observed to run into the base of the trench. The fall in the ground was rectified by the dumping of a sticky, moist orange brown flecked /marbled mid grey brown sand clay silt, up to 1.5m thick (Plate 2). This continued beyond the base of the trench and the top of it formed the ground surface at the time the work was undertaken. It continued across the rest of the observed section of cable trench and represented 'made ground' consisting of many compacted dumps of imported topsoil, forming part of a very recent landscaping operation on the north-western perimeter of the development area. In this

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instance the dumped material had been used to level the contours of what is currently thought to have been a silted, slumped palaeochannel(s) leading down from the north, or from the area now occupied by the Badger Hill housing estate, to drain towards low lying ground on the base of the Vale of York.



*Plate 2 Representation of centre to east end of cable trench;  
South-south-east facing section. Scale unit 0.5m*

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