YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

LAND AT OUSEGATE SELBY NORTH YORKSHIRE

A Report on an Archaeological ~~Watching Brief~~ Excavation & Recording

by Jason F. Smith
and David T. Evans

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Cover Illustration:
View looking north-east across site before commencement of works

Tel: (01904) 663000 Fax: (01904) 663024 Email: enquiries@yorkarchaeology.co.uk
Registered Charity No: 509060

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ABSTRACT

Between October 18th 2004 and February 26th 2005 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief during construction of houses on a site to the south of the eastern end of Ousegate, Selby. (Fig. 1). The watching brief consisted of monitoring the excavations for the sewer manholes and connecting trenches, an access road, and the initial clearance and excavation of ring beam foundations of many of the northernmost house plots and of other plots to the west of the site.

The watching brief revealed aspects of demolished buildings from the post-medieval to modern period whilst indicating the possibility of the preservation of earlier features, towards the Ousegate frontage, that could date to medieval times. Although any medieval buildings had been thoroughly destroyed, there was evidence for property boundaries shown on the early maps of the area, which may have medieval origins.

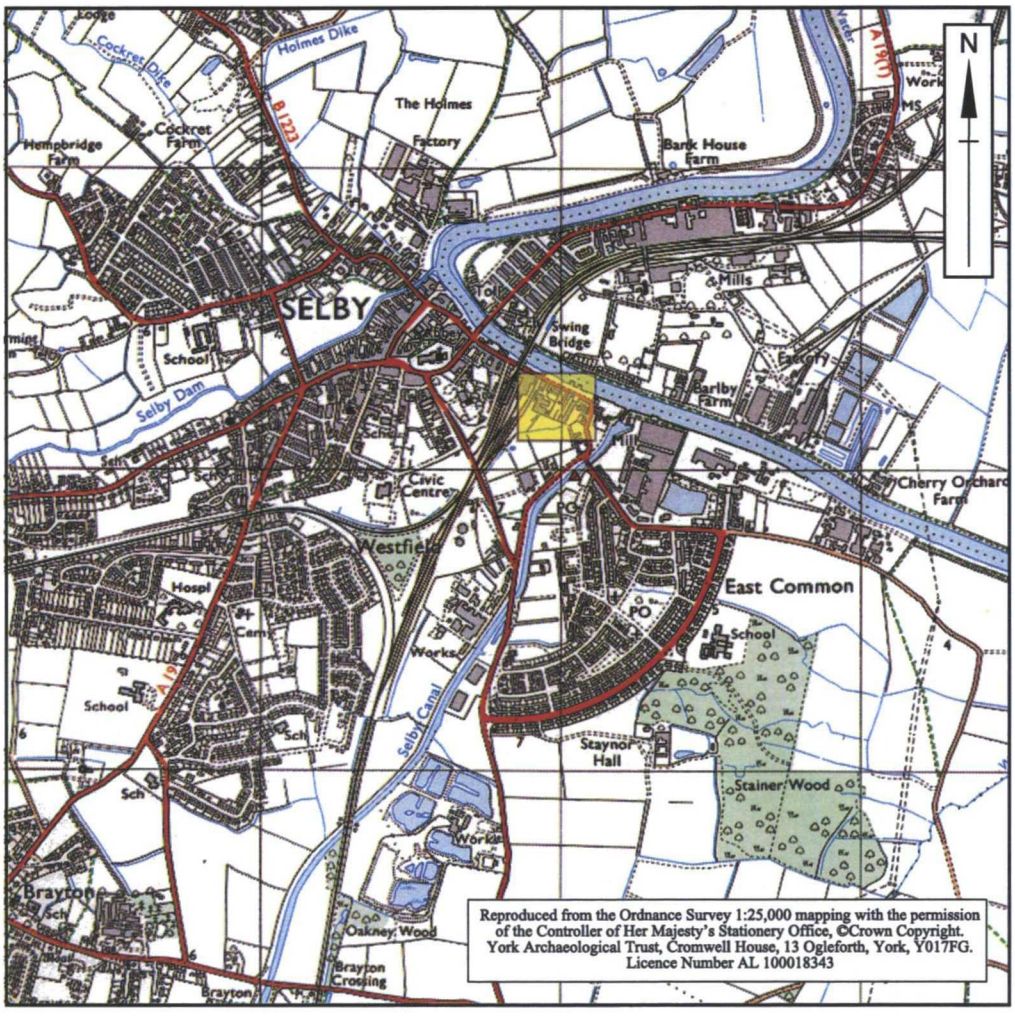
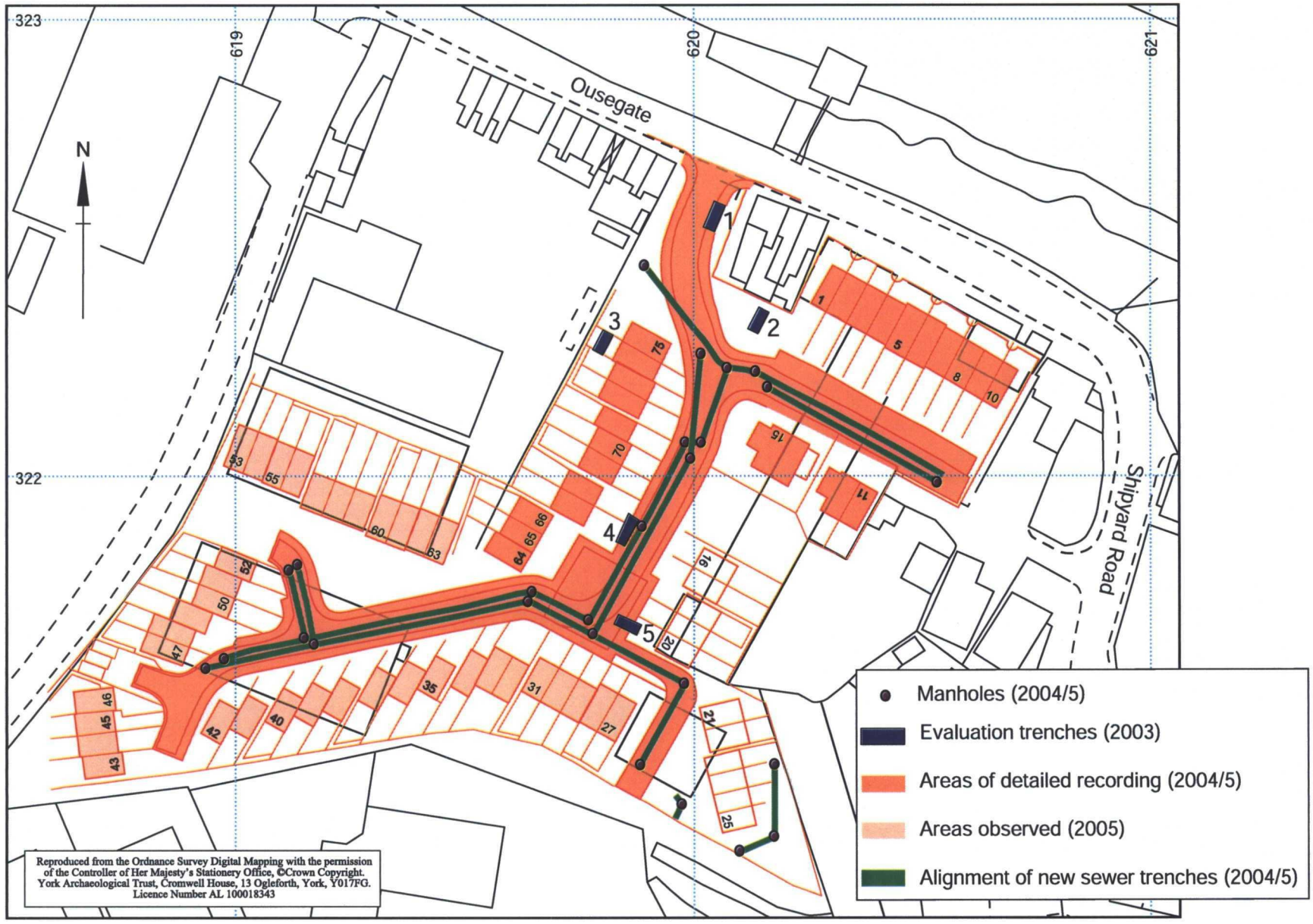


Fig. 1 Site location



N.B Plot numbers as on Brierley Groom & Associates Drwg. No. B145.03.50

Fig. 2 Location of observations

1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out from October 18th 2004 - February 26th 2005 by York Archaeological Trust (YAT) on a construction site south of the eastern end of Ousegate, Selby, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 62003219, Fig.2).

A full planning application for redevelopment of the site with new housing (application ref 8 / 9 / 1451 /PA) was submitted by Powell Duffryn Shipping and Barratt York Ltd to Selby District Council in November 2002. The proposed development was permitted on 19 March 2004 subject to the attachment of a PPG 16 archaeological condition (no 3) to the decision notice. The written scheme of investigation was drawn up in accordance with Policies ENV 27 and 28 of the Selby Local District Plan and the guidance of PPG 16 on Archaeology and Planning, (DoE 1990).

This was the third phase of investigation of the area: the first phase was a desk top study (Evans 2002) and the second phase was an archaeological evaluation (Evans 2003). The purpose of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits and features revealed during the building of new homes in order to clarify the history of land use in this area of Selby. This work was carried out on behalf of Barratt York Ltd to a specification issued by the Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council. Barratt subcontracted Hewlett Ltd to perform the majority of excavations who, in turn, subcontracted Peter Duffy Ltd for some of the deeper excavations on the north side of the site.

All site records, including photographs, are currently stored by York Archaeological Trust under the site code YORAT:2002.8.

2. METHOD STATEMENT

The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits, features or structures encountered during the groundworks. The on-site notes, including measured sketches, were entered into a site notebook and processed into a form where they could be used for the preparation of this report. The locations of any drawn sections and areas of interest were measured in and subsequently transferred to a large scale Ordnance Survey digital map. The note book record was supplemented by a full photographic record.

The watching brief observed the site strip for the access road into the development and the excavations for the trenches cut for the installation of the sewer system needed to service the new housing. This involved monitoring a zone between the Ousegate frontage and the south of the site, and a zone running east from the access road to a point between house plots 24 and 66, and to the south of plots 1-10 Also observed were the excavations of the foundations and ring beams for house plots 1-10, 11/12, 14/15, 16-24, 31-46 and 51-75. Heavy plant, in the form of 360° tracked mechanical excavators, worked to depths of between 0.5m and

4m depending on the purpose of excavation. Due to the loose nature of the natural subsoils, which were mainly sandy clays, and demolition deposits which overlaid the natural deposits, steel box shuttering was employed which both maintained stability, but obscured the trench sections once installed; hence it was not possible to examine in detail deposits deeper than 1.2m BGL.

3. LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site lies south-east of Selby town centre (east of Selby Abbey) on the south bank of the Ouse at the eastern end of Ousegate, and the northern end of Shipyard Road. The whole site measured c.250m east – west and c.140m north – south. Whilst the ground is relatively even in this area of Selby, the site slopes down slightly towards the south and there was c.1m of demolition debris (from the warehouses which until recently stood on the site) overlying the natural ground level in the site the surface of which lies at c. 5.5m AOD.

The drift geology is clays, sands, silts and Kelfield Marl which overlies solid geology of Bunter Sandstone, Coal, Limestone, and Permian Marls.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The watching brief was undertaken because it was thought likely it would reveal aspects of Selby's history in this area. A summary of the archaeology of the area is given below but a more detailed account can be found in the desk top study (Evans 2002) and the evaluation excavation report (Evans 2003) both of which also contain a section listing and discussing the principal cartographic evidence.

4.1 Prehistoric-Roman (Up to the 5th century AD)

Evidence for the prehistoric period is not prolific in the Selby area, but polished stone axes of the Neolithic period have been found at Barmby Moor, Camblesforth Common, Church Fenton, Skipwith and Wheldrake. Bronze-age palstaves (axes) have come from Howden, and a gold ring of similar date was found at Cawood. An Iron Age log boat has been found at Hasholme.

The Roman road from Doncaster to York passes close to Selby and is still visible as a prominent ridge near Monk Fryston. Roman kilns have been discovered at Throlam Farm, Holme on Spalding Moor, and pottery of this period has also come from Hemingbrough. A Romano-British villa and settlement is known at Drax. Large quantities of pottery from East Haddlesley may indicate the site of another settlement or possibly a villa. A borehole evaluation in 1992, on land to the north of Gowthorpe and south of Selby Dam, suggested that waterlogged occupation deposits of Roman date lay in this area in the centre of Selby (NYM 10424). In 1998 a watching brief on the foundations for a new block of flats at the junction of Ousegate and New Street (NY 267) recorded ditches and possible levelling deposits of the

Roman period quite close to the proposed development site.

4.2 Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian (5th - 11th century AD)

There is slight but potentially significant evidence for the Anglian period in the area. An 8th century spearhead was found at Ferrybridge Power Station, and a very rare Carolingian winged spearhead, known to be used for hunting, came from the river Ouse at Kelfield. Nearer to the site at Ousegate, in the 19th century skeletons in hollowed out tree trunk coffins were found around Church Hill (NYM 10426) and, although they are difficult to date, they probably date to the Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian periods. The place-name Selby itself (with its –by suffix) implies a settlement of Anglo-Scandinavian origin, although little archaeological evidence has yet been found for this. Skeletons found at Riccall Landing, north of the town, at various times during the 19th and 20th centuries are normally ascribed to the Anglo-Scandinavian period and may be victims of the battles between the English and Norwegian armies in 1066.

4.3 Medieval (11th - 16th century AD)

Evidence for this period is plentiful in the Selby area and includes possible occupation deposits found at 20 Church Hill in 1973 (NYM 10430). A watching brief in 1996 on Yorkshire Water trenches in Ousegate, Water Lane and other streets close to the abbey located burials, deposits and finds of the period (NYM 10450) while a watching brief at The Masonic Hall, Church Hill (NY 557) also recorded deposits of this date and possible pits. Foundations of stone and accompanying burials from Church Hill (NYM 10433) are believed to belong to the Chapel of St. Germanus which was recorded in the 13th century, but fell into decay by the 17th century. A 1997 watching brief in Micklegate / Finkle Street recorded occupation deposits and timbers of medieval date and walls (NY 471). Probable occupation deposits were noted from a site in Church Hill, west of the Three Swans public house in 1996 (NYM 10430) and stratified deposits, features and structures of the 11th century and later were encountered during a evaluation at Irwin's Yard, Micklegate in 1996 (NYM 10430). In the area known as The Vivars, some 250m to the south-west of the Ousegate site a 1994 watching brief recovered medieval pottery including at least one waster. An evaluation in this area in 1995 located probable medieval deposits and a possible fish pond (NYM 10446). An earthwork survey of the area demonstrated the survival of ridge and furrow of the period. Investigations at 16 Gowthorpe in 1997 (NYM 10430) located boundary ditches and a late medieval structure. Waterlogged occupation deposits of the medieval period were encountered in the borehole evaluation north of Gowthorpe and south of Selby Dam. A watching brief on trenches dug between Scott Road and Selby Abbey in 1998 recorded medieval structures, surfaces and deposits, some of them organic (NY 546). Solid masonry walls observed in the 19th century in Finkle Street were thought to be traces of a Norman castle. A cobbled pavement and steps, seen 3 ½ feet down, in the Gowthorpe, Market Place, and Finkle Street areas, also in the 19th century, may be parts of medieval streets and a structure. Medieval features, deposits and structures were located and recorded during the watching brief at the junction of Ousegate and New Street (NY 267).

4.4 Post- Medieval (mid 16th - mid 19th century)

There is a good deal of archaeological evidence for this period from the Ousegate area. Post-medieval build-up and demolition deposits were recorded at 20 Church Hill together with pottery of up to the 17th century in date. Pottery, other finds, and deposits of the period also came from Yorkshire Water trenches in Ousegate/Water Lane. The watching brief at Micklegate / Finkle Street in 1997 found quantities of metal working slag and a well possibly of this period. Post-medieval deposits were also noted in the boreholes north of Gowthorpe and demolition deposits, and dumps or levelling deposits were recorded from the Scott Road to Selby Abbey trenches (NY 546). Finally, structures, deposits and features of the post-medieval period were encountered during the watching brief at the junction of Ousegate and New Street.

4.5 Modern (mid 19th – 21st century)

There is much evidence for the modern period in the surrounding area. Modern demolition deposits were noted from 20, Church Hill and modern disturbed ground from the Ousegate / Water Lane trenches. The 1995 evaluation at The Vivars encountered modern build-deposits and dumps while a watching brief at Gant Walk, to the rear of Church Lane, in 1998 recorded modern dumps and 19th century build-ups (NYM 10430). A watching brief at 25 Finkle Street in 1997 noted a modern structure and dumps and a watching brief at the junction of Ousegate and New Street in 1998 encountered modern structures and deposits.

5. THE WATCHING BRIEF

Due to the size of the site, it has been found convenient to divide the discoveries in the watching brief into four parts:

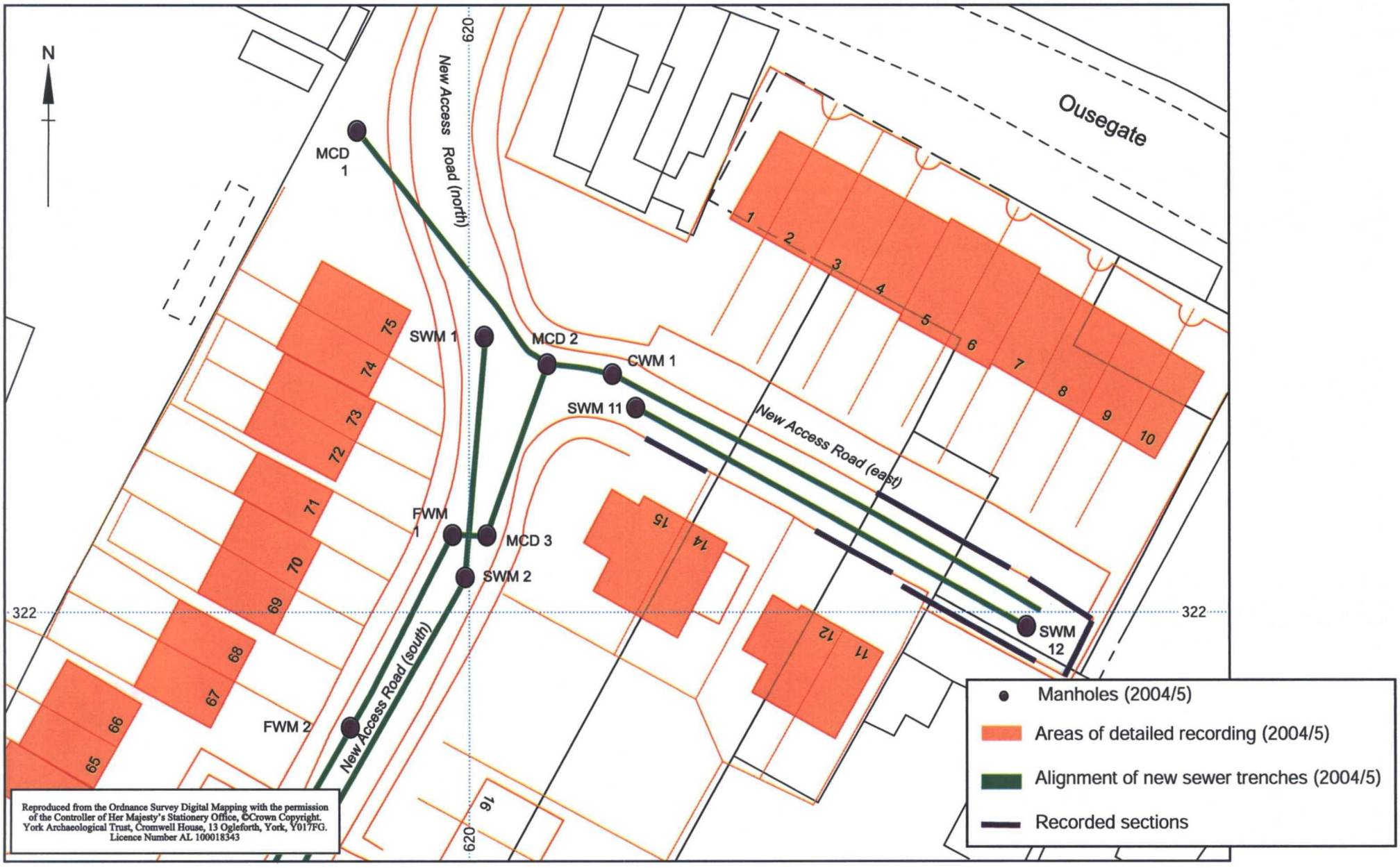
1) Manhole excavations
2) Manhole connection trenches
3) Access road stripping
4) Foundation / ring beams excavations for house plots 1-10, 11/12, 14/15, 16-24, 31-46 and 51-75

5.1 Manhole Excavations (Figs 3 and 4)

The manholes were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator to an average depth of 3m BGL, commencing with the ceramic foul water pipe system and then the concrete surface water pipes parallel to these. They were followed by branches off to the south-east of the site leading towards a modern culvert. All the foul water and surface water manhole excavations described below measured c.2m x 2m and were excavated to a maximum depth of 3m BGL.

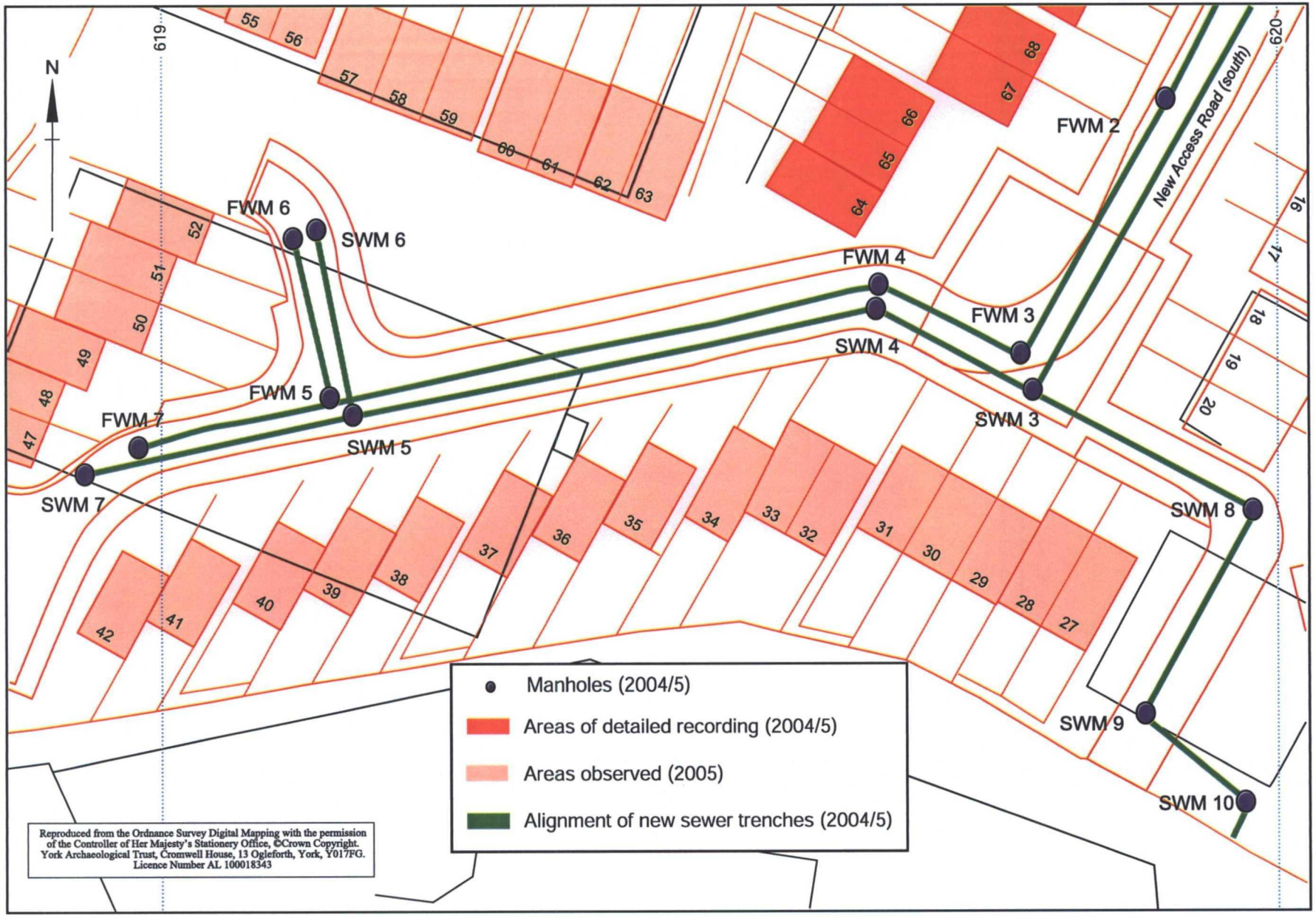
5.1.1 Foul Water Manhole 1

At a depth of *c.*1m BGL, was a firm, mid brown clay (8001), very probably the undisturbed



N.B Plot numbers as on Brierley Groom & Associates Drwg. No. B145.03.50

Fig. 3 Location of observations along the northerly section of the New Access Road (south) ;together with observed works along New Access Roads north and south



N.B Plot numbers as on Brierley Groom & Associates Drwg. No. B145.03.50

Fig. 4 Location of observations along the southerly section of New Access Road (south)

natural subsoil, which became very sandy towards the north. Above this was a 0.3m thick probable levelling deposit of compact, black clayey silt which contained modern debris and mortar fragments (8002). This was sealed by a 0.15m thick layer of bricks, perhaps a floor surface, which was set in a pale yellow mortar (8003). Above this was a 0.3m thick deposit of uncertain function but possibly a demolition or levelling deposit. It was a compact, dark grey silt which contained clinker, crushed concrete and stone (8004). The uppermost deposit was loose, light greyish-brown coarse sand (8005) which contained brick fragments and mortar, and was the demolition debris of the buildings which stood on the site.

5.1.2. Foul Water Manhole 2

At *c.*1.55m BGL, was a firm, mid brown sticky clay (9001), probably the undisturbed natural subsoil. Above this was a 0.5m thick, mid brown clayey sand (9002), also probably undisturbed natural subsoil. This was sealed by a 0.2m thick layer of black clayey silt, probably an accumulation deposit, which contained occasional fragments of white mortar (9003). Above 9003 was a 0.4m thick deposit of mid brown silt which contained modern brick and concrete fragments (9004). The uppermost deposit was loose, light greyish-brown coarse sand which contained brick fragments and mortar (9005). Both 9004 and 9005 were probably demolition or levelling deposits.

5.1.3 Foul Water Manhole 3

At *c.*1.3m BGL, was firm, mid brown clay which contained lenses of mid yellow clay (11001). It was almost certainly undisturbed natural subsoil. Above this was a 0.3m thick, mid brown clayey sand (11002), also thought to be natural subsoil. This was sealed by a 0.25m thick accumulation deposit of black clayey silt (11003). Above this was a compact, mid brown silt which was 0.4m thick and contained lots of brick rubble and mortar fragments (11004). This was sealed by a firm, dark grey silt deposit 0.2m thick (11005). The uppermost deposit was a loose, light greyish-brown coarse sand which contained brick fragments and mortar (11006). Contexts 11004-6 were all probable levelling or demolition deposits.

5.1.4 Foul Water Manhole 4

At *c.*2m BGL was a firm, mid greyish-brown clay (12001). It was thought to be the natural subsoil. Above this was a soft, dark grey clay which contained brick rubble and modern debris and was 1m thick (12002).This was sealed with a 1m thick deposit of light brown gravelley clay which contained brick rubble, concrete and demolition debris (12003). Both 12002 and 12003 were probably modern demolition or levelling deposits.

5.1.5 Foul Water Manhole 5

From *c.*2m BGL, to a level 1.15m BGL was a mid greyish-brown sticky clay (13001) which was probably originally natural, but somewhat disturbed since it contained demolition debris, brick

fragments, occasional sherds of modern pottery, carpet and twisted modern metal fragments. Above this was a possible levelling deposit of loose, mid grey angular sandy gravels (13002), 0.2m thick, which was encountered at *c.*0.65m BGL (13002). This was sealed by a 0.15m thick deposit of loose, pinkish-white angular sandy gravels (13003), also a possible levelling deposit. The uppermost deposit, again thought to be a levelling deposit, was a loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (13004).

5.1.6 Foul Water Manhole 6

The earliest deposit recorded was a mid greyish-brown sticky clay (6001) which was disturbed natural, and contained demolition debris, brick fragments, occasional sherds of modern pottery, carpet and twisted modern metal fragments and most of a wrecked truck or tractor, the wheels and tyres of which were dumped either side of the manhole. This deposit was encountered at *c.*1m BGL. Above this was a deposit of loose, mid grey angular sandy gravel (6002), 0.2m thick, encountered at c.0.8m BGL. This was sealed by a 0.2m thick deposit of loose, pinkish-white angular sandy gravel (6003). The uppermost deposit was a loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which was 0.6m thick and contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (6004). Contexts 6002-4 were all probably levelling deposits.

5.1.7 Foul Water Manhole 7

The earliest deposit noted was a mid greyish-brown sticky clay (7001) which was disturbed natural, and contained demolition debris, brick fragments, occasional sherds of modern pottery, carpet and twisted modern metal fragments and parts of a wrecked truck or tractor. This deposit was encountered at *c.*1m BGL. Above this was a deposit of loose, mid grey angular sandy gravel, 0.2m thick, encountered at *c.*0.8m BGL (7002). This was sealed by a 0.2m thick deposit of loose, pinkish-white angular sandy gravel (7003). The uppermost deposit was a loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which was 0.6m thick and contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (7004). Contexts 7002-4 were probably modern levelling deposits.

5.1.8 Surface Water Manhole 1

At *c.*2.5m BGL, there was a soft, yellowish-brown sand (10001) that became clayey to the south-west. This was thought to be the natural subsoil, first encountered at *c.*2m BGL. Above this was a soft, yellowish-brown silty sand that contained frequent charcoal fragments and half burned twigs (10002). This layer was *c.*0.8m thick. Above 10002 was a thin deposit of soft, brown sandy silt (10003) which was thought to be an accumulation deposit. It contained three pieces of pottery, all of 19th century date, a copper alloy disc (SF 00026), occasional brick / tile fragments and frequent fragments of charcoal. This deposit was deepest to the south-west of the manhole excavation, here *c.*0.13m thick, but the north edge of the deposit was not

distinct; a trial dig showed the edge tapering out gradually giving the deposit a wedge shape in section. The wedge shape could have been the result of undulations in subsoil or perhaps site levelling.

Deposit 10003 was cut by a grave (10004) for at least two dogs. The grave cut was 1.3m x 0.5m and contained a firm, mottled yellow-brown sand (10005) and the skeletons of at least two dogs. The dogs were accompanied by their leather leash straps, 19th or 20th century pottery and one fragment of tile. Cut into the backfill of the canine grave were two stake-holes (10006-7) which contained loose, greyish-black silty sand (10008-9), and must be modern in date. Cut from the same level was a post-hole (10010), 0.4m in diameter. It had a backfill of firm, mottled yellow-brown sand and occasional fragments of charcoal (10011). Sealing 10003 was a 0.25m thick deposit of firm, slightly clayey, mid grey silt (10012), possibly an accumulation deposit. The uppermost deposit in this area was 0.3m thick, a loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (10013). This deposit, probably levelling, also contained a large medieval architectural fragment, of Magnesian Limestone 380mm x 260mm x 140mm that incorporated a drip channel 380mm x 150mm x 30mm (see section 6.1 for detailed description). This artefact probably came from a locally demolished building but it may have been brought from further afield and dumped on site.

5.1.9 Surface Water Manhole 2

At *c.*2m BGL, was a firm, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand (20001) that was first encountered at 0.9m BGL. This deposit was thought to be undisturbed natural subsoil. Above this was a 0.4m thick deposit of stiff, dark grey slightly silty clay, possibly a levelling deposit, which contained occasional fragments of coal and also fragments of tile and brick (20002). Deposit 20002 had been heavily disturbed and contaminated. The uppermost deposit was a loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which was 0.6m thick and contained brick fragments, mortar, metal fragments and modern demolition debris (20003).

5.1.10 Surface Water Manhole 3

At 1.3m BGL, was a firm, mid brown clay which contained lenses of mid yellow clay (30001). It was considered to be the undisturbed natural subsoil. Above it there was a 0.3m thick, mid brown clayey sand (30002), also part of the natural subsoil. This was sealed by a 0.25m thick, black clayey silt (30003) probably a modern accumulation deposit. Above this was compact, mid brown silt which was 0.4m thick and contained lots of brick rubble and mortar fragments (30004) and was a levelling deposit. This was sealed by a dark grey silt deposit 0.2m thick, which was probably the late 20th century ground level, and contained bricks and demolition debris (30005). The uppermost deposit, the then current ground surface, was a loose, light greyish-brown coarse sand which contained brick fragments and mortar (30006).

5.1.11 Surface Water Manhole 4

In this excavation the earliest deposit was a firm, dark greyish-brown silty sandy clay which was contaminated and contained brick rubble, modern demolition debris and metalliferous debris (40001). This deposit was encountered at a depth of *c.*1.4m BGL. Above this was a soft, dark reddish-brown clay that was also contaminated and contained brick rubble and demolition debris (40002). This deposit was 0.4m thick and was encountered at 1m BGL. Deposit 40002 was sealed with a 1m thick deposit of light brown gravelley clay which contained brick rubble, concrete and demolition debris (40003). All of these contexts may have been modern levelling and / or demolition deposits.

5.1.12 Surface Water Manhole 5

Encountered at *c.*2m BGL, at the base of the excavation, was a dark greyish-brown-black sticky clay which was probably disturbed and contaminated natural subsoil, containing demolition debris, brick fragments, occasional sherds of modern pottery, carpet, plastic, structural timber beams and twisted modern metal fragments (50001). Above this, encountered at *c.*0.6m BGL, was a deposit of loose, mid grey angular sandy gravel, 1m thick, which contained large quantities of crushed brick and shattered ceramic tiles and pipes (50002). It was sealed by a 0.15m thick deposit of loose, pinkish-white angular sandy gravel (50003) which formed a levelling deposit. Above this was a second, coarser, more compact deposit of white sandy gravel (50004), which was 0.2m thick. The uppermost deposit was loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (50005) and was 0.25m thick.

5.1.13 Surface Water Manhole 6

The earliest deposit recorded was a mid greyish-brown sticky clay which was the disturbed natural subsoil, and contained demolition debris, brick fragments, occasional sherds of modern pottery, carpet and twisted modern metal fragments as well as wheels and tyres from a wrecked tractor or truck (60001). This deposit was encountered at *c.*1m BGL. Above this was a deposit of loose, mid grey angular sandy gravel, 0.2m thick, encountered at *c.*0.8m BGL (60002). This was sealed by a 0.2m thick deposit of loose, pinkish-white angular sandy gravel (60003). The uppermost deposit was a loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which was 0.6m thick and contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (60004). Contexts 60002-4 may all have been levelling deposits.

5.1.14 Surface Water Manhole 7

The earliest deposit noted was a mid greyish-brown sticky clay which was disturbed natural subsoil, and contained demolition debris, brick fragments, occasional sherds of modern pottery, carpet and twisted modern metal fragments (70001). This deposit was encountered

at *c.*1m BGL and also contained most of a wrecked truck or tractor. Above this was a levelling deposit of loose, mid grey angular sandy gravel, 0.2m thick, encountered c.0.8m BGL (70002). This was sealed by a 0.2m thick deposit of loose, pinkish-white angular sandy gravel (70003). The uppermost deposit was a loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which was 0.6m thick and contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (70004). Both 70003 and 70004 were probably levelling deposits.

5.1.15 Surface Water Manhole 8

The earliest deposit recorded was an undisturbed natural deposit of firm, light brown sandy clay (80001) which was encountered at *c.*1.1m BGL. In the eastern corner of the pit there was a cut (80008), possibly of a post-medieval drain or culvert. The backfill of this was re-deposited natural that was slightly reddish in colour and contained occasional pantile fragments (80007). Above this was a friable, mid brown silty sand, probably a levelling deposit (80002). Sealing this was a compact, black clayey silt (80003), which was probably an accumulation deposit. Overlying 80003 was a compact, mid brown silt which was 0.4m thick and contained lots of brick rubble and mortar fragments (80004) and was a levelling deposit This was sealed by a dark grey silt deposit, 0.2m thick, which was probably the late 20th century ground surface make-up, and contained bricks and demolition debris (80005). The uppermost deposit was a levelling or demolition deposit of loose, light greyish-brown coarse sand which contained brick fragments and mortar (80006).

5.1.16 Surface Water Manhole 9

The earliest deposit was an undisturbed natural deposit of firm, light brown sandy clay (90001) which was encountered at *c.*1.1m BGL. Above this was a friable, mid brown silty sand (90002), possibly a disturbed natural subsoil, 0.3m thick. This deposit contained occasional flecks of charcoal and fragmentary pieces of brick and tile. Overlying 90002 was a disturbed silty clay (90003) *c.*0.1m thick, which was in part removed or dispersed as part of a levelling exercise. This deposit was sealed by a levelling deposit which consisted of compact, sandy gravelly clay and rubble (90004). This deposit also contained modern pottery, brick and tile fragments, full bricks, cobbles and occasional metal rubbish. Sealing 90004 was a probable levelling or demolition deposit of loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which was 0.15m thick and contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (90005).

5.1.17 Surface Water Manhole 10

The lowest deposit encountered was a soft yellowish-brown clayey sand (100001) which was encountered at 2.1m BGL and was excavated to a depth of 2.4m BGL. This was believed to be the undisturbed natural subsoil and had no archaeological features present. Above this was a 0.5m thick deposit of soft, brown clayey sand which contained occasional fine sub rounded pebbles (100002), also probably an undisturbed natural subsoil. This was sealed by a 1m

thick deposit of disturbed, soft, brown sandy clay which contained occasional fine pebbles and occasional fragments of brick (100003). Sealing 100003 was a compact deposit of slightly greyish-white angular gravel which was 0.3m thick (100004). The uppermost deposit was a loose, light greyish-brown coarse sand that was 0.3m thick and contained brick fragments and mortar (100005). Both 100004 and 100005 were probably levelling deposits.

5.1.18 Surface Water Manhole 11

Not observed.

5.1.19 Surface Water Manhole 12

Not observed.

5.1.20 Clear Water Manhole 1

This shaft was 3m x 2.7m in plan and dug to a depth of *c*.3m BGL. At the bottom of the excavation was a soft – compact, greyish-brown slightly sandy clay (9991), the natural subsoil. This was encountered at *c*.2.2m BGL. Above this was a 1.3m thick deposit of compact, yellowish-brown sandy clay that contained occasional brick fragments (9992). This may have been a disturbed natural subsoil. The next deposit up was a loose, light greyish-brown coarse sand which contained brick fragments and mortar (9993) and was up to *c*.0.7m thick. The uppermost deposit was a 0.15m thick layer of yellowish-brown angular pea gravel (9994). Both 9993 and 9994 were probably levelling deposits.

5.1.21 Manhole Culvert Dig 1

At the bottom of the excavation was a firm, mottled, yellowish-brown sandy clay with patches of mid–dark grey clay (9101) which was undisturbed natural. Cut into this, at *c*.3m BGL, there was a brick built sealed culvert (9102), *c.* 1m in diameter, which ran diagonally across the site on a north-west / south-east alignment. This was sealed by a mid yellowish-brown sandy clay (9103) which was probably re-deposited natural similar to 9101 but forming a levelling deposit. Context 9103 extended up to 0.8m BGL. The re-deposited natural (9103) had been cut three times by later ceramic water pipes. Above this was a compact dark grey gravelley clay (9104) that was 0.5m thick and contained modern debris as well as angular fragments of brick. The top most deposit was a loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which was 0.3m thick and contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (9105). Contexts 9104 and 9105 may both have been levelling deposits.

5.1.22. Manhole Culvert Dig 2

At the bottom of the excavation was a firm, mottled, yellowish-brown sandy clay that had pockets of mid–dark grey clay (9201). This was probably undisturbed natural. At *c*.3m BGL,

there was a brick built sealed culvert approximately 1m in external width (9203), which ran diagonally across the site on a north-west / south-east alignment. This was sealed by 9204, which was re-deposited natural similar to 9201, and extended up to 0.8m BGL. Above this was a compact, dark grey gravelley clay that was 0.5m thick and contained modern debris as well as angular fragments of brick (9205). The topmost deposit, a levelling or demolition deposit was a loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which was 0.3m thick and contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (9206).

5.1.23 Manhole Culvert Dig 3

At the bottom of the excavation was a firm, mottled, yellowish-brown sandy clay that had pockets of mid–dark grey clay (9301) which was probably undisturbed natural. At *c.*3m BGL, there was a brick built sealed culvert approximately 1m in external width (9303), which ran diagonally across the site on a north-west / south-east alignment. This was sealed by 9304 which was re-deposited natural (9301) that extended up to 0.8m BGL. Above this was a compact, dark grey gravelley clay that was 0.5m thick and contained modern debris as well as angular fragments of brick (9304). The topmost deposit, a levelling or demolition deposit was a loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which was 0.3m thick and contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (9305).

5.2 Manhole Connection Trenches (Figs 2 - 4)

The sides of the manhole connection trenches were all supported with steel box shuttering sheets 3.53m x 2.47m; the trench width was variable but more often maintained at 1.1m.

The two pipe runs across the east of the site revealed that in places a possibly medieval plough soil survived beneath successive levelling and demolition deposits (see 5.3, below). Two parallel ditches were recorded aligned approximately north-east / south-west and heading towards the river. Both ditches were *c.*0.4m wide x 0.4m deep, but as they were visible only in section, the length could not be ascertained. The first ditch cut (99101) was located *c.*6m east of Manhole Culvert Dig 2. It was filled with a friable, yellowish-grey silty sand (99102). The second ditch cut (99103) was *c.*10m east of Manhole Culvert Dig 2. It was filled with a firm, greyish-brown sandy clay silt (99104) that contained salt glaze pottery and tile fragments.

Also visible were brick walls, aligned north-east / south-west, which represented the foundations of previously demolished brick-built buildings. The presence of these foundations represented buildings extending back from Ousegate front, as is indicated on the 1908 Ordnance Survey map. (Fig. 5)

The run between Surface Water Manholes 1 and 3, partly aligned north-south and partly north-east / south-west, indicated that towards the frontage of Ousegate there had been little recent ground disturbance. However in the vicinity of Surface Water Manhole 3 there was dumping and demolition debris present to below the limit of excavation. The run from Manhole Culvert

Dig 2 to Culvert Dig 3 was not observed in as much detail as excavation was carried out within the limits of the steel box shuttering, so as to avoid the risk of collapse. The excavated material was placed directly onto trucks and taken off site. This also was the case with the run from Manhole Culvert Dig 1 to Culvert Dig 2.

The run from Surface Water Manhole 1 to Surface Water Manhole 2 was observed and revealed a buried plough or topsoil which in section was seen to be cut in a series of peaks and troughs *c.*1m peak to peak which would have run south-east / north-west. This could be the evidence of small scale horticultural rather than agricultural activity. The 1851 Ordnance Survey map has an orchard on this part of the site.

The connections between Surface Water Manhole 8 and Surface Water Manhole 9 also revealed what appeared to be a buried soil. Approximately 1m north-east of Surface Water Manhole 9 there was a possible feature (90006), a pit or a ditch aligned south-east / north-west and cut into the subsoil (90008). The feature was *c.*6m wide, *c.*0.3m deep, and was filled with a stiff, dark greyish-brown organic clay (90007) which contained several brick and slate fragments. The connection between Surface Water Manholes 9 and 10 just penetrated undisturbed natural. The right-angled stretch at the far south-east of the site produced nothing of significance but was quite disturbed, probably from the demolished pumping station which had stood on the site. In the run from Surface Water Manhole 3 to Surface Water Manhole 8 the natural became progressively more stained and the presence of dumped material increased. Two possible north-east / south-west aligned linear features were observed at *c.*12m and 14m west of Surface Water Manhole 8, but contained modern debris and were probably the result of staining and leaching from the dumped material.

Natural subsoils were not reached in the trenches in the south-western part of the site since modern waste disposal deposits and brick fragments extended below the level of the excavations. The amount of waste and dumping continued to increase during the transit from Foul Water / Surface Water Manhole 4 to Foul Water / Surface Water Manhole 7, and it seems that this land had been used as a dumping ground for agricultural and industrial waste. The deposits below the *c.*1m thick demolition layer at the modern surface were sandy clays which were stained black and contained both organic and inorganic dumping which was accompanied by a foul odour.

5.3 The New Access Road (Figs 3-4)

The access road excavation, *c.* 6m wide, involved three principal elements. Firstly, an approximately north–south stretch (Figure 4) running from Ousegate to the site of Surface Water Manhole 1. This stretch is referred to in this report as New Access Road (north). The second element, aligned approximately north-west / south-east and referred to as New Access Road (east), branched off from the New Access Road (north) at SWM 1 and ran up to the eastern boundary of the site. The third principal element, termed New Access Road (south)

aligned approximately north-east / south-west began at SWM 1 and ran as far as SWM 3. The excavation of the roughly north-south stretch was monitored from a point north of Foul Water Manhole 3 (between house plots 20 and 64) to the Ousegate frontage. The work commenced north of Surface Water Manhole 3 and was undertaken using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket (except for removing concrete etc) to an average depth of 0.8m BGL on the north-south stretch but deeper, up to c.1.2m, in the east-west branch due to softer natural.

5.3.1 Access Road (south)

At the base of the south-western end of the excavation (between house plots 24 and 67) there was a yellowish-brown sandy clay (9901), at *c.*0.6m BGL, which was heavily disturbed by demolition and was probably a variation of the undisturbed natural subsoil. Above this was a 0.2m thick layer of dark greyish-black gravelley silt (9902), which was probably a compacted and disturbed accumulation deposit. This was sealed by a loose, light greyish-brown gravelley sand which contained brick fragments, mortar and modern demolition debris (9903) and was up to 0.4m thick. During the excavation around Foul Water Manhole 2, two fragments of a piece of sandstone wall coping were found. It is likely that these fragments belong to a demolished wall no older than the late 19th Century. A large chalk block was unearthed 3m north of Foul Water Manhole 2.

5.3.2 Access Road (north)

The excavation for the approach to the Ousegate street frontage revealed fewer disturbances than the rest of the access road dig. At the lower limit of excavation (c.0.7m BGL) there was a soft, light brown clayey sand (9904) which was observed towards the south of this northern part of the access road and became progressively sandier towards Ousegate. Deposit 9904 was probably undisturbed natural subsoil and was exposed just at the base limit of the dig. Several modern brick fragments and modern pottery sherds were found at the top of this deposit and it is likely that they originated in an overlying disturbed accumulation deposit of compact, dark greyish-brown silt (9905). This deposit contained demolition debris, and modern rubbish. All pottery found was modern. Above 9905 was a concretion of bricks, cobbles and demolition debris (9906) which became less concreted towards the south. This deposit varied from 0.3m to 0.4m in thickness. This was sealed by a 70mm thick grey tarmac layer (9907), which petered out completely 15m south-west of Ousegate and was in turn sealed by a levelling deposit of mainly coarse gravel with some brick rubble and dark grey silt (9908) *c.*10m from Ousegate. The deposits at *c.*25m south-west of Ousegate continued in this sequence into the curve as the road turns towards the south-east. At this point (3m north-east of Manhole Culvert Dig 2) the lowest context was a yellowish-brown sandy clay (9909) encountered at 0.6m BGL. Above this was a probable accumulation deposit, 0.15m thick, of compact, dark greyish-brown silt (9910), which was disturbed and contained modern pottery and rubbish. Above this was a levelling deposit of loose, light greyish brown gravelley sand (9911) that was *c.*0.3m thick

in this area. One pig of iron, which was not retained, was found in Context 9903 which was probably less than 100 years old. It had possibly been used as ballast in ships on the River Ouse or Selby Canal.

5.3.3 Access Road (East)

When work on the north-south stretch of the Access Road had reached the cluster of manholes Foul Water Manhole 1, Surface Water Manhole 2 and Manhole Culvert Dig 3, excavation began on the south-east / north-west branch at its south-eastern end, behind the Lord Nelson public house car park.

The south-west and north-west facing sections revealed in the excavation at the eastern end of the access road were observed and recorded to a depth of *c.*1.2m BGL. At the base of the dig, 0.95m BGL, there was a compact, light brown sandy clay (99001) which was probably disturbed natural subsoil and contained occasional flecks of charcoal and two pieces of post-medieval pottery. Above this was a 0.3m thick accumulation deposit of compact, dark greyish -brown ashy silty clay which contained brick and tile fragments, modern pottery, clay pipe stem fragments and one white oyster shell (99002). A piece of 16th – 17th century pottery was also recovered from 99002 but this is likely to be residual. The deposit was probably levelling derived from domestic waste. This was sealed by a 0.2m thick deposit of loose, soft, white sand (99003) which was levelling encountered across most of the eastern part of the site. Above this was a loose, light greyish-brown sandy gravel with demolition debris (99004).

This sequence was unchanged for 7m from the south-east end of the access road before a 2m square service cut made by the developers. North-west of the service cut it seemed that deposits 99001-3 had been dug out and replaced by demolition debris from an earlier brick built building (99005) of which remains were encountered at 0.6m BGL extending to 1m BGL (lower limit of excavation). They were sealed by a firm, orange sandy clay (99006), certainly a levelling deposit, that was 0.2m thick. Above 99006 was a deposit of loose, yellowish-white sandy gravel (99007), which was 0.1m thick. This deposit was probably the same as 99003 encountered to the south-east of the service cut and formed a surface or levelling deposit. Above 99007 was a loose, light greyish-brown sandy gravel which contained demolition debris (99000), probably another levelling deposit. This sequence continued for a distance of *c.* 15m to the north-west where evidence of demolished brick walls became visible, which were heavily damaged during the road stripping. These walls were visible during the excavation of the parallel surface water and requisition sewer pipe trenches and probably represent 19th century demolished houses or perhaps the demolished warehouse buildings belonging to General Freight Ltd, the last occupiers of the site.

Three stretches of north-east facing section along the eastern access road were recorded. At the north-western end of the road strip the lowest layer was a demolition or levelling deposit of firm, dark greyish-brown silt (99010) containing moderate amounts of brick and domestic

debris. Overlying this was a levelling deposit of orange clayey sand (99009). The uppermost deposit, the existing ground surface, was a mixture of dark grey silt, crushed brick and gravel (99008). No confirmed natural subsoil was recorded.

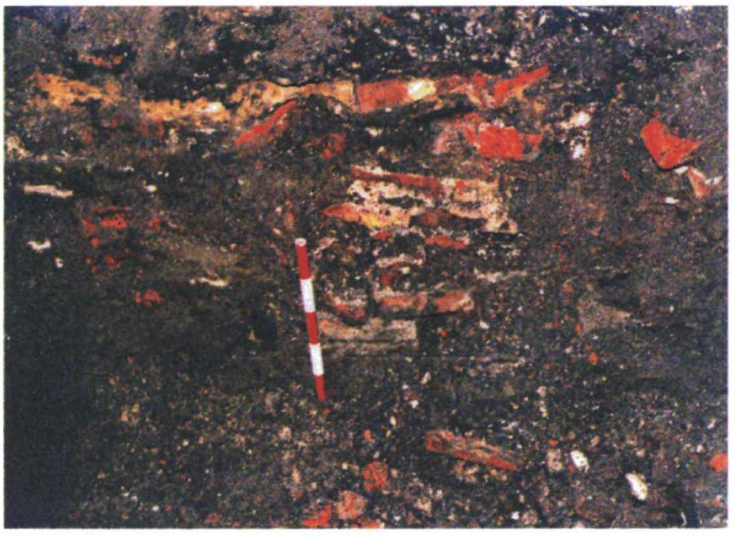


Plate 1 Section through Wall 99012, looking south-west

A second section was recorded *c.*25m from the south-east end of the eastern access road. The earliest context observed was a wall (99019), aligned approximately north-west / south-east. It was mainly of stone blocks but at least one brick was also part of the wall. It was only seen in section so its width remains uncertain but it stood just 0.14m high and lay at *c.*0.7m BGL. It was sealed by a demolition deposit of brick rubble and mortar (99018) and above this was a probable levelling deposit composed of mid orange sand (99017). Overlying 99017 was a levelling deposit of gravel (99016), some 50mm thick. The uppermost deposit, a modern levelling deposit was a mixture of dark grey silt and brick rubble (99015).

In the third section, towards the south-east end of the eastern access road, the earliest deposit was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (99020) believed to be the undisturbed natural subsoil. Above this was a thin, *c.*60mm, layer of dark greyish-black silt containing many oyster shells (99011) probably an accumulation deposit. This context also produced much pottery, a floor tile, glass fragments and a clay pipe stem but it was all modern, or relatively modern, in date. Over 99101 there was a brick wall (99012) of uncertain height and width but aligned approximately north-east / south-west. It was butted by a mixture of gravel and mid yellowish-brown clayey sand (99013) which was sealed by a deposit of black clinker (99014), 0.1m thick. The uppermost layer was composed of brick rubble and dark grey silt (99021). Contexts 99013, 99014 and 99021 were all probably levelling deposits.

5.4 The House Plots

5.4.1 House Plots 1 –10

Much of the area of House Plots 1-10, on the north-east side of the site facing Ousegate, was badly disturbed by modern structures and features and so it was recorded mainly photographically, but some more detailed records were made of House Plots 8 and 9. Due to the nature of the