



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST – WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	26a-27a Silver Street, Whitby		
CLIENT NAME	Loughran Gray Property Developments Ltd.		
YAT PROJECT #	5138	YAT REPORT #	2008/76
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	NZ 8970 1109
PLANNING REFERENCE #	05/01787/FL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a
ARCHIVE LOCATION	York Archaeological Trust		
DATE OF VISIT	10 April 2008		

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the ground works associated with the preparation of the site for redevelopment. The demolition and clearance of the previous buildings had exposed the lower wall foundations and earlier floor services associated with the building and two features of uncertain function that had to be investigated prior to the creation of a piling platform for the mini piles for the new building. The site is located on a terrace and approximately 1.5m lower than Silver Street. There is retaining wall along the eastern edge of the site with a lower terrace on the eastern side of the wall.

The original building was 23m long and divided into three rooms; the central room measuring 7.7m wide, the southern most room 7.3m and the northern room 5.3m wide. The southern room had a brick floor consisting of 19th century machine made bricks. The central and northern rooms had lost the majority of their original floor surfaces although there was a brick floor on the eastern side of the central room. The internal area of these rooms and the area within these rooms was a firm dark grey silt with fragments of brick rubble. This material also appeared in the area around the building and the walls may have been cut through it. Within the central room was a circular brick feature that appeared to be a well, 1m in diameter, lined with cement. It was 2m north of the internal dividing wall with the southern room and 1m off the eastern external wall. The upper courses of the well were removed to bring them below the level required for the new building. Excavation with a mini digger down the side of the well to a depth of 1m showed that the dark grey silt continued to the limit of excavation. This deposit is either a levelling deposit or horticultural soil. It contained several fragments of late 18th – mid 19th century pottery.

In the northern room there was a metal, circular feature of uncertain function associated with a brick built channel, 0.20m wide and a brick hard standing adjacent to the northern internal wall of the central room. The brick hard standing ended 3m from the eastern external wall of the building and was 1m x 1m and made of identical bricks to the floor in the southern room. Excavation down the side of the metal feature showed that the brick floor consisted of four courses. The metal feature was found to be a 'drum' 0.75m radius and 0.75m deep. A possible interpretation for the metal drum, brick surface and channel is some form of machine base associated with an earlier use of the building. The northern limits of the building were not investigated and no other archaeological remains were found.

COMPLETED BY	G. Dean	CHECKED BY	M. Stockwell	PREPARED	29/06/2009
FINDS	Pottery	SAMPLES	No	PHOTOS	Yes
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Plate 1 Brick floor southern room



Plate 2 Central room and well and metal 'drum' (bottom left)

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Plate 3 Brick well and garden soil



Plate 4 Metal 'drum' excavated

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Plate 5 Metal 'drum' and brick channel prior to excavation

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Plate 6 and 7 The northern end of the site showing wall scar and the eastern external wall

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Plate 8 General view of the site towards Flowergate



Plate 9 Eastern site boundary wall

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Plate 10 General view of the rear of 26a and 27a Silver Street

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