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**YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**  
for Excavation and Research Ltd.

PROJECT REPORT 1990.5004

LOCATION: John Smiths Brewery, Tadcaster

GRID REF: SE 48454290

CLIENT: John Brunton Partnership

A watching brief was undertaken at John Smiths Brewery, Tadcaster during ground clearance in preparation for building work to the south-west of the carbon dioxide tanks, adjacent to the Keg Beer Plant. This work was undertaken between 31st August and 1st September 1990.

It was hoped that an opportunity might be gained to record any Roman features which may have survived in the area, most of which are thought to lie within 2 metres of the modern surface. Later periods of occupation may also have been preserved on this relatively recently developed area.

#### THE EXCAVATION

Before the watching brief took place the area designated for excavation, a rectangular block measuring 11.00m x 10.00m, was piled with fifteen 14m piles sunk through the existing concrete surface (See plan). After piling the concrete surface, steel reinforcing mesh and underlying limestone hardcore was removed to a depth of 0.46m.

Beneath this modern material was a surface of reddish-brown sand mottled with a black silty ash. It was indicated to us that in the early days of the brewery this area was used as an unsurfaced storage area for wooden beer barrels, which were stacked on an ash bedding.

Beneath the sand and ash mottling was an orange/brown silty clay, interpreted as natural sub-soil. This surface was cleaned and examined but was found to contain no features. A darker patch in the east of the area was investigated but appeared to be only staining from the layer above.

Once the lowest level had been reached each pile had a small pit dug around it, measuring c.1.10m square and 0.23m deep, in which the pile cap was to be formed. Each pit cut into the orange/brown clay but showed no distinguishing features. The excavation stopped at c0.08m below ground level.

Russell Marwood 10/09/90.

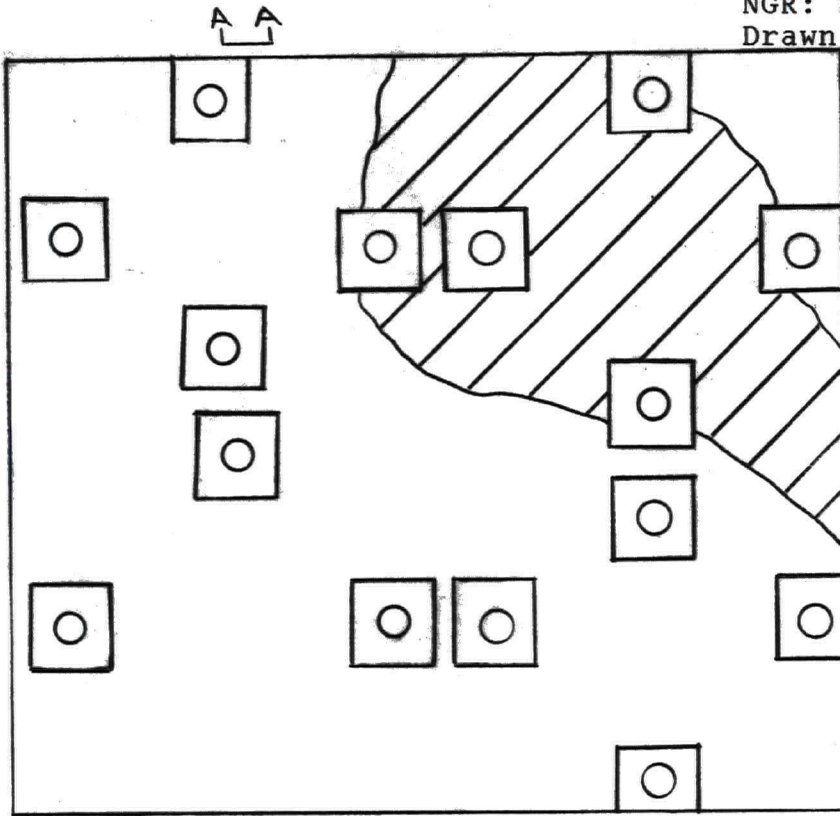




Brewery building

SITE PLAN  
1:100

YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST  
John Smiths Brewery, Tadcaster  
Site code: 1990.5004  
NGR: SE 48454290  
Drawn: R.M. 10/09/90



Showing pile  
positions,  
capping pits  
and stained area



SECTION. A-A  
1:10

