

NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES LTD

Union Terrace Geotechnical Investigation

Negative watching brief Report

Site name: Union Terrace **Administrative Authority:** City of York Council

Client: David Wilson, for Yorkshire Water Services Ltd

Monitoring Archaeologist: Kevin Collins **Project Manager:** Oliver Cooper

Project dates: 13/7/15 to 14/7/15 **Report date:** 30/7/15

NAA project number: 1267 **NAA report number:** 15/95

Reasons for watching brief

Archaeological monitoring was requested by the City of York Archaeologist, to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the area of geotechnical investigation (Figures 1-3). Nearby excavations have identified remains of Roman and medieval date, and there was the potential for such remains to be encountered within test pits, and there was also potential for organic deposits of possible prehistoric date to be encountered at depth. Recent archaeological monitoring during the construction of a flood-water storage tank identified the remains of a well, apparently pre-dating the construction of 19th-century cellars (Figure 3) on Union Terrace (NAA 2013).

Location and Geology

The geology of the York area comprises undifferentiated Permian and Triassic sandstones, overlain predominantly by lacustrine clays, derived from the ancient Lake Humber. However, there are also a series of ridges of glacial boulder clay, one of which is followed by the A19 to the north-west of York. The site lay on the edge of this ridge.

Results

A total of eight pits, each approximately 0.5m by 0.5m, was investigated (Figure 2). These comprised the starter pits for two bore-holes in Union Terrace car park (BH1), and Groves Chapel car park (BH2), five 'window sample' test pits in the rear gardens of numbers 93, 94, 95, 96 and 97 Union Terrace, and a sixth window sample pit in Union Terrace car park.

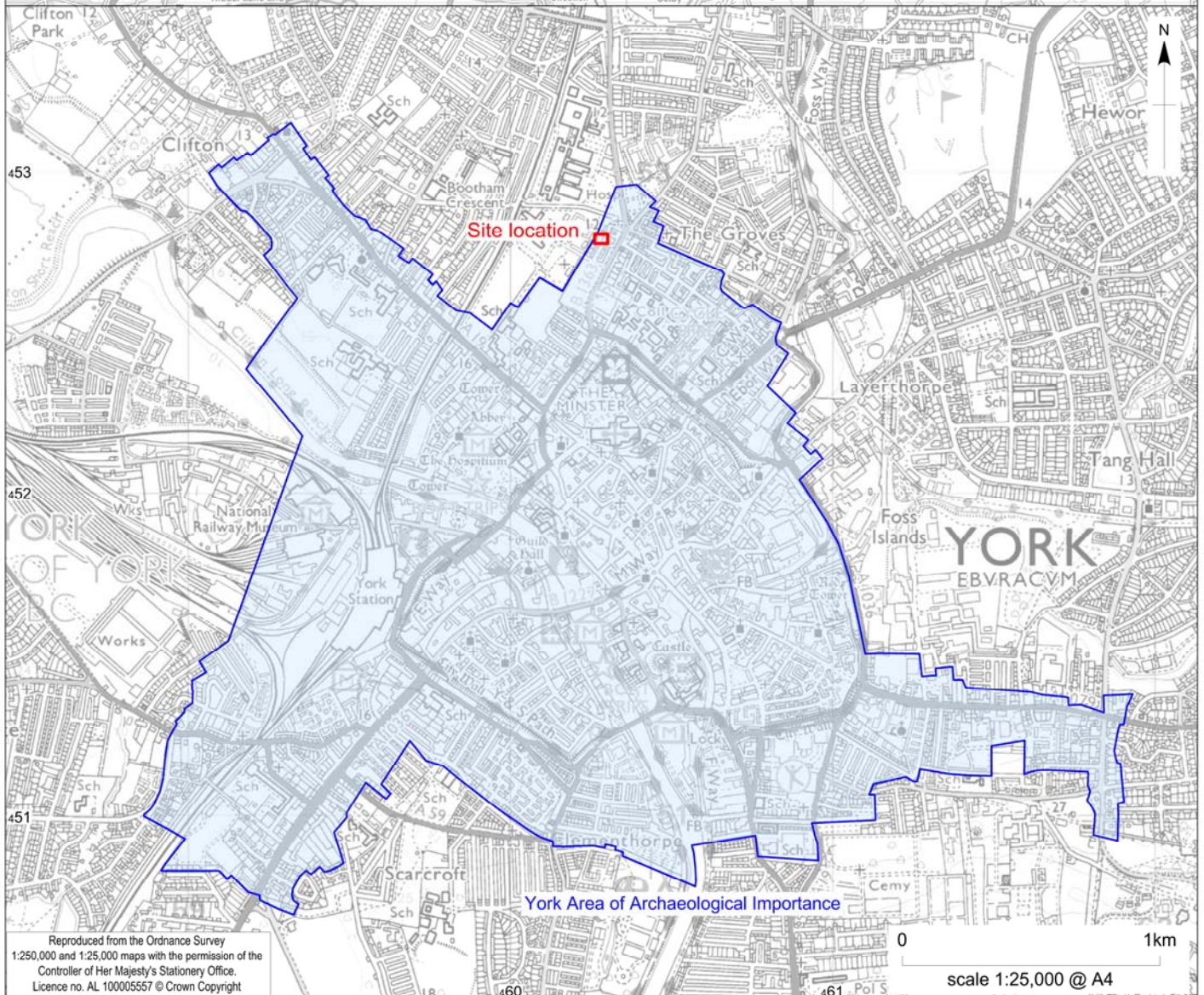
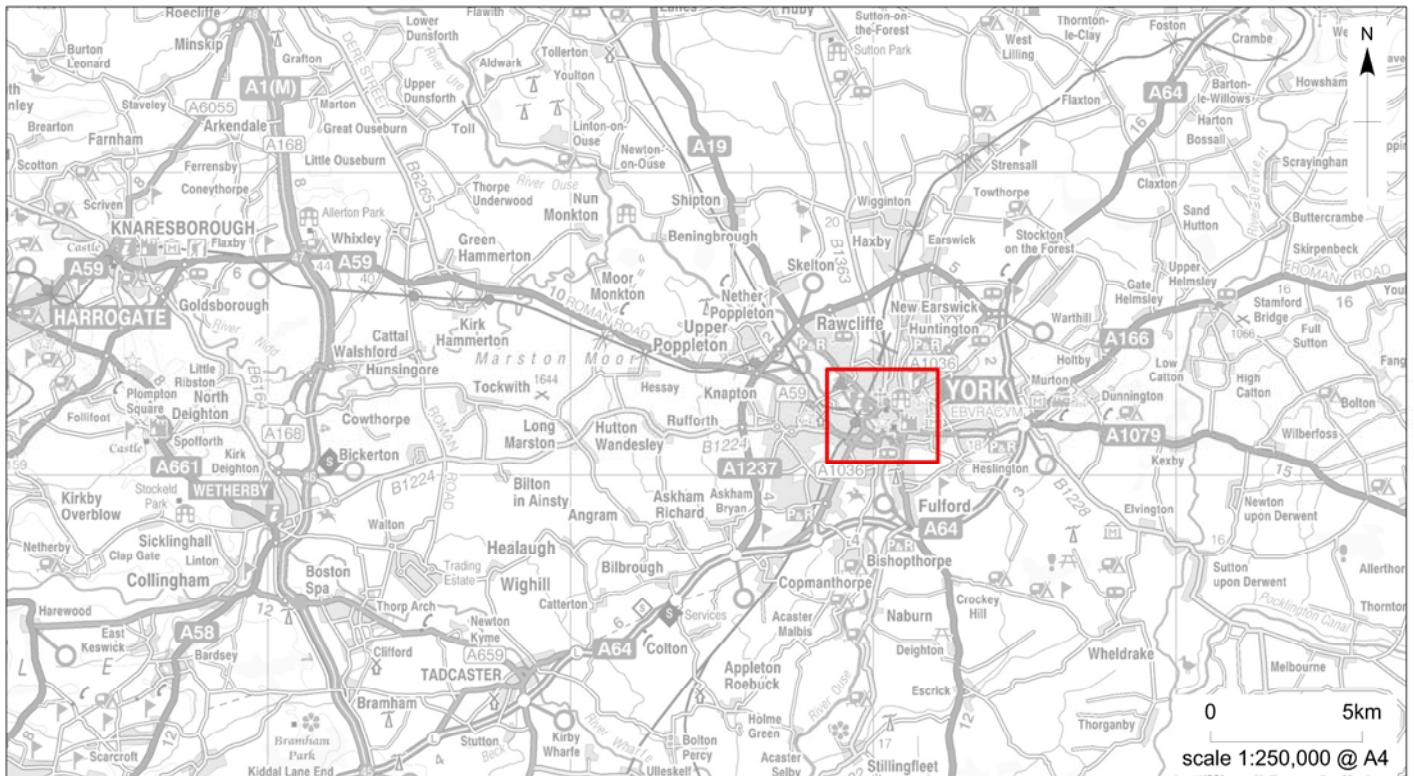
Each pit was hand-excavated to up to 1m, at which point the test pits were terminated, while the two boreholes were then completed using a percussive drill rig. Results are itemised in Table 1 overleaf.

Table 1. Monitoring results

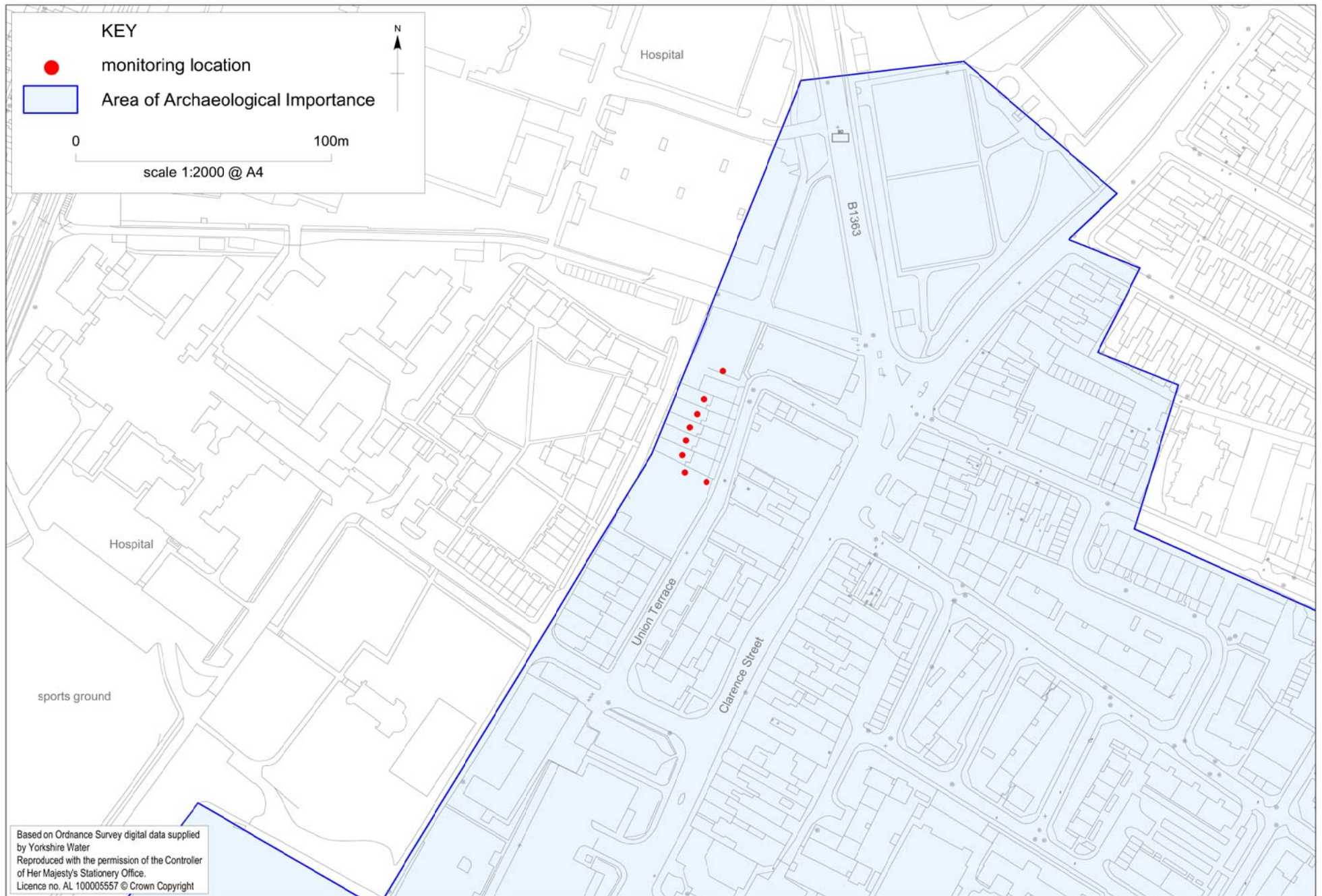
| Pit | Results |
|---|---|
| <i>BH1- Groves Chapel car park</i> | 0m-0.2m, Tarmac; 0.2m-0.4m, hardcore; 0.4m-0.7m natural clay; no finds or features |
| <i>BH2- Union Terrace car park</i> | 0m-0.15m, Tarmac; 0.15m-0.3m, hardcore; 0.3m-0.8m natural silty sand clay; no finds or features |
| <i>WS1- Union Terrace car park (within footprint of demolished house)</i> | 0m-0.15m, tarmac; 0.15m-1m, brick rubble and other 'hardcore'; no features |
| <i>WS2- 93 Union Terrace</i> | 0m-0.5m, topsoil (contained modern glass and pottery, building rubble); 0.4m-0.9m, disturbed clay; 0.9m+, natural clay; no features |
| <i>WS3- 94 Union Terrace</i> | 0m-0.6m, topsoil; 0.6m-0.8m, disturbed boulder clay; 0.8m+, natural boulder clay; no finds or features |
| <i>WS4- 95 Union Terrace</i> | 0m-0.3m, topsoil (contained cbm, chalk, and broken glass); 0.3m-0.8m, disturbed clay; no features |
| <i>WS5- 96 Union Terrace</i> | 0m-0.3m, topsoil (contained broken glass); 0.3m-0.8m, disturbed clay; no features |
| <i>WS6- 97 Union Terrace</i> | 0m-0.2m, topsoil (contained cbm); 0.2m-0.8m disturbed clay; no features |

Reference

Northern Archaeological Associates (2013) *Union Terrace Underground Storage Tank, York: Archaeological Monitoring*. NAA report 13-70



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Union Terrace Geotechnical Investigation: location of starter pit for BH2

Plate 1



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Union Terrace Geotechnical Investigation: Plate 2 soil profile in WS4