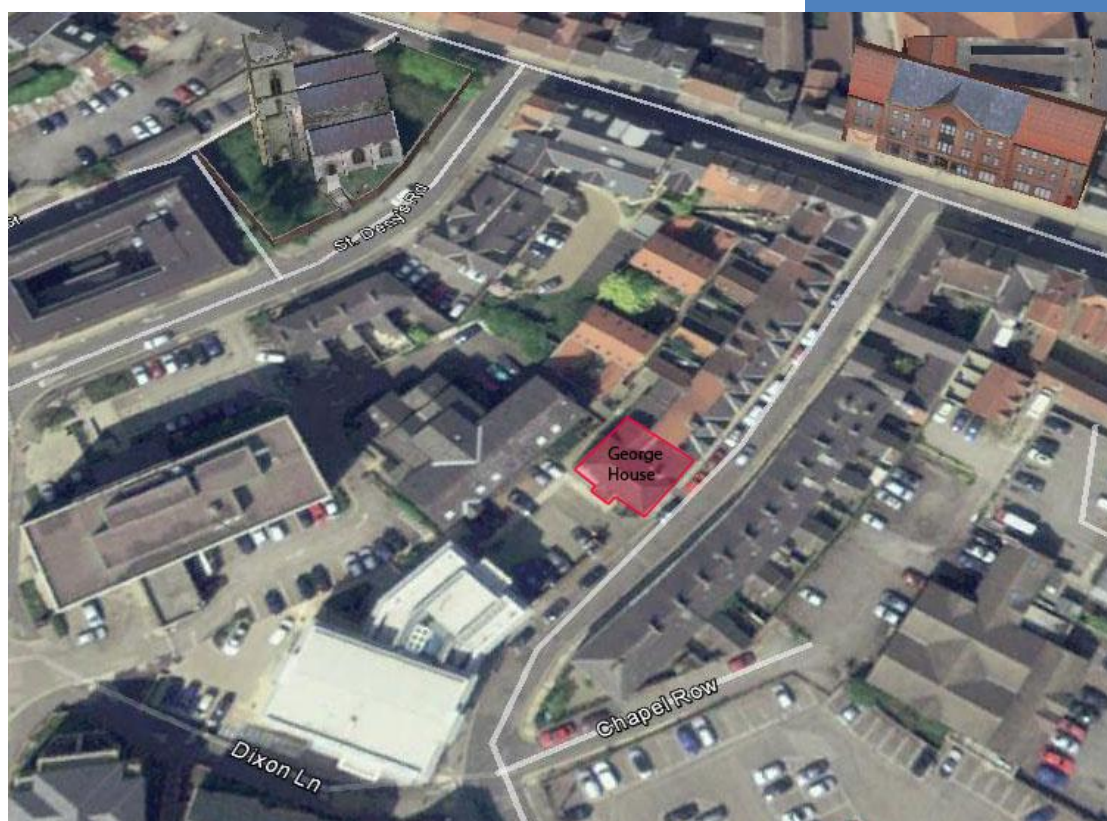


George House, George Street,
York, North Yorkshire

LS Archaeology

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



June 2016

LS Archaeology
www.lsarchaeology.co.uk
lsarchaeology@gmail.com
01653 618 279
0791 248 5125

Site: George House, George Street, York, North Yorkshire

Site Codes: YGH 16

County: North Yorkshire

NGR: SE 60695 51501

Planning Application No: 15/02471/ORC

Development: Housing redevelopment

Date of Issue: 15/06/2016

Site Dates: 28/05/2016

Project by: LS Archaeology, Whitwell on the Hill, North
Yorkshire, YO60 7JJ. Tel: 01653 618279

Client: Prospect Archaeology / MANN Investments Ltd

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	III
LIST OF FIGURES.....	III
SUMMARY.....	1
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	2
3. SITE DESCRIPTION.....	2
4. GEOLOGY	2
5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
6. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	2
7. METHODOLOGY	3
8. RESULTS.....	3
9. CONCLUSIONS	5
10. BIBLIOGRAPHY	5

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1: GOOGLE MAP SHOWING THE UNITED HOUSE (IN BLUE) AND THE AREA MONITORED BY THE WATCHING BRIEF (IN RED).....	1
FIGURE 2: THE LOCATION OF THE SERVICE TRENCH (IN RED)	3
FIGURE 3: THE MAIN STRATIGRAPHY OF THE SITE, LOOKING NORTH	4
FIGURE 5: THE RUBBLE STRATIGRAPHY INSIDE THE BUILDING.....	4
FIGURE 4: THE FORMER MANHOLE, LOCATED AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF GEORGE HOUSE.....	4

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief at George House, George Street, York, North Yorkshire took place as part of a programme to evaluate the presence of any archaeological features that may be disturbed by any ground work related with the new redevelopment.

The redevelopment work consisted of the excavation of a single service trench to serve as the main distribution network for water and electricity. No archaeological features were recorded to be present within the trench.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report summarizes the findings of the archaeological watching brief, as part of the planning condition for the United House redevelopment scheme.
- 1.2 The following archaeological watching brief report has been prepared for Prospect Archaeology on behalf of MANN Investments Ltd, and complies with the planning conditions set by the City of York Council (CYC; planning reference 15/02471/ORC) and the recommendation of the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley.



Figure 1: Google Map showing the United House (in Blue) and the area monitored by the watching brief (in red)

- 1.5 The work has been undertaken in accordance with the Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists 2014).

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission was previously granted for conversion from offices to 14 apartments (user Class C3) under a General Permitted Development Order in December 2015 (15/02471/ORC). Whilst no condition relating to archaeology was attached to the planning application, the site lies within an Area of Archaeological Interest (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas act 1979) and an Operations Notice has therefore been submitted.
- 2.2 Consultation with the City of York Archaeologist has established the need for an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of service trenches associated with the redevelopment.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 The site comprises the building and associated hard-standing George House (centered on SE 60695 51501) on the north side of George Street. The ground gently slopes westwards, from 12.3m AOD.
- 3.2 The site is being redeveloped for residential use and there will be minimal ground disturbance. Electrical and water service trenches will potentially impact on archaeological deposits on the southern side of the property.

4. GEOLOGY

- 4.1 The underlying geology is Sherwood Sandstone Group overlain by Alne Glaciolacustrine Formation silty clay.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Excavation at the junction of Dixon Lane and George Street recorded remains of Roman, Saxon and medieval date, including human remains believed to be medieval (NMR excavation index).
- 5.2 Also during the monitoring of the construction of the present office buildings located within close proximity to the south side of George House, the presence of a possible Roman road was identified.

6. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundwork at the above site.
- 6.2 The programme of archaeological observation and recording comprised of archaeological supervision of all groundwork below 300mm from current ground surface to include excavation of foundation and service trenches.
- 6.3 The field work was carried out by LS Archaeology on the 28th of May 2016.

7. METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief undertook the monitoring of the excavation of a single service trench which was to serve as the main distribution network for water and electricity. (Figure 2).
- 7.2 Modern deposits were recorded in section and by photographic record. All archaeological deposits and features are planned at a scale of 1:20 on drafting film (permatrace). All sections are drawn at a scale of 1:10, including heights above Ordnance Datum. As archaeological deposits were not present no drawings were created.
- 7.3 The mitigation strategy and methodology on the Written Scheme of Investigation was adhered throughout the whole project.

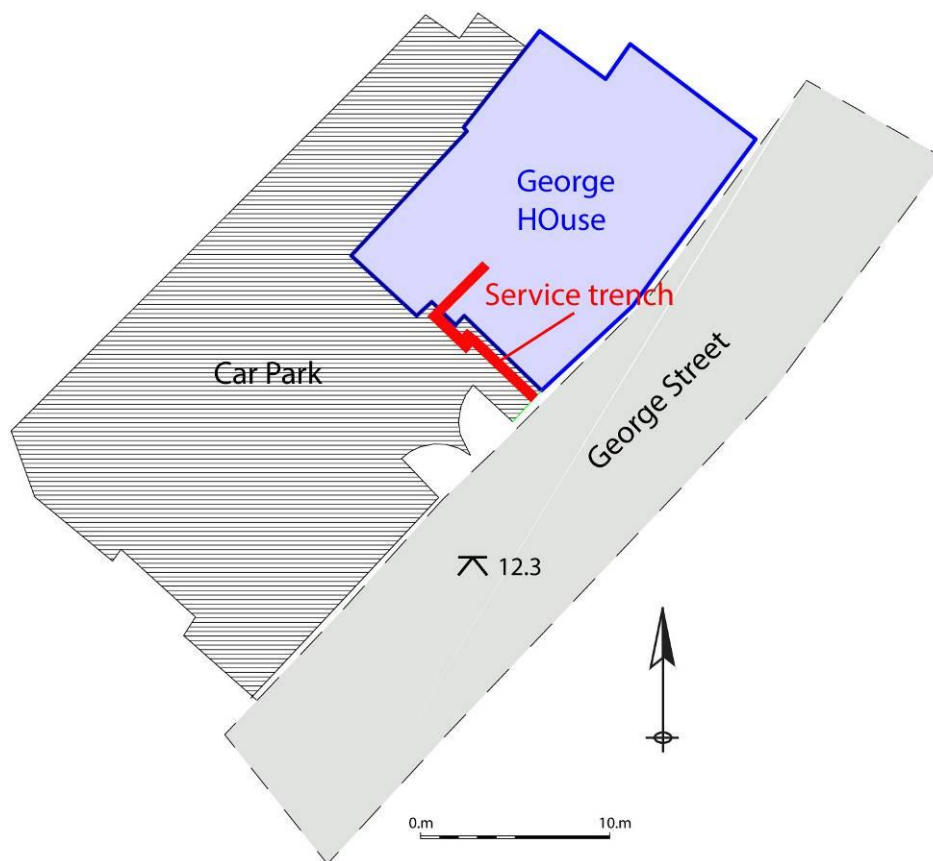


Figure 2: The location of the service trench (in red)

8. RESULTS

- 8.1 The service trench, which measured 0.5m in width and 0.7m in depth, was positioned alongside the south wall of George House. Hand excavated, for the length of about 5.5m, the service trench started at the southwest corner of the building, from the former manhole, running along the south wall up to the main entrance then turned at right angle into the building for the length of about 5m.
- 8.2 Within the court yard area the trench followed the former water main trench, and no further ground disturbance was made. The ground floor of the court yard consisted of large sandstone slabs, laid on top of a thin layer of sand. Overlaid upon the sand was a thick deposit consisting of a mixture of modern rubble and brown clay.

- 8.3 The same deposit was consistent throughout the whole length of the service trench.
- 8.4 No archaeological deposits or features were present within the limits of the service trench.



Figure 3: The main stratigraphy of the site, looking north



Figure 5: The former manhole, located at the southeast corner of George House



Figure 4: The rubble stratigraphy inside the building

9. CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 The archaeological watching brief consisted of the monitoring of the excavation for a single service trench which was to serve as the main distribution network for water and electricity for the newly refurbished George House.
- 9.2 To conclude, no archaeological deposits or features were present within the limits of the service trench. The excavation of this trench consisted of the reopening of a former water service trench, which was initially excavated through a modern deposit consisting of a mixture of building rubble material and a brown and grey silty clay deposit. This deposit was seen all the way through the whole length of the new service trench.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CIFA 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists

CIFA 2014. *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*, Institute for Archaeologists

CIFA 2014. *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

English Heritage 2008. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*. PPN 3: *Archaeological Excavation*

Historic England 2015. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide*

(NPPF) 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework*

NERC 2011, *Soils Data for England and Wales*, National Environmental Research Council

Written Scheme of Investigation- George House, Prospect Archaeology; Unpublished 2016