



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	St Saviourgate		
CLIENT NAME	Oakgate Central York Ltd c/o Caddick Developments Ltd		
YAT PROJECT #		YAT REPORT #	2021/35
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 60540 51865
PLANNING REFERENCE #	N/A	AAI OPS NOTICE #	21004

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on ground works to install a new water supply from boundary to main was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of Oakgate Central York Ltd c/o Caddick Developments Ltd between 27th October and 1st November 2021. The site was located at St. Saviourgate, York, NGR SE 60540 51865 (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works.

METHODOLOGY

The works were undertaken in order to locate a water main and facilitate a new connection to Stonebow House. A single trench was excavated through the pavement and into the street opposite the Central Methodist Church, St. Saviourgate (Plate 1); the trench was aligned north-east/south-west and measured 6.25m long, 0.45m wide and up to 0.62m deep, except for the last 1m at the north-western end which was 0.9m wide and 1.1m deep.

Excavation was undertaken through a combination of hand excavation and use of a 2 ton tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a 0.3m wide toothless ditching bucket.

Notes, measurements and digital photographs were taken.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

St Saviourgate lies approximately 100m from, and on a parallel alignment with the known location of the south-eastern side of the Roman fortress (RCHMY 1962). The projected line of Roman Road 2 is thought to cross into York from the south-east, possibly running close to the junction of St Saviourgate and Whip-Ma-Whop-Ma-Gate (Ottaway 2011).

The names of streets ending in '-gate' such as Fossgate, Hungate and St Saviourgate all denote Anglo-Scandinavian origins. Property boundaries forming tenements are likely to have been first established in the 10th century (Hall 1984, 49).

St Saviourgate is first referenced in a document dated to 1361, but only in the 15th century headings. There is however some evidence that the earlier name for the street was Ketmongergate, a reference to 'flesh-seller', which was first recorded in 1175 (Palliser 1978, 14).

RESULTS

The south-eastern end of the trench was excavated into the pavement adjacent to the north-western side of Stonebow House. Below the paving slabs and a layer of bedding sand existing services in compacted crushed limestone and sand were exposed (Plate 2).

The trench was then tunneled under the curb and extended for a distance of 0.15m into the road.

Where the trench extended into the road the tarmac road surface was found to be 70mm thick, below which was a 0.22m thick layer of light grey concrete which extended north-west for 2.15m. At a distance of 0.45m north-west of the concrete was the edge of the water main trench. The top of the water main was located at 0.9m below ground level (BGL).

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Overlain by the light grey concrete and cut by the water main trench was a firm, dark brown to black, sandy silt containing frequent inclusions of coarse concrete, fragments of ceramic building material and moderate quantities of cinder. This material extended from the base of excavation and as far up as below the current tarmac surface where it was not overlain by later deposits (Plate 3).

CONCLUSIONS

No evidence of archaeological deposits, features or structures were encountered during the course of the groundworks.

REFERENCES

Hall, R. A., 1984. *The Excavations at York: The Viking Dig* (London)

Ottaway, P., 2011. *Archaeology in The Environs of Roman York, Excavations 1976–2005*, The Archaeology of York **6/2** (York)

Palliser, D. M., 1978. 'The medieval street-names of York', in *York Historian, Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society* **2**, 2–16

RCHMY, 1962. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments of the City of York, Volume 1: Ebvraevm Roman, York* (London)

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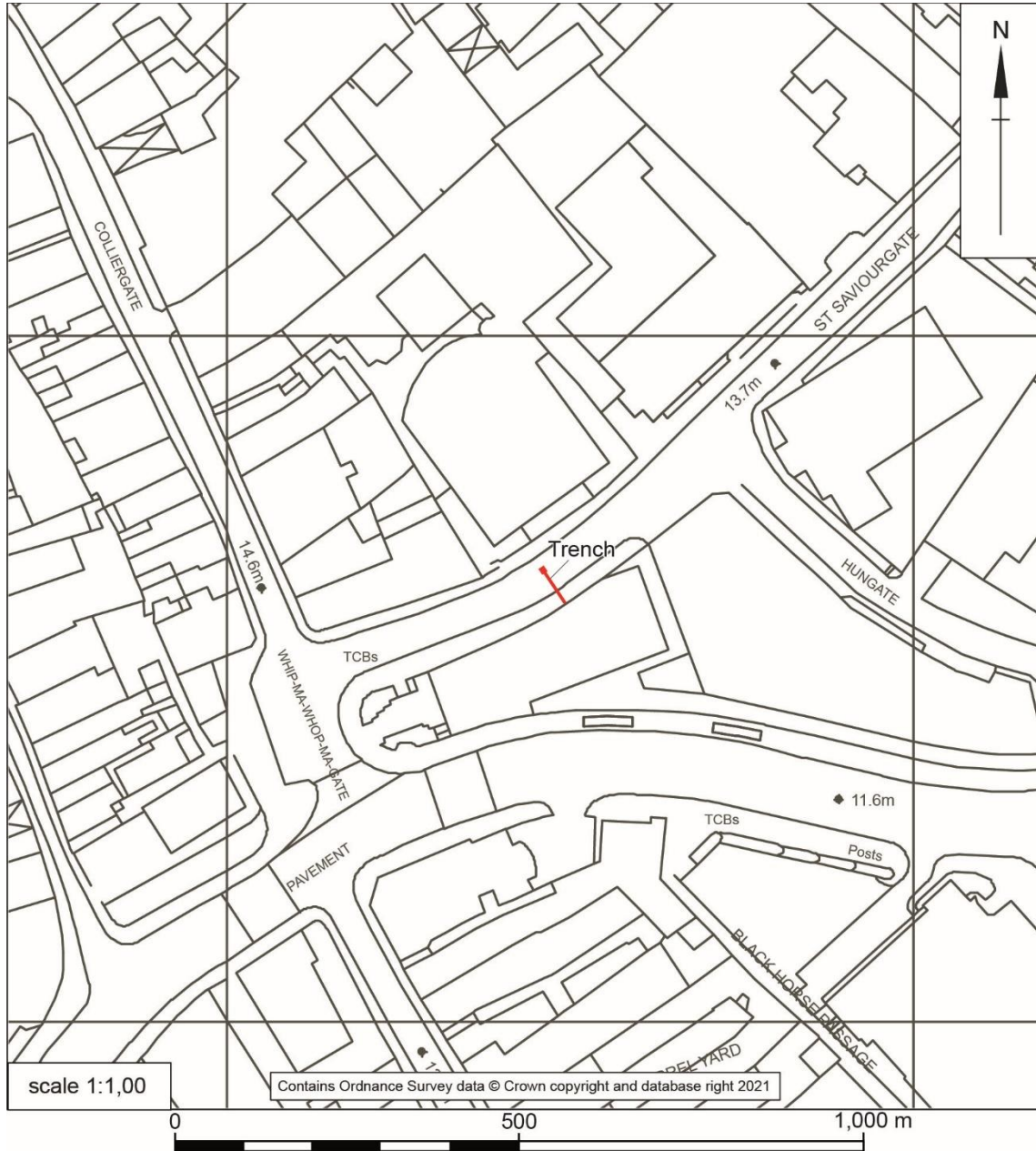


Figure 1 Site Location

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Plate 1 Ground works across St. Saviourgate in progress, view south-east

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Plate 2 Services below pavement, view south-west, 0.1m scale units

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Plate 3 South-west facing trench section, view north-east, 0.1m scale units

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