



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	5 Kyme Street, York, YO1 6HW		
CLIENT NAME	Graeme Wilson		
YAT PROJECT #	22002	YAT REPORT #	2022/11
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 60148 51285
PLANNING REFERENCE #	21-00338-FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on ground works for a single storey house extension was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of Graeme Wilson on 31st January 2022 in the rear yard of 5 Kyme Street, York, YO1 6HW, (NGR SE 60148 51285) (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works.

METHODOLOGY

On the day of the site visit, an 'L' shaped trench measuring 3.35m x 2.30m and approximately 0.50m in width was excavated by hand to a depth of 0.40m below ground level (BGL). A 0.50m square trial trench was excavated in the eastern corner of the trench to inspect the deposits to the final formation depth of 0.76m BGL (Figure 2). No further archaeological monitoring was required beyond this point.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Kyme Street lies within the Bishophill area of York, an area that appears to have first been settled in the Romano-British period. By the late-2nd to mid-3rd century AD, the area had become a defended civilian settlement on the opposite side of the river to the legionary fortress with evidence for numerous well-appointed dwellings and public buildings. By AD 237 York had been granted the honorific title of colonia (McComish 2015, 14) although this would be followed by a period of decline in the lead-up to the departure of the Roman Legions in the early 5th century (ibid, 6). The next major event in the history of the locality was the construction of the first motte and bailey castle at Baile Hill close to the south-east end of Kyme Street in 1068 (MacRae 2013, 1). While the City Walls that form the southern and eastern boundaries of Bishophill were rebuilt in stone in the medieval period, the area remained predominantly a mixture of open space and residential gardens through to the 19th century when the area was steadily developed into the suburb of York that survives to the present day (ibid.).

RESULTS

The earliest deposit in the sequence was a dark-greyish brown silty clay observed at 0.50m BGL that continued beyond the 0.76m BGL limit of excavation (Plate 1; Figure 3). Fragments of animal bone and a clay pipe stem were observed but not retained due to the modern date of the deposit. The deposit was sealed by a 0.40m thick made ground deposit of mixed rubbly material; this was truncated by a north-east/south-west aligned service trench at the north-western limit of excavation (Plate 2). The made ground deposit and service cut were sealed by the present 0.10m thick yard surface of concrete.

CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeological deposits were observed during this investigation. The dark silty clay deposit at the lowest level probably represents a former garden soil pre-dating the modern yard surface. Further archaeological deposits may exist at greater depth; however, if so, they weren't exposed by this work.

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FINDS	0	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	Yes
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REFERENCES

MacRae, C., 2013. *City of York Historic Characterisation Project: Character Area Twenty: Bishophill*. City of York Council

McComish, J., 2015. *Excavations by York Archaeological Trust Within the Walled Area to the South-West of the River Ouse, York*. YAT Web Based Report 2015/48

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PLATES



Plate 1. South-east facing view of trial hole and possible garden soil (0.50m scale).

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Plate 2. North-west facing view of south east facing section (0.50m scale).

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