



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Sewer repair, Tower Gardens, York		
CLIENT NAME	Lumsden and Carroll Construction		
YAT PROJECT #	5488	YAT REPORT #	2011/13
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6039 5139
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a

INTRODUCTION

On 24th February 2011 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief in the Tower Gardens, York (Figure 1). The objective was to record any archaeological remains (deposits, features or structures) exposed during the excavation of a trench measuring approximately 2m by 1m which was being dug in order to access and repair a damaged section of sewer. The trench was dug using a tracked mini-excavator. Recording took the form of written notes and measured sketches supplemented by a small number of colour digital photographs.

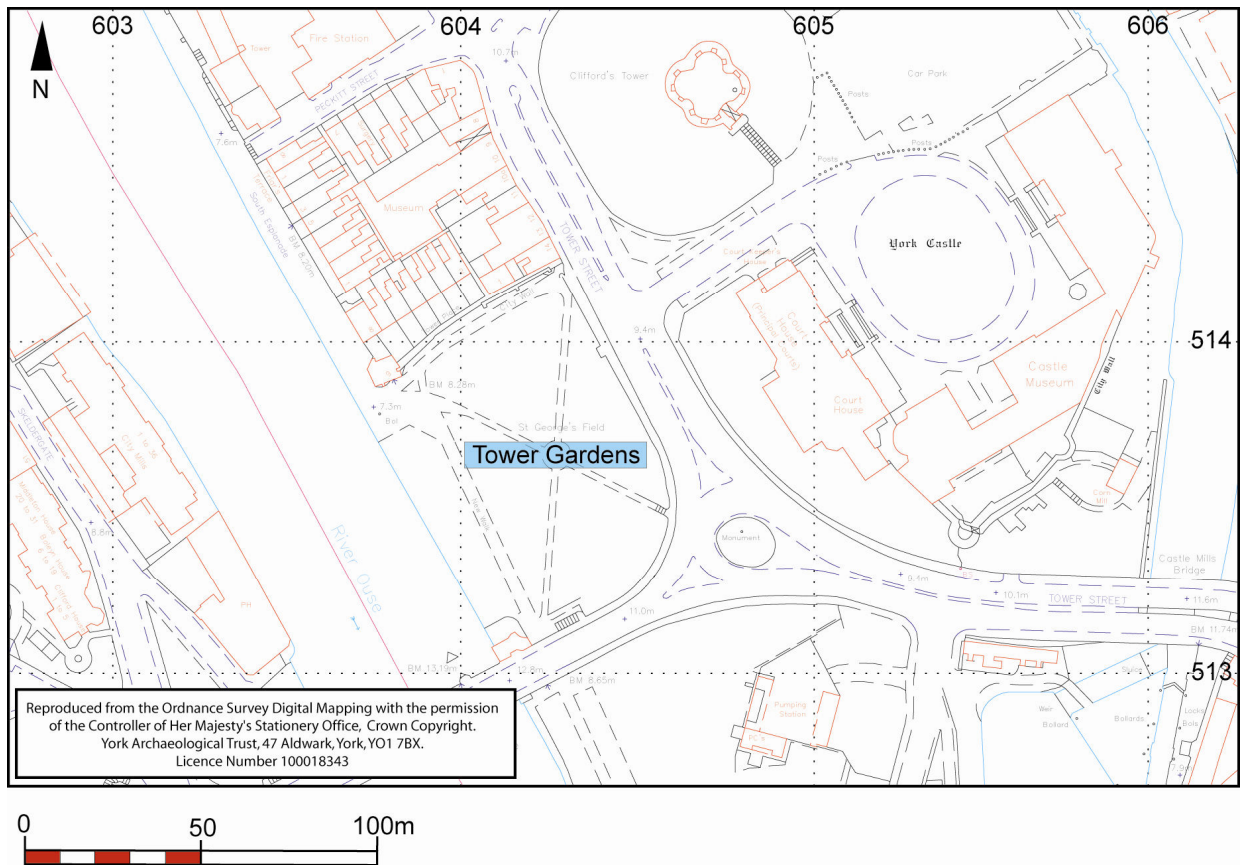


Figure 1 Location of Tower Gardens

RESULTS

In the recorded section the lowest context was the top of the brick-vaulted sewer (1000) which appeared at approximately 2m below the existing modern ground level. Apparently overlying this was a 0.5m deep layer of dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt (1001). This was sealed by a 0.4m deep deposit of mid brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional brick / tile (1002). This was overlain by a mid orange-brown gravelly sand (1003) which was 0.5m deep. Above this was a 0.55m deep layer of dark brown slightly sandy silt (1004) which was capped by the modern ground surface of grass (1005).

COMPLETED BY	D.T. Evans	CHECKED BY	M.R. Stockwell	FINISHED	30/03/11
FINDS	No	SAMPLES	No	PHOTOS	Yes
				PAGE	1 of 3

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Registered Charity
No. 509060



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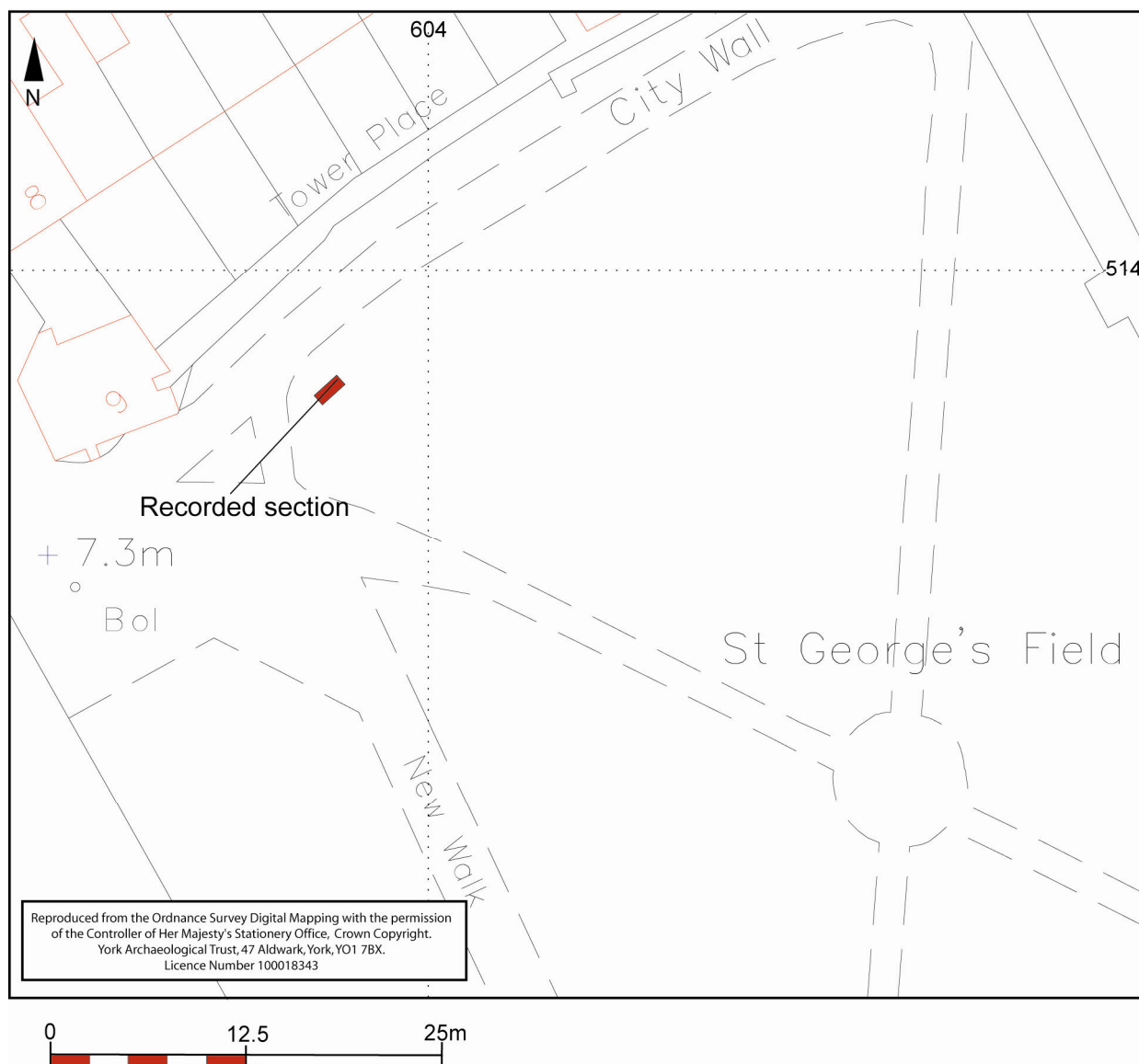


Figure 2 Location of trench and recorded section

CONCLUSIONS

Although no archaeology of any great significance was encountered during this watching brief some useful information was recovered from the trench. The lower deposits Contexts 1001 and 1002 appear to be river silts deposited during episodes of flooding although when is unknown since no datable finds came from them. Context 1003 and probably 1004 seem to be dumps of material intended to raise the surrounding ground level in order to alleviate the problem of flooding although if so then it has not been successful since this area of York is nowadays subject to flooding every year.

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Plate 1 Interior of trench with sewer visible in base, looking south-east



Plate 2 General view of trench, looking east-south-east

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