



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Utility trench, Navigation Road, York		
CLIENT NAME	Morgan Sindall Plc		
YAT PROJECT #	5496	YAT REPORT #	2011/25
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6092 5174
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	11021

INTRODUCTION

Between March 14th and April 11th 2011 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at Navigation Road, York (Figure 1). The objective was to record any deposits, features or buried structures seen during excavations for the installation of new gas pipes in the area. Recording took the form of written notes and measured sketches supplemented by a number of colour digital photographs, both detailed and general. The trenches were dug by mini-digger although some hand digging took place in the vicinity of existing services. Twenty-two sections (Figures 2, 3 and 4) were recorded and are described below.

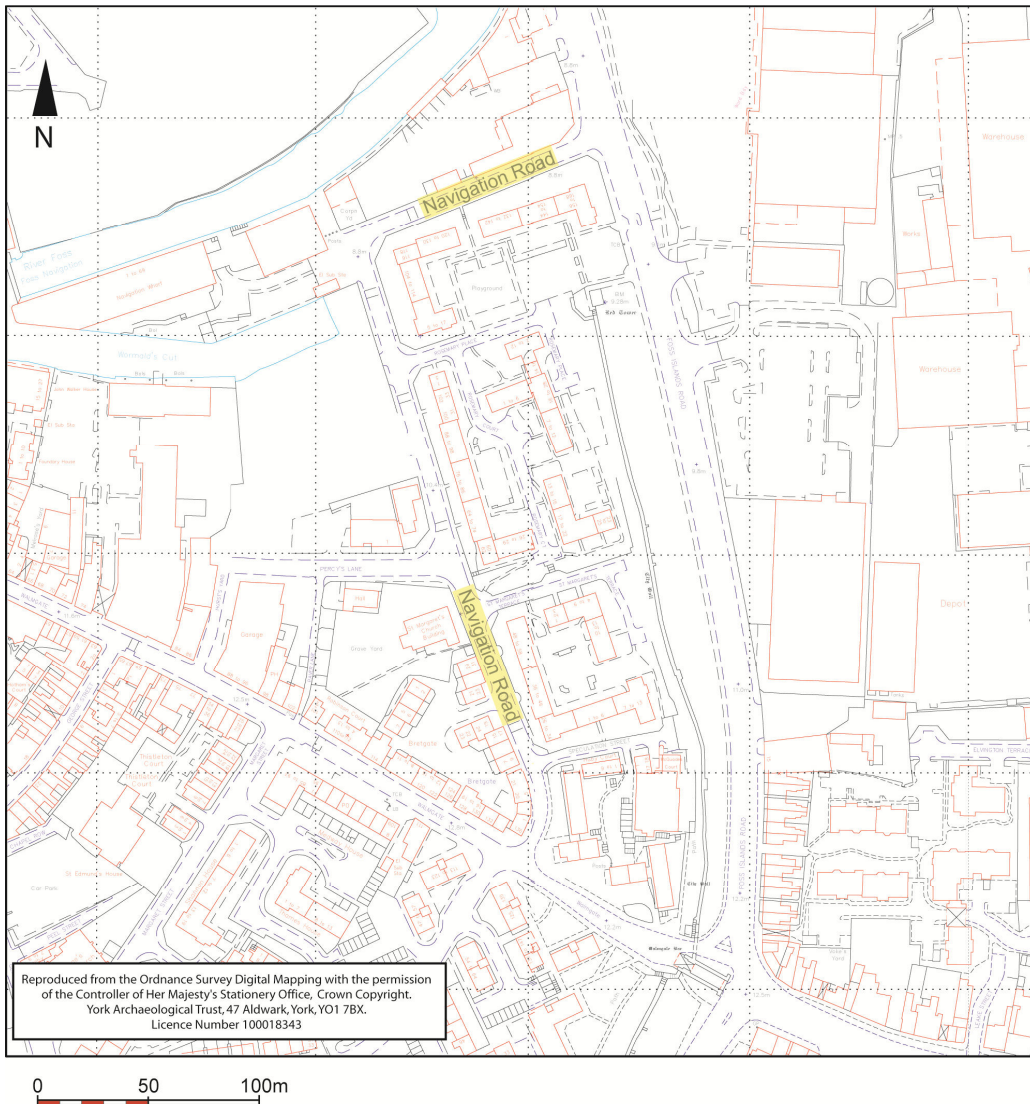


Figure 1 Location of Navigation Road

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RESULTS

SECTION 1

The earliest deposit recorded in this section, between 0.8m and at least 1m below ground level (BGL), was a wet, mid brown sandy silt (1000). It was sealed by a 0.75m deep layer of clean, dark brown silt (1001) and above this was the modern ground surface of grass (1002).

SECTION 2

Only two contexts were observed in this section. Between 0.05m and at least 1.2m BGL there was a dark brown silt with occasional brick / tile (1003). Above this was the modern ground surface of grass (1004).

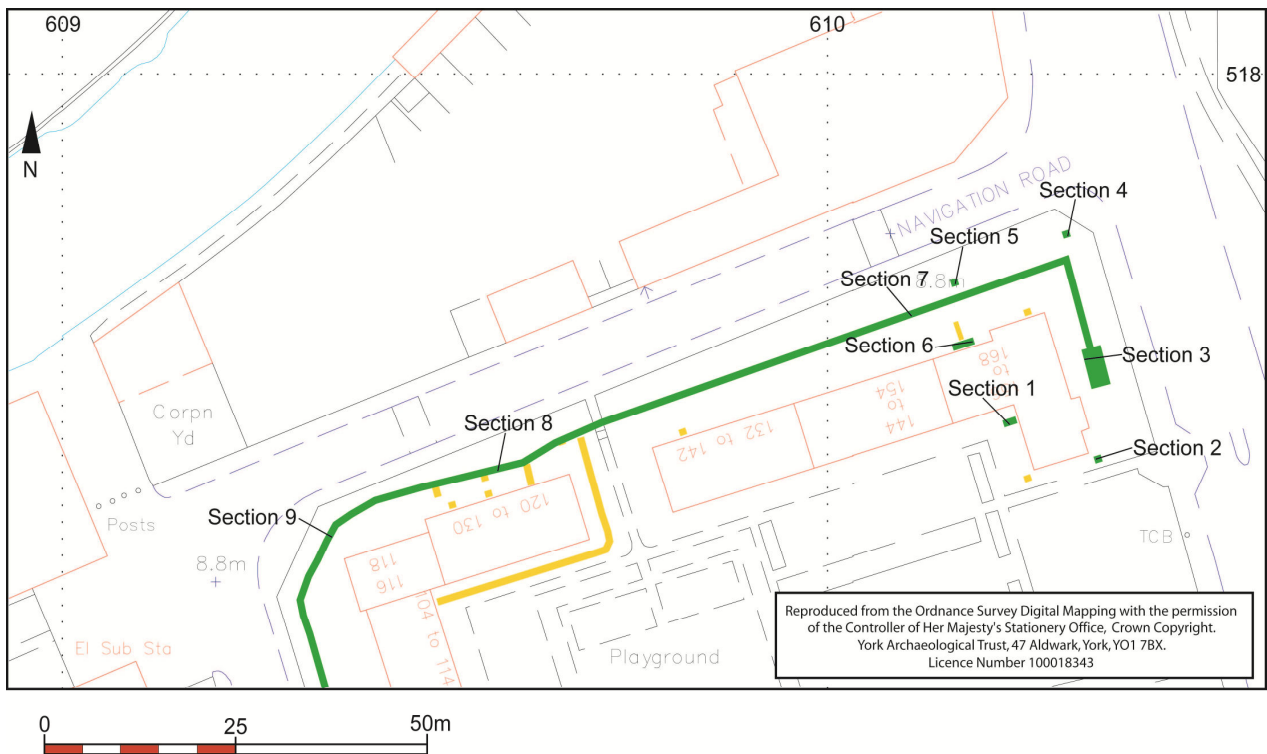


Figure 2 Observed (yellow) and recorded (green) trenches and sections along northern part of Navigation Road

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SECTION 3

In this section the lowest deposit noted, at between 0.6m and at least 1.1m BGL, was a mid brown silt with occasional brick / tile (1005). Overlying it was a 0.2m deep layer of dark brown silt with moderate pale brown mortar and brick / tile (1006) and this was sealed by a 0.2m deep deposit of dark brown silt with occasional pale brown mortar and brick / tile (1007). Above this was a 0.15m deep layer of very dark brown silt (1008) capped by grass (1009).

SECTION 4

The earliest deposit noted in this section, at between 0.5m and at least 0.8m BGL, was a dark brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of brick / tile (1010). It was overlain by a 0.25m deep layer of very dark greyish-brown silt with very occasional white mortar (1011) and above this was a 0.2m deep deposit of dark brown silt with occasional brick / tile and white mortar (1012). Overlying this was the modern ground surface of grass (1013).

SECTION 5

Just two contexts were recorded in this section. Between 0.05m and at least 0.4m BGL there was a dark greyish-brown silt with occasional brick / tile and very occasional limestone fragments (1014) which was capped by the modern ground surface of grass (1015).

SECTION 6

In this section the earliest deposit observed, between 0.15m and at least 0.5m BGL, was a dark brown silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar and brick / tile (1016). Above this was a 0.1m deep layer of very dark brown silt (1017) capped by the modern ground surface of grass (1018).

SECTION 7

The earliest deposit recorded in this section, between 0.5m and at least 0.8m BGL, was a dark brown silt with occasional brick / tile and flecks of pale brown mortar (1019). Overlying this was a 0.15m deep layer of pale brown mortar with occasional brick / tile and mid brown silt (1020). This was sealed by a 0.1m deep deposit of very dark brown silt (1021) above which was the modern ground surface of grass (1022).

SECTION 8

The lowest deposit seen in this section, in the base of the trench at 0.8m BGL, was a firm, mid brown clay (1023). Overlying this was a 0.5m deep layer of very dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with occasional brick / tile and flecks of pale brown mortar (1024). This was sealed by a 0.25m deep deposit of dark brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional pale brown mortar, brick / tile and limestone fragments (1025) and above this was the modern ground surface of grass (1026).

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SECTION 9

In this section the earliest recorded deposit, in the base of the trench at 0.8m BGL, was a mid orange-brown clay (1027). It was sealed by a 0.2m deep layer of pale brown mortar (1028) above which was a 0.3m deep deposit of very dark brown silt (1029). This was sealed by a 0.05m deep layer of white mortar (1030). Overlying this was a 0.2m deep deposit of very dark brown silt (1031) above which was the modern ground surface of grass (1032).

SECTION 10

The earliest deposit noted in this section, between 0.55m and at least 0.85m BGL, was a mid brown very slightly clayey silt with moderate brick / tile and pale brown mortar and occasional charcoal (1033). Sealing it was a 0.1m deep layer of light to mid brown slightly clayey silt (1034) and over this was a 0.1m deep deposit of very dark greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional charcoal (1035). This was overlain by a 0.1m deep layer of dark greyish-brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (1036). Sealing this was a 0.05m deep mixture of white mortar and dark brown silt (1037). Over this was a 0.15m deep deposit of dark brown silt (1038) above which lay the modern ground surface of grass (1039).

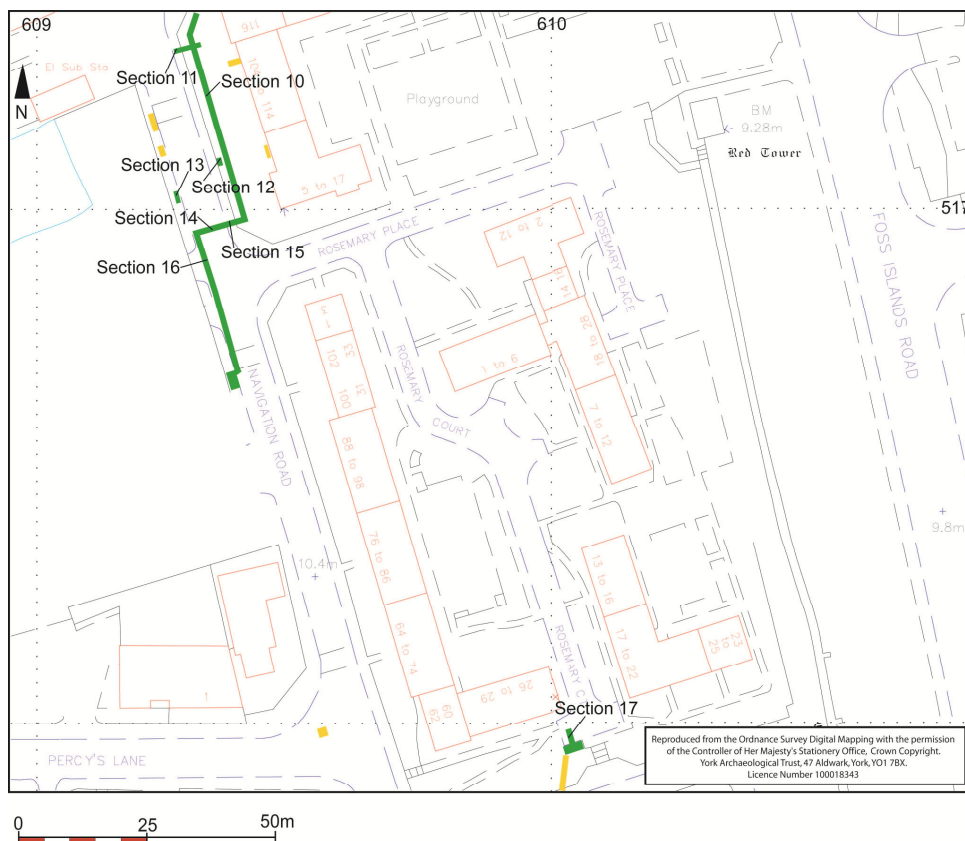


Figure 3 Observed (yellow) and recorded (green) trenches and sections along central part of Navigation Road

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SECTION 11

In this section the lowest observed deposit, between 0.4m and at least 1m BGL, was a dark brown silt with occasional pale brown mortar and brick / tile (1040). Overlying this was a 0.25m deep layer of mid brown silt with moderate pale brown mortar and brick / tile (1041). Sealing it was a 0.05m deep layer of tarmac pieces (1042) forming the bedding for the modern pavement surface of tarmac (1043).

SECTION 12

The lowest deposit recorded in this section, between 0.35m and at least 0.9m BGL, was a mid brown silt with occasional brick / tile and flecks of pale brown mortar (1044). Above this was a 0.2m deep layer of mid brown silt with occasional white mortar and flecks of brick / tile (1045). This was sealed by a 0.1m deep deposit of mid brown silt (1046) above which was the modern ground surface of grass (1047).

SECTION 13

In this section the earliest recorded deposit, between 0.8m and at least 1m BGL, was a mid brown very slightly clayey sandy silt (1048). Overlying it was a large blue plastic service pipe (1049) with a diameter of c.0.2m. It was overlain by a 0.35m deep layer of mid brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles (1050). Above this was a 0.15m deep deposit of dark brown silt with frequent sandstone fragments (1051) and above this was the existing pavement surface of tarmac (1052).

SECTION 14

The lowest deposit noted in this section, between 0.8m and at least 1.1m BGL, was a dark brown clayey silt with moderate pale brown mortar and brick / tile (1053). It was overlain by a 0.4m deep layer of concrete encasing a ceramic pipe (1054) with a diameter of c.0.2m. Sealing this was a 0.3m deep deposit of dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with moderate brick / tile (1055) above which was the modern road surface of tarmac (1056).

SECTION 15

In this section the earliest deposit noted, between 0.45m and at least 0.7m BGL, was a dark greyish-brown slightly sandy silt with occasional pale brown mortar (1057). Sealing it was a 0.3m deep layer of dark brown silt with occasional brick / tile and pebbles (1058). It was overlain by a 0.05m deep layer of tarmac pieces (1059) forming the bedding for the existing pavement surface of tarmac (1060).

SECTION 16

The lowest deposit recorded in this section, between 0.5m and at least 0.85m BGL, was a light to mid brown silt with occasional brick / tile (1061). It was sealed by a 0.35m deep layer of light to mid brown silt with frequent cobbles and occasional brick / tile (1062). Overlying this was a 0.05 deep layer of tarmac pieces (1063) forming the bedding for the modern road surface of tarmac (1064).

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SECTION 17

In this section the earliest deposit observed, at between 1m and at least 1.4m BGL, was a firm, mid brown clay (1065). It was sealed by a 0.5m deep layer of mid brown clayey silt with occasional brick / tile (1066). Overlying this was a 0.1m deep mixture of clinker and dark brown silt (1067). This was sealed by a 0.25m deep horizon of irregular limestone blocks (1068). Above this was a 0.05m deep layer of tarmac pieces (1069) forming the bedding for the pavement surface of tarmac (1070).

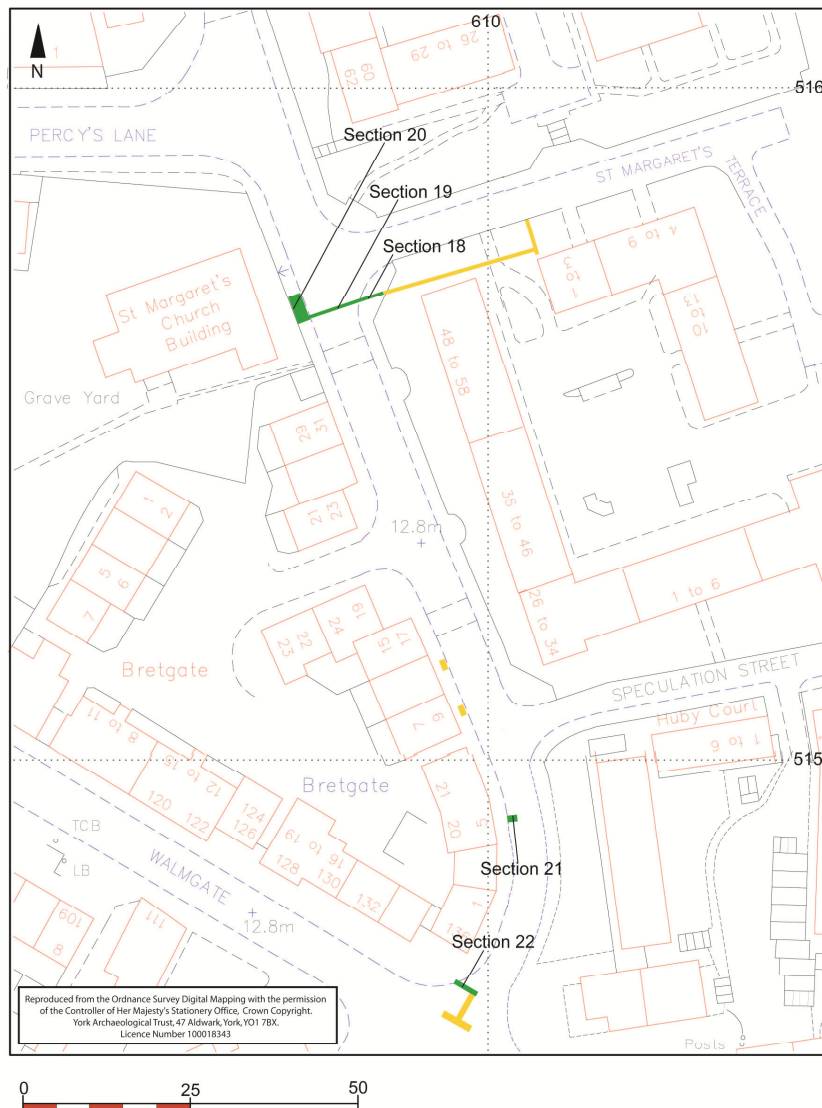


Figure 4 Observed (yellow) and recorded (green) trenches and sections along southern part of Navigation Road

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SECTION 18

The earliest deposit noted in this section, at between 0.3m and at least 1m BGL. was a very dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with occasional white mortar (1071). Above this there was a 0.25m deep layer of dark brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional brick / tile and white mortar (1072) which was capped by the modern ground surface of grass (1073).

SECTION 19

In this section the lowest deposit recorded, between 0.9m and at least 1.15m BGL, was a dark brown clayey silt (1074). Sealing this was a 0.4m deep layer of very dark brownish-grey very slightly clayey silt (1075) and above this there was a 0.3m deep deposit of dark brownish-grey slightly clayey silt with occasional brick / tile (1076). It was overlain by a 0.1m deep layer of reinforced concrete (1077) forming the bedding for the modern road surface of tarmac (1078).

SECTION 20

The lowest deposit seen in this section, at between 0.5m and at least 1.1m BGL, was a mid brown slightly clayey silt with occasional pale brown mortar and charcoal (1079). Overlying this was a 0.35m deep layer of pale brown mortar with frequent brick / tile (1080). Sealing this was a 0.05m deep mixture of tarmac pieces and dark brown silt with occasional brick / tile (1081) forming the bedding for the pavement surface of tarmac (1082).

SECTION 21

In this section the earliest deposit noted, between 0.4m and at least 0.6m BGL was a mid brown sandy silt with occasional brick / tile (1083). Overlying it was a 0.1m deep mixture of dark brown silt and mid brown sand (1084) and above this was a 0.1m deep deposit of dark brown silt with moderate ?burnt daub (1085). This was overlain by a 0.15m deep layer of concrete (1086) forming the bedding for the road surface of tarmac (1087).

SECTION 22

The lowest deposit in this section, between 0.25m and at least 0.9m, was a mid brown silt with moderate brick / tile and pale brown mortar (1088). It was sealed by a 0.15m deep layer of reinforced concrete (1089) which formed the bedding for the modern road surface of tarmac (1090).

CONCLUSIONS

No deposits, buried structures or features of any great archaeological significance were noted during this watching brief. Along the northern part of Navigation road it was apparent that a good deal of landscaping and dumping, almost certainly associated with the construction of the modern flats in the area directly overlay, at least in places, natural clay and that any archaeology, apart from deep cut features, had been destroyed. In the central and southern parts of Navigation Road any coherent archaeology had also been destroyed, this time by the insertion of various modern services. The archaeological potential of the area remains, therefore, uncertain although it is probable that towards the southern end of Navigation Road archaeological stratigraphy of some note may survive.

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Plate 1 General view of main trench in lawn at northern end Of Navigation Road, looking south-west



Plate 2 Detail of main trench at Section 10, looking north-east

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Plate 3 Main trench in vicinity of Section 14, looking south-east



Plate 4 Trench at Section 21, looking north-east

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Plate 5 Trench at Section 22, looking east



Plate 6 General view of works in progress at junction of Navigation Road And Rosemary Place, looking east

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