



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	71-73 Goodramgate, York		
CLIENT NAME	Town Centre Securities		
YAT PROJECT #	5508	YAT REPORT #	2011/41
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	YORYM:2011.407	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6048 5200
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a

INTRODUCTION

Between 23rd May and 25th May 2011 York Archaeological Trust undertook a small scale excavation to the rear of 71-73 Goodramgate (Figure 1). The work entailed the excavation of six small trenches located at various points around the perimeter of the site in order to examine the depth and nature of the foundations of the buildings surrounding the site (Figure 2). Test Pits 1, 2, 4 and 5 measured 1m x 0.5m in area and Test Pits 3 and 6 were 1m x 1m. At the same time two boreholes were sunk by Geo Site Surveys Ltd (Plate 10). These were located within two larger trenches excavated by York Archaeological Trust earlier in the year in order to evaluate the site. These trenches have been the subject of a previous interim report (Milsted, 2011) and forthcoming full evaluation report. Recording of the test pits took the form of written descriptions and measured sketches supplemented by a large number of colour digital photographs. On completion of the work Test Pit 6 was backfilled to ensure adequate space for the drilling rig but the remainder were left open so that the site engineer could examine them and gather the information he required. This report describes the results from all of the test pits and both boreholes.

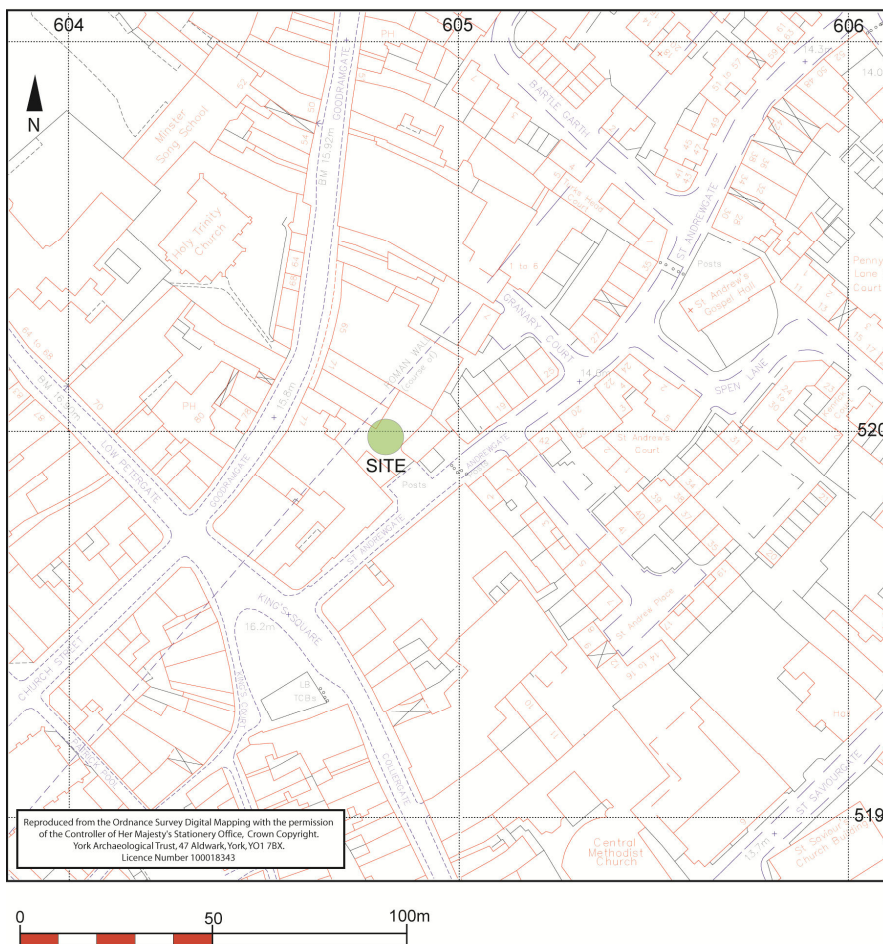


Figure 1 Site location

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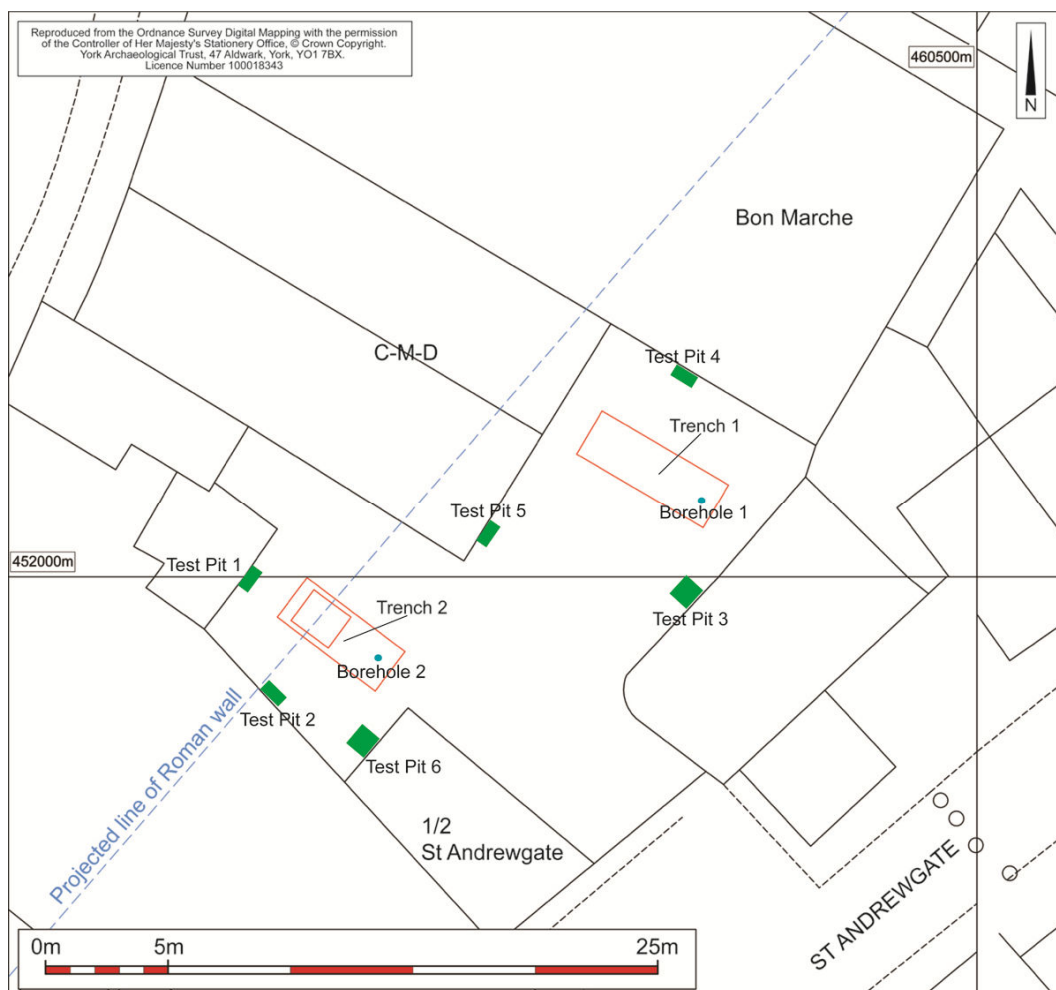


Figure 2 Location of test pits, boreholes and trenches

RESULTS

TEST PIT 1

The earliest deposit seen in this test pit, at between c.15.58m and 15.53m AOD (c.0.8m and 0.85m below modern ground level (BGL)) was a mid brown slightly clayey sandy silt with moderate patches of mid brown clay (109) (Figure 3, Plate 1). This was sealed by a 0.35m deep layer of dark brown slightly clayey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks (108). Overlying this was a 0.3m deep deposit of very dark brown clayey silt with moderate charcoal (107). All later contexts were relatively modern and consisted of; the construction cut (105) for the adjacent building, the concrete footing (106) in its base, two courses of breeze block foundations (103) the backfill of the construction trench, a dark brown slightly clayey silt with frequent brick / tile and occasional pale brown mortar (104), the above ground brick wall of the adjoining structure (102) and the levelling deposit, pale grey crushed limestone (101) for the existing modern yard surface of tarmac (100) at 16.38m AOD.

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TEST PIT 2

In this test pit the lowest deposit noted, at between 15.85m AOD / 0.5m BGL and at least the base of the trench at 15.50m AOD / 0.85m BGL, was a mid brown silt with moderate brick / tile and pale brown mortar (208) (Figure 4, Plate 2). Sealing this was a 0.25m deep layer of dark brown silt with moderate brick / tile and pale brown mortar (207). All overlying contexts were modern and comprised; the construction cut (206) for the adjacent upstanding building, the concrete (205) in its base, the construction cut's backfill of dark brown silt with moderate brick / tile and pale brown mortar (202), two courses of breeze block foundations (204) the above ground brick wall (203) for the adjacent structure and a levelling of pale grey crushed limestone (201) for the current yard surface of tarmac (200) at 16.35m AOD.

TEST PIT 3

The lowest deposit recorded in this test pit, between c.15.25m AOD / 0.35m BGL and at least the base of the trench at 14.90m AOD / 0.7m BGL, was a mid – dark brown clayey silt with frequent brick / tile and occasional charcoal and pale brown mortar (302) (Figure 5, Plates 3 and 4). All subsequent contexts were believed to be modern. These were a concrete footing (307) overlain by concrete in a blue plastic sheath (304), a concrete plinth (306) butting Context 304, a 0.03m wide coat of cement rendering (305) butting Context 304 and over Context 306, the above ground brick wall (303) of the adjoining building and a 0.15m deep levelling deposit of brick rubble and pale yellow crushed limestone (301) for the existing yard surface of reinforced concrete (300) at 15.60m AOD. No clearly defined construction cut was noted for Context 303 and its foundations.

TEST PIT 4

The earliest deposit recorded in this test pit, between c.15.13m AOD / 0.54m BGL and 15.10m AOD / 0.57m BGL, was a soft, dark greyish-brown sandy silt (405) (Figure 6, Plate 5). This was only seen in a very small area towards the west corner of the test pit since it was completely overlain in the rest of the test pit by a 0.1m thick layer of very solid concrete (403) making a detailed inspection of the foundations of the adjacent building impossible with the available hand tools. Above the concrete was a very thin c.0.01m deep, deposit of a hard, light yellowish-brown material containing occasional bands of paper (402). This butted a section of below ground wall (404) of the adjacent structure and consisted of four courses of mortared brickwork with the lowest course of bricks being laid on their side with the headers facing out. Butting this section of brickwork was a levelling deposit, 0.25m deep, of light yellow crushed limestone with moderate brick, tarmac and concrete (401) for the current yard surface of reinforced concrete (400) at 15.67m AOD. All the contexts within this test pit were definitely or probably relatively modern.

TEST PIT 5

In this test pit the lowest recorded deposit, between 15.20m AOD / 0.55m BGL and at least the base of the pit at 15.00m AOD / 0.75m BGL, was a very dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with frequent brick / tile (507) (Figure 7, Plate 6). Overlying it was a 0.25m deep layer of dark brown very slightly clayey silt with moderate brick / tile (506). All later contexts were felt to be modern. They were; The construction cut (505) for the wall of the adjoining building, the concrete (504) in its base, the backfill, a loose, mid brown silt with occasional brick / tile (503), in the construction cut, a levelling deposit of crushed limestone (502) forming the makeup for the existing yard surface of concrete (501) at 15.75m AOD, and a concrete slab (500) forming a step up into the adjacent structure.

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TEST PIT 6

The earliest deposit noted in this test pit, between 15.90m AOD / 0.2m BGL and at least the base of the pit at 15.10m AOD / 1m BGL, was a friable, dark greyish-brown sandy silt with moderate brick / tile (603) (Figure 8, Plates 7-9). All other contexts within this test pit were definitely or probably modern. These were; in the west corner a concrete base (607) of uncertain function which extended beyond the limits of excavation but appeared not to relate to any foundations although this is not certain, the construction cut (606) for the wall of the adjacent building, a layer of white fine crushed limestone (605) in the base of the construction cut, a brick built section of below ground wall (604) of the adjoining structure, the lower 0.28m of which was covered with blue plastic, the backfill, light yellow crushed limestone (602), of the construction trench and a levelling deposit of light grey crushed limestone (601) for the modern yard surface of tarmac (600) at 16.10m AOD.

BOREHOLE 1

Between ground level at c.15.60 and 15.10m AOD / 0.5m BGL there was a layer of pale greyish-brown crushed limestone (700). This overlay a 0.7m deep deposit of dark brown slightly clayey silt with occasional charcoal (701) to 14.40m AOD. This deposit sealed a 2.3m deep layer of black slightly organic clayey silt (702) observed to 12.20m AOD. Below this was a 0.5m deep deposit of light greyish-brown slightly sandy clay (703) observed to 11.60m AOD. This overlay a firm, mid grey slightly sandy clay (704) which was observed down to 9.10m AOD / 6.5m BGL where archaeological monitoring ceased. The borehole was scheduled to reach a depth of -2.90m AOD / 18.5m BGL.

BOREHOLE 2

In this borehole the uppermost deposit was observed between ground level at 16.10m AOD and 15.60m AOD / 0.5m BGL and consisted of pale grey crushed limestone (800). Below this was a 0.75m deep layer of mixed crushed limestone and mid brown silt (801) observed to 14.82m AOD. Under this was a 2.75m deep deposit of very dark brown – black slightly clayey silt with occasional brick / tile (802) observed to 12.10m AOD / 4m BGL where it became wet and stony. Between 12.10m AOD / 4m BGL and 11.10m AOD / 5m BGL there was a wet mixture of gravel and dark brown silt (803) and from 11.10m AOD / 5m BGL there was a firm, wet, mid brown clay (804). Archaeological recording stopped at this point although as with Borehole 1 this borehole was to reach a depth of c.-2.40m AOD / 18.5m BGL.

CONCLUSIONS

The test pits confirmed the largely modern nature of the deposits and features located within the upper 500-600mm of strata in this area. The boreholes corroborated the presence of the medieval organic deposits identified during the evaluation (Milsted, 2011), and identified archaeologically sensitive deposits to a depth of 11.60m AOD / 4m BGL to the north-east and 11.10m AOD / 5m BGL to the south-west, some 2.75-3.25m further below ground level than attained during the evaluation trenches and demonstrating the presence of extensive and important organic archaeological deposits in this area.

REFERENCES

Milsted. I., 2011, *71-73 Goodramgate, York, Interim Report*, YAT report number 2011/32

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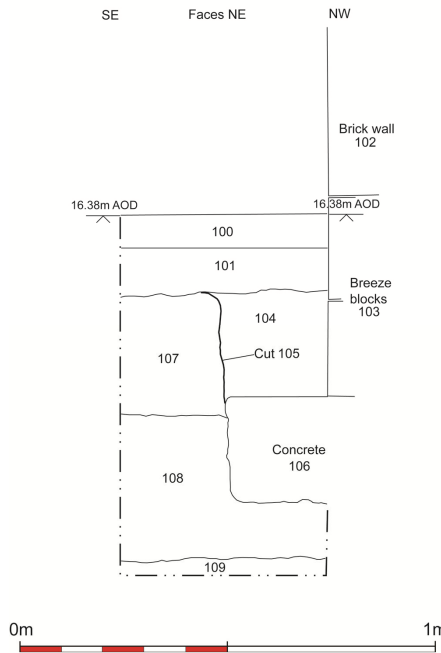


Figure 3 Test pit 1 section

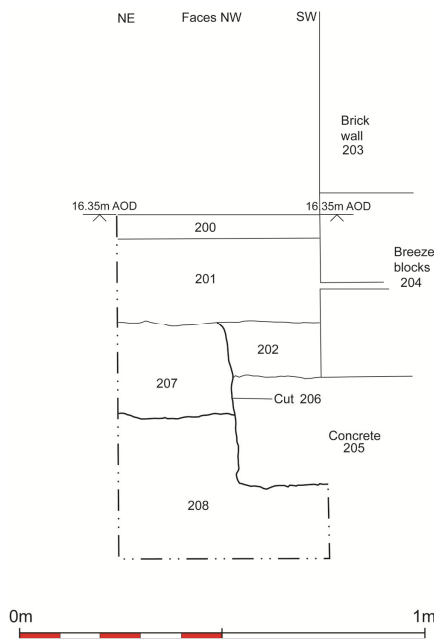


Figure 4 Test pit 2 section

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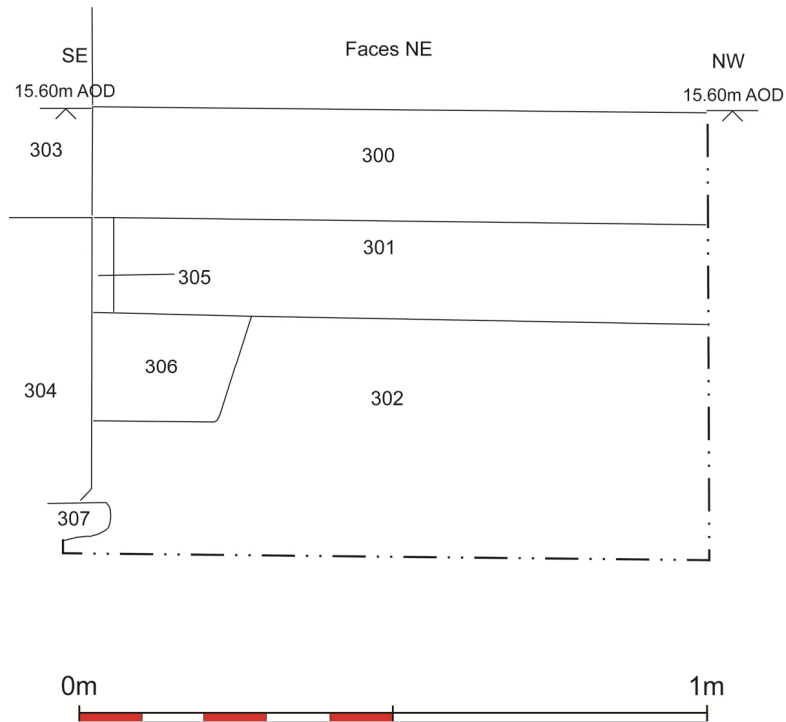


Figure 5 Test pit 3 section

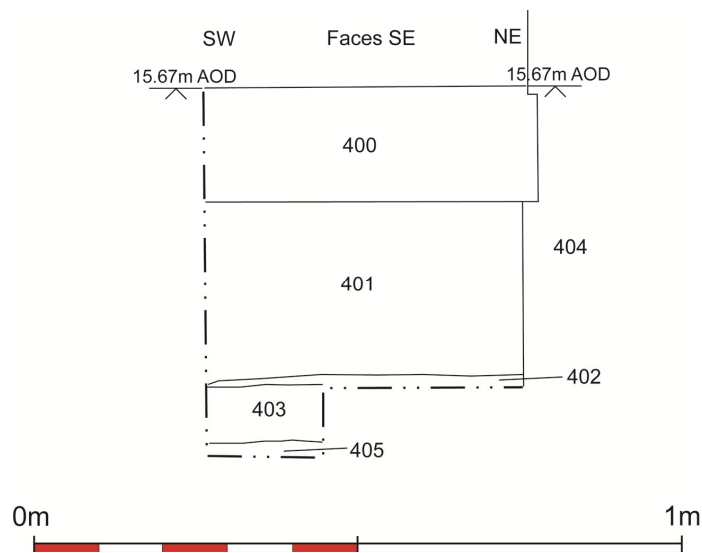


Figure 6 Test pit 4 section

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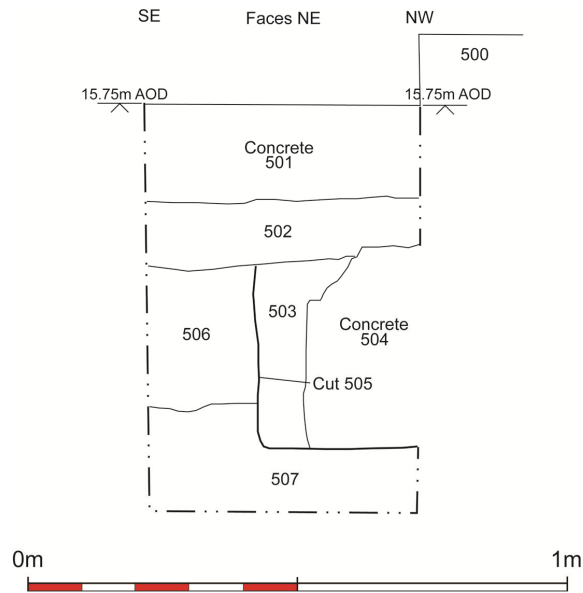


Figure 7 Test pit 5 section

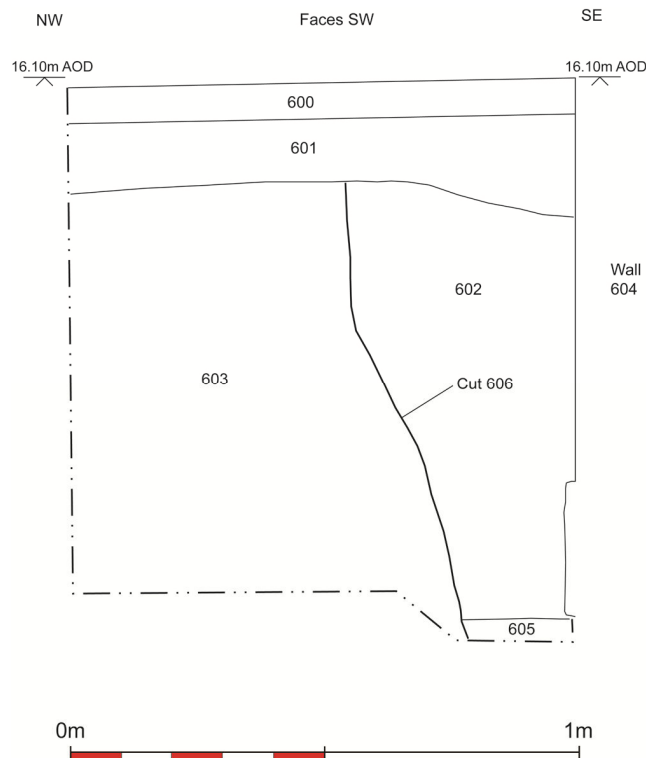


Figure 8 Test pit 6 section

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Plate 1 Test pit 1, looking north-west



Plate 2 Test pit 2, looking south-west

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Plate 3 Test pit 3, looking south-east



Plate 4 Test pit 3, north-east facing section, looking south-west

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Plate 5 Test pit 4, looking north-east



Plate 6 Test pit 5, looking north-west

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Plate 7 Test pit 6, south-west facing section, looking north-east



Plate 8 Test pit 6, north-east facing section, looking south-west

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Plate 9 Test pit 6, looking south-east



Plate 10 Borehole rig in position of borehole 2, looking west

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