

YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Middleton House, 38 Monkgate, York		
CLIENT NAME	York Conservation Trust		
YAT PROJECT #	5721	YAT REPORT #	2014/19
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6071 5234
PLANNING REFERENCE #	13/00177/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a

INTRODUCTION

Between 3rd and 13th of February 2014 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at the rear of Middleton House, 38 Monkgate, York. The objective was to record any archaeological deposits, features or buried structures during demolition and construction works at the south-east end of the building during its conversion into apartments. Initially the works were observed on a continuous basis but when it became apparent that there were limited amounts of archaeology the site was visited on a less continuous basis during periods of digging. Due to the restricted access to the site all excavation had to be by hand. A total of five specimen sections were recorded and are described below.



*Figure 1 Site location
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010*

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FINDS	Yes	SAMPLES	No	PHOTOS	Yes
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Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



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Figure 2 Location of 38 Monkgate, outlined in green

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RESULTS

SECTION 1

Context	Depth below ground level	Description	Notes
1000	0 – 0.05m	Concrete flags	Modern surface
1001	0.05 – 0.1m	Concrete	Modern levelling
1002	0.1m	Blue plastic sheeting	Modern
1003	0.1 – 0.2m	Concrete	Modern
1004	0.2 – 0.5m	Brick rubble / dark greyish-brown silt	Modern
1005	0.5 – 0.6m	Firm, mid brown very slightly clayey silt	Possible build-up deposit

SECTION 2

Context	Depth below ground level	Description	Notes
1006	0 – 0.05m	Concrete	Modern surface
1007	0.05 – 0.5m	Mixture of fine brick rubble, mid greyish-brown silt and pale brown mortar	Modern levelling or demolition deposit

SECTION 3

Context	Depth below ground level	Description	Notes
1008	0 – 0.05m	Concrete	Modern surface
1009	0.05 – 0.1m	Mid brown sand	Modern levelling
1010	0.1 – 0.3m	Dark brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional brick / tile	Modern
1011	0.3 – 0.5m	Pale brown mortar with moderate brick / tile and occasional dark brown silt	Modern demolition or levelling deposit
1012	0.5 – 1.2m	Dark brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and pale brown mortar	Medieval build-up deposit

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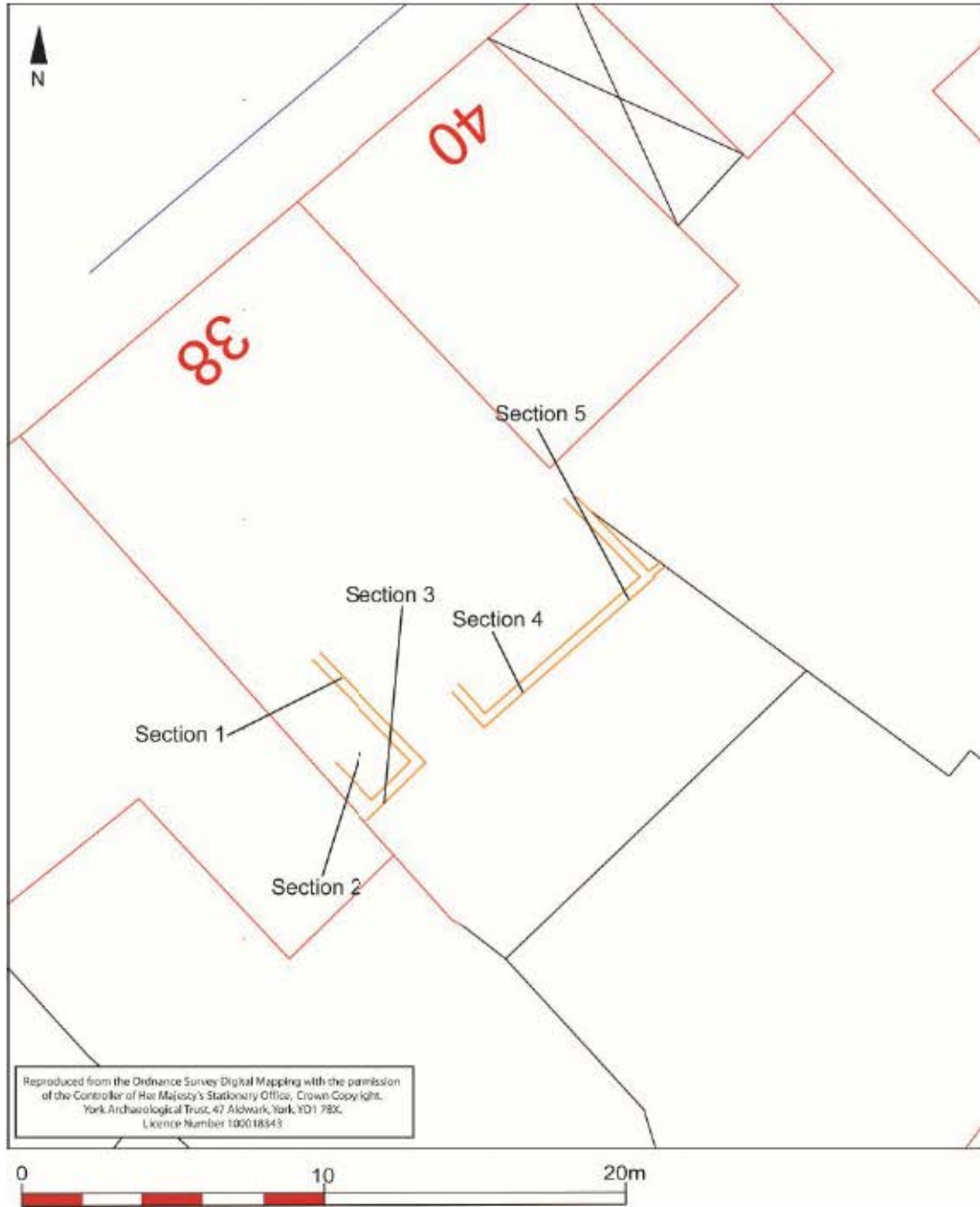


Figure 3 Location of new trenches and recorded sections

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SECTION 4

Context	Depth below ground level	Description	Notes
1013	0 – 0.05m	Coarse mid brown sand	Modern levelling deposit
1014	0.05 – 0.2m	Dark greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt with moderate brick / tile	Probably modern
1015	0.2 – 0.6m	Dark brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional white mortar	Possible build-up deposit
1016	0.6 – 0.9m	Dark brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional charcoal	Probable build-up deposit

SECTION 5

Context	Depth below ground level	Description	Notes
1017	0 – 0.1m	Clinker and dark grey silt with occasional white mortar and brick / tile	Modern levelling deposit
1018	0.1 – 0.3m	Mid greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with occasional brown mortar	Possible build-up deposit
1019	0.3 – 0.05m	Mid brown clay	Possible floor surface



Plate 1 Foundation trench in vicinity of Section 3, looking south-west

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Plate 2 Foundation trench in vicinity of Sections 4 and 5, looking south-west

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Plate 3 Detail of Section 5, looking south-east

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Overall relatively little of archaeological significance was noted during the works although the band of clay, Context 1019, seen at the base of Section 5 may have been a clay floor. Elsewhere, the archaeology, where identified consisted of dark agricultural or garden soils known from previous work to exist in the vicinity away from the Monkgate frontage. Three unstratified sherds of pottery were recovered from the excavation work around Section 1 and appear to belong to the 12th – 13th centuries. The survival of archaeological deposits across the site seems to be quite variable with deposits being encountered at c.0.5m below modern ground level towards the south-west of the site reducing to c.0.3m to the north-east. This, and the actual observations on site, indicates a moderate to high degree of modern disturbance of the upper archaeology on site. It should, however, be noted that during archaeological investigations prior to construction work to the rear of 40 – 48 Monkgate, some 55m east of the current works, complex and well preserved Roman archaeology, in the form of pits, gullies post holes and possible occupation deposits, were found at a depth of c.1.4m below the modern ground level and might be expected at a slightly lower depth at 38 Monkgate.

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of York Archaeological Trust for Excavation & Research Limited ("YAT"). YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. Nobody is entitled to rely upon this Report other than the person/party which commissioned it. YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by anybody other than the commissioning person/party.

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