


YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

	SITE ADDRESS	George Court, York		
	CLIENT NAME	Phillip Whattam		
	YAT PROJECT #	5795	YAT REPORT #	2014/37
	MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6078 5250
	PLANNING REFERENCE #	14/00718/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a

INTRODUCTION

On July 10th 2014 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at George Court, York. The objective was to record any deposits, features or buried structures exposed during works associated with the redevelopment of an area previously used for storage / warehousing. The site lies within the City of York Central Area of Archaeological Importance and the area of the works was thought to lie close to the possible line of a Roman road. Recording was by means of written notes and measured sketches supplemented by a number of colour digital photographs. Three of the eleven foundation pits were recorded in detail and are described, in tabular form, below. The remaining foundation pits were photographically recorded by the developer.



Figure 1 Location of site
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010

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RESULTS

TRENCH A

Context	Depth below ground level	Description	Notes
1000	0 – 0.05m	Concrete	Modern surface
1001	0.05 – 0.25m	Concrete rubble and brick / tile	Modern levelling
1002	0.25 – 1m	Dark brown silt with occasional charcoal and tile	Undated build-up

TRENCH B

Context	Depth below ground level	Description	Notes
1003	0 – 0.05m	Concrete	Modern surface
1004	0.05 – 0.25m	Concrete rubble and brick / tile	Modern levelling
1005	0.25 – 0.8m	Dark brown silt with moderate flecks of white mortar and occasional charcoal and tile	Undated build-up
1006	0.8 – 1m	Very dark brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional patches of mid brown slightly sandy clay.	Undated build-up

TRENCH C

Context	Depth below ground level	Description	Notes
1007	0 – 0.05	Concrete	Modern surface
1008	0.05 – 0.25m	Concrete rubble and brick / tile	Modern levelling
1009	0.25 – 0.3m	Brick floor. Bricks are 215 x 110 x 60mm in size	Undated floor
1010	0.3 – 0.35m	Compact, dark brownish – grey silt	Uncertain deposit
1011	0.35 – 0.55m	Loose pale brown mortar with occasional decayed wood	Demolition deposit
1012	0.55 – 1m	Very dark greyish - brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional charcoal	Undated build-up

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				PAGE	2 of 6

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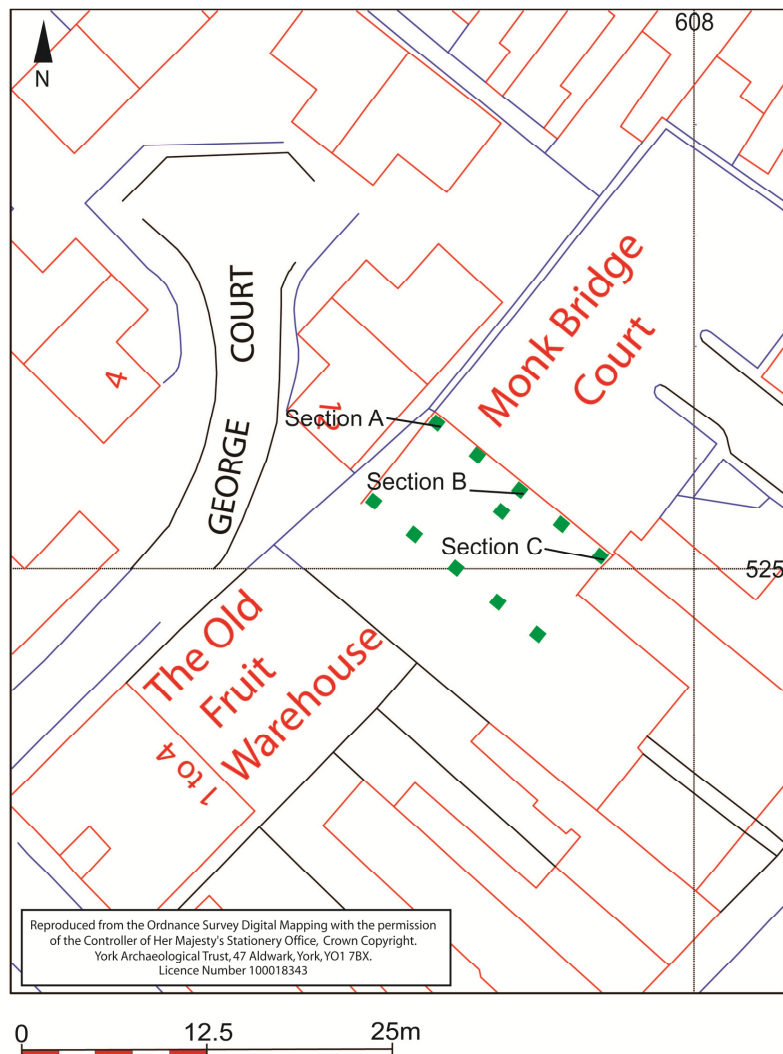


Figure 2 Location of foundation pits and recorded sections

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Plate 1 Spoil from Trench A, looking north

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Plate 2 Detail of interior of Trench B, looking south-east

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Plate 3 General view of Trench C, looking north-east

DISCUSSION

Although no datable finds were retained from this watching brief it was clear that most of the deposits seen were relatively modern. Exceptions are probably Contexts 1002, 1005, 1006 and 1012. The clean dark nature of these may indicate that they are Medieval garden soils which have been noted from the surrounding area in the past. Of particular interest is Context 1006, the clay inclusions may indicate that natural lies close below the base of the trench. No archaeological remains of any significance were noted during this work.

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