



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE	8 Moor Lane, Copmanthorpe		
CLIENT NAME	Chris Swift		
YAT PROJECT #	5872	YAT REPORT #	2015/51
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 5635, 4639
PLANNING REFERENCE #	15/00790/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

INTRODUCTION

On the evening of the 29th and 30th of September 2015, York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at 9 Moor Lane, Copmanthorpe. The objective was to record any deposits, features or buried structures exposed during works associated with excavating the strip foundations of a new house and garage.

The works involved the excavation of linear foundation trenches using a mechanical excavator beneath the each of the planned walls of the house and garage (including internal walls). These trenches were excavated to a depth of between 1m and 1.4m below the current ground level. No archaeological features were identified during the works. A ceramic field drain was the only man made feature identified.

These works were intermittently monitored during two visits, both lasting three hours, on the mornings of the 29th and 30th of September. Recording was by means of written notes and measured sketches supplemented by a number of colour digital photographs.

RESULTS

The naturally occurring deposits, visible in the section edges of the trenches, varied little across the footprint of the building. The topsoil was a friable, mid greyish brown sandy silt. In an area covering roughly one third of the buildings footprint (from the north western corner inwards) this topsoil was riddled with thick roots relating to some orchard trees that had been removed prior to the ground works. The topsoil was covered by a layer of grass where the south eastern strip foundations were being dug though an existing garden.

This top soil overlay a subsoil of friable, light orangish brown clayey sand that contained occasional patches of friable, light grey sand. This subsoil didn't vary in thickness that much across the site ranging between 0.55m and 0.65m.

The subsoil overlay a naturally occurring firm, mid orangish brown sandy clay which contained the occasional large angular stone and patches of red clay. This deposit was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.5m in the north western strip foundations, due to the requirement to go deeper because of a row of Conifer trees.

The field drain was exposed in two of the excavated strip foundation trenches. It was formed from 150mm thick pan tiles lain in a straight line, on a roughly north east to south west alignment. The external width of the drain was 120mm whilst the internal was 90mm. It was located at 0.5m below ground level in both of the trenches that it was visible in. This type of pan tile is in use from the 17th century onwards.

An example section of the trench including the field drain is provided on figure 1 and visible in plate 2. Further example sections and an annotated plan were sketched during the site works and these could be digitised if requested.

DISCUSSION

The works relating to the excavation of the strip foundation trenches of a house and garage at 9 Moor Lane have not impacted upon any significant archaeological deposits. There are further planned ground works, relating to installing drains for the new property, but the archaeological potential for any disturbed is low.

COMPLETED BY	Gary Millward	CHECKED BY	D Aspden	FINISHED	05/10/15
FINDS	0	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	50
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Plate 1: General shot, facing south east across development site during works.



Plate 2: North east facing section of the central strip foundation with the ceramic field drain visible.

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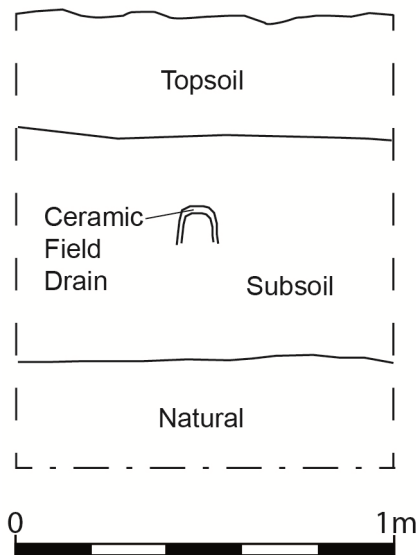
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North east facing section of central strip foundation trench



Scale 1:20
Figure 1

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