YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE MANSION HOUSE, YORK

By Toby Kendall and Ben Savine

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Report Number 2016/27 June 2016

YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

York Archaeological Trust undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for commercial, academic and charitable clients. We manage projects, provide professional advice and fieldwork to ensure a high quality, cost effective archaeological and heritage service. Our staff have a considerable depth and variety of professional experience and an international reputation for research, development and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology. Based in York, Sheffield, Nottingham and Glasgow the Trust's services are available throughout Britain and beyond.

York Archaeological Trust, Cuthbert Morrell House, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024

Email: archaeology@yorkat.co.uk Website: http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk

CONTENTS

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY III
KEY PROJECT INFORMATION III
1 INTRODUCTION 1
2 METHODOLOGY 1
3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY 1
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 2
5 RESULTS 2
6 DISCUSSION 5
7 CONCLUSION 6
LIST OF SOURCES 7
REFERENCES 7
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 7
APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE 8
APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST 9
APPENDIX 3 – THE POTTERY 11
APPENDIX 4 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION 12
PLATES 20
FIGURES 27

Plate 1 - Trial Trench 1 2012 works 20
Plate 2 - Wooden stakes below 18th century wall footings 21
Plate 3 - Section 2 Trench 1 showing services, cellar wall foundations 21
Plate 4 - Trench 2 layers present above natural deposits 22
Plate 5 - Trench 2 pit backfill below disturbed cobble rich material and 18th century wall footings 23
Plate 6 - Trench 3 road surface 23
Plate 7 - Melon bead recovered from context 2016 24
Plate 8 - Trench 3 road surface 24
Plate 9 - Section 7 Trench 3, following undercutting of wall foundation, showing medieval pit cutting a succession of road make-up and surface deposits 25
Plate 10 - Section 6 Trench 3, showing a succession of road make-up and surface deposits 25
Plate 11 - Trench 4 brick built drain or culvert 26

Figure 1 Site Location 28
Figure 2 Trench and Section Locations 29
Figure 3 2012 Works, Section 4, Trial Trench 1 30

Figure 4 Sections 1 and 2, Trench 1 31
Figure 5 Section 3, Trench 2 32
Figure 6 Section 7, Trench 3 33
Figure 7 Section 6, Trench 3 34
Figure 8 Transect showing deposits below the Mansion House 35

Abbreviations

BGL Below Ground Level

WSI Written Scheme of Investigation

YAT York Archaeological Trust

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

York Archaeological Trust (YAT) observed two phases of underpinning works carried out at the Mansion House, York (NGR SE 6015 5192). The first of these was undertaken between 15th February and 1st March 2016 with the second part from 18th - 25th of July 2016. A watching brief was also carried out intermittently between these dates as and when necessary.

The work was undertaken for City of York Council in relation to planning application AOD/15/00234. It was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by YAT and approved by the City Archaeologist. The work recorded archaeological deposits revealed during excavations for underpinning within the cellar of the building.

Archaeology revealed during the works was primarily linked with the foundations of the standing 18th century building, and in the case of Trench 3 to a sequence of road surfaces and make-up of Roman date. There was limited evidence of early medieval activity in the form of a possible pit and a small number of residual finds which indicate activity pre-dating the 18th century standing building.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Mansion House York
YAT Project No.	5894
Report status	Final Report
Type of Project	Watching Brief
Client	City of York Council
Planning Application No.	AOD/15/00234
NGR	SE 6015 5192
Museum Accession No.	YORYM:2016.392
OASIS Identifier	yorkarch1 - 246824

REPORT INFORMATION

Version	Produced by		Edited by		Approved by	
	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
1	TK	19/04/16	DA	19/04/16	DA	18/05/16
2	BS	02/08/16	IM	02/12/16	DA	16/12/16

Disclaimer:
This document has been prepared for the commissioning body and titled project (or named part thereof) and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of the author being obtained. York Archaeological Trust accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than that for which it was commissioned.

1 INTRODUCTION

Between the 15th February and 25th July 2016 York Archaeological Trust (YAT) observed underpinning works in the basement of the Mansion House, York, NGR SE 6015 5192, (Figure 1). The archaeological works encompassed monitoring three underpinning trenches (numbered 1-3) and a watching brief on cable installation (Trench 4).

The work was undertaken for City of York Council in relation to planning application AOD/15/00234. The WSI was prepared by YAT and approved by the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley. The work was to record any archaeological features which were exposed during the excavation of underpinning trenches.

Additional recording was completed on a trial pit to the rear of the building.

The site archive is currently stored by YAT under project code 5894. All finds will be returned to the Mansion House team so they can be used for educational purposes during visits to the site.

2 METHODOLOGY

The underpinning trenches were dug to c.1.5m below the cellar floor level, in a sequence determined by the project engineer. The works took place at three separate locations and have therefore been divided for ease of reference into Trench 1, Trench 2 and Trench 3 (Figure 2). Within each trench the work was completed in separate underpinning bays.

In the case of Trenches 1 and 2 the excavation works were undertaken by the site contractors, William Anelay Limited. Excavation of the north-western half of Trench 3 was initially undertaken by the site contractors, the remainder was excavated by an archaeologist using the YAT single context recording system when it became apparent that archaeological deposits had been encountered. The archaeological excavation was undertaken to a point flush with the vertical face of the wall and its foundation. William Anelay's undertook further excavation under archaeological supervision where it was necessary to remove material from below the standing wall.

All excavation was completed using hand tools with records being created during and after the excavation was complete. Recording was completed on site using a combination of drawn plans, sections and digital photographs taken at a resolution of no less than 10 megapixels.

All finds will be returned to the team at the Mansion House for education purposes.

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The Trench 1 and Trench 2 works were located at the foot of the stairs into the Mansion House basement. Trench 3 was located in the Butler's Pantry situated to the right of the foot of the basement stairs.

An additional small investigative trench was excavated to the rear of the building, immediately north of the single storey 20th century extension.

Natural solid geology is Sherwood group sandstone overlain by glacio-lacustrine clays and silts (www.bgs.ac.uk, accessed 26/07/16).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Built in the early 18th century the Mansion House occupies what is thought to be the location of the medieval Common Hall gateway. There have been a number of significant archaeological discoveries from the Roman period onwards in the vicinity.

The main gatehouse sited on the south-west side of the Roman Fortress lies to the immediate north-east of the site. Associated with this are the roads designated by the RCHM as Road 10 and Road 2. Road 10 runs from the fortress in the direction of the River Ouse, while Road 2 lies in front of the fortress on a line parallel with the river. It is likely that the junction of these roads lies close to the Mansion House.

To the southwest is the 15th century Guildhall which probably sits on top of its 13th century predecessor.

In 1993 YAT undertook a watching brief which exposed the cobble foundations of the standing building (YAT project 1993.5, YAT Gazetteer). More recently, in 2012, a small 1m² trench excavated through the brick floor of the cellar exposed natural deposits c.400mm below the surface, suggesting other archaeological deposits had been removed during its construction (Whyman 2012, 22). Context 1007, a compacted layer of cobbles c.0.1m thick, was observed situated directly above natural deposits and to extend below the cellar wall (Figure 3, Plate 1). Proving whether this layer was part of an earlier cellar floor or a surface pre-dating the Mansion House was not possible as no dateable material had been recovered.

5 RESULTS

By their nature underpinning trenches are usually excavated into previously disturbed deposits linked with the building of the structure being reinforced. As a result, only a relatively small portion of undisturbed material was encountered during this work, and results were relatively limited.

5.1 Underpinning Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 1.4m on its north-east/south-west axis, 1.3m on its north-west/south-east axis and was excavated to a depth of 1.4m below the existing floor level.

Undisturbed natural deposits were encountered at approximately 1.05m below the cellar floor level at 10.85m AOD. Overlying natural were two distinct horizons of cobbles. The lower layer of cobbles, context 3013, in a 250mm thick silty matrix containing large fragments of Roman CBM including tegula extend up to 11.12m AOD. The upper cobble layer, context 3012, was in a 350mm thick sandy matrix. Neither layer appeared to be particularly well consolidated, with 3012 in particular being quite loose.

The disturbance of the cobble layers may relate to a series of square timber stakes that appear to have been driven through them and on into the natural below (Figure 4, Plate 2). The stakes measured c.100mm wide and in excess of 500mm long and were exclusively found below the north-west/south-east aligned cellar wall. As they continued below the excavation depth limit required for the underpinning they were not fully excavated. These stakes were interpreted as markers laying out the original foundations as they appear to lack the necessary size and strength to fulfil a structural role as piles to support the foundation.

Formal construction of the 18th century cellar wall foundations commenced at around 11.50m AOD where a layer of mortar, context 3011, formed the bedding for limestone blocks and then brick coursing. The wall footing had been extensively perforated by drains, pipes and other services (Plate 3).

5.2 Underpinning Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 2.9m on its north-east/south-west axis, 1.2m on its north-west/south-east axis and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m below the existing floor level. Excavation and underpinning was carried out in three roughly 1m long sections. The sections of underpinning at the north-east and south-west ends of the trench were completed before work on the central section commenced.

Natural clayey sands were encountered at 10.83m AOD, a depth of 1.05m below floor level. Above the natural deposits a succession of sandy silt layers, contexts 4005, 4006 and 4007 was observed in section (Figure 5, Plate 4). The middle of these deposit, context 4006, differed from those immediately above and below. It was orangey brown rather than dark grey in colour, likely as a result of extensive iron panning, and contained a significantly greater gravel content. This layer, which may be the disturbed remains of a surface, extended to c.11.08m AOD.

In the south-western part of the trench both the natural and the sandy silt deposits were not visible. Instead, a dark silt deposit, context 4008, with cobbles and angular limestone fragments was present (Plate 5) from which a large unabraded sherd of 10th or 11th century pottery (possibly Torksey Ware or similar) was recovered. The homogeneous appearance of context 4008 and the absence of the distinct layered deposits observed elsewhere in the trench points to context 4008 being the backfill of an intrusive feature, possibly a pit, cutting down through the earlier layered deposits and into the underlying natural. This pit was assumed to be a medieval feature predating the Mansion House, but was not excavated further as deeper excavation for underpinning was not required in this area.

Next in the sequence, overlying both the possible pit and the sandy silt layers, was context 4004, a 170mm to 380mm thick cobble, limestone and CBM rich greyish brown sandy silt with a poorly consolidated or disturbed appearance.

Initial construction of the 18th century cellar wall foundations was observed to start above context 4004 at around 11.30m AOD where a layer of mortar bedded limestone, context 4002, had been laid followed with a combination of limestone blocks and brick coursing, context 4001. Similarly to Trench 1 the cellar wall foundations had been pierced by drains, pipes and other services.

5.2 Underpinning Trench 3

Part of the north-east wall of the Butler's Pantry required underpinning to a depth of 1.4m below the level of the existing sprung floor. The trench, measuring 2m in length and up to 1m wide, was excavated in two parts starting with the section to the north-west.

Natural deposits, consisting of sand, were observed at 10.40m AOD, a depth of 1.5m below the current floor level. Above this was observed a sequence of hard-packed sand, gravel and compacted cobble layers interpreted as possible Roman road surfaces.

Present directly above the natural sands was a layer of a large cobbles and limestone fragments over laid by compacted sand, gravel and small, generally well-sorted pebbles. These deposits, contexts 2016 and 2017, formed what is tentatively interpreted as the earliest road make-up and surface (Figures 6 and 7, Plate 6). This material was up to 0.23m thick, extending up to around 10.60m AOD, and relatively level albeit with some irregularity probably due to abrasion through use. A fragment of a glass melon bead was retrieved from the top of deposit 2017 (Plate 7).

The next clearly identifiable surface, context 2012, was found at 11.00m AOD, 0.85m BGL, approximately 400mm above the previous road surface (Plate 8). Four distinct layers, contexts 2012-2015, were identified in the make-up of this phase of the road (Figures 6 and 7). The lowest consisted of compacted mortar into which coarse sand, gravel and cobbles had been set. Whilst it is possible that context 2013 constituted a surface, it should be noted although it was extremely compact, the upper surface was clean and did not have a layer of trampled material across it as might be expected. In contrast the upper surface of context 2012 had both well worn cobbles and a thin layer of trample and looser pebbles indicating use. Pottery and CBM recovered from deposits within this phase of the road supports the initial assessment of a Roman date for the construction and use of the road.

The last identified road surface was similar in appearance to that of context 2012, and again a number of distinct layers within the make-up of the main body of the road structure were evident (Figures 6 and 7). In this instance two distinct layers of compacted mortar, contexts 2005 and 2008/ 2009, forming part of the road make-up, were identified. There was a trend for these deposits to tip down a little to the north-west. The upper most deposits, context 2002 and 2003, suggest abrasion and repair to the surface. Together the deposits in this phase of the road measure up to 0.5m thick, extending up to 11.50m AOD, around 400mm below the existing floor level. Taken as a whole the various road make-up and surface layers are approximately 1.05m thick.

Extending in to the eastern corner of Trench 3 was a deep intrusive feature, context 2021 (Figure 7, Plate 9). This feature was backfilled with dark grey silt, pebbles and cobbles. All the road surface and make-up deposits from context 2004 down were truncated by this feature which has been interpreted as a pit.

Truncating the top of the pit at 11.30m AOD were the foundations of the 18th century cellar walls (Figure 7). Positioned at a slightly higher point was the existing floor structure, comprising wooden floor boards supported on joists running across the room on a north-east/south-west alignment. The joists rested on a series of shallow brick piers orientated on a perpendicular axis creating a void c.400mm deep. A hard crust of mortar, context 2001, extended across the trench at 11.55m AOD, and in section was seen to lap up against a brick pier supporting the existing floor joists (Figure 7, Plate 10). It is probable that context 2001 is contemporary with the construction of the brick piers in the existing floor structure, as no evidence of an earlier cellar floor was apparent.

5.3 Trench 4, Basement watching brief

An irregularly shaped trench covering an area approximately 1.5m by 2m and measuring up to 0.35m deep was excavated a short distance to the north-east of the underpinning works (Figure 2). An arrangement of flat-laid bricks three courses and 400mm wide was found on a

north-east/south-west alignment. Lying close to the wall the arrangement of bricks turned to the south-west where there was a break in the wall foundation (Plate 11). The bricks measured 50mm thick, 110mm wide, and up to 200mm long, although none of these was a complete length. There was no indication that the bricks would have continued to the north-west. It is likely this represents the remains of a drain rather than a surface.

5.4 Other works

Externally a 1m x 1m hole was excavated to a depth of 550mm to establish if one of the cellar windows had previously been a door.

This excavation removed relatively modern loose drain backfilling deposits. At the base it exposed a drain set in concrete as well as the southwest footing of the Mansion House.

There was no indication of a door predating the existing window.

6 DISCUSSION

Figure 8 shows a north-east/south-west transect by combining sections recorded below the Mansion House cellar floor. The top of natural deposits can be seen to fall away to the south-west. From a high point of 11.12m AOD, in the 2012 Trial Trench 1, natural deposits fall by around 300mm to 10.83m AOD at the location of Trench 2. The two trenches are separated by a distance of approximately 8m, creating a gentle slope of around 1 in 25. In contrast natural deposits slope much more precipitously between Trench 2 and Trench 3. In Trench 3 natural lies at 10.40m AOD, a fall of c.400mm over a distance of around 2m, which gives a slope of 1 in 5. The steeper gradient towards the south-east end of the profile is likely to be a natural slope close to the river bank, interestingly a sequence of compacted sand, gravel and cobbles interpreted as a road coincides with the change in the gradient.

The sequence of compacted sand, gravel, pebbles, cobbles and mortar exposed in Trench 3 is indicative of a well used and maintained road, and although the area exposed was relatively small a number of phases of probable use, repair and replacement could be determined. The recovery of 1st and 2nd century pottery from the road make-up (see Appendix 3), indicates a Roman date for the construction of the road, indeed more than one phase of use , repair or resurfacing appears to have taken place during the Roman period. Well-worn cobbles were identified at the top of contexts 2004 and 2012; in addition context 2013 may have been a surface, although the small area of that deposit exposed lacks some of the characteristics of an actively used surface exposed to traffic and the elements. Some parallels can be drawn with context 3013, a sandy cobble rich deposit in Trench 1. Although context 3013 lacked the compacted and consolidated character of road make-up deposits in Trench 3 it could be the case that road make-up here was subjected to disturbance at a later date. Further to the north-west, in 2012 Trial Trench 1, a layer of cobbles set in clay, context 1007, was found overlying natural. Even if this was not in itself a surface there is the possibility that it could be part of a road make-up.

Present in Trench 2 at a similar depth to the road make-up deposits in Trenches 1 and 3 was a sequence of sandy silt layers. Despite context 4006 having the appearance of a thin surface the general character of these deposits was quite different to the road make-up seen in Trench 3. It is possible that the sandy silt layers in Trench 2 hint at road side activity, whether

that activity is contemporary with the use of the road during the Roman period or later is not clear.

A deep intrusive feature was observed cutting down through nearly the entire sequence of road make-up and surfaces in the eastern corner of Trench 3. This feature, interpreted as a pit, contained two backfills. Similarities in composition exist between the pit's lower backfill, context 2020, and deposit 4008 located in the southern end of Trench 2. That the two deposits equate is also suggested by their proximity and that both extend beyond the depth of excavation. Interestingly a single large unabraded sherd of9th/10th century pottery was recovered from context 4008, indicating an early medieval date of deposition. The relationship between the presumed pit, context 4009, and the sandy silt layers in Trench 2 was not clear. This lack of clarity was largely due to the way Trench 2 was dug. The trench was dug in three sections (Figure 5) enabling a staged approach to the underpinning, unfortunately the interface between the layers and the pit fell on the cusp of two underpinning sections. At best it is only possible to suggest that the pit cuts through contexts 4005, 4006 and 4007. If that interpretation is correct it implies that the layers may be pre-conquest in date.

Above pit 4009, extending the length of Trench 3 was a thick cobble rich deposit, context 4004. The disturbed appearance of context 4004 was quite different to the compact road make-up layers found at similar depth in Trench 3, it is however similar to deposits 3012 and 1008, found in the current Trench 1 and Trial Trench 1 dug in 2012. These layers all share the appearance of having been disturbed. Deposits 3012 and 1008 were found to be present at a similar depth and stratagraphic position to context 4004 (Figure 8), as a whole the base of this material ranged from 11.12m to 11.21m AOD. The volume of sand and cobbles within contexts 3012 and 4004 raises the possibility that this material may originally have been road make-up, subjected to disturbance by later activity. Works relating to the construction of the Mansion House are a likely candidate for extensive disturbance at this depth.

The foundations of the Mansion House exposed by the underpinning have helped to enhance our understanding of its initial construction, particularly the use of timbers for marking out, as well as the reuse of limestone from other structures. Some questions remain, for example the extent of the disturbed cobble rich deposits is not known, consequently it is not clear whether an extensive cobble raft exists as part of the Mansion House foundations, or if the cobble rich deposits as limited solely to below the north-east/south-west aligned spine wall running through the middle of the cellar.

7 CONCLUSION

The formation and character of materials employed in the road make-up is typical of Roman roads encountered elsewhere in and around York. The Mansion House is positioned close to the junction of two Roman roads, one running from the fortress south towards Lincoln designated as Road 10 by the RCHM, the another, on an alignment parallel to the outside of the fortress adjacent to the north-east bank of the River Ouse, is designated as Road 2.

Broad similarities can be drawn with the road found during excavations at 39-41 Coney Street in 1974-75. Here successive layers of road make-up surfaces and silting, attributed to the 2nd to 4th centuries, was identified as a road running parallel to the outside of the south-west side of the fortress. A road on this alignment found on Spurriergate in 1959 was designated Road 2

by the RCHM. That section of Road 2 was composed of limestone chippings and measured at least 4.4m wide and 0.9m thick (RCHMY 1, 1). A width measurement for the road under the Mansion House could not be established because of the limited scale of excavation, but similarities in the composition and thickness of the road can be drawn with the previously recognised elements of Road 2.

The position of intact road surfaces lying up against such a steep slope in the underlying natural deposits are indicative of the road following a course parallel to the slope. In this case the likely scenario is that the road encountered in Trench 3 lies on a north-west/south-east axis and therefore is part of Road 2. What is much less clear is if the disturbed sand and cobble layers in Trench 1 and the compacted cobbles in the 2012 Trial Trench 1 are part of the north-east/south-west aligned Road 10 leading from the Porta Praetoria towards the bridge crossing the Ouse, given the likely extensive truncation caused by the construction of the Mansion house basement. Evidence for the junction of the two roads is lacking in this location.

The limited scope of excavation beneath the Mansion House makes an assessment of the depth of disturbance caused by its construction difficult to define. What is clear from the finds retrieved is that there is potential for archaeological deposits and features predating the 18th century Mansion House to exist in this area. Of the two definitively earlier features encountered the deep pit is assumed to be medieval, and the road surfaces and make-up stratigraphically below the pit are best understood as part of the Roman era road network.

Any further intrusive work should take into account the potential for significant archaeology and has the potential to greatly enhance our understanding of activity close to the north-eastern bank of the river Ouse.

LIST OF SOURCES

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html

accessed 26/07/16

YAT Online Gazetteer

REFERENCES

Hall, R., A. 1986. Roman Warehouses and Other Riverside Structure in Coney Street Archaeology of York 6/1, York Archaeological Trust, 5 – 20

RCHMY 1962. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England): *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City or York* **1:** *Eburacum Roman York* (Leicester, HMSO)

Whyman, M. 2012. 'York 800: Excavations in Guildhall Yard' in *Northern Archaeology Today*, Issue 2

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Richard Pollitt and the team at the Mansion House as well as William Anelay the principal contractors. A warm welcome, knowledgeable input and patience during the recording process made the whole job run very smoothly.

APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	58
Levels register	1
Drawing register	2
Original drawings	28
Digital photographs	266
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

Table 1 Index to archive

APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST

Trench	Context no.	Description
3	1000	Unstratified.
3	1001	Surface. Friable, mixed black/grey, sand. Frequent CBM and stones.
3	1002	Bedding. Firm, mid orange, coarse sand.
3	1003	Build-up. Friable, grey/brown, sandy silt with charcoal.
3	1004	Road make-up. Firm, grey/brown, mixed sand, cobbles and sandy silt.
3	1005	Road make-up. Compact mid grey, sandy silt and cobbles.
3	1006	Road make-up and surface. Layers of compacted sand and cobbles with lenses of grey silty sand.
3	1007	Road make-up/bedding material. Compact, pale grey/white, lime mortar.
3	1008	Road make-up/surface. Compact mid orange/brown, sand, gravel and cobbles.
3	1009	Natural. Firm mid orange/brown sand.
3	2000	Unstratified.
3	2001	Disturbed layer/trample. Compact, mixed light and dark brown sand and mortar with occasional medium sized cobbles and small CBM fragments.
3	2002	Abraded surface. Compact, mid brown, medium sized pebbles and cobbles in a matrix of dark brown silty sand. Frequent mortar flecks, occasional limestone fragments and clay patches.
3	2003	Surface. Compacted, mid brown, cobbles and occasional medium sized limestone fragments in a matrix of coarse sand and mortar flecks. Occasional CBM fragments.
3	2004	Surface. Compact, mid to dark brown, cobbles and pebbles in a matrix of dark grey/brown coarse sand (at the top) grading through to a cleaner light grey/brown sand. Moderate mortar and charcoal flecks.
3	2005	Bedding material. Firm, Light yellow/white, fine sandy lime mortar. Frequent small and medium sized pebbles.
3	2006	Make-up. Compact, light grey/white, cobbles set into a matrix of lime mortar.
3	2007	Road make-up. Moderately compact, mid orange/brown, coarse sand and pebbles.
3	2008	Bedding material. Compact, light grey/brown/white, lime mortar with moderate small pebbles.
3	2009	Make-up. Compact, mixed light yellow/white and light grown/grey, lime mortar and cobbles. Occasional medium sized limestone fragments.
3	2010	Road make-up. Moderately compact, mid grey and mid orange/brown, coarse sand, pebbles and cobbles. Occasional mortar flecks.
3	2011	Build-up/trample. Moderately compact, mid grey, coarse sand, pebbles and cobbles.
3	2012	Road make-up and surface. Compact, mid grey, medium sized cobbles and limestone fragments in a matrix of mid grey, coarse sand.
3	2013	Road make-up. Compact, mid grey, cobbles and coarse sand with moderate medium sized limestone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.
3	2014	Make-up. Compact, mid grey, coarse sand and mortar. Frequent pebbles, cobbles and charcoal flecks.
3	2015	Bedding material. Compact, white mortar with frequent pebbles, cobbles

		and charcoal flecks.
3	2016	Road make-up and surface. Compact, mid brown/grey, cobbles and pebbles in a matrix of coarse silty sand. Frequent mortar and occasional large cobbles.
3	2017	Road Make-up. Compact, mid grey/brown, large and medium sized cobbles and limestone fragments in a matrix of coarse mid grey/brown sand.
3	2018	Natural. Firm, mid orange, sand.
3	2019	Pit backfill. Large, medium and small cobbles with extensive voids around them. Some loose mid grey silt towards base of deposit.
3	2020	Pit backfill. Firm, dark grey, silt. Frequent charcoal flecks and pebbles, occasional limestone fragments.
3	2021	Pit cut. Shape in plan is not clear. It measures c. 1.00m deep qnd 0.5m across.. Near vertical sides, undercutting in places.
1	3000	Unstratified.
1	3001	Footing of existing cellar wall. Mortar bonded rough brickwork.
1	3002	Levelling. Mortar bonded limestone fragments.
1	3003	Stakehole backfill. Mid grey gritty sand.
1	3004	Stakehole backfill. Mid grey gritty sand.
1	3005	Stakehole backfill. Mid grey gritty sand.
1	3006	Wooden stake. 0.3m long, 0.1m in diameter.
1	3007	Wooden stake. 0.23m long, 70mm in diameter.
1	3008	Stakehole cut. Vertical sides. 0.1m wide, 1.0m deep.
1	3009	Stakehole cut. Vertical sides. 0.1m wide, 0.8m deep.
1	3010	Stakehole cut. Vertical sides. 0.1m wide, 0.87m deep.
1	3011	Mortar bedding. Compact light, creamy white lime mortar.
1	3012	Cobble layer. Firm mid orange/brown silty sand. c.0.38m thick.
1	3013	Cobble layer. Firm dark orange/brown sandy silt. c.0.27m thick.
1	3014	Natural. Firm to friable, mid brown/orange laminated sandy clay.
2	4000	Unstratified.
2	4001	Footing of existing cellar wall. Mortar bonded brickwork and limestone.
2	4002	Levelling. Limestone fragments bonded with and over lain by a soft friable mortar containing occasional CBM fragments.
2	4003	Dark grey silt containing moderate stones.
2	4004	Disturbed cobble rich layer. Firm, mid grey/brown sandy silt containing frequent cobbles, CBM, limestone fragments, mortar and pebbles.
2	4005	Build-up. Soft to firm, dark grey very sandy silt containing occasional limestone and pebbles.
2	4006	Build-up or possible surface. Soft to firm, dark orange/brown very sandy silt containing limestone, cobbles, gravel and iron panning.
2	4007	Build-up. Soft to firm, dark grey sandy silt containing CBM fragments, charcoal and mortar.
2	4008	Pit backfill. Friable to firm, dark grey sandy clay with cobbles and moderate limestone fragments.
2	4009	Pit cut.
2	4010	Natural. Soft to firm, banded dark orange/brown clayey sand with Fe staining across upper interface.

Table 2 Context list

APPENDIX 3 – THE POTTERY

By Anne Jenner

Four small to medium sized sherds were retrieved from three Contexts. They are all fine red wares; Samian and Ebor types which are commonly found on excavations in York. These wares mainly occur in the 1st and 2nd centuries, but this assemblage is too small and abraded to make any firm conclusions about the date of the activity that it represents.

Context	Quantity	Dating	Details
2004	2	Roman	1 Samian with ribbed body, 1 Ebor
2013	1	Roman	1 Ebor type bowl rim
2014	1	Roman	1Ebor type

Table 3 – Pottery Quantification

APPENDIX 4 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Site Location: **Mansion House, St Helen's Square, York**

NGR: **SE 6015 5192**

Proposal: **Underpinning works**

Planning ref: **AOD/15/00234**

Prepared for: City of York Council by York Archaeological Trust, 10/02/16

1 SUMMARY

1.1 Planning consent has been granted for structural underpinning works in the basement of the Mansion House, York.

1.2 The following archaeological condition has been imposed:

It will be necessary for a watching brief to be kept on all ground disturbances for this development. A professional archaeologist or archaeological unit (the archaeologist) approved in writing by the Assistant Director for City Development and Sustainability must undertake this watching brief. (3.1 of City of York Council brief).

1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in response to a Brief supplied by City of York Council and has been approved by the City of York Archaeologist, John Oxley. The work will be carried out in accordance with the Brief and this WSI.

2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

2.1 The proposal site is in the basement of the Mansion House (Illustration 1).

3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

3.1 The Mansion House is a Grade 1 Listed Building and lies in an Area of Archaeological Importance and in the Conservation Area of the Central Historic Core.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

4.1 The Mansion House is of early 18th century date and occupies the likely position of the medieval Common Hall gateway, leading to the Guildhall site (RCHM, 1981, 96). The Mansion House is in an area where very significant discoveries from the Roman, Anglo-Scandinavian, Medieval and Post-Medieval period have been found. In particular, the site lies immediately south of the likely course of the Roman fortress wall, close to the probable location of the gate leading from the Via Praetoria to the bridge crossing of the Ouse (Ottaway, 2004, 32). The site is also located immediately adjacent to the 15th century Guildhall, which probably overlies the original 13th century Guildhall (RCHM, 1981, 76). Additionally, given the site's central location, there is potential for material of Anglian date to be present.

4.2 YAT undertook a watching brief in 1993 during works in the basement and observed the exposure of the current building's cobble foundations (YAT project 1993.5, YAT Gazetteer). YAT also undertook limited excavations in 2012 in Guildhall Yard, during which a 1m X 1m trench was excavated in the Mansion House cellar, revealing that the brick floor of the cellar was laid on top of natural deposits and suggesting that the cellar's construction had removed all potential archaeology from that specific location (Whyman 2012, 22).

5. GROUNDWORKS TO BE MONITORED

5.1 This work will comprise a **continuous** watching brief, on the excavation of all underpinning trenches and any subsequent groundwork's (Illustration 1). The watching brief may be stepped down **to intermittent monitoring** or **curtailed**, depending on the results, and following agreement from the Development Control Archaeologist. This is in accordance with clause 3.1.1 of the City of York Council brief.

5.2 If extensive or significant archaeology beyond the scope of a watching brief is identified the client shall be informed and the City of York Archaeologist will be consulted to determine the scope of further work, as per clause 3.1.1 of the City of York Council brief. If deposits of national significance are identified the City of York Archaeologist shall be informed immediately. This is in accordance with clause 3.1.3 of the City of York Council brief.

5.3 As set out in clause 3.2.1 of the City of York Council brief, the purpose of this watching brief is to establish the date and character of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the development.

6 DELAYS TO THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

6.1 All earth-moving machinery and hand-excavation activity must operate at an appropriate speed to allow the archaeologist to recognise, record and retrieve any archaeological deposits and material.

6.2 It is not intended that the archaeological monitoring should unduly delay site works. However, the archaeologist on site should be given the opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate hand excavate, sample and record any exposed features and finds. In order to fulfil the requirements of this WSI, it may be necessary to halt the earth-moving activity to enable the archaeology to be recorded properly.

6.3 Plant or excavators shall not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded and the archaeologist on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

7 RECORDING METHODOLOGY

7.1 The supplied client base plan of intervention areas (Illustration 1) shall be used to locate the records of the works.

7.2 Unique context numbers will only be assigned if artefacts are retrieved, or stratigraphic relationships between archaeological deposits are discernible. In archaeologically 'sterile' areas, soil layers will be described, but no context numbers will be assigned. Where assigned,

each context will be described in full on a pro-forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions.

7.3 Archaeological deposits will be planned at a basic scale of 1:50, with individual features requiring greater detail being planned at a scale of 1:20. Larger scales will be utilised as appropriate. Cross-sections of features will be drawn to a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. All drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum. Where it aids interpretation, structural remains will also be recorded in elevation. All drawings will be drawn on inert materials. All drawings will adhere to accepted drawing conventions

7.4 Photographs of archaeological deposits and features will be taken. This will include general views of entire features and of details such as sections as considered necessary. The photographic archive will comprise digital photography at an appropriate resolution of not less than 10 megapixels. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.

7.5 Areas which are inaccessible (e.g. for health and safety reasons) will be recorded as thoroughly as possible within the site constraints. In these instances, recording may be entirely photographic, with sketch drawings only.

7.6 All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the CIBA guidance for archaeological materials. Unstratified material will not be kept unless it is of exceptional intrinsic interest. Material discarded as a consequence of this policy will be described and quantified in the field. Finds of particular interest or fragility will be retrieved as Small Finds, and located on plans. Other finds, finds within the topsoil, and dense/discrete deposits of finds will be collected as Bulk Finds, from discrete contexts, bagged by material type. Any dense/discrete deposits will have their limits defined on the appropriate plan.

7.7 All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds,* and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.

7.8 A soil sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains where suitable deposits are identified. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2002). Environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the evaluation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme. Soil samples of approximately 30 litres for flotation (or 100% of the features if less than this volume) will be removed from selected contexts, using a combination of the judgement and systematic methodologies.

- **Judgement sampling** will involve the removal of samples from secure contexts which appear to present either good conditions for preservation (e.g. burning or waterlogging) or which are significant in terms of archaeological interpretation or stratigraphy. (Given the nature of an archaeological watching brief, it is anticipated that the implementation of a systematic sampling methodology will not be possible).

7.9 Industrial activity is unlikely to be present on site, however if industrial activity of any scale is detected, industrial samples and process residues will also be collected. Separate samples (c. 10ml) will be collected for micro-slags (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) (English Heritage 2001).

7.10 Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with YAT specialists and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.

7.11 In the event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice and curator will be informed immediately. An osteoarchaeologist will be available to give advice on site.

- If **disarticulated** remains are encountered, these will be identified and quantified on site. If trenches are being immediately backfilled, the remains will be left in the ground. If the excavations will remain open for any length of time, disarticulated remains will be removed and boxed, for immediate reburial by the Church.
- If **articulated** remains are encountered, these will be excavated in accordance with recognised guidelines (see 6.12) and retained for assessment.
- Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment.

7.12 Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains must be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law, IfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and English Heritage guidance (2005).

8 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

8.1 Upon completion of the groundworks, a report will be prepared to include the following:

a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.

b) An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.

c) An account of the methodology and results of the operation, describing structural data, associated finds and environmental data, and providing a full description of and an interpretation of the archaeological sequence, setting the site into the context of the known archaeology of the area.

d) A selection of photographs and drawings, including an overall plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored.

e) Specialist artefact and environmental reports as necessary.

f) Index of the archive and details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a catalogue of what is contained in that archive.

g) A copy of the key OASIS form details

h) Copies of the Brief and WSI

i) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report

8.2 Copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body and the HER (also in PDF format).

8.3 The requirements for archive preparation and deposition will be addressed and undertaken in a manner agreed with the recipient museum. In this instance Yorkshire Museum is recommended and an agreed allowance should be made for the curation and storage of this material.

8.4 Provision for the publication of results, as outlined in the Brief, will be made.

8.5 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the County Council and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY

9.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.

9.2 A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

10 TIMETABLE & STAFFING

10.1 The watching brief is anticipated to start on Monday 15th February 2016.

10.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:

- Human Remains – Ruth Whyte (Dickinson Laboratory for Bioarchaeology)
- Palaeoenvironemtal remains – Dr Jennifer Miller (Dickinson Laboratory for Bioarchaeology)
- Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
- Finds Researcher - Nicky Rogers
- Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner
- Ceramic Building Materials – Jane McComish
- Finds Officers – Nienke van Doorn
- Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues –Dr Rod Mackenzie
- Conservation – Ian Panter

11 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

11.1 As a minimum requirement, the curator will be given a minimum of one week's notice of work commencing on site, and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed. York Archaeological Trust will notify the curator of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with the curator.

12 COPYRIGHT

12.1 York Archaeological Trust retain the copyright on this document. It has been prepared expressly for the named client, and may not be passed to third parties for use or for the purpose of gathering quotations.

13 KEY REFERENCES

Brown, D. H. 2007. Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation. IfA/AAA

Department for Communities and Local Government 2010 Planning Policy Statement 5: planning for the Historic Environment.

English Heritage. 2001. *Archaeometallurgy*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines.

English Heritage. 2002. Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation.

English Heritage. 2002. With Alidade and Tape – graphical and plane table survey or archaeological earthworks.

English Heritage. 2003. Where on Earth are We? The Global Positioning System (GPS) in archaeological field survey.

English Heritage. 2004. Geoarchaeology: using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record.

English Heritage. 2005 Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England.

English Heritage. 2006. Guidelines on the x-radiography of archaeological metalwork.

English Heritage. 2006b. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide.

English Heritage. 2007. Understanding the Archaeology of Landscape – a guide to good recording practice

English Heritage. 2008. Investigative Conservation.

Institute for Archaeologists. 1993. Technical paper No 13 by McKinley, J. I., and C. Roberts. *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains*.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2007. Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation by D.H. Brown.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation

Museum and Galleries Commission. 1992. Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections.

Ottaway, P. 2004. *Roman York*. Tempus, Stroud

RCHMS. 1999. 'Recording Archaeological Field Monuments – a descriptive specification.

RCHMY. 1981. *City of York V: The Central Area*, HMSO, London

Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM). 2007. *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology*

Neal, V., and D. Watkinson (eds). 1998. *First Aid for Finds: practical guide for archaeologists.* United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, Archaeology Section; 3rd Revised Edition.

Whyman, M. 2012. 'York 800: Excavations in Guildhall Yard' in *Northern Archaeology Today*, Issue 2

See also the Historic England website for a full list of Historic England Guidance documents.

http://historicengland.org.uk/advice/

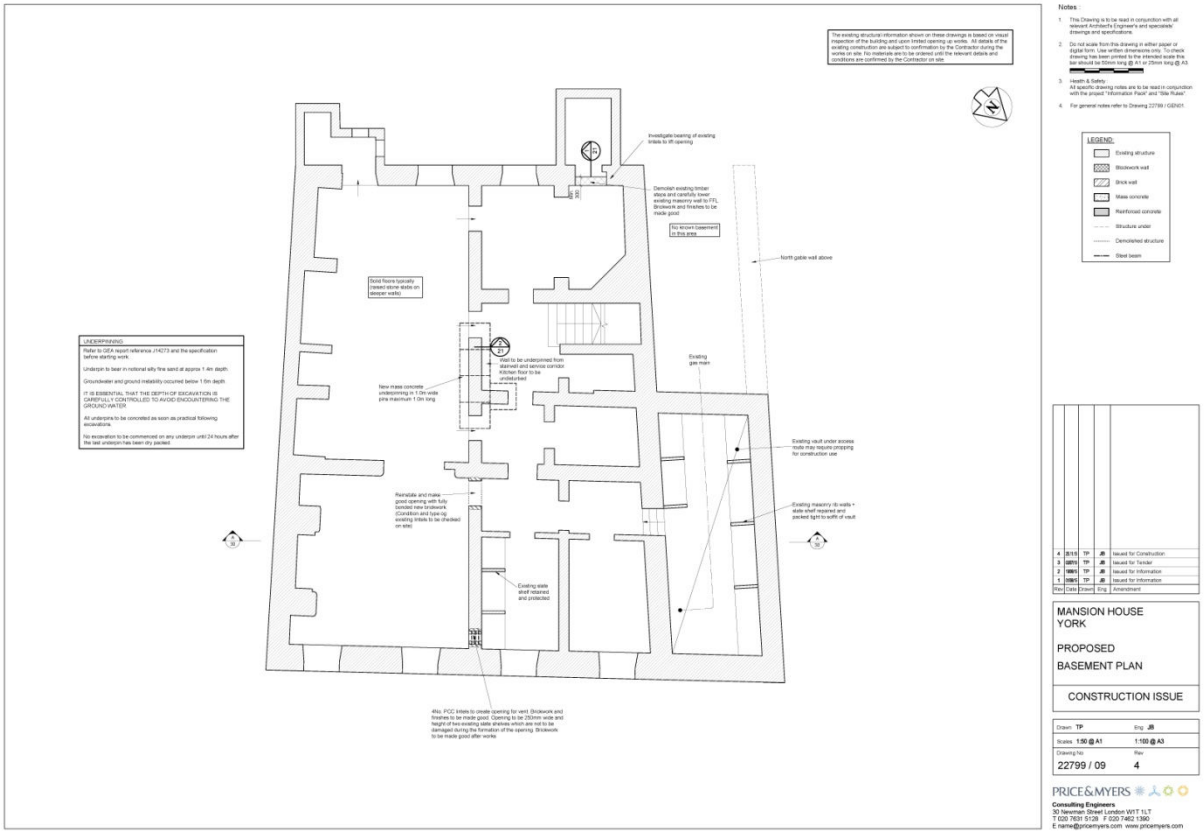

Illustration 1

Location of works on client's plan

PLATES

Plate 1 - Trial Trench 1 2012 works, cobbles set into clay (context 1007) possibly as part of a road make-up or surface,
facing north-east, 0.1m scale units

Plate 2 - Wooden stakes (contexts 3006 and 3007) below 18th century wall footings, facing south, 0.1m scale units

Plate 3 - Section 2 Trench 1 showing services, cellar wall foundations, including a layer of mortar (context 3011) overlying cobble layers (contexts 3012 and 3013) and natural, facing south-east 0.1m scale units

Plate 4 - Trench 2 layers (contexts 4005,406 and 4007) present above natural deposits, facing north-east, 0.1m scale units

**Plate 5 - Trench 2 pit backfill (context 4008) below disturbed cobble rich material and 18th century wall footings,
facing south, 0.1m scale units**

**Plate 6 - Trench 3 road surface (context 2016),
facing north-west, 0.1m scale units**

Plate 7 - Melon bead recovered from context 2016

Plate 8 - Trench 3 road surface (context 2012), facing north-west, 0.1m scale units

Plate 9 - Section 7 Trench 3, following undercutting of wall foundation, showing medieval pit (Context 2021) cutting a succession of road make-up and surface deposits, facing northeast

Plate 10 - Section 6 Trench 3, showing a succession of road make-up and surface deposits, facing south-east, 0.1m scale units

Plate 11 - Trench 4 brick built drain or culvert, facing south-west, 0.1m scale units

FIGURES