



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE	28 The Green, Acomb, York		
CLIENT NAME	Mr Paul Calpin		
YAT PROJECT #	5937	YAT REPORT #	2016/79
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	NGR SE 5722 5130
PLANNING REFERENCE #	15/01936/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

On 19th October 2016, York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at 28, The Green, Acomb, York. The objective was to record any deposits, features or buried structures exposed during works associated with the opening of 0.9m deep, 0.6m wide trenches for footings required for a single storey garage to the rear of the premises.

The works involved observation of the excavation of the footing trenches and recording of the sequence and any features exposed in the course of the works as per the Written Scheme of Investigation. The vegetation and garden topsoil immediately over the footprint of the footing trenches had been removed by hand and machine on 17th-18th October. In the course of this work the western brick property boundary wall between this premises and the neighbouring garden had collapsed. A decision had been made to reinstate this wall as part of the works and this had required excavation and removal of the brickwork down to the base of the wall, found at 1.30m below topsoil level in the garden of no. 28 on 18th October (plate 1). Following a visit from the York City Council Building Control officer the proposed amendments to the groundworks were agreed, necessitating stepping up the base of the north and south footing trenches from the 1.30m depth at the west end up to 0.6m at the east end (plate 3, plate 5).

Tidying of the west footing trench now 1.30m wide and excavation of the north and south footing trenches were undertaken with Kubota KX61-3 tracked 360° excavator fitted with a 0.5m wide ditching bucket. Excavation work was completed by 4.00pm on 19th October.

The excavation of the trenches and spoil removal on the 19th was continuously monitored. Recording was undertaken by means of written notes, measured sketch plans and sections, and colour digital photographs. No accessionable artefacts were recovered and no samples were taken

RESULTS

The earliest deposit recorded on site was (03) the brownish yellow clean sand of the local subsoil (plate 2). This had been cut into along the western edge of the property by a trench (05) for the brick built property boundary wall (06) forming the west side of the site, the open trench having been backfilled with redeposited sand (04) with occasional CBM fragments present (plate 4)

Over the whole area of the site a deposit of yellow brown silty sand (02) had formed, representing (towards the south side of the site) the raising and levelling of the garden with redeposited sand. This was associated with root disturbance of the upper levels of the subsoil (plate 2).

Three features had been cut into this silty sand (02). The first (11) was a ceramic pipe drain leading south from the garden observed in the south footing trench. Though the pipe was observed it was not possible to identify or define any cut for this shallow feature. East of this pipe a deposit of lime (07) had been laid in a shallow scoop (08), presumably associated with building or gardening activity. Further east still was a small pit (10) filled (09) with CBM fragments in a dark grey sandy matrix. Cut through by the north footing trench were the shallow footings of a brick garden wall (12) in a narrow foundation trench (13).

Also cut through by the northern footing trench was a brick lined pit, whose southern side was removed in the process (plate 6). This was set in a rectangular pit (15). A floor of flat roof tiles formed the base of the feature and the lining sat on this floor. This lining was formed from an un-bonded double skin of bricks (14) each one brick wide. A dark grey, very hard cement, almost a concrete formed the bedding for the coursed bricks and filled the

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narrow gap between the two skins. The brick feature had been filled with a very dark grey coarse sand and ash (16) to the top of the feature (plate 7). The depth of this feature meant the planned stepping of the trench had to be amended. The upper part of this feature had been removed prior to the development of a garden soil and topsoil over the whole extent of the garden (01).

DISCUSSION

The observed sequence is devoid of features or evidence for activity between the end of the last Ice age and the institution of the current brick wall property boundary between Nos 28 and 30. The wall may follow an earlier property boundary but the current feature has removed any evidence for an earlier version.

The remaining features are essentially related to the use of the area as a garden. The brick lined pit (15) is recent and probably a cess pit used before connection of the property to mains drainage. (12) is the stump of a garden wall or associated outbuilding of nineteenth or earlier twentieth century date

The depth of foundation for the property boundary footings observed in this watching brief are of some archaeological interest but not necessarily of great significance. No other archaeological deposits or features were disturbed in the course of the works and the deposits exposed have been fully recorded. No samples were required and no significant artefacts were recovered.



Plate 1: West footing trench as seen on arrival, looking SSE

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Plate 2. Soil profile in West facing section of West footing trench looking E. Scale 1m.



Plate 3. West footing trench under excavation looking SE. Scale 1m

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Plate 4. Intersection of South and West footing trenches looking S. Scale 1m

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Plate 5. South footing trench, looking SW. Scale 1m



Plate 6. Brick lined feature in North footing trench under removal, looking E. Scale 1m

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Plate 7. Brick lined feature exposed in south facing section of North footing trench. Scales 1m



Plate 8. North footing trench, South facing section looking NE. Scale 1m

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Figure 1. 28 The Green, Acomb. Site location within York.

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Figure 2. 28 The Green, Acomb. Site location.

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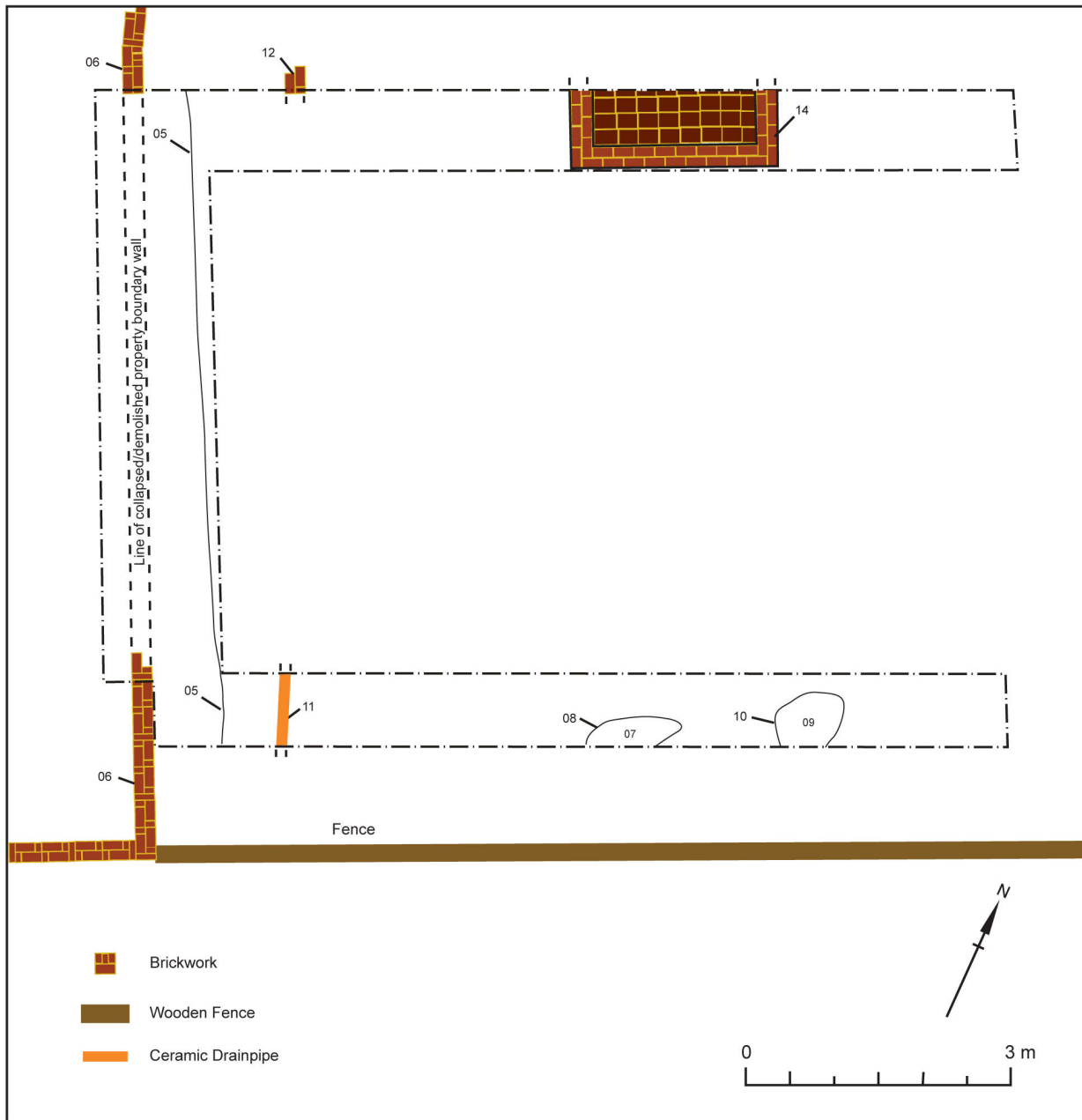


Figure 3. 28 The Green, Acomb. Site plan

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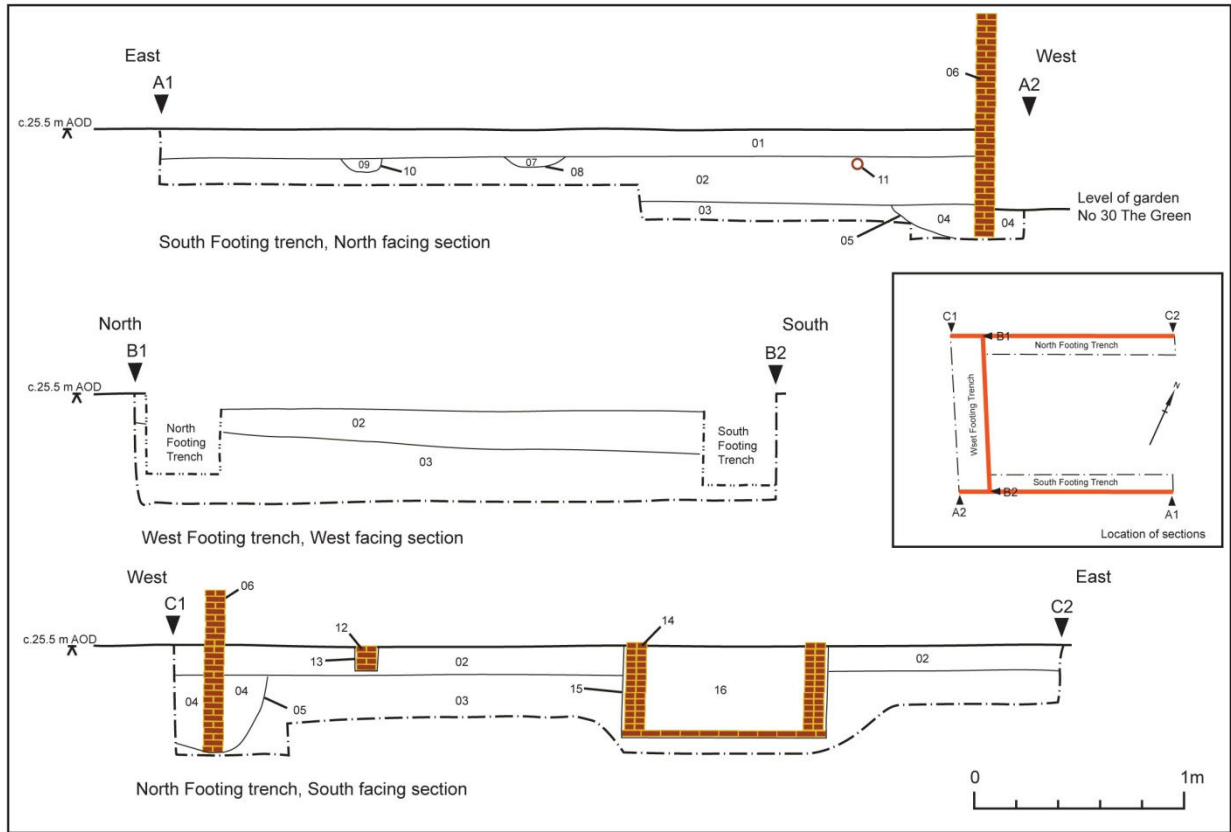


Figure 4. 28 The Green, Acomb. Sections

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Stratigraphic Matrix- Recorded contexts 28 The Green, Acomb

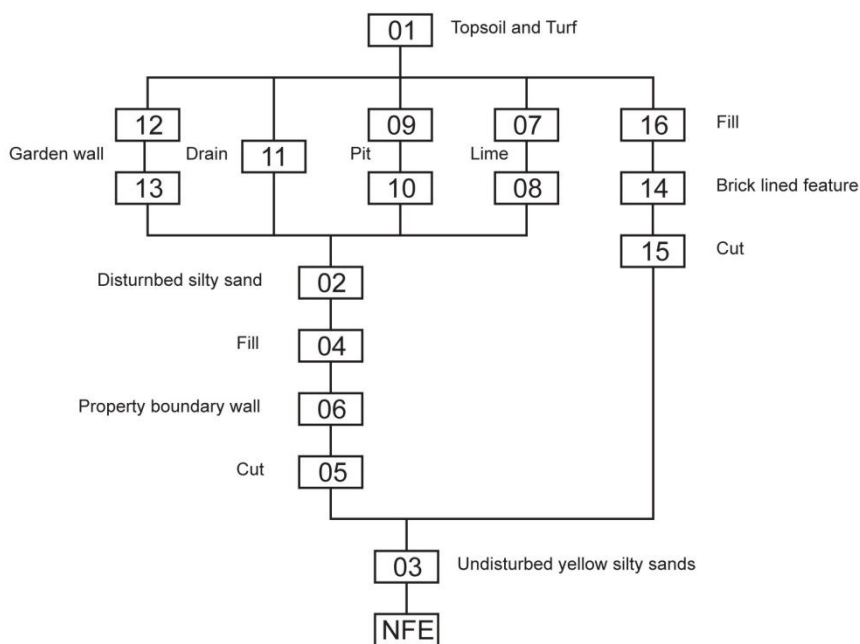


Figure 5. Stratigraphic Matrix

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