



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE	AMEC Yorkshire Water Emergency Works King's Square AAI Watching Brief		
CLIENT NAME	Yorkshire Water		
YAT PROJECT #	5944	YAT REPORT #	86/2016
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6044 5193
PLANNING REFERENCE #	N/A	AAI OPS NOTICE #	16027

INTRODUCTION

On the 16th and 17th of November 2016 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief on emergency works undertaken by AMEC for Yorkshire Water in King's Square, York, NGR SE 6044 5193 (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits, features or buried structures exposed by the ground works. The site lies on the west side of King's Square outside an alley providing access to the rear of stores including York's Chocolate Story at 3-4 King's Square, YO1 7LD. The site is within York's designated Area of Archaeological Importance.

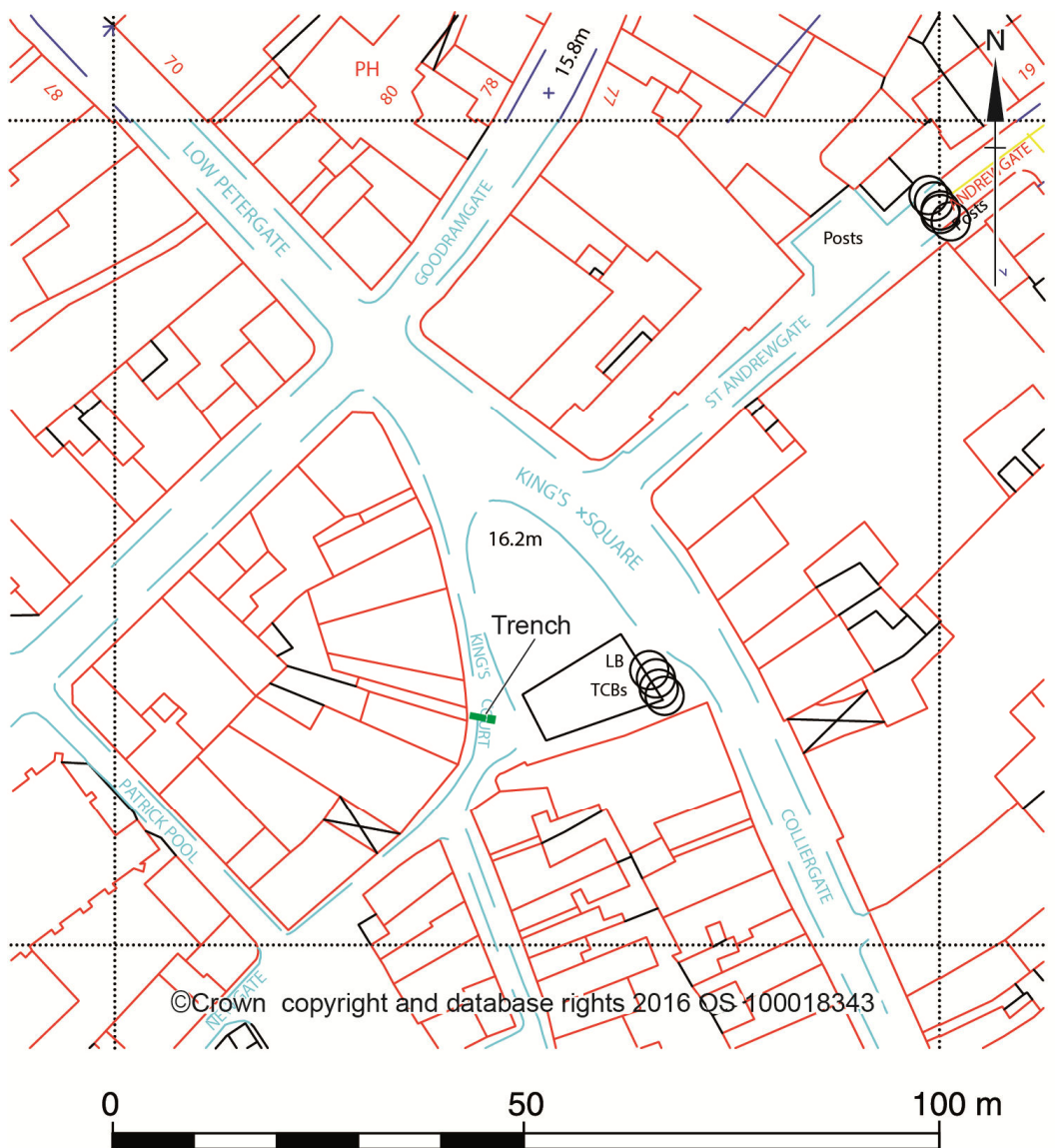


Figure 1 Site and Trench Location

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FINDS	none	SAMPLES	none	PHOTOS	5
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METHODOLOGY

Two trenches covered an area approximately 1.0m wide and 3.0m long. They were hand excavated by a team from AMEC, the principle on site contractor, with the intention of connecting a new pipe into the existing network. Trench 1 was positioned over the location of an existing service pipe. Trench 2 was placed between Trench 1 and a doorway leading to an alley on the south side of 3-4 King's Square. The 0.5m wide space between the two trenches was tunnelled enabling a new pipe to be fed through.

RESULTS

In Trench 1 the existing surface consisted of cobble sets, c.0.13m thick, resting on a bed of concrete, c.0.3m thick. Two service pipes running approximately north-south were exposed in the base of the trench. A cast iron pipe measuring c.100mm in diameter running along the eastern side of the trench was encountered at a depth of 0.56m below ground level. At a point approximately 2.5m east of the alley doorway the ceramic pipe, which was to be connected into, was exposed at 0.68m below ground level. The backfill of that pipe trench consisted of firm dark grey coarse, gritty sand with inclusions of gravel, brick fragments, sand and animal bone. That material extended across the entire western part of the trench and was clearly cut to the east by the trench containing the cast iron pipe (Plate 1). No archaeological deposits, structures or features were encountered within this part of the excavation.



Plate 1 Trench 1 showing ceramic pipe to be connected in to, facing south, 0.1m scale units

Trench 2 extended from c. 0.5m to the west of Trench 1 up to the alley doorway. It measured 1.5m long,

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c.1.0m wide and 0.9m deep. A small area of made ground between the two parts of the trench was tunnelled through, enabling a new section of pipe to be fed through and connected to the ceramic pipe. Several recently installed power and other utility cables were exposed. No archaeological deposits, structures or features were encountered (Plate 2).



Plate 2 Trench 2, facing north, 0.1m scale units

DISCUSSION

The excavation depth was less than 1.0m, exposing extensive disturbance resulting from the presence of numerous utility pipes and ducts. Recent resurfacing of King's Square accounted for around the upper 0.45m of deposition, including bedding material and surfaces. Although the remains of Christ Church, recently uncovered during archaeological investigation, lie beneath King's Square at no point were any archaeological deposits, structures or features encountered during the course of the ground works.

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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