



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE	4 Mount Terrace WB		
CLIENT NAME	DC Architecture		
YAT PROJECT #	5976	YAT REPORT #	2017/53
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 5928 5120
PLANNING REFERENCE #	16/02441/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

Introduction

Between the 27th March and the 4th May 2017 a watching brief took place during the excavation of a trench for new steps, underpinning, and the diversion of water mains in the rear yard of 4 Mount Terrace, York. (Figure 1).



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

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Methodology

The initial methodology was relatively simple, being based on the excavation of an area to enlarge a staircase from the basement level into the garden. However, this was complicated by the requirement for underpinning of the utility room and diversion of the mains water pipe servicing this, and other, properties. All excavation was undertaken using hand tools. See Figure 2 for works location.

Deposits encountered were recorded in a notebook alongside sketch plans and representative sections where appropriate. Digital photographs were taken at intervals during the watching brief.

A previous archaeological watching brief report (YAT 2009/52) was also consulted.

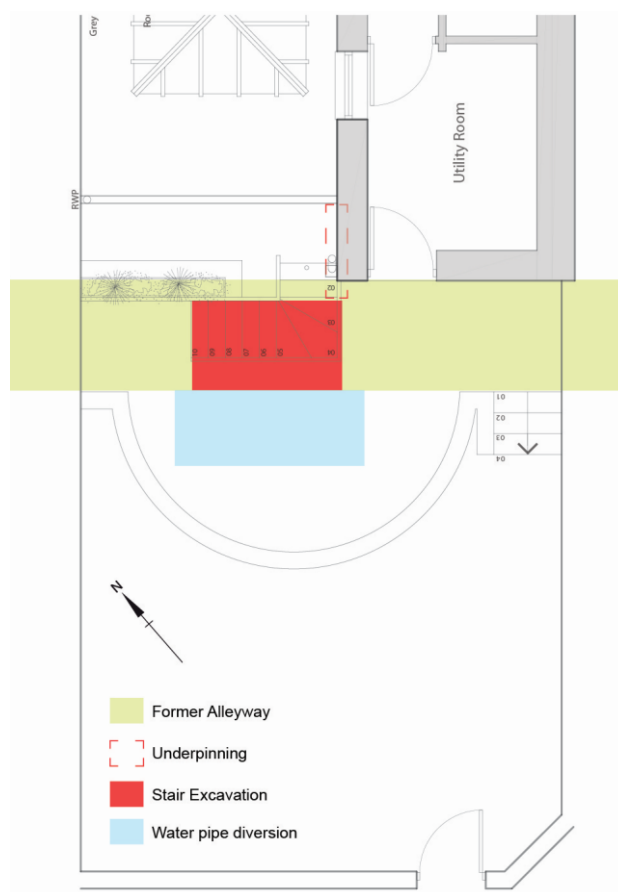


Figure 2 Works Location 1:100
(after drawing 16/02441/FUL 1591-110-A1)

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Results

Underpinning – The depth of the underpinning trench (c.2.25m BGL) meant that only natural deposits were observed during this excavation process (see Plate 1 below).



Plate 1 Underpinning facing east
Concrete base also acting as base for new stairway

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Stair excavation – This work removed material up to c.2.25m BGL which was primarily undisturbed natural. The previous basement excavations, referenced above, had also observed these excavations with minimal archaeology being encountered (see Plate 2).



Plate 2 Section of stairway excavation facing northwest
(scale unit 100mm)

Water pipe diversion – This excavated into relatively undisturbed material up to 1m south-west of the original boundary of the stairway excavation. This work involved removing the foundation for the

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former alleyway wall (as seen on the 1852 Ordnance Survey mapping) and deposits to the south-west.

The sequence visible in section indicated c.200mm of disturbance at the top with c.500mm of disturbed post-medieval 'garden' soils grading through to ploughsoil below (Plate 3). The earliest finds were a few fragments of medieval tile and a single sherd of medieval pottery, the bulk of material being post-medieval brick and flowerpot fragments. No finds were retained.



Plate 3 Section into undisturbed soils facing north-west (scale unit 100mm)

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Discussion & Conclusions

No archaeology of significance was encountered during these works, with most of the development area having been disturbed during the earlier works for the extension of the basement.

Where undisturbed ground was excavated it showed the anticipated sequence of post-medieval and modern garden soils sealing medieval ploughsoils. No Roman archaeological features or finds were revealed during this work.

Many thanks to Nick and the team from NGL Build for ensuring very good communication took place during this process. This allowed realistic amounts of time on site for observations and little disruption to the works as they progressed.

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