



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE	4 Stonegate York		
CLIENT NAME	Mass Architecture		
YAT PROJECT #	6005	YAT REPORT #	2017/101
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6019 5199
PLANNING REFERENCE #	16/02327/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

Introduction

On the 25th October 2017 a watching brief took place during the excavation of footings for a pillar to support an existing beam in the cellar of 4 Stonegate, York (Figure 1).

The watching brief was conducted as part of a planning condition attached to all groundworks, issued by City of York Council in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012).

Methodology

The watching brief included excavation of a new pier footing for an existing beam located towards the centre of the floor in the cellar of 4 Stonegate, York (Figure 2). The trench measured 450mm², to a depth of 300mm and was excavated by hand by YAT (York Archaeological Trust).

Deposits encountered were recorded on context cards, alongside scaled drawings, including location and a representative section. Digital photographs were taken at intervals during the works.

Results

The trench contained a simple sequence of deposits, mainly related to the construction of 4 Stonegate.

The earliest deposit excavated was a dark grey, slightly sandy, very clayey, silt (1006) that contained occasional large CBM fragments and a range of material culture dating from the Roman period to the post-medieval period. The layer measured 150mm thick and was encountered at 150mm below ground level (BGL). The mixed nature of finds suggest that this was a disturbed soil, possibly a made ground relating to the construction of the cellar. The base of the excavation trench corresponded with the base of this layer, and therefore earlier archaeological deposits were seen (1008), but not excavated (see Plate 1).

Sealing layer (1006) was a made ground comprised of dark grey, slightly clayey, sandy silt (1005) (Figure 4 & Plate 2) with frequent lenses of sand and occasional fragments and flecks of mortar and coal inclusions. The made ground was encountered 80mm BGL, was up to 70mm thick, and was related to the construction of the cellar and the extant brick paver surface.

A cut [1007] for a post-pad (1004) cut through the layer (1005); it was square in plan with a u-shaped profile and measured 170mm x 160mm x 80mm deep. The cut contained an up-turned reused square limestone post pad with a bevelled edge along the top (see Plate 3).

Above the post pad was a void [1002] where a timber once stood, however the timber has now rotted away and the void was filled by loose black sandy silt with coke inclusions (1001). The void measured 110mm x 110mm and was 130mm deep with a u-shaped profile.

The original brick floor (1003) overlaid cut [1007] - the plan of the trench (Figure 3) shows otherwise however the plan is a composite of trench contexts rather than an accurate showing of context relationships. The floor was compiled of worn brick pavers measuring 227mm x 100mm x 66mm laid in a stretcher bond. They were bedded on a creamy white mortar (Plate 4).

Brick floor (1000) comprised of red bricks in a stretcher bonding pattern measuring between 218mm

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x 110mm x 67mm and 215mm x 106mm x 76mm, all bedded on sand. The differing bricks show that this area of cellar floor was not the original, and was probably a later repair.

Discussions and Conclusions

Apart from the evidence for the construction of 4 Stonegate, no other archaeology of significance was encountered during these works.

The works at 4 Stonegate had no significant impact on the archaeology of the area. However, it is recommended that any further works below 280mm or 300mm BGL will need archaeological excavation as, based on visual assessment by the attendant archaeologist, the deposits below this level are interpreted as in situ deposition pre-dating the construction of 4 Stonegate.

For any groundworks disturbing deposits between modern ground level to a depth of 300mm BGL it is recommended that an archaeological watching brief will be sufficient.

Thank you to Glen McGowan of Mass Architecture for his co-operation and assistance during these works.

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Figure 1 Site Location (Scale 1:500)

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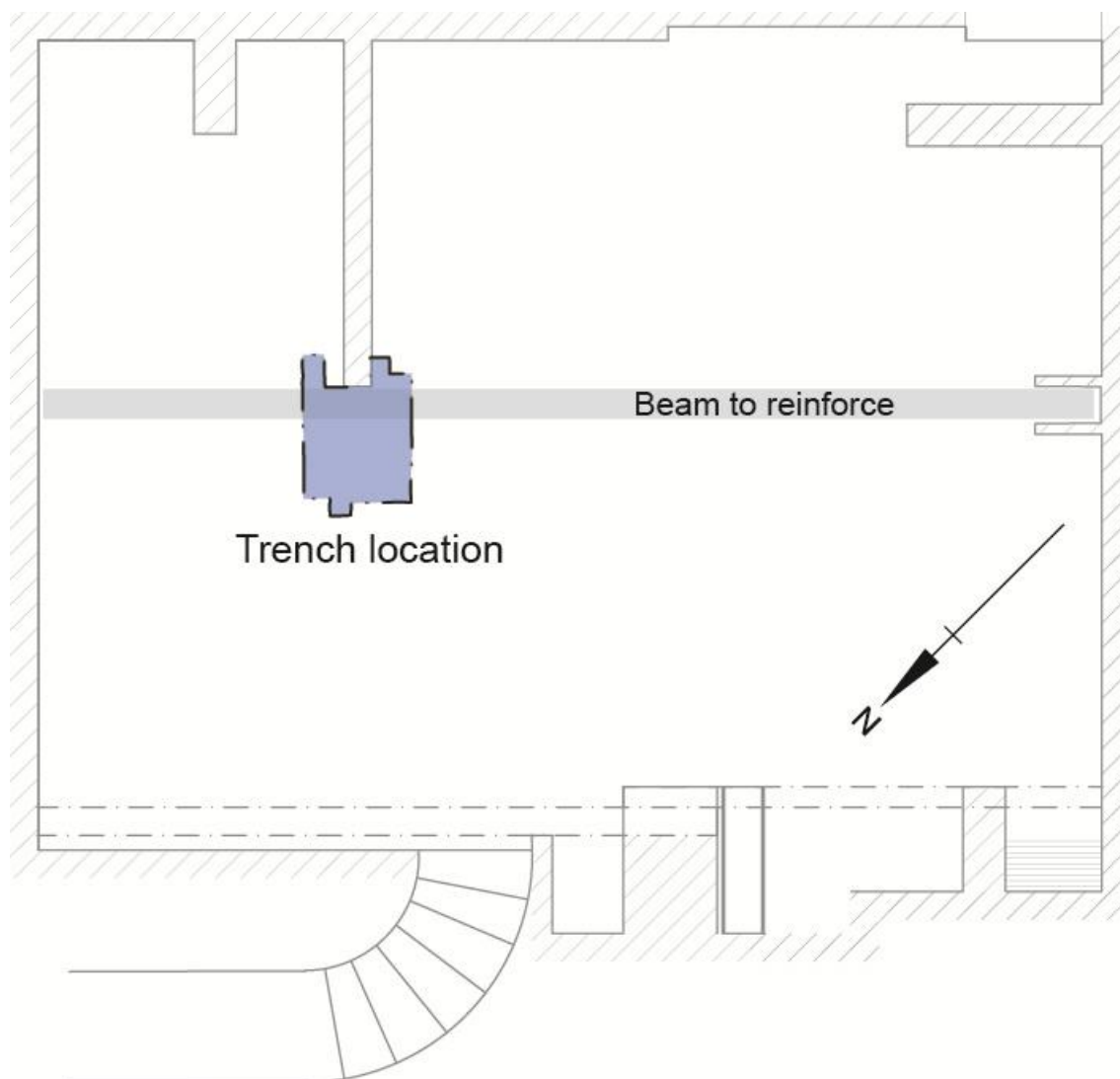


Figure 2 Trench location within cellar after drawing 17/01542/LBC Drawing No. 14269Y-DG-001 (Scale 1:50)

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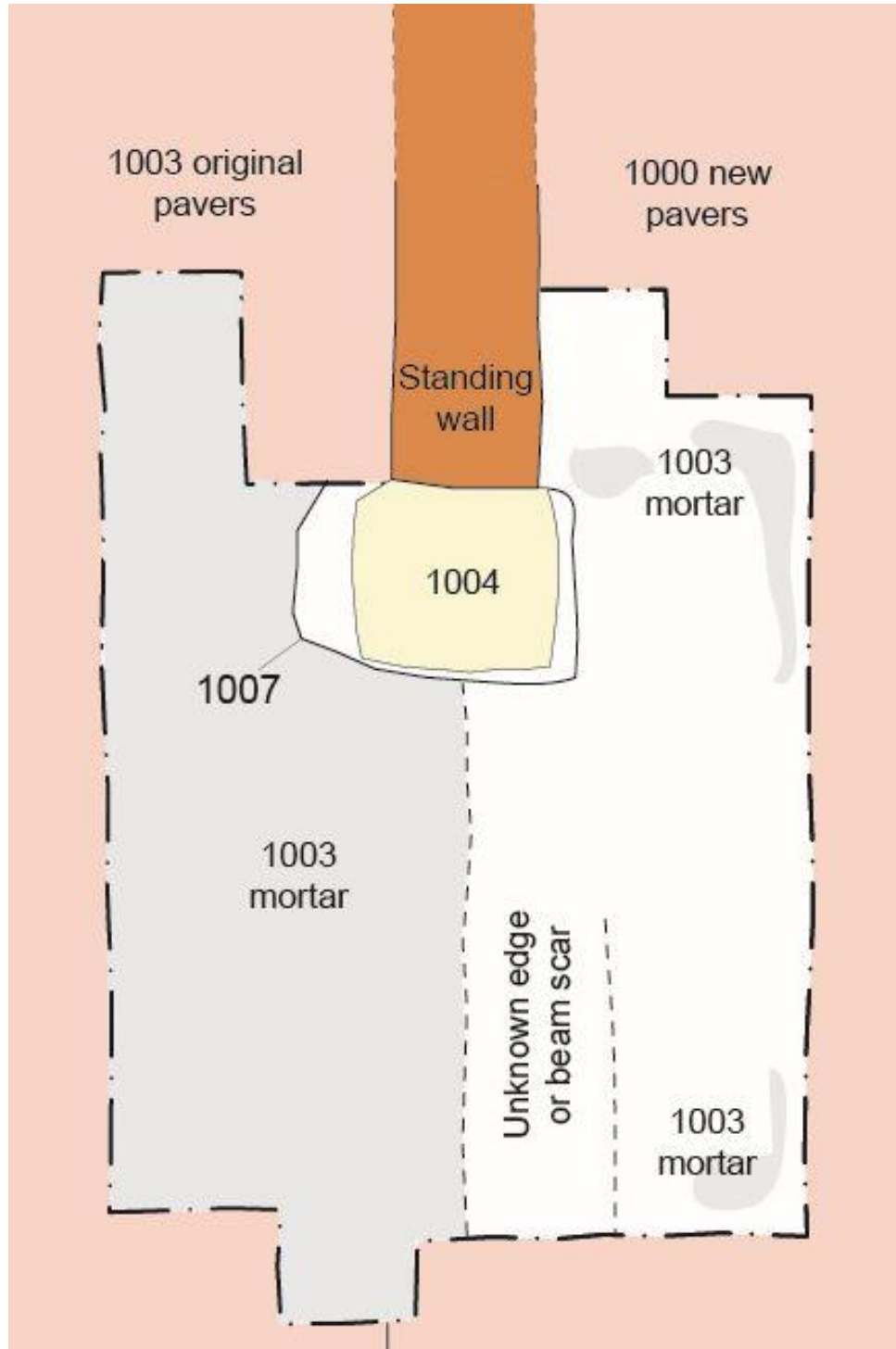


Figure 3 Plan of Trench (Scale 1:10)

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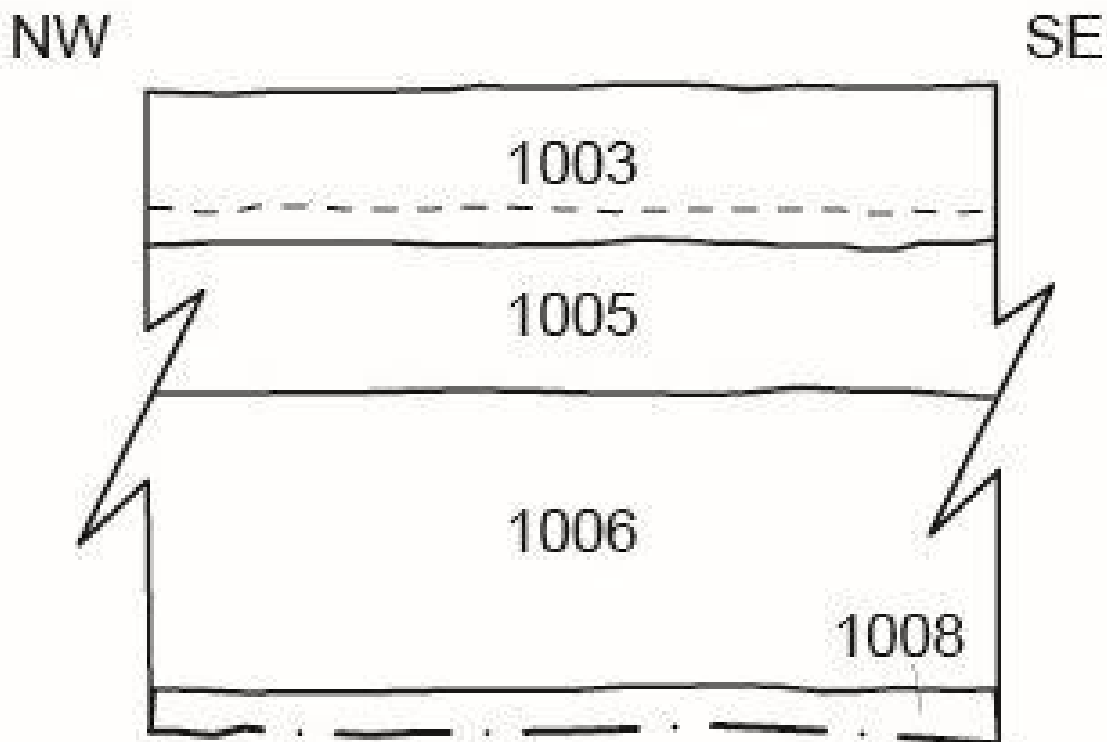


Figure 4 Representative section (Scale 1:10)

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Plate 1 Post-excavation photo of trench showing context (1008), view southeast, scale unit: 100mm

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Plate 2 Representative section, view northeast, scale unit: 100mm

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Plate 3 Limestone post pad, scale unit: 100mm

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Plate 4 Pre-excitation of brick floors of cellar, view southeast, scale unit: 100mm

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