



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE	6 Low Green, Copmanthorpe, York		
CLIENT NAME	Mr Alan Partington		
YAT PROJECT #	5948	YAT REPORT #	2017/20
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	NGR SE 5663 4689
PLANNING REFERENCE #	15/02542/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

On 2nd February 2017, York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at No. 6, Low Green, Copmanthorpe, York. The objective was to record any deposits, features or buried structures exposed during works associated with the groundworks required for a single storey dwelling to be erected to the rear of the property.

The works involved observation of the excavation of the footprint of the building 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 turf immediately over the footprint of the footing trenches had been removed by machine on 1st February and a temporary hard standing laid at the Reygate Grove end, to the rear of the property, to allow access by machinery.

The remaining garden soil was removed over the entire footprint of the building and the area within the footprint reduced to a level surface using a Doosan DX 63 tracked 360° excavator fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Ground reduction was completed by 10.15am on 2nd February.

The excavation and spoil removal 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.

On completion of the clearance of the footprint the groundworks team would commence excavation of the footing trenches for the wall foundations and a small manhole within the cleared footprint. No features were observed cutting the natural clay exposed. Boreholes immediately adjacent to the footprint had indicated that the clay deposit exposed continued below the planned depth of the footing trenches. Following consultation with YAT Fieldwork it was agreed to finish the continuous monitoring of the watching brief and to attend the site should anything other than that clay be exposed.

RESULTS

The earliest deposit recorded on site was (1008) the brownish yellow sandy clay forming the uppermost deposit of undisturbed subsoil in the locality. This extended over the whole of the exposed area. Into this deposit had been cut three shallow post holes (1007, 1006, 1005) forming a near north south alignment at right angles to the long sides of the property boundaries. Investigation of the fills of these postholes (1004, 1003, 1002) showed they incorporated modern plate glass fragments and sherds of 20th century pottery.

Overlying these post holes and the whole of the area exposed was a dark greyish yellow brown sandy silt (1001) forming the matrix of the garden soil overlying the site. This soil incorporated significant quantities of modern CBM fragments, modern pottery, tin drinks cans, domestic rubbish and root material from the garden vegetation.

DISCUSSION

The observed sequence is devoid of features or evidence for activity between the end of the last Ice age and the development of this part of the property as a garden. The area may have been truncated as part of the levelling for the construction of the housing estate to the rear and sides of the property in the twentieth century and this would account for the absence of any evidence for cultivation that may once have been present. The alignment, spacing and position of the three post holes corresponds to the position of the west walls of a garden shed and a greenhouse demolished in site clearance but still visible on Googleearth street view (www.google.co.uk/maps/)- accessed 3rd February 2017) from Reygate Grove at the back of the property.

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The borehole survey commissioned by the client clearly shows that context (1008) is the uppermost surviving natural deposit present on site, overlying other assorted clays and gravels of the superficial deposits laid down immediately after the end of the last ice age. No 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: Site after ground reduction, looking west.

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Plate 2. The three modern post holes looking east. (1005) nearest camera, (1006) in middle, (1007) furthest away from camera. Scale rods 1m.

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Plate 3. Reduced ground surface after machining looking East. Scale rods 1m

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Figure 1. No. 6 Low Green Copmanthorpe. Site location

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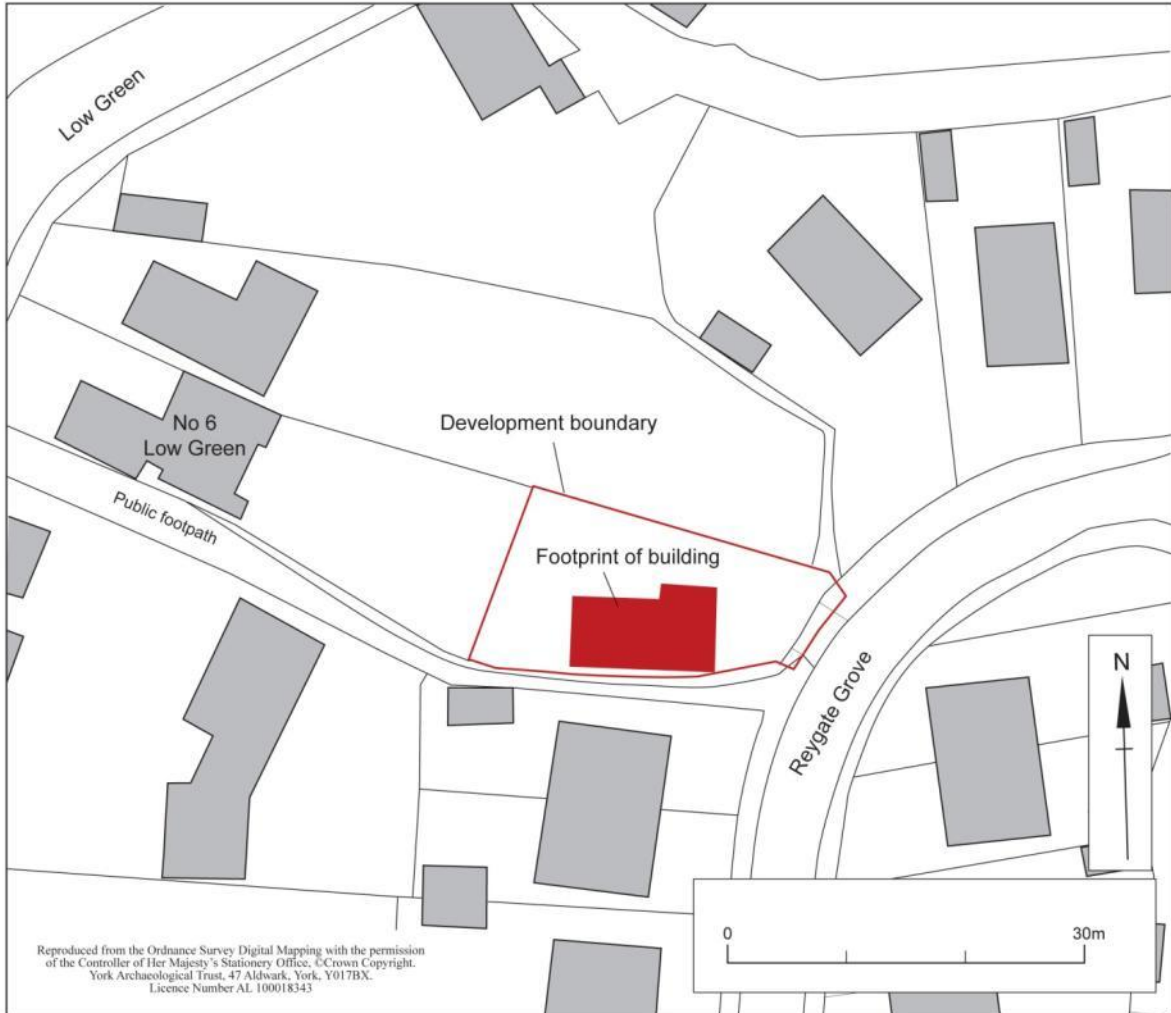


Figure 2. . No. 6 Low Green Copmanthorpe. Location of observed groundworks

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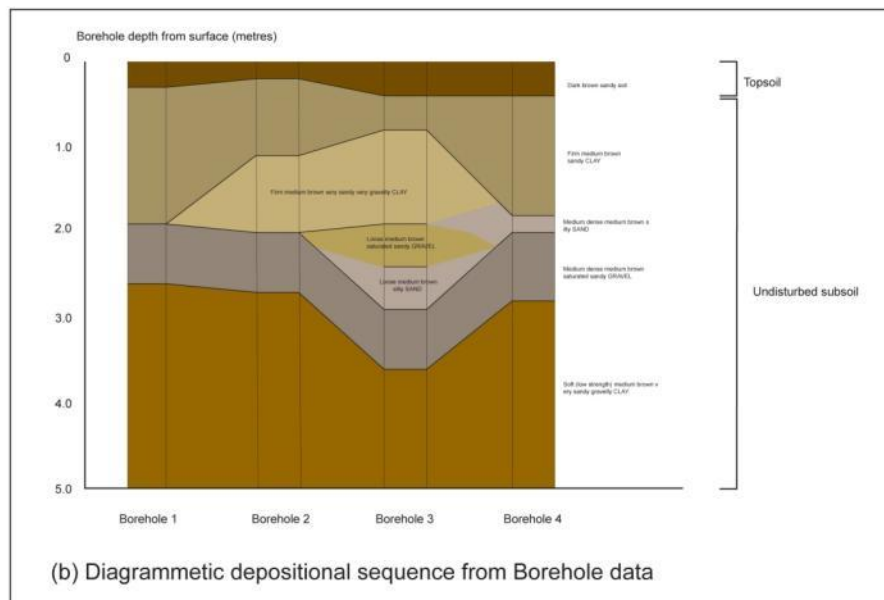
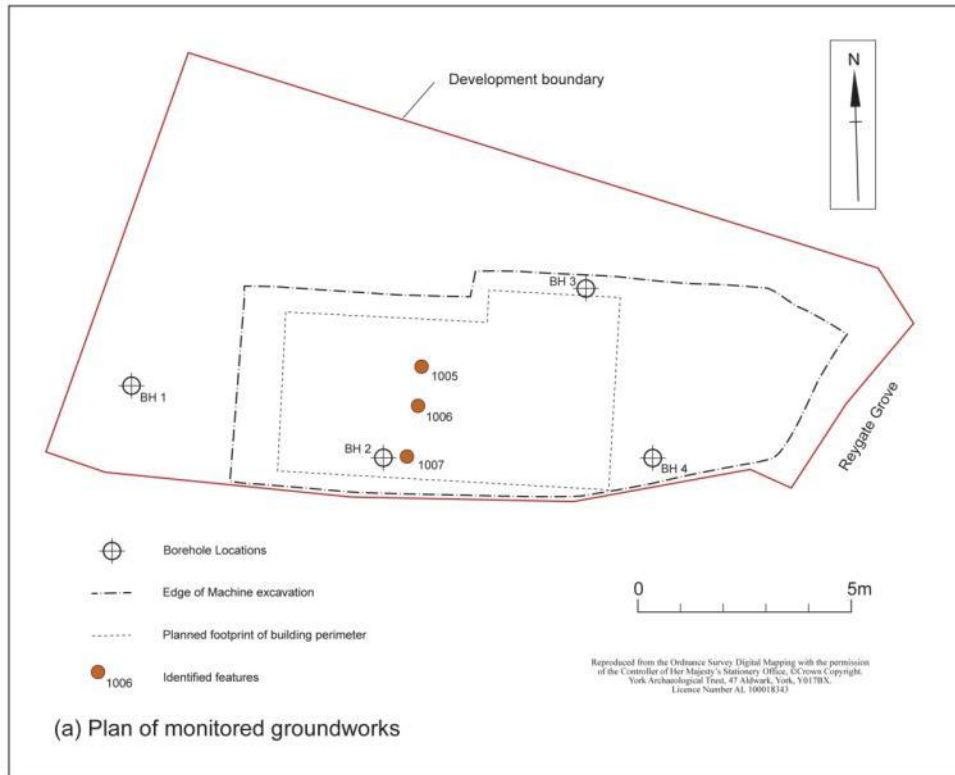


Figure 3. No. 6 Low Green Copmanthorpe. Extent of observed groundworks (a) and schematic depositional sequence derived from borehole survey (b)

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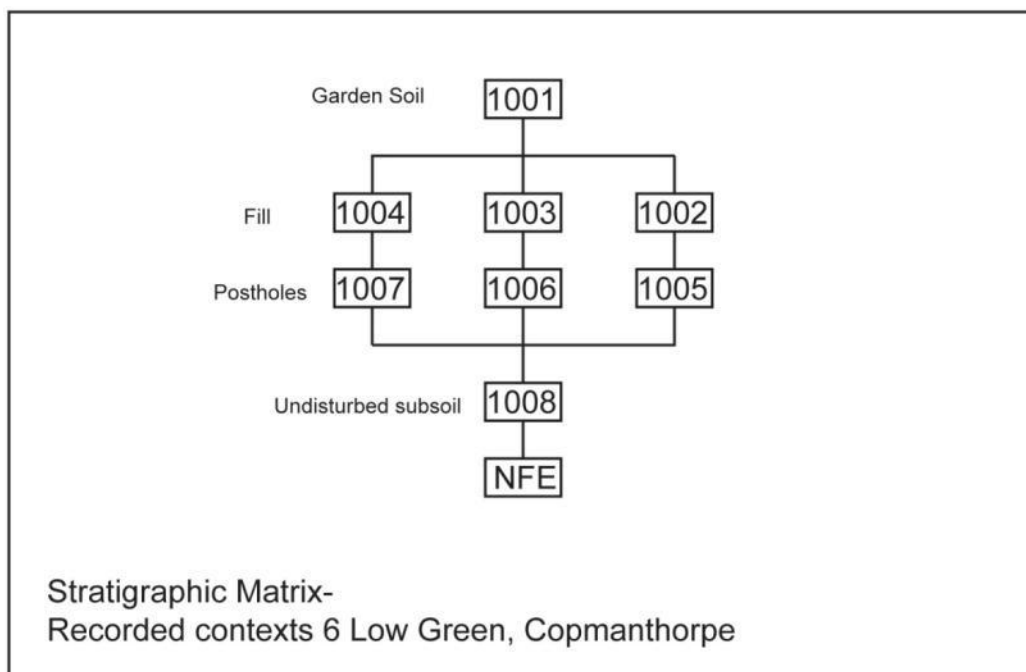


Figure 4. Stratigraphic Matrix

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