



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

<b>SITE</b>	50 Kyme Street, York		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	PSM Design		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	6001	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	2017/118
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 6020 5123
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	17/01169/FUL	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	N/A

## INTRODUCTION

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 York Archaeological Trust carried out a watching brief for PSM Design at 50 Kyme Street, York YO1 6HG (Figure 1). The ground works monitored were the foundation trenches for a single storey extension to the rear of the property. The reason for the watching brief was because the site lies within the York Area of Archaeological Interest (AAI) City Centre Area 6, and is part of the conservation Area 1 of the York Central Historic Core. In addition the site is in close proximity to a Roman grave group discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (HER MYO4196), and also lies within the Baile Hill part of the York City Walls/associated features Scheduled Monument (no. 1004910). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works. However during the course of works no significant archaeological remains were encountered.

## METHODOLOGY

Prior to the excavation commencing, a smaller flat roof single storey extension existed at the site and had already been demolished on arrival. The foundations for the new extension partly follow the footprint of the earlier one.

The excavations consisted of a U-shaped trench (Plate 1) that measured 4.20m long on the NE-SW returns and 3.70m on the SW length. It was 0.50m wide and 0.70m deep from the floor level of the extension. As the true ground level was unclear at the site the floor level of the previous extension and yard surface was used as a reference point to measure the depth of the deposits.

The trenches were hand excavated using shovels and took two days to complete. An archaeologist monitored all ground works at this site and recording was by handwritten notes, sketches and digital photographs using a 0.5m scale.

## RESULTS

The earliest deposit encountered was a firm, mid brownish-orange sandy clay with visible root disturbance. This has been interpreted as a natural geological deposit due to the composition and lack of inclusions besides the occasional cobble and gravel variation. It was present at approximately 500-600mm below the floor level of the extension and was exposed to a depth of between 100mm and 200mm (Plate 2). This deposit is less visible at the South-West side of the trench (Plate 3) which could be due to the position of the site towards the top of Baile Hill.

Above this deposit was a firm to friable, dark orangey-brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. It appeared to be a shallow band of natural sub-soil with a depth of 50-100mm and ephemeral interfaces with the above and below deposits. It was encountered at 400-550mm below floor level (Plate 2).

The uppermost deposit was a friable, dark brownish-grey sandy clay that had moderate inclusions of small undiagnostic CBM and stone fragments. In the North East facing section this deposit contained an inactive salt-glaze drainpipe (Plate 3). It is unclear whether this deposit constitutes some sort of make-up for the previous extension at the site, or relates to the original house itself. This deposit was between 400-550mm deep from the top of the trench (Plate 2) and was sealed by the former yard surface.

<b>COMPLETED BY</b>	K Smith	<b>CHECKED BY</b>	Ian Milsted	<b>FINISHED</b>	08/12/17
<b>FINDS</b>	No	<b>SAMPLES</b>	No	<b>PHOTOS</b>	Yes
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## CONCLUSIONS

During the course of this watching brief no archaeological remains of significance were encountered. The only deposit which had any archaeological material in it is the uppermost layer which at the North East facing section contains a drainpipe. This deposit could relate to either the building of the old extension or the original late 19<sup>th</sup> Century house itself. It could also incorporate a disturbed mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century horticultural soil related to the landscaping around the nearby prison visible on the 1852 map of York. This would explain the presence of undiagnostic CBM fragments. However it is apparent that, besides the natural geological deposits, what was present either did not predate the house, or was residual material rather than significant, stratified archaeology.



**Plate 1** North East facing view showing U-shaped foundation trench.

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Plate 2 South West facing section of trench showing mid orangey-brown natural deposits. Scale 0.5m.

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Plate 3 - NE Facing section showing drainpipe associated with extant buildings and natural deposits. Scale 0.5m.

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Figure 1 Site Location.

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