



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

<b>SITE</b>	Ryedale House, 58–60 Piccadilly, York		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	Newby Developments Ltd.		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	6080	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	2019/146
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 60650 51420
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	18/00103/ORC	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	N/A

## INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on ground works for the construction of a new building frontage was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of Newby Developments Ltd. between 27<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November at Ryedale House, 58–60 Piccadilly, York, NGR SE 60650 51420 (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works.

## METHODOLOGY

The focus of the watching brief was on groundworks in advance of the construction of a three-storey extension to the eastern frontage of Ryedale House. The proposed structure will adjoin the frontage of the current building, creating a step down towards Piccadilly and thereby breaking up the mass of the original 20<sup>th</sup>-century building (Figure 2). The ground level of the approximately 365m<sup>2</sup> footprint of the extension was reduced by up 500mm by an 8 ton tracked 360° excavator. This process was monitored intermittently and reduced the area to a height of approximately 8.90m AOD.

Following the ground reduction, a drain trench was excavated running north-east/south-west from Piccadilly running beneath Ryedale House (Figure 2). The trench was 6m in length, 1m wide and was 2m deep; the archaeologist in attendance could not enter the trench due to its depth but a photographic record was made from ground level.

Given that the remaining groundworks were less intrusive than the ground reduction (Plate 1), and from this and the service trench shown in Plate 2 it had already been ascertained that the uppermost 1m of deposition at the site is modern, the watching brief was curtailed.

## RESULTS

No significant archaeological deposits were observed during the groundworks, with the material exposed primarily consisting of 20<sup>th</sup> century dumping and services (Plate 1).

The drain trench provided a section through this horizon, revealing the 20<sup>th</sup> century dump deposits to be around 1m thick. Beneath this deposit, a north-west/south-east brick wall of mid-19<sup>th</sup> date was observed to cut a 1m thick layer of ash, clinker and dark-greyish brown sandy silts. At the base of the trench, a layer of soft, dark blackish brown clayey silt was observed at a height of 6.92m AOD (Plate 2). No datable material was recovered from the deposit.

## CONCLUSIONS

Observation of the groundworks at Ryedale House has demonstrated that ground levels were raised significantly over the last two centuries. The deposit exposed at the base of the drain trench is likely to represent the upper horizon of the post-medieval deposition identified during the 2018 borehole survey of the site (Savine 2018, 13). This horizon was characteristic of dumped deposits, which were interpreted as land reclamation from the King's Pool (ibid.). While previous investigations have shown the site contains significant archaeological deposits, these are clearly located at a greater depth than was reached during this watching brief.

## REFERENCES

Savine, B. 2018. *Archaeological Borehole Survey at Ryedale House, York*. YAT Evaluation Report

<b>COMPLETED BY</b>	Arran Johnson	<b>CHECKED BY</b>	B.Reeves	<b>FINISHED</b>	27/09/19
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2018/148



**Plate 1** South-facing view of site following ground reduction.

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**Plate 2** North-east facing view of the machine-excavated drain trench

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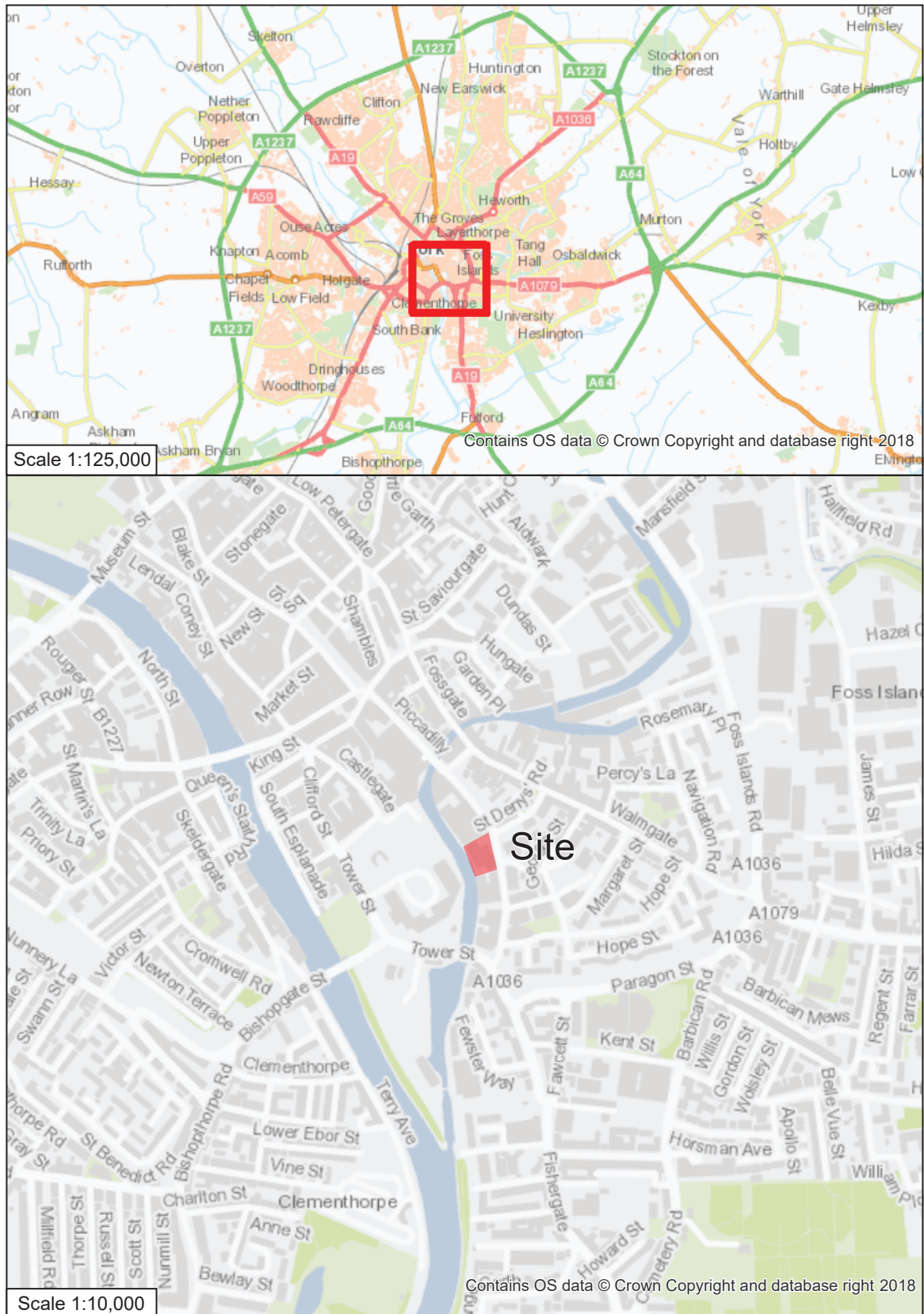


Fig. 1 Site location





Fig. 2 Works location