



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	Osbalwick Village Green, Osbalwick, York		
CLIENT NAME	L and K Warcup Construction Ltd.		
YAT PROJECT #	6071	YAT REPORT #	2018/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 63352 51943
PLANNING REFERENCE #	17/02562/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on the demolition and replacement of a bridge was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of L and K Warcup Construction Ltd. between 2nd and 3rd July 2018 at Osbalwick Village Green, Osbalwick, York, NGR SE 63352 51943 (Figure 1). The objectives of the watching brief were to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works, to investigate the structural sequence of the bridge and to ascertain whether any remains of previous crossings survived.

METHODOLOGY

A 2.5ton 360° tracked Kubota KX61-3 excavator equipped with a pneumatic breaker and a 0.60m wide toothed bucket was used to demolish the westerly bridge of a pair spanning Osbalwick Beck (Plate 1). All intrusive groundworks and demolition took place under archaeological supervision.



Plate 1. South-west facing view of demolition in progress.

COMPLETED BY	Arran Johnson	CHECKED BY	Ian Milsted	FINISHED	16/07/18
FINDS	2	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	89
				PAGE	1 of 7

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	Osballdwick Village Green, Osballdwick, York		
CLIENT NAME	L and K Warcup Construction Ltd.		
YAT PROJECT #	6071	YAT REPORT #	2018/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 63352 51943
PLANNING REFERENCE #	17/02562/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

RESULTS

The earliest deposit to be observed during the watching brief was a substantial layer of light yellowish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles and frequent root disturbance (Context 105). This context was cut by the construction cut of the bridge (Context 104) and lay directly beneath around 300mm of turf and topsoil that was not assigned a context number. No finds or charcoal flecks were observed within the sandy deposit, which may represent either an accumulation of alluvium that has developed along the edge of the watercourse or deliberate dumping of re-deposited natural/subsoil as a flood prevention measure. As it was only possible to observe this context in section, its interpretative potential was highly limited.

Up to present, the precise date of construction for the western bridge on Osballdwick Village Green has been unknown. Observations during the dismantling of the structure, however, revealed two distinct phases of construction. At the limit of excavation, approximately 2m BGL, a cobble filled foundation trench (Contexts 103) was observed and dated by two sherds of pottery to the 19th century. A substantial 4.60m long, 0.50m wide footing course of large pieces of re-used medieval masonry and small boulders (up to 0.55m across) was built directly over the cobble foundation (Context 102; Plate 2). The most notable piece of masonry was a near complete medieval grave slab; unfortunately, no inscription or incised decoration was present. The significance of the stonework will be discussed in greater detail in Appendix 1.

COMPLETED BY	Arran Johnson	CHECKED BY	Ian Milsted	FINISHED	16/07/18		
FINDS	2	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	89	PAGE	2 of 7

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	Osballdwick Village Green, Osballdwick, York		
CLIENT NAME	L and K Warcup Construction Ltd.		
YAT PROJECT #	6071	YAT REPORT #	2018/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 63352 51943
PLANNING REFERENCE #	17/02562/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A



Plate 2. South-east facing view of stone footings, including the grave slab beneath the scale (Context 102, 0.50m scale).

The brick arch of the bridge (Context 101) was built over the stone footing, spanning the approximately 1.50m width of the beck. The structure was made of slop-moulded, hand-made red brick measuring 225mm x 11mm x 65mm and bonded with a lime mortar. Many of the bricks were observed to be poorly fired, discoloured and distorted, although the bridge itself was well-built.

The bridge was clearly modified and strengthened in the late 19th/early 20th century, as the external faces of the structure were re-built using machine-made frogged brick measuring 230mm x 110mm x 70mm. These bricks were stamped 'Hartley's of Castleford' and were bonded with a gritty cement. At some point, the surface of the bridge was consolidated with reinforced concrete, over which the current rubble hardcore and tarmac surface was laid (Context 100). It is uncertain whether the re-skinning and re-surfacing were a single occurrence or separate events.

CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeological features, deposits or structures pre-dating the bridge were observed during the watching brief. This may be a result of a relative paucity of activity having taken place along the banks of Osballdwick Beck, but it is also plausible that more noteworthy earlier archaeology may be present beneath the thick deposit of alluvium revealed in section on both sides of the Beck (Context 105).

COMPLETED BY	Arran Johnson	CHECKED BY	Ian Milsted	FINISHED	16/07/18
FINDS	2	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	89
				PAGE	3 of 7

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	Osballdwick Village Green, Osballdwick, York		
CLIENT NAME	L and K Warcup Construction Ltd.		
YAT PROJECT #	6071	YAT REPORT #	2018/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 63352 51943
PLANNING REFERENCE #	17/02562/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

No notable new inference regarding the bridge itself was made beyond the fact that it was clearly extensively modified at least once following its construction in the 19th century. Perhaps the most interesting question raised by the works is the provenance of the large amount of medieval masonry found within the footings. Each piece of stonework had been damaged prior to being re-used in the bridge footings, suggesting it was likely to have been recovered from a demolished medieval structure. Judging by the scale of the masonry and the presence of a grave slab, the nearby church of St. Thomas, just 155m to the south-east of the bridge, may seem the most likely source. While the church remains in use, the building is known to have undergone extensive restorations in the 1870s and 1890s, perhaps providing a supply of damaged stonework in the process. Unfortunately, the lack of any particularly diagnostic features on the masonry precludes any hope of definitively proving this interpretation.

APPENDIX 1 – THE ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS By Jane McComish

INTRODUCTION

This assessment relates to a collection of 6 architectural fragments (AFs) recovered from the archaeological watching brief at Osballdwick Bridge Works. One of the AFs was clearly medieval, while the others were insufficiently diagnostic to date closely, though they are probably also of medieval date.

METHODOLOGY

The collection was recorded to a standard York Archaeological Trust (YAT) methodology (McComish 2015) whereby the fragments are numbered in a sequence for the site, starting at 1. The numbered AFs are recorded on individual pro-forma record sheets which detail the project code, the context number, AF number, the stone type, a simple keyword identifying the form (such as jamb or voussoir), the surviving dimensions (height, width and thickness), a free text description, a sketch (with any relevant measurements noted on the sketch) and any other relevant information. If rubbings of tool marks or 1:1 tracings of the profile are required, these are done on a separate blank sheet of paper which also details the site code, context and AF number. The data is transferred onto YATs internal computer system (which is backed up daily to prevent data loss) under the project code 6071.

RESULTS

The six AFs comprised three blocks which seem to have been form bases, a large block probably from a foundation, a tenoned block and a recumbent grave slab. All of the stones were from Context 102. A catalogue of the AFs is given in Table 1 below. All the fragments were of magnesian limestone; this stone was quarried in both the Roman and post-Norman periods, so it is the size and finish of the AF in question which determines its probable age. In the case of this collection, the only clearly datable piece was a medieval grave slab (AF3). The remaining blocks could not be closely dated, but the most likely point of origin for these stones is the nearby medieval parish church, which would suggest a medieval date overall.

COMPLETED BY	Arran Johnson	CHECKED BY	Ian Milsted	FINISHED	16/07/18
FINDS	2	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	89
				PAGE	4 of 7

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	Osballdwick Village Green, Osballdwick, York		
CLIENT NAME	L and K Warcup Construction Ltd.		
YAT PROJECT #	6071	YAT REPORT #	2018/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 63352 51943
PLANNING REFERENCE #	17/02562/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

AF1 was an exceptionally large, roughly-dressed, block which was trapezoidal in plan; the function of the block is unclear but its size would suggest it was originally from a massive foundation. AF2 was a long rectangular block with a projecting tenon on one of the smaller ends; this may originally have been an upright, with the tenon being socketed into another stone, though its precise function is unclear. As already noted AF3 is part of a medieval recumbent grave slab; there was no distinctive carving or decoration on any of the surfaces and the head-end of the slab was missing. AFs4-6 were all large roughly cuboid blocks the size of which was suggestive of use in foundations; they were clearly not ashlar as they were too large and were only roughly dressed.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The collection of AFs was of very poor quality overall, being highly eroded and badly broken, with only one datable item being present and even this could be from anytime between the 12th century and the dissolution. All the AFs were clearly reused in post-medieval and modern footings, so their original source is unknown; but they probably originated from the nearby medieval parish church. No further work is recommended. None of the material was worthy of museum display.

AF no	Context	Date	Description
1	102	Medieval?	Large block of magnesian limestone, trapezoidal in plan, rectangular in cross-section. Roughly dressed. No clear tooling. Eroded and chipped.
2	102	Medieval?	Long block of magnesian limestone, rectangular in cross-section and plan, with a projecting tenon 95x210x103mm in size on one of the shorter ends. The opposing shorter end is broken off. Roughly dressed. No clear tooling. Eroded and chipped.
3	102	Medieval	Flat block of magnesian limestone, trapezoidal in plan with the wider end broken off. Roughly dressed. No clear tooling. Eroded and chipped.
4	102	Medieval?	Block of magnesian limestone, rectangular in cross-section and plan, two sides broken off. Roughly dressed. No clear tooling. Eroded and chipped.
5	102	Medieval?	Block of magnesian limestone, rectangular in cross-section and plan, one sides broken off. Four small sun-Circular indentations on the upper surface ranging i size from 20x20mm to 60x60mm , the largest of which housed an iron bar. Roughly dressed. No clear tooling. Eroded and chipped.
6	102	Medieval?	Block of magnesian limestone, rectangular in cross-section and plan, two sides broken off. Roughly dressed. No clear tooling. Eroded and chipped.

Table 1. Architectural fragment catalogue

COMPLETED BY	Arran Johnson	CHECKED BY	Ian Milsted	FINISHED	16/07/18
FINDS	2	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	89
				PAGE	5 of 7

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	Osbalwick Village Green, Osbalwick, York		
CLIENT NAME	L and K Warcup Construction Ltd.		
YAT PROJECT #	6071	YAT REPORT #	2018/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 63352 51943
PLANNING REFERENCE #	17/02562/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

FIGURES

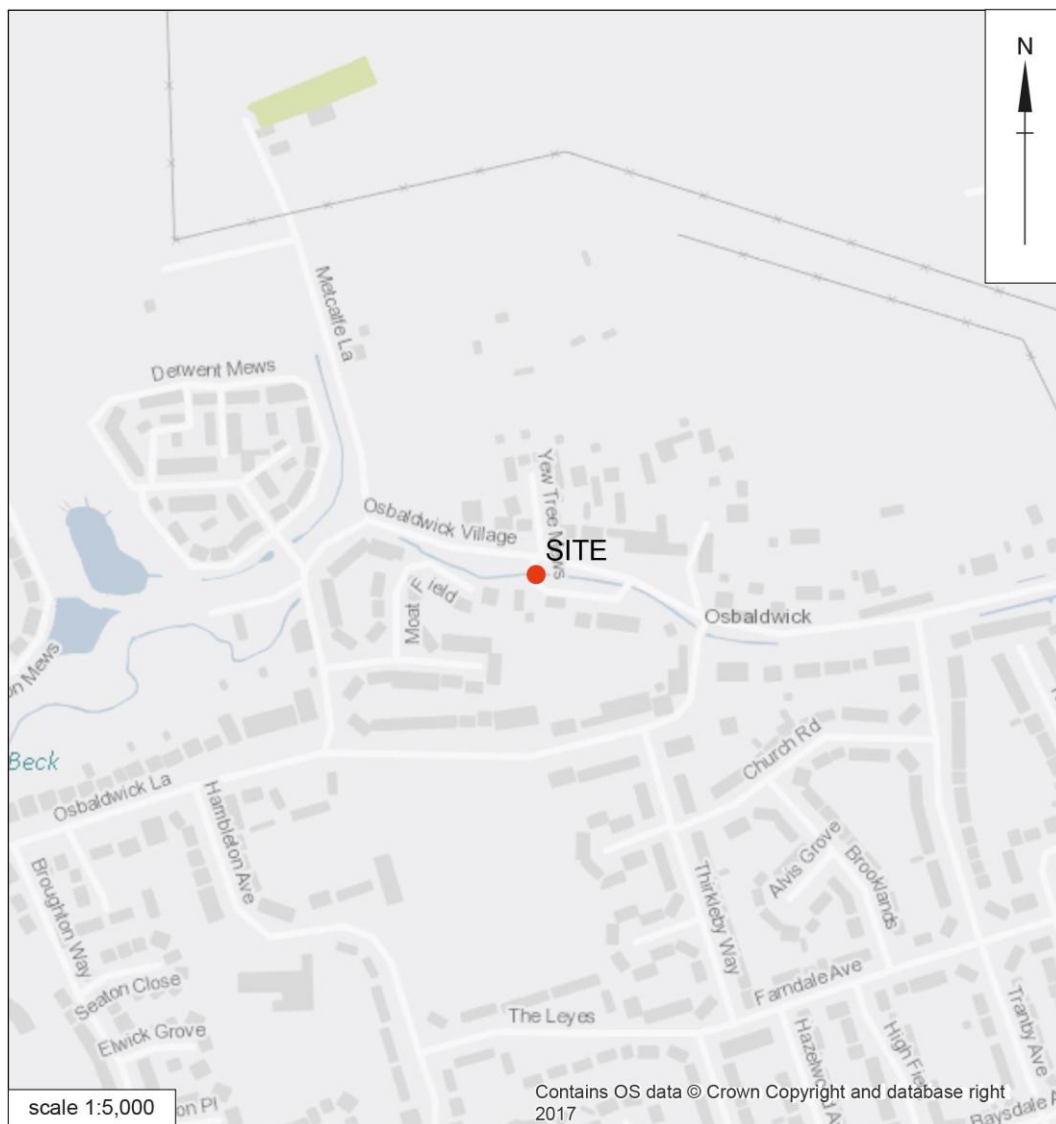


Figure 1. Site location plan

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of York Archaeological Trust for Excavation & Research Limited ("YAT"). YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. Nobody is entitled to rely upon this Report other than the person/party which commissioned it. YAT accepts no

COMPLETED BY	Arran Johnson	CHECKED BY	Ian Milsted	FINISHED	16/07/18
FINDS	2	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	89
				PAGE	6 of 7

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	Osballdwick Village Green, Osballdwick, York		
CLIENT NAME	L and K Warcup Construction Ltd.		
YAT PROJECT #	6071	YAT REPORT #	2018/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 63352 51943
PLANNING REFERENCE #	17/02562/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by anybody other than the commissioning person/party.

COMPLETED BY	Arran Johnson	CHECKED BY	Ian Milsted	FINISHED	16/07/18		
FINDS	2	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	89	PAGE	7 of 7

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801