



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	Grove House 40-48 Penley's Grove Street, York		
CLIENT NAME	Norstar Real Estate		
YAT PROJECT #	6045	YAT REPORT #	2018/144
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 60597 52571
PLANNING REFERENCE #	17/01129/FULM,18/00337/FULM	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on ground works for a building extension was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of Norstar Real Estate periodically between 22nd August and 25th October 2018 at Grove House 40-48 Penley's Grove Street, York, NGR SE 60597 52571 (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works.

METHODOLOGY

The works on site (Figure 2) which required archaeological monitoring consisted of:

- Demolition and clearance. Specifically ground reduction for a piling mat and grubbing out of footings.
- Foundations. The excavation for foundation beams between piles.
- Attenuation tank. Excavation for an attenuation tank.

Excavation was completed with an 8 tonne tracked 360° excavator fitted with an appropriate bucket. In the case of the large attenuation tank this was a toothless ditching bucket.

Recording was completed using a combination of written notes and drawings, with additional digital photography as appropriate. The works were located in relation to the developer drawings as per the planning applications.

RESULTS

The demolition and clearance revealed little other than the disturbance from the construction of the standing buildings (Plate 1).

During the excavation of the foundation beams the only observable deposits were 0.7m of made ground sealing 0.16m of orange-brown sandy clay with occasional CBM flecks (Plate 2).

The excavation of the attenuation tank allowed a far clearer picture of the archaeological sequence to be formed. The excavations were c.12.5m long and c.8m wide, but a large portion of this was already disturbed. Deposits pre-dating the 1960's building were revealed in the northeast half of the tank excavations and a further 3m x 3m section in the western corner.

Where exposed the sequence was typically (Plate 3 & Figure 3);

- 1.3m BGL and lower Natural, firm mottled yellowy brown stony clay.
- 1.3m-1.1m BGL Natural, firm mottled yellowy brown clay.
- 1.1m-0.9m BGL Disturbed natural, orangey yellowy brown clay with ceramic building material flecks .
- 0.9m-0.6m BGL Buried soil, friable dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt with heavily rolled roman and medieval pottery as well as medieval tile.
- 0.6m BGL to ground level Construction spread and landscaping from the latest buildings.

In addition there was a small section of brick wall foundation visible in the southeast section, so massively truncated by the new foundations and previous wing of the building. This had the bricks laid as headers with no bonding and the bricks were 240x110x77mm deep. The same size bricks

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also made up a small stub wall seen in the western corner. In both cases these can be associated with the almshouses which stood on the site previously.

Not visible on earlier mapping, or aerial photography, was a brick culvert (Plate 3). This ran at a right angle to Penley's Grove Street and discharged into a sewer which would have been beneath the road. It was positioned 2.2m from the southeast edge of the attenuation tank cut with the top being c.900mm BGL. The south-western end had previous been truncated by the 1960's building works, and the surviving section continued for 2m towards Penley's Grove Street before becoming obstructed. The structure itself was c.600mm in diameter and had bricks 235x110x77-80mm thick. The bricks were bonded with a light grey lime mortar.

Finds were limited to medieval tile and Roman and medieval pottery, all within the buried soil deposit. None of this material was retained.

A single human metacarpal was also recovered from the buried soil deposit during the excavation of the attenuation tank. The areas was cleaned thoroughly and carefully excavated for a radius of 1m around and no further bone was found. This must have been a disarticulated bone which had entered, and subsequently been moved around within, the buried soil at some point in the last two millennia. The bone was reburied on site, below the new extension, an area which will not be disturbed during the redevelopment.

CONCLUSIONS

The redevelopment of Grove House has given an opportunity to examine the archaeological remains along Penley's Grove Street. This is a part of the City which is relatively close to the Roman Fortress, but has had little in the way of detailed excavation.

The works undertaken had relatively little impact upon the archaeological sequence, bar the excavation for the attenuation tank. What was exposed showed natural undisturbed deposits at c.1m BGL. This was then sealed by a buried agricultural soil which contained residual pottery and tile as would be expected.

A single human metacarpal indicates that there is potential for a burial to have been disturbed somewhere nearby, but there was no evidence this was in the area covered during these investigations.

The post-medieval almshouses, Harrison's Hospital for Widows, which previously stood on the site had been almost entirely removed during the late 1960's building which is being redeveloped.

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Plate 1 Observation during grubbing out of previous foundations, facing southeast.



Plate 2 Depth of made ground, facing northeast, scale unit 100mm 0.5m

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Plate 3 Deposit sequence and culvert, facing northeast, scale unit 100mm

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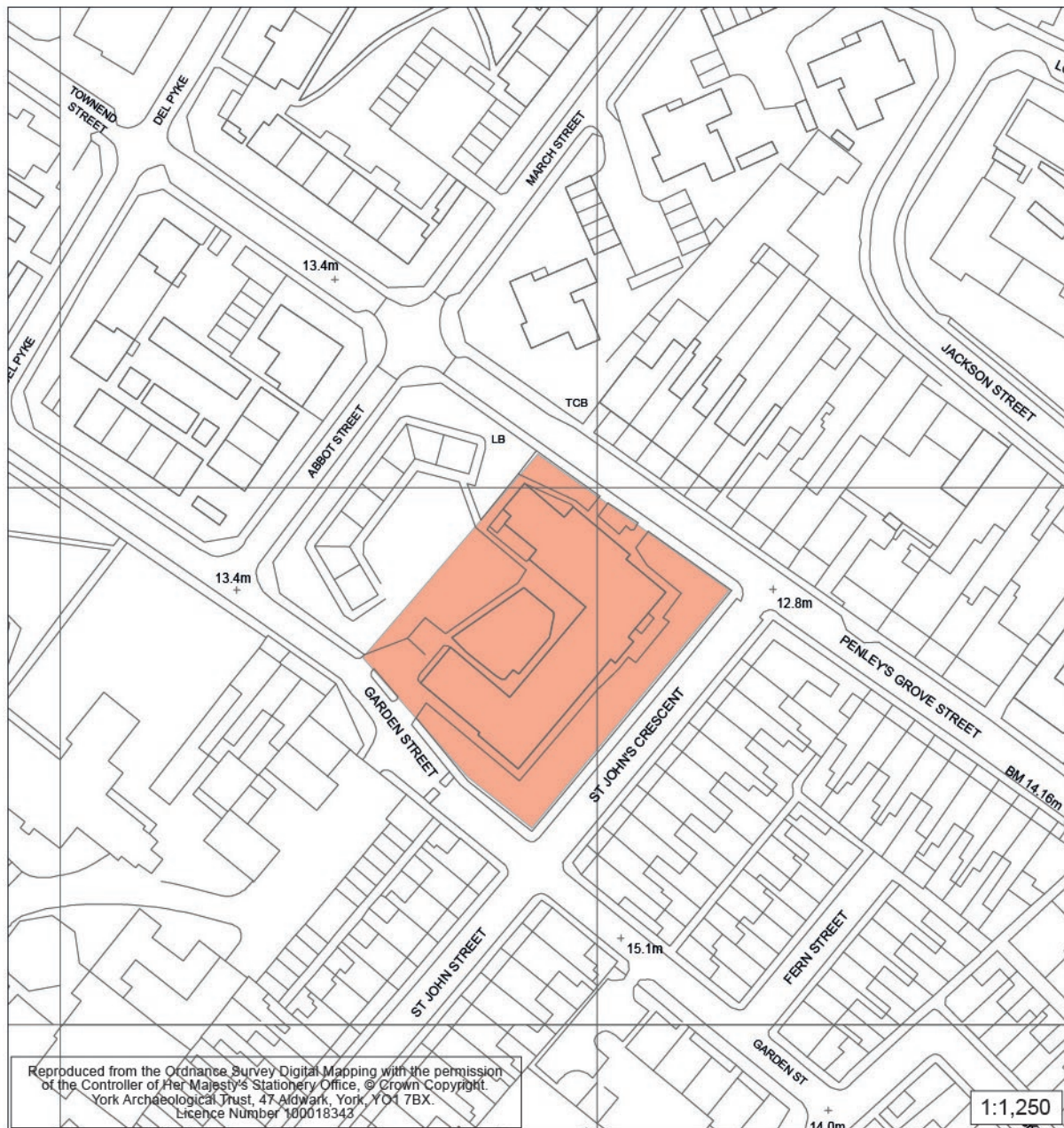


Figure 1 Site Location

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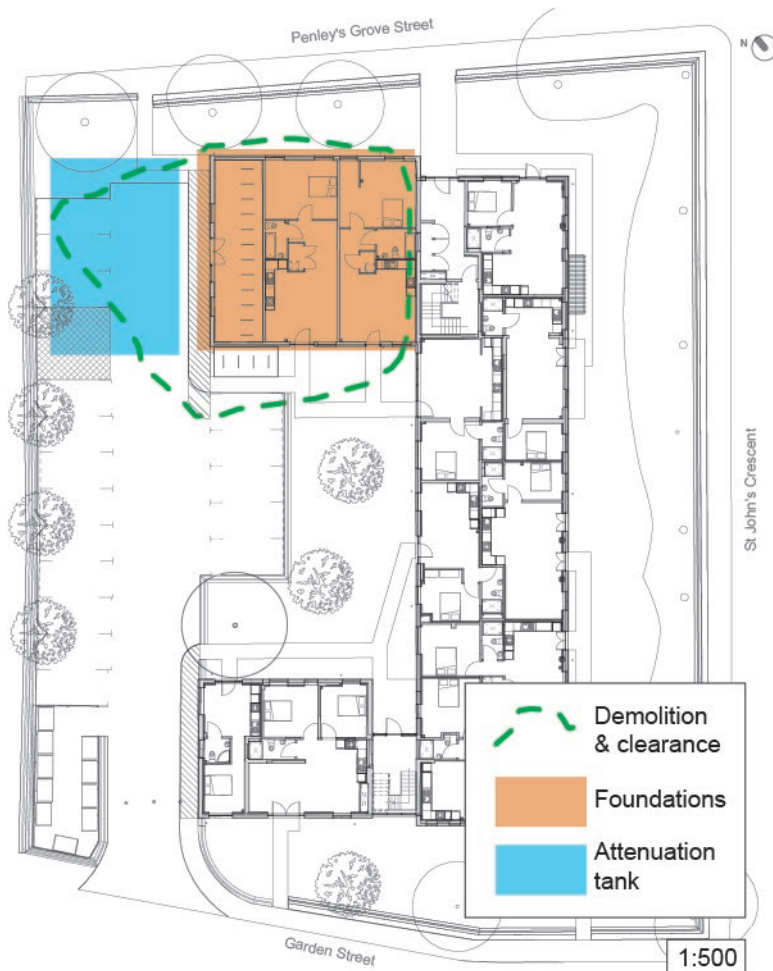


Figure 2 Areas monitored. After 18/00337/FULM Drawing no. P(000)004

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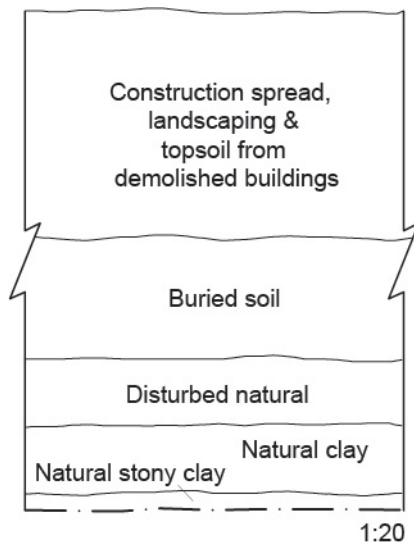


Figure 3 Representative section

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