

SITE	Chapter House Street, York YO1 7LJ					
CLIENT NAME	National Trust					
YAT PROJECT #	716	2018/143				
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE460430 452254 -			
MODESMI ACCESSION #	II/a	OKID KEI EKENOE	SE460449 452269			
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	18018			

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on ground works for a new Openreach internet cable was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of the National Trust. The works were carried out over two phases of works, the first between 22nd- 24th August and the second on the 1st-3rd October, at 4–8 Chapter House Street, York YO1 7LJ (SE 460430 452254; Figure 1).

The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works. These were closely monitored due to the site lying within the York Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI), as well as the Schedule Monument Area of the York Minster Precinct (UID: 1017777). The works also would involve drilling an access hole below ground for the cable to be connected, into the Grade I listed wall of the Treasurer's House cellar (UID: 1257251). All the relevant permissions were obtained for these works to proceed.

METHODOLOGY

A linear trench was excavated around 24m in length and 300mm wide. Aligned north-east / south-west, it was situated in the pavement in front of 8 Chapter House Street and extended to number 4 Chapter House Street (Figure 2). The sandstone paving slabs which made up the footpath were lifted and a 200mm wide trench dug to a depth of between 250–360mm. These were conducted by ground workers from the Kelly Group (Plates 1, 4, 6 and 9).

At the south-western end of the trench, a hole 200mm in diameter was drilled through the Grade I listed wall, externally into the interior of the Treasurer's House cellar. Once the ducting and cabling had been connected, the trench was backfilled and paving slabs reinstated.

Digital photographs were taken from the top of the trench, as well as the external and internal view of the cable going into the Treasurer's House cellar. Measurements and a description of the main deposits encountered were made.

RESULTS

The first phase of ground works undertaken was from outside 8 Chapter House street, to the south-west arch of Greys Hotel entrance. The cable trench revealed a very simple sequence of deposits consisting of the York stone paving slabs and yellowy-brown fine sand bedding. The main deposit encountered was a friable dark brownish grey silty-sand, with occasional CBM flecks, sandstone fragments, small to large cobbles, flecks of charcoal and flecks of limestone (Plates 3 and 5).

The same sequence of deposits was identified in the second phase of works, however the dark brownish silty sand had more frequent small CBM fragments, small to medium brick fragments, small crushed mortar and concrete fragments, small sandstone fragments with occasional animal bones present and 18th–19th century pottery, along these works to the south-west (Plate 7 and 8).

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At the end of the service trench for the new cable, a hole was drilled into the wall of the Treasurer's House to feed the Openreach cable into the building (Plate 10). The drilling initially encountered approximately 500mm by 150mm of dark brown silty soil underneath the wall, however this could have been part of the backfill trench for the gas pipe going into the building nearby (Plate 11). Ducting was fed through the wall and into the cellar below for the cable to be fed into. From inside the Treasurer's House cellar a small 30mm wide hole had been created so the Openreach access could be installed (Plate 12).

Along the eastern boundary of the entire trench works a metal gas pipe was uncovered, this ran the length of the trench and turned into the Treasurer's House 200mm away from where the new cable duct was being installed, groundworks were carried out so as to void affecting this service.

CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological deposits of significance were found during the monitoring. The dark brown deposit running throughout the trench was most likely a dump or levelling deposit of 18th–19th century date judging by pottery sherds and CBM observed but not retained.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

YAT would like to thank the Kelly Group groundworkers for their cooperation as well as the National Trust stewards for their assistance.

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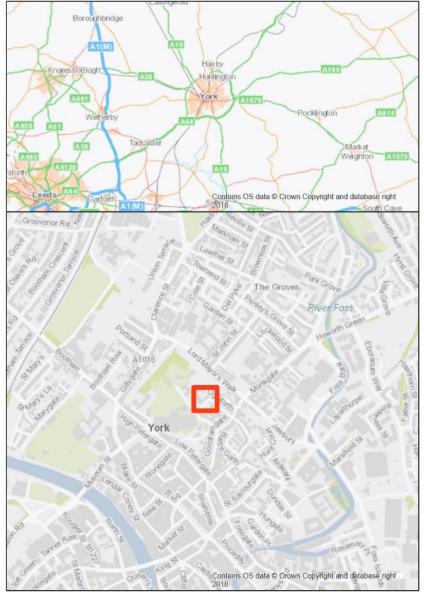


Figure 1 Site Location

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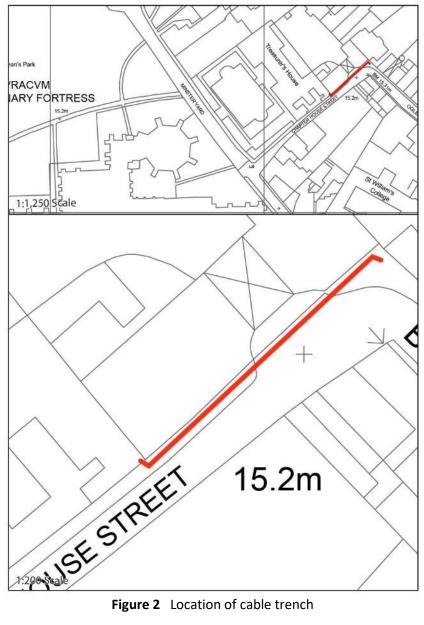


Figure 2 Location of cable trench

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Plate 1 Chapter House Street, looking south-west

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Plate 2 Phase 1 works, looking west

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Plate 3 Phase 1 works, looking north-east

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Plate 4 Phase 1 works, view of excavated cable trench, looking south-west

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Plate 5 Phase 1 works, view of trench across entrance to Greys Hotel, looking west

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Plate 6 Phase 2 works, continuing from previous cable run, looking north-east

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Plate 7 Phase 2 works, view of trench, looking west

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Plate 8 Phase 2 works, view showing depth of excavations, looking west

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Plate 9 Phase 2 works, excavated to external wall of Treasurer's House wall, looking north-east

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Plate 10 Phase 2 works, pre-drilling view of Treasurer's House wall, looking west

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Plate 11 Phase 2 works, drilling into the Treasurer's House cellar, looking west

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Plate 12 Phase 2 works, Openreach cable fed through into the Treasurer's House cellar

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Plate 13 Phase 2 works, Openreach cable installed through Treasurer's House wall, looking west

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