



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	York Flood Alleviation Scheme, Flood Cell B11, Coppins		
CLIENT NAME	Capita AECOM		
YAT PROJECT #	6156	YAT REPORT #	2019/113
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 59387 52384
PLANNING REFERENCE #	N/A	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on commencement works for the York Flood Alleviation Scheme was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of Capita AECOM between 22nd July and the 7th August at York Flood Alleviation Scheme, Flood Cell B11, Coppins, NGR SE 59387 52384 (Figure 1 and 2). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works (Capita & AECOM, 2019). The site lies within the City Centre Area of Archaeological Importance and there is potential for Roman burials and occupation deposits in the area due to its proximity to Approach Road 5 and 6 to the north (RCHME, 1962)

METHODOLOGY

The commencement works that were monitored included an area for the compound and the creation of a temporary roadway through and parallel to the extant earth flood embankment. Two machines were used during the course of the works: a 6-tonne tracked excavator with a 1.5m bladed bucket and a 20-tonne tracked excavator with a 1m toothed bucket.

The area strip for the compound involved the removal of turf and topsoil to a depth of 150mm BGL (below ground level) in a rectangular area 38m by 30m wide. To create a roadway through the flood embankment an area 3m wide was excavated to a depth of 600mm BGL from the peak of the embankment followed by a 150mm strip of topsoil and turf parallel to the embankment.

The works were recorded using notes, plans and sketch sections as appropriate, and digital photographs. No finds were recovered or retained during the course of the works.

RESULTS

The deposits observed during the works were predominantly topsoil, subsoil, and the man-made embankment. During the area strip the top of an orange brown, sandy silt subsoil was exposed beneath 150mm of brown, sandy silt topsoil (Plate 1). Modern field drains backfilled with gravel were encountered at 4m intervals, aligned northwest-southeast (Plate 2).

During the excavation of the embankment the earliest deposit encountered was a firm, grey brown, silty clay deposit sealed by up to 200mm of topsoil and turf (Plate 3). Within the embankment material modern farming equipment was recovered but not retained.

CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeology was encountered during the course of the works. It can be inferred due to the topography of the playing field that the area had been landscaped to flatten the field during the 19th and 20th century. If there was any archaeology present prior to the landscaping it will have been removed. However, in general the site was sterile of finds suggesting the area had been predominantly agricultural.

Thanks to the contactors on site, BAM, for assistance during the works.

REFERENCES

Capita & AECOM, 2019. *York Flood Alleviation Scheme Coppins Farm to Scarborough Bridge Left Bank: Written Scheme of Investigation.*

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RHME, 1962. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in City of York, Volume 1, Eburacum, Roman York*. London.

FIGURES

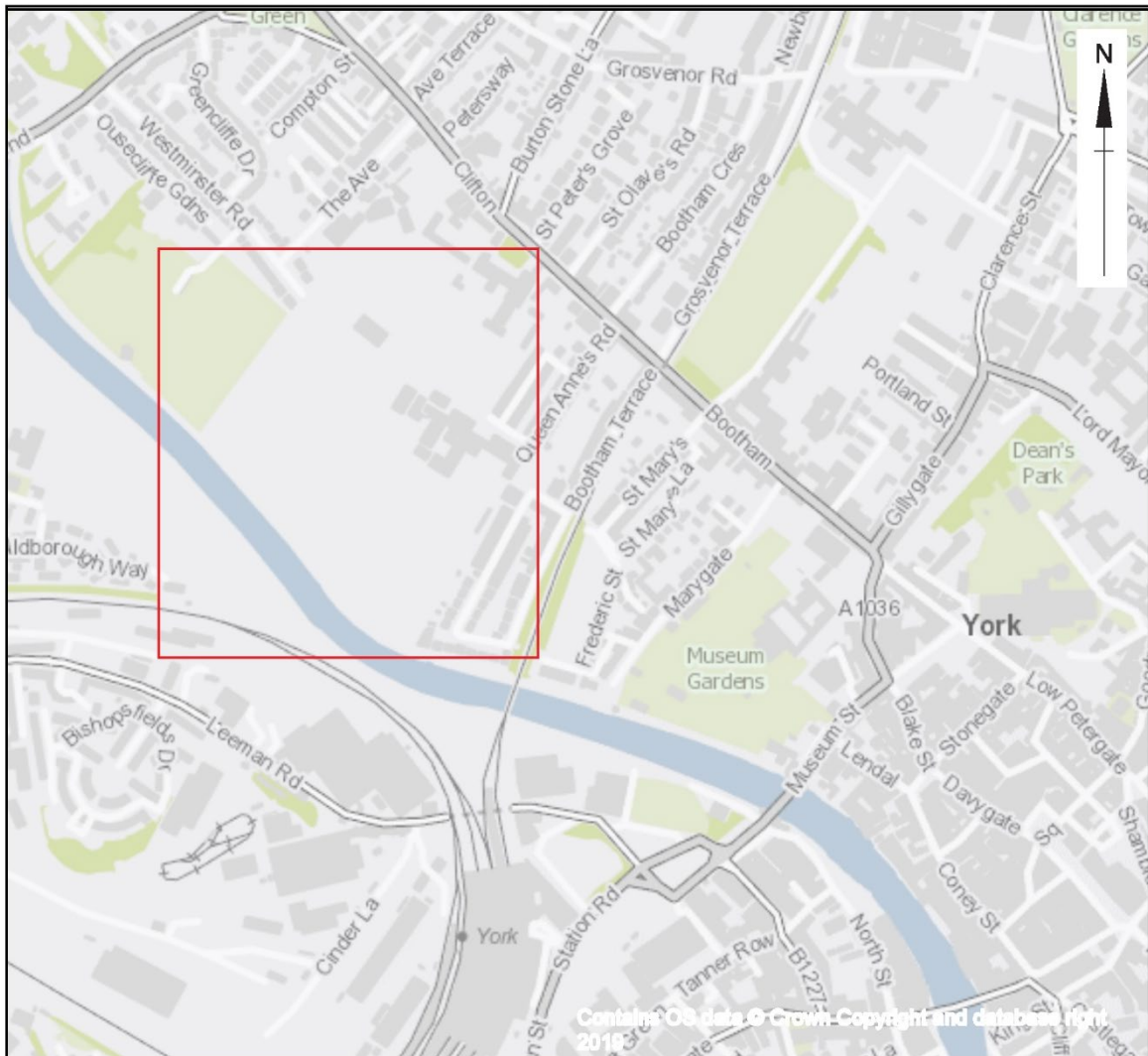


Figure 1 Site Location (1:10,000). Crown copyright reserved. Reproduced with the permission of OS on behalf of HMSO. Licence number 100018343.

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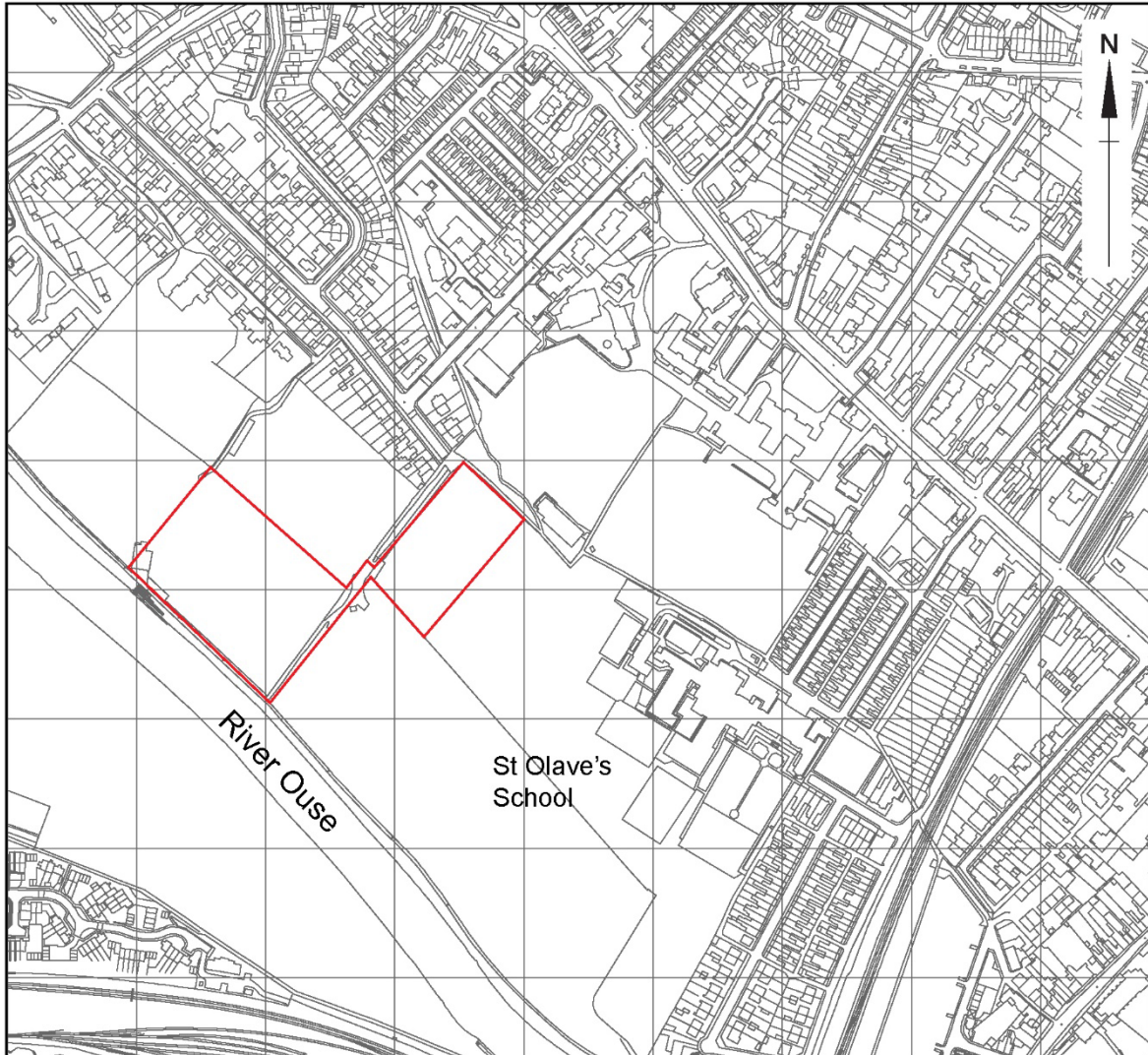


Figure 2 Detailed Site Location (1:2,000). Crown copyright reserved. Reproduced with the permission of OS on behalf of HMSO. Licence number 100018343

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PLATES



Plate 1 General view of compound strip.

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Plate 2 Example of field drains encountered at 4m intervals.

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Plate 3 Excavation into the top of the flood embankment.

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