



## YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

|                             |                               |                         |              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| <b>SITE ADDRESS</b>         | 10 St. Sampson's Square, York |                         |              |
| <b>CLIENT NAME</b>          | Morrison Utility Services     |                         |              |
| <b>YAT PROJECT #</b>        | 5219                          | <b>YAT REPORT #</b>     | 2009/3       |
| <b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>   | n/a                           | <b>GRID REFERENCE</b>   | SE 6034 5191 |
| <b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b> | n/a                           | <b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b> | 09004        |
| <b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>     | York Archaeological Trust     |                         |              |
| <b>DATE OF VISIT</b>        | 10/03/09                      |                         |              |

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief outside 10 St Sampson's Square, York. The objective of the watching brief was to record any deposits, features or structures revealed during the excavation of a trench for a new water feed into the premises. Unfortunately the excavation failed to locate the feed point and after some delay a second hole was dug on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009, immediately adjacent to the one dug in March which was located immediately outside the premises in the pavement at the south-west end of Three Cranes Lane. The site lies within the area of the Roman Legionary Fortress, the medieval walled city north-east of the River Ouse and the Central York Area of Archaeological Importance.

Recording took the form of written notes and measured sketches in a field notebook. The March trench was c.1.5m long and 0.9m wide although the width was narrowed at c.0.35m below ground level (BGL) making the lower part of the trench approximately 0.6m wide. The trench had a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trench excavated in the pavement in July was 1.4m x 0.7m and around 0.5m deep. Additionally a trench, c.0.3m wide and between 0.45m and 1m deep, was dug from the trench excavated in July across the road to connect the feed to the existing water main running along the south-west edge of the road.

In the March trench the earliest deposit recorded, between 0.7m BGL and at least the base of the trench, was a dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with moderate amounts of pale brown mortar (1005). This was probably cut by an unseen construction trench (1008) of uncertain dimensions. Within this putative cut was a foundation deposit of occasional cobbles set in a mid brown slightly sandy clay (1007). Sat on this were the remains of a limestone wall (1006) bonded with a soft pale brown mortar and surviving for just 0.3m above its foundations. It was a minimum of 0.7m wide and appeared to be aligned north-east / south-west. Sealing the wall was a dark brown clayey silt with moderate quantities of limestone fragments and pale brown mortar (1004). Above this was a mid brownish-grey slightly clayey silt containing a large number of relatively modern metal service pipes (1003). Overlying this was a dark brownish-grey slightly clayey silt with moderate brick / tile and occasional pale brown mortar (1002). It was sealed by a layer of coarse mid brown sand (1001) which formed the bedding for the modern ground surface of stone flags (1000).

During the July excavation three representative sections were recorded. The first was located in the pavement adjacent and north-west of the March excavation. In this trench the earliest deposit noted, between 0.15m and at least 0.5m BGL, was a dark brown very slightly clayey silt with moderate charcoal, very pale brown mortar and brick / tile (1009). Overlying this was a 0.1m deep layer of mid brown sand (1010) forming the bedding for the modern pavement surface of stone flags (1011).

In the second section, located in the north-east half of the trench crossing the road, the earliest deposit noted, between 0.2m and at least 0.45m BGL, was a firm, mid brown very slightly clayey silt with moderate brick / tile (1012). Above it was a 0.1m deep layer of very pale grey concrete (1013) which formed the bedding for the modern street surface of concrete setts (1014).

The third section was at the south-west end of the trench across the road. Here the earliest deposit, recorded between 0.5 and at least 1m BGL, was a mid orange-brown very slightly clayey silt with

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| <b>COMPLETED BY</b> | D.T. Evans | <b>CHECKED BY</b> | M. Stockwell | <b>FINISHED</b> | 21/07/2009    |
| <b>FINDS</b>        | No         | <b>SAMPLES</b>    | No           | <b>PHOTOS</b>   | Yes           |
|                     |            |                   |              | <b>PAGE</b>     | <b>1 of 5</b> |

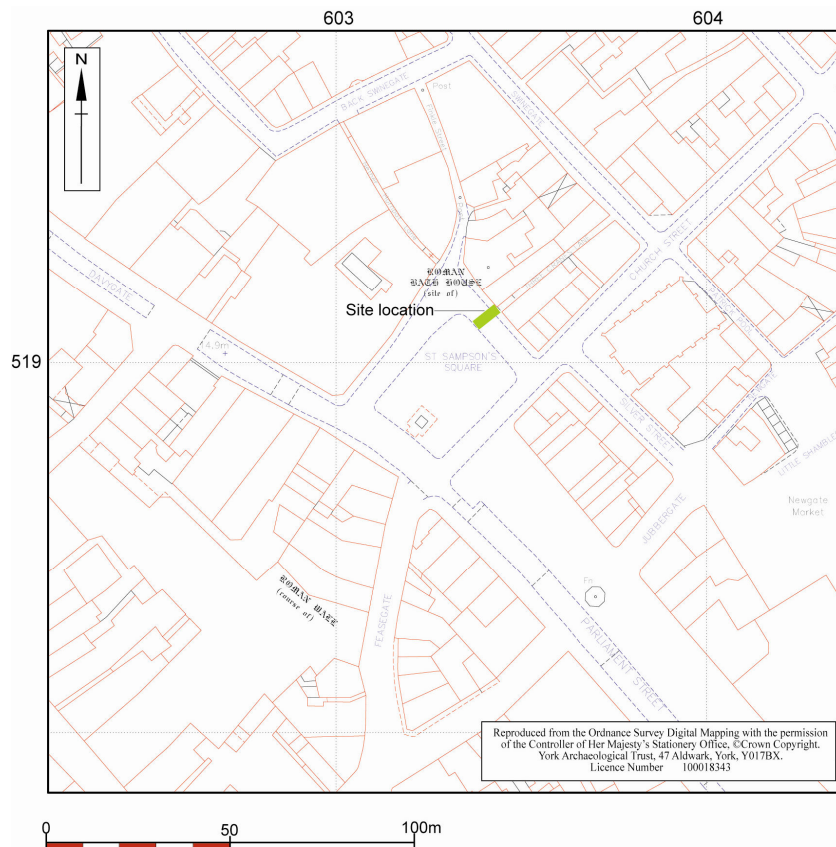


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| <b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b> | n/a                           | <b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b> | 09004        |
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moderate brick / tile, lenses of dark greyish-brown silt, pea gravel and occasional patches of light to mid orange sand (1015). Overlying this was a 0.15m deep layer of very pale yellowish-brown crushed limestone (1016) and above this was a 0.1m deep layer of pale grey concrete (1017). This was overlain by a 0.15m deep deposit of mid brown sand (1018) which formed the bedding deposit for the modern road surface of concrete setts (1019).

No finds were recovered from any of the excavations and the date of the wall in the March trench remains uncertain although the lack of brick in its construction may possibly suggest a medieval date. Contexts 1005 and 1004 may have been intact deposits, possibly build-up deposits, but all other archaeological deposits within the March trench had been destroyed by the numerous services below the pavement. It was a similar story in the July trenches with only modern disturbed deposits being identified but the watching brief has shown that deposits and structures of some significance may survive in the area, albeit in a somewhat truncated form.



**Figure 1** Location of site

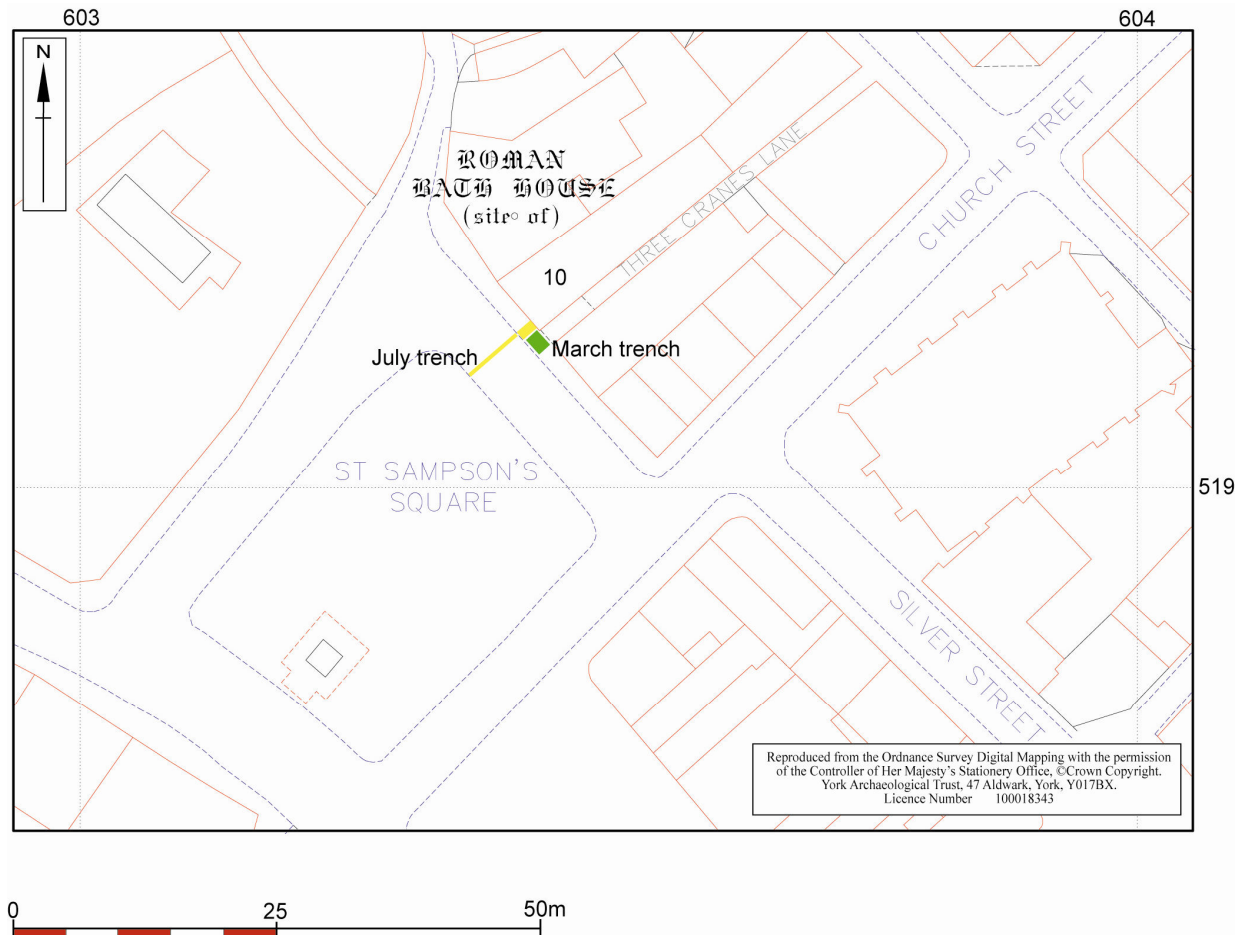
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|                     |            |                   |              | <b>PAGE</b>     | <b>2 of 5</b> |





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**Figure 2** Location of trench

|                     |            |                   |              |                 |               |
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|                     |            |                   |              | <b>PAGE</b>     | <b>3 of 5</b> |

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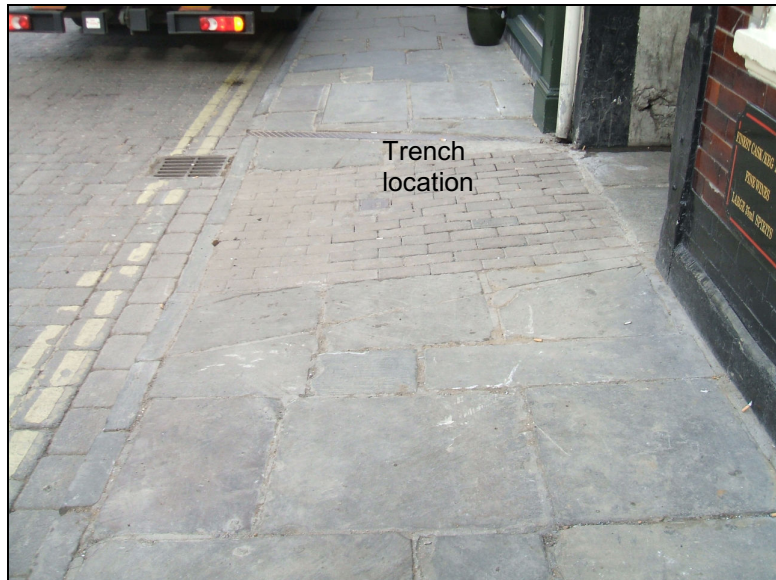


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**Plate 1** View of north-east side of St Sampson's Square, looking north



**Plate 2** Location of March trench, looking north-west

|                     |            |                   |              |                 |               |
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|                     |            |                   |              | <b>PAGE</b>     | <b>4 of 5</b> |





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**Plate 3** South-west half of July trench, looking north-east

|                     |            |                   |              |                 |               |
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|                     |            |                   |              | <b>PAGE</b>     | <b>5 of 5</b> |