



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Environment Agency, Riccall Depot, Landing Lane, Riccall, York		
CLIENT NAME	Environment Agency		
YAT PROJECT #	5121	YAT REPORT #	2009/49
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6083 3736
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on the 27th August 2009, as part of a project to excavate a pond and install some new fencing posts at the Environment Agency's Riccall Depot, Landing Lane, Riccall, York (Figure 1-2).

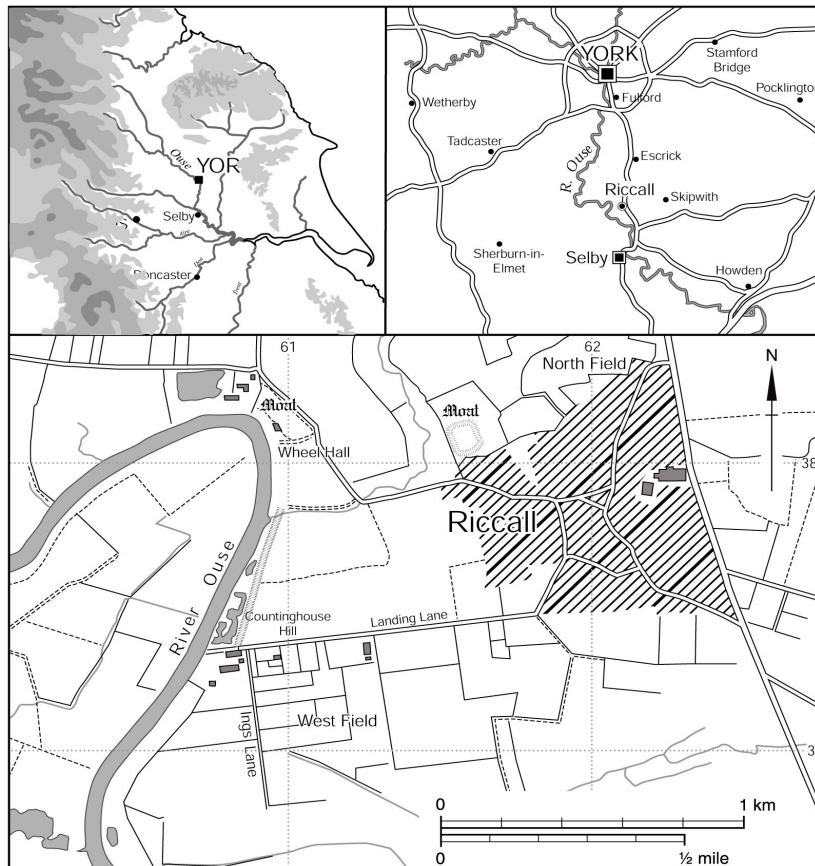


Figure 1 Site location

The pond was excavated to the south-west of the depot buildings. The pond is intended to flood and drain naturally, acting as a wildlife habitat. The pond will be c.14 x 10m in area with an outer shelf 0.1m deep, an inner shelf 0.25m deep and a central portion 0.5m deep.

The excavation of the deepest portion of the pond and clearance of the outer shelf was observed during the watching brief, but not the final landscaping. The deepest portion of the pond was excavated by a mechanical digger with a toothed bucket, while stripping of the outer shelf was undertaken by a smaller machine with a toothless bucket. The ground through which the pond was being excavated was clearly modern dumping of demolition rubble, and comprised mid brown silt with frequent modern brick fragments, concrete fragments up to 1.0 x 0.4 x 0.3m in size, rubble, broken wooden posts, wire, iron rods and lumps of mortar. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

COMPLETED BY	J.M. McComish	CHECKED BY	M. Stockwell	FINISHED	01/09/2009
FINDS	None	SAMPLES	None	PHOTOS	Yes
				PAGE	1 of 5



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The fence posts were inserted to the south-east of the depot buildings, immediately adjacent to Ings Lane, and surrounded a rectangular area c.17 x 14m. The post holes were inserted on the northern, eastern and southern sides of this area, the western side already had a fence. The fence post holes on the northern side were initially excavated using a mechanical auger operated by two men, however, the stony nature of the ground made this process difficult, so the remaining fence posts were excavated using a mechanical digger with a toothed bucket. The holes for the fence posts were spaced c.2m apart and were c.0.5m, in area and 0.6m deep. The material observed in the post holes comprised mid brown silt mixed with dumping of demolition debris including modern brick fragments, mortar, stone, concrete fragments and drain pipe fragments. No material of archaeological interest was observed.

All of the material observed during the watching brief was clearly of 20th century or later date.

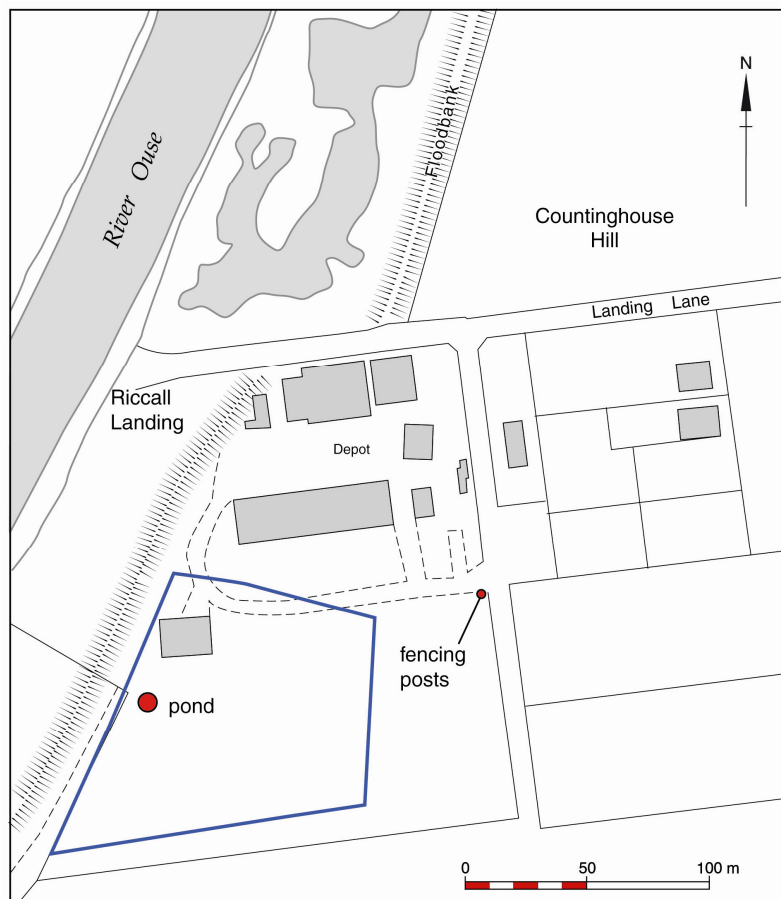


Figure 2 Location of works

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				PAGE	2 of 5



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Plate 1 Augering the fence post holes



Plate 2 Material in the north-eastern most fencing post hole (Scale unit 0.1m)

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				PAGE	3 of 5



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Plate 3 The south-eastern most fencing post hole (Scale unit 0.1m)



Plate 4 Stripping of the pond area

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				PAGE	4 of 5



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Plate 5 Modern concrete rubble in the pond area (Scale unit 0.1m)



Plate 6 Stripping of the pond area

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				PAGE	5 of 5