



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Utility trench, Bishophill Junior to Fetter Lane, York		
CLIENT NAME	CE – Electric UK		
YAT PROJECT #	5372	YAT REPORT #	2010/37
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6003 5153
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	10016

Between 18th and 26th May 2010 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief on utility works along parts of Bishophill Junior and Fetter Lane, York (Figure 1). The objective was to record any deposits, features or buried structures of archaeological interest exposed during the excavation of a trench for a new electricity cable. The trench was continuous and was generally c.0.3m wide and no more than 0.5m deep although it was c.0.8m deep under the road at the junction of Bishophill Junior and Fetter Lane to protect the new cable. A total of four observations (Figure 2) were made and are described below. Recording took the form of written notes and measured sketches and a small number of colour digital photographs were taken. The site was visited on a regular basis, normally at least once a day, while the excavation work was in progress.

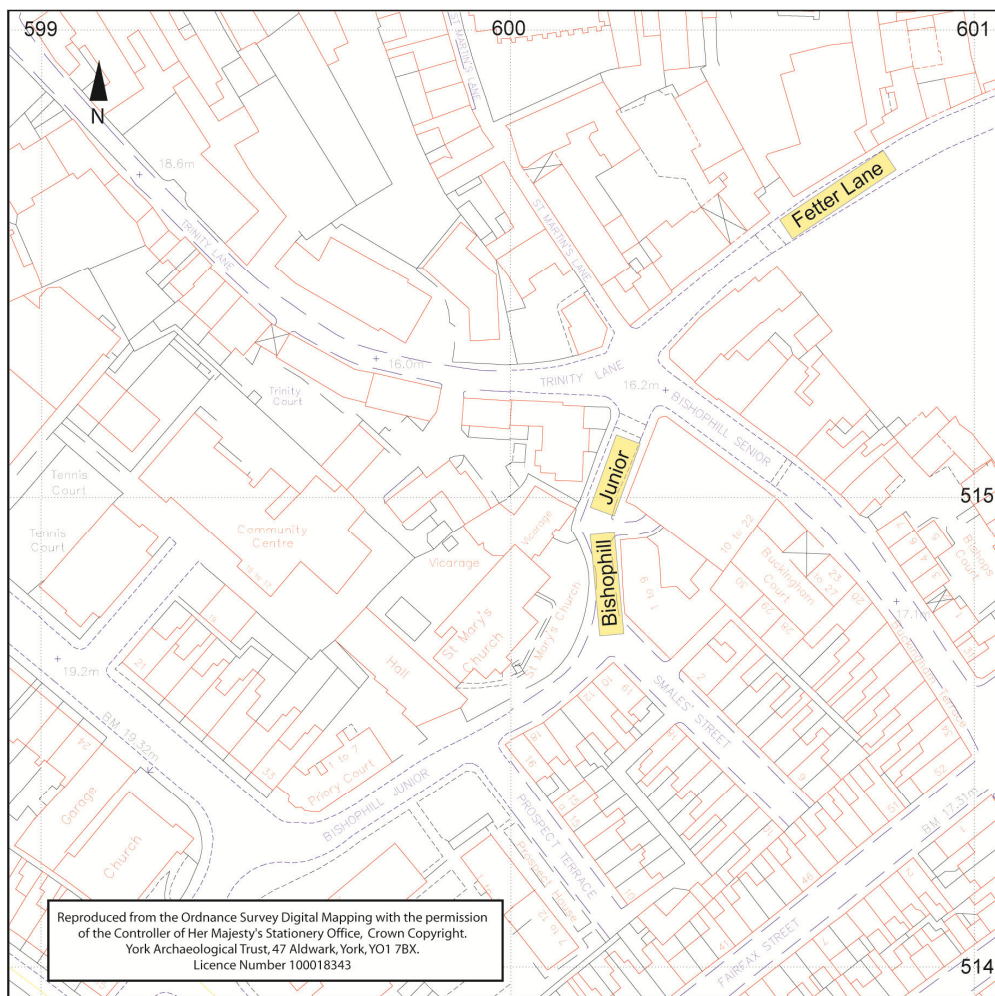


Figure 1 Location of Bishophill Junior and Fetter Lane

COMPLETED BY	D. T Evans	CHECKED BY	M. R Stockwell	FINISHED	27/07/10
FINDS	No	SAMPLES		PHOTOS	Yes
				PAGE	1 of 4

York Archaeological Trust is a Registered Charity No. 509060



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SECTION 1

The earliest deposit in this section, between 0.25m and at least 0.5m below ground level (BGL), was a dark brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional pale brown mortar (1000) which was sealed by a dark brown silt with moderate pebbles and pale brown mortar (1001). Both were thought to be disturbed backfill / levelling deposits. Context 1001 was overlain by a modern levelling deposit (1002) and the modern pavement surface of tarmac (1003).

SECTION 2

The earliest deposit recorded in this section, at between 0.35m and at least 0.6m BGL, was a mid brown silt with occasional pebbles and brick / tile(1004), probably a modern backfill / levelling deposit. All later contexts were clearly modern and consisted of backfill / levelling deposits (1005 and 1006) and the pavement surface of tarmac (1007).

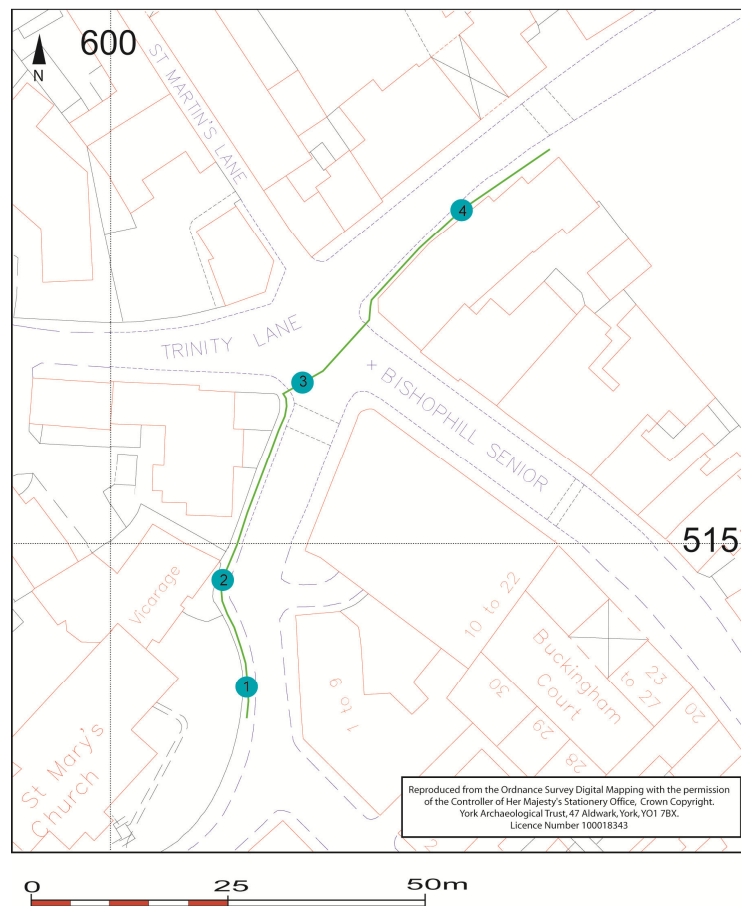


Figure 2 Location of trench and recorded sections

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SECTION 3

The lowest context noted in this section, between 0.3m and at least 0.8m, was a dark greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional limestone fragments and brick / tile (1008). This may have been a build-up deposit or possibly a levelling deposit for the overlying context which consisted of a roughly horizontal band of cobbles, c.0.1m deep, in dark grey silt (1009), almost certainly an earlier road surface. Sealing this was a levelling deposit (1010) and the existing road surface of tarmac (1011).

SECTION 4

All contexts seen in this section were definitely modern and consisted of a backfill / levelling deposit of crushed limestone (1012) and the pavement surface of tarmac (1013).



Plate 1 South end of cable trench in Bishophill Junior, looking south

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Plate 2 Southern part of cable trench in Fetter Lane, looking south

CONCLUSIONS

Most of the contexts seen during this watching brief were probably relatively modern in date. The only exceptions would be the possible build-up / levelling deposit, 1008, and old road surface, 1009, seen in Section 3 and even these need be of no great age since there is plentiful photographic evidence of such surfaces surviving well into the 20th century, especially in the less busy roads such as Bishophill Junior and Fetter Lane.

Despite the trench passing directly beside the boundary wall of the graveyard of St Mary's Church, believed to have been larger in the past, no disturbed human bone was noted from the trench at any point and it would thus appear that modern service excavations have not disturbed any burials from the presumed enlarged graveyard in the area of the works. It can therefore be stated that no archaeological remains were disturbed during the current works.

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