



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	16 St. Benedict's Road, York		
CLIENT NAME	Moorside Developments Ltd		
YAT PROJECT #	5375	YAT REPORT #	2010/57
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6010 5102
PLANNING REFERENCE #	07/00436/FUL; CY082	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a

INTRODUCTION

Between 25th May and 7th June 2010 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching at 16 St Benedict's Road, York (Figure 1). The site, formerly occupied by the Promenade Working Men's Club, is to be redeveloped as domestic dwellings. The objective was to record any deposits, features, or buried structures of archaeological significance exposed during the initial groundworks associated with the new development. The development was to sit on a concrete raft rather than strip foundations and this involved the removal of the upper 0.6m of deposits in the footprint of the structure. In a few places where modern rubble appeared to have been buried up to c.1.1m of material was removed before stoning up. Two specimen sections were recorded and are described below. The recording took the form of written notes and measured sketches supplemented by a number of colour digital photographs.

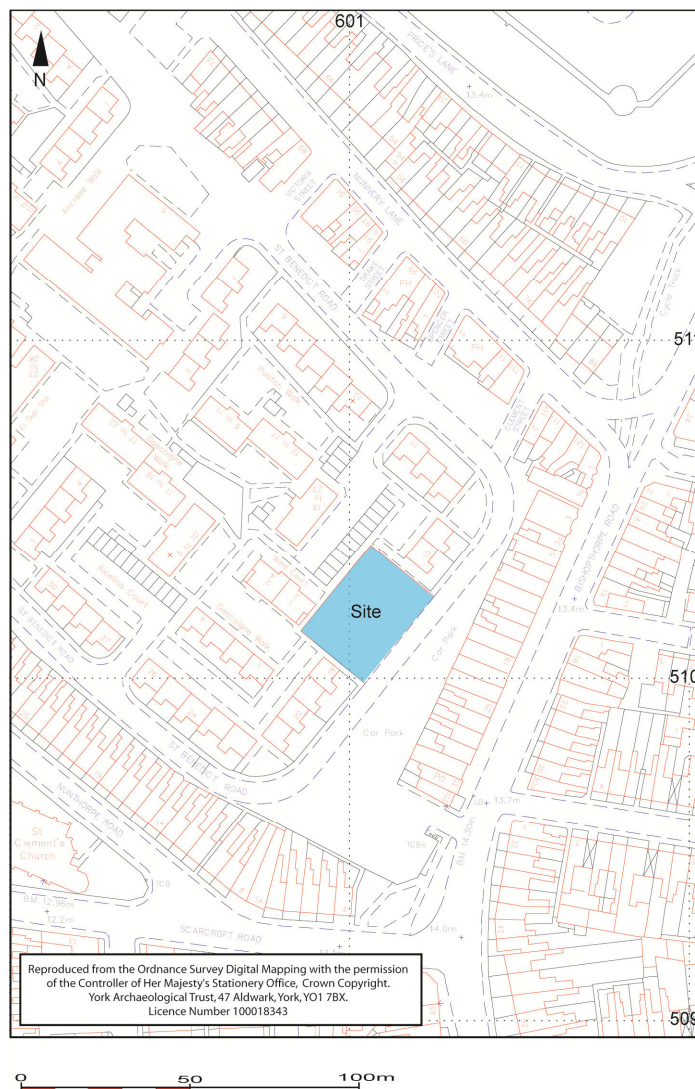


Figure 1 Site location

COMPLETED BY	D.T. Evans	CHECKED BY	M.R. Stockwell	FINISHED	05/10/10
FINDS	No	SAMPLES	No	PHOTOS	Yes
				PAGE	1 of 4

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Registered Charity
No. 509060



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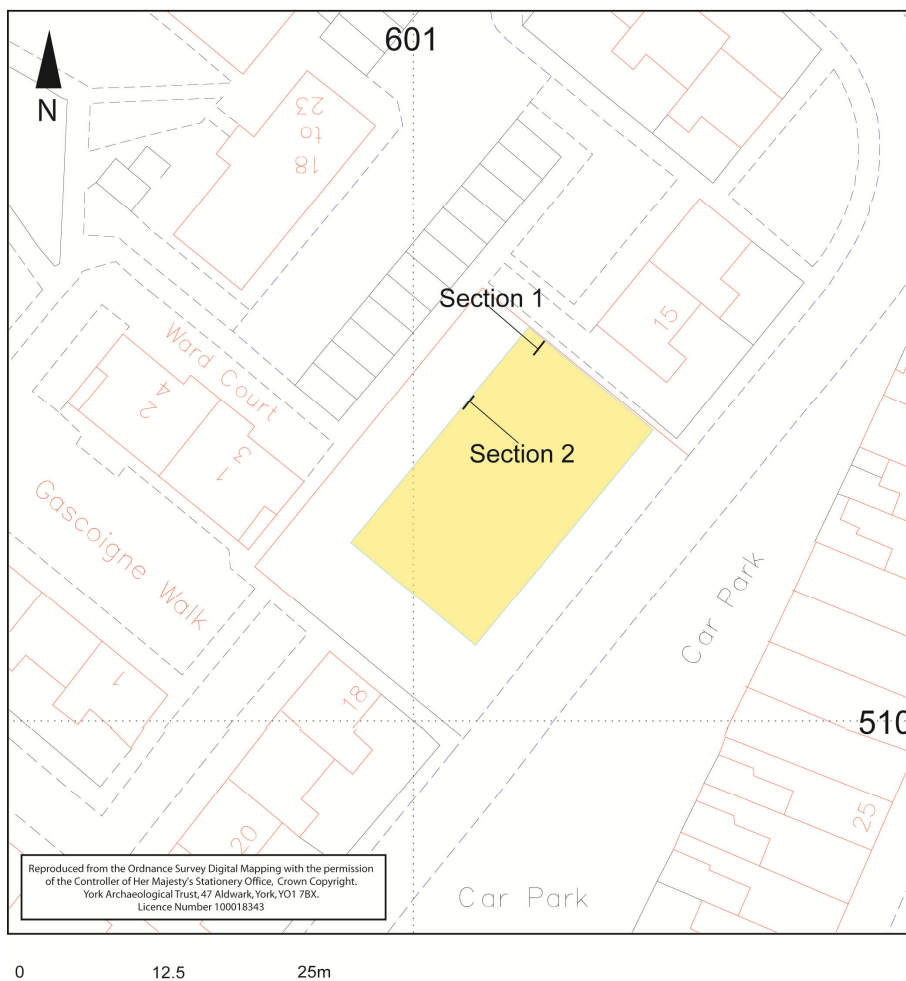


Figure 2 Location of recorded sections

RESULTS

In Section 1 the earliest deposit noted, at between 1.1m and at least 1.2m below ground level (BGL), was a firm, light brownish-grey sand (1000), which was probably the natural in this area. Overlying it was a 0.9m deep layer of very mixed dark brown silt, brick rubble and concrete fragments (1001). Sealing this was the current modern surface, a 0.2m deep mixture of brick rubble and dark brown silt capped by vegetation (1002).

In Section 2 the earliest deposit recorded, at between 0.5 and at least 0.6m BGL, was a firm, mid brown sandy silt (1003). This was overlain by a 0.1m deep layer of dark orange gravel (1004) and above this was a 0.2m deep deposit of dark brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional charcoal (1005). Probably cut into 1004 and 1005 was a short stretch of brick wall (1006). The alignment of this wall was uncertain but may have roughly north-west / south-east. It was approximately 0.45m wide and 0.4m tall and was bonded with a firm white mortar. It was sealed by the uppermost layer, a mixture of dark greyish-brown silt and brick rubble (1007).

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Plate 1 Natural sand and modern dumping in Section 1

CONCLUSIONS

During this watching brief no features were recorded and the only deposit of any archaeological significance may have been Context 1003 in Section 2 and this may only have been a build-up deposit of agricultural or horticultural soil. Maps of the 17th to mid 19th centuries do indicate that this area was either fields or gardens, it only being developed for housing (wall 1006 may be part of any such housing) sometime in the second half of the 19th century. Since the main strip did not penetrate as far down as natural subsoil there was very little opportunity to establish if there were any archaeological features surviving at this interface, but if so then they are unlikely to have suffered any serious damage.

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Plate 2 Exploratory trench, looking north-east

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