



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Utility trench, Bowling Green Lane, York		
CLIENT NAME	BT Openreach		
YAT PROJECT #	5388	YAT REPORT #	2010/59
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6074 5257
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	10017

Between 23rd and 30th of June 2010, York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at Bowling Green Lane in the Groves area of the city (Figure 1). The objective was to record deposits, features or buried structures exposed during the excavation of a trench from the junction of Bowling Green Lane and Park Crescent to the perimeter of a new development of domestic dwellings being constructed on the site of the former Groves Working Men's Club. The trench was generally c.0.3m wide and up 0.8m deep and was excavated using a mini-digger although some excavation was by hand in the vicinity of any existing services. Four short stretches of trench were recorded in detail (Figure 2). Recording was by written notes and measured sketch section supplemented by a number of colour digital photographs. The site was visited on a regular basis during the excavation work.

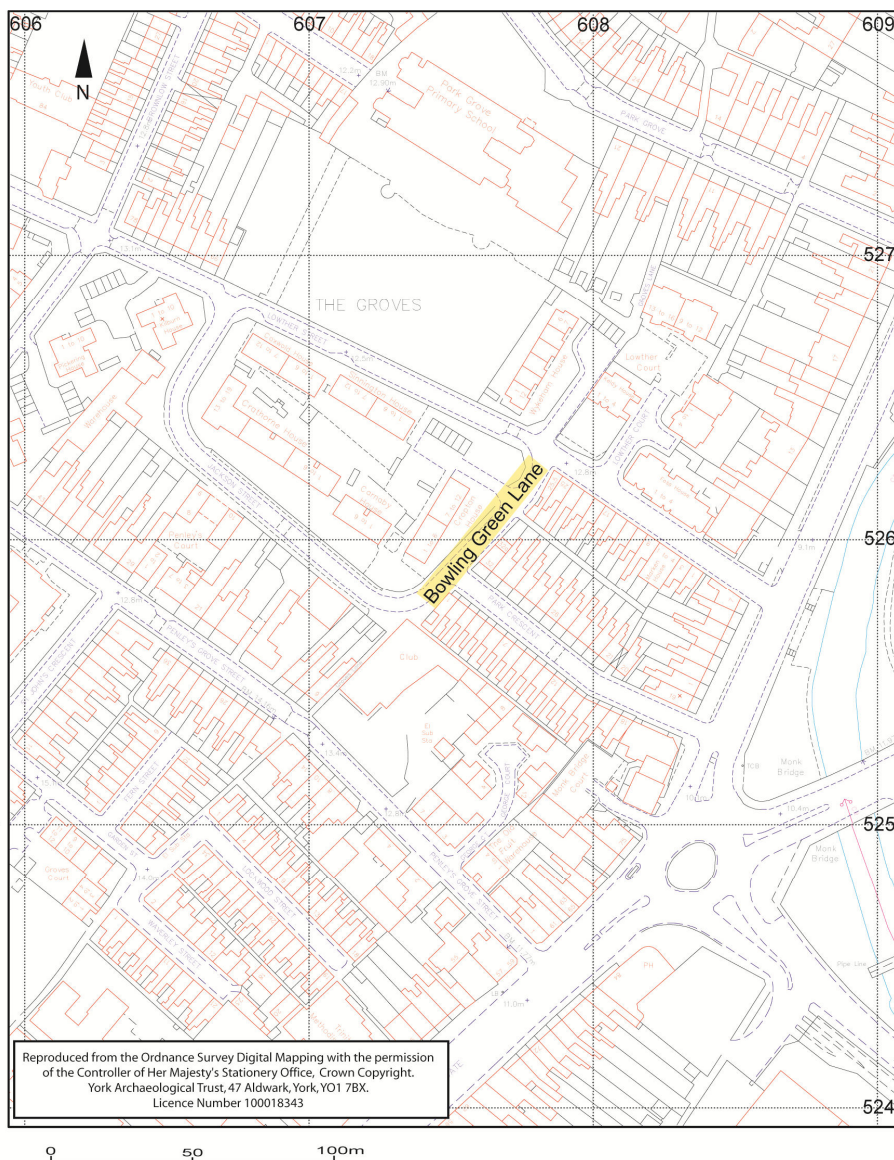


Figure 1 Site location

COMPLETED BY	D.T. Evans	CHECKED BY	M.R. Stockwell	FINISHED	16/08/10
FINDS	No	SAMPLES	No	PHOTOS	Yes
				PAGE	1 of 4

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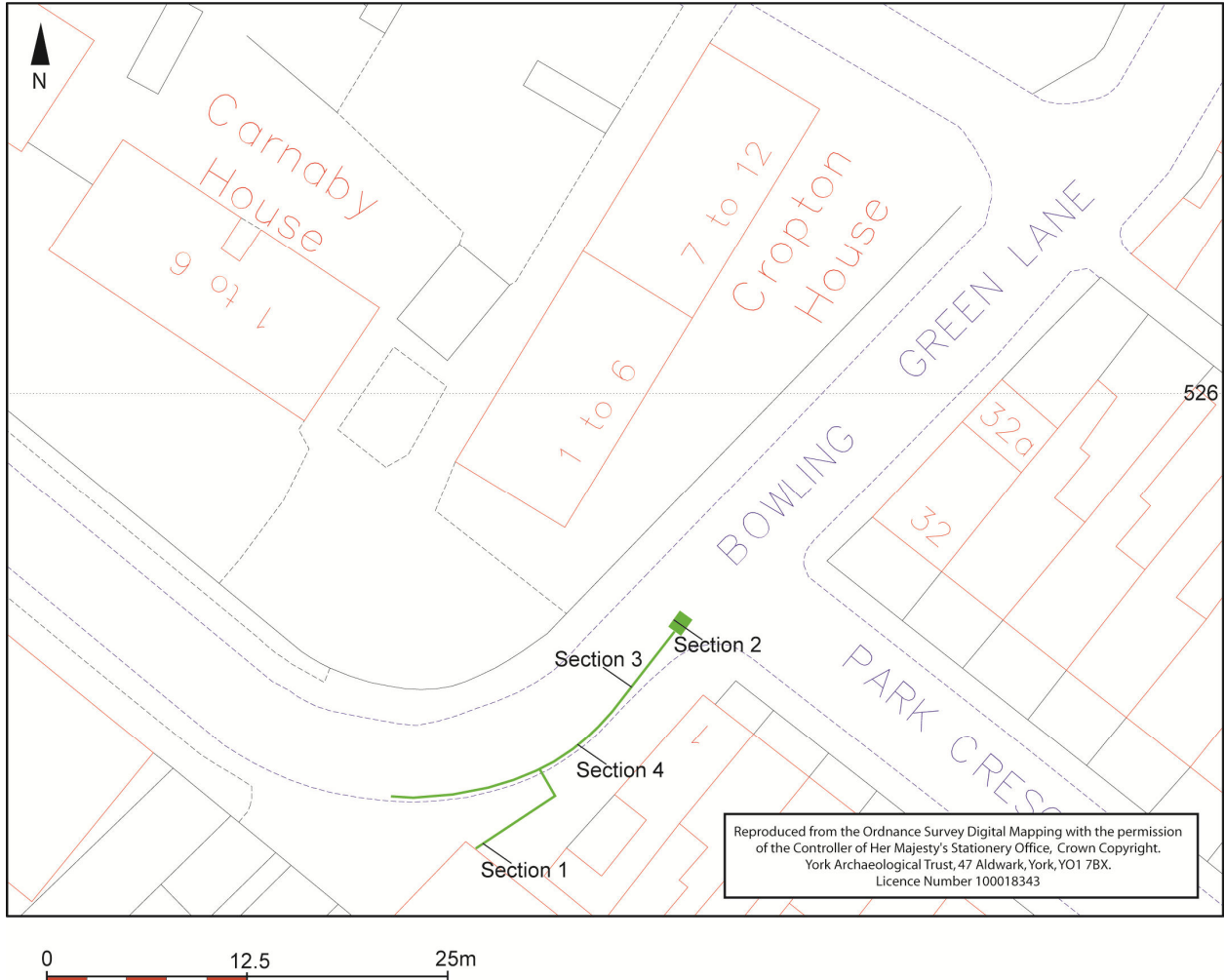


Figure 2 Location of trench and recorded sections

In the first section the earliest deposit recorded, at between 0.5m and at least 0.7m below ground level (BGL), was a dark greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional brick / tile fragments (1000). It was sealed by a 0.1m deep layer of very dark brownish-grey slightly clayey silt with occasional brick / tile fragments (1001). Both of these were probably build-up deposits. Overlying Context 1001 was a 0.23m deep deposit of mid brown slightly sandy silt with occasional pale brown mortar (1002) which might have been a build-up deposit. All other contexts were clearly modern and consisted of levelling deposits (mid brown mortar 1003 and tarmac pieces and clinker 1004) and the modern pavement surface of tarmac (1005).

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In the second section the lowest deposit noted, between 0.35m and at least 0.8m BGL, was a possible build-up deposit of dark greyish-brown slightly sandy silt with occasional charcoal (1006). Overlying it was a 0.15m deep horizontal band of cobbles in dark grey silt (1007), probably an earlier road surface. It was sealed by a layer of tarmac pieces (1008), a levelling deposit for the modern road surface of tarmac (1009).



Plate 1 Modern and earlier deposits in vicinity of Section 1, looking south-west

In the third section, between 0.4m and at least 0.8m BGL, there was a very dark brown slightly clayey silt (1010), probably a build-up deposit. All later contexts were probably or definitely modern. Overlying Context 1010 was a possible backfill or levelling deposit which was a mixture of mid brown silt, pale brown mortar and crushed brick / tile with moderate pebbles (1011) and above this a band of cobbles in dark brown silt (1012), an earlier road surface. This was sealed by a layer of tarmac pieces (1013) forming the bedding for the existing tarmac road surface (1014).

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Plate 2 Deposits and cobbled road surface in vicinity of Section 3, looking west

In the fourth and final section, the earliest recorded deposit, seen between 0.5m and 0.8m BGL, was a mid brown clay with occasional pebbles (1015) which may have been natural. Sealing it was a 0.1m deep possible build-up deposit of mid greyish-brown silt with moderate brick / tile (1016). This was sealed by a 0.3m deep layer of concrete (1017) which formed the bedding for the modern tarmac road surface (1018).

The clay seen in Section 4 may well be natural but if so it may suggest that along the other parts of the trench natural either dips downward or has been cut away by features not identified during the watching brief. In all of the recorded sections, later probable or possible build-up deposits were recorded but no features were noted cut through them although this may be due to use of the land for agriculture and horticulture until the second quarter of the 19th century when domestic housing sprung up across this part of York. Above these build-ups deposits all other contexts were probably later 19th century or 20th century in date and of little archaeological significance.

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