



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Utility trench, Dixon Lane, York		
CLIENT NAME	BT Openreach		
YAT PROJECT #	5427	YAT REPORT #	2010/77
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6070 5146
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	10023

INTRODUCTION

Between 17th and 19th August 2010 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at Dixon 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 length of new cable ducting. The trench was generally 0.2 to 0.3m wide and up to 0.5m deep. It was dug using a mini – excavator except in the immediate vicinity of existing services where it was hand dug. The full length of the trench was examined and one specimen section recorded within Dixon Lane and one other where the trench traversed the pavement adjacent to Piccadilly (Figure 2). Recording took the form of written notes and measured sketches supplemented by a small number of digital colour photographs. Later, on 26th October a further trench was dug along the south-east frontage of Saxby House, in the pavement beside George Street. (Figure 3). One specimen section was recorded along this trench and is described below.

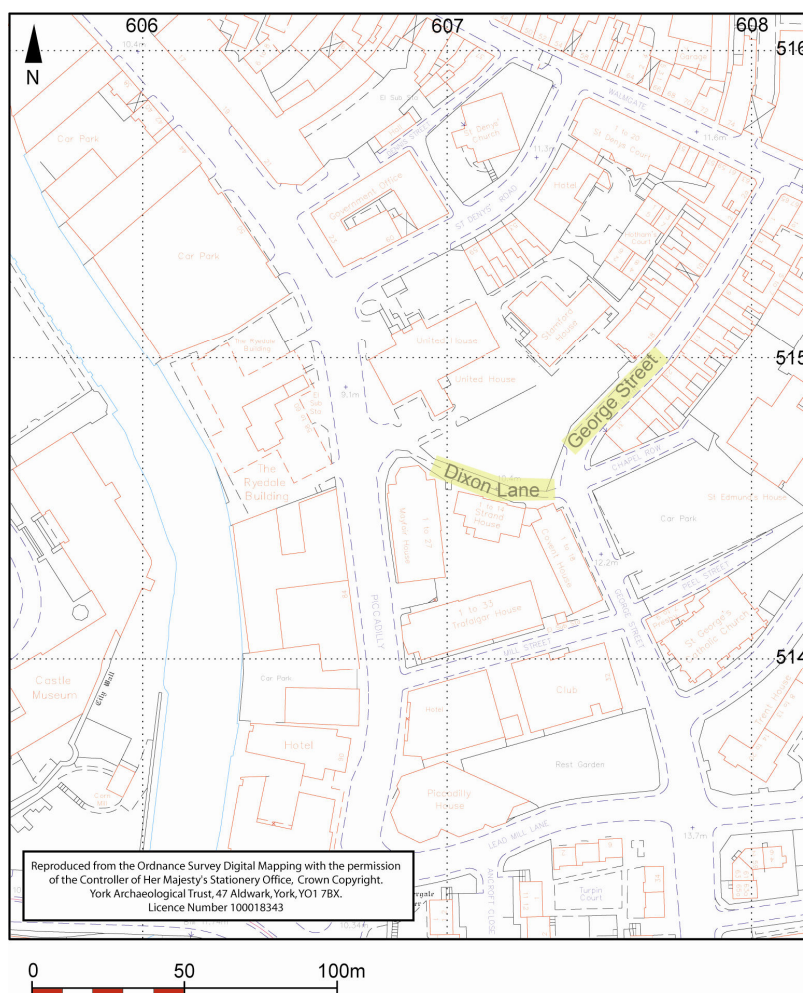


Figure 1 Location of Dixon Lane

COMPLETED BY	D.T. Evans	CHECKED BY	M.R. Stockwell	FINISHED	19/11/10
FINDS	No	SAMPLES	No	PHOTOS	Yes
				PAGE	1 of 5

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Registered Office:
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RESULTS

The first recorded section was approximately 10m west of the east end of the excavated trench. The earliest deposit noted was brick rubble (1000). This was at least 0.1m deep in the central part of the section but sloped down to either side and continued below the excavated depth of the trench. Overlying this was a dark grey sandy silt with frequent small stones and occasional brick / tile (1001). This deposit was at least 0.35m deep and was sealed by the existing tarmac surface (1002).

In the second section the lowest deposit, between 0.35m and at least 0.5m below ground level, was a mixture of brick rubble, crushed limestone and dark greyish-brown silt (1003). It was sealed by a 0.15m deep mixture of dark greyish-brown silt, mid brown sand and light brown gravelly sand (1004). Overlying this was a 0.12m deep mixture of concrete pieces and mid brown mortar (1005) and above this was the modern tarmac pavement surface (1006) which was 0.08m thick.

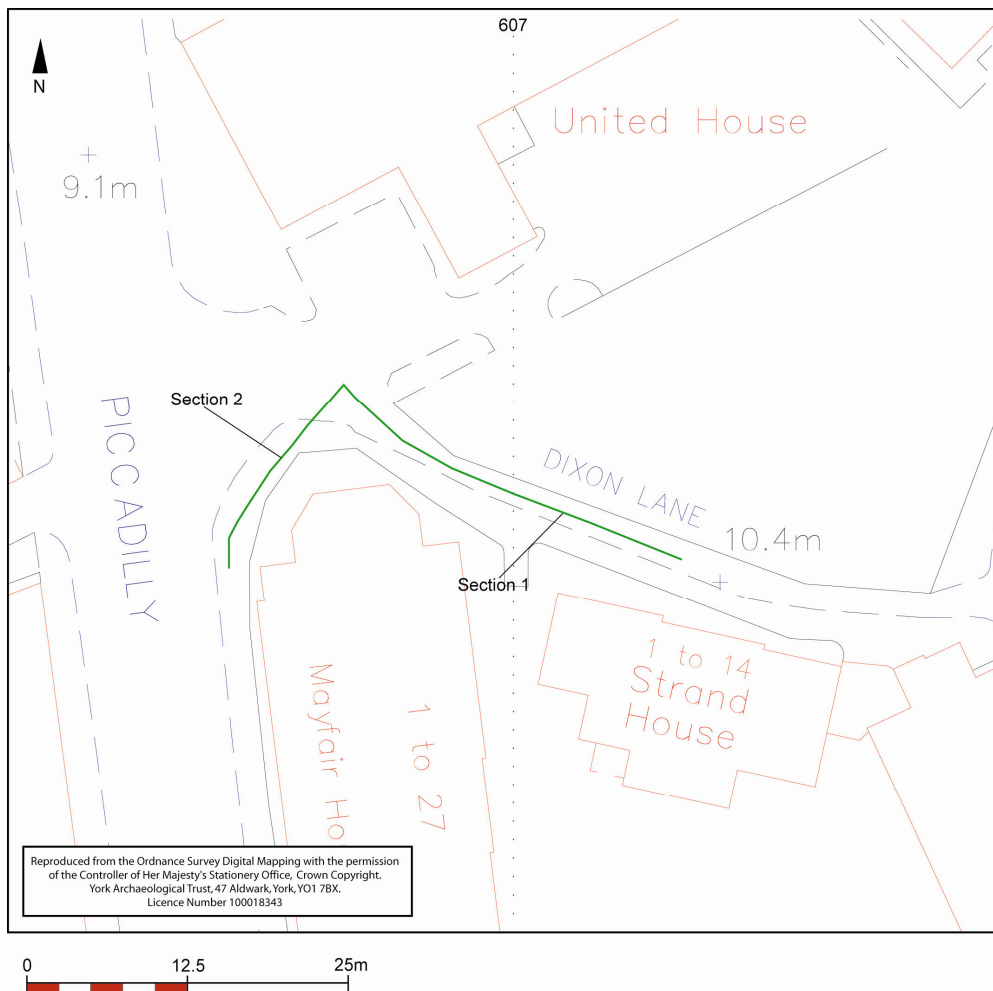


Figure 2 Location of trench and recorded sections in Dixon Lane

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In the section along George Street the earliest deposit recorded, between 0.3m and the base of the trench at 0.5m BGL, was a mid brown silt with occasional white and pale yellow mortar and brick / tile (1007). It was sealed by a 0.1m deep horizontal band of cobbles in dark brown silt (1008) and above this was a 0.15m deep mixture of dark brown silt and pale yellow crushed limestone (1009). This was capped by the tarmac of the present pavement (1010).

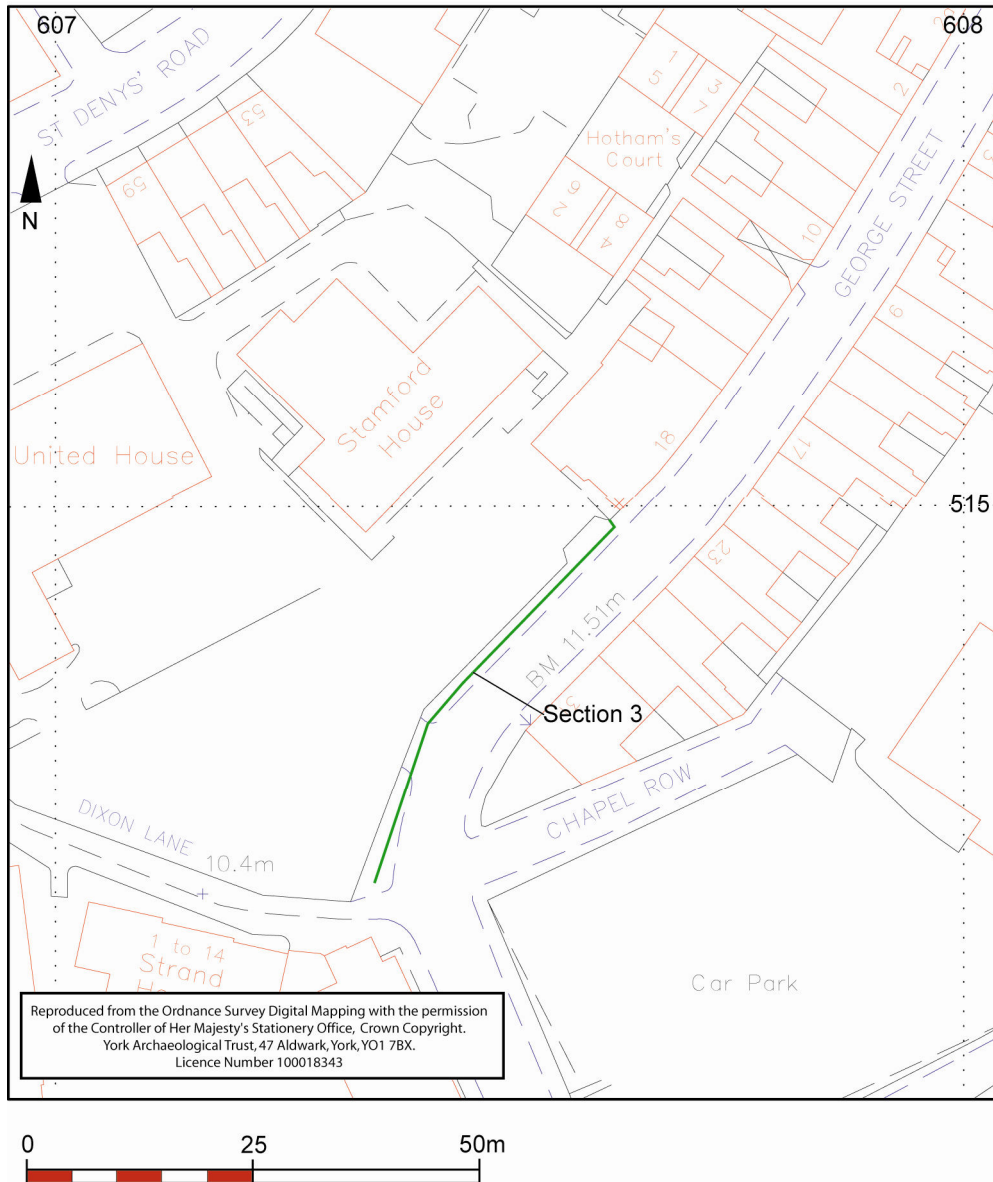


Figure 3 Location of trench and recorded section in George Street

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Plate 1 The trench close to the Piccadilly pavement, looking south-east



Plate 2 Central part of trench in George Street, looking north-west

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Plate 3 General view of the works in George Street, looking south-west

CONCLUSIONS

Throughout the length of the trench it was clear that all the deposits observed were of relatively modern origin and were probably either backfill deposits in service trenches or levelling deposits for the modern pavement surface. There were no archaeological remains of any significance recorded from this trench, any surviving archaeological remains having been removed by modern service trenches or other activity.

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