



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Lendal Slipway, Lendal, York		
CLIENT NAME	City of York Council		
YAT PROJECT #	5443	YAT REPORT #	2010/106
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6003 5193
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a

INTRODUCTION

Between 27th September and 7th October 2010, York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at Lendal Slipway, Lendal, York. The objective was to record any archaeological remains exposed during the removal of the old slipway, which had been undermined by river scouring, and the construction of a new slipway. Since the slipway extended well into the river a coffer dam and high capacity pumps were installed to allow the work to take place. All excavation work was undertaken by machine; limited access to the site meant that away from dry land the excavation work was done by a large 360° excavator mounted on a pontoon moored in the river immediately adjacent to the slipway. Recording was by means of written notes and colour digital photographs. The site was visited on a regular basis, usually at least once a day, except at the beginning of October when heavy rain caused the river level to rise, flooding the coffer dam thus rendering work impossible.

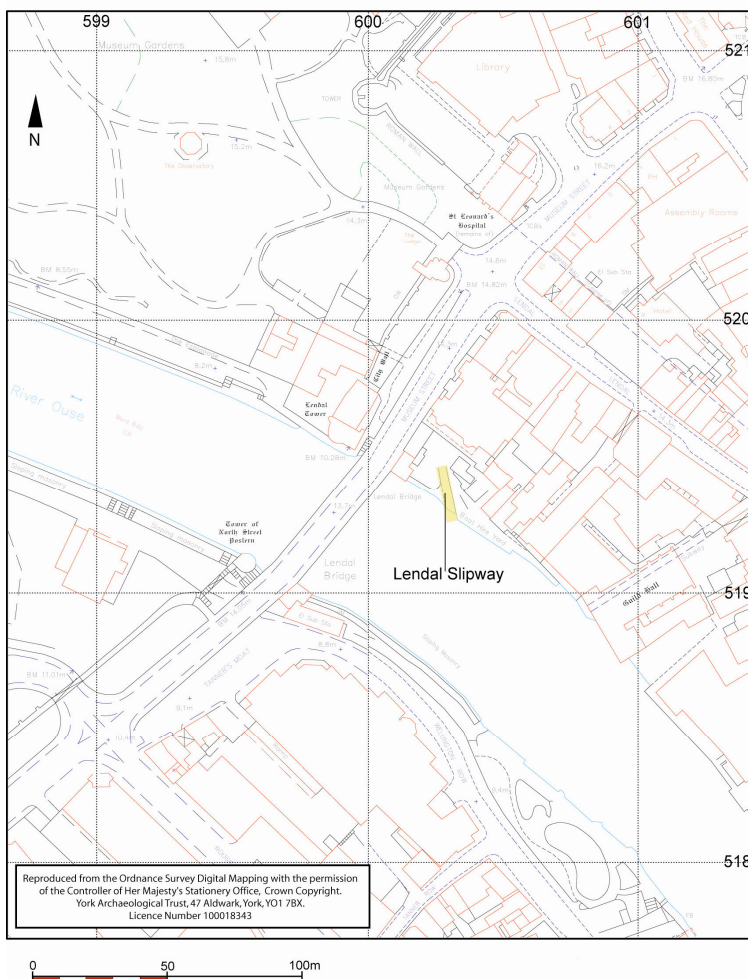


Figure 1 Site location

COMPLETED BY	D.T. Evans	CHECKED BY	M.R. Stockwell	FINISHED	15/12/10
FINDS	No	SAMPLES	No	PHOTOS	Yes
				PAGE	1 of 5

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Registered Office:
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RESULTS

During the works up to c.2m of material was removed in order to lay down a foundation deposit (coarse crushed limestone) for the new slipway. At all points the observed stratigraphic sequence was broadly similar and towards the centre of the coffer dam was as follows; Between c.1m and 2m below the level of the old slipway there was a mixture of very dark grey slightly clayey silt and mid orange-brown sand / silt with moderate brick / tile and occasional glass bottles (1000). Between 0.3m and 1m there was a very dark grey / black silt with very frequent brick, tile, concrete fragments, glass bottles and occasional metal (1001). At the landward end of the works this was sealed by 0.3m of reinforced concrete (1002).

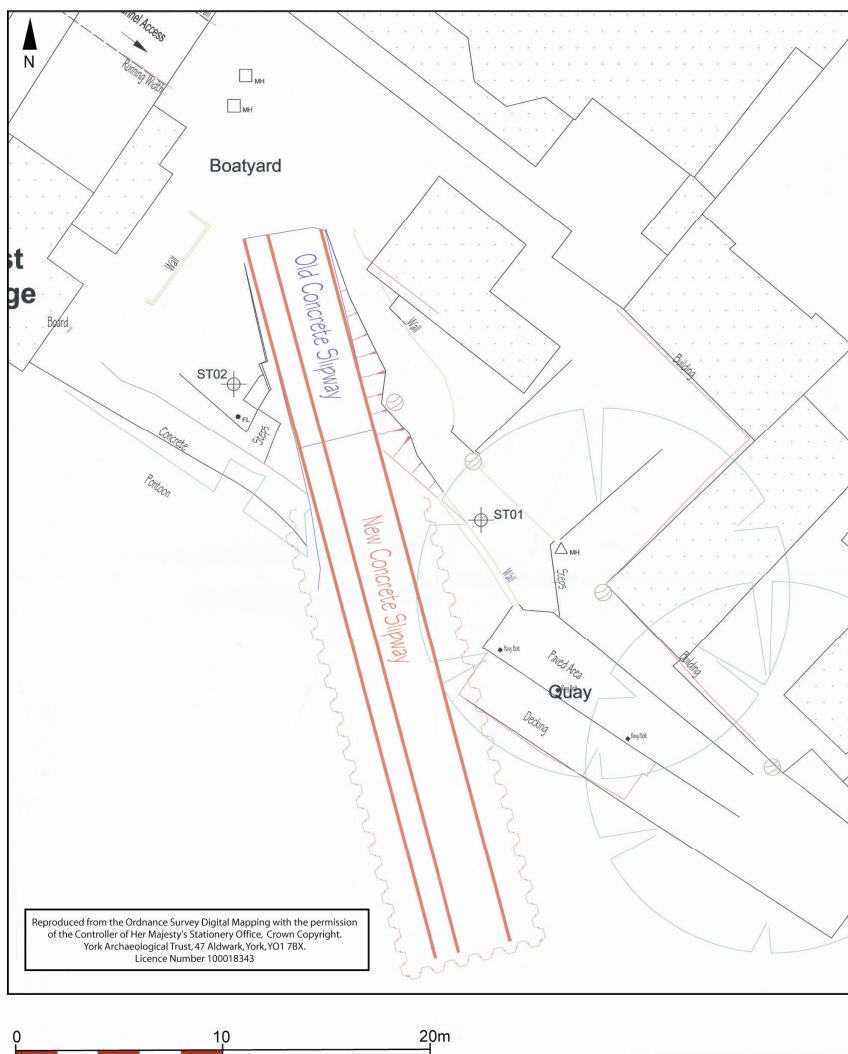


Figure 2 Location of coffer dam and new slipway

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Plate 1 Modern silts and dumps within coffer dam, looking west



Plate 2 Stoning up within coffer dam, looking south-west

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Plate 3 The effects of heavy rain, looking east from Lendal Bridge



The coffer dam flooded, looking south-east

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CONCLUSIONS

Relatively large quantities of finds were noted from the excavated material. Examination of these indicated that probably all of the excavated material was of relatively modern origin although a few pieces of probably 18th century stoneware were mixed in with the later finds. Nothing earlier was observed as coming from the excavated material below the slipway and there was no evidence for timber or stonework from earlier riverside staiths, which probably lie lower down and to the north-west of the works. Dating of the mixed silts and levelling deposits from below the concrete is problematic but on the evidence of an intact perfume bottle, retained by City of York Council staff, is thought to be c.1910 or later. The latest finds included whisky bottles with metal screw caps and therefore it is likely that none of the deposits seen during the work pre-date the 20th century and all appear to be levelling for the construction of the slipway being removed.

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