



## YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

<b>SITE ADDRESS</b>	Utility trench, Driffield Terrace, York		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	C.E. Electric Services		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	5455	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	2010/111
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	n/a	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 593 509
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	n/a	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	10028

### NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Archaeological observation during the excavation of an electricity cable trench at Driffield Terrace, York, revealed natural deposits beneath modern deposits and services. No archaeological features were encountered.

### INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was carried out at Driffield Terrace, York, on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Driffield Terrace is situated about 1km south-west of York city centre, on the north-west side of The Mount (Figure 1).

The site lies within an archaeologically sensitive landscape. It is only some 0.6km south-west of the medieval city walls, which are thought to correspond to the line of a Roman defensive circuit around the town (colonia) on the south-west side of the River Ouse. The Mount follows the line of a major Roman road between York and London. A large number of Roman burials have been found alongside the road, most recently at 3 and 6 Driffield Terrace (Ottaway 2005, Hunter-Mann 2006). These burials appear to form a major cemetery extending from the Roman town for at least 1km. Anglian cremation burials have been found in the vicinity, at the junction of Dalton Terrace and The Mount. During the Anglo-Scandinavian and medieval periods, the site appears to have been farmland. However, in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century during the English Civil War, a sconce or fort is believed to have been situated immediately south-east of the site. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century two large houses were built alongside The Mount, only to be replaced by houses fronting onto Driffield Terrace in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Mount School, on the north-west side of Driffield Terrace, was established there in 1857. The site lies within the York Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI).

### METHODOLOGY

The archaeological work involved monitoring the excavation of an electricity cable trench, intended to provide a supply of electricity to a new building (Figure 2). The trench was excavated by a tracked mini excavator. Where possible archaeological deposits were encountered, the opportunity was provided for archaeological investigation and recording.

Although the trench extended for some 60m in the pavement on the north-west side of Driffield Terrace, only the part of the trench in the road and on the south-east pavement, a total length of about 12m, required monitoring. The trench measured a maximum of 0.4m wide and 0.8m deep.

### RESULTS

The earliest deposit encountered was compact mid red/brown sandy clay, which was about 0.25m thick. Towards the top of this deposit was a gravelly band some 50mm thick. It was overlain by compact mid red/brown silty clay about 0.25m thick, which also contained a gravelly band some 50mm thick towards its base. These clays with gravel bands were 0.5m thick overall, at the top about 0.3m below ground level (BGL), and are thought to be undisturbed natural deposits. Although

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it is possible that they were redeposited, the gravel bands suggest a natural formation.

Above the clay deposits in the road was a mixed layer of dark grey silty clay, clinker, gravel and small stones up to 0.2m thick, which is interpreted as make-up for the road. This was beneath the existing tarmac surface, which was 0.1m thick.

Several services were encountered in the south-east half of the road, notably a gas pipe set in a narrow trench aligned south-west/north-east. There were also more mixed deposits beneath the tarmac surface, including a layer of hardcore about 50mm thick some 0.35m BGL; which was partly overlain by a rubble layer with frequent squared limestone blocks about 0.2m cubed. These cuts and deposits indicate that the road had been greatly disturbed by modern services along its south-east side.

The lower part of the trench in the pavement on the south-east side of the road was entirely taken up by a brick chamber. The top of the surviving north-west and south-east walls (the north-east and south-west sides lay beyond the limit of excavation) lay 0.25m BGL, and the surface of the chamber was about 0.6m BGL. This structure was built of modern bricks and butted against the brick footings for the boundary wall of 3 Driffield Terrace, and was filled with hardcore which suggests that the chamber was of recent construction and probably associated with modern services. Above this was a layer of sand some 0.1m thick, which acted as bedding for the extant, 0.1m thick stone paving.

### CONCLUSIONS

Natural deposits were encountered, but appear to have been truncated by the construction of Driffield Terrace and by modern services. No archaeological remains were encountered. If there had been any Roman burials in the area of the trench, it is likely that they have been removed by such truncation.

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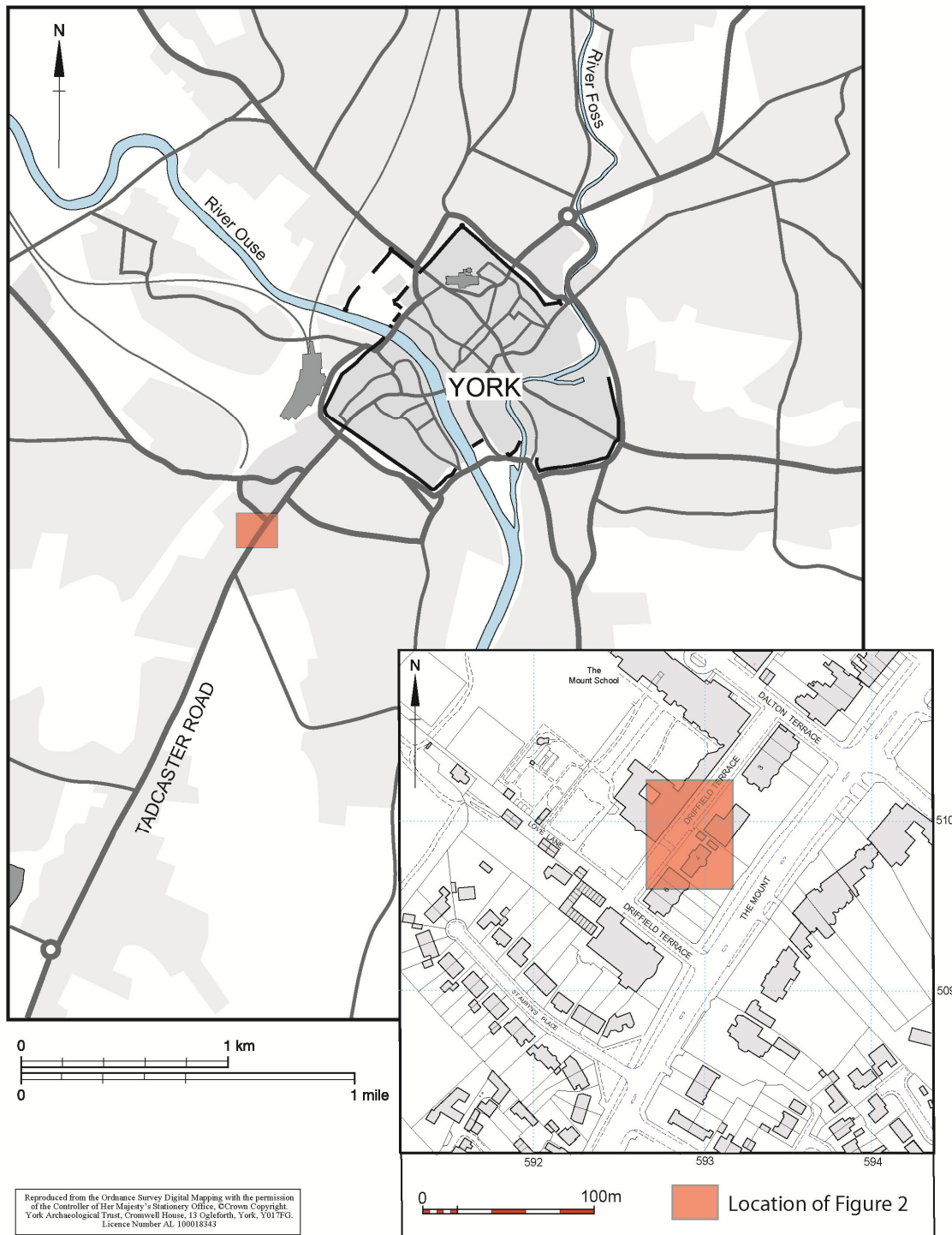


Figure 1 Site location

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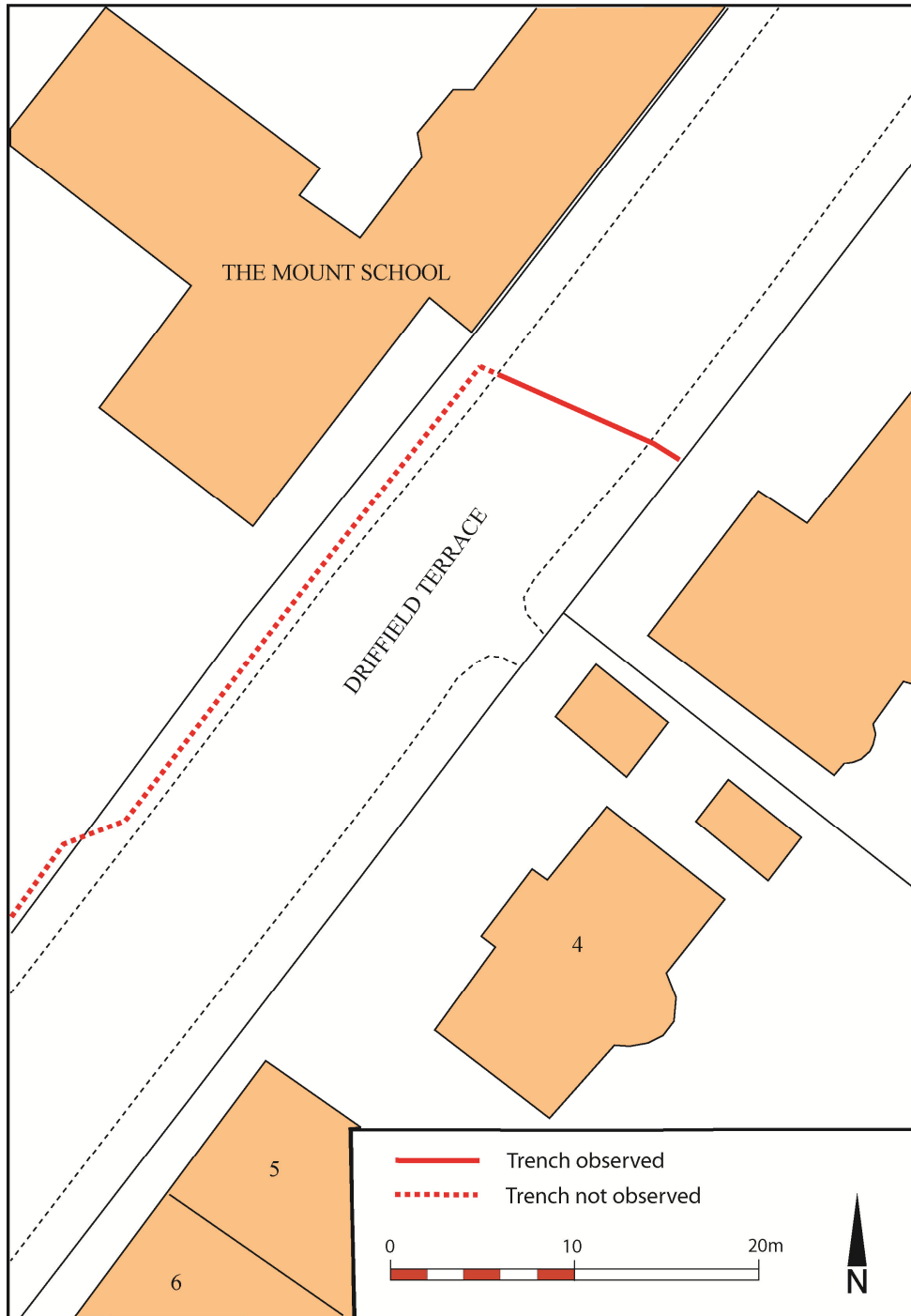


Figure 2 Location of observations

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