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MAP Archaeological Practice

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6 Peckitt Street  
York

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Archaeological Watching Brief

10.16.19

16/01470/FUL

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Archaeological Watching Brief

at

6 Peckitt Street

York

SE 60363 51455

MAP 10.16.19

Report Prepared By Catherine Whitehouse	Report Authorised By Paula Ware
Date: 22/10/2019	Date: 22/10/19

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## Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents	Page
Figure List	2
Plate List	2
Summary	3
1. Introduction	4
2. Site Description	5
3. Historical and Archaeological Background	6
4. Aims and Objectives	7
5. Methodology	7
6. Results	8
7. Conclusions	8
8. Bibliography	9
9. Project Team Details	9
<b>Appendices</b>	
1. Photographic Listing	13

## Figure List

1. Site Location. 1:20,000

## Page

5

## Plate List

1. View of Peckitt Street. Facing South-East
2. Site overview prior to work. Facing South-East.
3. Removal of concrete and debris. Facing North-West.
4. Site overview during work. Facing South.
5. North-West Facing Section of removed material.  
Facing South-East. 0.4m Scale.
6. Site overview completed. Facing South-East. 1m Scale.

10

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11

11

12

12

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## Archaeological Watching Brief

### *Summary*

*An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd at 6 Peckitt Road, York, on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The work was commissioned by Mr Gareth Ashworth and involved the observation of groundworks prior to the erection of a single storey rear extension (16/01470/FUL).*

*No archaeological features or finds were located during the Watching Brief. Given the result of this work and in consultation with the City of York HER no further archaeological work is required on this site.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd at 6 Peckitt Street, York. The work was undertaken to fulfil planning condition 5 placed by the City of York Council, which stated that:

*No work shall commence on site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (a watching brief on all ground works by an approved archaeological unit) in accordance with a specification approved by the Local Planning Authority. This programme and the archaeological unit shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before development commences.*

*Reason: The site lies within an area which is of archaeological interest and the development may affect important archaeological deposits which must be recorded during the construction programme. (16/01470/FUL).*

- 1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to allow an appropriate level of mitigation for the recording of archaeological deposits which might be affected by development, in accordance with the historic environment policies within the National Planning Policy Framework, 2019.
- 1.3 All work was funded by Mr Gareth Ashworth.
- 1.4 All maps within this report have been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL50453A.

## 2. Site Description

2.1 The site was located to the rear of 6 Peckitt Street, in York city centre, approximately 60m west of Cliffords Tower and east of the River Ouse (SE 60363 51455). It was bordered by residential properties either side.

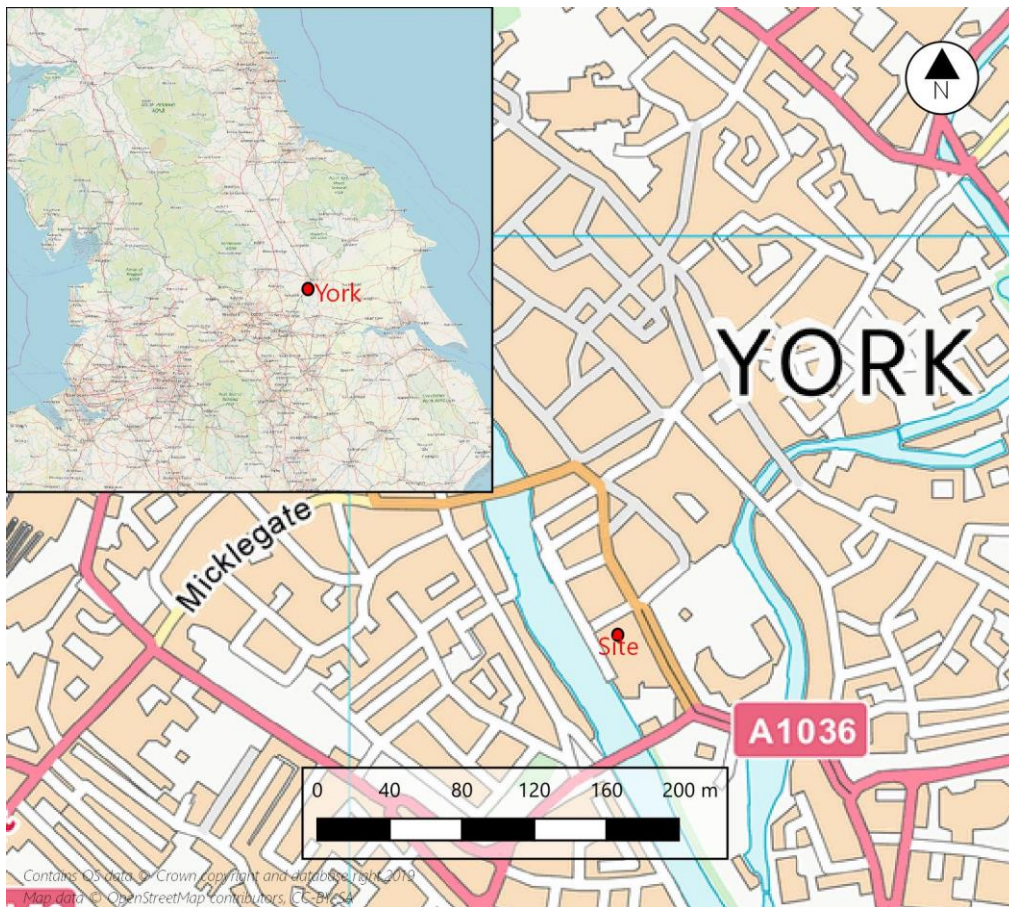


Figure 1: Site Location. 1:20,000

2.2 This site stood on alluvium deposits overlaying a bedrock of sandstone from the Sherwood Sandstone Group (BGS 2019).

### 3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The site is located within 60m of a Scheduled Monument which includes the site of an 11th century motte and bailey, 13th century stone tower, part of a Romano-British cemetery associated with an extramural settlement, a length of Roman Road and Roman and Anglo-Scandinavian river frontages along the Foss (1011799).
- 3.2 The partly excavated remains of a Romano-British vicus and cemetery have been identified around York Castle. Excavation revealed evidence of Roman wharfs along the Foss and it is believed that further remains of the vicus will be present under the car park at Cliffords Tower (NRHE 58178).
- 3.3 The stone-built castle keep, known as Cliffords Tower, was constructed between 1245 and 1272 for Henry III. It stands on a large motte which was originally much larger and was surrounded by a moat. The building had fallen into disrepair over the 15th and 16th centuries and, despite some repair, it was damaged during a siege in 1644 and gutted by an explosion in 1684 (NRHE 1379266).
- 3.4 The site lay within the boundary of a Franciscan Friary (MYO2204). The Friary was located to the west of the castle, between Castlegate and the River Ouse. The Friary was likely founded around 1230 and in 1236 Henry III gifted timber for the building. The site was surrendered in 1538 and the gateway to the friary stood into the late 16th century. The Gateway, just inside of which the church stood, opened onto Castlegate close to St Mary's Church however the positions of other buildings, including the Kings chamber, kitchens and chapterhouse are unknown.



3.5 In 2016 an Archaeological Evaluation was carried out by York Archaeological Trust (YAT) at the former fire station which was located on the corner of Peckitt Street and Clifford Street. Four trenches were excavated which contained deposits relating to 19th century buildings and Post-Medieval gardens. A borehole survey was also undertaken which led to the conclusion that structures relating to the Friary were present on the site at a depth of 7.5m AOD with potential Roman, Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian deposits being present from about 6m AOD.

#### 4. Aims and Objectives

4.1 The aim of this Archaeological Watching Brief was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, date, sequence, nature, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeology of the site to be made, and the impact which the development had upon them.

#### 5. Methodology

5.1 The observed work consisted of monitored excavation of groundworks within the footprint of the building.

5.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014).

5.3 A photographic record of groundworks was maintained throughout, using a high-resolution digital camera.

## 6. Results

- 6.1 The footprint of the observed area measured approximately 14.62m<sup>2</sup>, all of which was lowered to a consistent ground level, removing between 0.3m and 0.48m.
- 6.2 The lowered ground level stayed within modern, redeposited material that continued beyond the base of the excavated area, including brick foundations, rubble and modern debris. 0.06m of concrete was removed, which overlay 0.05m of black gravel, 0.13m of mid yellow-brown construction sand and 0.24m of dark black-brown sandy demolition rubble.
- 6.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present.

## 7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The groundworks associated with the development were of relatively limited extent and the depth of the work was minimal and stayed within modern deposits. The Watching Brief has revealed that no archaeological features or deposits will be disturbed by the construction.

## 8. Bibliography

CIfA, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

York Archaeological Trust. 2016. Archaeological Investigations at the Former Fire Station, Clifford Street, York

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/revised-national-planning-policy-framework](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/revised-national-planning-policy-framework)  
National Planning Policy Framework.

[www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/) Heritage Gateway.

[www.pastscape.org.uk](http://www.pastscape.org.uk) Historic England Internet Resource.

[www.planningaccess.york.gov.uk](http://www.planningaccess.york.gov.uk) City of York Planning Portal.

## 9. Project Team Details

Fieldwork: Catherine Whitehouse

Report Text: Catherine Whitehouse

Figures: Charlie Stoddart

Editing: Charlie Stoddart

Report Production and Administration: Sophie Coy



Plate 1: View of Peckitt Street. Facing South-East



Plate 2: Site overview prior to work. Facing South-East.



Plate 3: Removal of concrete and debris. Facing North-West.



Plate 4: Site overview during work. Facing South.



Plate 5: North-West Facing Section of removed material. Facing South-East. 0.4m Scale.



Plate 6: Site overview completed. Facing South-East. 1m Scale.

## APPENDIX 1

### Photographic Archive Listing

Frame	Context	Scale	Facing	Description
1	-	-	SE	Site overview prior to work
2	-	-	NW	Site overview prior to work
3	-	-	NW	Site overview prior to work
4	-	-	NW	Removal of concrete
5	-	-	NW	Removal of concrete
6	-	-	NW	Removal of concrete
7	-	-	SE	Site overview during work
8	-	1m	NW	Site overview during work
9	-	-	NW	Site overview during work
10	-	0.4m	SE	NW-Facing Section of removed material
11	-	-	NW	Site overview during work
12	-	0.4m	SE	NW-Facing Section of removed material
13	-	-	SE	View of Peckitt Street
14	-	-	NE	View of Peckitt Street and Cliffords Tower
15	-	-	NE	View of Peckitt Street and Cliffords Tower
16	-	-	NE	View of Peckitt Street and Cliffords Tower
17	-	-	SE	View of Front of 6 Peckitt Street
18	-	-	SE	View of Front of 6 Peckitt Street
19	-	-	S	View of Peckitt Street
20	-	-	S	View of Peckitt Street
21	-	-	NE	View of Peckitt Street and Cliffords Tower
22	-	-	NE	View of Peckitt Street and Cliffords Tower
23	-	-	S	Site overview during work
24	-	-	S	Site overview during work
25	-	1m	NW	Site overview completed
26	-	1m	SW	Site overview completed
27	-	1m	SE	Site overview completed
28	-	1m	SE	Site overview completed