



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

<b>SITE</b>	45-59 Gillygate, York		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	N/A		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	0230	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> November 1994
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 6018 5239
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	N/A	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	N/A

## INTRODUCTION

Beginning on 28th September 1994 York Archaeological Trust carried out a watching brief at 45-59 Gillygate, York, (SE 6018 5239) during ground reduction of the site and the excavation of ground beam trenches between piles for a new building.

## METHODOLOGY

Observations during ground reduction and ground beam excavation.

All records are currently stored with York Archaeological Trust under the Trusts accession code P0230.

## SITE HISTORY

Gillygate is named after the church of St Giles which stood at the north-eastern end of the street. The earliest recorded evidence for the church occurs in a charter dated to between 1145 and 1161. Fragmentary evidence exists for medieval buildings along Gillygate although details of their location are scarce.

Speed's map of 1610 shows buildings all along the street against the city walls but only the church and buildings around the junction with Bootham on the opposite side. The area between these may have been taken up by gardens or plots of land.

Archers map of 1680 shows a complete lack of buildings along Gillygate. Those which were standing were in all probability destroyed during the Civil War.

Five years later, Richard's map shows three buildings on the north-western side of Gillygate and maps from the following centuries show a gradual replacement of garden plots with buildings.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1852 shows the fullest extent of building on the north-west side of Gillygate but 45-59 Gillygate is still shown as gardens with no buildings on the street front.

The Home and Colonial Produce Department was located in a property at 45 Gillygate in 1899 but was replaced by Ind Coop and Co. Ltd by 1902. This occupation may have resulted in cellars being built to accommodate the brewers. The site appears to be residential until 1921 when there is the first mention of York Motor Mart at 45 Gillygate. In 1939 the proprietor was listed as JRM Ankers. A servants registry was at No.47 and a cycle dealer and repairer at No.51.

By 1957 the garage complex had increased in size to include No. 51 and by 1959 also No. 59. In 1961 Anker's garage consisted of all the properties between 45 and 57 Gillygate.

An archaeological excavation c.40m to the north-east of the site was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust in April 1992 to evaluate that part of the site for a prospective developer. The results of this work showed that modern buildings had truncated much of the post-medieval deposits

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although medieval (11th-16th century) deposits beneath were numerous and generally well preserved, including pits and stake-holes but no structures suggesting that this may have been open land or gardens. There was no anglo-scandinavian (9th-11th century) occupation of the site, the known centre of anglo-scandinavian occupation being some distance way from the site. Many Roman deposits were however discovered, mainly from the 2nd and 3rd centuries.

In 1972 an excavation to the rear of 31-37 Gillygate produced possible Roman, anglian and medieval deposits and to the north, a range of structures dating from the 12th to the 17th century were located in Union Terrace.

Two trenches observed in 1991 in Bootham Row car park produced deposits dating to 13/14th century.

## RESULTS

After the removal of the concrete oversite a backfilled cellar was revealed towards the southern end of the site. This was emptied and backfilled with stone. Its east wall was later exposed along the face of a ground beam trench.

The whole site was reduced by c.0.30m before the excavation of the ground beam trenches. These were excavated by machine and finished by hand. The trenches varied in depth from c.0.50m to c.1.00m and in width from c.1.00m to c.1.70m.

The excavation along the base of the gable end of No. 43 Gillygate exposed a four stepped courses of brick foundation extending to a depth of c.0.50m BGL. The foundations of No. 47 Gillygate were not exposed fully although a concrete raft was cut through at ground level and various shallow brick piers were exposed.

The deposits removed in a 10m wide strip alongside the pavement consisted of modern dump/levelling deposits and cellar backfill associated with previous buildings fronting on to Gillygate. The deposits beyond this strip and behind the building line along Gillygate were of a different nature consisting of unstratified dark grey friable clayey loams with occasional small pebbles and charcoal fragments with hardly any modern intrusions. No archaeological remains were encountered in any of these excavations.

A small machine dug trial hole to the rear of the site confirmed that these dark grey clayey loams continued down to a depth of at least 1.50m BGL with little sign of any change.

## CONCLUSIONS

The cellar on the street front may well date from the ownership of the buildings by Ind Coop and Co. Ltd. at the turn of the century. Clearly various modern building activities along the street front have removed any archaeological deposits to at least the maximum depth that the present excavations reached.

The survival of reasonably undisturbed but also unstratified deposits behind the street front building line supports the view that this area to the rear has seen little structural development being open

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ground or gardens until relatively modern times.

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