



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	65 Walmgate, York		
CLIENT NAME	O'Connor Utilities		
YAT PROJECT #	N/A	YAT REPORT #	2020/113
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 60808 51556
PLANNING REFERENCE #	N/A	AAI OPS NOTICE #	20052

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on ground works for a link box replacement was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of O'Connor Utilities on the 16th of September 2020 at 65 Walmgate, NGR SE 60808 51556 (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works.

METHODOLOGY

The works involved the excavation of a trench on the south side of Walmgate and east side of George Street junction to expose existing services and replace the damaged link box. The trench measured approximately 5m in length and was excavated to maximum depth of 0.65m.

Animal bone (cattle and bird) and a small piece of medieval green glazed pottery were present within the disturbed deposits. YATs find specialists visually inspected the finds, which were not retained.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site was located on the south side of Walmgate which lies within the south-eastern quarter of the city's medieval wall defences. It is approximately 300m from the Walmgate's Bar north-west side.

Previous archaeological investigations at Walmgate have revealed evidence of Roman activity such as an altar dedicated to the native god Arciaco, found at St. Denys Church, and two Roman burials; one in a stone and one in a lead coffin found close by (RCHME 1962, 69-70, 118), and several Roman ditches on George Street (Macnab 1998).

The street's present name indicates an Anglo-Scandinavian origin (Macnab 2003, 8) which is mentioned in an 11th century document as Walbegate (Palliser 1978). The etymology of this word is that the first component could be a personal name and the second derives from the Old Norse *gata* meaning street (Macnab 2003, 8). Anglo-Scandinavian occupation is evident in the Walmgate area as it would have been an important route into York according to Macnab (2003). Walmgate's occupation continued to increase throughout the medieval and post medieval times.

Excavations on 118-126 Walmgate in 1978 and a borehole evaluation on 104-122 Walmgate in 1991 suggest that intensive occupation along the street front and crafts like metalworking and tanning behind the buildings, took place during the medieval and post-medieval period (Macnab 2003, 9).

In the mid-19th century Walmgate was a highly populated, impoverished area with crowded narrow alleys. However, this changed in the early 20th century when Walmgate was one of the city's secondary trading areas (Macnab 2003, 9).

RESULTS

The only observable deposit was a darker soil color compared to the rest of the modern made ground/back fill deposits in the trench. This occurred on the side where the electrical cable was laid on. Animal bone (cattle and bird) and a small piece of medieval green glazed pottery were present within the disturbed deposits. The area had already been disturbed by previous service interventions.

COMPLETED BY	M.Vatyloti	CHECKED BY	M. Slater	FINISHED	05/10/20
FINDS	0	SAMPLES	0	PAGE	1 of 6

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland 47 (SCO42846)
in England No. 1430801



Registered Office:
Aldwark, York YO1 7BX Without Share
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Capital Registered

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading
trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*

as *Archeritage*

GLASGOW,

trading as *Inherit* NOTTINGHAM,



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	65 Walmgate, York		
CLIENT NAME	O'Connor Utilities		
YAT PROJECT #	N/A	YAT REPORT #	2020/113
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 60808 51556
PLANNING REFERENCE #	N/A	AAI OPS NOTICE #	20052

CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features were present during monitoring of these works. The darker soil color in some areas of the trench may indicate that deposits relating to previous occupation on Walmgate could be present at greater depths or in less disturbed areas.

REFERENCES

Bruce, G., 2010. *Infinity Mortocycles, 88-96 Walmgate, York, Archaeological Desktop Assessment*, OSA Report **OSA10DT12**

Macnab, N., 1998. *George Street/Margaret Street, York, A Report on an Archaeological Evaluation*, YAT Field Report **1998/1**

Macnab, N., 2003. *41-49 Walmgate, York Anglo-Scandinavian, Medieval and Post-medieval Urban Occupation at 41-49 Walmgate, York, UK*, York Archaeological Trust Web Report, YAT Web Publication Number **AYW1**

RCHMY. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in City of York, Volume 1, Eburacum, Roman York* (London, 1962), *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/york/vol1> [accessed 29 September 2020].

COMPLETED BY	M.Vatyloti	CHECKED BY	M. Slater	FINISHED	05/10/20
FINDS	0	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	15
				PAGE	2 of 6

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland 47 (SCO42846)
in England No. 1430801



Registered Office:
Aldwark, York YO1 7BX Without Share
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Capital Registered

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading
trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*

as *ArchHeritage*

GLASGOW,

trading as *Inherit* NOTTINGHAM,



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	65 Walmgate, York		
CLIENT NAME	O'Connor Utilities		
YAT PROJECT #	N/A	YAT REPORT #	2020/113
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 60808 51556
PLANNING REFERENCE #	N/A	AAI OPS NOTICE #	20052

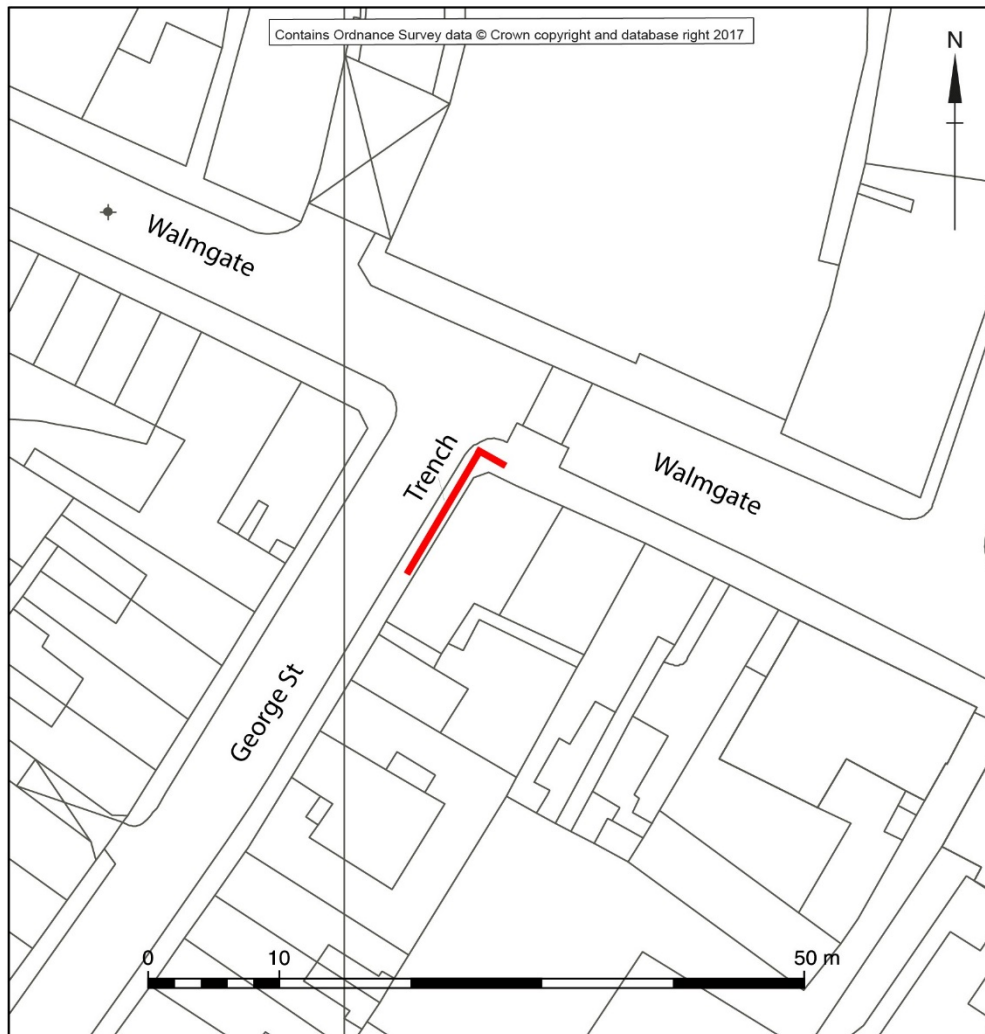


Figure 1 Site Location

Crown copyright reserved. Reproduced with the permission of OS on behalf of HMSO. Licence number 100018343

COMPLETED BY	M.Vatyloti	CHECKED BY	M. Slater	FINISHED	05/10/20
FINDS	0	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	15
				PAGE	3 of 6

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland 47 (SCO42846)
in England No. 1430801



Registered Office:
Aldwark, York YO1 7BX Without Share
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024

as *Archeritage*



GLASGOW,

A Company Limited by Guarantee
Capital Registered

trading as *Inherit* NOTTINGHAM,

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading
trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	65 Walmgate, York		
CLIENT NAME	O'Connor Utilities		
YAT PROJECT #	N/A	YAT REPORT #	2020/113
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 60808 51556
PLANNING REFERENCE #	N/A	AAI OPS NOTICE #	20052



Plate 2 Excavated trench, looking west

COMPLETED BY	M.Vatyloti	CHECKED BY	M. Slater	FINISHED	05/10/20
FINDS	0	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	15
				PAGE	5 of 6

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland 47 (SCO42846)
in England No. 1430801



Registered Office:
Aldwark, York YO1 7BX Without Share
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Capital Registered

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading
trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*

as *Archeritage*

GLASGOW,

trading as *Inherit* NOTTINGHAM,



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	65 Walmgate, York		
CLIENT NAME	O'Connor Utilities		
YAT PROJECT #	N/A	YAT REPORT #	2020/113
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 60808 51556
PLANNING REFERENCE #	N/A	AAI OPS NOTICE #	20052



Plate 3 Excavated trench, looking north, 0.1m scale units

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of York Archaeological Trust for Excavation & Research Limited ("YAT"). YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. Nobody is entitled to rely upon this Report other than the person/party which commissioned it. YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by anybody other than the commissioning person/party.

COMPLETED BY	M.Vatyloti	CHECKED BY	M. Slater	FINISHED	05/10/20
FINDS	0	SAMPLES	0	PAGE	6 of 6

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland 47 (SCO42846)
in England No. 1430801



Registered Office:
Aldwark, York YO1 7BX Without Share
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Capital Registered

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading
trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*

as *Archeritage*

GLASGOW,

trading as *Inherit* NOTTINGHAM,