

<b>SITE</b>	Shambles Kitchen, 28 Shambles, York, YO1 7LX		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	PRH Electrical Limited		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>		<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	2022/126
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 60451 51862
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>		<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	22022

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

York Archaeology was commissioned by PRH Electrical Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Shambles Kitchen, 28 Shambles, York, YO1 7LX (NGR SE 60451 51862, Figure 1). The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of a 3.1m long by 1.5m wide by 0.55m deep trench in order to locate an existing electric cable. Fieldwork was carried out on 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

According to British Geological Survey (BGS) data, the bedrock geology is Sherwood Sandstone Group, formed approximately 237 to 272 million years ago. The superficial deposits are recorded as Vale of York Formation, a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS, Geology Viewer). The site lies at approximately 23.0m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) and is a public road.

### 1.2 Planning Background

The site lies within the City Centre area of the York Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) (<https://www.york.gov.uk/AAI>) (DYO1748) and is within the Central Historic Core Conservation Area. Therefore, there is a requirement for archaeological monitoring of any intrusive groundworks.

### 1.3 Archaeological/Historical Background

The following archaeological and historical data is taken from the York Historic Environment Record (<https://her.york.gov.uk/map>).

The site lies approximately 30m south of a possible Roman road running from York to Stamford Bridge (MYO107). And approximately 90m south of the Legionary fortress (Eboracum) (MYO2015).

The Shambles, first recorded in the Domesday Book around 1086, is a narrow street, originally home to several butchers. The street was mostly made up of timber buildings, some dating as far back as the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the street names in York refer to their use during the medieval period: the Shambles, meaning butchers' street, was also called Haymongergate and Nedlergate, meaning hay sellers and needle makers. Nearby St Andrewgate was referred to as both 'St Andrewgate' after the Church of St

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Andrew and 'Ketmongergate' meaning 'street of the flesh [meat] sellers' (Finlayson 2004, 883).

Excavations on this street revealed 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century structures and a succession of metal working workshops from the 14<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (Finlayson 2004, 951). The Shambles now provides a way to see how medieval York is likely to have looked, although many of the buildings have been restored since 1950.

27 and 28 Shambles are Grade II listed buildings dated to c1840 with 20<sup>th</sup> century shopfronts (MYO885). 26 Shambles is a house built in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, now in use as a shop (MYO4554).

St Crux parish hall (MYO867) is located approximately 10m east of 28 Shambles. St. Crux is a church mentioned in the Domesday Book, but nothing is known about its structural history before the first quarter of the 15<sup>th</sup> century when the church was rebuilt. It was partly dismantled in 1885 and then demolished in 1887. St Crux Parish Room, incorporating minimal remains of the parish church of St Crux was built on part of the site in 1888, and early 15<sup>th</sup> century masonry was re-used in the construction (YAT 2019).

York Archaeological Trust carried out a watching brief (EYO638) for a cable trench in 2003. The monitored section, located approximately 25m south of 28 Shambles, uncovered fragmentary human remains associated with the burial ground of the church of St Crux.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

All aspects of the fieldwork were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2019) and the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2020).

All excavation and recording followed the York Archaeological Trust Recording Manual (2009).

Excavation was carried out using hand tools under continuous archaeological monitoring. The watching brief area was a 3.1m long trench outside the commercial property of Shambles Kitchen, 28 Shambles. All contexts were given unique numbers and were drawn in plan and section at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. Details of location, composition, shape, dimensions and relationships were noted, and all recording was undertaken on York Archaeology pro forma recording sheets. Digital images were taken with a digital camera with a resolution greater than 10 Megapixels and followed Historic England guidance

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(2015).

A master plan of the works including spot heights was created digitally using a Leica GNSS, and was accurately linked to the National Grid.

The watching brief was carried out in the evening hours with sufficient artificial light in order to be able to establish the character of heritage assets encountered.

### 3. RESULTS

The natural geology was not reached during the watching brief. The earliest deposit encountered at 0.65m below ground level (BGL) was a mid-yellowish brown coarse sand deposit (1004). This measured 0.30m thick, and no finds or features were encountered. It is most likely that deposit (1004) is backfill for a modern service uncovered in the excavation area (Plate 1). Deposit (1004) was overlain by 0.15m thick deposit of compacted crushed concrete (1003) which had been deposited to level the latest phase of pavement and cover the modern services. Deposit (1003) was in turn overlain by 0.10m of loose pale greyish white concrete (1002) which had been deposited as a bedding layer for the pavement (1001). Paving slab (1001) measured 0.10m thick.

During the excavation works a small void was uncovered at 0.65m BGL (Plate 2). It measured approximately 1.4m deep and plastic service markers were visible suggesting that the area of the watching brief is further impacted by modern services.

### 4. CONCLUSION

No archaeological remains were encountered during the watching brief at 28 Shambles, York. The deposits encountered were of modern date, deposited to backfill underground services and level the existing street surface. The void encountered at 0.65m BGL suggests that the depth of the modern service cut is deeper than the achieved depth of the watching brief. Data collected during the watching brief has minimal interpretive value and does not inform on any heritage assets located in the vicinity of the site.

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Figure 01 - Site Location Map  
2022 - 28 Shambles Kitchen, York

Scale at A4 - Varies  
Drawn by BP

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*Plate 1: Deposit (1004) and modern service, mid-ex, looking southeast.*

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*Plate 2: Void encountered at 0.65m below ground level.*

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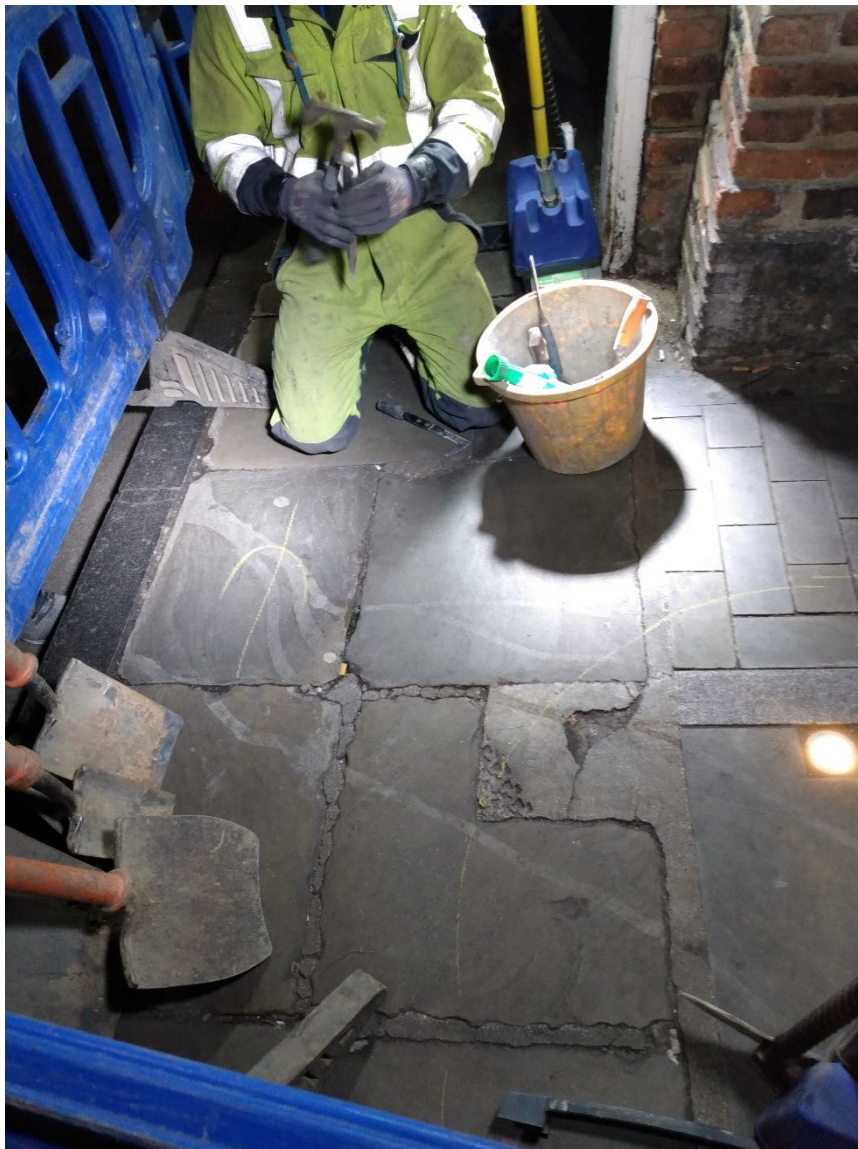


Plate 3: Watching brief area, pre-ex, looking southwest.

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*Plate 4: Watching brief area and east facing section, looking southwest.*

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