



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SITE	16-18 Market Street YO1 8ST		
CLIENT NAME	O'Connor Utilities		
YAT PROJECT #	23014	YAT REPORT #	2023/32
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6030051785
PLANNING REFERENCE #		AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on ground works to locate services was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of O'Connor Utilities between 29th and 31st March 2023 at 16-18 Market Street, NGR SE 6030051785 (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works.

METHODOLOGY

All aspects of the fieldwork were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (2022) and the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2020a; 2020b).

Excavation took place by lifting the pavement slabs, using a small rubber tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket and manual excavation by hand. Works were monitored for one day. A trial trench approximately 1m by 3m was excavated to establish how to disconnect services to the basement of the jewelers' shop, H. Samuel. Excavation went to a depth of 0.70m, where services were encountered.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The area of Market Street is located within the York Area of Archaeological Importance (City of York 2023a) and the York Central Historic Core Conservation Area (City of York 2023b)(SYO1335; City of York 2023c: EYO4619, City of York 2023d).

Located within the boundaries of the city walls (Figure 1), Market Street consists of Grade II listed buildings (Baxter 2012, 254) interspersed with late 20th century structures, and has been part of the rich commercial and cultural heart of the city for more than 1000 years.

Market Street connects Coney Street and Parliament Street. These are the main routes that date back to the early medieval period, as revealed by the street names for example Coney Street is an adaptation of the Old English name *Cyning* meaning *King* and was likely to be the main route to the 10th century Northumbrian palace which was on the site of the Museum Gardens (Baxter 2012, 249).

The street pattern in this central area was established by early Scandinavian settlers, although the shopping area can be traced back to the Roman period with the *Via Praetoria* as one of the main routes (Stoneygate).

The current central shopping street shows evidence of a medieval layout but was further cultivated in the later centuries becoming a bustling centre for commercial enterprises. Much of the area today encompasses Victorian and modern glass and steel structures. Overtime the central shopping area has responded to commercial changes and expansions during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Several buildings from the post-war years showed the austerity experienced in the area with lower quality brick and concrete works becoming more prominent including structures located in Market Street. During the 1980s, changes to the central shopping area saw Market Street become a

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designated '*footstreet*'; meaning it is a street that exclusively has a pedestrian footfall which lead into the main retail routes of Coney Street and Parliament Street (*Baxter 2012; RCHME 1975*).

RESULTS (PLATES 1 & 2)

Natural geology was not uncovered as excavations did not go further than a depth of 0.70m.

The only observable deposits (Plate 1) included a loose dark brown, yellow sandy silt (1003), at a depth of 0.56m, which had fragments of ceramic building material, modern brick and tile and occasional presence of small to medium irregularly shaped cobbles. This layer was heavily disturbed with modern building debris and interpreted as made ground.

Above this deposit (1003) was a substrate that comprised a mid to light grey concrete (1002), this was considered to be a concrete footing for the modern pavement slabs (1001) above. The footing was 0.12m deep and constructed by pouring concrete to set and effectively act as a concrete bedding layer. The modern pavement slabs (1001) were of a hard set of greyish white concrete pavement (Plate 2) which sat above the concrete footing (1002).

No archaeology was exposed within the trial trench excavation.

CONCLUSIONS

This area has become almost entirely one of 20th century retail and commercial activity. The deposit layers are interpreted as part of modern construction events. No evidence of archaeology was encountered.

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Figure 1 Site Location

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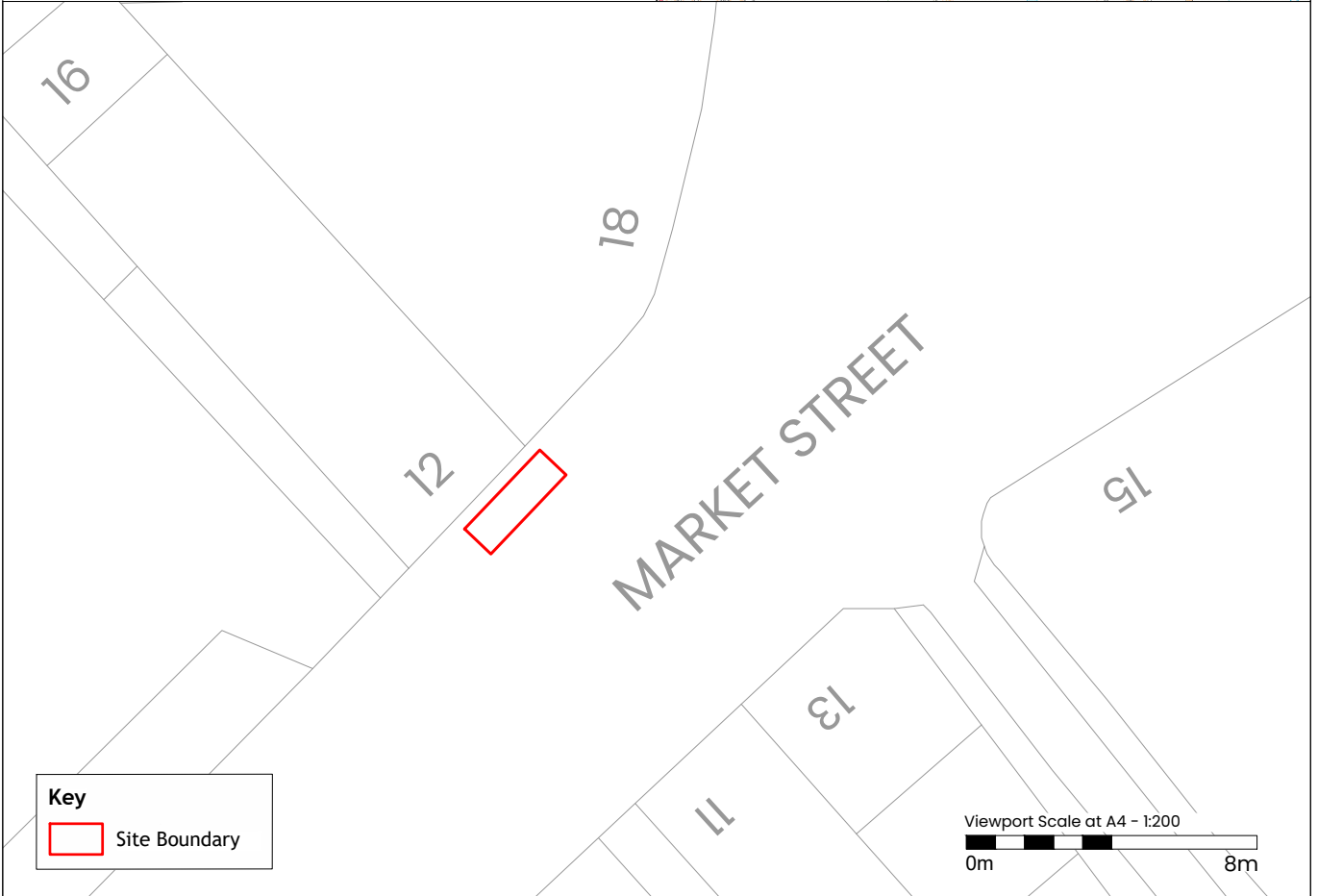
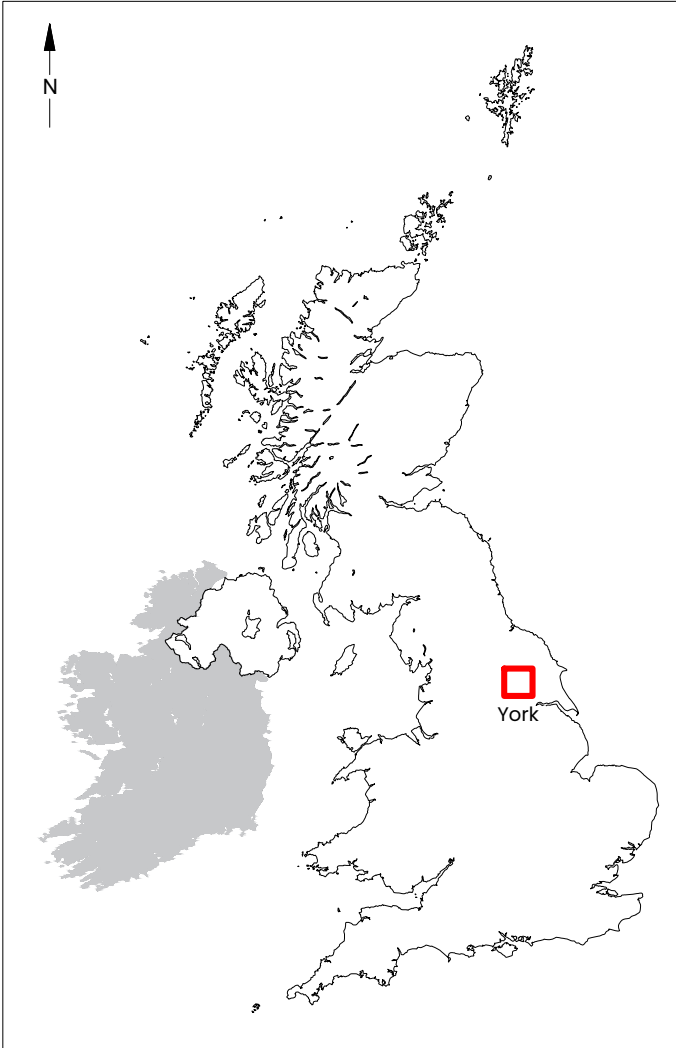


Figure 01 - Site Location Map
23014 - 16-18 Market Street, York

Scale at A4 - Varies
Drawn by BP



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Plate 1 NW direction of trial trench excavation area showing services and pipe



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Plate 2: East facing section depicting stratification layers pavement slabs (1001), concrete footing (1002) and made ground (1003)



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