

<b>SITE</b>	Goodramgate, York		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	O'Connor Utilities		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	9141	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	YA/2023/158
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 60483 52147

## INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on ground works for electrical cabling was undertaken by York Archaeology on behalf of O'Connor Utilities between 29<sup>th</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 33-35 Goodramgate, NGR SE 60483 52147 (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works.

## METHODOLOGY

A subrectangular area around 3m in length by 2m in width, located directly in front of 33 Goodramgate, was excavated to a depth of 0.50m below ground level (Below Ground Level) (Figure 1, Plate 1). This included the removal of the paving slabs from the footpath, along with the concrete bedding below. Removal of the concrete was undertaken using a mechanical breaker.

All aspects of the fieldwork were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2022) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2020), as well as YA's recording manual (YAT 2009).

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The trench was situated within the Central Area of the City of York Area of Archaeological Importance (CYC 2023a) and within Character Area 10: The Medieval Streets of the York Central Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal (City of York 2023b).

### Prehistoric

There is no evidence of any prehistoric activity within the area of the trench location.

### Roman

The area of Goodramgate falls within the south east corner of the boundary of the Roman Legionary Fortress of *Eboracum* (RCHME, 1962). Goodramgate runs north from King's Square towards the position of the north.east gate of the Roman fortress but, at the junction with College Street and Bedern, bends north east to Monk Bar (British History online, 1981). Deposits dating from the time of the legionary fortress are known to be rich in finds due to several investigations in areas near to the trench location, (City of York Council. 2023a)

### Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian

Evidence of Anglo-Scandinavian activity within the area of *Eboracum* is somewhat limited as the area became deserted once the Romans left the Legionary Fortress. The Anglo-Scandinavian settlement of Jorvik was concentrated further to the south east, due to the Archbishop's control within the area that once occupied the fortress. (British History online, 1961). There is evidence of late Anglo-Scandinavian activity based solely on the origins of street names in the area. 'Goodramgate' is from a Danish personal name of Gutherun or Guthrum and is first recorded in 1177-81 (MYO4992).

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### Medieval

During the medieval period York became a very successful trading city, and the presence of stone houses along Goodramgate indicates wealthy occupants (MacRae 2013). During the medieval period Goodramgate was part of the parish of Holy Trinity Church, which now sits away from the street behind the 14<sup>th</sup> century terrace building known as Lady Row (British History online 1981).

### Post Medieval

Many of the medieval buildings survive, though some were destroyed when the street was widened and many non-conformist churches were built along the street (British History online 1961). The street has long been associated with retail; in 1502 a market was created to sell beds, mattresses and upholstery, this continues to this day with shops, bars, restaurants and small supermarkets.

### Modern

While very little of Goodramgate has changed above the surface since the 1960s when the previously mentioned supermarkets were added, there have been several below-ground interventions along the street in the last 30 years, mainly involving repairs of services. In 2001 On-Site Archaeology carried out a watching brief at 25-27 Goodramgate (Diamond 2001), and York Archaeological Trust excavated a trench along Goodramgate for a gas pipe trench (Johnson 2001). In 2009 Northern Archaeological Associates carried out monitoring for a sewer repair along Goodramgate (NAA 2009). More recently, York Archaeology carried out trial holes for the Hostile Vehicle Mitigation project, although 20 trial holes were excavated during the ground works, archaeological was only found in three trial holes, with disarticulated human remains uncovered near All Saints Church on Parliament Street, Ousegate and Coppergate junction and St. Helne's church on Davygate. Ground works were not monitored on Goodramgate (Gosling & Smith 2022).

## RESULTS

6 contexts were recorded during the course of the watching brief. All results will be discussed below in stratigraphic order from earliest to latest (Plate 2). The underlying natural geology was not reached.

The earliest archaeological remains encountered were of a red brick wall (1006) running north-east to south-west. Very little can be said about the wall as it was not fully exposed during the excavation and was only visible for 0.02m at a depth of 0.48m BGL, however it appeared to be post-medieval in date.

The next deposit was a soft, light to mid orangey brown sandy material (1003) approximately 0.10m in thickness, encountered at 0.38m BGL. This possibly represents a bedding layer laid down for previous services. Four iron pipes (1004) were uncovered between 0.20m and 0.25m BGL, measuring approximately 2m in length and ranging in width between 0.30m to 0.20m; these pipes held the numerous electrical and BT cables which needed to be exposed by the works.

Surrounding the pipes and cables (1004) was a soft, light to mid orangey brown sand with moderately frequent inclusions of CBM fragments (mostly bricks) encountered at 0.14m BGL and measuring

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0.24m thick. This deposit (1003) is probably associated with backfilling and bedding for with the services (1004), and was similar to the previous deposit of sandy bedding (1005).

Next in the sequence was a modern, light grey, compact concrete gravel bedding 0.10m thick at 0.04m BGL (1002), followed by 0.04m thick layer of modern paving slabs (1001).

### CONCLUSIONS

Very little evidence of archaeological remains was present within the excavation trench. There was some evidence of a wall underneath the sandy bedding and services, possibly of a cellar or the foundations of one of the buildings along Goodramgate. All other deposits were noted as being modern and relating to service trenches, modern repairs and the backfilling associated with these events.

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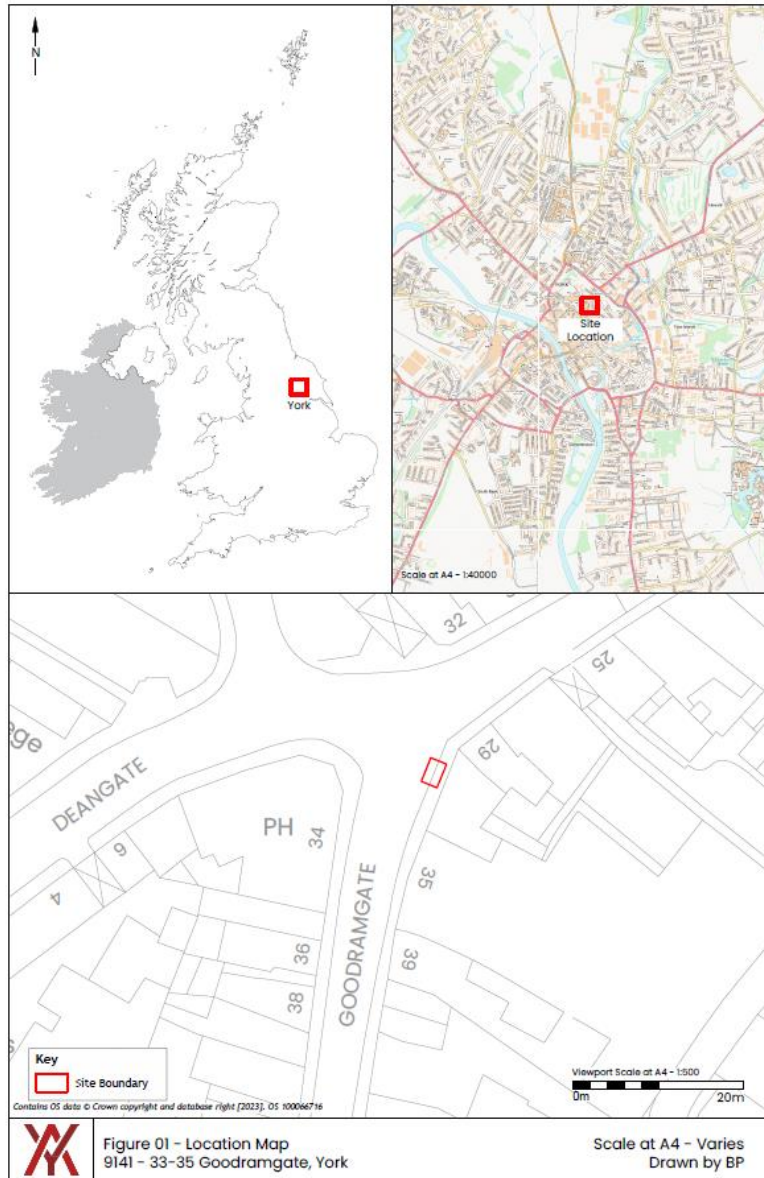
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**Figure 1 Site Location**

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**Plate 1** Area pre-excavation, view south-west

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**Plate 2** After the removal of gravel, view south-east

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