YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

AREAS A, B and C HUNGATE DEVELOPMENT YORK

A Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief

by David Evans

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AREAS A, B and C: HUNGATE DEVELOPMENT YORK

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Cover illustration:

view looking west across site

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List of Abbreviations

BGL	Below Ground Level
HYR	Hungate (York) Regeneration
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Above Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey
YAT	York Archaeological Trust

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Abstract

Between 17th November 2006 and January 8th 2007 York Archaeological Trust maintained a watching brief on large scale machinesite stripping in advance of the redevelopment of Blocks A, B, and C of the Hungate (York) Regeneration Project (HYR). This work also included observations made when an exploratory machine cut was excavated in order to investigate a probable obstruction encountered during the sewer diversion works between one of the caissons (MANHOLE 2, YAT Trench 4) and one of the coffer dams (MANHOLE 1,YAT Trench 5).

Although fragmentary remains of brick walls were noted in the Block C zone and a brick wall recorded in the Block B zone could be correlated with an orchard wall observed on the 1852 O.S. map of the area it appeared that much of the 19th century housing known to have existed along the eastern extents of Palmer Lane had been removed in the 20th century. This may have taken place during the clearances of the 1930s or during the redevelopment of the 1950s. Certainly associated with the 1950s redevelopment are the site-wide levelling deposits which seem to have utilised both domestic and industrial waste to raise the then existing ground level by at least 1.5m, probably in order to combat problems posed by flooding. No certain archaeological remains of any great significance were encountered but there were hints that archaeology of some importance may survive at a lower level than the basal levels reached to facilitate the present redevelopment.

1. BACKGROUND

This watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Hungate (York) Regeneration, lead by Crosby Lend Lease, as an initial part of the archaeological work agreed between HYR and City of York Council (CYC).

The archaeological and historical background to the whole developmentarea has been covered in some detail during the preparation of an initial desk-top study (Macnab 1999). This study summarised its findings as follows;

"It (the study) has identified evidence for the likely preservation of archaeological deposits over the whole site. In the vicinity of Dundas Street archaeological deposits are relatively shallow but they increase in depth to over 6m to the east, south and west towards the River Foss, Garden Place and the Northern Electric Headquarters. The deposits include well stratified and well preserved waterlogged organic remains, of high archaeological value dating from Roman times to the post-medieval period.

The area is within the Roman canabae, a civilian settlement set up to supply the military garrison with its various needs. In the Anglo-Scandinavian period it is likely that the banks of the River Foss were used for trade and streets such as Hungate would have been lined with

timber buildings similar to those excavated at Coppergate, York. A significant part of the site was flooded in the 11th century when the River Foss was dammed to create a wet ditch around York Castle. The King's Fishpool which resulted was gradually filled with rubbish and river silts in the later medieval period.

In the 13th century a large part of the site was devoted to an important Carmelite Friary which would have contained the usual range of friary buildings as well as a church and cemetery and a documented wharf on the edge of the Fishpool. The medieval parish church of St John in the Marsh, the Guildhall of the Shoemakers or Cordwainers and a residence for Chantry Priests are also located in the development area.

During the 16th century the King's Fishpool was used as a public rubbish dump and the material deposited therein provides a fascinating insight into the living conditions of the population of York in the late medieval period.

Following the canalisation of the River Foss in the late 18th century the area was developed for heavy industry with an early Victorian gasworks and large scale flour milling. Although the buildings associated with these industries have, for the most part, been demolished remains will still be found beneath the surface.

20th century developments in the area include the construction of a new street, The Stonebow, in 1955, the massive Telephone Exchange buildings of the late 1950's and 1970's, small scale warehousing and service industry buildings such as those within the Northern Electric compound."

Further information, mainly archaeological, was obtained from 2000 onwards during a number of evaluation excavations and the observation of many boreholes and test pits across the site. This information, together with that from the 1999 desk-top study was incorporated in the recent Hungate Research Design (Ottaway et al 2005). The project design then, using the available information, defined the archaeological research programme on a site-wide and block by block basis. The research objectives for Blocks A, B and C were then defined as follows;

1.1 Research Objectives

1.1.1 Natural topography – palaeoenvironment

- Study of the natural topography, early river regime and ecology. The survival of palaeoenvironmental material should be best in southern part of the blocks.

1.1.2 Roman

- The character of the river frontage and land use, including refuse tipping, will be addressed using the pre-pile probes and lift shafts.

1.1.3 Anglian – Anglo-Scandinavian / Medieval

- As for the Roman period, the character of the river frontage and land use, including refuse tipping, will be addressed using the pre-pile probes and lift shafts.

1.1.4 Post-medieval / early modern

- The character of the post-medieval gardens and orchards which appear to be shown on maps from the 17th century onwards.

- Aspects of ways of life and patterns of refuse tipping will be studied based on sampling of material for finds and environmental data.

The site of the works lies *c.*375m south-east of the Roman Legionary Fortress but within the area defined by the medieval city walls north-east of the River Ouse and immediately north-west of the River Foss in this part of York, (Fig. 1). The ground in the area of machine stripping was roughly level, due largely to modern levelling, and prior to commencement of the works lay at *c.*10m OD.

The drift geology of the area is believed to be quite complex but is thought to be mainly boulder clay but with pockets of alluvium, sand and gravel. This overlies the solid geology of Bunter and Keuper Sandstones (Geological Survey 1967).

2. METHOD STATEMENT

Between 17th November 2006 and January 8th 2007 David Evans of York Archaeological Trust (YAT) undertook a watching brief at land to the north-east of Dundas Street, York (NGR SE 6087 5193). The work involved the monitoring of the breaking out and removal of concrete and tarmac associated with the former Northern Electric depot and the lowering of the existing ground surface by *c.* 1.4m over the areas designated Blocks A, B and C in the overall HYR development plan, (Figs 2-3). A machine cut exploratory trench, to investigate an obstruction encountered by a tunneling machine, along the line of the sewer diversion was also observed and recorded.

The watching brief was undertaken in order to recover any detailed information on the upper archaeological stratigraphy in the area and in particular to record any surviving buried remains of the 19th century housing known to have existed in the area. This archaeological recording was undertaken as part of a condition of planning permission for the new development.

Much of the breaking-out and clearance work was carried out using 30 ton 360° mechanical tracked excavators with toothed buckets, (Plates 1-2) although at formation level more

delicate work was carried out using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. The breaking-out and stripping was undertaken by Moorhead Excavations Ltd of Leeds and the work was monitored when machine excavation was in progress.

A total of 24 sections across the area of stripping were recorded, (Fig. 4) a moderate number of colour digital photographs was also taken and other relevant details recorded in a site notebook. The results from this watching brief are presented in Section 3 of this report. Although all finds were unstratified a representative sample was kept in order to demonstrate the range, nature and date of the finds within the deposits removed by machine.

An archaeologist was present at virtually all times when digging was in progress. The location of all the drawn sections was recorded in a site notebook and took the form of measured sketches which were then formally drawn up at regular intervals during fieldwork. Recording followed the procedures laid down in the Trust's fieldwork manual (YAT 2005).

All original site records for this watching brief are currently stored with the York Archaeological Trust under the Yorkshire Museum accession code YORYM: 2006.5201. Details of the contexts recorded were entered into the York Archaeological Trust's Integrated Archaeological Database (IADB), Project 5000 as the fieldwork progressed.

Although the representative sample of finds recovered during the watching brief were unstratified these finds were attributed the context number (6151) for the purposes of entry into the IABD system. These finds were assessed and are described in Section 4 of this report.

3. RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

3.1 Section 1

The earliest deposit seen in this section, between *c*.1.1m and at least 1.4m Below Ground Level (BGL), was a mixture of loose, mid brown silt and black clinker with occasional fragments of brick (6004). Overlying this was a thin, 0.1m deep, deposit of black clinker (6003) which was sealed by a loose, mid brown silt containing moderate amounts of brick and occasional pale brown mortar (6002). Above this was a layer of pale yellow crushed limestone (6001). Contexts 6002 – 6004 were all thought to be levelling deposits. The uppermost context was black tarmac (6000) which formed the existing modern ground surface lying at *c*.9.85m OD.

3.2 Section 2

The earliest deposit recorded in this section, at between *c*.0.95m and at least 1.45m BGL, was a very dark grey slightly clayey silt with very occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6008).

This was sealed by a deposit of mid greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt containing frequent fragments of brick and flecks of pale brown mortar (6007). Above this was a deposit of pale yellow crushed limestone (6006) and over this was black tarmac (6005) forming the modern ground surface at *c.*9.7m OD. Contexts 6006 – 6008 were all definite levelling deposits.

3.3 Section 3 (Fig. 5)

In this section the earliest deposit recorded was a loose, black silt containing frequent clinker and moderate gravel (6015) which was seen between *c.*1.1m BGL and the base of the section at *c.*1.4m BGL. Overlying this there was a mid greyish-brown silt with a moderate amount of limestone fragments (6014) and above this a deposit of very pale grey concrete (6013). 6013 was sealed by a light to mid brown slightly clayey silt (6012) and above this was a mid brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6011). Overlying 6011 was a deposit of pale yellow crushed limestone (6010). All of these except for 6013 were almost certainly levelling deposits and 6013 was probably the concrete casing for a ceramic drain. The uppermost context was of black tarmac (6009) which formed the current modern ground surface at *c.*9.8m OD.

3.4 Section 4

The earliest deposit seen in this section, at *c.*1.15m BGL and lower, was a pale red mixture of ash and clinker (6024). This was partially sealed by a loose, dark brown silt with occasional brick fragments and pebbles (6023). Sealing 6023 was a loose mid greyish-brown silt (6022) which was partly overlain by a deposit of black clinker (6021). Above 6021 was a layer of off-white mortar fragments (6020) which was sealed by a deposit of loose, mid brown silt with frequent fragments of cream mortar (6019). Overlying 6019 was a layer of loose, black clinker and silt (6018) which was sealed by a loose, mid greyish-brown silt with occasional brick fragments and flecks of pale brown mortar (6017). Contexts 6017 - 6024 were all levelling deposits. The uppermost context was pale grey reinforced concrete which formed the existing modern ground surface and lay at *c.*9.7m OD.

3.5 Section 5

In this section the earliest recorded context, at between *c.*2.2m and at least 2.6m BGL was a mid orange-brown clay (6030). The function of this deposit is uncertain. Sealing 6030 there was a loose, mid brown silt with occasional fragments of brick and occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6029), above which was a loose, very dark greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt (6028). Overlying 6028 was a deposit of dark brown silt with occasional brick fragments and flecks of charcoal and pale brown mortar (6027). Above 6027 was a mixture of brick rubble and dark brown silt with moderate amounts of pale brown mortar (6026). Contexts 6026 – 6029 were all levelling deposits. The topmost context was pale grey concrete which formed part of the modern ground surface at *c.*9.8m OD.

3.6 Section 6

The lowest recorded deposit in this section, at between *c*. 0.85m and at least 1.25m BGL, was a mid greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar and occasional cobbles (6036). Overlying 6036 was a loose, mid brown silt with frequent flecks of pale brown mortar and occasional fragments of brick (6035). Above 6035 was a mixed layer of cobbles, crushed limestone and black clinker (6034) and sealing this was a deposit of firm, mid greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with moderate amounts of brick (6033). 6033 was sealed by pale brown crushed limestone with occasional brick fragments (6032) which was capped with black tarmac (6031) forming the modern ground surface at *c*.9.8m OD.

3.7 Section 7

The earliest deposit recorded in this section, at between 0.8m BGL and the base of the section at *c*.1.4m BGL, was a mid greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with occasional brick fragments and lenses of light brown ash (6041). Above 6041 there was a loose, mid brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6040). Overlying 6040 was a mid greyish-brown silt with moderate brick fragments (6039), which was sealed by a layer of fine, light yellow crushed limestone (6038). All of the above contexts were levelling deposits. The uppermost context was pale grey concrete (6037) which formed the current modern ground level and lay at *c*.9.9m OD.

3.8 Section 8 (Fig. 6)

In this section the earliest recorded deposit, seen between c.1.2m BGL and 1.45m BGL, was a fine black silt (6052), which was overlain by a light to mid brownish-grey silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6051). Both 6051 and 6052, probably levelling deposits, appeared to have been cut by a feature of uncertain shape, size and function (6050). Cut 6050 was, however, at least 1m wide and 0.3m deep with a moderately sloping south-west edge and, apparently, a flat base. The single identified backfill within 6050 was a mid to dark orange-brown fine organic silt (6049), probably very decayed wood or sawdust. Sealing 6049 and 6051 was a loose, mid brown silt with occasional cobbles and flecks of pale brown mortar (6048) which was overlain by a very dark greyish-brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6047). This was partially sealed by a layer of mid brown clay (6046) some 50mm thick. Above 6046 was a dark greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional brick fragments (6045) which was overlain by a mixture of brick rubble and dark brown silt (6044). Above 6044 there was a layer of pale yellow crushed limestone (6043). Contexts 6043 – 6048 were all levelling deposits. The topmost context, forming the existing modern ground surface at *c*.9.7m OD, was black tarmac (6042).

3.9 Section 9

The earliest deposit recorded in this section, between 1.1m BGL and at least 1.3m BGL, was

a very dark grey silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6059). Sealing 6059 was a mid greyish-brown silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar and occasional pieces of tile (6058). Above 6058 was a mixture of black clinker and charcoal (6057) which was overlain by a mid grey slightly clayey silt containing frequent pebbles (6056). This was sealed by a layer of very pale yellow crushed limestone (6055) which was partly overlain by a mid grey silt (6054). Contexts 6054 – 6059 were all levelling deposits. The uppermost context was a dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with occasional brick and stone (6053). This formed the existing modern ground surface and lay at *c.*10m OD.

3.10 Section 10

In this section the earliest deposit noted, between *c.*1.5m BGL and at least 1.6m BGL, was a very dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6066). It was sealed by a light to mid brown silt with moderate quantities of fragments of pale yellowish-brown mortar (6065). Above 6065 was a layer of pale red ash and clinker (6064) which was partially sealed by a mid brown silt containing frequent fragments of pale brown mortar (6063). Just overlying the north-west limit of 6063 was a deposit of black clinker (6062). This, and 6063, was sealed by a loose, mid greyish-brown silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar and occasional tile (6061). Contexts 6061 – 6066 were all believed to be levelling deposits. The topmost context, forming the current modern ground surface at *c.*10m OD, was pale grey reinforced concrete (6060).

3.11 Section 11 (Fig. 7)

The earliest deposits in this section, seen between *c.*1.2m BGL and 1.4m BGL, were a mid brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional flecks of white mortar (6073) and a light brown silt with occasional flecks of white mortar (6075). Sealing 6073 was a light brown ashy silt (6072) and above 6075 there was a layer of dark brown silt with moderate flecks of white mortar (6074). Contexts 6072 - 6075 had all been cut by a feature (6071) of uncertain function but possibly a pit or ditch. 6071 was *c.*1m wide and at least 0.35m deep with steeply sloping sides, the base was not seen. The only backfill observed in 6071 was a loose, dark greyish-brown silt with moderate amounts of pale brown mortar and occasional brick/tile (6070). Sealing backfill 6070 was a mid greyish-brown silt with moderate flecks of white mortar and occasional tile fragments (6069), above which was a loose, mid greyish-brown silt with occasional flecks of white mortar (6068). Contexts 6068 and 6069 were levelling deposits. The uppermost context was pale grey reinforced concrete (6067) which formed the existing modern ground surface at *c.*10m OD.

3.12 Section 12 (Fig. 8)

The earliest contexts recorded in this section were a pair of brick walls. The first (6084) was aligned approximately north-west / south-east and was of uncertain thickness. The brickwork of 6084 was bonded with a hard white mortar and the small stretch seen was 0.4m high but

clearly extended further downward. It is possible, but not certain, that wall 6084 butted, and thus was later than, the second wall (6083). This was aligned approximately south-west / north-east and was two courses, *c*.0.23m, thick and bonded with a hard white mortar. It was *c*.0.8m tall but as with 6083 it clearly extended further down. A number of probable levelling deposits were seen butting one or both of these walls. South-west of wall 6083 the earliest of these levelling deposits was a very dark greyish-brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6082) and above this was a clean, dark greyish-brown silt (6081). North-west of wall 6083 and south-west of wall 6084 there was a layer of very dark greyish-brown silt with occasional pieces of tile (6080) and overlying this was a mid greyish-brown silt with moderate fragments of pale yellow mortar (6079). Sealing 6079, 6081 and wall 6083 was a mid brown silt with occasional flecks of pale yellow mortar (6078) and above this a layer of pale yellow crushed limestone (6077), both were levelling deposits. The latest deposit, forming the existing ground surface at *c*.9.75m OD, was black tarmac.

3.13 Section 13

In this section the earliest context noted, between *c*. 1. 3m BGL and at least 1.45m BGL, was a dark brown silt with very occasional flecks of very pale brown mortar (6089). Overlying 6089 was a light to mid brown slightly clayey silt with moderate amounts of brick and pale brown mortar (6088). Above 6088 was a layer of black clinker (6087) and overlying this was a mid brown silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar and occasional fragments of brick (6086). These were all levelling deposits. The uppermost deposit was pale grey reinforced concrete (6085), which formed the current modern ground surface and lay at *c*.9.7m OD.

3.14 Section 14

The earliest contexts in this section, between 1.25m BGL and at least 1.35m BGL were a light to mid brown silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar and occasional brick fragments (6097) and a very dark brown silt with very occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6099). Above 6097 was a mid brown silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar (6096) and over 6099 was a light to mid brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6098). Cutting all of these levelling deposits was a probable linear feature (6095), thought to be aligned approximately north-south. 6095 was 1m wide and probably *c*.0.6m deep with very steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Close to its base was a circular glazed ceramic pipe with a diameter of *c*.0.15m indicating that 6095 was a drain cut. 6095 had a backfill of very dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6094). Sealing 6094, 6096 and 6098 was a dark brown silt with occasional flecks of white mortar (6093). Overlying 6093 was a very dark brown slightly clayey silt with moderate brick fragments and occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6092) which in turn wqas overlain by a layer of very pale yellow crushed limestone (6091). Contexts 6091 – 6093 were all levelling deposits. The latest context, forming the existing modern ground surface at *c*.9.75m OD, was black tarmac (6090).

3.15 Section 15

In this section the earliest context, seen between 1.25m BGL and at least 1.45m BGL, was a mid brown very slightly clayey silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar and occasional small fragments of brick (6107). Sealing 6107 was a dark grey silt with occasional brick fragments (6106), above which was a light to mid brown silt with frequent flecks of pale brown mortar (6105). Overlying 6105 was a layer of very dark greyish-brown silt with occasional tile fragments and flecks of pale brown mortar (6104). Partially sealing 6104 was a thin deposit of black clinker (6103) some 50mm thick. 6013 was partly overlain by a layer of yellow crushed limestone (6102) of a similar thickness and overlying 6102 was a loose, dark greyish-brown silt with occasional stone and brick fragments (6101). The uppermost context, forming the existing modern ground surface at *c*.9.8m OD, was pale grey reinforced concrete (6100).

3.16 Section 16

The earliest deposit recorded in this section was seen between *c*.0.95m and 1.1m BGL and consisted of a light to mid greyish-brown sandy silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar and occasional small fragments of brick (6115). Overlying 6115 was a firm, very dark grey ashy silt with frequent lenses of decayed wood (6114). 6114 was sealed by a mid brown silt containing moderate fragments and flecks of pale brown mortar and moderate small fragments of brick (6113). Above 6113 was a firm, dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with frequent pebbles and occasional brick fragments and flecks of pale brown mortar (6112). Contexts 6112 – 6115 were all probably levelling deposits. Immediately above 6112 was a series of horizontal sandstone setts (6111), clearly forming a surface of some type. This surface was overlain by a layer of black silt and charcoal containing occasional flecks of pale yellow mortar (6110), over which was a mid brown silt with moderate fragments and flecks of pale brown mortar (6109). Both 6109 and 6110 were levelling deposits. The latest context was a slab of pale grey concrete which formed the existing modern ground surface at *c*.10.1m OD.

3.17 Section 17

The earliest deposit recorded in this section, between *c*.0.85m BGL and the base of the section at 1.05m BGL, was a dark greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional fragments of brick (6121). This was sealed by a very dark grey silt with occasional fragments of brick (6120) and this was overlain by a dark brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6119). Overlying 6119 was a mixture of brick rubble and fragments of pale brown mortar (6118). Above this was a layer of pale yellow crushed limestone (6117). Contexts 6117 – 6121 were all levelling deposits. The topmost context was black tarmac (6116) and this formed the modern ground surface at *c*.9.8m OD.

3.18 Section 18

In this section the earliest recorded deposit, at between *c*.0.55m BGL and at least 0.85m BGL,

was a dark brown silt with very occasional brick fragments (6129). Overlying 6129 was a very dark brown silt with very occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6128) and above 6128 was a dark brown silt with occasional brick fragments (6127). Partially sealing 6127 was a layer of finely crushed brick rubble (6124). Cutting 6127 – 6129, and later than 6124, was a feature of uncertain shape, size and function (6126), which was at least 0.8m across and 0.8m deep with a steeply sloping south-west edge. 6126 had a backfill of dark brown silt with moderate flecks of pale yellow mortar (6125). Apart from 6126 and its backfill, all contexts outlined above were levelling deposits. The latest context was black tarmac (6122) which formed the existing modern ground surface at *c*.9.8m OD.

3.19 Section 19

In this section the earliest deposit recorded, between *c*.0.5m BGL and at least 1.2m BGL, was a mid to dark brown silt with occasional fragments of pale brown mortar (6137). Overlying 6137 was a dark brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6136). Cut through 6136 and 6137, both levelling deposits, was a modern feature (6135), probably part of a drainage system, which was 1.2m across and at least 0.9m deep with vertical sides. The base of 6135 was not seen. The earliest deposit within this 6135, probably a use deposit, was pale yellow mortar containing frequent brick rubble (6134). On top of 6134 was a vertically placed hollow ceramic pipe (6133) *c*.0.4m in diameter. The space between the pipe and the cut had been backfilled with a mixture of brick rubble and pale brown mortar with occasional dark brown silt (6132). Sealing the backfill 6132was a levelling deposit of pale yellow crushed limestone (6131). The uppermost context, forming the modern ground surface at *c*.9.8m OD, was black tarmac (6130).

3.20 Section 20 (Fig. 9)

The earliest deposit recorded in this section, between *c*.0.55m BGL and 0.95m BGL, was a very dark greyish-brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6150). Overlying 6150 was a dark brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6149). Partially sealing 6149 was a thin, 50mm, band of pale brown mortar (6148) which was overlain by a mid brownish-grey silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6147). Probably contemporary with 6147 was a dark greyish-brown silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar (6146). All of the contexts mentioned above were very probably levelling deposits. Cut into 6146 or 6147 was a series of probably contemporary features. The first, a drain trench (6141), probably aligned north-west / south-east, was 0.3m wide and at least 0.4m deep with vertical sides curving sharply into a flat base. A ceramic drain pipe with a diameter of 0.15m was noted close to the bottom of 6141 which had been backfilled with a dark grey very slightly clayey silt containing moderate brick fragments and tile and occasional fragments of white mortar (6140).

The second feature (6143), an electricity service trench, was 0.4m across and at least 0.3m deep with vertical sides leading straight to a flat base. 6143 was aligned approximately north-

west / south-east. An inert electric cable was noted about half down the 6143 which had a backfill of mid greyish-brown silt with frequent flecks of pale brown mortar (6142). The third feature (6145), also an electricity service trench running north-west / south-east, was 0.4m wide and at least 0.35m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. Two inert electricity cables, side by side were noted close to the base of the 6145 which had a backfill of mid brownish-grey silt with occasional pieces of crushed limestone (6144). Sealing backfill 6140 was a levelling deposit of brick rubble and pale brown mortar (6139) and above the uppermost context, pale grey concrete forming the existing modern ground surface at *c*.9.7m OD.

3.21 Section 21

The earliest deposit recorded in this section was a firm, light to mid brown very slightly clayey silt with moderate pebbles and occasional fragments of brick (6157) and lay between *c*.1.05m BGL and 1.5m BGL. 6157 was sealed by a very dark greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt (6156) which was below a layer of pale brown mortar containing moderate brick fragments (6155). Overlying 6155 was a black slightly clayey silt (6154) and above this a mid brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6153). All of these were levelling deposits. The topmost context, forming the modern ground surface at the time, was pale grey reinforced concrete (6152) lying at *c*.10m OD.

3.22 Section 22 (Fig 10)

The earliest context recorded was a short, *c*.0.5m, stretch of brick wall (6168) aligned approximately south-west / north-east, which was bonded with a soft white mortar. It was by no means certain, however that 6168 was in-situ since the area around this section also produced pieces of mortared brickwork which had clearly been dumped in the area forming part of a levelling deposit. Probably later than 6168 was a mixture of brick rubble, pale brown mortar and mid brownish-grey silt (6167), above which was a dark grey silt (6160). Both 6167 and 6160 were probably levelling deposits. Two features were recorded cut into 6160 and 6167. The first (6162) was of uncertain shape, size and function but was at least 0.3m across and 0.8m deep with a very steeply sloping south-west edge. 6162 had a backfill of mid greyish-brown silt with occasional fragments of brick (6159). The second feature (6166) was also of uncertain shape, size and function, and measured at least 1.3m across and 0.8m deep with a very steeply sloping north-east edge. Two backfills, there may have been more, were noted in 6166 with the lower being a light to mid brown silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar (6165). Above 6165 was a mid greyish-brown silt with occasional flecks of pale brown mortar (6164). The upper backfill 6164 had been partially truncated by another feature (6163) of uncertain shape, size and function. 6163 feature was at least 1.5m across and 0.5m deep with a moderately sloping north-east edge and had a backfill of a mixture of brick rubble and mid brown silt (6161). The uppermost context was pale grey reinforced concrete (6158) which formed the modern ground surface at *c*.9.6m OD.

3.23 Section 23

In this section the earliest deposit seen, between *c*.1.4m BGL and at least 1.5m BGL, was a loose, very dark brown very slightly clayey silt with moderate brick fragments (6187). Above 6187 was a very pale brown mortar containing occasional brick (6173). Overlying 6173 was a clean, very dark brown silt (6172) and above this was a loose, mid greyish-brown silt with occasional brick fragments and flecks of pale brown mortar (6171). All of the above were levelling deposits. The uppermost context, forming the existing modern ground surface at *c*.9.6m OD was pale grey concrete (6170).

3.24 Section 24

The earliest deposit recorded in this section, at between *c*.1.6m BGL and 1.75m BGL, was a loose, pale brown mortar (6180). Overlying 6180 was a loose, dark brown silt (6179), above which was a loose, mid brown silt with frequent flecks of pale brown mortar and occasional crushed brick (6178). Sealing 6178 was a mixture of broken slates and mid brown silt (6177). Overlying 6177 was a loose, mid greyish-brown silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar (6176). Sealing 6176 was a loose, very dark brownish-grey silt with occasional brick fragments (6175). Contexts 6175 – 6180 were all levelling deposits. The topmost context was pale grey concrete (6174), which formed the existing modern ground surface and lay at *c*.9.6m OD.

3.25 Section 25

This section was observed and recorded during the opening of a machine cut exploratory trench investigating the reason for an obstruction encountered during the sewer diversion works. The earliest deposit seen in this section, at between *c*.3.5m BGL and at least 4.5m BGL, was a damp mid brown sandy silt (6186) which was probably an alluvial build-up. Above 6186 was a 2m thick deposit of very dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with moderate flecks of pale brown mortar (6185). Overlying 6185 was a very dark brown very slightly clayey silt with moderate brick and tile and occasional tree roots and glass bottles (6184), which was sealed by a coarse, pale brown crushed limestone (6182). Contexts 6185 – 6182 were all probably levelling deposits. The uppermost context, forming the modern ground surface at *c*.9.6m OD, was black tarmac (6181).

3.26 Central Block C

Around the centre of Block C an observation was made of a possible archaeological feature. This took the form of a *c*.1m wide band of mixed pale yellowish-brown mortar and limestone rubble with occasional mid brown slightly clayey silt (6169), aligned approximately south-west / north-east. Some of the limestone appeared to have been roughly dressed. 6169 was traced for *c*.8m before fading out to the north-east and south-west. It was not possible to investigate 6169 to any great extent due to the proximity of heavy machinery but it appeared to be the robber trench for a stone wall of some substantial size.

4. FINDS ASSESSMENT

4.1 Summary

A representative sample of artefacts was retrieved during this watching brief, recovered from context number 6151. The data relating to the material is archived on IADB and no further analysis work is recommended.

Context	Find	Material	Name	Spotdate
6151	BF00188	Glass	Bottle fragments	1920-30
6151	BF00205	Pottery		20th century
6151	BF00051	Industrial Waste	Slag	
6151	BF00275	Slate Shale Coal		

4.2 The Pottery

Only 20 sherds of pottery were recovered and are listed below. The majority are of 20th century origin but there are some residual sherds including a fragment of an 11/12th century splashed ware pitcher and the twisted (and much abraded) handle from a 14th century Brandsby-type ware jug.

Context	Quantity	Spot date	Details
6151	20	20th century	1 piece of ceramic isulator 5 yellow and brown glazed earthenware pancheon sherds 1 ceramic tile element 1 splashed ware strap handle (11th/12th century) 1 Brandsby-type twisted handle (14th century) 11 sherds of late 19th/early 20th century transfer printed wares and other typical domestic pottery

4.3 Glass

Beer bottle fragments and jam or preserve jars of early 20th century were recovered.

Context	Quantity	Spot date	Details
6151	5	1920-30	Remains of complete and broken machine-made beer bottles. Embossed J.Hunt Brewer. 2 jam/preserve jars of similar or later date

4.4 Industrial Waste

A single piece of iron-working slag was recovered

4.5 Slate

A fragment of roofing slate was recovered.

4.6 Conclusion

No further work is required. All material is recommended for discard.

5. INITIAL INTERPRETATION

At all locations where stripping was observed, all of Blocks A, B and C, it was very clear that the deposits encountered were all 20th century levelling deposits (Plate 3). Little trace of any of the 19th century housing towards the eastern extents of Palmer Lane depicted on the 1852 O.S. map, (fig, 11) remained although a small piece of brick wall and a number of drains were noted within the area of Block C. The drains had only survived by being below parts of Palmer Lane (formerly Pound Lane), the line of which was retained for the later 20th century development of the site. It would appear that the construction works for the Northern Electric depot had removed most of any remaining walls of the 19th century housing before the ground level was raised by more than 1.5m using domestic and building waste. This raising of the ground level was probably carried out to alleviate flooding problems, known to have affected the 19th century housing in the vicinity.

The extents of the watching brief area may also have been stripped since much of it, in the 19th and 20th centuries was occupied by backyards and gardens and open spaces such as Pound Garth (Figs 11-14). Two small stretches of brick wall were identified close to the north-western corner of Block B (Section 12), one of which matched the position and alignment of a garden or orchard wall on the 1852 O.S. map. It is perhaps significant that these walls lay on the exterior of the depot in an area which was used for access rather than buildings.

There were, however, hints that archaeology of some significance may survive intact at a lower level than that reached by the stripping. Some medieval pottery was recovered from the watching brief and a possible robber trench for a stone wall (backfill 6169) was observed within the area of Block C. The alignment of this possible feature, running approximately parallel to the River Foss, may possibly indicate a function such as a river wall or even part of a staithe. Any stone-built structures of medieval date would be of great interest and potentially very significant for the history and exploitation of the area during the medieval period.

6. PROJECTED RESEARCH DESIGN

Due to the somewhat greater depth of 20th century levelling deposits (Plate 4) across the blocks than was expected it was not possible to realise any of the research objectives as defined in the Research Design. It is therefore not possible, at this point in time, to shed much light on the history and development of Blocks A, B and C and monitoring of the pre-pile probing and the hand excavation of the lift pits in these areas may constitute the only viable source of archaeological information for Blocks A, B and C.

However, what is not significantly obvious from the cartographic information (Figs 11-14), but has become readily apparent from the watching brief is the drop in the land height from west to east. The low lying nature of this parcel of land is undoubtedly why large tracts of this area remain undeveloped until the 1950's and 1960's. This is undoubtedly due to the area being liable to floods (Fig. 14). Whether this parcel of land is formed after the infilling of the King's Pool, due to land reclamation, or was always low lying land on the verges of the King's Pool may be determined through the Pre-Pile Probing for Blocks A, B and C.

This element of the Hungate archaeological works along with the lift shaft excavations and Pre-Pile Probing for Blocks A, B and C together with the Sewer Diversion excavations will further the research agenda for the evolution of this marginal landscape.

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YAT, 2005. York Archaeological Trust, *Fieldwork Recording Manual (Revised)*

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Photographs	David Evans
Illustrations and Report Production	Russell Marwood
Finds Report	Ailsa Mainman
Editor	Peter Connelly

APPENDIX 1: Illustrations

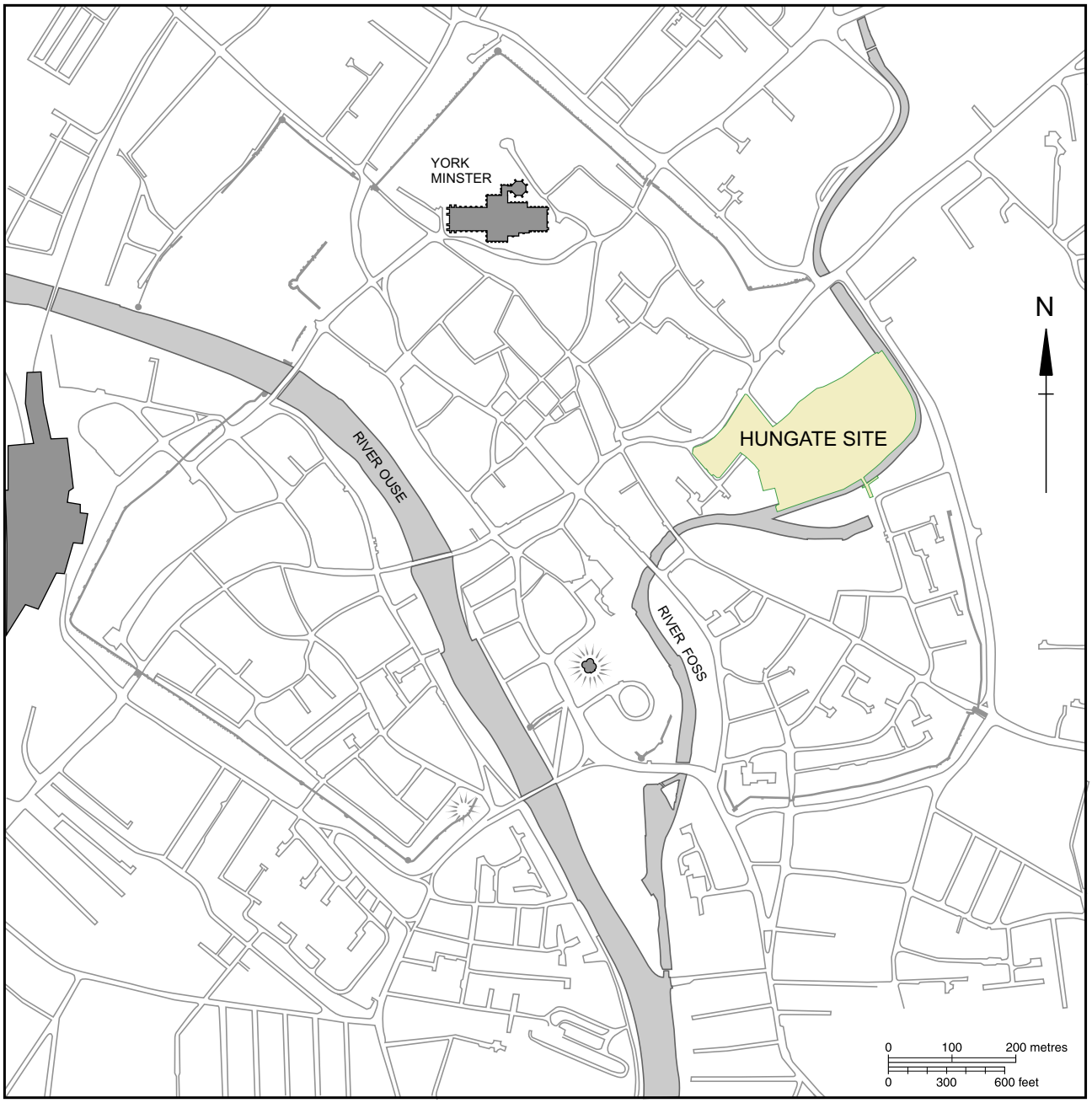

Figure 1 *Hungate site location map*

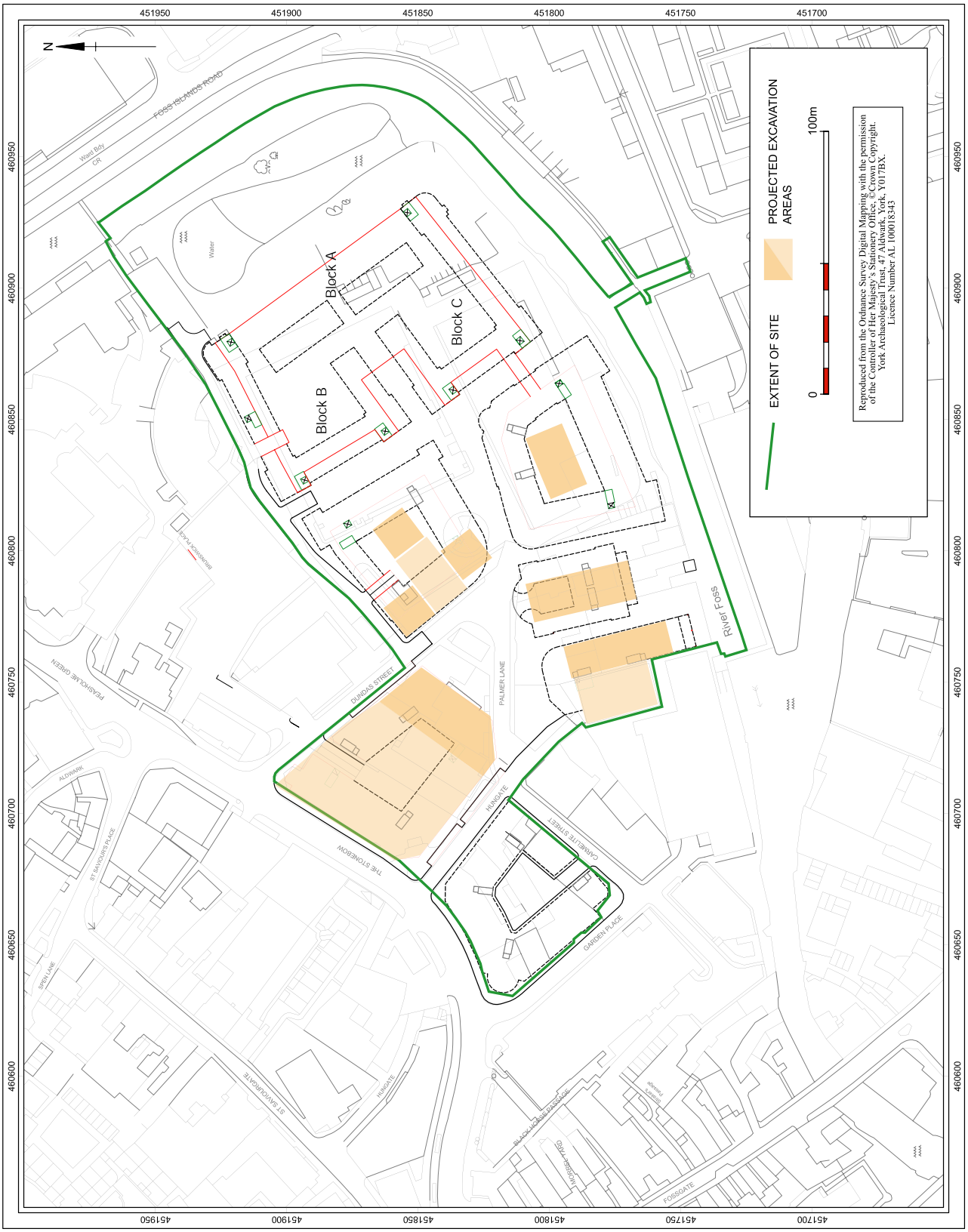

Figure 2 *Showing development blocks and areas of excavation*

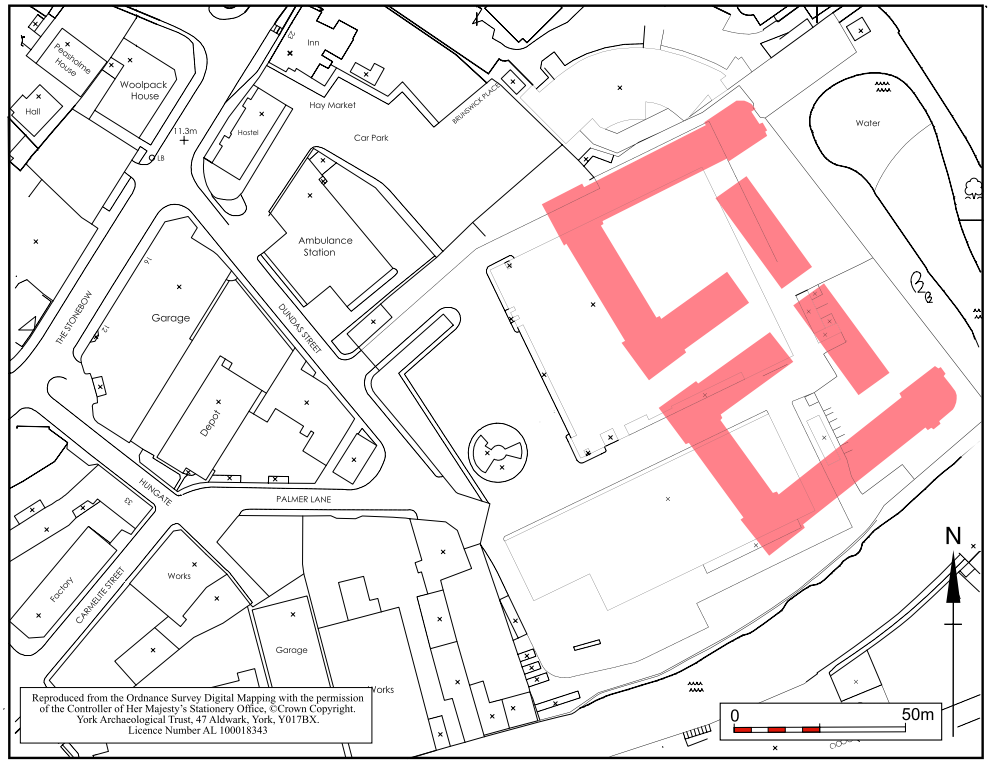

Figure 3 *Showing footprint for new Building Blocks A,B and C*

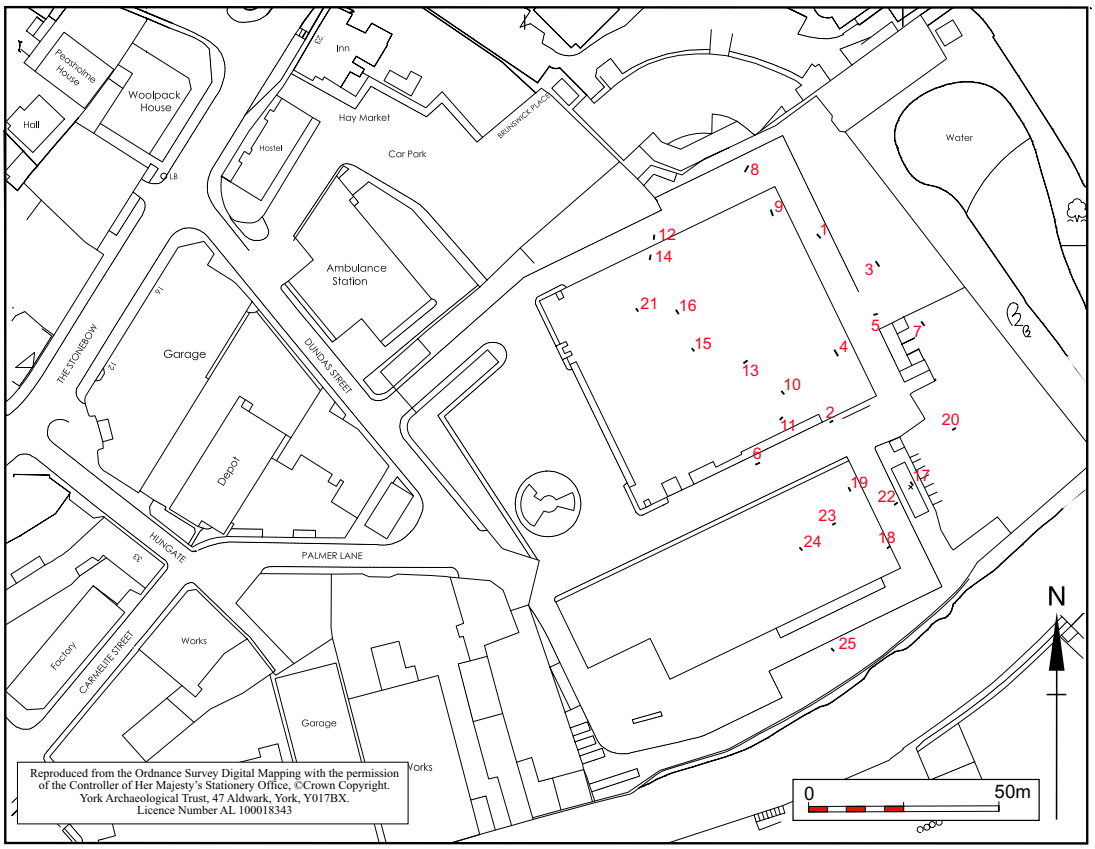

Figure 4 *Location of recorded sections*

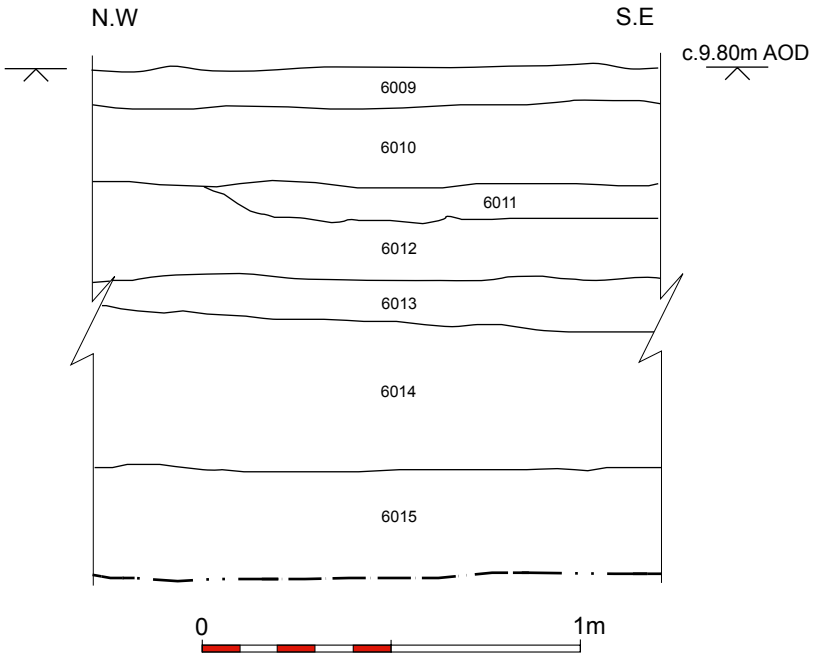

Figure 5 *Section 3, south-west facing*

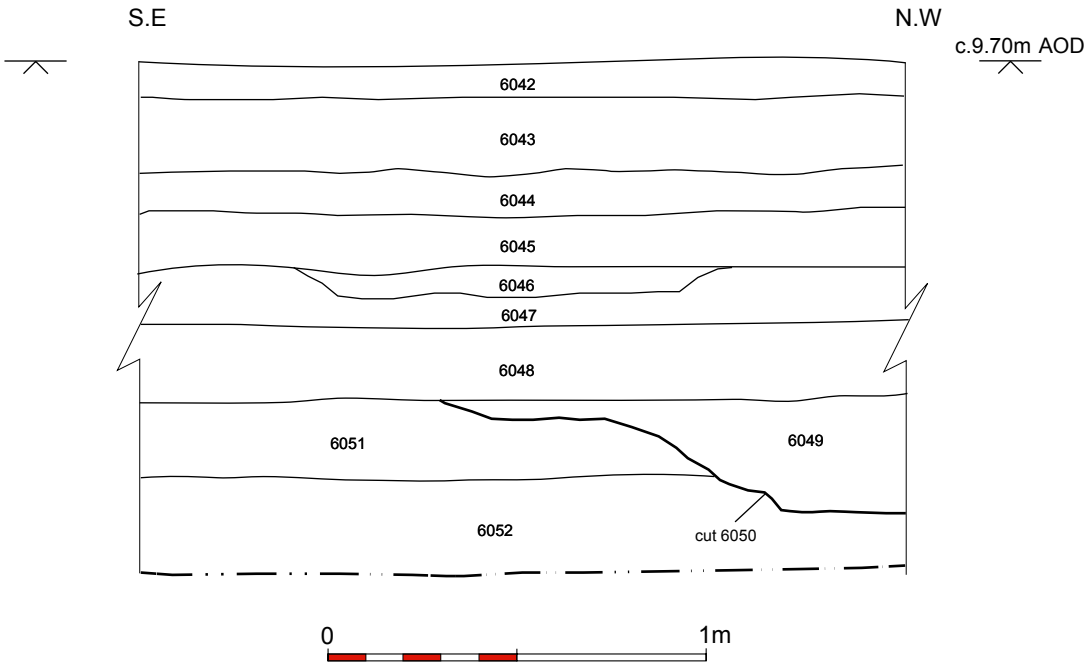

Figure 6 *Section 8, north-east facing*

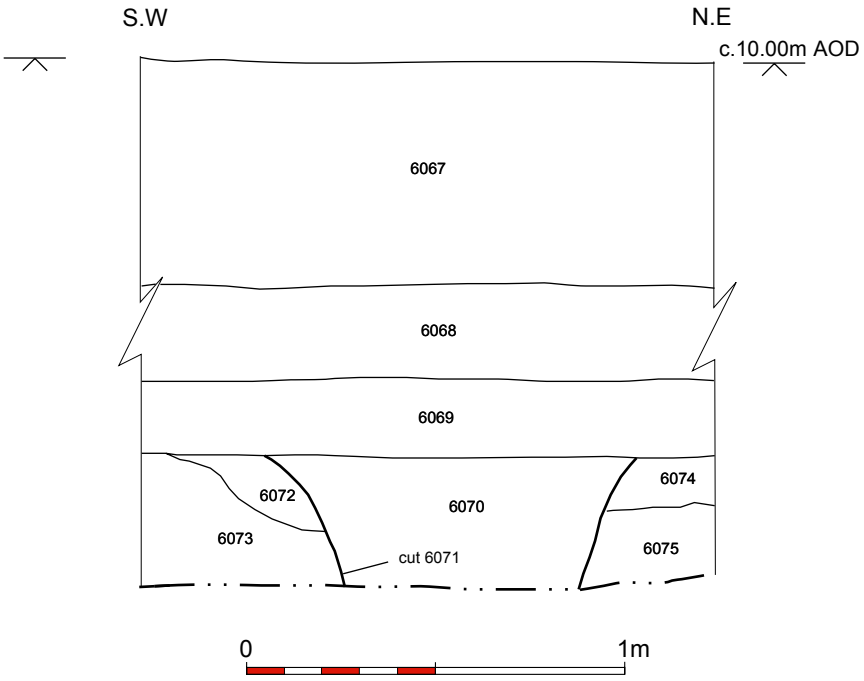

Figure 7 *Section 11, south-east facing*

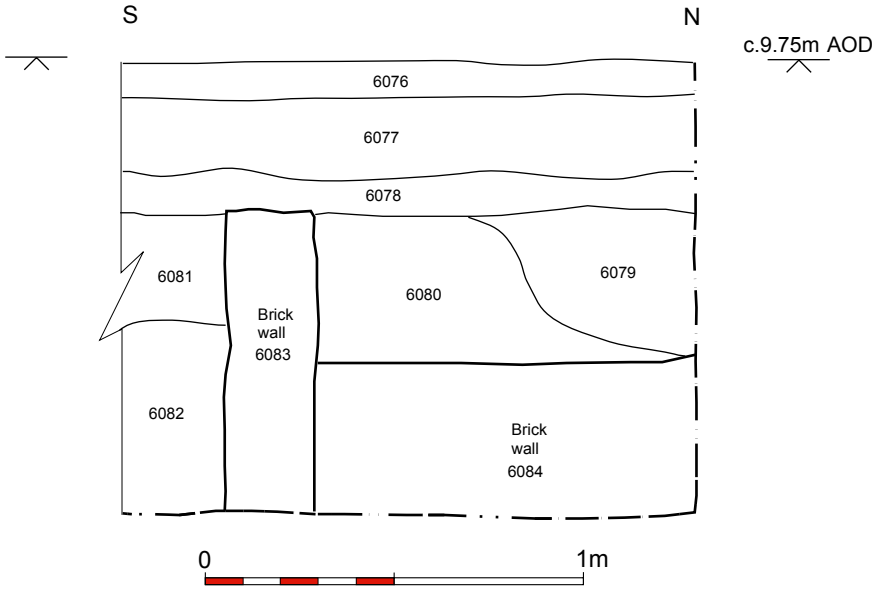

Figure 8 *Section 12, east facing*

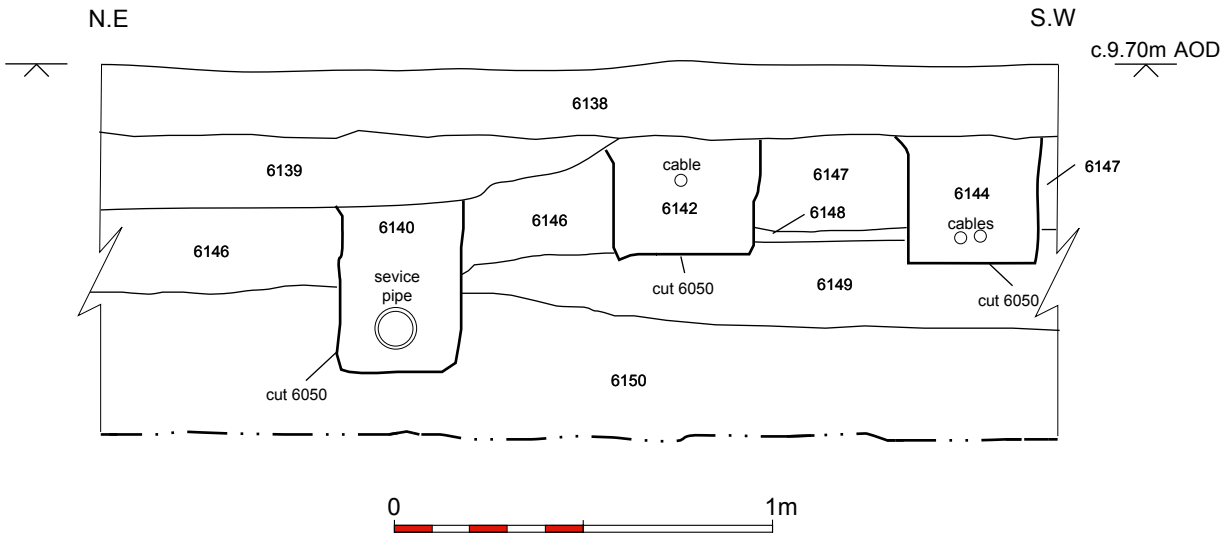

Figure 9 *Section 20, north-west facing*

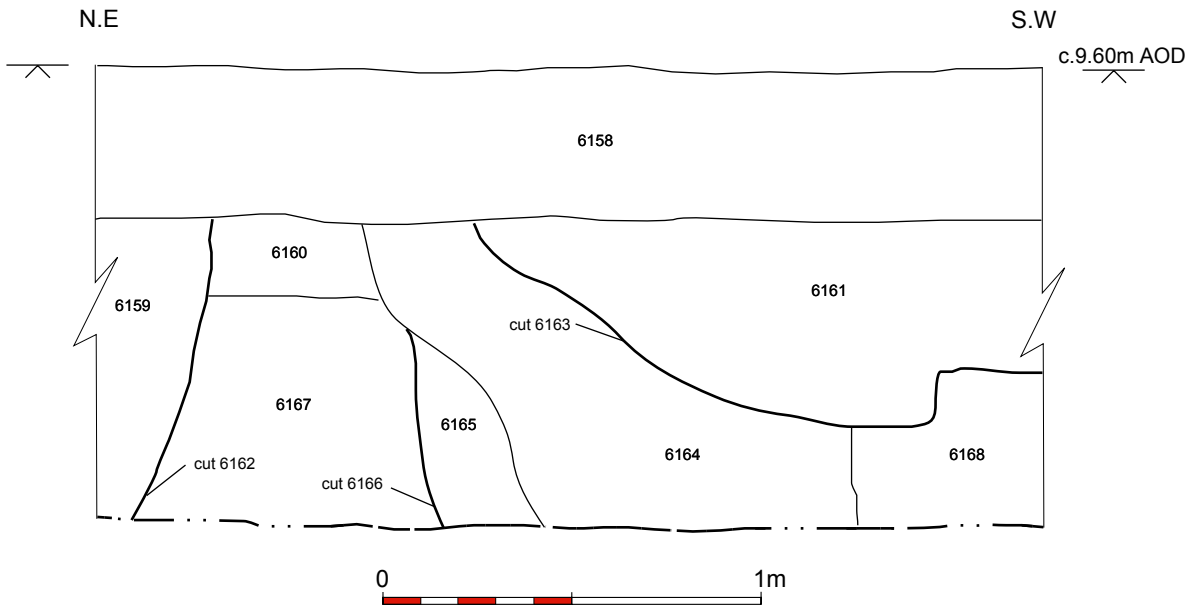

Figure 10 *Section 22, north-west facing*

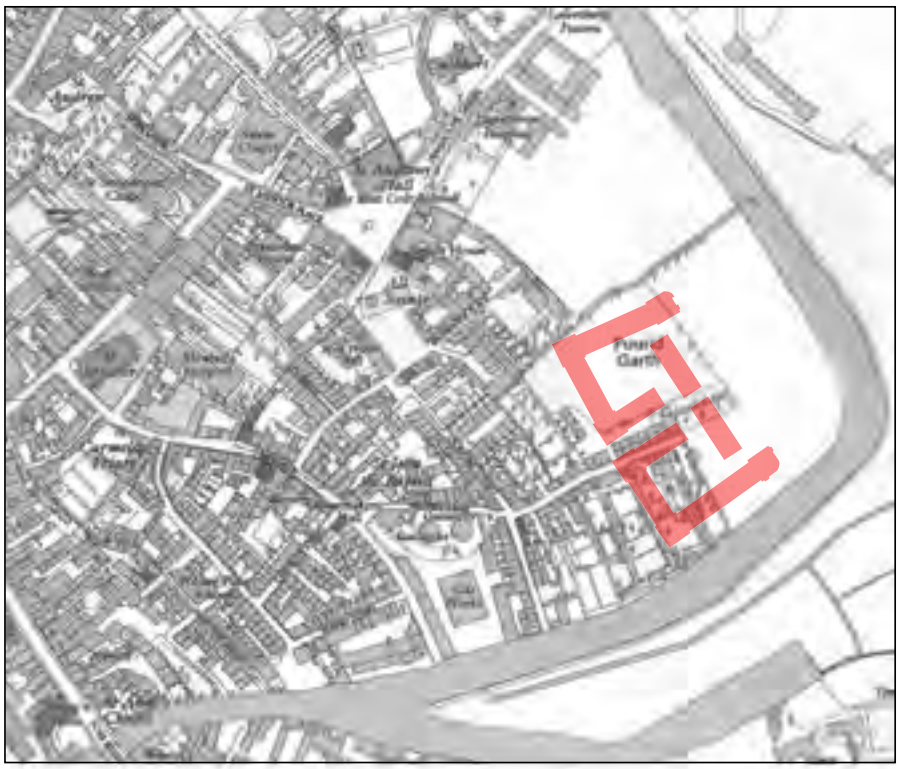

Figure 11 *Part of the 1852 Ordnance Survey showing Blocks A,B and C superimposed (not to scale)*

Figure 12 *Part of Baines' 1822 map of the area with Blocks A,B and C superimposed. (not to scale)*

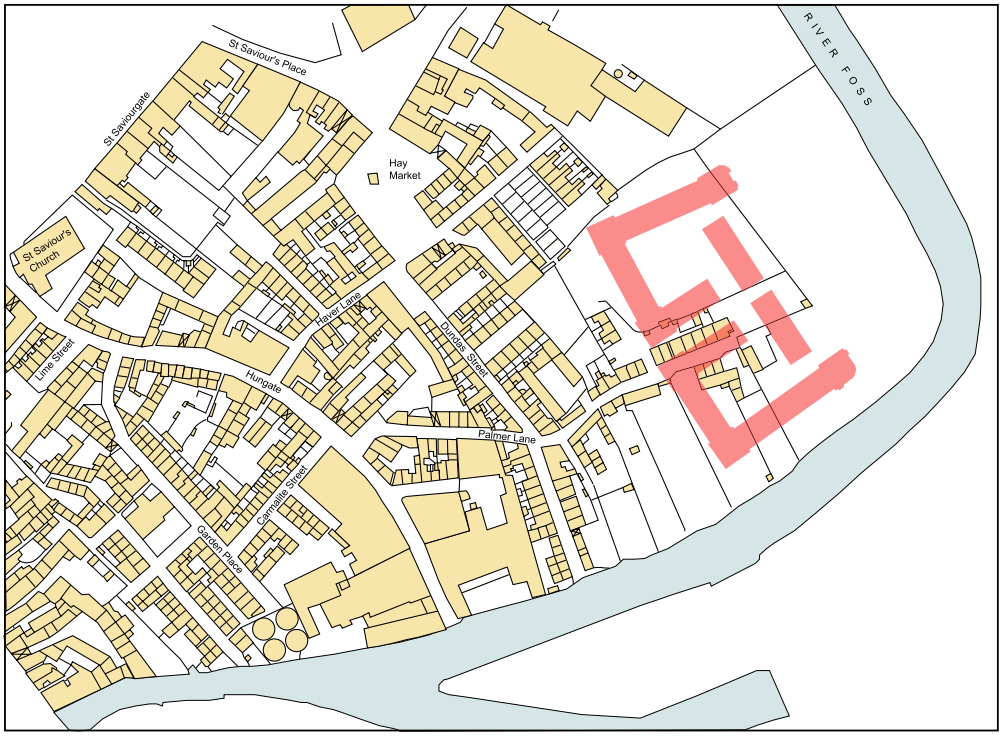

Figure 13 *Part of the 1909 Ordnance Survey showing Blocks A,B and C superimposed (not to scale)*

Figure 14 *Part of the 1936/7 Ordnance Survey showing Blocks A,B and C superimposed (not to scale)*

APPENDIX 2: Plates

Plate 1 *Initial site stripping, central Block A, looking south east*

Plate 2 *Initial site stripping, Block A, looking north*

Plate 3 *Levelling deposits, north-west end of Block C, looking south-east*

Plate 4 *Levelling deposits and concrete raft, Block C, looking north-east*

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