



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Land off Lilbourne Drive, Clifton, York		
CLIENT NAME	Lovell Partnerships		
YAT PROJECT #	5485	YAT REPORT #	2011/50
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	YORAT: 2011.1	GRID REFERENCE	SE 5965 5385
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief was carried out between 14/02/11 and 15/02/11 by York Archaeological Trust at a development site on the south side of Bur Dyke, between Lilbourne Drive and Sutton Way (Figure 1), during site investigation works undertaken by BSP Consulting on behalf of Lovell Partnerships.

The watching brief was required because a number of Roman archaeological sites are known in the vicinity and any groundworks relating to the development of this greenfield site have the potential to contribute significantly to knowledge about the character of the ancient landscape in this area to the north-west of York.

This report presents the results of the six boreholes and nine test pits which were observed. The detailed logs and context descriptions which were recorded for each stratigraphic layer can be found in the site archive.

RESULTS

The top of natural glacial deposits consisting of boulder clay, sands and silts, was observed at approximately 2m below present ground level across the entire site. The natural was overlain by a deposit approximately 0.4m deep of soft (wet) mid-slightly orange brown sandy silt which is interpreted as a buried subsoil. Above this there was a darker, slightly humic band of sandy silt, some 50mm – 200mm thick which appeared to be a buried turf or soil layer (Plate 1). The top of this deposit was encountered at a depth of between 0.7m – 1.6m below present ground level and was observed in all the test pits. Traces of it were apparent in some of the bore holes, although it was generally less distinct. Medieval and post-medieval finds were recovered from these deposits. This layer, which was consistent across the site, probably represents a buried medieval or post-medieval agricultural ploughsoil.

Finds from deposits in the archaeological layers above the buried soil contained relatively modern debris, including in places plastics and bicycle parts, suggesting that a large volume of overburden had been imported and deposited on the site. The irregular topography of the site is a modern construct and is probably the result of landscaping during the construction of early 20th century and later housing along the adjacent streets.

The watching brief has established that remains of an historic landscape lie beneath 0.7m below the present ground level at this site. It is possible that significant features relating to the medieval and earlier landscape of this area are extant beneath the turf/ploughsoil layer, but that these were not encountered in any of the test pits due to the small size and wide distribution of the areas investigated. The possibility that they might be encountered during groundworks for any development of this land should be taken into account.

COMPLETED BY	B. Reeves	CHECKED BY	M. Stockwell	FINISHED	27/06/11
FINDS	Yes	SAMPLES	No	PHOTOS	Yes
				PAGE	1 of 3





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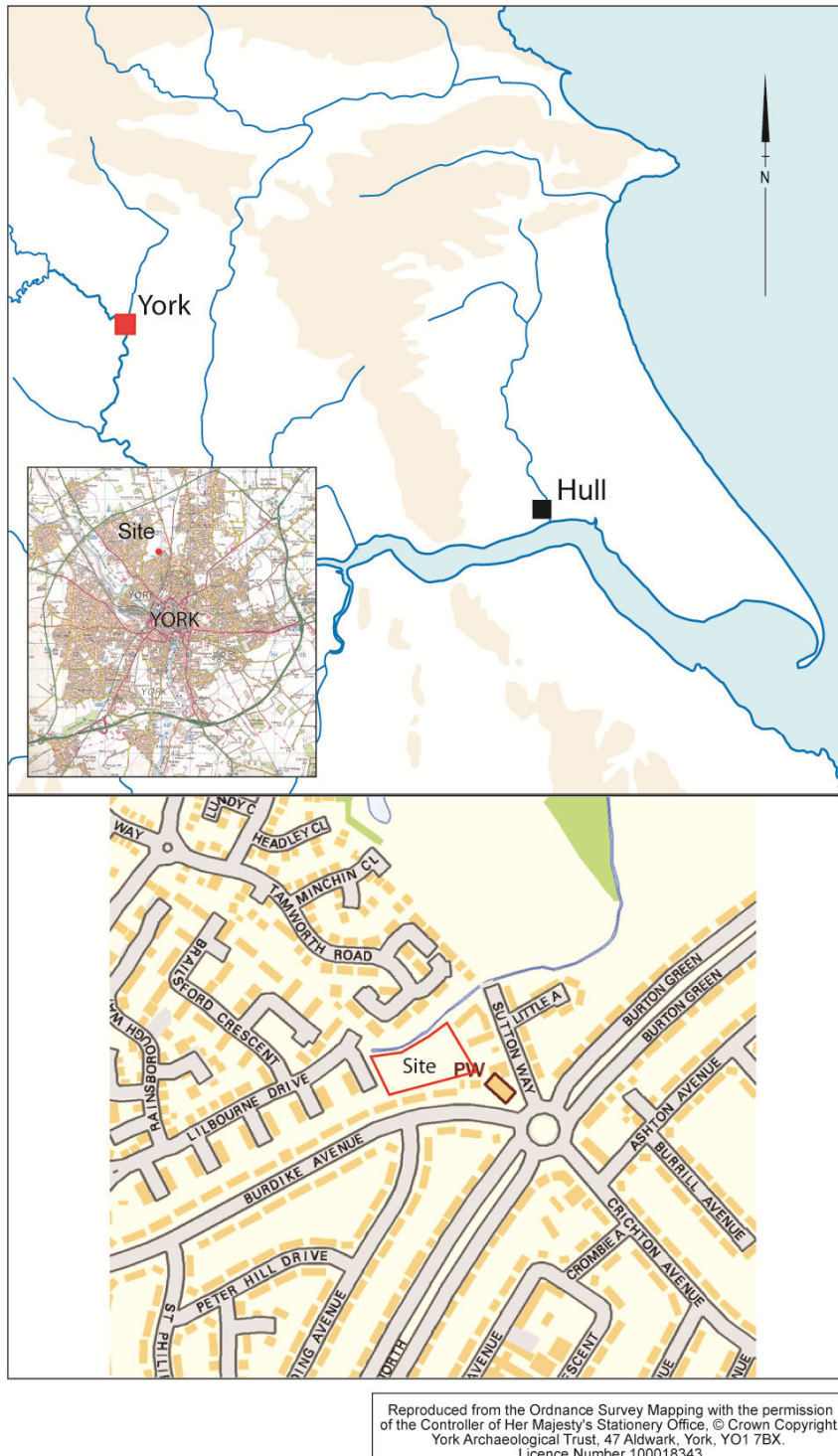


Figure 1 Site location

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Plate 1 Dark band interpreted as a buried soil layer and buried subsoil, observed in Test Pit 9

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