



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Sewer repair, junction of Skeldergate and Queen's Staithe, York		
CLIENT NAME	Peter Duffy Ltd		
YAT PROJECT #	5567	YAT REPORT #	2011/76
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 6021 5150
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a

INTRODUCTION

Between 14th and 16th November 2011 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief in the roadway at the junction of Skeldergate and Queen's York (Figure 1). The objective was to record any deposits, features or buried structures of archaeological significance encountered during the works, the repair of a sewer. This involved the excavation of a hole c.3m x 1.2m and 3.6m deep. The site was visited on a regular basis and an archaeologist was present during most of the excavation work below clearly modern deposits and services. Recording took the form of written notes and measured sketches supplemented by a series of colour digital photographs. A single representative section was recorded and is described below.

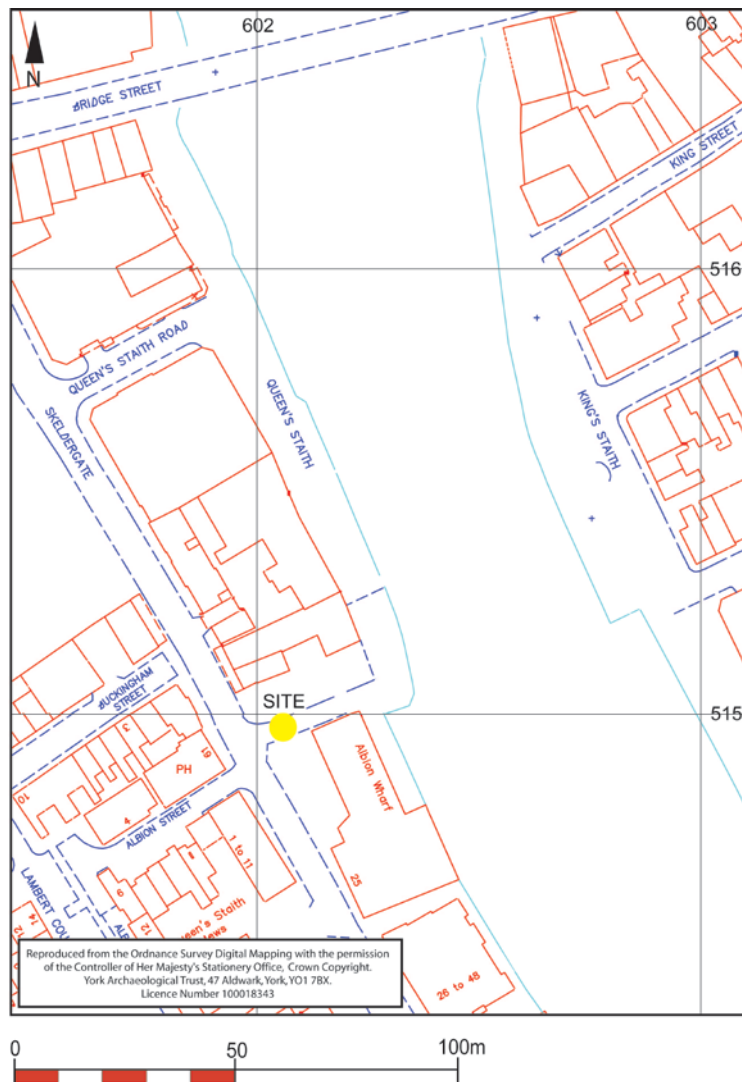


Figure 1 Site location

COMPLETED BY	D.T. Evans	CHECKED BY	M.R. Stockwell	FINISHED	04/05/12
FINDS	No	SAMPLES	No	PHOTOS	Yes
				PAGE	1 of 4

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No. 509060



Registered Office:
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RESULTS

The lowest context noted, at a depth of c.3.9m below existing modern ground level, was a bed of white concrete (1000) forming the bedding for the sewer pipe (1001) due for repair. Overlying this was a 0.6m deep deposit of moist, dark greyish-brown mottled slightly clayey silt (1002). This was sealed by a 1m deep layer of damp, mid greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with occasional brick / tile, pale brown mortar and limestone fragments (1003) and above this was a deposit of dark greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt with moderate pale brown mortar and occasional brick / tile (1004), seen between 0.5m and 2m below modern ground level. Overlying this was a 0.25m deep layer of dark brown silt with moderate brick / tile and pale brown mortar (1005). This was sealed by a 0.15m deep layer of tarmac pieces (1006) which formed the make-up for the modern road surface of tarmac (1007).

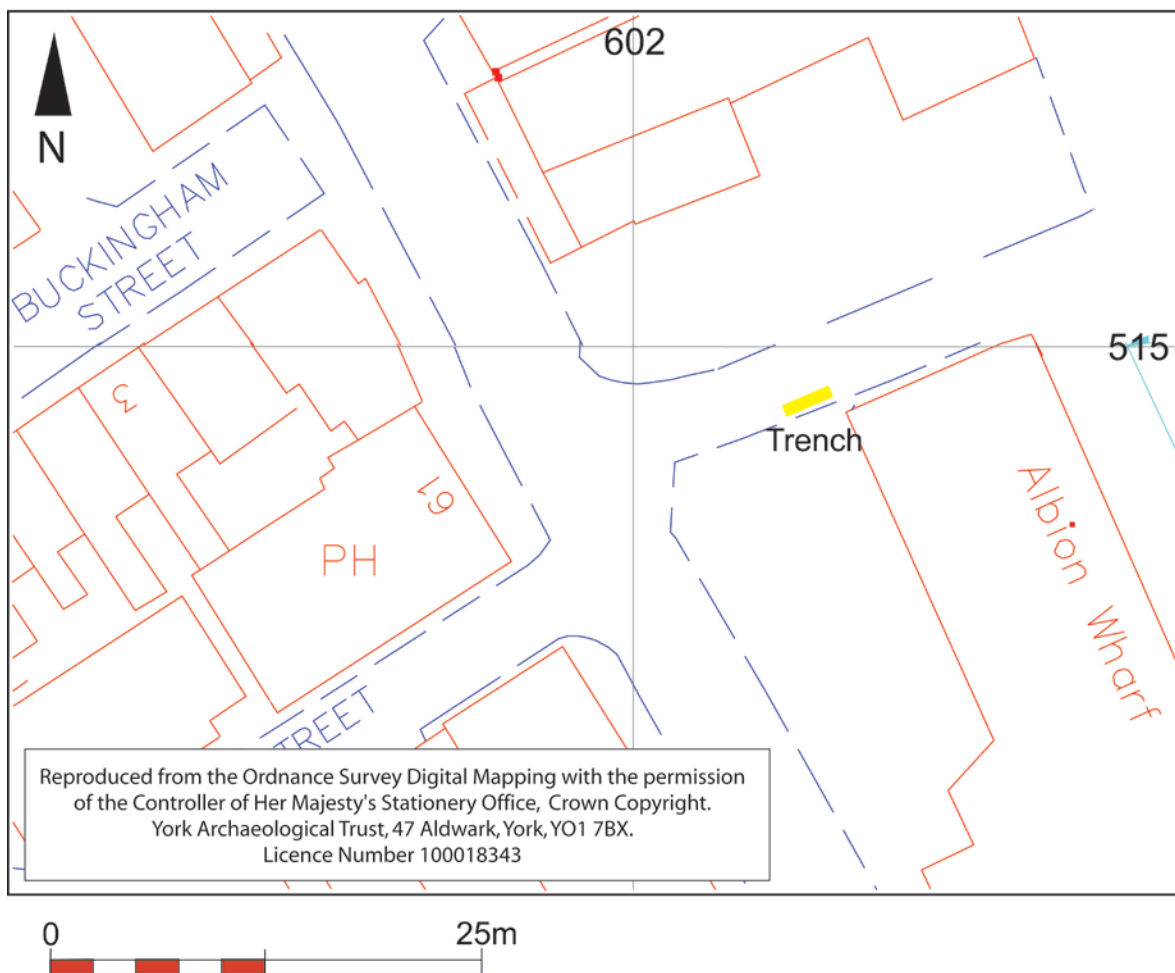


Figure 2 Location of trench

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Plate 1 Modern deposits at top of trench, looking south-west



Plate 2 Vertical view of base of trench

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DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

At no point was any construction trench for the sewer pipe observed and it appeared to be directly overlain by the dark silt 1002. If this is correct it implies that all of the overlying material has been laid down since the installation of the sewer and that the ground level in the immediate vicinity has been raised by c.3m in relatively modern times. Although not impossible, given the location of the trench immediately adjacent to Skeldergate, this does seem unlikely and it is likely that the construction trench was simply not seen or possibly removed by a later intrusion also not seen. All of the deposits above the dark silts 1002 and 1003 appeared to be modern and it is not felt that any archaeology of any great significance was disturbed during these works.

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