



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

<b>SITE ADDRESS</b>	Gas Utility trench, Burton Stone Lane, York		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	Northern Gas Networks		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	5708	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	2013/38
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	n/a	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 5961 5274
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	n/a	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	n/a

## INTRODUCTION

On 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief on utility works in Burton Stone Lane, York. The objective was to record any archaeological deposits, features or buried structures exposed during the renewal of a gas main. The watching brief was due to the works being immediately adjacent to a known Roman cemetery located south-east of the junction of Burton Stone Lane and Bootham / Clifton. Recording took the form of written notes and measured sketches supplemented by a number of colour digital photographs. A total of seven trenches were examined and four representative sections, described below, were recorded.

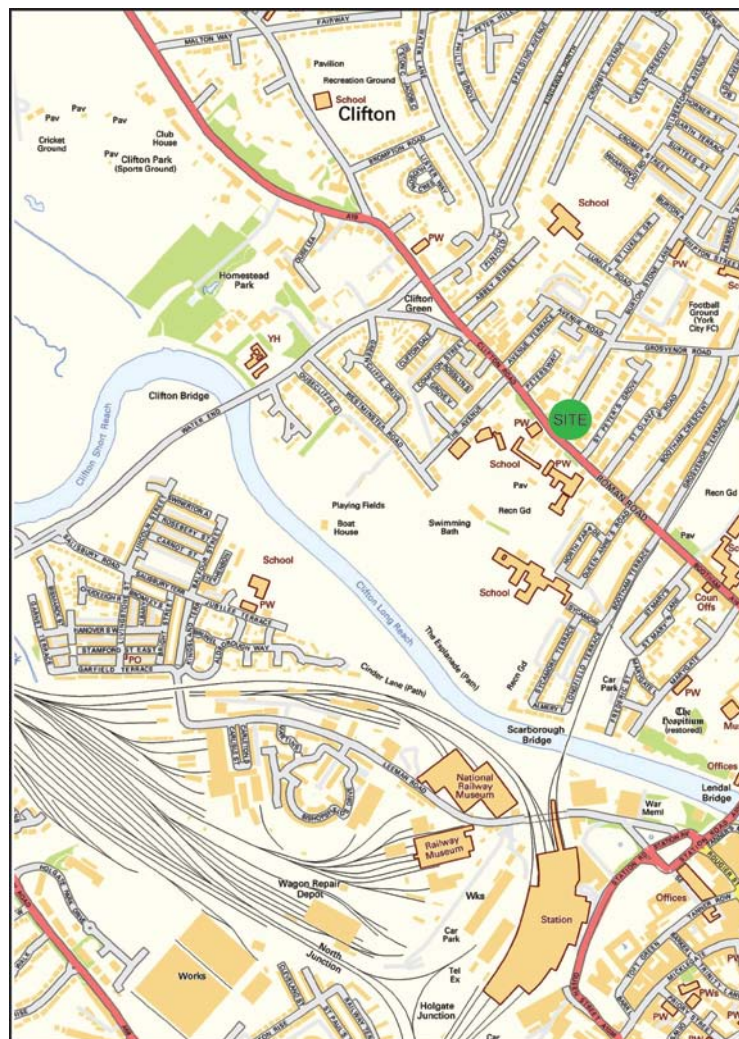


Figure 1 Site location  
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010

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				<b>PAGE</b>	1 of 5

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## RESULTS

### SECTION 1

In this section the earliest deposit noted, at between 1.1m and at least the base of the trench at 1.3m below modern ground level (BGL), was a light brown sand (1000). Overlying this was a 0.2m deep mixture of dark greyish-brown silt and mid orange sand (1001) and above this there was a 0.2m deep layer of dark greyish-brown silt (1002). This was sealed by a 0.2m deep deposit of dark greyish-brown slightly sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments (1003). Above this was a 0.25m deep layer of firm, light to mid brown slightly sandy silt (1004) which was overlain by a 0.15m deep deposit of mid brown silt with frequent pebbles and occasional limestone fragments (1005). This was sealed by the modern road surface of tarmac (1006).

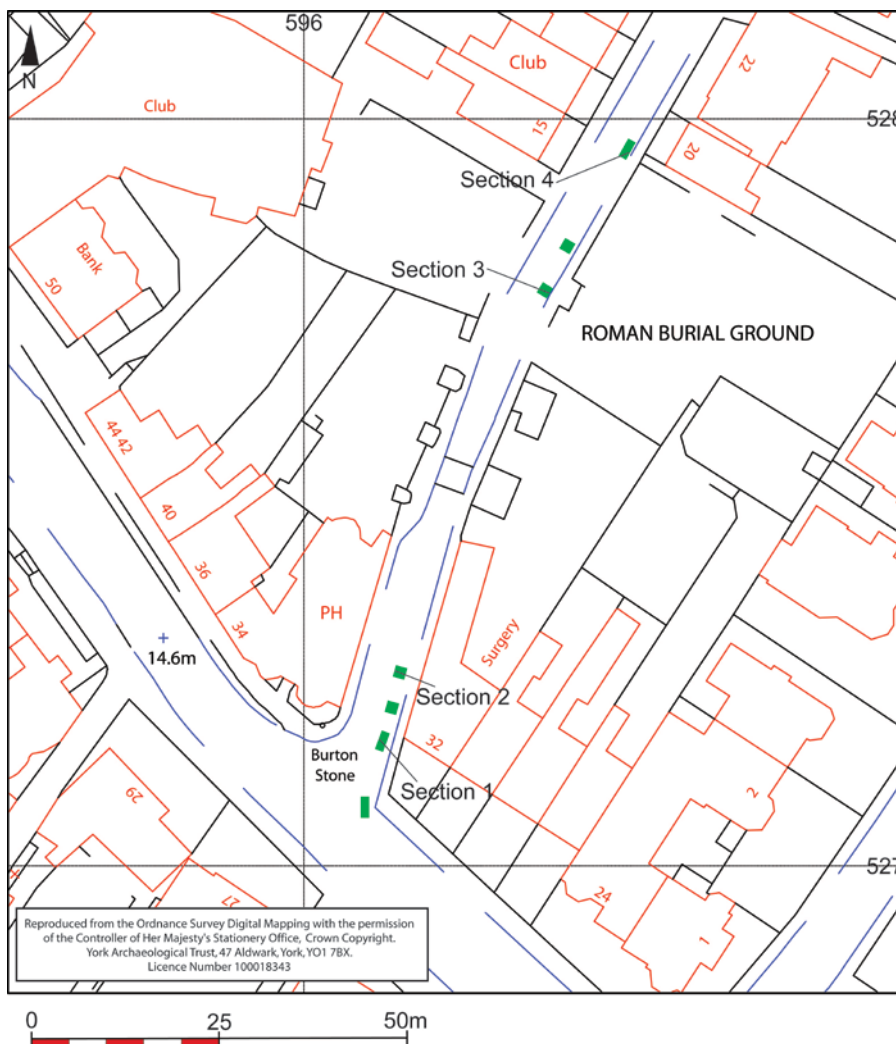


Figure 2 Location of observed trenches and recorded sections

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### SECTION 2

The lowest deposit recorded in this section, between 1m and at least 1.3m BGL, was a dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt (1007). Above this was a 0.7m deep layer of mid brownish-grey slightly clayey silt with occasional brick / tile and brown mortar (1008). This was sealed by a 0.2m deep deposit of dark brown slightly clayey silt with moderate brick / tile and pebbles (1009) which formed the bedding for the modern road surface of tarmac (1010).



*Plate 1 General view of southern end of works, looking north*

### SECTION 3

In this section the earliest deposit noted, between 1m and at least 1.2m BGL, was a mid orange pebbly clay (1011) and above this was a 0.75m deep layer of mid greyish-brown very slightly clayey silt with occasional pebbles (1012). Sealing this was a 0.15m deep deposit of mid brown silt with frequent pebbles and occasional brick / tile (1013). Above this was the modern road surface of tarmac (1014)

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				<b>PAGE</b>	<b>3 of 5</b>

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### SECTION 4

The lowest deposit recorded in this section, between 1.1m and at least 1.2m BGL, was a clean mid brown clay (1015). Overlying this was a 0.3m deep layer of mid greyish-brown clayey silt (1016) which was sealed by a 0.5m deep deposit of mid brown very slightly clayey silt with patches of mid orange clay and moderate brick / tile (1017). Above this was a 0.2m deep mixture of tarmac pieces, mid brown silt and cobbles (1018) forming the bedding for the modern road surface of tarmac (1019).



*Plate 2 Deposits opposite Section 1, looking east*

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The clay seen in the bases of Trenches 1, 3 and 4 is likely to be natural and was encountered at a fairly consistent depth of c.1.1m below modern ground level. However, in Trench 2, a dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt (1007) was still present at c.1.3m below modern ground level. This may represent a slight dip in the level of natural in the immediate vicinity. Alternatively it may be the backfill of a feature but if so it must be quite large since the deposit seemed to be present over the entire base of the trench, measuring c.1.8m by 1.3m. Other than this the remaining deposits seemed to be agricultural in nature and undated or modern deposits associated with existing services. It is believed that no archaeology of any great significance was disturbed during these works.

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