ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION IN THE GARDENS OF THE MOUNT ROYALE HOTEL, YORK

By Gary Millward
York Archaeological Trust undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for commercial, academic and charitable clients. We manage projects, provide professional advice and fieldwork to ensure a high quality, cost effective archaeological and heritage service. Our staff have a considerable depth and variety of professional experience and an international reputation for research, development and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology. Based in York, Sheffield, Nottingham and Glasgow the Trust’s services are available throughout Britain and beyond.

York Archaeological Trust, Cuthbert Morrell House, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000   Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024
Email: archaeology@yorkat.co.uk   Website: http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk

© 2016 York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited
Registered Office: 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England No. 1430801
A registered Charity in England & Wales (No. 509060) and Scotland (No. SCO42846)
Figures

Figure 1: Site location at 10,000m scale
Figure 2: Site location at 5,000m scale
Figure 3: Trial pit locations within proposed development area
Figure 4: Sections of trial pits 1, 2 and 3
Figure 5: Sections of Trial pits 4, 5 and 6
Figure 6: Locations and values for AOD garden survey
Figure 7: 1852 OS map of study area showing landscaped gardens and site of St James’ Chapel

Abbreviations

AOD = Above Ordnance Datum
BPGL = Below Present Ground Level
OS = Ordnance Survey
NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This evaluation report, compiled by York Archaeological Trust in December 2016, provides a descriptive, drawn and photographic record of six trial pits excavated in the rear gardens of the Mount Royale Hotel. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of planning for a proposed housing development as the site was thought to have high archaeological potential. This was due to a number of past archaeological investigations, conducted in the area, which had found Roman burials.

This evaluation revealed no evidence for Roman burials and instead revealed that there has been substantial levelling and alteration to the ground level within the terraced gardens, dating from the 19th century onwards.

The archaeological deposits encountered during this evaluation were locally significant and of low archaeological importance.

There is, however, still potential for significant archaeological deposits located beneath the maximum depth reached by this evaluation (approximately 1m BPGL for each Trial Pit) as natural deposits were not encountered within any of the trial pits.
KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Mount Royale Hotel, York</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YAT Project No.</td>
<td>5947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document Number</td>
<td>YAT 2016/90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Project</td>
<td>Trial Pit Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client</td>
<td>DC Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Application No.</td>
<td>Pre-Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGR</td>
<td>SE 5945 5095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Accession No.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OASIS Identifier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REPORT INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Produced by</th>
<th>Edited by</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Initials</td>
<td>Initials</td>
<td>Initials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>GM</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>DA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13/12/15</td>
<td>16/12/16</td>
<td>22/12/16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copyright Declaration:
York Archaeological Trust give permission for the material presented within this report to be used by the archives/repository with which it is deposited, in perpetuity, although York Archaeological Trust retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports, as specified in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (chapter IV, section 79). The permission will allow the repository to reproduce material, including for use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

Disclaimer:
This document has been prepared for the commissioning body and titled project (or named part thereof) and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of the author being obtained. York Archaeological Trust accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than that for which it was commissioned.
1 INTRODUCTION

Between the 6th and 13th of December 2016 six trial pits were excavated within the rear-gardens of the Mount Royale Hotel, York by York Archaeological Trust (Figures 1 and 2). The proposed development is for three residential buildings. The objective of the trial pits was to record and characterise any archaeological deposits, features or buried structures likely to be disturbed by the proposed ground works in the gardens. The Mount Royale Hotel is a Grade II listed building situated within the City of York Central Historic Core Conservation Area.

2 METHODOLOGY

The trial pits were all located within the flower beds of the Mount Royale Hotel gardens (Figure 2). Their positions were selected to cause minimum disturbance to the active plants within the beds and were located post-excavation using measurements taken in the field from features visible on OS mapping.

The original plan was to excavate a total of four trial pits (Figure 3). In the end, due to alterations to Trial Pit 1, the division of proposed Trial Pit 4 in to two separate pits and the invitation from the developer and the owner to excavate another trial pit on a terrace just outside the proposed development area, six trial pits were excavated in total.

Trial Pit 1 was located in the north part of the gardens on a raised patio area. Trial Pits 2, 3, 4 and 5 were located in the lower south garden. Trial Pit 6 was excavated on a gravelled area of the terrace immediately north of the lower garden area (Figure 3).

The pits were hand dug to a maximum depth of 1m, with stepping where necessary to ensure the stability and safety of the trench.

Trial Pit 1 was originally planned to cover an area of 2m x 2m but had to be reduced (halved in size) due to the discovery of a piece of asbestos cement board in the northern half. Trial Pits 2 and 3, located in the lower garden, were excavated as planned. These covered areas measuring 1m x 1m and 2m x 1m respectively. Trial Pit 4 was originally planned to cover an area measuring 4m by 1m but, due to the presence of established plants, was split into two separate interventions measuring 2.8m x 1m (Trial Pit 4) and 1.2m x 1m (Trial Pit 5). The additional Trial Pit (6) located on the terrace immediately north of the garden covered an area measuring 1m x 1m (Figure 2).

All recording followed standard YAT methodologies. A unique series of context numbers starting with the prefix number corresponding to the number of the trial pit was allocated to contexts in each test pit. Sections were photographed, drawn and levelled to Ordnance Datum. Finds of pottery, ceramic building material and stone were retained for further assessment. No environmental samples were taken.

York Archaeological Trust backfilled, levelled and compressed the spoil from the trial pits as far as possible by hand on completion of the investigation.
3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The Mount Royale Hotel is located just off the A1036 Mount Vale road into York. It is also 0.7km south-west of Micklegate Bar, the south-western entrance to the medieval walled city. The site area is bounded to the north-east by Albemarle Road and to the south-west by the gardens of 121 The Mount (Figures 1 and 2). The proposed development area is situated to the south of the Hotel within existing gardens (Figure 3). It is rectangular in plan, covering an area of approximately 40 square meters centred on NGR SE 5945 5095.

The site contains two distinct bands of geology. The geology under the hotel and extending into the gardens south and south east of the site, consists of the York Moraine, sandy, clayey, gravel deposits with underlying sandstone of the Sherwood Sandstone Group. To the west are Elvington Glaciolacustrine formations of clay and silt with underlying sandstone of the Sherwood Sandstone Group (www.bgs.ac.uk, accessed 08/12/16).

Further north of the site lies Driffield Terrace where archaeological excavations in 2005 – 2012 encountered sandstones that are overlain by a drift geology that is generally Boulder Clay over Lacustrine clays, with deposits of sand and gravel (Ottaway, P. 2005/27.YAT).

Outside the front of the Mount Royale Hotel the ground level is 19.76m AOD. The ground level immediately south of the hotel measures 21.08m AOD and the gardens slope to the south, in distinct terraced levels, down to 19.73m AOD at the southern end of the proposed development area (Figure 6).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located within an area of high archaeological potential, with evidence having been found for continuous activity from the Roman period to the present day.

4.1.1 PREHISTORY

The site lies on top of the terminal glacial moraine, known as the York Moraine, that runs through this part of the city. Work at St Paul’s Green, Holgate, 400m NNW of the current site identified kettle-holes in the clayey moraine natural where peat had formed (Antoni and Hunter-Mann, 1999). Pottery of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date was recovered from the uppermost peat deposits. Prehistoric activity is rarely identified in York; much of the evidence found so far comes from the higher ground of the York Moraine and the development of this site may offer an opportunity to sample more of this landscape.

4.1.2 ROMAN

Roman funerary archaeology represents the primary archaeological activity in this area. The Mount area has provided many of the best known monumental tombs and funerary inscriptions from Roman York with many recovered before the mid-nineteenth century. Discoveries have been made at the junction of Dalton Terrace and The Mount. At No.2 Dalton Terrace, 200m from the current site, the inscribed coffin of Aelia Severa was found in 1859 (RCHMS 1, 99). The inscribed lid from a different
burial, that of Flavia Augustina, had been used to cover this coffin. Despite the inscriptions it contained a male skeleton indicating re-use of monumental funerary material.

In 2004 work at Driffield Terrace, 150m north-west of the current site, revealed an extensive area of decapitated and largely unfurnished Roman burials (Ottaway, 2005) that were in stark contrast to the cemetery remains found elsewhere in the area. In 2002 On-Site-Archaeology carried out an evaluation on Mill Mount, 60m north-east of the current site, where a single Roman burial was discovered at a depth of 0.50m (Palmer, 2002). An evaluation by York Archaeological Trust in 2015 at 2a Trentholme Drive, 200m south-west of the current site, revealed one Roman burial at a depth of 0.60m. In the 1950s at 2a Trentholme Drive, 200m south-west of the site, a total of 34 Roman burials across the front and rear gardens were recovered at a depth of 0.48-0.59m (McComish, 2015).

4.1.3 ANGLIAN

There is limited evidence for Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian activity; however the discovery of 5th century cremations during antiquarian excavations within the Roman cemetery suggest that early medieval archaeology could be present.

4.1.4 ANGLO-SCANDINAVIAN -MEDIEVAL

Whilst no significant archaeological material of this date range is known from this area, the 1852 OS map indicates that on the other side of the Abermarle Road junction is the “supposed” location for St James Chapel (Figure 7). This chapel is discussed in Raine (1955, 307-309) and the VCHY (1961, 376) as being the place where processions for new Archbishops coming to the city to be enthroned began. They would continue from St James’ Chapel to the Minster barefoot (Raine 1955, 308). Furthermore a condition of the lands of this church being granted was that felons executed at the nearby gallows would be buried in the Chapel Garth (Raine 1955, 307-308). The chapel and graveyard are frequently mentioned in medieval documents (Raine 1955, 308) and St James’ acted as a landmark due to its position on the highest part of the Mount until the dissolution of chantries (VCHY 1962, 376). Parts of St James’ Chapel were still standing in 1651, however remaining foundations and traces were completely razed in 1736 for the purposes of widening the road (Raine 1955, 309 and VCHY 1961, 376). There is potential for finding remains of this chapel in the proposed works at the Mount Royale due to the proximity of the site to the supposed location of St James’ Chapel.

4.1.5 POST-MEDIEVAL

The remains of a Civil War sconce have long been held to lie in the area of the Mount, and the disturbance of the area’s Roman burials is often ascribed to the building of this mid-seventeenth century feature (RCHMS 1999, 97). Some evidence for the sconce may have been revealed in the 2004 Driffield Terrace excavations (B. Antoni, pers. comm.) but definitive evidence for this has never been confirmed.

A barrel-lined well was observed on the site in 1981 and interpreted as possibly being of Civil War origin.

Research has brought to light a sequence of landscaping from the late Georgian period onwards. The hotel site was originally two Georgian houses, nos. 117 and 119 The Mount, built in 1833/4 (Historic
England, 117 & 119 The Mount List Entry Summary, [https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1256455](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1256455 Accessed: 21/12/16). Both houses had extensive landscaped gardens according to the 1852 OS map (Figure 7) and the two plots were only combined and extended to create the Mount Royale Hotel in 1967 (Mount Royale Hotel, About Us: [http://www.mountroyale.co.uk/about-us/](http://www.mountroyale.co.uk/about-us/) Accessed: 21/12/16). Conversion to the hotel will have led to additional re-landscaping, therefore there is likely to be up to 183 years of deposits relating to these processes present.

4.2 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

York Archaeological Trust excavated an 8m X 2m trench in the development area in 1977 prior to the construction of a swimming pool that is still extant (Figures 3). An unconsolidated scatter of cobbles and pebbles was observed at 850mm BPGL and tentatively interpreted as a surface but it was not particularly coherent. Natural clay was observed at approximately 600mm – 850mm across the trench, overlain by the cobbles spread. Above this was subsoil up to 600mm thick which produced a few sherds of abraded Roman pottery. The top soil was up to 300mm thick. (YAT Archive 1977.27). A similar spread of cobbles and sub-angular stone was found in Trial Pit 3 of this excavation; however it is not definitively the same as the deposit found in 1977.

York Archaeological Trust also undertook the recording of the well discovered on the site in 1981 (Figure 3). The well was barrel-lined with surviving timbers and measured 1.9m across by 1.1m deep. The fill was a mixture of ash and clinker and had been disturbed by a later storm water drain. The well was provisionally interpreted as being of Civil War date and associated with the sconce but no dating evidence was obtained to confirm this (YAT archive 1981.19).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Trial Pits

The trial pits were located on two distinct levels of garden terrace in the Mount Royale Hotel gardens. Trial pits 1 and 6 were on a higher terrace level than trial pits 2, 3, 4 and 5 (Figure 3). The profiles of each trial pit can be seen in Plates 1 – 6 (Section 7) and on Figures 4 and 5. A full list of context descriptions is given in Appendix 2. Brief descriptions of each trial pit are given in the following sections.

5.1.1 Trial Pit 1.

Trial Pit 1 (Figure 4, Plate 1) measured 2.1m long, 1.1m wide and 0.7m deep. It contained a sequence of deposits primarily related to garden activity. The first deposit (Context 1000) was the topsoil currently in use in the garden. Below this was a levelling deposit of 300mm (Context 1001) from which blue plastic was recovered supporting a modern date. This was possibly related to work in the 1980s to raise the surrounding ground level for the patio.

Natural (Context 1003) was reached at 0.65m BPGL with a possible interface layer or earlier subsoil above (Context 1002). Ceramic building material dated to the post-medieval period was also recovered suggesting an earlier phase of ground levelling than the 1980s works, possibly Georgian landscaping.
5.1.2 Trial Pit 2.

Trial Pit 2 (Figure 4, Plate 2) measured 1.0m long, 1.0m wide and 1.0m deep. It also contained deposits primarily thought to relate to garden activity. The topsoil (Context 2000) was consistent with all of the other pits. Below this was subsoil (Context 2001) which contained modern finds material which was discarded.

A cut feature, possibly a pit (Context 2004), was identified at 0.5m BPGL. This contained re-deposited orange-brown natural clay (Context 2003) similar to that found in Trial Pit 1 (Context 1003). No finds were recovered from the backfill though the shape and contents of the feature suggest a modern garden landscaping feature.

This feature was cut into another substantial levelling deposit at least 500mm thick. A small amount of abraded pottery was recovered which appears to be 18\textsuperscript{th}-19\textsuperscript{th} century in date. The base of this deposit was not reached due to the safe limit of excavation having been reached (approximately 1m BPGL).

5.1.3 Trial Pit 3.

Trial Pit 3 (Figure 4, Plate 3) measured 2.0m long, 1.0m wide and 1.2m deep. This Trial Pit shared similarities with Trial Pits 1 and 2. The topsoil (Context 3000) was consistent with the other pits. The subsoil (Context 3001) also shared similarities with (Context 2001) due to the physical closeness of the two pits (within 2m).

The levelling deposit below (Context 3002) also shared similarities with that of Trial Pit 2 (Context 2002). However, where the deposit in Trial Pit 2 had a maximum depth of 150mm, the deposit in Trial Pit 3 had a depth of up to 350mm. The differences in depths are possibly accounted for by the natural north–south slope of the garden. Ceramic building material and stoneware of 18\textsuperscript{th} – 19\textsuperscript{th} century date was recovered from 3002.

A cobble and stone layer (Context 3003) located underneath this levelling is also probably archaeological, despite the recovery of no finds, as it did not resemble the expected geology of the glacial moraine. There was, however, no discernible pattern, bedding, or bonding material, so it is unknown if this was a deliberate stone surface, the foundation for a lost structure or another levelling deposit.

No finds were recovered from the deposits beneath this stone layer (Contexts 3004 and 3005). They both contained little in the way of inclusions and it is possible that they were bedding layers for the stone surface. They may also, however, be natural deposits belonging to the Elvington Glaciolacustrine sequence. Due to the limited scope of these interventions a large enough sample of these deposits was not exposed to make a properly informed judgement. If these deposits were natural then it was encountered at 0.9m BPGL in Trial Pit 3.

5.1.4 Trial Pit 4.

Trial Pit 4 (Figure 5, Plate 4) measured 2.8m long, 1.0m wide and 1.1m deep. It contained a similar sequence of archaeological deposits to Trial Pits 2 and 5. Topsoil (Context 4000) was consistent with other pits. Beneath the topsoil a makeup deposit (Context 4001) resembled the re-deposited orange clay natural within the pit from Trial Pit 2. Ceramic building material and pottery recovered indicated a 19\textsuperscript{th}-century date suggesting another levelling deposit connected to the landscaping of the garden.
At 0.5m BPGL, similar to Trial Pit 2, a substantial deposit of probable horticultural soil (Context 4002) was uncovered. Pottery and ceramic building material was recovered and included some re-deposited Norman and medieval sherds. Other finds, however, indicate that this horticultural deposit was related to 19th-century landscaping.

Natural deposits were not reached by 1.2m BPGL.

5.1.5 **Trial Pit 5.**

Trial Pit 5 (Figure 5, Plate 5) measured 1.2m long, 1.0m wide and 0.9m deep. It was located within 4 metres of Trial Pit 4 and a similar profile was expected. The topsoil (Context 5000) was consistent with other pits. Identical deposits to Trial Pit 4 were largely encountered with the main exception being the presence of a large amount of root disturbance. The roots had largely destroyed the re-deposited clay natural levelling layer (Context 5001) in the western half of the pit. The horticultural soil layer (Context 5002) was uncovered at 0.4m BPGL. Pottery and ceramic building material was recovered consistent with a 19th-century date.

Natural was not reached by 0.9m BPGL and further excavation within this smaller trial pit was impossible due to the level of root disturbance.

5.1.6 **Trial Pit 6.**

Trial Pit 6 (Figure 5, Plate 6) measured 1.0m long, 1.0m wide and 0.9m deep. It was an additional pit excavated in order to compare the profiles of the pits across different terraces. The topsoil (Context 6001) was consistent with the other trial pits and was located below a layer of modern gravel (Context 6000).

A horticultural soil (Context 6002) encountered below the top soil was similar to that of Trial Pits 2, 4, and 5. However the deposit was uncovered at a much shallower depth (0.25m BPGL) which would be consistent with a steeper former topography altered by 19th-century landscaping.

As with Trial Pit 1, which was also on a higher terrace, the orange-brown, clayey natural was encountered at approximately 0.7m BPGL.

6 **SUMMARY**

This evaluation revealed, as was discussed in section 4.1.5, that there has been at least two substantial levelling and landscaping events within the gardens from the 19th century onwards.

Natural deposits were encountered between 0.65m and 0.85m BPGL in the trial pits on the higher terrace (Pits 1 and 6). Both pits contained a levelling deposit (possibly a horticultural soil) which contained 19th-century or later finds material. The evidence from the pits cut in to the higher terrace appear to indicate that there has been a deliberate raising of the garden level around the time of the construction of the original hotel buildings in the 1830s.

The four trial pits dug within the lower garden terrace also revealed a significant build-up of the ground level in the form of levelling deposits, and a buried horticultural soil dating to the 19th century.
The stone surface (Context 3003) or levelling deposit encountered in Trial Pit 3 represents the only archaeological feature which may not date to the 19th century within this evaluation. However, as no finds were recovered from it, or the deposits beneath, it is impossible to be certain.

There is, however, still potential for significant archaeological deposits located beneath the lower garden as natural deposits were not encountered within all of the trial pits (It is uncertain whether the lowest deposits in Trial Pit 3 were natural due to the limited scope of the intervention).

The proposed development, therefore, is unlikely to disturb significant archaeological deposits within 1m of the current ground level (a depth of approximately 18.90m AOD) on the lower garden terrace.

Whilst conducting the works a large number of architectural fragments (Plates 7 and 8) were observed within the gardens of the Mount Royale Hotel. A survey of the gardens could be conducted to determine the significance and possible origins for these artefacts. There is potential for the fragments to relate to the nearby St James’ Chapel as was discussed in section 4.1.4.
PLATES

Plate 1: Trial pit 1 viewed from the South

Plate 2: Trial pit 2 viewed from the West
Plate 3: Trial pit 3 viewed from the West

Plate 4: Trial pit 4 viewed from the East
Plate 5: Trial Pit 5 viewed from the East

Plate 6: Trial Pit 6 viewed from the North
Plate 7: Architectural fragment observed in garden during excavation

Plate 8: Architectural fragment observed in garden during excavation
LIST OF SOURCES

REFERENCES
McComish, J.M. 2015. ‘2a Trenholme Drive, York’ YAT report 2015/14
Raine, A. 1955. ‘Mediaeval York: a topographical survey based on original sources.’
RCHMS. 1999. ‘Recording Archaeological Field Monuments – a descriptive specification.’
YAT. 1981. ‘Mount Royale Hotel.’ YAT Archive 1981.19

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Assistance with the production of this report text and illustrations provided by Emma Boast, Katie Smith and Rebecca Wilson.

APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Number of items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Context sheets</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levels register</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original drawings</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital photographs</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Scheme of Investigation</td>
<td>1 copy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report</td>
<td>1 copy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Index to archive
### APPENDIX 2 – Context List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
<th>Context no.</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>Topsoil – friable, dark greyish brown, sandy silt. Occasional small stones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1001</td>
<td>Levelling Deposit – friable, brownish grey, sandy silt. Moderate stones. Occasional flecks of charcoal, small fragments of CBM, blue plastic 9 (decayed tarpaulin?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1002</td>
<td>Subsoil – friable, mid orangey brown, sandy clay. Occasional CBM, charcoal flecks, chalk fragments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1003</td>
<td>Natural – firm, orangey brown, sandy clay. Occasional charcoal flecks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Pit Cut – extent of cut not reached, shape in plan unknown, sharp break of slope at top, steep sides, sharp break of slope at base, flat base. 350mm x 930mm, length unknown. Possibly relates to 18th-Century landscaping of gardens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Levelling/Horticultural deposit – firm dark greyish brown, silty clay. Moderate charcoal flecks, small to medium stones. Pottery found and retained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>Topsoil – friable, dark brownish grey, sandy silt. Frequent roots. Occasional CBM fragments, small stones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3001</td>
<td>Levelling deposit – firm, dark brownish grey, sandy silt. Frequent roots, mortar flecks, CBM fragments, angular stones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3002</td>
<td>Levelling deposit – firm, mid greyish brown, sandy clay. Occasional CBM fragments, mortar lumps, charcoal flecks, stones. CBM retained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3003</td>
<td>Stone Surface – small angular stones and cobbles, between 10mm - 140mm in size. In a matrix of firm, brownish grey, sandy clay. Pre-18th century?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3004</td>
<td>Levelling deposit/ natural? – firm, light greyish yellow, sandy clay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3005</td>
<td>Bedding deposit/ natural? – friable, light grey, clayey sand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>Topsoil – friable, dark brownish grey, sandy silt. Frequent roots and CBM fragments. Occasional small stones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4001</td>
<td>Levelling deposit – firm, light orangey brown, sandy clay. Frequent small stones, medium sized cobbles, CBM fragments. Occasional mortar flecks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4002</td>
<td>Horticultural soil – Friable, dark brownish grey, sandy silt. Frequent small angular stones, CBM fragments (small), charcoal flecks, roots. Occasional coal lumps.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5000 Topsoil – friable, dark brownish grey, sandy silt. Frequent roots and CBM fragments. Occasional small stones.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5001 Levelling deposit – firm, light orangey brown, sandy clay. Frequent small stones, medium sized cobbles, CBM fragments. Occasional mortar flecks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6000 Gravel layer – garden surface.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6001 Topsoil – friable, dark brownish grey, silty clay. Occasional small stones.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6003 Natural – firm, mid orangey brown, clay. Moderate chalk fragments, small stones.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Context list
APPENDIX 3 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION/PROJECT BRIEF

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTGATIONS, MOUNT ROYALE HOTEL YORK.

Site Location: Mount Royale Hotel York

NGR: SE 5945 5095

Proposal: Residential development

Planning ref: Pre-planning

Prepared for: DC Architecture

Document Number: YAT 2016/90

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Produced by</th>
<th>Edited by</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Initials</td>
<td>Initials</td>
<td>Initials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CB 02/12/16</td>
<td>IM 05/12/16</td>
<td>DA 05/12/16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 SUMMARY

1.1 DC Architecture is preparing a planning application for three residential units at the Mount Royale Hotel, York.

1.2 The City of York Archaeologist requires an evaluation to be undertaken to support the planning application.

1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in response to a brief supplied by the City of York Archaeologist. The work will be carried out in accordance with the Brief and this WSI, and according to the principles of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance.
SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

2.1 The proposal site is Mount Royale Hotel York (Figure 1). The site is bounded to the north-east by Albemarle Road and to the south-west by 121 The Mount.

DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

3.1 The Mount Royale Hotel is a Grade II listed building. The gateposts and railings at the front of the hotel are separately listed Grade II.

3.2 The site lies in the Area of Archaeological Importance and also in the Historic Core Conservation area.

3.3 There is no machine access to the site. The lawns and setts cannot be disturbed during these works.

ARCHaeOLOGICAL INTEREST

4.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1.1 The proposed development area is located within an area of high archaeological potential, with evidence having been found for continuous activity from the Roman period to the present day.

4.1.2 PREHISTORY

The site lies on top of the terminal glacial moraine that runs through this part of the city. Work at St Paul's Green, Holgate, 400m NNW of the current site identified kettle-holes in the clayey moraine natural where peat had formed (Antoni and Hunter-Mann, 1999). Pottery of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date was recovered from the uppermost peat deposits. Prehistoric activity is very rarely identified in York, and there may be an opportunity at this site to sample more of this landscape.

4.1.3 ROMAN

Roman funerary archaeology represents the primary archaeological activity in this area. The Mount area has provided many of the best known monumental tombs and funerary inscriptions from Roman York, many recovered before the mid-nineteenth century. Discoveries made at the junction of Dalton Terrace and The Mount, and at No.2 Dalton Terrace, which is 200m from the current site, where the inscribed coffin of Aelia Severa was found in 1859 (RCHMY 1, 99). The inscribed lid from a different burial, that of a Flavia Augustina, had been used to cover this coffin, which despite the inscriptions contained a male skeleton, indicating re-use of monumental funerary material.

More recently, in 2004, work at Driffield Terrace, 150m north-west of the current site, revealed an extensive area of decapitated, largely unfurnished Roman burials (Ottaway, 2005) that were in stark contrast to the cemetery remains found elsewhere in the area. In 2002 On-Site-Archaeology carried out an evaluation on Mill Mount, 60m north-east of the current site, where a single Roman burial was discovered at a depth of 0.50m (Palmer, 2002). An evaluation by York Archaeological Trust in 2015 at 2a Trentholme Drive, 200m south-west of the current site revealed one
Roman burial at a depth of 0.60m. In the 1950s at 2a Trenholme Drive, 200m south-west of the site, a total of 34 Roman burials across the front and rear gardens were recovered, at a depth of 0.48-0.59m (McComish, 2015).

4.1.4 ANGLIAN

There is limited evidence for Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian activity, however, the discovery of 5th century cremations during antiquarian excavations within the Roman cemetery suggest that early medieval archaeology could be present.

4.1.5 ANGLO-SCANDINAVIAN -MEDIEVAL

No significant material of this date range is known from this area.

4.1.6 POST-MEDIEVAL

The remains of a Civil War sconce have long been held to lie in the area of the Mount, and the disturbance of the area’s Roman burials is often ascribed to the building of this mid-seventeenth century feature (RCHMY 1, 97). Some evidence for the sconce may have been revealed in the 2004 Driffield Terrace excavations (B. Antoni, pers. comm.) but definitive evidence for this has never been confirmed.

A barrel-lined well was observed on the site in 1981 and interpreted as possibly being of Civil War origin.

4.2 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

4.2.1 YAT excavated an 8m X 2m trench in the development area in 1977 prior to the construction of a swimming pool that is still extant (Figure 2). An unconsolidated scatter of cobbles and pebbles was observed at 850mm BGL and tentatively interpreted as a surface but it was not particularly coherent. Natural clay was observed at c.600mm – c.850mm across the trench, overlain by the cobble spread. Above this was a subsoil up to 600mm thick which produced a few sherds of abraded Roman pottery. Top soil was up to 300mm thick. (YAT Archive 1977.27)

4.2.2 YAT undertook the recording of the well discovered on the site in 1981 (Figure 2). The well was barrel-lined with surviving timbers and measured 1.9m across by 1.1m deep. The fill was a mixture of ash and clinker and had been disturbed by a later storm water drain. The well was provisionally interpreted as being of Civil War date and associated with the sconce but no dating evidence was obtained to confirm this (YAT archive 1981.19).

5 AIMS

5.1 The aims of the evaluation are:

• to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological remains present
• to specifically assess whether Roman burials are present on site
to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local, regional, and national context and for an assessment of the significance of the archaeology of the proposal area to be made

- to provide information to enable the local authority to decide any requirements for further archaeological mitigation for the site

### 6 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

#### 6.1 The evaluation will comprise the following elements:

- Trial trenching
- Reporting

Please note that further stages of work or other mitigation measures could be required by the local authority, depending upon the results of the evaluation.

#### 6.2 A series of 4 trenches will be excavated. The location of the trenches is shown on Figure 2. Trenches will be stepped if necessary, to ensure their stated size at the base of the trench.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Size (m)</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2m x 2m (3m x 3m)</td>
<td>To assess the archaeological sequence of the site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1m x 1m</td>
<td>To assess the archaeological sequence of the site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1m x 2m</td>
<td>To assess the archaeological sequence of the site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1m x 4m</td>
<td>To assess the archaeological sequence of the site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 6.3 The trench locations will be accurately plotted by measurement to local permanent features shown on published Ordnance Survey maps. All measurements will be accurate to +/-10cm, and the trenches locatable on a 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. This is to ensure that the trenches can be independently relocated in the event of future work.

#### 6.4 All excavation shall be undertaken by hand. Overburden such as turf, topsoil or other superficial fill materials will be separately stockpiled for backfilling.

#### 6.5 All trenches will be sufficiently cleaned by hand to enable potential archaeological features to be identified and recorded; areas without archaeological features will be recorded as sterile and no further work will take place in these areas. The stratigraphy of all trenches will be recorded on trench record sheets even where no archaeological features are identified.

#### 6.6 A sufficient sample of any archaeological features and deposits revealed will be excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to establish the aims of the evaluation.

- Discrete features will be half-sectioned in the first instance.
- Human burials will be cleaned sufficient to record *in-situ* without lifting and shall be re-buried *in-situ*
- Linear features will be sample excavated (to a minimum of 25% of their length) with each sample being not less than 1m in length
- Deposits at junctions or interruptions in linear features will be sufficiently excavated to allow relationships to be determined.
- Structures will be sample excavated to a degree whereby their extent nature, form,
RECORDING METHODOLOGY FOR EXCAVATION

7.1 All archaeological features will be recorded using standardised pro forma record sheets. Plans, sections and elevations will be drawn as appropriate and a comprehensive photographic record will be made where archaeological features are encountered.

7.2 Archaeological deposits will be planned at a basic scale of 1:50, with individual features requiring greater detail being planned at a scale of 1:20. Larger scales will be utilised as appropriate. Cross-section of features will be drawn to a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. All drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum. Where it aids interpretation, structural remains will also be recorded in elevation.

7.3 Each context will be described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions. Each context will be given a unique number. These field records will be checked and indexes compiled.

7.4 Photographs of work in progress and post-excavation of individual and groups of features will be taken. This will include general views of entire features and of details such as sections as considered necessary. The photographic record will comprise digital photography at a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.

7.5 Areas which do not contain any archaeological deposits will be photographed and recorded as being archaeologically sterile. The natural stratigraphic sequence within these areas will be recorded.

7.6 All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the CIfA guidance for archaeological materials. Unstratified material will not be kept unless it is of exceptional intrinsic interest. Material discarded as a consequence of this policy will be described and quantified in the field. Finds of particular interest or fragility will be retrieved as Small Finds, and located on plans. Other finds, finds within the topsoil, and dense/discrete deposits of finds will be collected as Bulk Finds, from discrete contexts, bagged by material type. Any dense/discrete deposits will have their limits defined on the appropriate plan.

7.7 All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication First Aid for Finds, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.

7.8 Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with York Archaeological Trust specialists and the Heritage England Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.

7.9 In the event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left in-situ, covered and protected. No excavation of human remains is proposed for this stage of work. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice, and the City of York Archaeologist John Oxley will be informed immediately. An osteoarchaeologist will be available to give advice on site.
If disarticulated remains are encountered, these will be identified and quantified on site. If trenches are being immediately backfilled, the remains will be left in the ground. If the excavations will remain open for any length of time, disarticulated remains will be removed and boxed, for immediate reburial by the Church.

If articulated remains are encountered, these will be cleaned and recorded in situ and re-covered.

Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment.

7.10 Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains must be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law, CIfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and Historic England guidance (2005).

8 SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT

8.1 The stratigraphic information, artefacts, soil samples, and residues will be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study. The material will be quantified (counted and weighted). Specialists will undertake a rapid scan of all excavated material. Ceramic spot dates will be given. Appropriately detailed specialist reports will be included in the report.

8.2 Materials considered vulnerable should be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration must be given to possible investigative procedures (e.g. glass composition studies, residues on or in pottery, and mineral-preserved organic material). Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilization of all objects and a written assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs will be produced. Once assessed, all material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, in accordance with Watkinson and Neal (1998), CIfA (2008) and Museums and Galleries (1992).

8.3 All finds will be cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate, prior to assessment. For ceramic assemblages, any recognised local pottery reference collections and relevant fabric Codes will be used.

8.4 Allowance will be made for the recovery of material suitable for scientific dating and contingency sums will be made available to undertake such dating, if necessary. This will be decided in consultation with John Oxley.

9 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

9.1 Upon completion of the site work, a report will be prepared to include the following:

a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.

b) An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.

c) An account of the methodology and detailed results of the operation, describing structural data, archaeological features, associated finds and environmental data, and a conclusion and discussion.

d) A selection of photographs and drawings, including a detailed plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored, trench locations, selected feature drawings, and selected artefacts, and phased feature plans where appropriate.
e) Specialist artefact and environmental reports where undertaken, and a context list/index.

f) Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a context list and catalogue of what is contained in that archive.

g) A copy of the key OASIS form details

h) Copies of the Brief and WSI

i) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report

9.2 A copy of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body. A digital copy of the report will be submitted direct to the City of York HER for planning purposes, and subsequently for inclusion into the HER.

9.3 A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs. Catalogues of contexts, finds, soil samples, plans, sections and photographs will be produced. York Archaeological Trust will liaise with the Yorkshire Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork to establish the detailed curatorial requirements of the museum and discuss archive transfer and to complete the relevant museum forms. The relevant museum curator would be afforded access to visit the site and discuss the project results.

9.4 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the Local Authority and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.

9.5 Upon completion of the project an OASIS form will be completed at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/.

10 POST EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & PUBLICATION

10.1 The information contained in the evaluation report will enable decisions to be taken regarding the future treatment of the archaeology of the development site and any material recovered during the evaluation.

10.2 If further archaeological investigations (mitigation) take place, any further analyses (as recommended by the specialists, and following agreement with the City of York Archaeologist) may be incorporated into the post-excavation stage of the mitigation programme unless such analysis are required to provide information to enable a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised. Such analysis will form a new piece of work to be commissioned.

10.3 In the event that no further fieldwork takes place on the site, a full programme of post excavation analysis and publication of artefactual and scientific material from the evaluation may be required by the City of York Archaeologist. Where this is required, this work will be a new piece of work to be commissioned.
10.4 If further site works do not take place, allowance will be made for the preparation and publication in a local and/or national journal of a short summary on the results of the evaluation and of the location and material held within the site archive.

10.5 The results of the work will be publicised locally e.g. by talking to local societies, as appropriate.

11 HEALTH AND SAFETY

11.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.

11.2 A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

12 PRE-START REQUIREMENTS

12.1 The client will be responsible for ensuring site access has been secured prior to the commencement of site works, and that the perimeter of the site is secure.

12.2 The client will provide York Archaeological Trust with up to date service plans and will be responsible for ensuring services have been disconnected, where appropriate.

12.3 The client will be responsible for ensuring that any existing reports (e.g. ground investigation, borehole logs, contamination reports) are made available to York Archaeological Trust prior to the commencement of work on site.

13 REINSTATEMENT

13.1 Following excavation and recording the spoil from the trenches will be backfilled unless requested otherwise. The backfill material will be levelled and compressed as far as possible by hand but will not be compressed to a specification. York Archaeological Trust are not responsible for reinstating any surfaces, including reseeding, unless specifically commissioned by the client who will provide a suitable specification for the work.

13.2 Agreement on a suitable staged backfill timetable for the trenches will be agreed with the City of York Archaeologist and the client, to avoid leaving all trenches open at once for health and safety reasons.

14 TIMETABLE & STAFFING

14.1 The timetable shall be as agreed with the client. Work is due to commence on site on Tuesday 6th December 2016.

14.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:

- Human Remains – Malin Holst
- Palaeoenvironmental remains – Dr Jennifer Miller
- Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
- Finds Researcher - Nicky Rogers
- Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner
- Finds Officers - Nienke Van Doorne
15 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

15.1 As a minimum requirement, John Oxley will be given a minimum of one week's notice of work commencing on site, and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed and to discuss the requirement any further phases of archaeological work. York Archaeological Trust will notify John Oxley of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with John Oxley.

15.2 With the client’s agreement illustrated notices will be displayed on site to explain the nature of the works.

16 COPYRIGHT

16.1 York Archaeological Trust retain the copyright on this document. It has been prepared expressly for the named client, and may not be passed to third parties for use or for the purpose of gathering quotations.

KEY REFERENCES


Historic England. 2007. Understanding the Archaeology of Landscape – a guide to good recording practice


Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation

McComish, J.M. 2015. ‘2a Trentholme Drive, York’ YAT report 2015/14


Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM). 2007. *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology*


For the latest Historic England guidance documents see:

https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/latest-guidance/
Figure 1  Site location

Crown copyright reserved. Reproduced with the permission of OS on behalf of HMSO.
Licence number 100018343
Figure 2  Trench plan
York Archaeological Trust undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for commercial, academic and charitable clients. We manage projects, provide professional advice and fieldwork to ensure a high quality, cost effective archaeological and heritage service. Our staff have a considerable depth and variety of professional experience and an international reputation for research, development and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology. Based in York, Sheffield, Nottingham and Glasgow the Trust’s services are available throughout Britain and beyond.

© York Archaeological Trust

York Archaeological Trust, Cuthbert Morrell House, 47 Aldwark, York, YO1 7BX
Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000    Fax: +44 (0)1904 663025
www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk

© 2014 York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited
Registered Office: 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England No. 1430801
A registered Charity in England & Wales (No. 509060) and Scotland (No. SCO42846)
Crown copyright reserved. Reproduced with the permission of OS on behalf of HMSO. Licence number 100018343

Figure 1  Site Location at 10,000 scale
Figure 2 Site Location at 5000m scale
Figure 3  Proposed development area showing planned and actual trial pit locations
Trial Pit 1. South facing section.

Trial Pit 2. West facing section.

Trial Pit 3. West facing section.

Figure 4  Sections of trial pits 1, 2 and 3

York Archaeological Trust
Trial Pit 4. East facing section.

Trial Pit 5. East facing section.

Trial Pit 6. North facing section.

Figure 5  Sections of trial pits 4, 5 and 6
AOD level locations and values from survey of Mount Royale Gardens (Image taken from Bing Maps 2016)

1 = 21.08m AOD   13 = 20.13m AOD
2 = 21.20m AOD   14 = 19.70m AOD
3 = 20.93m AOD   15 = 19.84m AOD
4 = 21.13m AOD   16 = 20.18m AOD
5 = 20.79m AOD   17 = 20.33m AOD
6 = 20.76m AOD   18 = 20.50m AOD
7 = 20.93m AOD   19 = 20.82m AOD
8 = 20.68m AOD   20 = 20.88m AOD
9 = 20.66m AOD   21 = 19.95m AOD
10 = 20.65m AOD  22 = 20.01m AOD
11 = 20.61m AOD  23 = 19.73m AOD
12 = 20.63m AOD  24 = 19.81m AOD

Figure 6  Location and results of AOD survey in the Mount Royale Hotel gardens

York Archaeological Trust
Figure 7  1852 OS map of study area showing landscaped gardens and site of St James’ Chapel