

**SUBJECT** 

Harewood Whin Landfill, Preliminary GI: Interim Summary

DATE

15 August 2025

**DEPARTMENT** 

Site Evaluation & Restoration

TO

Neil Fletcher

**OUR REF** 

30284479-ARC-XX-XX-RP-ZZ-0010-01-Interim Summary Memo

**PROJECT NUMBER** 

30284479

# **Background**

Arcadis Consulting (UK) Limited ("Arcadis") has been commissioned by City of York Council (CYC) to produce a factual and interpretative report following the preliminary ground investigation (GI) undertaken at Harewood Whin Landfill ("the Site") to inform the development of a solar farm under Planning Decision 23/01732/FULM.

At the time of writing, geotechnical laboratory results have not yet been issued by PSL and therefore have not been reviewed by Arcadis. Without this data, a more robust assessment of foundation options for the development cannot be undertaken, and the full report cannot be issued. This memo provides an interim summary of key points and findings from the works completed to date.

This report is based on information available at the time of writing. Additional information will become available and may have a bearing on the contents of this report and for which Arcadis cannot be held responsible.

# **Scope of Works**

The primary objective of the preliminary GI was to observe the composition and thickness of the landfill cap and cover materials, and for geotechnical and geo-environmental sample recovery for laboratory testing. It is necessary to understand the depths and characteristics of the cover materials, depth to cap (or waste in the historical landfill), and to determine the ground conditions to inform assessment of foundation options for the proposed solar farm.

The investigation works consisted of the following main elements:

- PAS128 Type B survey prior to intrusive works to inform safe excavation of trial pits and establish levels and coordinates of exploratory hole locations;
- 12No. mechanically excavated trial pits (four across Phase 1 (historic landfill) and eight across Phases
   2 8 (permitted landfill)) to 0.5 1.0 m into the clay cap, or to a maximum depth of 2.0 m below ground level (BGL);
- 13No. soil samples for geo-environmental analysis;
- 16No. soil samples for geotechnical analysis;
- 12No. (one per trial pit) in situ tests using a Light-Weight Deflectometer (LWD) to measure bearing capacity; and
- In situ Photo-Ionisation Detector (PID) measurements from the headspace of an amber glass vial at 1.0 m intervals or change of strata and for each environmental sample taken.

# **Site Work Summary**

A Site walkover inspection was undertaken 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 by the Arcadis site investigation consultant, in the presence of representatives from CYC and Yorwaste, the landfill operator. The purpose of the walkover was to

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identify any potential ecological constraints, establish access routes and to determine whether the locations of proposed exploratory holes (detailed within the Arcadis CQA Plan ref. 30284479-ARC-XX-XX-RP-GE-0001-02-CQA Plan, dated June 2025) required adjustment due to physical obstructions, ecological and other site limitations. The final as-built exploratory hole location plan is presented in Appendix A.

The Site walkover identified above-ground ancillary pipework associated with the landfill operations, requiring consideration when establishing access routes to each exploratory hole location. Access was agreed between the Arcadis consultant and Yorwaste representative prior to commencement of works.

The PAS128 Type B survey was conducted 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 followed by intrusive works on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 with subsequent laboratory testing thereafter. A total of 12No. mechanically excavated trial pits (TP) were undertaken using a tracked 14 tonne excavator (JCB X140) to a maximum depth of 2.0 m BGL and logged in accordance with BS 5930:2015+A1:2020. A smooth-edged grading bucket attachment was used during the excavation in order to minimise the risk of breaching the landfill cap.

In situ PID tests did not identify any Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) above 1.0 ppm.

During the fieldwork period, the weather conditions at the Site were characterised by predominantly heavy rain with intermittent sunny spells.

### **Ground Conditions**

Preliminary exploratory hole logs are presented in Appendix B. Table 1 provides a summary of the strata observed across each capping restoration phase in comparison to anticipated materials based on information provided by Yorwaste as detailed in the Arcadis CQA Plan (Arcadis, 2025).

Table 1: Summary of strata within each landfill cell

Capping Restoration Cell (Phase)	Exploratory Locations	Anticipated Cover Material	Observed Cover Materials (thickness)	Depth to Clay Cap (m BGL)	
1	ARC_TP101 ARC_TP102 ARC_TP103 ARC_TP104	1.0 m 'restoration soils'	0.1 – 0.2 m topsoil 0.2 – 0.7 m subsoil 0.60 m "compost" material (ARC_TP102)	0.2 – 0.8	
2	ARC_TP105	0.2 m topsoil and 0.3 m subsoil	0.3 m topsoil	0.3	
3	ARC_TP106  0.2 m topsoil and 0.8 m subsoil		0.12 m topsoil 0.33m subsoil 0.4 m restorative soil 0.65 m "compost" material	Not observed	
4A	ARC_TP108	0.2 m topsoil and 0.8 m subsoil	0.1 m topsoil 0.4 m subsoil	0.5	
4B/5B	ARC_TP107	0.2 m topsoil and 0.8 m subsoil	0.1 m topsoil	Not observed	

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Capping Restoration Cell (Phase)	Exploratory Locations	Anticipated Cover Material	Observed Cover Materials (thickness)	Depth to Clay Cap (m BGL)
			0.4 m subsoil	
			1.5 m "compost" material	
5A	ARC_TP109	0.2 m topsoil and 0.8 m subsoil	0.1 m topsoil	0.4
SA			0.3 m subsoil	0.4
7	ARC TP110	0.2 m topsoil and 0.3	0.05 m topsoil	0.6
,	ARO_II IIO	m subsoil	0.55 m subsoil	0.0
7A	ARC_TP111	0.2 m topsoil and 0.8	0.05 m topsoil	0.35
		- 1.0 m subsoil	0.30 m subsoil	0.33
8 East	ARC_TP112	1.0 m 'restoration	0.05 m topsoil	Not observed
o Lasi	ANO_11 112	soils'	0.9 m restorative soil	INOLODSEIVEU

### **Visual and Olfactory Observations**

Trial pits ARC\_TP102 (Phase 1), ARC\_TP106 (Phase 3) and ARC\_TP107 (Phase 4B/5B) contained dark, soil-like material with an organic odour, resembling compost. Based on appearance and context of the Site, this is likely to be stabilised biodegradable waste that was historically processed on Site.

Trial pit ARC\_TP112 (Phase 8 East) was terminated at 0.95 m BGL due to the unexpected presence of a liner material identified at the base of the trial pit. Due to the slow nature of the excavation process, it was confirmed that there was no damage to the liner material and the trial pit was subsequently backfilled.

### **Topsoil**

Topsoil, generally described as a dark brown clayey sand with rootlets, was identified within each landfill cell across the Site, with thicknesses ranging from 0.05 m to 0.3 m. However, topsoil was absent at location ARC TP101 within Phase 1, where the surface layer consisted of very gravelly sand classified as a subsoil.

### Subsoil

Subsoil, typically described as gravelly sand or gravelly clay, was present within each landfill cell across the Site, with thicknesses varying between 0.2 m and 0.7 m. Subsoil was not encountered at locations ARC\_TP102, ARC\_TP103, ARC\_TP105, and ARC\_TP112.

### **Potential Restoration Soils**

Soils presumed to be restoration material were identified within Phases 2 and 8 East. At location ARC\_TP106 (Phase 3), a band of firm gravelly clay was observed between depths of 0.45 m and 0.85 m BGL, underlain by a 0.65 m thick layer of fibrous organic material ("compost") in the absence of a clay cap. At location ARC\_TP112 (Phase 8 East), Made Ground, described as clayey, very sandy gravel, was identified beneath the topsoil. The clay cap was absent at this location, and a membrane/liner was uncovered at a depth of 0.95 m BGL, as discussed in subsequent sections. Given that the material was placed above a membrane / liner, it was deemed probable restoration material.

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### **Compost Material**

Trial pit locations ARC\_TP102 (Phase 1), ARC\_TP106 (Phase 3) and ARC\_TP107 (Phase 4B/5B) contained dark, soil-like material with an organic odour, resembling compost, at thicknesses between 0.6 and 1.5 m. Upon discussions with Yorwaste during the excavation, based on appearance and context of the Site, this is likely to be stabilised biodegradable waste that was historically processed on Site. Field observations within Phase 3 and Phase 4B/5B suggest that the compost material is likely associated with the mounds that occupy the landfill cells. For example, trial pit location ARC\_TP105 was located approximately 160 m southeast (away from the mound) of ARC\_TP106 where compost was not observed. The approximate extent of potential mounds containing compost have been annotated on the exploratory hole plan in Appendix A. A topographic survey may help to identify potential mounds, and additional trial pits would be required to delineate the extent of the material.

### Clay Cap

In areas where the clay cap was identified, it was typically described as a stiff, brown silty clay, found between 0.2 m and 0.8 m BGL.

## **Laboratory Testing**

### **Geotechnical Testing**

Representative bulk disturbed (B) and small disturbed (D) geotechnical samples were taken from suitable strata encountered during the excavation of each exploratory hole location. Samples were transported by courier to Professional Soils Laboratory Limited (PSL) for geotechnical analysis, in accordance with the Arcadis CQA Plan (Arcadis, 2025).

Geotechnical laboratory testing is being carried out on selected soil samples by PSL, at their UKAS accredited laboratory near Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Table 2 below, details the total number of each type of test undertaken. At the time of writing, the geotechnical results have not yet been issued and therefore have not been reviewed by Arcadis.

Table 2: Geotechnical laboratory testing summary

Test	Test Method	No. of Tests
Natural Moisture Content	BS 1377:2022 Part 2:3	16
Atterberg Limits	BS 1377:2022 Part 2:4 & 5	14
Particle Size Distribution (by wet sieving)	BS 1377:2022 Part 2:9	9
Large Shear Box Test (Drained Shear Strength in Large Shear Box)	BS 1377:2022 Part 7:4	3

### **Geo-environmental Testing**

At least one Environmental Soil (ES) sample was obtained from each exploratory hole location and transported by courier to ALS Laboratories Limited (ALS) for geo-environmental analysis, in accordance with the Arcadis CQA Plan (Arcadis, 2025).

Geo-environmental testing for chemical analysis was carried out by ALS at their laboratory in Deeside, in accordance with their UKAS/MCERTS accreditation.

www.arcadis.com 4/8

Table 3 below, details the total number of each type of test undertaken on selected ES samples.

Table 3: Geo-environmental laboratory testing summary

Test	Test Method	No. of Tests
Asbestos	Asbestos ID*	13
Barium	ICP-OES	7
Beryllium	ICP-OES	7
Total Cyanide	SFA	7
Hexavalent Chromium	Spectrophotometric	7
PAH Speciated 16	GC-MS	7
BRE Special Digest SD1 Suite	Various methods	7
рН	Meter	7
Phenols Monohydric	HPLC	7
Total Sulphate	ICP-OES	7
Total Organic Carbon	IR	7
Toxic 9 Metals	ICP-OES	7
TPH CWG	GC-MS	4
Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) Complete Suite	Various methods	3
*Detailed gravimetric asbestos quantific	ration was not undertaken as no p	positive asbestos ID identified

The geo-environmental chemical analysis results did not identify any exceedances when compared to the criteria outlined in the Generic Assessment Criteria (GAC) used for conservative screening (LQM S4UL - Public Open Space (POS) Park - 1% soil organic matter). No asbestos was identified in any of the trial pit locations.

However, one sample collected from the compost material at location ARC\_TP107, at a depth of 1.0 m BGL (sample reference: ARC-TP107-ES2), recorded Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) at 766 mg/kg and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) at 2.97 mg/kg. Additionally, the sample exhibited a loss on ignition of 48.4% and a total organic carbon content of 22.8%, likely attributable to the high organic content of the compost material.

In addition, a sample collected from location ARC\_TP101, at a depth of 0.20 m BGL (sample reference: ARC-TP101-ES1) also exhibited elevated levels of TPH and PAH at 296 mg/kg and 17.5 mg/kg respectively. A sample collected from location ARC\_TP112, at a depth of 0.50 m BGL (sample reference: ARC-TP112-ES1) also exhibited impacted levels of TPH and PAH at 216 mg/kg and 7.19 mg/kg respectively.

www.arcadis.com 5/8

# **Key Considerations**

### **Geotechnical Considerations**

Results from the geotechnical testing will provide information on the soil characteristics across the Site, which in addition to the LWD data and the actual soil descriptions, will be used to indicate the foundation solutions for the solar arrays. It is considered unlikely that the Environment Agency will allow any piling (or other construction activity) that disturbs the engineered landfill cap (piles typically driven to depths of approximately 1.8 m BGL). Given that the depth to the clay cap was observed to be between 0.2 and 0.8 m BGL, surface mounted solutions may be required to avoid breaching the cap.

Results from the LWD *in situ* testing indicated an average Evd across the Site of 22.57, with a maximum value of 52.33 (ARC-TP106) and minimum of 4.37 (ARC\_TP107). The Evd values obtained at each exploratory hole location are included on the exploratory hole location plan presented in Appendix A. The Evd values will be interpreted alongside the geotechnical laboratory testing data when available.

Compost material observed across the Site is likely unsuitable for foundation purposes due to its inherent instability and ongoing decomposition, which can lead to uneven settlement and low load-bearing capacity. This is supported by the low Evd value (4.37) obtained from the LWD testing at trial pit location ARC\_TP107. Additionally, the chemical laboratory testing of compost samples indicated a high natural moisture content, which may further exacerbate instability and decomposition. Ground improvement techniques or removal may be required in these areas to accommodate foundations.

A full assessment of the foundation solutions cannot yet be made until Arcadis has reviewed the geotechnical laboratory data.

### **Geo-environmental Considerations**

The geo-environmental considerations are as follows:

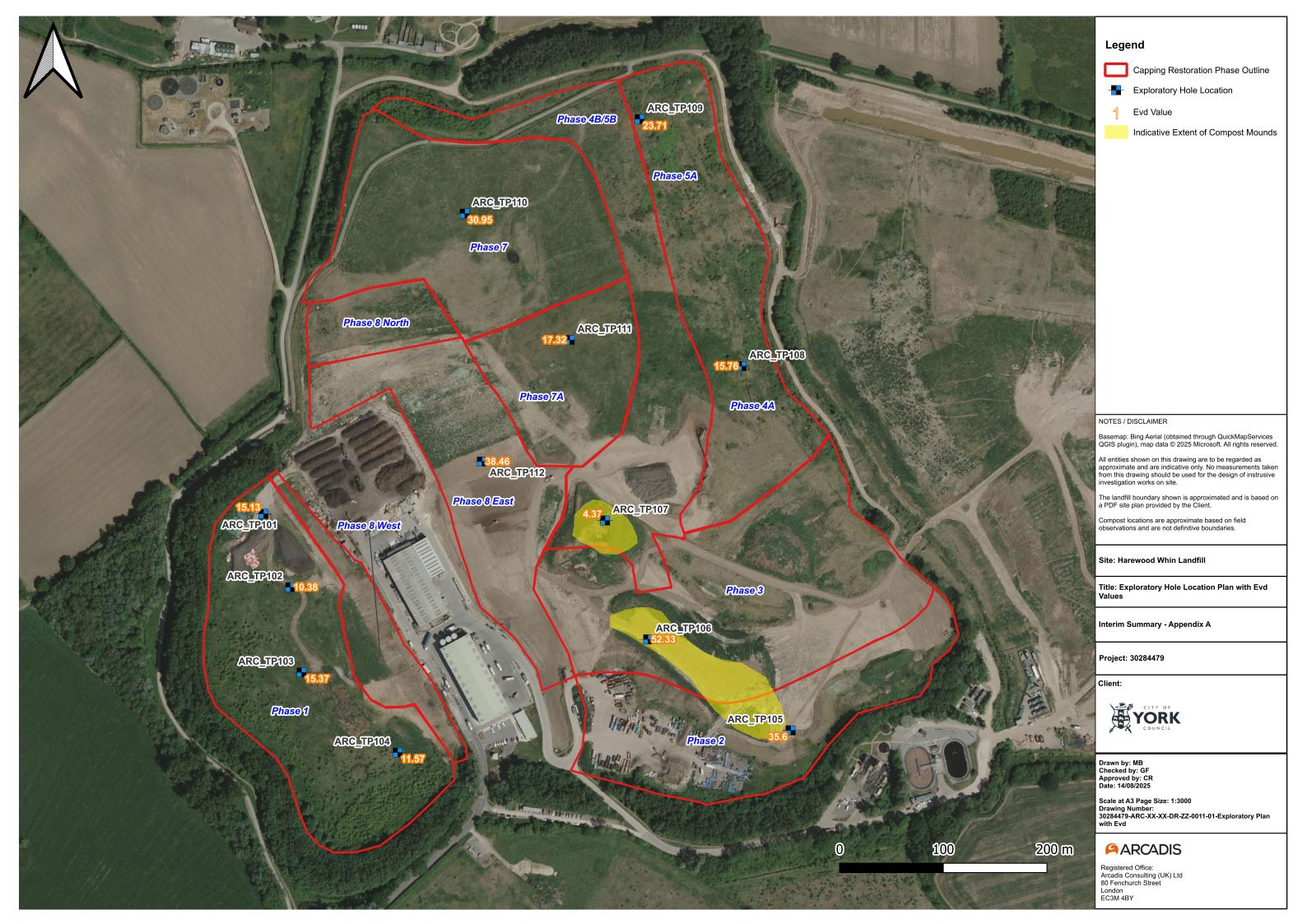
- Given the nature of the site development i.e. a solar farm, likely to be constructed on a surface mounted foundation solution, the geo-environmental risks are considered to be low as viable source-pathwayreceptor linkages will not exist at the site, post construction.
- It is advised that construction and maintenance workers are informed of the associated risks and that mitigating controls and measures, such as personal protective equipment, are implemented. In particular, the presence of elevated TPH within the compost materials should be communicated within relevant Health and Safety documentation.
- Given the history of the site as a former landfill the Environment Agency must be informed of the
  development and may require detailed CQA procedures to be followed during the construction phase.
  It is not expected that surplus excavated materials will be generated from the site, if a surface mounted
  solution is deployed, however if surplus materials are excavated they must be managed in accordance
  with the Waste Framework Directive.

www.arcadis.com 6/8



# Appendix A

**Exploratory Hole Location Plan with Associated Evd Values** 





# Appendix B

**Preliminary Exploratory Hole Logs** 



ARC\_TP101

Project Harewood Whin Landfill Client
City of York Council

Project No. **30284479** Easting (OS mE) **453745.15** 

Ground Level (mAOD)
20.43
Northing (OS mN)
451837.55

Start Date 16/07/2025 End Date 16/07/2025

Scale **1:20** Sheet 1 of 1

SAMPLES	TESTS		ST	RATA				Ф	D#-		Inetall/
Depth - Type	Type - Depth (m) - Result		Description				Legend	Strik	Depth (Thick)	Level	Install/ Backfill
		MADE GROUND: Grey very gravelly angular to rounded of limestone, sar Cobbles are rounded of sandstone.	y SAND with occa ndstone, various r	sional col natural lith	obles. Gra ologies, p	avel is fine to coarse plastic, brick and wood.			(0.30)		
(ES1) 0.20	PID(1) 0.20m <1ppm	-							(0.00)		
		MADE GROUND: Stiff dark brown n fine to coarse subrounded to rounde sandstone. Occasionally orangish.	ed and includes va	rious nat	idy slightl ural litholo	y gravelly CLAY. Gravel is ogies, limestone and			0.30	20.13	
(B3) 0.50 (D4) 0.50 (ES2) 0.50	PID(2) 0.50m <1ppm	-									
(ES2) 0.50		-									
									(1.00)		
									(1.00)		
		_							_	-	
		_									
		-									
	PID(3) 1.30m <1ppm						- XXXX		1.30	19.13	
		-									
		-									
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		-									
PLAN DETAI	LS					EVATIONS	NO MONITO				
<u> </u>	3.2 m	I	Date/Time S	Strike Re	st Mins	Remarks	Name	9		Гуре	m AGL
		Shoring / Support: None				REMARKS					
# 8. E		Stability: Stable	LWD Evd: 15.13								
=		Long Axis Orientation:									

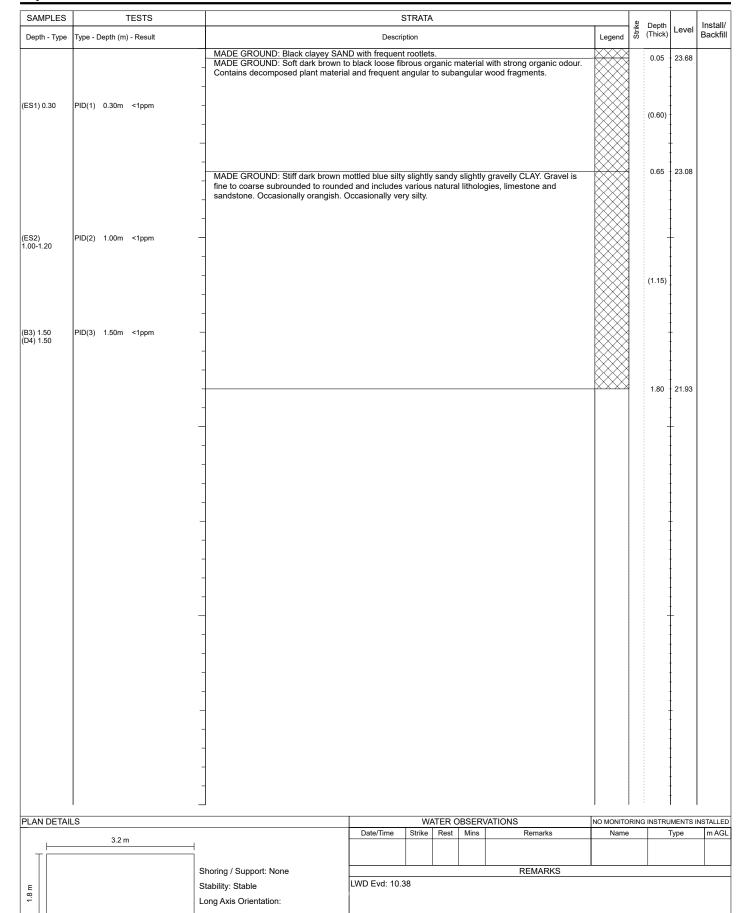


ARC\_TP102

Harewood Whin Landfill
Client
City of York Council

Project No. 30284479 Easting (OS mE) 453771.05 Ground Level (mAOD) **23.73**Northing (OS mN) **451766.77** 

Start Date 16/07/2025 End Date 16/07/2025 Scale 1:20 Sheet 1 of 1



1.80m

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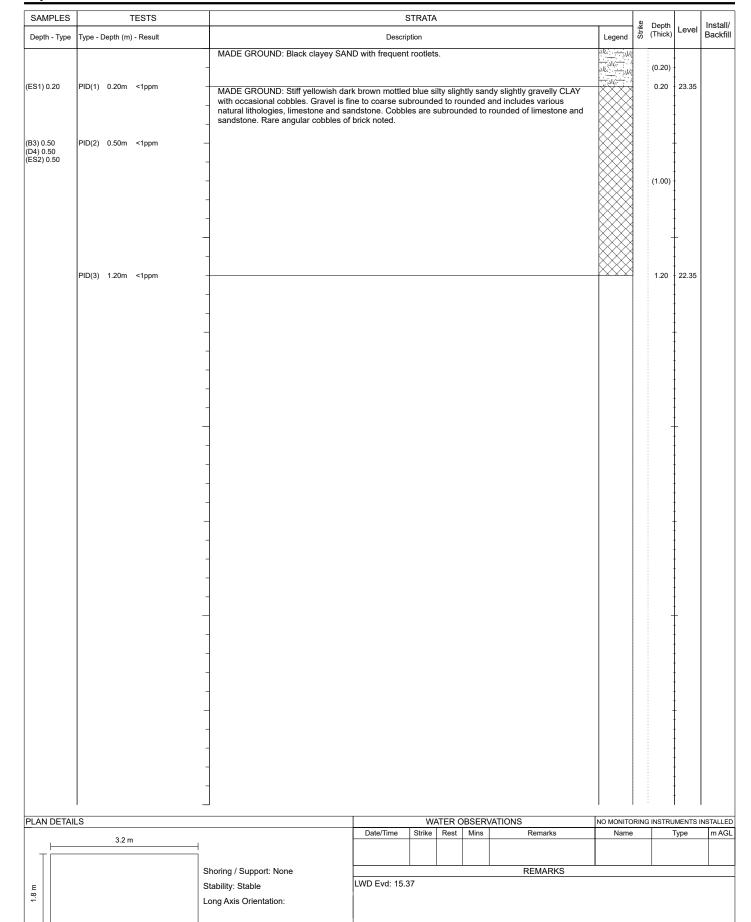


ARC\_TP103

Project
Harewood Whin Landfill
Client
City of York Council

Project No. 30284479 Easting (OS mE) 453781.92 Ground Level (mAOD) **23.55**Northing (OS mN) **451684.55** 

Start Date 16/07/2025 End Date 16/07/2025



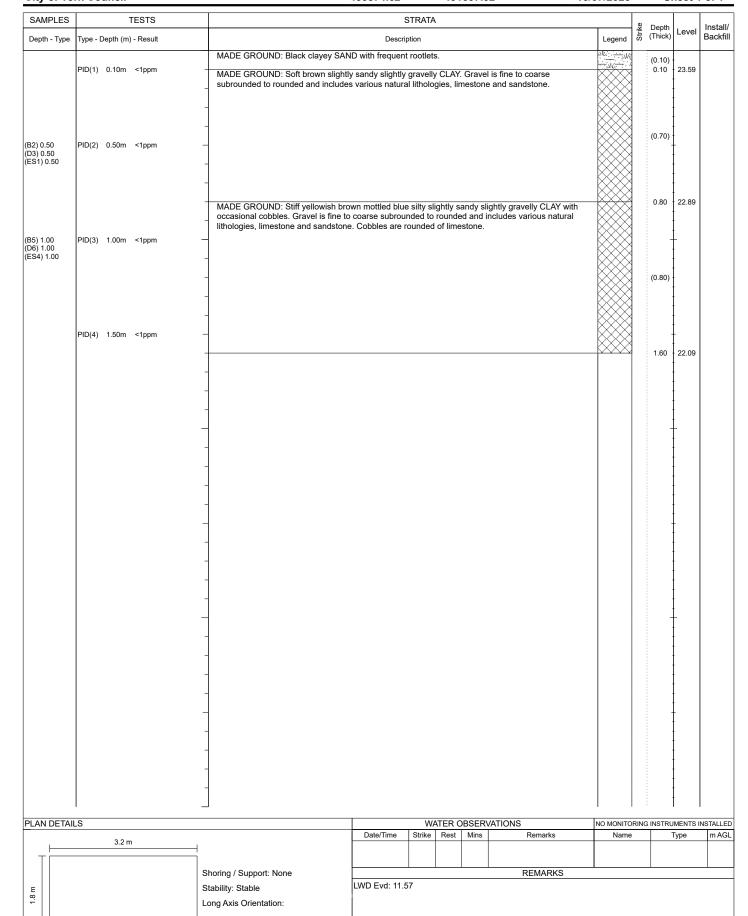


ARC\_TP104

Project
Harewood Whin Landfill
Client
City of York Council

Project No. 30284479 Easting (OS mE) 453874.62 Ground Level (mAOD) **23.69**Northing (OS mN) **451607.32** 

Start Date 16/07/2025 End Date 16/07/2025



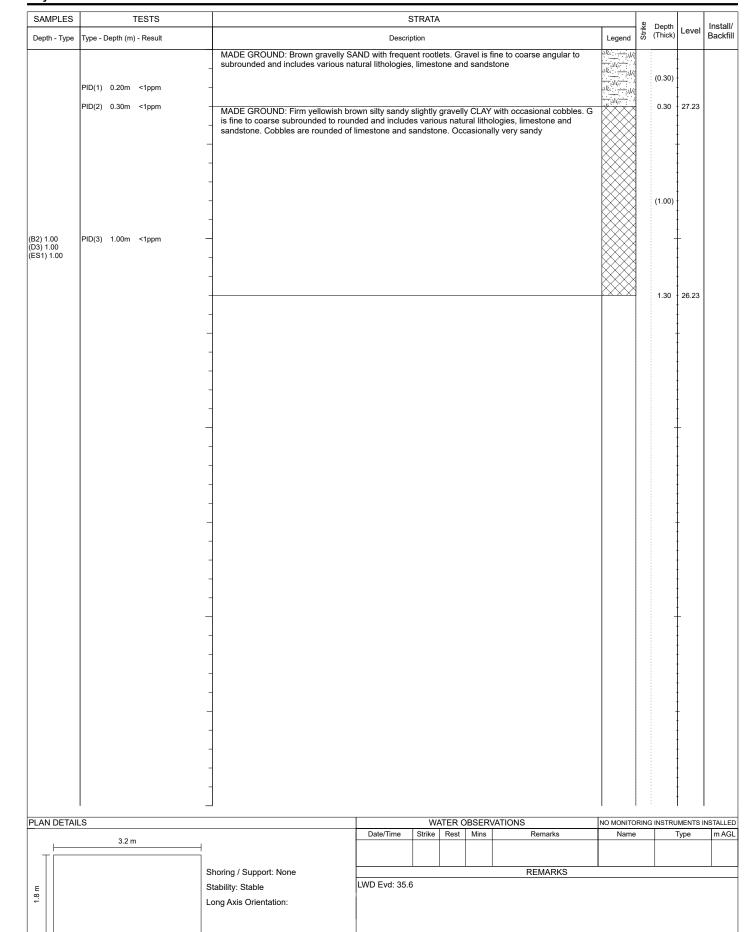


ARC\_TP105

Project
Harewood Whin Landfill
Client
City of York Council

Project No. 30284479 Easting (OS mE) 454243.65 Ground Level (mAOD) **27.53**Northing (OS mN) **451628.62** 

Start Date 15/07/2025 End Date 15/07/2025





ARC\_TP106

Project Harewood Whin Landfill Client
City of York Council

Project No. 30284479 Easting (OS mE) 454116.06

Ground Level (mAOD) **33.07**Northing (OS mN) **451716.38** 

Start Date 15/07/2025 End Date 15/07/2025

Scale **1:20** Sheet 1 of 1

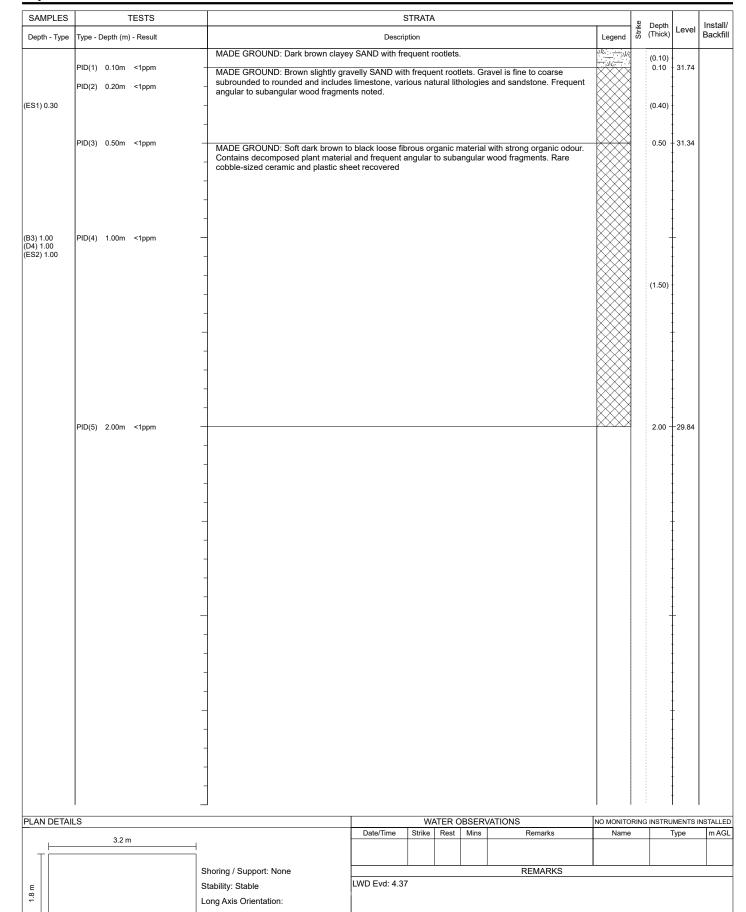
SAMPLES	TESTS		STRA	τA				0 -		
Depth - Type	Type - Depth (m) - Result		Description				Legend	Strik (Thick)	Level	Install/ Backfill
	PID(1) 0.10m <1ppm PID(2) 0.20m <1ppm	MADE GROUND: Brown very grave angular to subrounded and includes  MADE GROUND: Soft to firm brown fine to coarse subrounded to rounde sandstone. Cobbles are rounded of	wood, various natur very sandy slightly ed and includes vario	al lithologion gravelly CL ous natural	es, limesto .AY w/occ	one and sandstone. asional cobbles. G is	AIR. AIR.	(0.12) 0.12 (0.33)	32.95	
(B2) 0.50 (D3) 0.50 (ES1) 0.50	PID(3) 0.50m <1ppm	MADE GROUND: Firm dark bluish I fine to coarse subrounded to rounde limestone and sandstone. Cobbles (rare) and wood. Mild organic odour	ed and includes brick are rounded of limes	, wood, va	rious natu	ral lithologies,		0.45 (0.40)	32.62	
	PID(4) 0.90m <1ppm	MADE GROUND: Soft dark brown t Contains decomposed plant materia						0.85	32.22	
								(0.65)		
	PID(5) 1.50m <1ppm							1.50	31.57	
ם או חרדייי			1	WATER O	QCED\/AT	IONS	NO MONITO	DINIC INCTO	IMENTO	INISTALLED
PLAN DETAIL	3.2 m		Date/Time Strik	WATER O	Mins Mins	TONS Remarks	NO MONITO Name	RING INSTR	UMENTS Type	m AGL
		Shoring / Support: None				REMARKS				
1.8 m		Stability: Stable Long Axis Orientation:	LWD Evd: 52.33			INCIVIATIO				



ARC\_TP107

Harewood Whin Landfill
Client
City of York Council

Project No. 30284479 Easting (OS mE) 454074.60 Ground Level (mAOD) 31.84 Northing (OS mN) 451831.04 Start Date 15/07/2025 End Date 16/07/2025

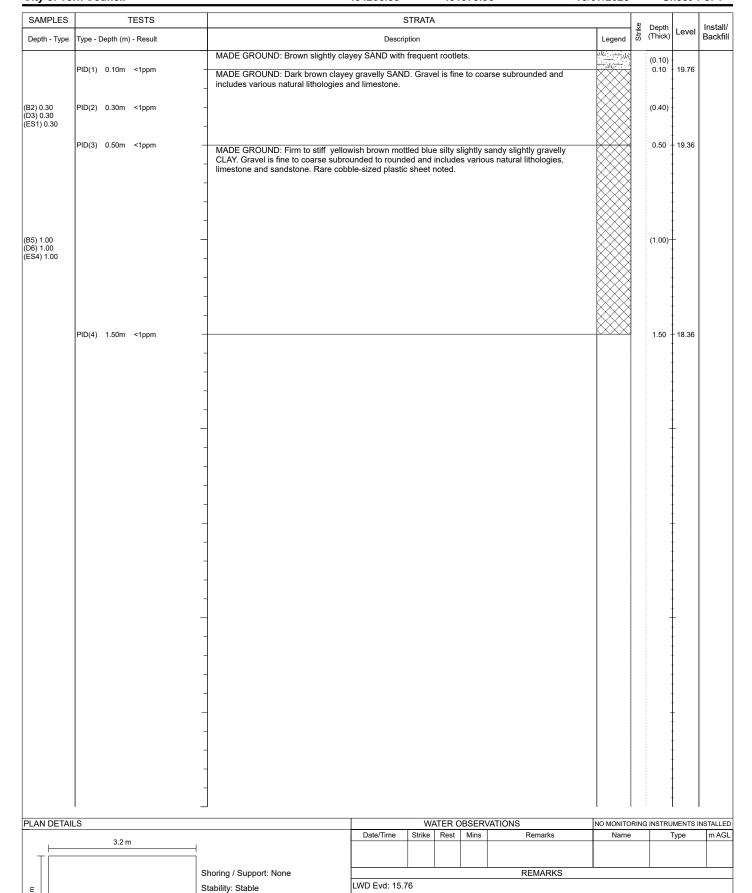




ARC\_TP108

Project
Harewood Whin Landfill
Client
City of York Council

Project No. 30284479 Easting (OS mE) 454206.36 Ground Level (mAOD) 19.86 Northing (OS mN) 451979.96 Start Date 15/07/2025 End Date 15/07/2025 Scale 1:20 Sheet 1 of 1



Long Axis Orientation:

1.50m

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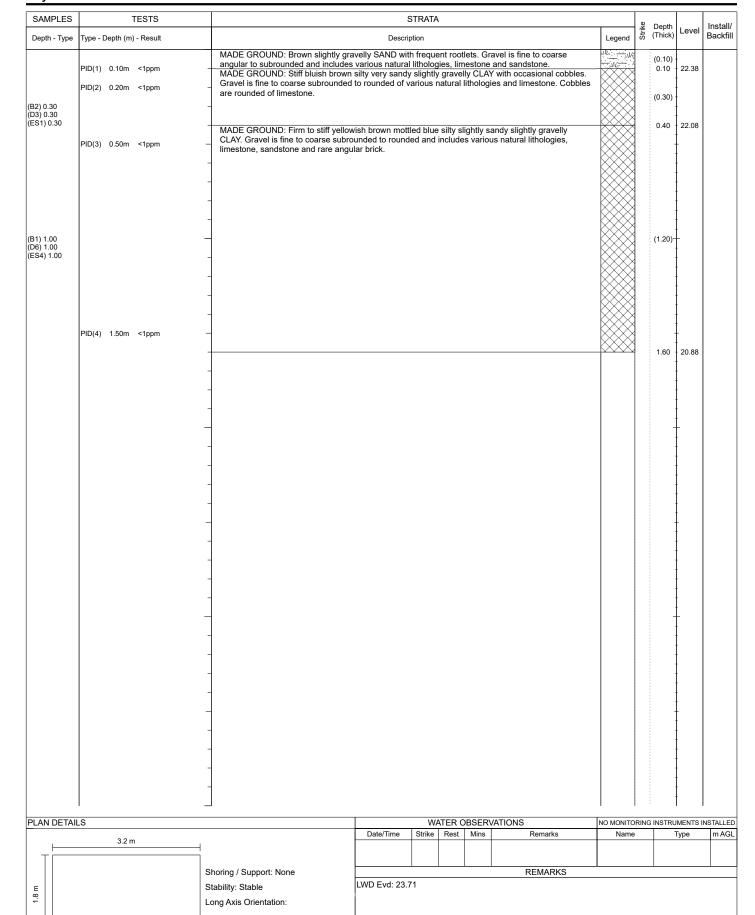


ARC\_TP109

Project
Harewood Whin Landfill
Client
City of York Council

Project No. 30284479 Easting (OS mE) 454107.96 Ground Level (mAOD) **22.48**Northing (OS mN) **452218.13** 

Start Date 15/07/2025 End Date 15/07/2025





ARC\_TP110

Project
Harewood Whin Landfill
Client
City of York Council

CAMPLEC

Project No. **30284479** Easting (OS mE) **453939.23**  Ground Level (mAOD) **27.80**Northing (OS mN) **452127.13** 

Start Date 16/07/2025 End Date 16/07/2025

SAMPLES	TESTS		STRATA		9 Donth		Install/
Depth - Type	Type - Depth (m) - Result		Description	Legend	्र श्रे (Thick)	Level	Backfill
	PID(1) 0.05m <1ppm PID(2) 0.20m <1ppm	MADE GROUND: Dark brown claye MADE GROUND: Brown clayey ver coarse subangular to rounded and in Cobbles are subrounded to rounded	y gravelly SAND with occasional cobbles. Gravel is fine to ncludes various natural lithologies, limestone and sandstone.	Str.:M	0.05	27.75	
(B2) 0.50							
(D3) 0.50 (ES1) 0.50		occasional cobbles. Gravel is fin to o	ark brown silty slightly sandy slightly gravelly CLAY with coarse subrounded to rounded and includes various natural e. Cobbles are rounded of limestone. Occasionally mottled bli	ie.	0.60	27.20	
	PID(3) 1.00m <1ppm				(1.20)		
(B5) 1.50 (D6) 1.50 (ES4) 1.50	PID(4) 1.50m <1ppm				×		
					1.80	26.00	
		-					
		-					
					-	<del> </del> 	
		_			-		
		-					
					-		
PLAN DETAI			WATER OBSERVATIONS	NO MONIT	ORING INSTRU	JMENTS I Type	m AGL
	3.2 m						
# 8.T		Shoring / Support: None Stability: Stable Long Axis Orientation:	REMARKS LWD Evd: 30.95	1			

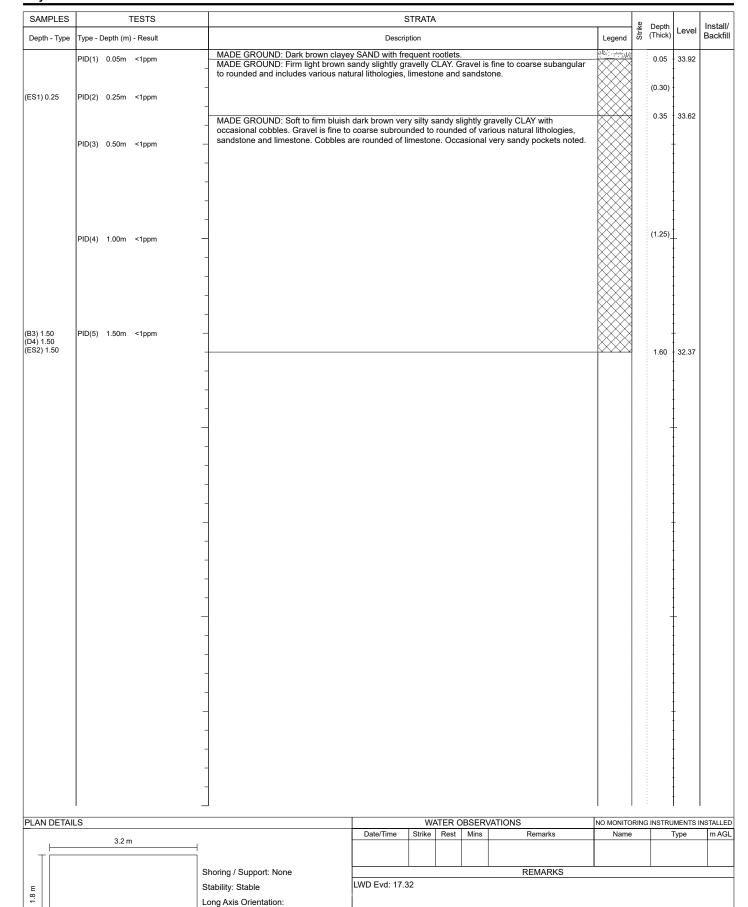


ARC\_TP111

Project
Harewood Whin Landfill
Client
City of York Council

Project No. 30284479 Easting (OS mE) 454040.54 Ground Level (mAOD) **33.97**Northing (OS mN) **452005.16** 

Start Date 16/07/2025 End Date 16/07/2025



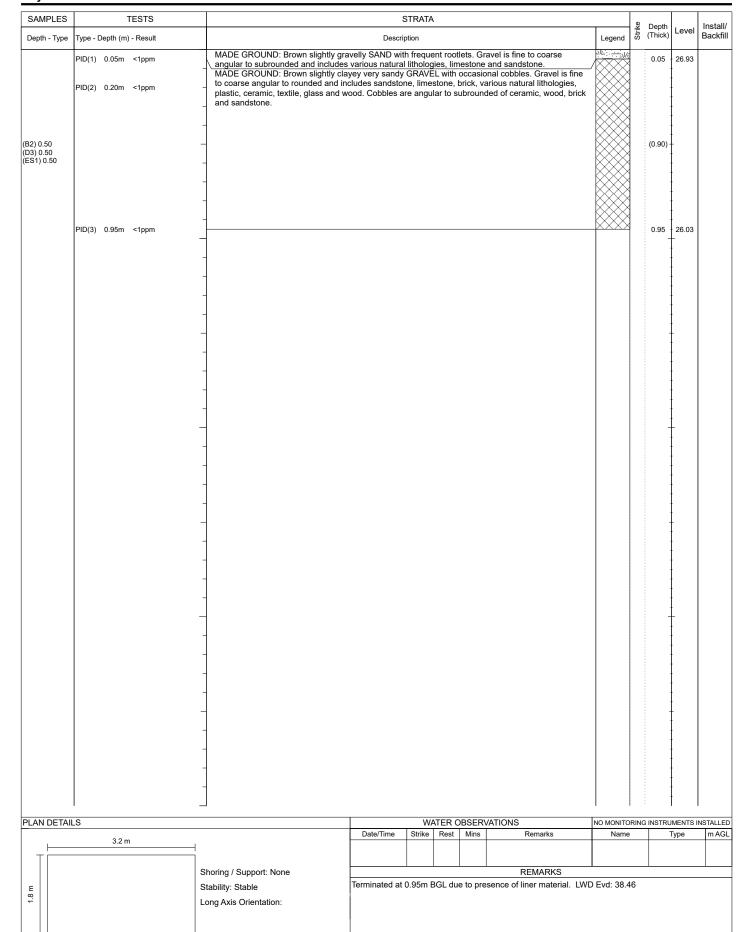


ARC\_TP112

Project
Harewood Whin Landfill
Client
City of York Council

Project No. 30284479 Easting (OS mE) 453955.85 Ground Level (mAOD) 26.98 Northing (OS mN) 451887.93 Start Date 15/07/2025 End Date 15/07/2025

Scale 1:20 Sheet 1 of 1



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