

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT 8 WEST STREET, YARM, STOCKTON-ON-TEES, CLEVELAND



On behalf of Mr A Judge

CS Archaeology
February 2013

On behalf of: Mr A Judge
8 West Street
Yarm
Stockton-on-Tees
Cleveland
TS15 9BU

The Site's National Grid Reference (NGR): NZ 4166 1305

Project Number: 112

Oasis Reference Code: csarchae1-144349

Pottery Assessment: Dr C G Cumberpatch

Planning Reference: 11/0105/FUL

Report by: Chris Scurfield BA (Hons)

Timing: Fieldwork February 2013
Report February 2013

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- 1 Written Scheme of Investigation
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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report assesses the archaeological potential of a site to the rear and side of 8 West Street, Yarm. This report is designed to satisfy a condition on planning consent applied by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (Ref. No. 11/0105/FUL).
- 1.2 The monitoring involved the excavation of a large single trench (c.10 x 6m), on the footprint of the proposed garage extension.
- 1.3 No significant archaeology, in the form of structural evidence or land division was revealed. Beneath the top soil an even distribution of medieval and post medieval artefacts were recovered.
- 1.4 No further work is recommended.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report has been commissioned by Mr Judge to record any potential archaeological deposits as noted in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1: Planning Ref. 11/0105/FUL).
- 2.2 Yarm is situated on the inside of a northern meander of the River Tees and the site lies towards the top (northern end) of this meander, and immediately southwest of the existing house, The existing house, 8 West Street, lies 170m west of Yarm's High Street and 90m east of the River Tees (**Figures 1 & 2**).
- 2.3 Yarm was a principal sea port during the early post medieval period. The port's hinterland would have consisted of warehouses and storage yards for the redistribution of imported and exported produce.
- 2.4 The Ordnance Survey maps of 1857 and 1898, depict the site as part of an enclosed orchard. The site was positioned close to the orchard's southern boundary. South of the orchard a 'saw mill' is depicted representing the only historic industrial activity in the immediate area to the site.
- 2.5 The site was excavated on the 20th February 2013.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of archaeological monitoring are to inform Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council of the significance of any potential heritage assets within the PDA.
- 3.2 The monitoring will if archaeology is present, gather sufficient information to establish the form, function and date of any archaeological deposits within Yarm's medieval settlement.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 This has been carried out according to an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1).
- 4.2 Because of the negative results digital photographs (**Appendix 2**) form the primary record for this intervention.
- 4.3 No environmental sampling was undertaken. Spoil heaps and exposed surfaces were surveyed for metalwork with negative results.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A single large trench was excavated (10 x 6m) by mini digger with a toothless ditching bucket. The excavation was limited to a 0.8m depth below the existing ground surface (**Plate 1**).



Plate 1, 2: pre-excavation view of the site, from the northeast

- 5.2 Apart from the modern garage foundations two distinct contexts [100 & 101] were revealed. These consisted of a top soil [100] and subsoil [101] (**Plates 2 & 3**).



Plate 2, 9: detailed view of the stratigraphy in the west facing section, from the west



Plate 3, 12: post excavation view, from the southwest

- 5.3 The subsoil [101] consisted of a brown silty clay and is consistent with an alluvial deposit. Within this alluvial deposit [101] an even scatter of medieval pottery and post medieval clay pipes were recovered. The even distribution of coal and clay pipe fragments indicates the deposit had been affected by the introduction of 18th/19th century material. The pottery has been assessed and has a wide date range throughout the post-Conquest medieval period (Appendix 3).
- 5.4 It is possible that the alluvial clay [101] had been re-deposited, during the construction of Yarm's viaduct (Pers. Comm. Mr P Rowe), which was constructed during the 1850s. NB The Viaduct lies 55m east of the site (**Figure 2**). However the 'clean' and even distribution of the alluvium without any tip lines, mixed natural contexts or other constructional material such as brick from the supposed viaduct work, suggests that the alluvium [101] had formed in situ and through the process of manuring, pottery had gradually been introduced within a plough soil. Just how the post medieval artefacts became incorporated in to the context [101] is unknown, but they may have entered the deposit post tree bowl or through faunal activity.
- 5.5 Cartographically the site during the 1850s is depicted as an established orchard, and this is not an obvious location for mass re-deposition material. In which case, the alluvial deposit [101] probably represents a medieval plough soil and an arable land use before the orchards of the early 19th century were developed across the site.
- 5.6 No natural substrate was revealed during the excavation.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The monitoring has been able to establish that, at the limited depths reached, no significant archaeological deposits were present.
- 6.2 Examination of the exposed deposits suggests the site was probably arable before it was developed as an orchard.
- 6.3 Because the site is on a meander of the River Tees alluvial deposits and made ground will raise the ground surface and potential archaeology could still lie in situ beneath the site.

7 FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

7.1 No further work is recommended.

8 REFERENCES

1856-7, 6 inch Ordnance Survey map

1898, 25 inch Ordnance Survey map

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Mr A Judge for commissioning this report, and to Mr P Rowe for his advice and approval of the WSI.

FIGURES



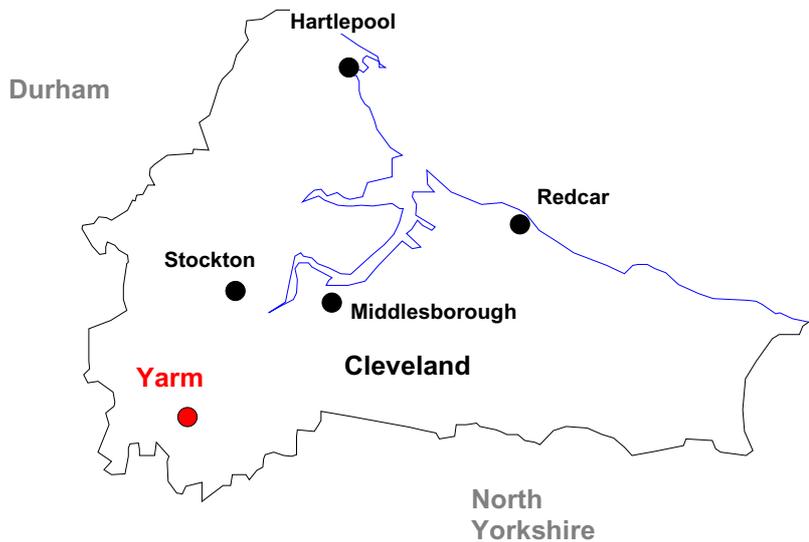
■ Proposed Development Area



Archaeological Monitoring at
8 West Street, Yarm

Figure 2: Site Location
scale 1:1250

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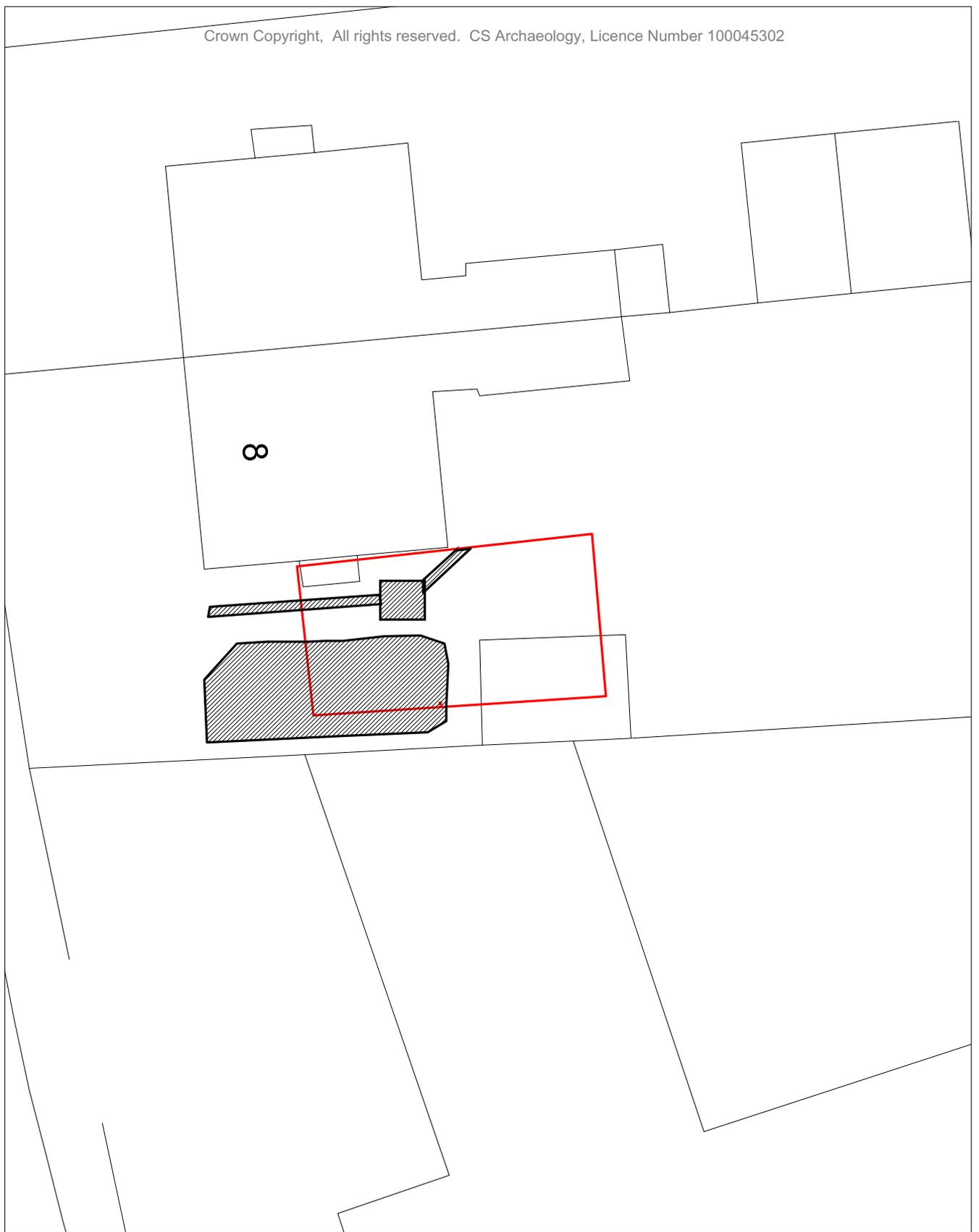


 see Figure 2

Archaeological Monitoring at
8 West Street, Yarm

Figure 2: Site Map
scale 1:50000

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-  The Site
-  Modern Disturbance (drains and pit)



APPENDICES

**A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT
8 WEST STREET, YARM,
STOCKTON-ON-TEES,
CLEVELAND**

CS Archaeology

January 2013

0 SUMMARY

- 0.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is in response to a condition placed on Planning consent (**App. No. 11/0105/Ful**) by Stockton Borough Council. This advice seeks to gain more archaeological information on how Yarm developed as an urban settlement in the medieval period.
- 0.2 This condition has been imposed because the Proposed Development Area (PDA) lies close (60m south) to an area of known archaeological potential principally from the Medieval period. The proposed excavation could impact upon areas of unknown archaeology.
- 0.3 This WSI proposes that an archaeological monitoring is undertaken. This will ascertain the nature and possible extent of the site's potential archaeological resource.
- 0.4 The results from the archaeological monitoring will allow for the recording and potential sampling of any archaeological deposits within the PDA and will inform present and future management decisions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Details

- 1.1.1 *Site Name:* 8 West Street, Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees
- 1.1.2 *Location:* Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees
- 1.1.3 *Status:* Unknown
- 1.1.4 *Grid reference:* NZ 41 66 1305
- 1.1.5 *Area of site:* 0.061 Ha
- 1.1.6 *Purpose of the work:* to record the sites potential archaeological resource and this will establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the site highlighted in **Figure 1**.

1.2 Archaeological Background

- 1.2.1 In 1206 Yarm was described as the second largest seaport in the North of England. Ships up to 60 tonnes burden could reach it from the sea with the assistance of four tides and a favourable wind.
- 1.2.2 For centuries Yarm was the site of the lowest bridge over the Tees. This was in existence in the early 13th century and was rebuilt by Bishop Skirlaw of Durham in 1400 AD. The upstream half of the two southernmost arches of the present bridge date from that time.
- 1.2.3 The main trade of the port was the export of corn, cheese, butter, salt, wool, hides and lead to London and the Continent. Imports included wine. Shipbuilding and sail making production also took place.
- 1.2.4 The demise of Yarm as a significant port was signalled in 1771 when a bridge was built at Stockton (11 kms downstream) severely restricting the size of vessels which could pass upstream to Yarm.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring is in response to a condition of planning consent by Tees Archaeology, on behalf of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (Application No. 11/0105/Ful).
- 1.3.2 This WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements for archaeological monitoring and will inform future archaeological management decisions about the site and potential archaeological assets contained therein. This is in accordance with Local Planning Policies and the NPPF para 128.
- 1.3.3 This WSI is designed to provide a baseline on which will form a planning decision. This will allow for the proper recording and study of any deposits of archaeological/historical importance.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of archaeological monitoring will be to inform Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council of the significance of any potential heritage assets within the PDA.
- 2.2 The monitoring will if archaeology is present, gather sufficient information to establish the form, function and date of any archaeological deposits within Yarm's medieval settlement.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Monitoring (Watching Brief)

- 3.1.1 This project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and professional standards and guidance (IFA, 2010).
- 3.1.2 This project will also follow the brief prepared by Tees Archaeology (Rowe 2011).
- 3.1.3 CS Archaeology will ensure that services are located prior to excavation by means of site plans.
- 3.1.4 Mechanical excavation, ideally using a toothless ditching bucket will be monitored under constant archaeological supervision down to the required construction depth.
- 3.1.5 The removed material will be scanned using a metal detector by the site archaeologist ensuring that all metal finds are located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection will be carried out following the Code of Practice in the Treasure Act of 1996.
- 3.1.6 Should any human remains be revealed these will be initially left *in situ*. The Coroner's Office will be informed only if the remains appear to have been buried for less than 100 years. If the remains prove to be archaeological and have to be removed, a licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice and relevant regulations.
- 3.1.7 All deposits will be fully recorded on standard context sheets, photographs and conventionally-scaled plans and sections. All features will be planned at 1:20, with individual features being planned at 1:10 where additional detail is required. All feature sections sampled will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. The elevation of the underlying natural where encountered will also be recorded. Even if no archaeology is recorded the stratigraphy will still be recorded. The limits of excavation will be shown in all plans and sections, including where these limits are coterminous with context boundaries.
- 3.1.8 Archaeological features to be affected will be investigated – discrete features will initially be half-sectioned; linear features will be excavated to 20% of their extent, not less than 1m in extent. Archaeological contexts at junctions or interruptions in linear features will be sufficiently excavated for the relationship between components to be established.
- 3.1.9 All finds that are 'treasure' will be reported to the coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act Code of Practice (1997).
- 3.1.10 Attention will be paid to artefact retrieval and conservation, ancient technology, dating of deposits and the assessment of potential for the scientific analysis of soil, sediments, biological remains, ceramics and stone.
- 3.1.11 All artefacts and ecofacts visible during the excavations will be collected and processed, unless variations to this are agreed by the archaeological monitor (Tees Archaeology). In some cases sampling may be most appropriate.
- 3.1.12 Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in First Aid for finds (Watkins and Neal, 1998). In accordance with the procedures of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991), all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins) and a

sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy should be X-radiographed before assessment. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues should be collated by hand, with separate samples collected for micro-slugs. In these instances, the guidance of Bayley *et al* (2001) will be followed.

3.2 Sampling Strategy

3.2.1 If the archaeological deposits are of sufficient interest Environmental sampling may be recommended in consultation with Tees Archaeology. Different sampling strategies will be employed according to established research targets and the perceived importance of the deposits under investigation. CS Archaeology conventionally recovers three main categories of sample:

- i) Routine Soil Samples; a representative 500g sample from every excavated soil context on site. This sample is used in the characterisation of the sediment, potentially through pollen analysis, particle size analysis, pH analysis, phosphate analysis and loss-on-ignition;
- ii) Standard Bulk Samples; a representative 60-70 litre sample from every excavated soil context on site, in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (2011). This sample is used, through floatation sieving, to recover a sub-sample of charred macroplant material, faunal remains and artefacts;
- iii) Purposive or Special Samples; a sample from a sediment which is determined, in field, to either have the potential for dating (wood charcoal for radiocarbon dating or in situ hearths for magnetic susceptibility dating) or for the recovery of enhanced palaeo-environmental information (waterlogged sediments, peat columns, etc).

3.2.2 Samples will be taken for scientific dating, principally radiocarbon (C14) and archaeomagnetic dating, where dating of artefacts is insecure and where dating is a significant issue for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies.

3.2.3 Environmental samples will be collected from primary and secondary contexts, where applicable, from a range of representative features, including pit and ditch fills, postholes, floor deposits, ring gullies and other negative features. Positive features should also be sampled. Sampling will also be considered for those features where dating by other methods (e.g. pottery and artefacts) is uncertain. Animal bones will be hand collected, and from bulk samples collected from contexts containing a high density of bones.

3.2.4 Standard Bulk Samples of 60 litres or more will be recovered from every archaeologically significant deposit as part of a comprehensive environmental sampling strategy.

3.2.5 Within each significant archaeological horizon a minimum number of features required to meet the aims of the project will be hand excavated. Pits and postholes normally will be sampled by half-sectioning although some features may require complete excavation. Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate. No deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. However, the full depth of archaeological deposits across the entire site will be assessed. Even in the case where no remains have been located the stratigraphy will be recorded.

3.2.6 Any excavation, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be demonstrably worthy of preservation in situ.

3.3 Photography

- 3.3.1 A general and detailed photographic record of the monitoring will be made using a 35mm camera. All photographs will be in black and white using an appropriate silver based film (Ilford Delta Plus), this will form the primary photographic record.
- 3.3.2 Digital photographs will supplement the primary photographic record and use a SLR with above 10Mp resolution. All photographs will contain an appropriate graduated photographic scale. Digital photographs will also be taken to illustrate the report and to supplement the archive, copies will be included in the digital archive which will be supplied both to Tees Archaeology.

3.4 Site Monitoring

- 3.4.1 Tees Archaeology will be notified at least one week in advance of the monitoring works, so that arrangements for monitoring the work can be made.
- 3.4.2 Monitoring will be arranged so that all excavated areas can be inspected in a clean and fully exposed condition.

3.5 Health and Safety

- 3.5.1 CS Archaeology will operate with due regard to health and safety according to the Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments. CS Archaeology's Health and Safety Policy is available upon request.

3.6 Post-Recording Work and Report Preparation

- 3.6.1 Once the field recording work has been completed, a full report of the results of the monitoring will be completed. The post-excavation assessment of material will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991). The report will include: background information, methods, detailed results, grid references, conclusion and discussion.
- 3.6.2 The monitoring will include a phased interpretation of the site, if possible.
- 3.6.3 The monitoring report will also contain a detailed context index to the archive.
- 3.6.4 If required the results of the palaeo-environmental assessment will outline the potential of the samples and will be included in the monitoring report.
- 3.6.5 The report will provide an interpretation of the results, placing them in local and regional context.
- 3.6.6 A copy of this WSI will be included as an appendix to the final report.

3.7 The Archive

- 3.7.1 All original site records, post-excavation material (paper based, photographic and digital), photography together with finds and sample residues will be transferred to Tees Archaeology.

3.8 Report Submission

- 3.8.1 Copies of the completed report will be submitted in both hard and digital formats to:
- The Client, Mr A Judge;
 - Mr P Rowe (Tees Archaeology).

3.9 Submission and Deposition of the Archive

- 3.9.1 The archive, including a copy of the report, will be compiled, indexed and then offered for deposition with Tees Archaeology.

3.10 Publicity

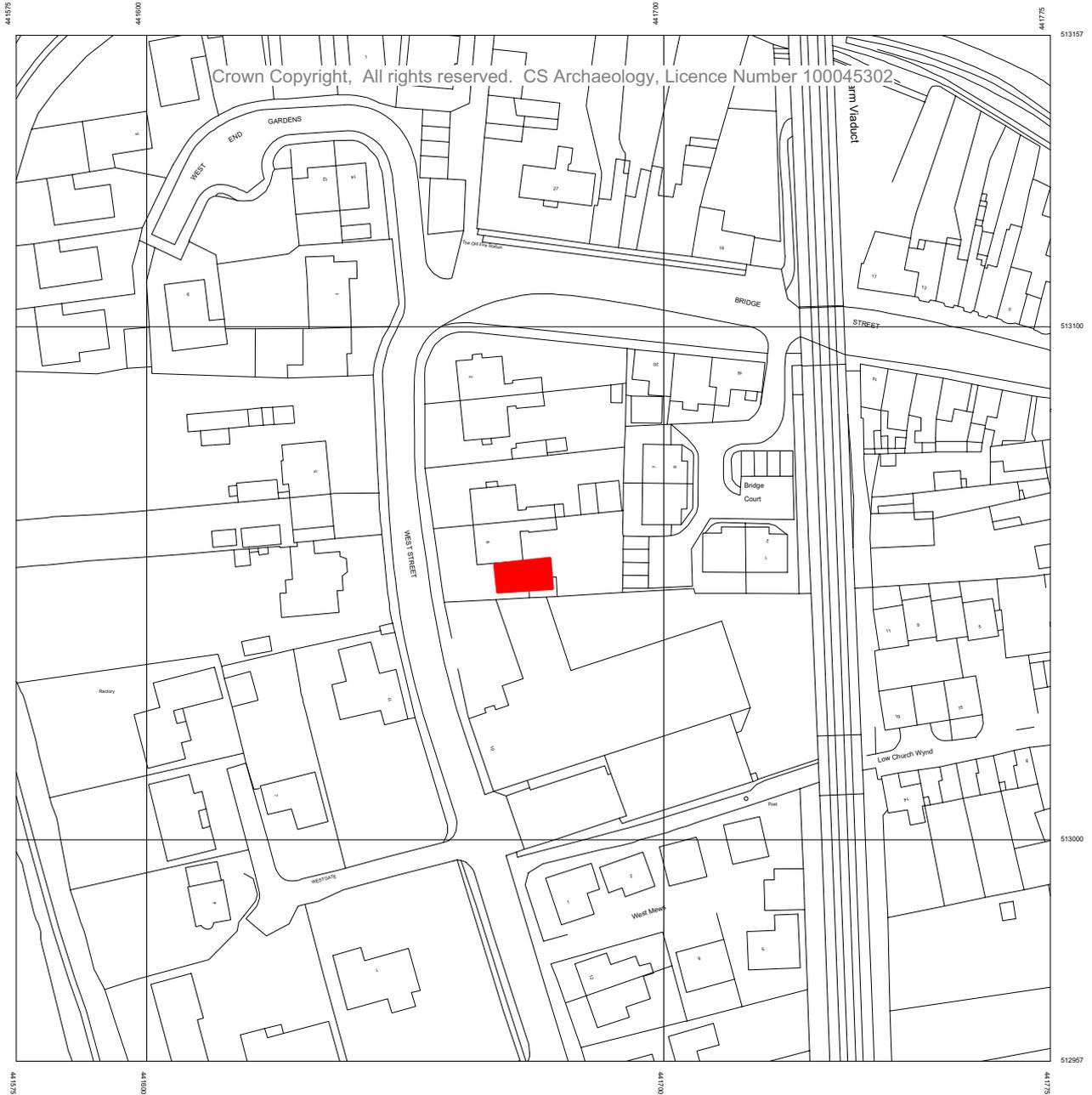
- 3.10.1 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, and an OASIS form will be completed for the project.

3.9 References

- Bayley J., et al. 2001, *Archaeometalurgy, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines*, English Heritage
- English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*
- English Heritage, 2002, *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation [2002/01]*
- Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*
- Institute of Archaeologists, 2010, *By-Laws Code of Conduct*, Reading
- Rowe P. 2011, *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring 8 West Street, Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees unpublished curators report*
- Treasure Act, 1996, *Code of Practice*
- Watkinson D. & Neal V., 1998, *First Aid for Finds (3rd edition)*, RESCUE & the Archaeological Section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.
- Yorkshire, the Humber and the North East 2009, *A Region Statement for Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process*

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scale 1:12500

■ Proposed Development Area



8 West Street, Yarm: WSI for
Archaeological Monitoring

Figure 1: Location Map

CS Archaeology
January 2013

APPENDIX 2: THE ARCHIVE

1. PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER @ 12 Mega-pixels

No.	Plate	Description	From
1		Preliminary view of the site	W
2	1	Preliminary view of the site	NE
3		General view of the site with adjacent buildings	E
4		View of the excavation	SE
5		View of the excavation	E
6		Removal of contexts [100 & 101]	NW
7		General view of the western and of the trench	S
8-9	2	Detailed view of the stratigraphy in the west facing section	W
10		General view	E
11-12	3	Post excavation view	SW
13		View of the western end of the trench which was heavily disturbed by 20 th century drainage and an excavated pit used to bury building material	E

2. Context Register

Context No.	Description
100	<i>Deposit:</i> dark brown loam. Overlies [101] and is between 0.3-0.5m deep. <i>Interpretation:</i> topsoil <i>Artefacts:</i> modern pottery/brick
101	<i>Deposit:</i> brown silty clay. Below [100] extends beneath the base of the trench. <i>Artefacts:</i> evenly scattered throughout the context. Including: plain clay pipe bowl, clay pipe stems (x4), mollusc shell, coal, red and buff coloured medieval pottery some with light brown glaze, probably residual. <i>Interpretation:</i> re-deposited alluvium possible relict plough soil.

3. Pottery Register

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
101	Buff White ware	1	9	1	BS	Hollow ware	Smoothed ext	C12th - LC13th	Abundant quartz & sparse black grit
101	Reduced Greenware type	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC13th - C15th	
101	Tees Valley ware A	1	7	1	Rim	Jug	Thin white slip ext on a pale orange sandy body	E/MC13th - LC13th	
101	Tees Valley ware B type	1	33	1	Rod handle	Jug	Patchy dark splashed glaze on top of handle	MC13th - EC14th	Hard, dense dark orange fabric w/ moderate, well-sorted quartz up to 0.5mm
101	Tees Valley ware B type	2	11	1	BS	Hollow ware	Clear glaze ext w/ applied pellet ext	MC13th - EC14th	Hard, dense pale orange fabric w/ common well-sorted sub-angular quartz up to 0.5mm & sparse rock frags up to 1mm
101	Tees Valley ware B type	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Clear glaze ext	MC13th - EC14th	Dark orange sandy fabric w/ abundant quartz sand up to 0.4mm
	Total	7	67	6					

APPENDIX 3: Pottery Assessment

C.G. Cumberpatch BA PhD
Freelance Archaeologist

Introduction

The pottery assemblage from 8 West Street, Yarm was examined by the author on 11th March 2013. It consisted of seven sherds of medieval pottery weighing 67 grams and representing a maximum of six vessels. The details are summarised in Table 1.

Discussion

The pottery all appeared to have been recovered from the same context [101] and its diversity suggested that this context contained material spanning the post-Conquest medieval period. The pottery was all of local types and exemplified the local sequence, recently reassessed by Didsbury (2010:218-246). The earliest sherd was the small fragment of Buff White ware (aka Buff Gritty ware), part of a much broader regional tradition of white firing quartz tempered coarse sandy to gritty wares. The most numerous sherds were in Tees Valley ware fabrics with the earlier A type represented by a jug rim and the slightly later (but overlapping B type) also represented by jug fragments.

The latest sherd, a small piece of Reduced Greenware represented the dominant late medieval regional type, may also indicate that the earlier pottery was residual in a late medieval context although the possibility that it was intrusive cannot be ruled out. The condition of all of the sherds was good with few signs of significant abrasion or weathering.

Conclusion

Although small in size, the assemblage represents the range of medieval pottery used in the area from the 12th or early 13th century until the later 13th to 15th century and would seem to indicate long-lived medieval activity, probably of a domestic nature, in the immediate area of the excavation.

Bibliography

Didsbury, P. 2010 *Medieval pottery* In: R. Daniels (Ed.) **Hartlepool: An Archaeology of the Medieval Town** Tees Archaeology Monograph series volume 4