

437

MILL MOUNT, YORK.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.
OSA REPORT No: OSA02EV12.

NOVEMBER 2002.



OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY

25A Milton Street • York • North Yorkshire • YO10 3EP
telephone • 01904 411673 • fax • 01904 414522 • mobile • 07767 385766
e-mail • mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk
© *On-Site Archaeology, 2002.*

Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA02EV12.

SITE NAME: Mill Mount, York.

COUNTY: North Yorkshire.

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 5945 5102.

ON BEHALF OF: Shepherd Homes Ltd
89 The Mount
York
YO24 1BL.

TEXT: Faye Palmer.

FIELDWORK: Graham Bruce,
Tania Kausmally,
Faye Palmer.

TIMING: Fieldwork
31st October - 6th November 2002.
Post excavation & report preparation
7th – 19th November 2002

ENQUIRIES TO: Nick Pearson
On Site Archaeology
25A Milton Street
York
YO10 3EP

tel (01904) 411673
fax (01904) 414522
mobile (07767) 385766
e-mail mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk

PERIODS REPRESENTED: Roman, Early Modern.

Table of Contents.

Table of Contents.....	2
List of Figures.....	2
List of Plates.....	2
1.0 Abstract.....	3
2.0 Site Location, Topography and Land Use.....	5
3.0 Archaeological Background.....	6
4.0 Methodology.....	7
5.0 Results.....	8
6.0 Discussion & Conclusions.....	12
7.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.....	13
8.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.....	14
9.0 Appendix 3 ~ Finds Assessment.....	15
10.0 Appendix 4 ~ Assessment Report on the Roman Inhumation Grave.....	24
11.0 Appendix 5 ~ The Plates.....	28
12.0 Appendix 6 ~ Licence for the Removal of Human Remains.....	30

List of Figures.

Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 5945 5102).....	4
Figure 2. Trench location plan. (Scale 1:1000).....	5
Figure 3. South east facing section of Trench 1. (Scale 1:20).....	8
Figure 4. Post excavation plan of trench 2. (Scale 1:40).....	11

List of Plates.

Plate 1. Trench 1, south-east facing section.....	28
Plate 2. Trench 2, burial (2030).....	28
Plate 3. Trench 2, burial (2030), detail of skull and associated Fe objects.....	29
Plate 4. Trench 2, 19 th century walls (2006) – (2012), cutting Roman soil deposit.....	29

1.0 Abstract.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by On-Site Archaeology at the offices of Shepherd Engineering services, Mill Mount, York on behalf of Shepherd Homes. This work was conducted in order to provide information, regarding the potential for survival of archaeological remains, prior to proposed development. A programme of archaeological work was undertaken on the sites of a proposed extension to an existing building and driveway in the grounds of the offices. The evaluation consisted of 5 days on site from 31st October – 6th November 2002.

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of two trenches to determine the nature of archaeological deposits in the area. A small number of archaeological features and finds of Roman date were uncovered, including a human inhumation burial.



Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 5945 5102).

Reproduced from the 1988 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office
 © Crown copyright. OSA Licence No: AL 52132A0001

2.0 Site Location, Topography and Land Use.

The site lies to the southeast of The Mount, one of the main roads into the centre of York and is centred at approximately National Grid Reference SE 5945 5102. It is bounded to the northeast by Mill Mount, to the northwest by The Mount, to the southwest by Albemarle Road and to the southeast by All Saints School. The site is occupied by Mill Mount House and Mill Mount Lodge together with gardens and associated smaller buildings.

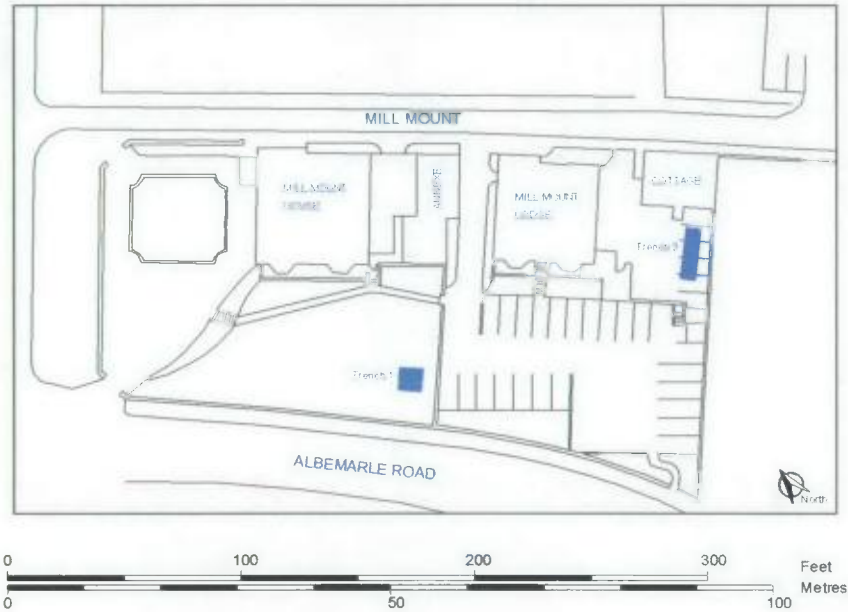


Figure 2. Trench location plan. (Scale 1:1000).

3.0 Archaeological Background.

The site lies in an area where extensive evidence for Roman burials has been observed over a period of 150 years. However, many of these observations were made in the 19th century in an unsystematic fashion. The evidence for the Roman cemetery on the Mount has been usefully collated and summarised by the RCHME (RCHME, 1962) and interpreted by Jones (Jones, 1984). Details of observations made in the immediate vicinity of this site have been published by Dickinson and Wenham (Dickinson and Wenham, 1957).

The cemetery appears to have been in use from the 2nd to the 4th century. There was a mix of burial practices: cremations; stone coffins; wooden coffins; graves with cobbled bases; and uncoffined burials.

A series of unsystematic observations were made in this area during the period 1897-1945. A stone coffin was exposed. The top of the coffin was between 'eighteen and twenty four inches' below the ground surface (Dickinson and Wenham, 1957, 291-4).

The existing topography of the area has changed over the past 150 years making it difficult to assess at what level Roman remains might be encountered.

There have been more recent archaeological investigations in the area. At Mill Mount School (MAP 1991.42) an evaluation trench contained four inhumations, (three adults and one juvenile). All the burials were Roman and later than 250AD, two of the graves produced evidence of wooden coffins. During the construction of an extension to the northeast of Mill Mount a further inhumation burial was recorded (OSA01EV09), whilst at 89 The Mount (YAT 1991.4) an evaluation encountered early Roman ditches.

In addition to the above evidence for Roman material, the site is partially occupied by a civil war artillery fort. Although this fort is shown in some detail on James Archer's map dated to c.1682, the precise location, relative to the modern boundaries of the site are not certain. This uncertainty is partially due to the level of potential inaccuracy of such an early cartographic source, but is also substantially affected by changes to the local topography during the 19th century.

The first edition Ordnance Survey map, published in 1852 shows the area of the site as open ground including occasional tree cover. A lane runs diagonally across the plot of land from north to south, which joined the precursors of modern Mill Mount and Albemarle Road. During the 1850's two large villas with ancillary buildings, were constructed fronting Mill Mount and the lane was completely removed. These buildings are broadly recognisable on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map as those that stand today, although minor alterations to some of the smaller structures are evident.

4.0 Methodology.

Trench 1 was located in the garden of Mill Mount House, close to Albemarle Road, on the site of a proposed access drive. The trench measured 3m x 3m at the surface and was dug by a mini excavator with a 1.2m toothless bucket. The trench was excavated to the maximum depth of 1.5m, at which depth the natural deposits were encountered in a small area. The overlying deposits were recorded in the trench sections.

Trench 2 was located in a small car park to the rear of the Cottage, within the footprint of a proposed extension. The trench measured 7m x 2m and was also initially excavated by mini-excavator. The overburden of tarmac and hardcore was removed, as well as the backfill of a modern intrusion. Following cleaning in an attempt to recognise cut features, the remaining deposits within the trench were then hand excavated down to natural deposits which lay at a maximum of 0.5m below the tarmac surface. The surface of the natural was then cleaned and all potential archaeological features thus revealed were excavated.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the evaluation. This involved the completion of a context sheet for each deposit, structure or cut encountered, along with plans and/or sections drawn to scale. Heights above Ordnance Datum (AOD) were calculated by taking levels from a Temporary Benchmark (TBM) which was then tied in with an existing Ordnance Survey benchmark, located on the south corner of the Odeon Cinema on Blossom Street (16.55m AOD). A photographic record of the deposits and features was also maintained. Following completion of recording the trenches were backfilled with the excavated spoil. A burial exposed within Trench 2 was not lifted, following its recording it was sealed with clean, washed sand, and the trench was then backfilled.

5.0 Results.

5.1 Trench 1.

The earliest deposit encountered within this trench was the natural sandy clay (1009) which was only revealed in the north east part of the trench at the basal limit of excavation, at approximately 20.20m AOD. The natural was sealed by a sequence of dumps, the detailed descriptions of which are included within Appendix 1, and their relative positions are shown on Figure 3, the southeast facing section, (see Plate 1). The earliest deposit (1007) within this sequence (directly overlying the natural), contained pottery dated to the late 18th century at the earliest, but this and subsequent layers also included residual Roman, medieval and post-medieval sherds. The sequence of dumps was approximately 0.95m thick, up to a maximum height of 21.15m AOD. The dump deposits were sealed by up to 0.6m of topsoil (1000), the modern surface of which was at between 21.68 and 21.73m AOD. A Dutch 1 cent coin, dated 1880 was recovered from the topsoil (see front cover).

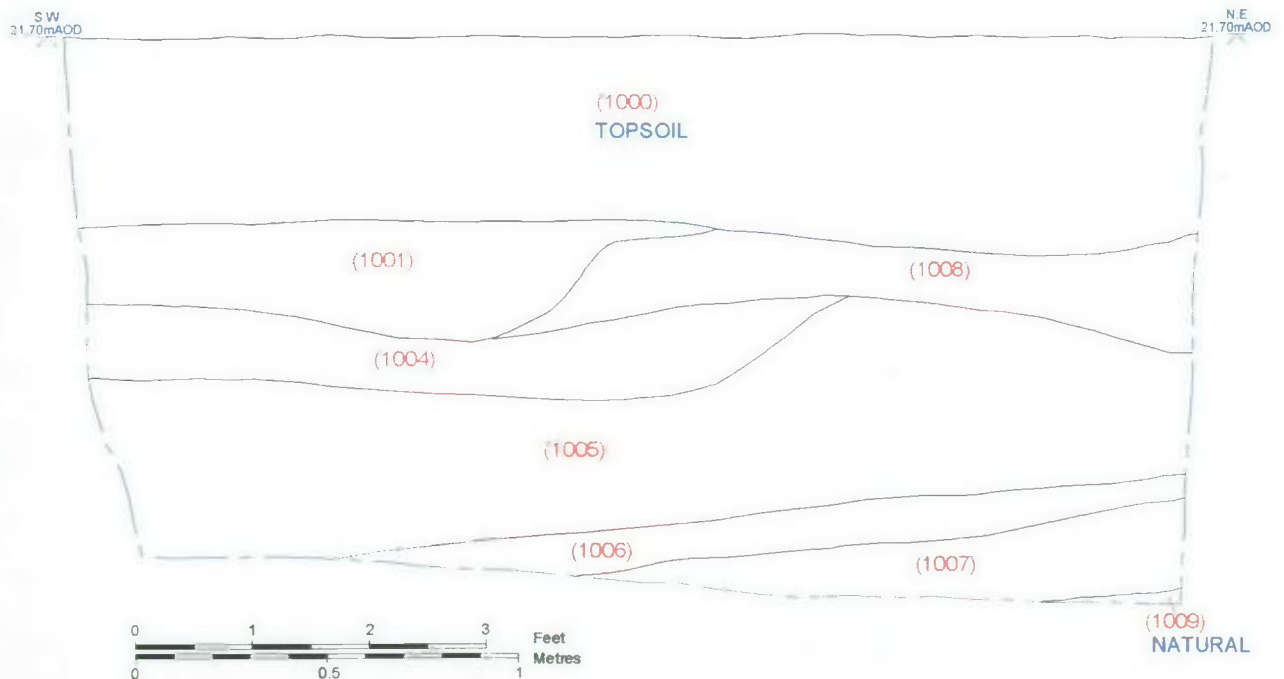


Figure 3. South east facing section of Trench 1. (Scale 1:20).

5.2 Trench 2.

The earliest deposit in this trench was the natural pinkish brown boulder clay (2031). This was at its highest at the southwest end of the trench, which like in Trench 1 was at approximately 20.20m AOD. The surface of the natural sloped down gently to the northeast end of the trench, to 19.90m AOD. The natural was cut by a small number of features, (see Figure 4).

Three small pits [2029], [2027] and [2025] were excavated close to, and parallel to, the northwest edge of the trench. These were irregular, sub-circular and oval shapes in plan, with diameters ranging between 0.50m and 0.80m. The central pit [2027] was very shallow (0.10m deep), with gradually sloping sides, whilst the two either side were deeper, (0.25m deep) with much steeper sides. These two may therefore be large postholes; if the central one is also a posthole then it must have been substantially truncated. These three features all had similar fills (2028), (2026), and (2024), of soft mid yellowish grey silty clay with frequent cobbles. Rare fragments of bone and one small piece of pottery (from 2024), of 2nd to 3rd century date, were recovered from these pits.

At the northeast end of the trench, a deep, vertically sided, feature [2023] was excavated. It was at first thought to be a pit, but turned out to be a grave, 0.55m deep, backfilled with soft mid greyish brown sandy clay (2022) and containing a single adult skeleton (2030), the head of which was lain towards the northwest (see Plate 2). The backfill contained a moderate number of small pottery sherds of 2nd to mid 3rd century date as well as two small fragments of Roman vessel glass, bone fragments and iron nails. The skeleton was examined within the grave and not removed. It was thought to be a middle aged male, buried in a coffin. It had an iron object in its mouth, and another under its skull, (see Plate 3). Differential preservation in the grave meant that the vertebrae and ribs did not survive at all, but the other visible bones were in good condition, (see Human Remains Report, Appendix 4 for details).

These Roman cut features and the natural were covered by a homogenous layer of mid yellowish brown silty clay, with a higher clay content closest to its interface with the underlying natural clay (Plate 4 shows the uppermost surface of this layer). This layer was dug in a series of spits, the limits of each one being defined by later intrusions, so different context numbers were allocated to each – (2015), (2017), (2018), (2019), (2020), and (2021). This layer containing exclusively Roman finds and may represent a later Roman agricultural horizon. However, the pottery dating for this deposit is practically identical to that for the grave backfill, which may indicate that the accumulation of this deposit was occurring both prior to the excavation of the grave and after its backfilling (see Pottery Assessment, Appendix 3). This deposit varied in thickness, from 0.05m at the southwest end of the trench, to 0.20m at the northeast end. This difference in thickness is almost certainly due to differences in the degree of modern truncation, with the greater thickness surviving where the natural slopes down to a slightly lower level.

The Roman soil layer was cut by a series of mortared brick walls of probable 19th century date, which were orientated either northwest to southeast, or at right angles to this, (see Figure 4 & Plate 4). The most north easterly of these walls (2011) was also the most substantial. This

was aligned with a scar in the yard boundary wall southeast of the trench, and appears to form the original rear wall of the cottage building. A short length of wall (2012) visible in the northwest section may have formed an internal division within this building.

The remaining walls appear to fall into two groups, but are all likely to form parts of the same building. The first group comprises double thickness walls, (2007 and 2010) constructed with a distinct foundation course of header laid bricks, which is slightly wider than the overlying courses. These appear to be the external walls of this building, with the second group, of insubstantial, single width walls (2008 and 2009) forming internal divisions. The stratigraphic relationships between the internal divisions and external walls had unfortunately been truncated by a modern intrusion, so the construction history of this building could not be securely established. It is also unclear if a wall (2006) seen in the section at the southwest end of the trench forms the exterior wall, or another parallel internal division.

Between the two internal walls the remains of a robbed concreted modern drain (2005) survived close to the edge of the trench. The drain and all the earlier structures and deposits were sealed by a layer of crushed limestone hardcore (2004) which formed the make-up for the modern tarmac car park surface (2003). The tarmac had recently been cut [2002] apparently to rob out whatever had been feeding the drain. The resultant cut had been filled with rubble (2001) and overlain by thin tarmac repair (2000). The modern surface over this trench sloped down slightly from 20.51m AOD at the southwest end, to 20.38m AOD at the northeast.

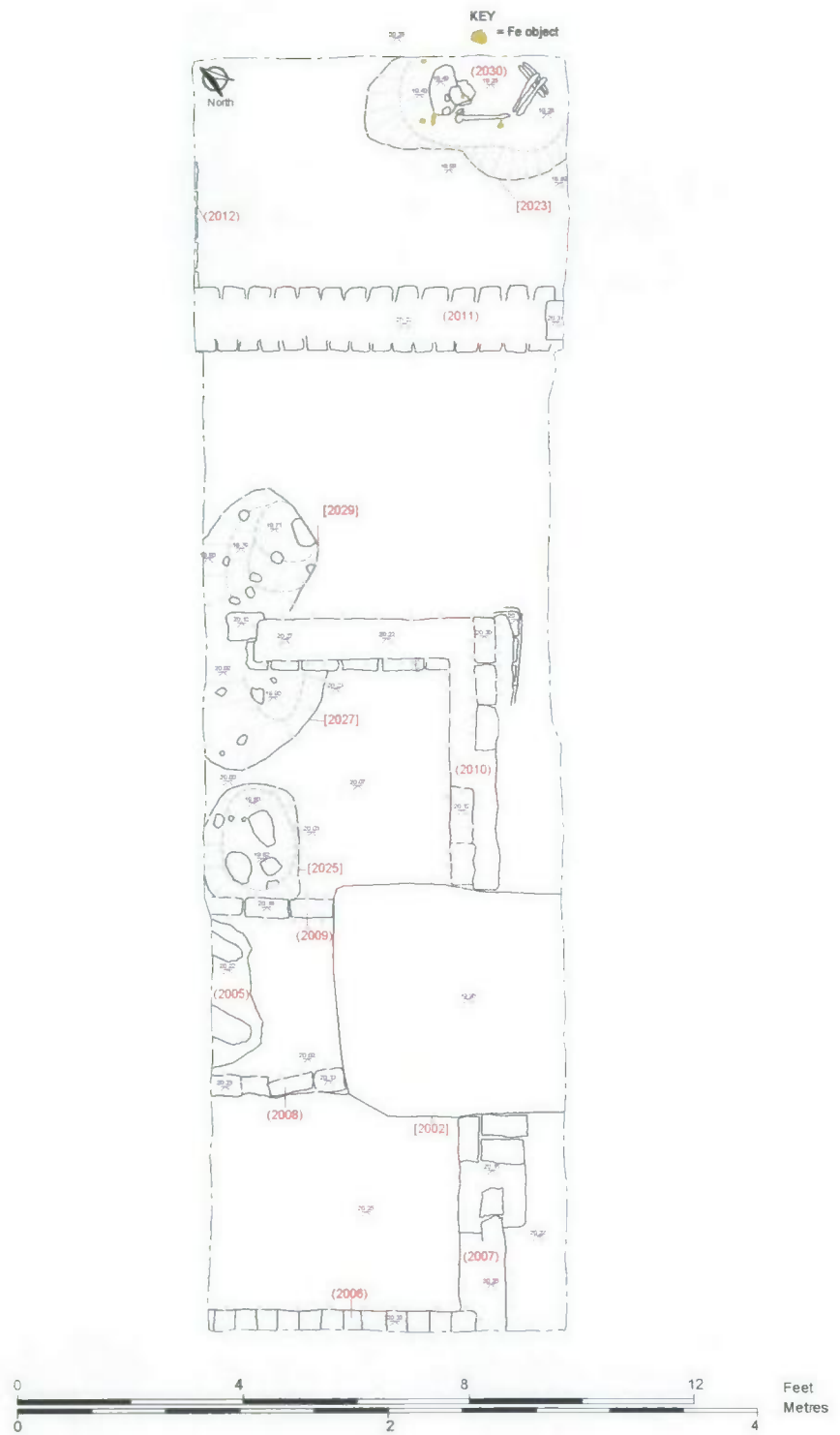


Figure 4. Post excavation plan of trench 2. (Scale 1:40).

6.0 Discussion & Conclusions.

6.1 Trench 1.

The sequence of deposits recorded in this trench confirms that significant topographical changes have taken place during the early modern period. The presence of early modern dumps, immediately over the natural suggest that any post-medieval, medieval or roman deposits have been cut away, presumably during preparations for the construction of the Victorian villas in the 1850's. The residual pottery from all of these earlier periods recovered from the early modern dump sequence is likely to have been derived from this disturbance. Whilst no archaeological cut features were encountered cutting into the natural only a limited area of this was exposed and there remains the possibility that these are present. However, if any such features do survive in this area of the site then they are well protected by approximately 1.50m of recent deposits. It is likely, therefore, that the construction of the proposed driveway here will only encounter the same sequence of early modern dump deposits as have been recorded during the evaluation, and nothing earlier.

6.2 Trench 2.

Trench 2 showed that this area had also been substantially truncated, almost certainly during the mid 19th century construction, but possibly additionally by the more recent levelling for the tarmac car park. Presumably the full, untruncated, archaeological sequence would have included medieval and post-medieval layers over the preserved Roman levels.

Although only a single burial was encountered within the confines of the evaluation trench, the potential remains for others to survive across much of the area of the proposed extension. Towards the northeastern end of the evaluated area any such burials are likely to be sealed by in-situ Roman deposits, approximately 0.20m thick, whilst those further to the southwest may be directly below the modern hardcore make-up and tarmac. As the grave was in excess of 0.50m deep any burials are likely to be fairly intact, even where the tops of the graves have been truncated by the 19th and 20th century ground reduction.

The presence of Roman pits or postholes in this trench suggest that non-funerary activity had also been taking place, although it is possible that these features formed a structure that was associated with the cemetery. As these features are much shallower than the grave the probable truncation along the southwest part of the area will have had an even greater impact.

7.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context	Description	Extent-m	Thickness-m
Trench 1.			
1000	Friable dark brown sandy silt with occ pebbles, CBM frags, moderate charcoal flecks	3 x 3	0.6
1001	Loose pinkish brown sandy clay with freq cobbles, CBM, limestone and sandstone frags, occ glass	3 x 2.5	0.2 – 0.5
1002	Loose purple clinker, ash and burnt material, moderate charcoal / coal frags	0.5 x 1.2	0.2
1003	Compact yellowish red clay, freq gravel and mortar frags	1 x 1.3	0.05
1004	Soft brownish pink clay, occ mortar, charcoal, small cobbles	2 x 2.5	0.2
1005	Compact pinkish brown sandy clay, moderate pebbles, occ charcoal, CBM and mortar flecks, lenses of pink clay	3 x 3	0.2 – 0.5
1006	Soft greyish yellow sand	3 x 1	0.04 – 0.1
1007	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt, freq CBM, mortar, moderate cobbles, limestone and sandstone frags	3 x 3	0.2 – unknown
1008	Friable mid reddish brown sandy silt with occ pebbles and mortar, rare CBM flecks	2 x 2.5	0.2 – 0.3
1009	Firm orange sandy clay	0.6 x 3 revealed	unknown
Trench 2.			
2000	Tarmac surface	1 x 1	0.05
2001	Plastic mixed redeposited natural clay and loose dark ashy sand with CBM, tarmac, concrete and hardcore frags	1 x 1	0.7
2002	Square cut with vertical straight sides and a flat base	1 x 1	0.7
2003	Tarmac surface	trench	0.1
2004	Mid yellowish white limestone hardcore	trench	0.2
2005	Concrete with glazed ceramic drains	0.75 x 0.3	0.25
2006	Brick wall, headers only visible.	1.35 x 0.1	0.1
2007	Brick wall with white mortar	1.2 x 0.35	0.3
2008	Brick wall, one brick thick white mortar	0.7 x 0.12	0.2
2009	Brick wall, one brick thick, white mortar	0.65 x 0.12	0.2
2010	L shaped brick wall, 3 courses, white mortar	3 x 0.4	0.25
2011	Brick wall, 3 courses white mortar	2 x 0.35	0.3
2012	Part of brick wall	0.75 x 0.02	0.1
2013	Plastic mid yellowish brown silty clay with freq pebbles and small cobbles, occ charcoal flecks	1.3 x 1.15	Unknown
2014	Plastic mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate pebble and occ charcoal flecks	1.2 x 0.4	Unknown
2015	Plastic mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and small cobbles, occ charcoal flecks	0.9 x 0.5	0.1
2016	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt + clay	1 x 0.4	Unknown
2017	Plastic mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and small cobble, occ charcoal and CBM flecks	1.35 x 1.1	0.1
2018	Friable – plastic mid reddish brown clay silt with moderate pebbles and occ CBM and charcoal flecks and frags	2 x 1.3	0.1
2019	Soft mid pinkish brown sandy clay with moderate pebbles and charcoal frags and flecks	2 x 1.5	0.15
2020	Friable – plastic mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate – freq pebbles and small cobbles and occ CBM and charcoal flecks	2 x 1.3	0.1
2021	Soft mid pinkish brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and charcoal flecks, occ CBM / daub flecks	2 x 1.5	0.15
2022	Soft mid greyish brown sandy clay with moderate pebbles and charcoal flecks, occ cobbles	1 x 0.8	0.6
2023	Irregular cut with vertical straight sides and a concave base - grave	unknown	Unknown
2024	Soft mid yellowish grey silty clay with freq cobbles	0.55 x 0.5	0.25

2025	Roughly oval cut with steep stepped sides and a sloping base	0.55 x 0.5	0.25
2026	Soft mid yellowish grey silty clay with freq cobbles	0.55 x 0.5	0.15
2027	Oval cut with moderate concave sides and an irregular base	0.55 x 0.5	0.15
2028	Soft mid yellowish grey silty clay with freq cobbles	0.64 x 0.6	0.3
2029	Oval cut with steep concave sides and a concave base	0.64 x 0.6	0.3
2030	Adult male skeleton	NA	NA
2031	Firm, plastic mid brownish pink silty clay with freq cobbles and pebbles	trench	Unknown

8.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.

8.1 Drawing Register.

Drawing No	Contexts	Scale	Initial and Date
1	Trench 1 SE facing section	1 : 10	GJB 31/10/02
2	Trench 1 NE facing section	1 : 10	FP 31/10/02
3	Trench 2 Pre-excavation	1 : 20	GJB 31/10/02
4	Trench 2 [2025], [2027], [2029] and [2023]	1 : 20	TK and FP 04/11/02
5	Trench 2 [2029] section	1 : 10	TK 04/11/02
6	Trench 2 [2025] section	1 : 10	TK 04/11/02
7	Trench 2 [2027] section	1 : 10	TK 04/11/02
8	Trench 2 [2023] NE facing section	1 : 10	FP 04/11/02

8.2 Photographic Register.

Frame	Comments	View	Scale	Init. & Date	Site
Digital camera 31/10/02					
1	Tr 2 pre ex shot	NA	NA	GJB 31/10/02	Mill Mount
2	Tr 1 steps near trench	NA	NA	"	"
3	Tr 1 pre ex	NA	NA	"	"
4	Tr 1 after first machine strip	NE	1m	FP 31/10/02	"
5	Tr 1 NE facing section	SW	1m	"	"
6	Tr 1 SE facing section	NW	1m	"	"
7	Tr 1 base after excavation	NW	1m	"	"
8	Tr 1 SW facing section	NE	1m	"	"
9-11	Tr 2 after cleaning	SW	1m	GJB 31/10/02	"
Digital camera 05/11/02					
1	Tr 2 pit [2029]	NW	0.5m	TK 04/11/02	"
2	Tr 2 pits [2027] and [2025]	NW	0.5m	"	"
3-7	Tr 2 Skeleton (2030)	SW	0.5m	FP 05/11/02	"
8	Metal object in mouth of skeleton	SW	0.5m	"	"

9.0 Appendix 3 ~ Finds Assessment.

Alan Vince & Barbara Precious¹.

One hundred and fifty-three sherds of pottery, fragments of four glass vessels and ten fragments of ceramic building material from an evaluation at Mill Mount, York, were submitted for identification and assessment (OSA02 EV12). The majority of the material was of Roman date, probably in the main late 2nd to mid 3rd century. Superficial deposits produced sherds of medieval and later date, including an unusual lid in Beverley ware.

Description.

9.1. Ceramic Building Material.

9.1.1 Romano-British.

Nine fragments of Roman tile were recovered. All have a similar fabric (tempered with abundant subangular quartz sand, with fragments of fine-grained sandstone and streaks of lighter-coloured clay. Only one of these was identifiable, as a tegula flange. None of the remainder were curved and only two had complete thicknesses, 28mm and 19mm. The former may have been a brick, used either as a pilae tile in a hypocaust or structurally as a decorative/levelling course in walling. The latter might be another piece of tegula.

These fragments were found in the grave, [2022] and the overlying ploughsoil and were similar in size and condition. They indicate that debris from Roman structures, with tile roofs and possibly hypocausts and masonry walls were present.

9.1.2 Medieval.

A single fragment of a flat roof tile was recovered from context 1007. The characteristics of the fabric (salt surfacing and a rounded quartzose sand) suggest that it may have been made in the Humber estuary, for example at Beverley or Barton-upon-Humber.

9.2 Pottery.

9.2.1 Roman Pottery.

One hundred and forty-two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered. Twenty-seven of these were from the backfill of the grave, [2022]. Eighty-nine were found in the 'ploughsoil' levels above the grave. Twenty-three were unstratified and three were residual in modern deposits in Trench 1 (Table 1).

¹ 25West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

Table 1.

Broad cname	grave	ploughsoil	us	Tr1	Grand Total
Grand Total	27	89	23	3	142
BURNISHED	9	27	12	2	50
COLOUR-COATED	6	22	4		32
GREY	4	17			21
SAMIAN	4	7	4		15
EBOR	4	9			13
SHELLY		4			4
MORTARIA		2	1		3
AMPH		1			1
CALCITE			1		1
OXID			1		1
'WHITE'				1	1

The range of wares present and their relative frequencies are typical of mid Roman deposits in York. The majority of the sherds found were burnished greywares of various types including Dorset BB1, BB2, a single sherd of Crambeck greyware and sherds of unknown, local, origin, followed by colour-coated wares, most of which were from the Nene Valley but which included one Rhenish vessel. Samian wares were the next most common type. Within this group, single sherds of south Gaulish (S1) and Les Matres-de-Veyre (S2) were identified but the majority were central Gaulish wares (S3). There were also two sherds of East Gaulish Samian ware. Greywares were the next most common type, of which equal quantities came from York and unknown, British sources. Thirteen sherds of Ebor ware, four sherds of Dales-type shelly ware, two mortaria (one from Crambeck and the other from Mancetter/Hartshill and a single amphora sherd, probably of Italian origin (containing black volcanic sand) complete the assemblage from the stratified Roman levels. Single sherds of Calcite-tempered ware, oxidized ware and white ware were present but not stratified.

A wide range of forms were represented (Table 2). However, sherds of Jars, dishes and beakers predominated.

Table 2

Broad Class	Nosh	Weight
Amphora	1	18
Beakers	31	101
Bowls	1	4
Castor boxes	1	3
Dishes	35	386
Flagons	1	5
Jar/Beaker	3	42
Jar/Bowl	1	4
Jars	38	274
Mortaria	3	98
Samian	6	85

9.2.2 *Medieval Pottery.*

Five sherds of medieval pottery were found. The earliest of these is a thick-walled lid (or perhaps a pedestal base) in Beverley ware. The vessel has knife-trimming on the underside and a plain splash glaze on the upper surface, over a series of deep corrugations. The vessel is unusual and should be illustrated in the hope that it can be positively identified if more complete examples of the type come to light.

The remaining sherds are unremarkable jug sherds of Brandsby-type ware (13th to 15th century) and Humber ware (mid 14th to 16th century).

9.2.3 *Post-medieval Pottery.*

A sherd of Midlands Yellow ware (MY) is probably of late 16th to mid 17th century date. A sherd from a Staffordshire slipware posset pot has an external brown slip, which was probably decorated with slip trailing. It could be of late 17th to mid 18th century date. A fragment of a tin-glazed bowl is probably of similar date, as is a sherd of an unidentified slipware (made from Coal Measures white-firing clay but probably not from Staffordshire).

9.2.4 *Early Modern Pottery.*

A small sherd of a creamware vessel, possibly a chamber pot, was found. Such vessels are of late 18th century or later date.

9.3 *Glass.*

9.3.1 *Romano-British*

Fragments of two vessels were present in context 2022. One is a clear glass bowl with an added foot-ring. The other is another bowl, in a light blue glass, with a fire-rounded rim. This method of rim-finishing started to replace grinding during the 3rd century and became standard in the late Roman period.

Although only small sherds of each vessel survive they would repay study by a specialist in Romano-British glassware if the grave and its contents are to be published.

There is no evidence for these vessels being deliberately-deposited grave-goods in this grave and they must either be disturbed from earlier graves or, like the pottery, they may be domestic refuse. The lack of glass fragments in the overlying ploughsoil is probably a result of the harsher soil conditions to be found there.

9.3.2 *Post-medieval.*

Two fragments of dark green bottle glass were recovered from context (1007). Both come from the shoulders of bottles of indeterminate size and shape. However, the weathering of the glass suggests a late 17th to mid 18th-century date.

9.4 Assessment.

9.4.1 Site history.

The earliest stratified deposit excavated was the filling of an inhumation, 2022. The pottery from this deposit is, however, identical in character to that from the overlying deposits, which are interpreted as a Roman ploughsoil. Both groups contain some sherds of 2nd-century date but the majority are of 2nd/3rd-century date and both contain definite mid 3rd century types. Thus, the activity that gave rise to the pottery pre-dates the ploughing or horticultural activity, which, it is suggested, is the origin of the overlying deposits. It is possible that the pottery was associated with grave-side activities: feasting and the pouring of libations, but it includes vessels used in food preparation and there is nothing in the character of the pottery assemblage which would suggest that it was anything other than a typical assemblage of 2nd/3rd century domestic debris from the *colonia*. However, at some stage it would be worthwhile making a formal comparison of the various pottery assemblages collected from sites to the south of the *colonia* and comparing them with those from 2nd/3rd-century sites within the *colonia* and fortress.

None of the pottery requires further study or treatment but the two fragments of glass, which may be disturbed grave goods or simply more domestic debris, ought to be submitted to a specialist in Romano-British glass for identification and assessment.

An unstratified example of calcite-tempered ware is the only evidence for activity after the middle of the 3rd century whilst the earliest medieval type present is the Beverley ware lid, of mid 12th-century or later date. This may either indicate a long hiatus during which there was little activity on the site or it may be that deposits have been truncated.

9.4.2 Further work.

The two Roman glass vessels should be examined by a specialist on Roman glassware if it is intended to publish the results of this evaluation.

The Beverley ware "lid" should be illustrated to aid future identification of the vessel.

Costing.

Roman glass specialist	1 hour	£25.00
Transport of glass (courier)		£3.00
Illustration of Beverley ware "lid"	1 hour	£10.00

The two Roman glass vessels should be examined by a specialist on Roman glassware if it is intended to publish the results of this evaluation.

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Description	Nosh	Weight
US		ZDATE			CP3B		
US	ceramic	B1		D	BASE	1	9

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Description	Nosh	Weight
US	ceramic	B1		D	BASE	1	21
US	ceramic	B1		DF2	RIM	1	16
US	ceramic	B2		JC	BS	1	7
US	ceramic	B3		D	BASE	1	4
US	ceramic	B3		DD	RIM BASE PROF PLAIN WMADE NO DEC	1	59
US	ceramic	B3		D	BS	1	2
US	ceramic	B3		D	BSS	2	18
US	ceramic	B3		DD3	RIM GIRTH	1	10
US	ceramic	B6		DF2	RIM GIRTH BS: WMADE WEL SOR 02. SA Q	2	23
US	ceramic	C1		KF	BS	1	2
US	ceramic	C1		K	BS	1	6
US	ceramic	C1A		KF?	RIM FUNNEL PLAIN	1	2
US	ceramic	C1A		K	BS	1	14
US	ceramic	K2?		J	BS	1	29
US	ceramic	M14		MH	RIM GIRTH	1	31
US	ceramic	O0			FRAG	1	1
US	ceramic	S3		31R	BS BASAL	1	17
US	ceramic	S3		D	FLAKE	1	4
US	ceramic	S3		31R	BS BASAL	1	32
US	ceramic	S3		31 ETC RIM		1	9
1001		ZDATE			CP2B-3B/POSTRO?		
1001	ceramic	B2?		JC	BS	1	26
1001	ceramic	BEVO		LID	KT UNDERSIDE;RIBBED UPPER SURFACE;MORTAR COATED	1	26
1001	ceramic	BRANDS BY		JUG	MORTAR COATED	2	7
1001	ceramic	CSTN		CUP	MORTAR COATED;WHITE BLOB	1	3
1007		ZDATE			CP2B-3B/POSTRO?		
1007	CBM	MTIL	BEVO? RQ >1.0MM;CALC BODY	FLAT	ONE END VITRIFIED	1	53
1007	ceramic	B1		D	BS	1	6
1007	ceramic	BRANDS BY		JUG	CLOSE-SET HORIZ GROOVES ON SHOULDER	1	19
1007	ceramic	CREA		CHP		1	2
1007	ceramic	HUM		JUG		1	13
1007	ceramic	MY		JAR		1	6
1007	ceramic	PO		CLSD	BS	1	4
1007	ceramic	STSL		POSS	BROWN SLIPPED EXT	1	20

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Description	Nosh	Weight
1007	ceramic	STSL?	CMW BUT POSS NOT STAFFS	POSS?		1	4
1007	ceramic	TGW		BOWL	EXT BLUE DEC	1	4
1007	PMGL	PMGL	DK GREEN	BOT		2	15
2013		ZDATE			CP2-3		
2013	ceramic	E1		CLSD	BS	1	6
2013	ceramic	G1		J	BS	1	4
2013	ceramic	G1?		J	BS BRN MARGINS LTGRY CORE	1	2
2015	CBM	RTIL		-		1	3
2017		ZDATE			CP2B-3B		
2017	ceramic	B1		D	BS	1	7
2017	ceramic	B2		D	BS	1	9
2017	ceramic	B2		JC	RIM FRAG	1	3
2017	ceramic	B3		D	BASE	1	21
2017	ceramic	C2		F	HANDLE 2R	1	5
2017	ceramic	C3		K	BS	1	3
2017	ceramic	C3		K	BS	1	6
2017	ceramic	G0			SCRAP	1	1
2017	ceramic	S4		D	BS	1	1
2018		ZDATE			CP3B-4		
2018	CBM	RTIL		-		1	4
2018	CBM	RTIL		-		1	70
2018	CBM	RTIL		TEG		1	43
2018	CBM	RTIL		-		1	76
2018	ceramic	AA		A	BS BLACK SAND ITALIAN	1	18
2018	ceramic	B1		D	BS BASAL	1	21
2018	ceramic	B1		JC	RIM	1	5
2018	ceramic	B1		JC	BS SMALL JAR	1	1
2018	ceramic	B1?			FLAKE	1	2
2018	ceramic	B16?		D	BSS	2	33
2018	ceramic	B3		D	BS BASAL	1	12
2018	ceramic	B3		D	BASE	1	11
2018	ceramic	B3?		JC?	BS PART BURNISHED	1	14
2018	ceramic	B6?		JC	BS UNBURNISHED ZONE	1	2
2018	ceramic	C3		K	BSS CHIPS; POSS KL	8	10
2018	ceramic	C3		J;K	BASE; POSS LGE BEAKER	1	29

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Description	Nosh	Weight
2018	ceramic	E0			FRAG	1	1
2018	ceramic	G1		J	BS BODY GROOVE	1	5
2018	ceramic	G1		J	BS	1	3
2018	ceramic	G1		J;B	BS	1	4
2018	ceramic	G1		J;K	BS	1	8
2018	ceramic	G1		JE	RIM NECK	1	13
2018	ceramic	H0		CLSD	BS THICK REDN	1	11
2018	ceramic	M1		MC	RIM FLANGE FRAG	2	67
2018	ceramic	S3		K	BS; POSS DE 68	1	3
2018	ceramic	S3?			CHIPS	2	1
2018/2020		ZDATE			CP3		
2018/2020	ceramic	H1		J	BSS	2	36
2018/2020	ceramic	ZZZ			PROB CP3B		
2019		ZDATE			CP3-4		
2019	ceramic	C1		YB	BS	1	3
2019	ceramic	E1		CLSD	BSS	2	5
2019	ceramic	E1		K	BS V THIN	1	1
2019	ceramic	G0		J	BSS	2	10
2019	ceramic	G1		J;K	BS; FINER FAB	1	5
2019	ceramic	G1		J	BSS	3	14
2019	ceramic	G8		J	BS	1	3
2019	ceramic	H1		J	BS	1	5
2020		ZDATE			CP2B-3B		
2020	ceramic	B1		D	BASE	1	5
2020	ceramic	B1		JC	BS	1	2
2020	ceramic	B3		D	BS <*> TRIMMED FOR A COUNTER	1	6
2020	ceramic	B3		D	BSS;BASE	4	20
2020	ceramic	B3		DP5	RIM UPPER WALL	1	23
2020	ceramic	B3		JC	BSS; UNBURNISHED ZONES	2	4
2020	ceramic	C1		K	BS PROB BAVE	1	1
2020	ceramic	C1B		K	BSS	3	28
2020	ceramic	C24		K	BSS FLAKES	4	5
2020	ceramic	E1		J	BASE	1	21
2020	ceramic	E1		J	BSS	2	7
2020	ceramic	G1		J	BS FINER FAB	1	20

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Description	Nosh	Weight
2020	ceramic	S3		36	RIM	1	7
2020	ceramic	S3		D?	FLAKE	1	1
2020	ceramic	S4?		31 ETC	RIM LWR WALL	1	19
2021		ZDATE			CP3B		
2021	CBM	RTIL		-		1	3
2021	ceramic	B1		DF2	RIM FRAG	1	7
2021	ceramic	B2		JC	BS	1	3
2021	ceramic	B2		D	BASE	1	18
2021	ceramic	C1B		K	BS	1	5
2021	ceramic	G1		B	BSS BODY GROOVES; POSS JB BUTT- JAR	1	4
2022		ZDATE		D	CP3B		
2022	CBM	RTIL		-		3	17
2022	ceramic	B1		D	BS TRIMMED? FOR COUNTER	1	3
2022	ceramic	B1		JC	BS	1	1
2022	ceramic	B1		JC	RIM	1	2
2022	ceramic	B11?		J	BS	1	4
2022	ceramic	B11?		DD3	RIM	1	8
2022	ceramic	B2		JC	BSS	2	14
2022	ceramic	B3		JC	RIM FLAKE	1	2
2022	ceramic	B3		D	BS	1	8
2022	ceramic	C1B		K	BSS	1	1
2022	ceramic	C1B		K	BSS	3	9
2022	ceramic	C1B		KF	BSS	1	2
2022	ceramic	C1B		KF?	RIM	1	3
2022	ceramic	E0			BS	1	6
2022	ceramic	E1			BSS	3	6
2022	ceramic	G0			RIM INTURNED CF 4071	1	4
2022	ceramic	G1		CLSD	BS GROOVE	1	1
2022	ceramic	G1		J	BS	1	3
2022	ceramic	G2		J	BS	1	9
2022	ceramic	S1?			BS	1	1
2022	ceramic	S2?			FLAKES	2	1
2022	ceramic	S3		30-37	BS DEC	1	1
2022	GLAS	GLAS	CLEAR		BOWL/ APPLIED FOOTRING JUG	4	3
2022	GLAS	GLAS	LIGHT BLUE		BOWL FIRE-ROUNDED RIM	1	1

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Description	Nosh	Weight
2024		ZDATE			CP1B-3A		
2024	ceramic	E1		BS		1	1

10.0 Appendix 4 ~ Assessment Report on the Roman Inhumation Grave.

10.1 Summary.

A single burial was uncovered during an evaluation by *On-Site-Archaeology* at Mill Mount during November 2002. The skeleton lay in a supine position with the head towards northwest. The preservation of the skeleton was somewhat abnormal as the skull and arms were preserved *in-situ*, but the ribs and vertebrae were completely absent. Coffin nails were found surrounding the burial but none of the coffin itself was preserved. One metal object was present in the mandible and one under the head. Both objects were believed to be part of the burial dress or grave goods. The skeleton was that of an adult male.

10.2 Introduction.

A single inhumation was uncovered during an evaluation by *On-Site-Archaeology* at Mill Mount during November 2002. The burial is likely from part of a larger Roman funerary environment, excavated on a number of sites outside the city wall, (YAT 1983.47, 1989-90.21 & 1991.11 & OSA02EV09). The individual was recorded and preserved *in-situ*, and may be exhumed at a later date. The skeleton was buried at a depth of 19.25m AOD, (top of the grave was at a level of 19.93m AOD) lying in a supine position with the right hand resting on top of the left hand over the lower spine and pelvis. The head was situated to the northwest, facing southwest. Only the upper part of the skeleton was visible in the trial trench (see Fig.4 & Plates 2 & 3). A number of larger ferrous nails surrounded the individual and was probably part of a coffin. A smaller metal triangular shaped object was found in the mandible of the skeleton. It is likely that the object was part of the dress or a piece of jewellery worn around the neck, but could not be closely identified at this stage. Another elongated ferrous object was found extending out from under the frontal bone of the skull. The object was not lifted but the shape suggested that it was the remains of a knife or possibly part of the coffin furniture.

10.3 Methodology.

The skeleton was recorded in the ground, noting details on skeletal elements present, ageing, sex and pathology. The limited preservation of the skeleton did not allow for any metric analysis. The sex of the skeleton was based on morphological variation in the skull according to standards laid down by Bass (1995) and Buikstra & Uberlaker (1994). Age estimation has been based on dental wear stages by Brothwell (1981) and Miles (1962 as seen in Hillson 1996).

10.4 Results.

10.4.1 Human Skeleton (Context 2030).

Table 1 lists the body parts present. Only few skeletal elements were preserved, including the skull and the left and right arm. The torso was absent and not a single rib or vertebra was uncovered. Both arms had remained *in-situ* with the hands resting on top of each other over

the lower lumbar vertebra or pelvis. Despite this the pelvis was absent too, suggesting that the limited number of elements present may be due to preservation rather than truncation. Situated in boulder clay the more fragile elements of the body may have been crushed and the parts closest to the bottom the least well preserved. It is however puzzling that not a single fragment of torso was uncovered.

The sex of the individual was estimated on the basis of sexually dimorphic features of the skull, as the pelvis was not present for observation. The skull was in a fragile condition but it was still possible to gather some information. The Mandibular angle and mental eminence were both very sharp and square. Of the skull the orbital ridge of the frontal bone and the mastoid process of the left temporal bone could be observed. All features were in general typical male in shape though the mastoid process was inconclusive, suggesting that the individual was a possible male. Based on the size of the humerus and the muscle attachments, indications were further suggesting that the skeleton was that of a male.

The age of the individual was based solely on dental attrition of the mandible, as the teeth were the only clear age indicators in the skeleton. The sutures of the skull were fragmented and the joints too eroded to consider any degenerative processes. The lower incisors and canines were all present but had been exposed to wear to the extent that the pulp cavity was visible. The premolars were only moderately worn with the 2nd left premolar absent. The left 1st molar was absent with only the distal portion of the root present in the alveolar bone. The 2nd molars were moderately worn exposing some dentine and the 3rd molars exhibited none to very limited wear. Based on the wear of the molars, applying Brothwell's scoring system (1981) the individual was between 25-35 years of age. This could further be confirmed by another system by Miles (1962) providing an age between 24 and 35 years. The advanced wear on the incisors does however suggest that the individual was at least at the older end of the above age bracket. It is however likely that the individual used the incisors extensively during life, maybe through work using the teeth to hold objects in place, causing heavy wear on the front dentition. The absence of the 1st molar is likely to have been caused by breakage rather than an abscess as the roots were still imbedded in the alveolar bone and there were no immediately visible signs of any infection.

No pathological conditions were observed on the skull or limb bones present and stature could not be calculated, as no complete long bones were present.

10.5 Conclusion.

The burial contained a male individual of about 24-35 years of age. The individual was buried in a coffin in a supine position with the hands folded over the pelvis or lower spine. In the mandible was a small triangular shaped metal object, believed to be part of the burial dress or a piece of jewellery worn around the neck. Below the frontal part of the skull was an elongated ferrous object, possibly a knife. The burial is likely to be part of a larger Roman funerary environment situated along the Mount.

10.6 *Archive.*

The paper and electronic records pertaining the work described here are stored at the offices of *On-Site Archaeology*, York, whilst the burial itself was reburied under cleaned, washed, sand.

10.7 *References.*

Aufenhider, A & Rodriguez-Martin, C 1998: *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Human Pathology*. Cambridge University Press.

Bass, W.M 1995: *Human Osteology – A laboratory & field Manual*. 4th ed. Missouri Archaeological Society

Berkovitz, BKB & Moxham, BJ 1989: *Color Atlas of the Skull*. Mosby-Wolfe

Buikstra, J & Uberlaker, M 1994: *Standards for data collection from Human Skeletal Remains*. Arkansas Archaeological Survey Research Series No.44.

Hillson, S 1996: *Dental Anthropology*. Cambridge University Press

On-Site-Archaeology 2002: Mill Mount OSA02EV12

Roberts, C & Manchester, K 1995: *The archaeology of disease*. 2nd ed. Allan Sutton Publishing.

White, T.D 2000: *Human Osteology*. 2nd ed. Academic Press

York Archaeological Trust 1983.47: York Railway Station

York Archaeological Trust 1989-90.21: 35-41 Blossom Street

York Archaeological Trust 1991.11: 14-20 Blossom Street

Table 1. ELEMENT SKELETON (2030) – Mill Mount, York.

cranium	Crushed by large boulders in the natural but all elements present
Mandible	complete mandible with mental eminence present.
Teeth	Lower Permanent dentition – L&R I1, L&R I2, L&R C, L&R PM1, R PM2 R M1, L&R M2 L&R M3 Upper Permanent dentition – L&R I1, L&R I2, L&R C, L&R PM1, R PM2, L&R M1, L&R M2 L&R M3
Cervical Verts.	Not present
Thoracic Verts.	None present
Lumbar Verts.	None present
Scapula	Fragment of Right
Clavicle	Fragment of Right
Sternum	Not present
Ribs	None present
Humerus	Left & Right present but fragmented
Radius	Left & Right present but fragmented
Ulna	Left & Right present but fragmented
Carpals	None present
Metacarpals	Some present
Hand phalanges	Some present
Pelvis	Not present
Sacrum	Not present
Femur	Not visible
Patella	Not visible
Tibia	Not visible
Fibula	Not visible
Tarsals	Not visible
Metatarsals	Not visible
Foot Phalages	Not visible

11.0 Appendix 5 ~ The Plates.



Plate 1. Trench 1, south-east facing section.



Plate 2. Trench 2, burial (2030).



Plate 3. Trench 2, burial (2030), detail of skull and associated Fe objects.



Plate 4. Trench 2, 19th century walls (2006) – (2012), cutting Roman soil deposit.

12.0 Appendix 6 ~ Licence for the Removal of Human Remains.



Licence Number 28176
File Number CBC/02 4/25/2

LICENCE FOR THE REMOVAL OF HUMAN REMAINS

1. In virtue of the power vested in me by Section 25 of the Burial Act, 1857 (20 & 21 Vic., cap. 81), I hereby grant Licence for the removal of the remains of **persons unknown from the place in which they are now interred in the place known as Shepherd Engineering Services, Mill Mount, York, Yo 24 1GU (NGR SE 5953 5102).**
2. It is a condition of this Licence that the following precautions shall be observed;
 - a) **The removal shall be effected with due care and attention to decency;**
 - b) **The ground in which the remains are interred shall be screened from the public gaze while the work of removal is in progress;**
 - c) **The remains shall, if of sufficient scientific interest, be examined by Professor Don Brothwell, University of York;**
 - d) **The remains shall, if of sufficient interest, be retained for archival Storage at the Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York, or they shall be reinterred in a burial ground in which interments may legally take place, and in any intervening period they shall be kept safely, privately, and decently.**
3. This Licence merely exempts from the penalties which would be incurred if the removal took place without a Licence; it does not in any way alter civil rights. It does not confer the right to bury the remains in any place where such right does not already exist.
4. This Licence expires on **1 May 2003**

David Blunkett

HOME OFFICE
17 October 2002

One of Her Majesty's Principal
Secretaries of State

