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FOSS ISLANDS ROAD, YORK.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.
OSA REPORT No: OSA03WB01.

AUGUST 2003.

OSA

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Report Summary

REPORT NO: OSA03WB01

SITE NAME: Foss Islands Road

COUNTY: York

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NGR SE 6117 5146

PLANNING APPLICATION No: 02/00644/RE

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PERIODS REPRESENTED: Romano British, Medieval, Post Medieval

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1.0 Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was conducted by On Site Archaeology at the site of the C.A.L.A homes development to the rear of Foss Islands Road and Lawrence Street, in the city of York.

This revealed a pattern of archaeological features, present across the bulk of the development area. This was due in some part to the area reduction on the site. This meant that features that were once just 1.2m below the current ground surface were now that much closer to a modified ground level. Initial trenching for ground beams in the south-east quadrant of the site revealed archaeological deposits and cut features which extended some way towards the northern limit of the site. Monitoring of underpinning revealed archaeological features in the extreme south-west, whilst deep drainage works revealed the presence of significant archaeological material along the southern edge of the site.

This archaeological resource consisted of cut features ranging from the Roman to medieval and post medieval dates. The majority were domestic pits, though linears were also observed. In addition there were a number of brick built structures encountered, including a well, and a brick built drain.

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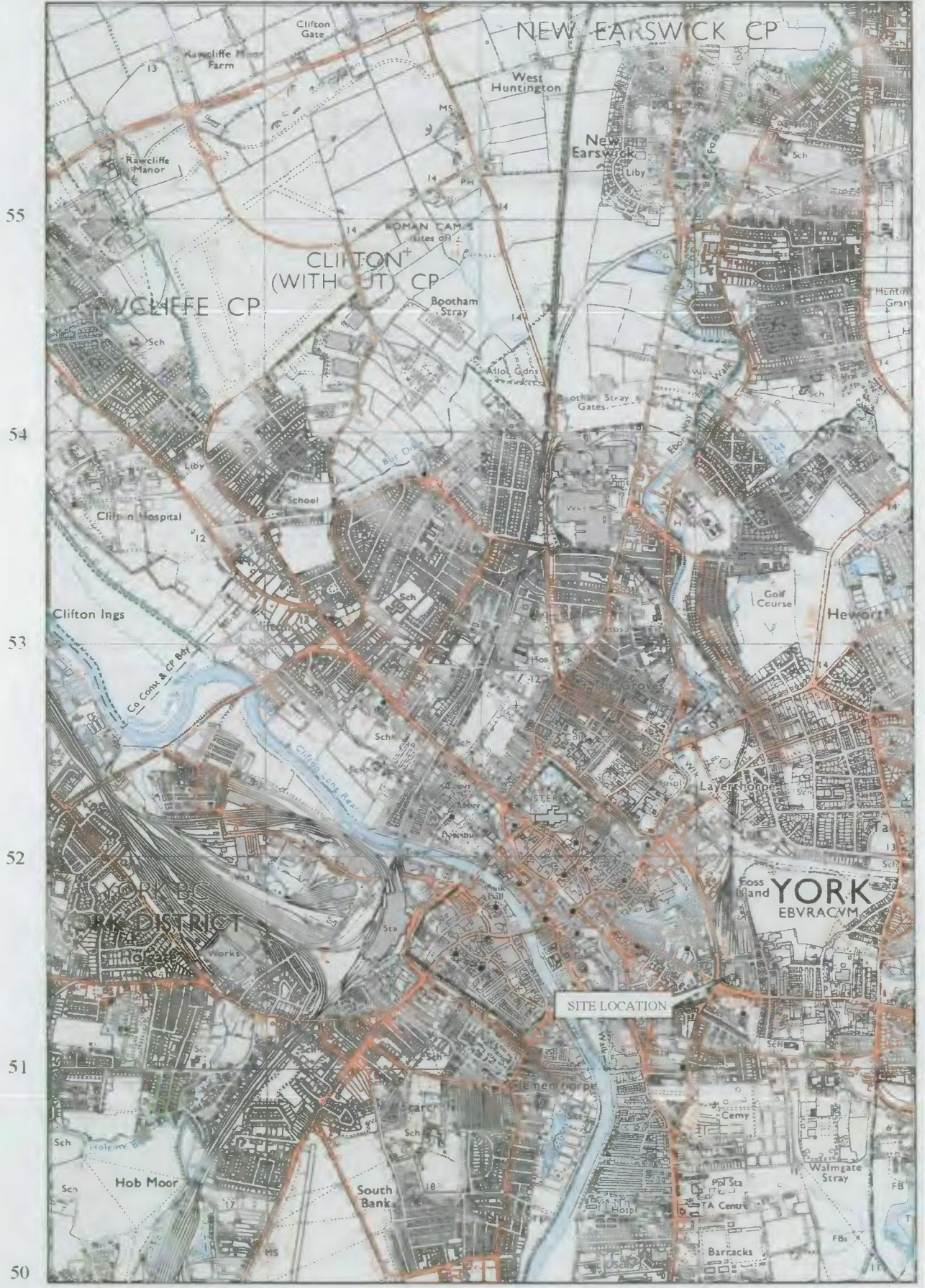


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 6117 5146).

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2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use

The development area lies off Lawrence Street in an area bounded by Minster Coachworks, off James Street to the east, Elvington Terrace to the south and the terrace houses of Foss Islands Road to the west. The site is bounded by the properties of the north side of Lawrence Street to its southern limit. This encompasses an area of 0.82 hectares. In a broader archaeological context, the development lies a mere 150m to the east of Walmgate Bar and the city walls, and c0.5km to the east of the historic core of the city of York.

The site is essentially flat, and was, prior to an initial site reduction, covered by a derelict hard standing. To the south and east are commercial properties, whilst the west is a residential area and the south a mixture of both commercial and residential properties.

3.0 Archaeological Background

Most recently, the site was the subject of an archaeological evaluation report, prepared on behalf of C.A.L.A homes by RPS Consultants, Oxford. This involved a desk based assessment and the excavation of five trial trenches. This enquiry revealed a series of negative archaeological features, consisting of pits, ditches and wells. Cultivation horizons were also observed. These features were present at depths, prior to site area reduction, of 1.2m to the east and 2.2m to the west. The pits and wells were thought to relate to domestic activity in the area, such as refuse disposal. These are believed to relate to the rear of properties, which would have occupied the Lawrence Street frontage.

In total some thirty-one cut features were revealed, those that were datable were of a Roman and late mediaeval/early post-medieval-date. It was noted that these were more strongly concentrated to the west than they were to the east of the site. Pits and wells were the more commonly encountered features, though six gullies or ditches were observed. These were thought to be defining the rear limits of cultivation activity, and were aligned north-south and east-west.

Ridge and furrow field systems were encountered, displaying a phase of cultivation on the site during the medieval period.

4.0 Methodology.

The overburden was removed by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothed bucket down to the level of the first visible archaeological horizon. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand in order to detect any archaeological features revealed through textural or colour changes in the deposits. Once this had been completed, sections were hand excavated through the archaeological features that had been identified. Sections were cleaned post machining to identify any features not visible during machine excavation. These were then recorded by means of scale drawing.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the watching brief. This involved the completion of a context sheet for each deposit or cut encountered. A photographic record of the deposits and features was also maintained.



Figure 2. Plan of site showing location of trenches monitored during watching brief. (Scale 1:100).

5.0 Results

The results are best presented by taking each main area of observation in turn and describing the archaeological features encountered. This breaks down into the four areas of ground beams for the flat foundations, an area of underpinning, and finally the deep drainage excavation. These areas of observation are shown in fig 2. The nature of the interventions meant that often only a narrow section of ground was disturbed. In general, archaeological features were only visible in section. This was the case for most of the site, save for the deep drain where features were observed in plan. These factors, combined with the wide area over which the interventions were spread, mean that a descriptive evaluation of each area, in the absence of any major areas of clear stratigraphic sequences, will be the clearest way to present the results.

5.1 Area A (Trench 1), see Plates 1-3.

In total thirty-one contexts were recorded during this area of ground beam trenching. Four of these contexts (1000 to 1004) were observed in the trial trench for this area (test pit 1), this trench was too narrow in scope to profit much information on the surrounding area, and was situated in an area that had suffered disturbance due to modern drainage. During the main excavations in this area a total of seven cut features were encountered, along with a number of dumping and levelling deposits. Medieval occupation deposits were encountered in four separate areas. These deposits (1014, 1020, 1021, 1022), were visible in section only and represent the various horizons located at the base of excavation throughout the machining of this area.

In addition, a probable medieval agricultural soil (1024) was observed, this compact light brown loamy silt directly overlay (1014).

All the cut features consisted of a single fill, and all with the exception of [1011] and [1018], which were intercut, were found in isolation. Pit [1018] cut layer (1020) and was only partially visible, but as 0.60m by 0.60m were visible, the pit in its entirety was quite large. This was filled by (1017), a compact brown clayey sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and c.b.m. A single sherd of late medieval Humber ware was recovered from this material. The feature had been cut by a later pit.

Pit [1011] measured some 0.80m wide by 0.50m deep; it was flat bottomed with straight steep sides and cut through both pit [1011] and layer (1020). The fill (1010) was a firm dark brown silty clay with flecks of charcoal, c.b.m, and mortar. Animal bone was observed in this material, but no pottery was recovered. Given the probable late medieval date of [1011] it is likely that this feature relates to some post medieval activity on the site.

Both pits [1013] and [1028] contained late 12th to mid 13th century pot. As these features cut earlier horizons, (1020) and (1014) respectively, they provide a relative date for these earlier occupation horizons. The nature of the fills of these pits, (1012) and (1027), suggests that the features may be the remains of cesspits. Feature [1026] however, is thought to represent a

refuse pit. This flat bottomed and steep sided pit contained a single fill (1025) of loose dark grey silty sand. The pottery recovered from the fill represented a range of dates from the later 11th to mid 15th centuries. Therefore, it is likely that this pit dates from the later medieval period. It is to be noted however, that as this pit cuts through the possible agricultural layer (1024), the material recovered from the pit fill provides at least a relative date for this horizon. Pit [1016] cut through two medieval occupation layers, (1021) and (1022). This vertical sided, flat-bottomed pit was filled by a loose greyish brown silty sand (1015), from which four sherds of later 11th to mid 12th century York gritty ware were recovered. Finally, pit [1009], filled by a firm silty clay (1008), profited no dating evidence. As the feature cut a layer of natural looking material (1007), it seems likely that it too dates from a period of antiquity.

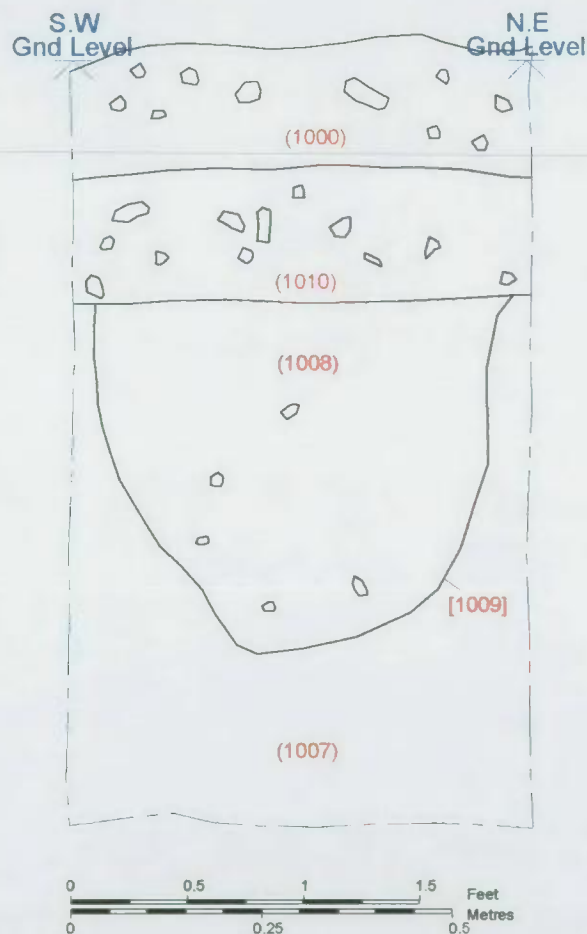


Figure 3. Southeast facing section in Trench 1. (Scale 1:10)

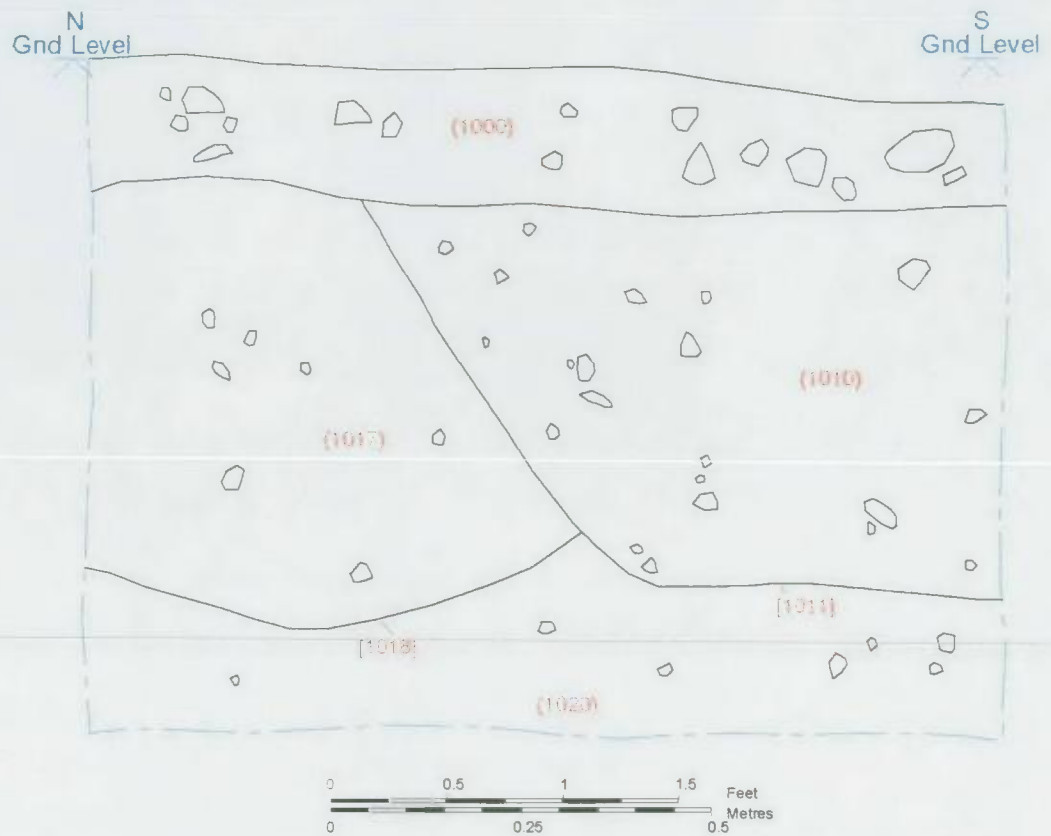


Figure 4. West facing section in Trench 1. (Scale 1:10)

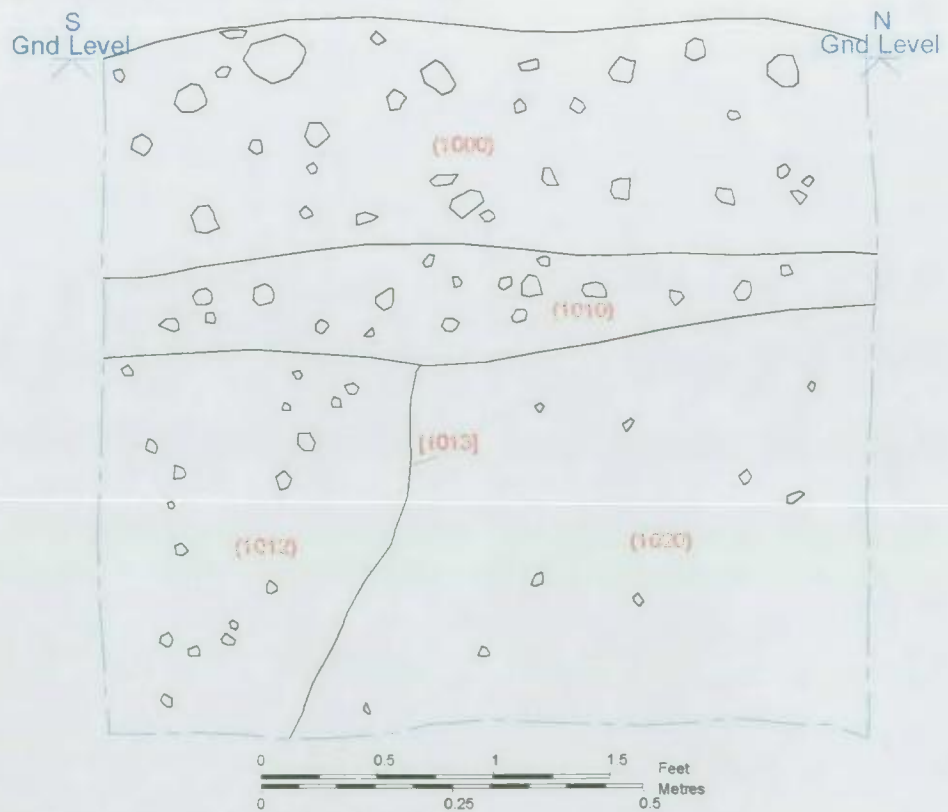


Figure 5. East facing section in Trench 1. (Scale 1:10).



Figure 6. South facing section in Trench 1. (Scale 1:10).

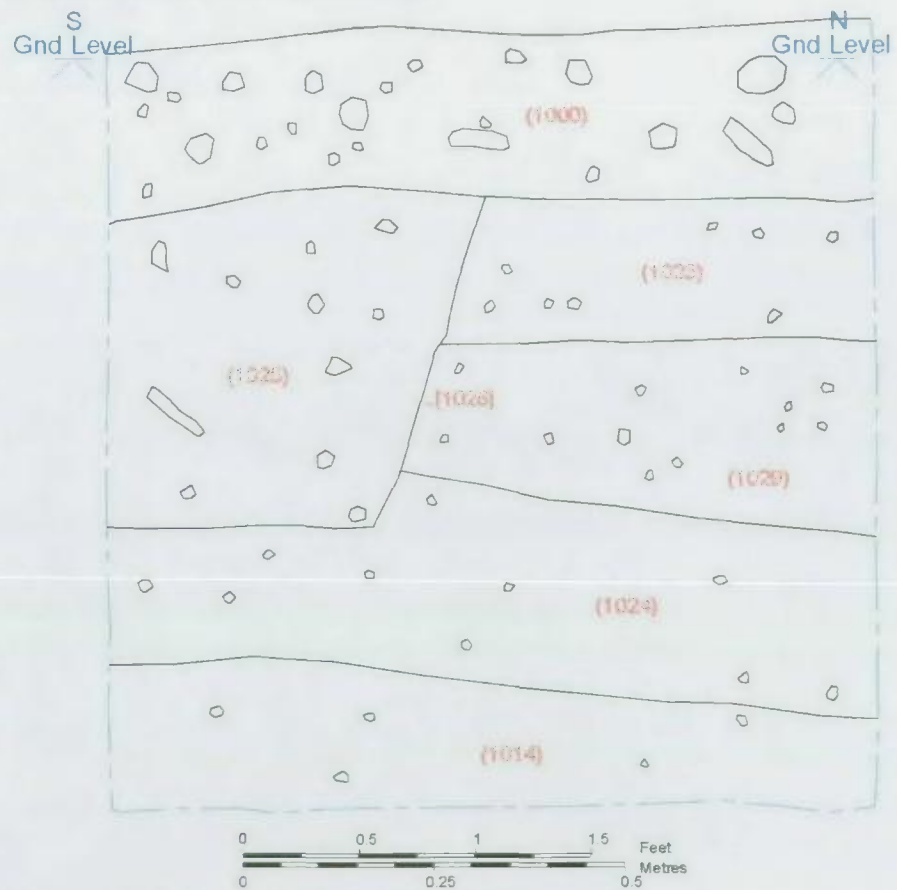


Figure 7. East facing section showing cut [1026]. (Scale 1:10).

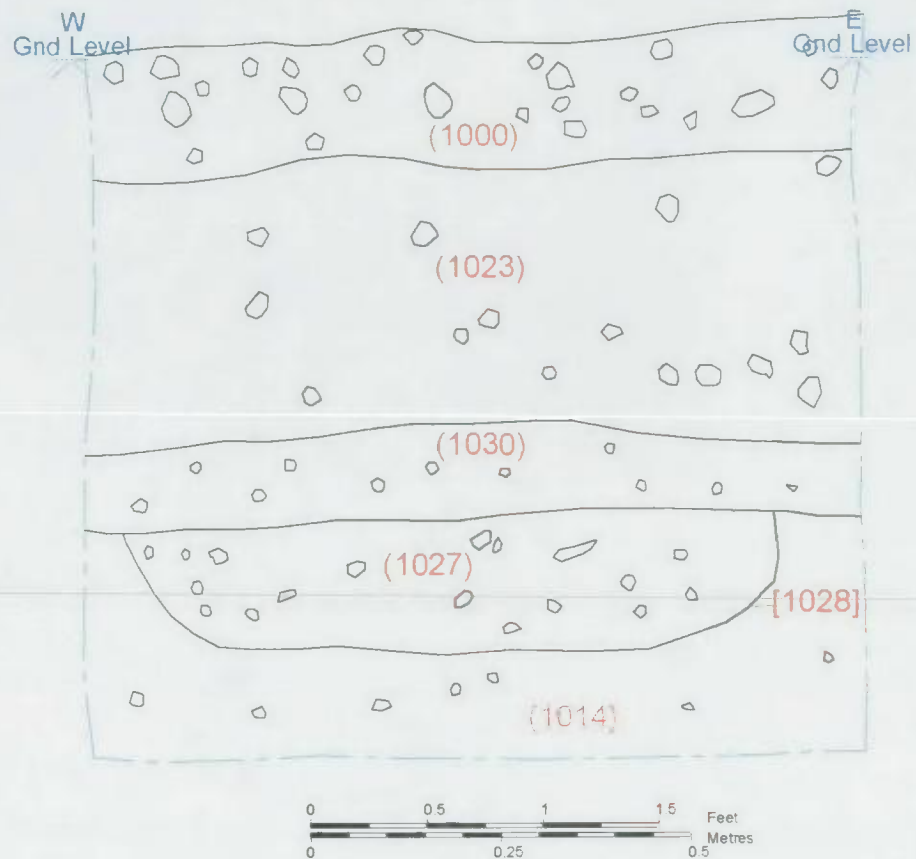


Figure 8. South facing section showing cut [1028]. (Scale 1:10).

5.2 Trench 2.

This machine cut trench provided drainage for the site portacabins. It ran along the south eastern boundary of the site from an existing manhole to the temporary site accommodations. A total of eleven contexts were encountered (2000 to 2010). The majority of these represented the various surfaces and levelling events that had occurred in this area of modern disturbance.

There were however, two quite distinct deposits encountered, the first (2007) consisted of a loose dark grey brown silty sand with moderate c.b.m and charcoal. Though an average depth of 1m of this material was present, it clearly represented a very different archaeological event to any of the deposits, which overlay it. It is possible that if this material does not represent the post Medieval occupation of the site, it could well relate to the rear plots of Medieval structures on Lawrence Street. Finally there is a third possible interpretation. Horsley's 1694 map shows this area as open fields and this deposit, which is very similar to (1024), may well relate to that phase. This material overlay a second distinct layer (2008), a soft reddish brown silty sand with rare c.b.m and charcoal. An average of 0.42m of this material was visible at the base of excavation, and it too resembled a domestic/agricultural horizon.

5.3 *Area D (Trench 3).*

This area of ground beams for the north eastern block of flats revealed 14 contexts (3000-3013). The material present at the base of the excavations was a friable dark grey sandy clay (3009). This contained moderate inclusions of small pebbles and subangular to subrounded stones. Also contained within this material were frequent inclusions of charcoal and moderate c.b.m flecking. An average of 0.40m of this material were present in the southern half of area D. It is likely that this material represents a medieval occupation/domestic horizon. A total of four cut features were encountered in this trench, and each of them cut through (3009).

The first of these features [3011] was observed and recorded in section, though the nature of the fill (3010) was enough to establish a modern date for the pit. A second modern feature, [3008] was also observed, its location, right below the tipped pile mat suggest a very recent event, perhaps during the current works, where a JCB leg may have caused such an imprint. Feature [3004] was a large, sheer and straight-sided pit. The fill (3003) profited two sherds, a single medieval fragment of later 14th to mid 15th Humber ware, and a post medieval Late Humber. Feature [3006] was the remains of substantial pit. The observable dimensions revealed a feature of at least 1.10m in width with a depth of over 0.50m. The fill of loose dark grey brown clayey sand (3005) contained six sherds of pottery, the latest dating from the mid 14th century. It is likely that these two features represent a late medieval, and an immediately post-medieval refuse pit.

These pits were sealed by the later levelling and dumping events (3000 to 3002).

The central area spanned by these ground beams was heavily disturbed by modern brick wall footings. These footings, separating the northern and southern portions of the ground beam footprint served to highlight the stark difference in the nature of deposits seen in these extremes of area D. Visible in this northern extreme (and not again encountered during the programme of works) was a thick plastic light brown/orange clay (3013), representative of a wholesale levelling event. Two possible archaeological explanations for this event are of note. In the first, this material could relate to the mammoth episode of the backfilling of the kings fishpool. Alternatively, it could relate to a comparatively smaller scale, but non-the-less significant single episode of levelling. This clay could have been dumped during the civil war period in an attempt to fill in natural contours and create a killing ground on the approaches to the gun emplacement at St. Laurence's churchyard to the south.

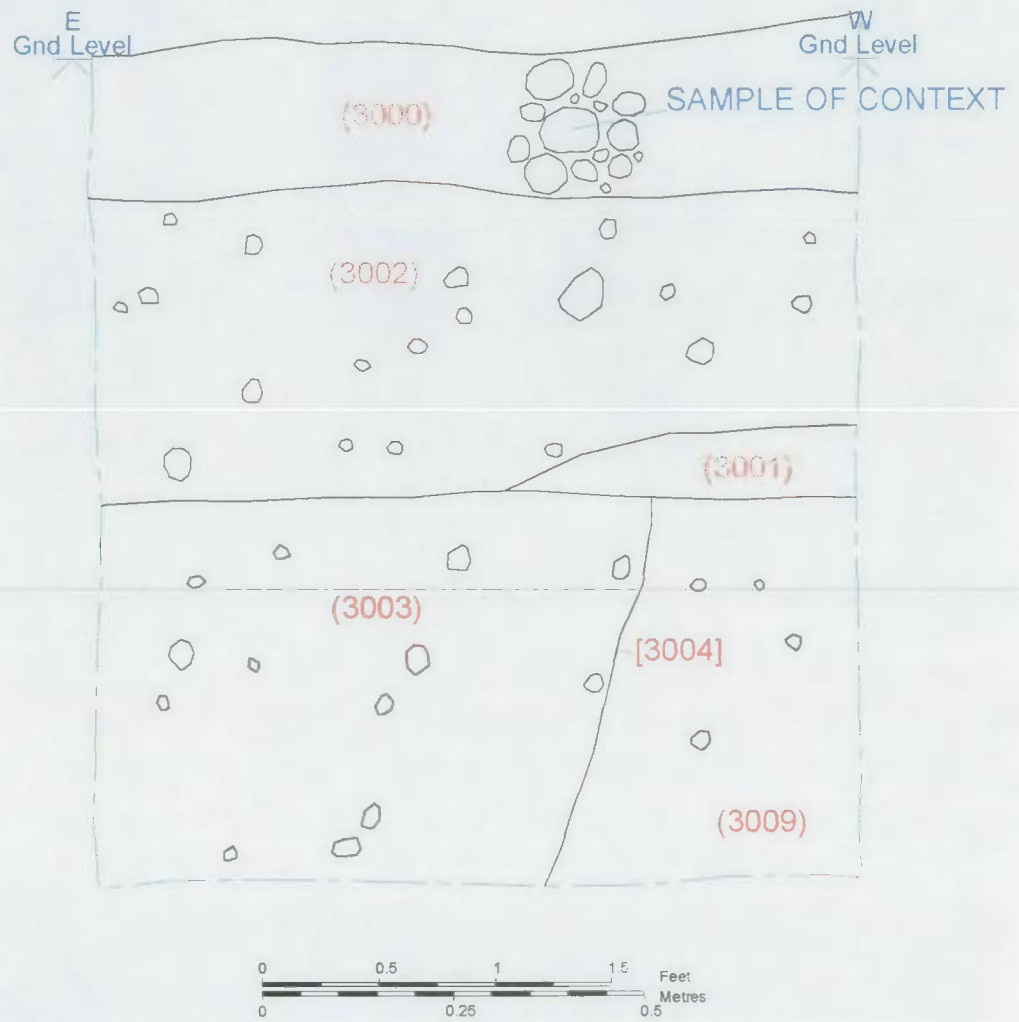


Figure 9. North facing section of Trench 3. (Scale 1:10).

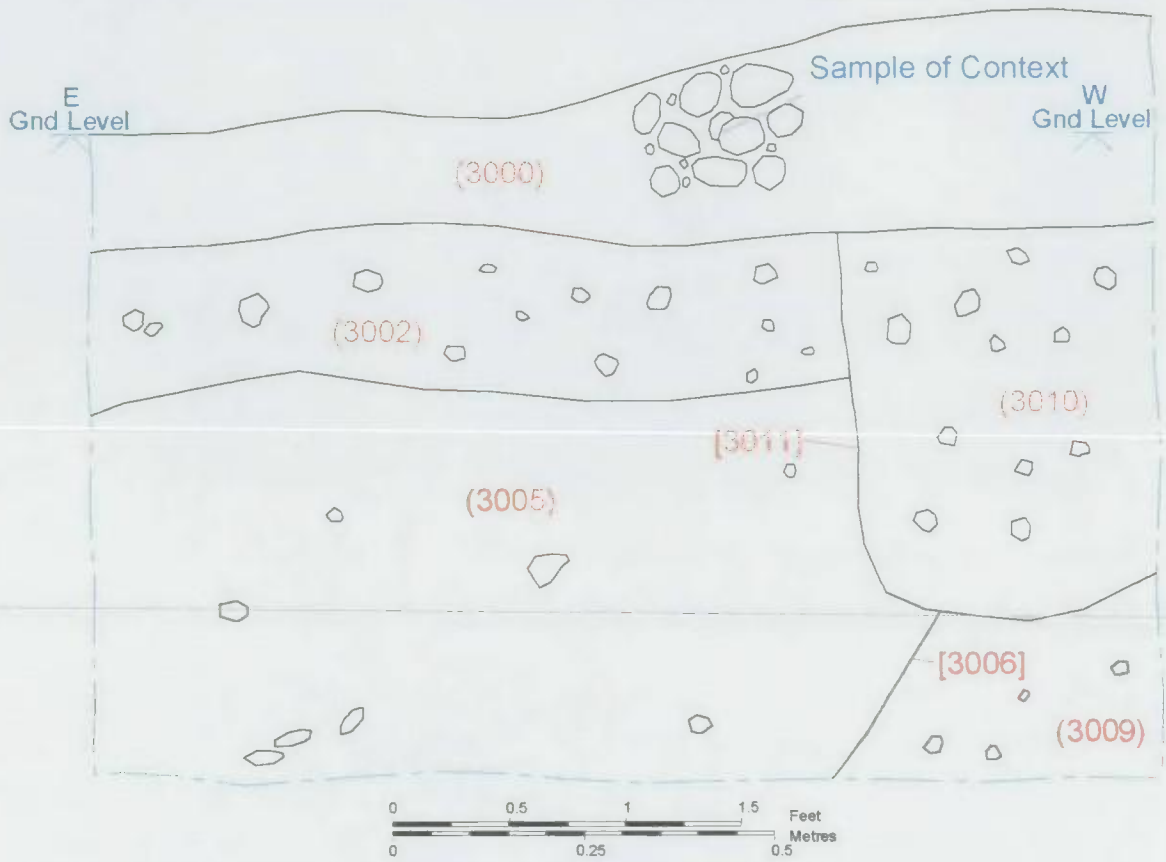


Figure 10. North facing section of Trench 3, showing cut [3011]. (Scale 1:10).

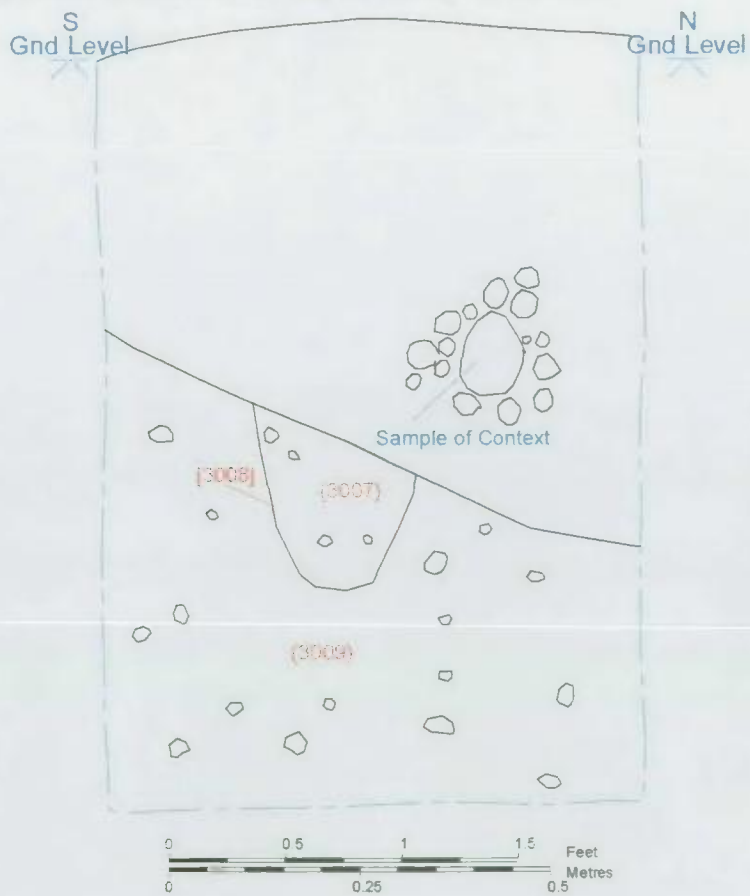


Figure 11. East facing section of Trench 3. (Scale 1:10).

5.4 *Areas B and C (Trenches 5 and 6).*

These two areas comprise the excavations for new flats on the western half of the site, where previous works had shown the archaeological features of the site to be present at a greater depth than they were on the east side of the site. As a result of this it came as no surprise that post site strip and levelling, fewer features were encountered than in areas A and C.

A total of seven contexts were assigned to trench 5 (5000 to 5006). The base of the trench may have reached the level of a previous ground surface (5003), consisting of a soft yellow brown clay. This was overlain by (5002), a likely medieval occupation horizon consisting of a loose very dark grey silty sand with moderate brick fragments, c.b.m, charcoal, and mortar. This was sealed by a layer of post medieval dumping/occupation (5006). This was then itself sealed by two layers of modern make up (5001) and (5000).

A single cut feature was observed in this area. Cut [5005] measured 0.47m by 0.56m, its irregular sides cut through both (5006) and (5002). The fill of loose dark grey silty sand (5004) contained frequent charcoal and shell, as well as a number of sherds of post medieval pottery. This feature has been interpreted as a post medieval refuse pit.

No contexts were assigned to trench six as its relatively shallower finish depth (in comparison to areas A, C, and D) meant that for the whole footprint the only deposits present related to modern disturbance.

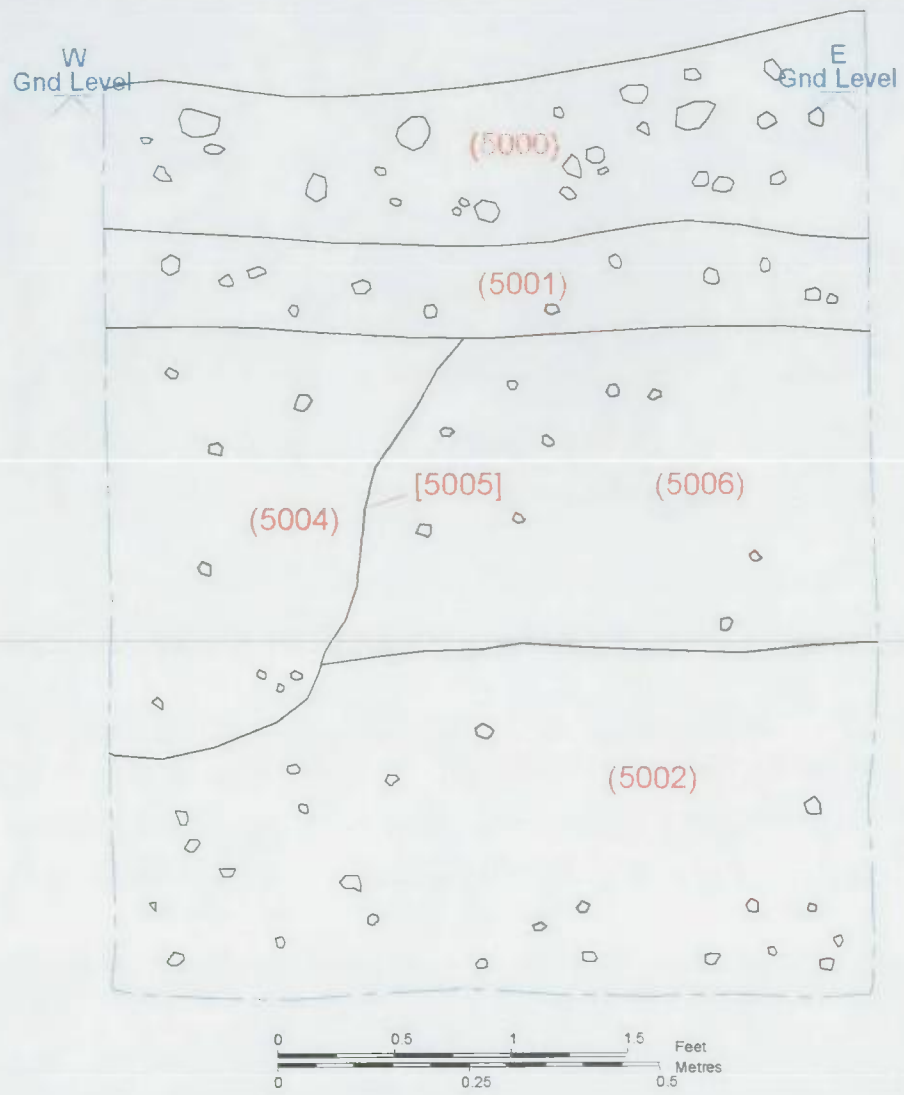


Figure 12. South facing section of Trench 5. (Scale 1:10).

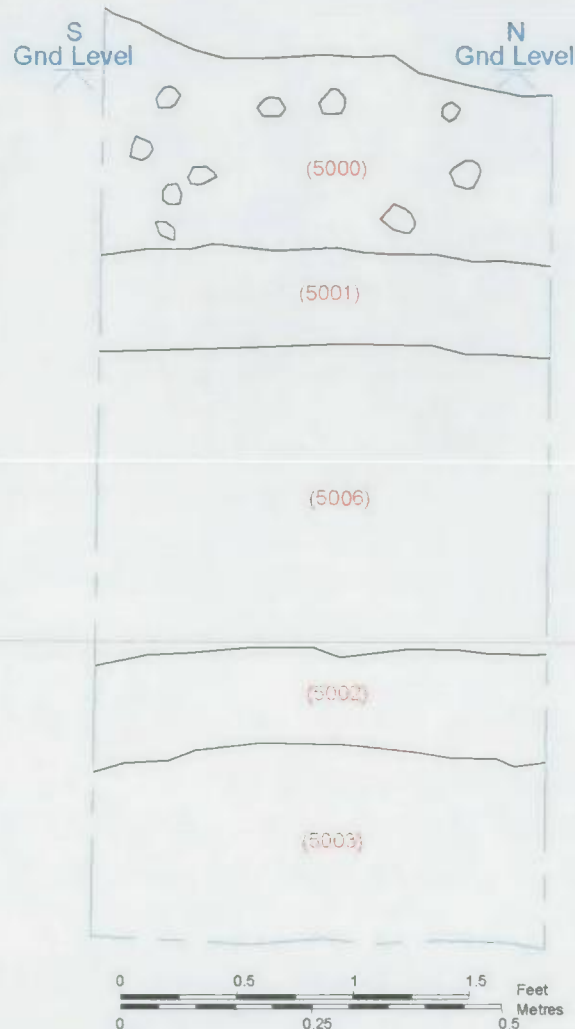


Figure 13. East facing section of Trench 5. (Scale 1:10).

5.5 Underpinning (Trench 7), see Plate 4.

The existing structure, located in the southwest corner of the site, at the Foss islands road – Lawrence street junction, was underpinned during the programme of works. This required the hand excavation by contractors of small pits; eleven contexts were encountered (7000 to 7010) in this phase.

The majority of these related to homogenous deposits, (7010) been encountered at the base of some of the northern pits, and all the southern examples. This consisted of a fine loose grey brown clayey silty sand. This layer was overlain by a very similar deposit (7006), which was distinguishable due to its lower clay content and the presence of medieval pottery. Analysis of the recovered sherds revealed a mid 14th century date for this material. Three sherds of mid 11th to mid 12th century pottery, were however, also present. The material had the appearance of a garden soil and it is likely that the pottery content relates to manuring, a view supported by a concentration of pot from the mid 14th century, but with isolated examples of earlier pot mixed in. During the excavation of one of the northern pits (7006) was seen to be overlain by a layer of plastic brown clay (7007). This apparent dumping episode revealed a single find in the shape of a Norwegian Rag grey schist hone.

Horizon (7006) was cut by a structure in the extreme northwest corner of the building that was to be underpinned. A circular red brick well (7002) measuring 1.2m x 0.8m, and dry bonded was observed in plan. Though this feature is likely to be fairly recent in date, the same could not be readily said of the second cut feature seen in the south eastern most underpinning pit. During the hand digging of this pit a sudden slump revealed a backfilled circular pit or well dug into the clayey (7010). This cut [7009] was some 0.80m in diameter, the loose fill observed at the base following the collapse of the feature consisted of a compact green grey silty clay with moderate brick, tile, c.b.m, and charcoal, with occasional pebbles and cobbles (7008). Unlike (7002), which was only a matter of a few centimetres below the existing floor surface, [7009] was not encountered until a depth of almost 1m. As a result, it was not possible to observe the feature, other than in plan. The fact however, that it cuts the lower (7010) and is located at such a depth suggest that the feature dates from an earlier archaeological period than the post medieval (7002). Perhaps it represents the remains of an earlier robbed out well, or it may relate to some domestic or industrial usage.

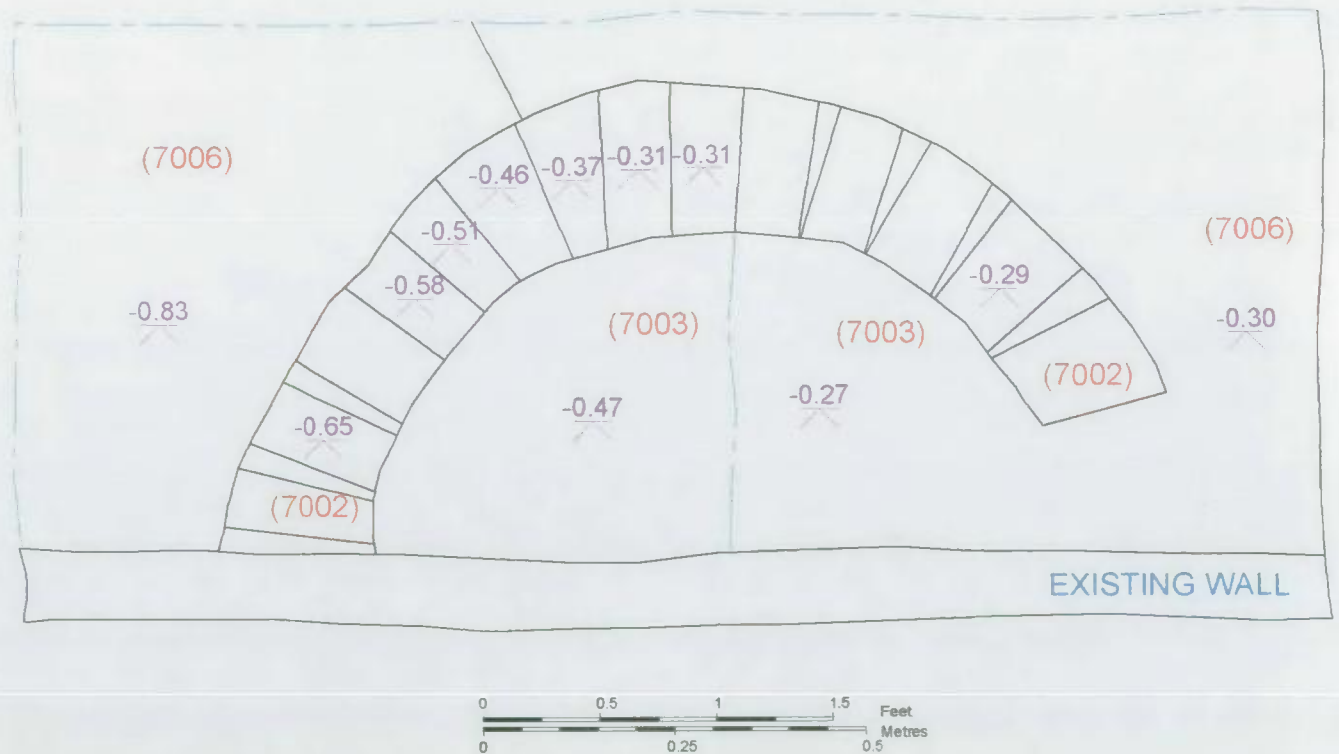


Figure 14. Plan of brick well (7002). (Scale 1:10).

5.6 *Deep drainage (Trench 4), see Plates 5-7.*

This substantial drain ran almost half way across the entire site east to west. It bisected the northern and southern portions of area A, and incorporated a dogleg to the south immediately to the west of the two halves of area A.

This drain represented the deepest of all intrusions on the site and its construction required the excavation of a single pipe length at a time. This resulted in the machining of individual bays measuring 5m by 4m by 2.5m+. Such dimensions naturally increased the potential for disturbance to the archaeological resource, and as such, thirty-six context numbers were assigned to this trench (4000 to 4035). There were two main concentrations of archaeological features along its length, and the simplest way to present the data is to look at each in turn.

The drain trench was excavated east to west, and the first features encountered were from the second bay onwards. At the base of machining was a natural yellow brown glacial sand, in some places interspersed with patches of yellow clay (4035). This was overlain by a loose yellowish grey sandy silt (4015), which was itself overlain by a fine orange sand (4006) in which two cut features were identified. These took the form of two pits [4008] and [4010]. Pit cut [4008] measured 0.60m x 0.40m x 0.30m and was irregularly shaped. The fill consisted of a loose yellow sand with frequent charcoal and occasional flecks of c.b.m. However, no finds were discovered to assist in dating or interpretation the fill was very distinctive against (4006), and the feature did not appear to be the product of any natural process. Pit cut [4010] measured 1.10m x 0.60m x 0.35m. The cut itself was incomplete as the feature lay against the northern edge of the bay. Though quite distinct when seen in plan the fill of loose light reddish brown sand (4009) appeared to be mixed with a yellow sand not unlike (4006) upon investigation. A single sherd of abraded Romano British pottery however, recovered from (4009), dated this feature.

These features were sealed by (4002) a loose mid brown silty sand with moderate charcoal and c.b.m fragments, into which a further feature was cut. Running on roughly the same alignment as the pipe trench was a brick built drain or culvert (4004). The bricks were all two inches thick and hand made, the sides were each three courses deep and the top was formed by a single course of capping bricks set at ninety degrees to the sides. Measuring 0.24m in width the structure sat in a regular cut [4005] which was 0.50m in width and backfilled with a loose mid brown clayey sand with occasional smears of charcoal (4003). The interior of the drain contained only a fine build up of silt suggesting that the structure had been fast flowing and in use up until quite recently. This feature was visible in some of the later western bays, but the angle at which it cut the trench was distorted due to the dogleg in the pipe trench.

Whilst the adjacent bay was clear of archaeological features the second bay along from the one discussed above contained further cut feature archaeology, this time in the form of a single pit and a linear. Both of these were cut into (4015). Pit [4012] was located against the northern edge of the trench and as such was incomplete. Still it measured some 0.90m in diameter by 0.70m. The primary fill (4019) was only 0.08 thick and consisted of a loose grey yellow sand.

The secondary fill (4011) was of similar make up though notably more gritty in texture. Pottery recovered from this secondary fill provided a mid 11th century date for pit [4012].

The linear feature in this bay was unusual, as it seemed to represent a later linear situated atop an earlier one. The earlier of the two [4018] was the narrower of the two at 0.46 and contained both a primary (4016) and secondary (4013) fill. Above this was the wider of the two [4014] at 0.90m and this contained only a single fill (4013). This may relate to the palisade as seen by Y.A.T in the “behind jimmy’s fish bar” excavation. Dating from fills (4013) and (4017) however, in the form of Stamford ware pottery, show that both cuts date from the mid to late 12th century. Either the cuts represent a single event and the linear was deliberately cut with a stepped profile, or the feature was widened at a later date within the same mid to late 12th century period.

To the west, the soil profile as seen in the trench edges was different to that seen in the east. Here the yellow glacial sand (4035) was overlain by a firm yellow brown clay (4026). This itself was sealed by a firm mid greenish grey clay silt with rare charcoal flecks (4023). This in turn was sealed by a friable dark grey clay silt (4022). Above these were successive layers of tarmac and hardcore (4021) and (4000).

Cut into (4026) was a small pit [4024] measuring 0.30m x 0.50m, containing a single fill (4025) of mid greyish clay with frequent charcoal. No pottery was recovered from the fill, and as such, the feature remains undated.

As the trench progressed westwards the general deposition remained the same, but further cut, features were discovered. Pit [4032] was situated some 1.90m below ground level and contained a single fill (4027). Pottery from the fill provided an early modern date to this feature.

The final three bays revealed a further three cut features, [4029] a pit visible at 1.70m below ground level with a single fill (4028), a large pit [4031] visible 2.20m from the surface, again with a single fill (4030), and a final probable pit [4034], with a single fill (4033) of mid greenish grey clay silt. Pottery from the fills of [4029] and [4031] established that these features originate from the Romano British period. No material was recovered from the fill of [4034] and no firm date can be provided for it.

The extension of area A to the south of trench seven revealed a further six contexts (800 to 805). Of these, one (802) was interpreted as a homogenous garden soil, and another (804) was thought to be medieval dumping, though no dating was recovered from either deposit to support this view. Of note however is the small area of friable mid light grey brown sandy silt with c.b.m and charcoal flecking (805). Pottery recovered from this material, a sherd of Torksey ware, is the only definite pre-conquest material found on site. The material however, also contained later pottery types and it appears likely that the deposit itself dates from the medieval period.

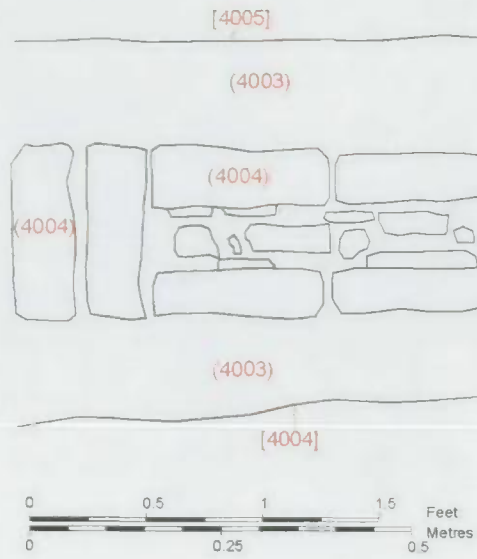


Figure 15. Plan of culvert [4004]. (Scale 1:10).

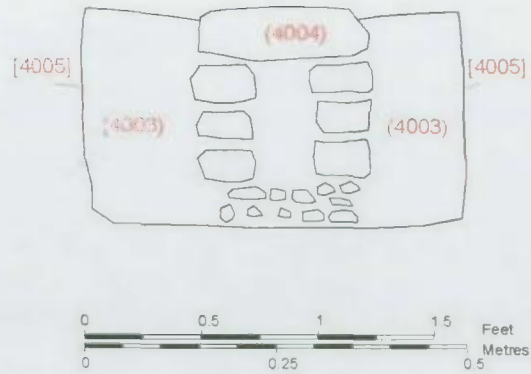


Figure 16. Section through culvert [4004], Trench 4. (Scale 1:10).

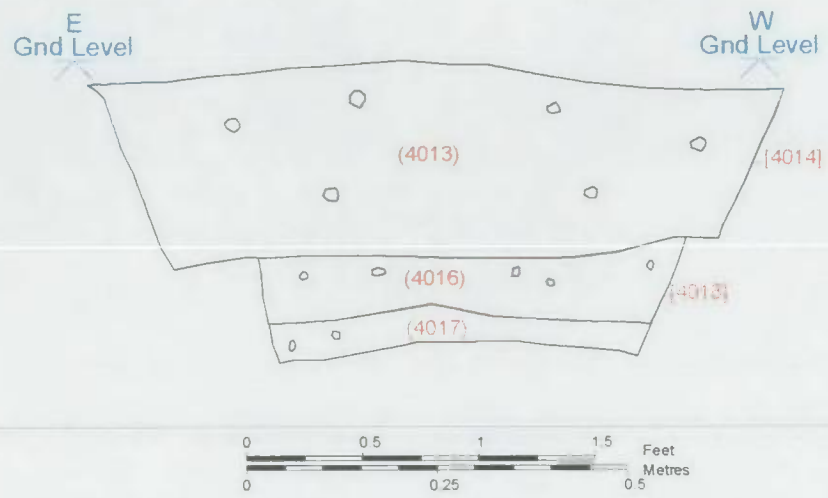


Figure 17. North facing section of Trench 4. (Scale 1:10).

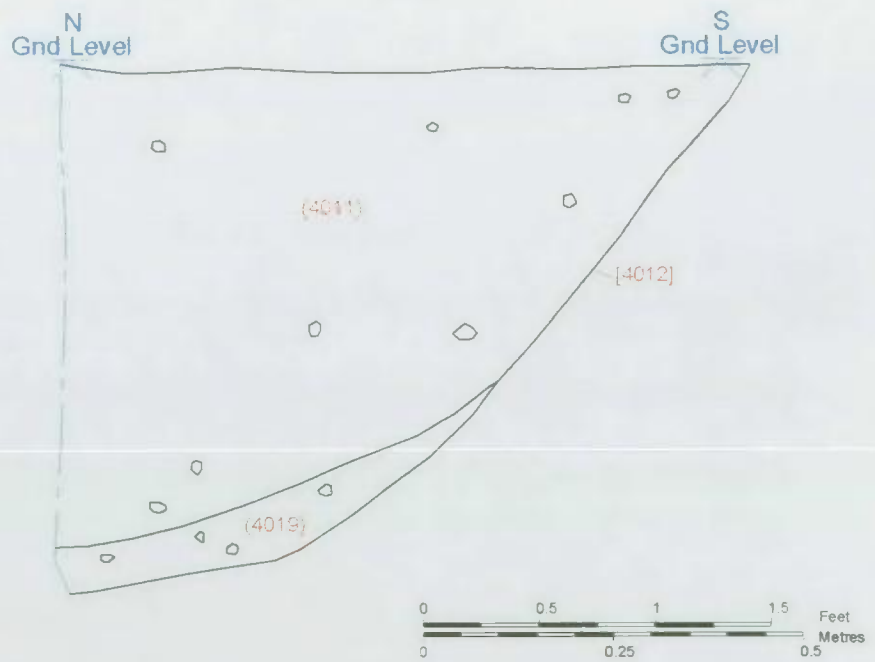


Figure 18. West facing section of trench 4. (Scale 1:10).

6.0 Discussions & Conclusions

As with the two previous phases of evaluation, the watching brief revealed archaeological features from the Roman, early, mid, and late medieval, and post medieval periods.

The position of archaeological features also mirrored that of early findings, with features visible at levels nearer the existing ground level in the east than the west. RPS Consultants had noted depths of 1.2m below ground level in the east, and 2.2m in the west. The initial site strip by the developer had however, reduced the ground level sufficiently that features were visible of course at even shallower depths in relation to the new ground level.

In terms of distribution, archaeological features were certainly more prevalent in the southern and western most extremes of the development area. Undisturbed deposits were also encountered however, beneath the flooring of the underpinned structure in the extreme southwestern corner of site. It would appear that most of the archaeological deposits and features encountered related to the progressive ribbon development along the Lawrence street/Hull road area, probably relating to the rear plots of successive structures constructed within that zone.

7.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context	Description	Extent	Depth
1000	Loose grey silty clay. Very mixed with frequent c.b.m and brick.	Trench	0.25
1001	Soft plastic reddish brown clay.	Trench	0.70
1002	Cut for modern 6" ceramic drain.	0.60 x 0.80	0.80
1003	Loose dark grey gravel backfill.	0.60 x 0.80	0.80
1004	Loose grey silty clay. Very mixed with frequent c.b.m and brick.		0.20
1005	Soft yellow clayey sand with occasional charcoal and c.b.m		0.20
1006	Plastic brown clay with rare flecks of c.b.m and charcoal.		0.20
1007	Plastic dark brown clay		0.30
1008	Firm brown silty clay with frequent flecks of c.b.m and moderate charcoal	0.50	0.48
1009	Cut filled by 1008	0.50	0.48
1010	Firm dark brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal and c.b.m, rare mortar smears.	0.28	0.53
1011	Cut filled by 1010.	0.28	0.53
1012	Firm brown silty clay with frequent flecks of c.b.m and moderate charcoal.	0.39	0.51
1013	Cut filled by 1012.	0.39	0.51
1014	Firm yellowish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and rare mortar.		
1015	Loose greyish brown silty sand with rare charcoal and c.b.m.	0.20	0.41
1016	Cut filled by 1015	0.20	0.41
1017	Compact brown clayey sand with occasional charcoal and c.b.m.	0.64	0.61
1018	Cut filled by 1017.	0.64	0.61
1019	Loose greyish brown silty sand with rare charcoal and frequent brick, tile, and c.b.m.		0.20
1020	Firm brownish yellow sandy clay.		
1021	Weakly cemented greyish brown silty sand with moderate charcoal and occasional c.b.m.	0.38	0.28
1022	Compact brownish yellow sandy clay with rare charcoal.	0.60	0.35
1023	Compact brownish yellow sandy clay.		
1024	Compact light brown loamy silt with moderate charcoal and rare c.b.m.		
1025	Loose dark grey silty sand with frequent charcoal, shell, c.b.m, coal and animal bone.	0.50	0.45
1026	Cut filled by 1025	0.50	0.45
1027	Loose dark grey silty sand with frequent c.b.m, charcoal, shell, and animal bone.	0.85	0.19
1028	Cut filled by 1027.	0.85	0.19
1029	Compact brown clayey sand with occasional charcoal and c.b.m.		
1030	Compact brown clayey sand with occasional charcoal and c.b.m.		
2000	Loose grey sand with frequent gravel, brick, plastic, and builders waste.	Trench	0.05
2001	Loose grey sand with frequent brick, concrete and c.b.m.	Trench	0.10
2002	Cobble surface.	1.10	0.10
2003	Loose mixed grey sand with frequent brick and c.b.m.	7.0	0.15
2004	Possible cut for 2002	1.10	0.10
2005	Modern red brick footing.	0.38	0.14
2006	Cut for 2005	0.38	0.14
2007	Loose dark grey brown silty sand with moderate c.b.m and charcoal.	Trench	1
2008	Soft reddish brown silty sand with rare c.b.m and charcoal.	1.0	2.20
2009	Manhole	0.95	2.20
3000	Loose light brown sand with frequent brick stone and rubble, modern overburden.	Trench	0.70
3001	Compact yellow grey clay, isolated and sporadic levelling		0.20
3002	Compact dark grey brown silty sand, frequent small stones and pebbles, with frequent charcoal, c.b.m and mortar. Former occupation horizon.	Trench	0.40

3003	Loose very dark grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal, c.b.m. and animal bone. Fill of modern pit [3004]	0.71	0.50
3004	Sharp and steep straight sided modern cut.	0.71	0.50
3005	Loose dark grey brown clayey sand with frequent charcoal, animal bone and c.b.m. Fill of [3006].	1.10	0.50
3006	Incomplete cut, filled by (3005)	1.10	0.50
3007	Loose very dark grey brown silty sand. Modern disturbance.	0.20	0.27
3008	Modern disturbance.	0.20	0.27
3009	Friable dark grey sandy clay with frequent charcoal and moderate c.b.m, probable medieval occupation horizon.	Trench	0.40
3010	Loose pale yellow sand with frequent lumps of chalk/road stone. Modern intrusion.		
3011	Modern intrusion.		
3012	Firm yellowish brown silty clay with frequent mortar and occasional to moderate charcoal. Probable medieval domestic/occupation horizon.		
3013	Massive dump of plastic yellow brown clay.		Upto 0.90
4000	Loose yellow brown sand with frequent gravel and stone. Modern overburden.	Trench	0.30
4001	Mid brown silty sand with frequent brick and tile. Former ground surface seals culvert [4005]	Trench	0.50
4002	Mid brown silty sand with moderate charcoal, c.b.m, brick and tile. Cut by [4005]	Trench	
4003	Backfill of [4005]	0.30	
4004	Brick built culvert/drain.	0.40	
4005	Cut for (4004)	0.70	
4006	Fine orange sand below (4002)	Trench	
4007	Loose yellow sand with frequent charcoal and occasional c.b.m. Fill of pit [4008]	0.60 x 0.40	0.30
4008	Filled by (4007)	0.60 x 0.40	0.30
4009	Loose light reddish brown sand with frequent charcoal and animal bone. Fill of pit [4010]	1.10 x 0.60	0.35
4010	Filled by (4009)	1.10 x 0.60	0.35
4011	Upper fill of pit [4012]	0.90	0.62
4012	Filled by (4011)	0.90	0.68
4013	Fill of linear [4014]	0.90 x trench	0.25
4014	Filled by (4013)	0.90 x trench	0.25
4015	Material cut by pits		
4016	Upper fill of [4018]	0.53 x trench	0.11
4017	Primary fill of [4018]	0.53 x trench	0.06
4018	Filled by (4016) (4017)	0.53 x trench	0.17
4019	Primary fill of [4012]	0.55	0.06
4020	Concrete bricks and limestone. Levelling.	Trench	0.35
4021	Successive layers of tarmac.	Trench	0.30
4022	Friable dark grey silt with occasional charcoal.	Trench	0.40
4023	Firm mid greenish grey clay silt with rare charcoal.	Trench	0.40
4024	Mid greenish grey silty clay with frequent charcoal. Fill of probable pit [4025]	0.30	0.50
4025	Partial pit cut.	0.30	0.50
4026	Firm yellow brown clay with lenses of yellow sand. Natural.	Trench	1.30
4027	Fill of [4032]		
4028	Dark greenish grey silty clay with frequent charcoal and occasional c.b.m. Fill of [4029]	1.1 x 0.60	0.25

4029	Cut of Romano British pit.	1.1 x 0.60	0.25
4030	Firm dark greenish grey clay silt with occasional charcoal and mortar. Fill of [4031]	1.2	
4031	Cut of Romano British pit.	1.2	
4032	Cut of early modern pit.		
4033	Possible small pit.	0.70	
4034	Cut of possible small pit.	0.70	
5000	Modern overburden.	Trench	0.30
5001	Grey brown clayey sand with frequent brick, tile, and charcoal. Earlier dumping.	Trench	0.10
5002	Grey brown silty sand with moderate brick, c.b.m, charcoal and mortar. Possible medieval occupation horizon.	Trench	0.12
5003	Yellow brown clay sand with moderate charcoal and c.b.m. Earlier ground surface.	Trench	0.22
5004	Dark grey sand with frequent c.b.m, pot, and rare clay pipe. Fill of [5005]		
5005	Post medieval pit cut, filled by (5004)		
5006	Grey brown silty sand. Probable post medieval occupation horizon.	Trench	0.41
7000	Current floor surface.	Trench	0.04
7001	Gravel and rubble hardcore raft for (7000)	Trench	0.20
7002	Semi circular red brick well, at least nine courses deep.	1.25	0.82
7003	Green grey clay with moderate charcoal, mortar and pebble. Backfill of well.	0.80 x 0.45	0.70
7004	Backfill of well construction cut.	0.30	0.82
7005	Construction cut for well.	0.30	0.82
7006	Fine loose grey brown silty sand with moderate brick, tile, bone, mortar, pot, and charcoal. Medieval domestic layer.	Trench	
7007	Plastic brown clay. Medieval dumping/levelling.	Trench	0.08
7008	Compact green grey silty clay with moderate brick, tile, and c.b.m and charcoal. Backfill of [7009]		
7009	Cut of possible well.	Trench	
7010	Very slightly silty grey clay. Previous ground surface.	Trench	Not excavated
800	Tarmac.	Trench	0.10
801	Limestone chipping and concrete fragments. Make up for (800)	Trench	0.20
802	Homogenous dark grey brown sandy silt with clinker. Garden soil.		0.70
803	Brick wall.	0.40	0.70
804	Firm very slightly greenish grey clayey silt with charcoal and c.b.m. Medieval dumping?		0.70
805	Friable mid light grey brown sandy silt with c.b.m and charcoal. Layer.		

8.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.

8.1 Drawing Register.

Dwg No	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
1	Pit [1009] (1008) SE facing section. (1007) (1019) (1000)	1:10	20/02/03	TPR
2	West facing section pits (1010) [1011], (1017) [1018], with (1000) (1020)	1:10	20/02/03	TPR
3	East facing section (1012) [1013], (1000) (1019)	1:10	20/02/03	TPR
4	South facing section (1015) [1016], with (1000) (1019) (1021)	1:10	20/02/03	TPR
5	North facing section (3003) [3004] with (3000) (3002) (3001) (3009)	1:10	21/02/03	TPR
6	North facing section (3005) [3006] (3010) [3011] with (3000) (3002) (3009)	1:10	21/02/03	TPR
7	East facing section (3007) [3008] with (3009)	1:10	21/02/03	TPR
8	West facing section (5004) [5005]	1:10		TPR
9	(5000) (5001) (5002) (5003) (5006) East facing.	1:10		TPR
10	Culvert (4004) plan.	1:10	03/03/03	TPR
11	Culvert (4004) section.	1:10	03/03/03	TPR
12	East facing section (1025) [1026] with (1000) (1023) (1029) (1024) (1014)	1:10	05/03/03	TPR
13	Not used	1:10		TPR
14	Plan of brick well (7002)			TPR
15	West facing section [4012]	1:10	14/03/03	TPR
16	North facing section (4013) [4014] (4016) (4017) [4018]	1:10	14/03/03	TPR
17	South facing section (1027) [1028] with (1000) (1023) (1030) (1014)	1:10	06/03/03	TPR

8.2 Photographic Register.

Frame	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
Film digital				
1	Test pit 1 view N	N/A	10/02/03	TPR
2	Test pit 1 east facing section.	N/A	10/02/03	TPR
3	General site view looking SW.	N/A	10/02/03	TPR
4	General site view looking WSW.	N/A	10/02/03	TPR
5	General site view looking S.	N/A	10/02/03	TPR
6	Sequence in southern extension from test pit 1, looking W.	N/A	11/02/03	TPR
7	Buried wall footings in southern extension from test pit 1 looking W.	N/A	11/02/03	TPR
8	Sequence in E-W extension from test pit 1 looking S.	N/A	12/02/03	TPR
9	Pulling ground beams in area D looking W.	N/A	19/02/03	TPR
10	Trench box in SE corner of site looking W.	N/A	19/02/03	TPR
11	Area A looking W.	N/A	24/02/03	TPR
12	Trench 4 culvert looking E.	N/A	25/02/03	TPR
13	Trench 4 base of culvert looking S.	N/A	25/02/03	TPR
14	Trench 4 north facing section.	N/A	28/02/03	TPR
15	Progress on deep drain looking E.	N/A	04/03/03	TPR
16	Site work shot looking N.	N/A	04/03/03	TPR
17	[1026] Looking W.	N/A	04/03/03	TPR
18	[1026] Looking S	N/A	04/03/03	TPR

19	[1028] Looking N.	N/A	05/03/03	TPR
20	[1028] South facing.	N/A	05/03/03	TPR
21	(7002) Looking W.	N/A	13/03/03	TPR
22	(7002) Looking N.	N/A	13/03/03	TPR
23	(7002) Looking S.	N/A	13/03/03	TPR
24	(7002) Looking E.	N/A	13/03/03	TPR
25	(7002) Looking N.	N/A	13/03/03	TPR
26	(4014) Looking E.	N/A	14/03/03	TPR
27	(4014) Looking W.	N/A	14/03/03	TPR
28	(4014) Looking S.	N/A	14/03/03	TPR
29	(4014) Looking E.	N/A	14/03/03	TPR

9.0 Appendix 3 ~ Pottery Assessment.

Alan Vince.

Seventy eight fragments of pottery from a watching brief at Foss Islands Road carried out by On Site Archaeology were submitted for identification and assessment. They range in date from the Roman period to the early modern period with the majority dating from the mid 11th to the mid 13th centuries.

9.1 *Description.*

9.1.1 *Ceramic Building Material.*

Roman.

Two fragments of tile from context 4029 were positively identified as being of Roman date. Neither was well-enough preserved to identify the form, since one was very abraded and the other shattered through frost action which had removed much of the original surfaces.

Two fragments from contexts 5006 and 4031 are overfired, bloated and warped lumps of tile which might be of Roman date, although in the former case the fragment was found alongside a sherd of post-medieval pottery. Tile production took place on the west bank of the Foss and it is possible that these fragments are stray waste from those tile kilns.

Medieval and later.

A tiny sliver of flat roof tile was found in context 3005, associated with late medieval and post-medieval pottery.

9.1.2 *Pottery.*

Roman.

Eight fragments of pottery of Roman date were found. Whilst some of these were noticeably abraded others were large fresh sherds. Two of the former came from medieval contexts, one was recovered from a medieval soil level and another was unstratified. A flagon rim and neck from context 805 shows no sign of abrasion at all although it is associated with an Anglo-Scandinavian sherd. A single very small scrap of abraded Samian ware was recovered from context 4023.

Anglo-Scandinavian.

A single sherd of definitely pre-conquest pottery was found, the base of a Torksey ware (TORK) jar, from context 805.

Later 11th to mid 12th century.

The site produced a remarkable number of sherds of Stamford ware (STAM). Both pitchers and jars were represented and the sherds certainly came from several different vessels. The sherds came from contexts 4011, 4017 and 7006. The glazed vessels have the thin, drab glaze which characterises Stamford wares of the mid 11th to mid 12th century.

York Gritty ware (YG) jars, which superseded Stamford vessels in the later 11th century in York were not found in either context 4011 and 4017, which may therefore precede the introduction of this ware. Thirteen sherds of YG were recovered, four came from context 1015, where they formed the only pottery finds, but the remainder were associated with later 12th to 13th century pottery and are probably contemporary with those wares.

Later 12th to mid 13th century.

Excluding the YG sherds described above, there were 21 sherds of later 12th to mid 13th-century date from the site. Most are from York glazed ware (YORK) jugs and jars with two sherds of Beverley glazed ware jugs (BEVO), two red sandy ware jugs (RED SANDY) and two sherds from miscellaneous York splashed ware jugs (YSPL). A notable find, from context 7007, is from a Seal Jug, a distinctive form decorated with three or four large applied, stamped medallions set around the girth. The design in this case seems to consist of random circular dots.

Later 13th to mid 14th century.

Eight sherds of Brandsby-type ware (BRANDSBY) were recovered, from two contexts (1025 and 3005). All were from jugs. Several of the sherds were decorated, for example with an applied vertical strip (context 1025) or with wavy combing on the shoulder. In both cases the sherds were stratified with later medieval types although context 1025 contained a mixed assemblage.

Later 14th to mid 15th century.

Eight sherds of late medieval pottery were found. They are of three types: Humber ware (HUM), Hambleton-type ware (HAMBLETON) and Walmgate ware (WALMGATE). All the sherds came from hollow wares, either jugs or jars.

Later 15th and later.

Seven sherds of post-medieval or later date were found. They were of four types: Late Humber ware (LHUM), Brown-glazed earthenwares (BERTH), miscellaneous late post-medieval (LPMLOC) and Cistercian ware (CSTN). Apart from the Cistercian ware which might be of late 15th or 16th century-date the sherds are all of later 16th to 19th century date.

9.1.3 Stone.

A hone of Norwegian Rag, a grey schist from Eidsborg in southern Norway, was recovered from context 7007. The hone has a square cross section and tapers in both directions from its thickest point. Whether this shape was original or caused by repeated sharpening is not clear.

9.2 Assessment.

9.3.1 Area A.

Twenty-six sherds of pottery were recovered from Area A, from five contexts. The *tpq* of these contexts ranges from the late 11th century (1015) through the mid/late 12th century (1012 and 1027 to the mid 14th century (1017 and 1025). These finds suggest occupation from the later 11th or 12th centuries through to the middle of the 14th century. No pottery was recovered from the agricultural soil.

Table A.

context	BEVO	BRANDSBY	HUM	RED SANDY	YG	YORK	YSLP	Grand Total
1012						1		1
1015					4			4
1017			1					1
1025	1	5	3		2	4	3	18
1027				1		1		2
Grand Total	1	5	4	1	6	6	3	26

9.3.2 Area A extension.

Two sherds of pottery were recovered from context 805 in the extension to Area A. One is a fresh sherd of Roman pottery and the other is the only sherd of definite pre-conquest date from the site. The character of these two sherds is so different from that of the remaining pottery from the site that it suggests that they may have been present in soil originating within the city dumped on the site during the medieval period, or later.

Table B

Context	TORK	YAT00	Grand Total
805	1	1	2
Grand Total	1	1	2

9.3.3 Trench 3.

Eight sherds of pottery were recovered from Trench 3, from two contexts. Context 3003 contains a mixed assemblage in which the latest sherds are post-medieval and 3005 has a *tpq* of mid 14th century. The earliest possible sherds from this trench were Brandsby-type ware, but this ware continued to be produced into the late medieval period.

Table C

Context	BERTH	BRANDSBY	HAMBLETON	HUM	LHUM	MTIL	Grand Total
3003				1	1		2
3005	1	3	1			1	6
Grand Total	1	3	1	1	1	1	8

9.3.4 Trench 4.

Fifteen sherds of pottery were recovered from Trench 4, from eight contexts. The contexts have *tpq* ranging from the Roman period (4009, 4029 and possibly 4031) through the mid 11th century (4011), the mid/late 12th century (4013 and 4017) to the late medieval (4020) and early modern periods (4027). The presence of 5 of the 8 sherds of mid 11th to mid 12th-century Stamford ware in this trench is noteworthy.

Table D

Context	LPMLOC	R/MTIL	RTIL	STAM	WALMGATE	YATE00	YAT00	YATS0	YORK	Grand Total
4009						1				1
4011				4			1	1		6
4013									1	1
4017				1					1	2
4020					1					1
4027	1									1
4029			2							2
4031		1								1
Grand Total	1	1	2	5	1	1	1	1	2	15

9.3.5 Trench 5.

Three sherds of pottery were recovered from Trench 5, from two contexts. 5004 dates to the later 15th-century or later and 5006 dates to the 17th-century or later. A clay pipe bowl of 19th century date, with finely moulded, simple leaf, decoration up both the front and rear seams was also recovered from 5004. This is similar in size and shape to Atkinson & Oswald type 29, dated 1840-1880.

Table E

Context	BERTH	CSTN	R/MTIL	Grand Total
5004		1		1
5006	1		1	2
Grand Total	1	1	1	3

9.3.6 Trench 7.

Sixteen sherds of pottery were recovered from Trench 7, from two contexts. Context 7006 dates to the mid 14th century or later, but is a mixed assemblage including three sherds of mid 11th to mid 12th-century Stamford ware. Context 7007 produced a single Norwegian Ragstone hone stone. The use of this schist, imported from southern Norway, started in the 10th century and continued to at least the early 14th century.

Table F

context	BEVO	RED SANDY	STAM	STONE	WALMGATE	YATC01	YG	YORK	YSPL	Grand Total
7006	1	1	3		1	1	4	4	1	16
7007				1						1
Grand Total	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	4	1	17

9.4 Interpretation.

There is evidence for Roman activity on the site, in the form of sherds of abraded Roman pottery in later contexts and the abraded fragments of Roman tile. Most of this evidence comes from Trench 4 with residual sherds in Trenches 5 and 7. In addition, there was probably some dumping of material containing Roman finds on the site at some later period (Extension to Area A).

There is only one sherd of definitely pre-conquest pottery from the site, in a context which may include dumped material (Extension to Area A). With this exception, the first post-Roman pottery from the site comes from Trenches 4 and 7 and seems to indicate occupation in the immediately pre- or post-Conquest period. This horizon, characterised by high quantities of Stamford ware, is known from within the historic core of York, north of the Ouse and west of the Foss, but is rare or absent elsewhere. This suggests that suburban development in the Walmgate area began in the mid 11th century. There is, however, no particular concentration of mid 12th-century pottery types (mainly splashed wares) and the next main phase of activity is in the later 12th to mid 13th centuries, as on many peripheral sites in York.

There appears to be a major shift in activity in the mid 14th century. Area A and Trenches 4 and 7 produced no finds later than this date whilst Trenches 3 and 5 produced nothing earlier.

Although an agricultural soil was noted on site and dated to the medieval period the only sherds which look as though they might have been subject to ploughing are Roman and all from Trench 4. The remaining finds have the character of primary or secondary rubbish from occupation or refuse deposits.

None of the finds is worthy of further treatment at this stage but all should be retained for future study.

Appendix A

Area	context	cname	date	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Action	Description
A	1012	YORK	emed		JAR/BOWL	1	1		MOTTLED CUGL INT;KT BASE ANGLE
A	1015	YG	sn		JAR	1	1		
A	1015	YG	sn		JAR	2	2		
A	1015	YG	sn		JAR	1	1		KT BASE ANGLE
A	1017	HUM	lmed		JUG	1	1		
A	1025	BEVO	emed		JUG	1	1		CUGL
A	1025	BRANDSBY	med		JUG	3	3		CUGL
A	1025	BRANDSBY	med		JUG	1	1		APPLIED VERT STRIP;CUGL
A	1025	BRANDSBY	med		JUG	1	1		CUGL;SLIGHT CORDON AT NECK;WAVY COMBING ON SHOULDER

Area	context	cname	date	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Action	Description
A	1025	HUM	lmed		JUG/JAR	3	3		
A	1025	YG	sn		JAR	1	1		
A	1025	YG	sn		JAR	1	1		
A	1025	YORK	emed		JAR	1	1		
A	1025	YORK	emed		JAR	1	1		
A	1025	YORK	emed		JUG	2	2		CUGL
A	1025	YSLP	emed		JUG	3	3		
A	1027	RED SANDY	emed		JUG	1	1		ROD HANDLE:TWO THUMB MARKED AT B/H:PLAIN SPLASH GLAZE
A	1027	YORK	emed		JUG	1	1		CUGL
3	3003	HUM	lmed		JUG/JAR	1	1		
3	3003	LHUM	pmed		BOWL	1	1		
3	3005	BERTH	pmed		PANC	1	1		
3	3005	BRANDSBY	med		JUG	2	2		CUGL
3	3005	BRANDSBY	med		JUG	1	1		THUMB IMPRESSIONS TO EITHER SIDE OF R/H
3	3005	HAMBLETON	lmed		JUG	1	1		CUGL EXT:KT EXT
3	3005	MTIL	emed		FLAT	1	1		
4	4009	YATE00	rom			1	1		
4	4011	STAM	sn		PTCH	2	2		DRAB GL
4	4011	STAM	sn		JAR	2	2		UNGLAZED
4	4011	YATO0	rom			1	1		
4	4011	YATSO	rom			1	1		
4	4013	YORK	emed		JUG	1	1		CUGL:HORIZ GROOVE:ROUNDED VERT APPLIED STRIP
4	4017	STAM	sn		JAR	1	1		DRAB GL EXT
4	4017	YORK	emed		JAR	1	1		MIGHT BE EBOR
4	4020	WALMGATE	lmed		JUG	1	1		OVAL-SECTIONED HANDLE:WHITE SLIPPED:CUGL:FOUR DEEP GROOVES ON BACK
4	4027	LPMLOC	emod		FLP	1	1		
4	4029	RTIL	rom			2	2		
4	4031	R/MTIL	rom		BRICK	1	1		BLOATED AND WARPED
5	5004	CSTN	epmed	FINE DK RED FABRIC	CUP	1	1		CYLINDRICAL BODY WITH SLIGHT RIBBING
5	5006	BERTH	pmed		JUG/JAR	1	1		HORIZ GROOVED LINE:EXT BROWN GL
5	5006	R/MTIL	rom			1	1		BLOATED AND SPALLED WASTER
7	7006	BEVO	emed		JUG	1	1		VERT WHITE APPLIED STRIPS:GLOSSY PLAIN GL
7	7006	RED SANDY	emed		JUG	1	1		EXT GL
7	7006	STAM	sn		JAR	1	1		UNGLAZED
7	7006	STAM	sn		JAR	1	1		UNGLAZED
7	7006	STAM	sn		JAR	1	1		KT SAGGING BASE.UNGLAZED
7	7006	WALMGATE	lmed		JUG	1	1		
7	7006	YATC01	rom		BEAKER	1	1		
7	7006	YG	sn		JAR	2	2		
7	7006	YG	sn		JAR	1	1		SQUARED RIM
7	7006	YG	sn		JUG	1	1		
7	7006	YORK	emed		JUG	1	1		MOTTLED CUGL

Area	context	cname	date	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Action	Description
7	7006	YORK	emed		JUG	1	1		PLAIN GL SPLASHES
7	7006	YORK	emed		JUG	1	1		CUGL
7	7006	YORK	emed		JUG	1	1		LARGE CIRCULAR APPLIED SEAL
7	7006	YSPL	emed		JUG	1	1		PLAIN BASE ANGLE
7	7007	STONE	nd	NORWEGI AN RAG?	HONE	1	1	PH	SQUARE SECTION;SLIGHT TAPERING IN BOTH DIRECTIONS FROM A CENTRAL POINT
A EXT	805	TORK	lsax		JAR	1	1		
A EXT	805	YAT00	rom		FLAG	1	1		
US	US	BERTH	pmed		BOWL	1	1		LID-SEATED RIM
US	US	BERTH	pmed		JAR	1	1		PATCHY GLAZE INSIDE RIM
US	US	YAT00	rom			1	1		
US	US	YAT00	rom			1	1		
				REDUCED GREY CORE AND INT.OXID MARGINS					
US	US	YG	sn		JAR	2	1		
US	US	YG	sn		JAR	1	1		

10.0 Appendix 4 ~ The Plates.



Plate 1. General working shot of Trench 1.



Plate 2. Trench 1, showing context (1026).



Plate 3. Trench 1, showing context (1028).



Plate 4. Trench 7, showing well [7002].



Plate 5. Trench 4 box shoring.



Plate 6. Trench 4, showing culvert [4004].



Plate 7. Trench 4, showing contexts (4114) & (4018).