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Land at the Old Brewery  
93, Long Street  
Thirsk  
North Yorkshire

SE 43083 82410

Archaeological Evaluation

HAMBLETON D.C. Planning & Environmental Services		
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Date:.....

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January 2006.

**Land at the Old Brewery  
93, Long Street  
Thirsk  
North Yorkshire  
SE 43083 82410  
Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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SE 43083 82410  
Archaeological Evaluation Report**

***Non-technical Summary***

*An Archaeological Evaluation was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on land at the Old Brewery, 93 Long Street, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, during February 2006. The work involved the excavation of five Evaluation Trenches, with the aim of determining by means of trial trenching the nature, depth, extent, and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits that would be affected by the proposed re-development of the site (Planning Reference No. 2/04/152/0426E, 04/01885/FUL).*

*The Archaeological Evaluation demonstrated the survival of in-situ archaeological features and deposits on the site. The earliest activity was of medieval date, evidence of which was identified in all the trenches except Trench 1. This included a 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century gully cut in Trench 4, a pit cut of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date within Trench 5 and two large pits cuts of probable 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date in Trench 2. These features probably represented the digging of rubbish pits and/or horticultural features in land to the rear of medieval tenements. No evidence of medieval buildings or structures was encountered.*

*The Evaluation clearly indicated that any groundworks associated with the proposed re-development of the site have the potential to encounter and impact upon significant archaeological features of medieval and later date.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 An Archaeological Evaluation was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on land at the Old Brewery, 93 Long Street, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, during February 2006. The work was undertaken on the advice of

the Senior Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council, in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site for residential housing (Planning Reference No. 2/04/152/0426E, 04/01885/FUL) and involved the archaeological excavation of five trenches.

- 1.2 All work was undertaken in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching* that was prepared by the Senior Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council (Appendix 9).
- 1.3 The project was assigned the MAP site code 01-02-06.
- 1.4 All work was funded by the Calvert Carpets.
- 1.4 All maps within this report have been produced from The Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. License No. AL 50453A.

## **2. Site Description**

- 2.1 The site lies within the medieval town of Thirsk, North Yorkshire and is situated to the east of St. James' Green, formerly the site of the market of the borough of Old Thirsk, at SE 43083 82410 (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the south by St. James' Green Methodist Church and commercial buildings, to the west by residential properties, to the east by residential properties and a garage, and to the north by Stammergate, a street of presumed medieval date that runs between St James' Green and Long Street.
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Newport 1 Association, which are characterised by deep well-drained sandy soils over a geology of glaciofluvial drift (Mackney 1984, p. 249).
- 2.3 The site was formerly the location of a brewery. The Old Brewery building fronting Long Street is still in existence and was occupied by a motorcycle

showroom at the time of the Evaluation. At the western end of the site were a wooden shed and a fire-damaged brick building. The remainder of the site was open land that was covered by concrete and gravel yard surfacing.

### **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 3.1 The name Thirsk derives for the Old Swedish *Thraesk*, meaning lake or fen (Ekwall 1974). The town is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Tresche*. There were two manors at the time of Domesday, one held by the king and the other by Hugh FitzBaldrick (Williams & Martin 2003). The twin manors are reflected in the growth of the town, which developed as Old Thirsk, to the east of the River Codbeck, and New Thirsk, to the west of the river.
- 3.2 Roger de Mowbray's charter of foundation of the Priory of Newburgh suggests that a borough had been founded at Old Thirsk by 1145 AD (Bulmer 1990). A market was established on St James' Green, to the east of the current development, but it is thought that the establishment of Thirsk Castle on the opposite side of Codbeck stimulated the development of New Thirsk, the growing economic importance of which was reflected in change of focus of the market to its present location in Market Place.
- 3.3 The *Chapel of St. James*, mentioned in the Newburgh Priory charter, is thought to have been founded on St. James' Green prior to 1145. The chapel was demolished before the Reformation and its exact location is now not known. A Wesleyan chapel was established on the Green in 1816 and a Parochial School was founded on the Green in 1812 (ibid.).
- 3.4 The London to Darlington Railway was completed in 1841, passing a mile to the east of the town and a station was established at Thirsk. Improved communications as a result of the railway boosted the economic growth of the town during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Industries within the town at

this time included tanning, leather-working, milling, malting, brewing, linen-weaving, bleaching, dyeing and agricultural engineering.

- 3.5 The Thirsk Directory of Trades and Professions list two brewers as active within the town from 1829 to 1840. These were Richard Meek and Edward Rhodes, both of whom operated from premises in Kirkgate. By 1890 Richard Meek was no longer in business and Edward Rhodes' business had apparently passed to a relative, listed as Quintin Rhodes (Bulmer 1990). A Mrs. Samuel Cass is also recorded as operating a brewery on Kirkgate. Also in 1890, a Thomas Tweedy is listed as a brewer at Long Street, this being the first reference to the establishment of a brewery at the current site. By 1926, the business had passed to William Barker (Barber 1990). Very little else is known about the history or products of the Long Street brewery, which is thought to have ceased production in the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (ibid.).

### 3.6 Cartographic Evidence

- 3.6.1 The 1796 Sketch Map of Thirsk (Fig. 2) shows St. James' Green as '*Great Green*', with '*Little Green*' to the south. The current site is within the parcel of land that is shown as bounded by Great Green, Long Street, a northern east-west aligned road (Stammergate) and an east-west lane (now Piper Lane) that runs from the north-eastern corner of Little Green. The map shows buildings fronting Little Green, Great Green, Long Street and Stammergate. With the exception of a few small outbuildings to the rear of these properties, the remainder of the land behind the street frontages is marked as open gardens or yards that are divided by boundary walls or fences.
- 3.6.2 The 1843 Tithe Map of Thirsk (Fig. 3) shows that a significant amount of development had occurred in the vicinity of the site by this date. The most obvious development is the erection of the Methodist chapel, which is marked as a solid black square, set some distance back from the Great Green frontage. In addition, partial in-filling of the open land has occurred, particularly to the rear of properties fronting Long Street and Great Green. In the plot of land to the north of the chapel, for example, a new east-west range of buildings is



shown running back from the Great Green frontage, whilst a former open parcel of land with access to Long Street (marked as '63' on the 1796 map) now contains a number of buildings. In tandem with the in-filling, there appears to have been some sub-division of the garden plots. A large rectangular plot to the rear of Long Street, for example (marked as '59' on the 1796 map) has been divided to form four gardens for houses on Long Street, with a large yard to the rear of the gardens (Marked as '274' on the 1843 map). It is tempting to see this in-filling and sub-division of properties as a symptom of the growing economic importance of the town following the arrival of the railway.

3.6.3 The 1856 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 4) annotates the Methodist chapel and the Roman Catholic chapel to the west. Great Green is now known as 'St James' Green'. Otherwise very little change has occurred in the vicinity of the current site.

3.6.4 The 1914 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5) shows the construction of further buildings to the rear and north of the Methodist chapel, and to the rear of properties fronting Stammergeate. However, the central area of the current site still appears to be open or yard space.

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

4.1 The aims of the Evaluation were:

- To determine by means of trial trenching the nature, depth, extent, and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the development proposals.
- To prepare a report summarising the results of the work and assessing the archaeological implications of proposed development.
- To prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum.

## 5. Methodology

- 5.1 The Evaluation consisted of five trenches, sited at locations which were agreed with the Senior Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council (Fig. 6). Each trench measured 2.0m x 5.0m. Trenches 1 and 2 were sited in an open area to the north of the site, close to the Stammergate frontage. Trenches 3 and 4 were located to the west of the site, whilst Trench 5 was located to the east of the site, close to the former brewery building.
- 5.2 Fieldwork was monitored by site visits of the Senior Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council.
- 5.3 The removal of topsoil and modern overburden was undertaken by a back-acting mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless bucket, operating under close archaeological supervision. Following the removal of the overburden, archaeological deposits and features were identified, cleaned, recorded and hand-excavated by the archaeological field team.
- 5.4 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 5.5 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.
- 5.6 The full extent of archaeological deposits and features were recorded in plan at scales of 1:50 and 1:20 on drawing film. Sections of features and individual layers were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10.
- 5.7 A photographic record was prepared of all the archaeological features encountered during the evaluation. This comprised 35mm colour print, slide and monochrome film (Appendix 4).

- 5.8 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis. Finds were processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995). All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, spot dated (where possible), marked (where appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to national guidelines.
- 5.9 On completion of the fieldwork an archive was prepared for deposition with Thirsk museum in accordance with the appropriate repository guidelines and standards. Catalogues of contexts, finds, soil samples, plans, sections and photographs were prepared and cross-referenced.

## **6. Results**

### **6.1 Trench 1**

#### *Phase 1: Medieval*

- 6.1.1 No features of definite medieval date were identified within Trench 1.

#### *Phase 2: Post-medieval (Figs. 7 & 9)*

- 6.1.2 Deposits of naturally-formed silty sand (context 1018) were identified in the base of Trench 1 at a mean height of 34.30m AOD (Pl. 1).
- 6.1.3 Deposit 1018 was cut by a large feature that was situated at the south-eastern end of the trench (context 1007, Pl. 2). Cut 1007 was 0.84m deep (33.53m AOD) and appeared to be a quadrant of a circular pit of 1.0m radius that extended beyond the limits of the trench. The feature had a steep-sided, u-shaped profile and was filled by a deposit of silty sand that contained animal bone and a pottery assemblage of mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date (context 1006, Appendix 2).
- 6.1.4 Deposit 1018 was also cut by two small sub-circular features (contexts 1012, 1014). Cut 1012 was situated 2.0m to the east of Cut 1007 and had a diameter of 0.60m. The feature exhibited a shallow, bowl-shaped profile that was 0.05m deep (34.26m AOD). Cut 1012 contained a deposit of silty material (context 1011 Appendix 2).

6.1.5 Cut 1014 was situated along the southern edge of the trench, and had a diameter of 0.55m. The feature was 0.10m deep (34.26m AOD) and had a profile similar to Cut 1012. Cut 1014 contained a deposit of silt (context 1013).

? associated with the former  
brewery?

6.1.6 Cuts 1012 and 1014 were of similar size and morphology and were located close together in the central area of the trench. It is therefore likely that the features were of contemporary date and were perhaps postholes associated with a building or structure.

6.1.7 Situated towards the north-eastern end of the trench was an irregularly-shaped spread of stony material (context 1017). Deposit 1017 was 0.05m thick, 1.22m long, 0.60m wide and was situated at a height of 34.35m AOD. Although no finds were recovered from the deposit, it may perhaps have been the remains of a floor or yard surface that was associated with Cuts 1012 and 1014.

*Phase 3: Modern (Figs. 8 & 9)*

6.1.8 Contexts 1006, 1011, 1013 and 1017 were sealed by a 0.15m deep deposit of modern silty material that covered the entire trench and was situated at a mean height of 34.46m AOD (context 1002).

6.1.9 Deposit 1002 was truncated by a modern service trench that was aligned approximately north to south (context 1005). Cut 1005 extended into the trench section, the visible part of the feature being 1.20m long and 0.62m wide. Cut 1005 was filled by two deposits of silt (contexts 1004, 1003). Deposit 1004, the lower fill, contained electricity supply cables and therefore was not fully excavated.

- 6.1.10 Situated 1.20m to the east of Cut 1005 was a second electricity cable trench (context 1010). The feature was 2.20m long, 0.24m wide and was not excavated.
- 6.1.11 Deposit 1002 was also cut by a small sub-circular feature that extended into the northern trench baulk (context 1016). Cut 1016 had a diameter of 0.70m and exhibited a shallow, bowl-shaped profile that was 0.05m deep (34.36m AOD). The feature was filled by a deposit of silt that contained scraps of plastic and metal foil (context 1015).
- 6.1.12 Deposits 1003 and 1002 were truncated by an east-west aligned cut of u-shaped profile that extended beyond the limits of the trench (context 1009, Fig. 5 section c-d). The visible part of Cut 1009 was 1.07m long, 0.45m wide and 0.30m deep. It was filled by a deposit of silty material (context 1008).
- 6.1.13 Deposit 1008 was sealed by a 0.09m deep deposit of modern hardcore that extended over the entire trench (context 1001). Deposit 1001 acted as a bedding layer for a 0.15m deep loose gravel surface (context 1000). Existing ground level in Trench 1 was at a mean height of 34.60m AOD.

## **6.2 Trench 2**

### *Phase 1: Medieval (Figs. 10 & 13)*

- 6.2.1 Naturally-formed silty sand subsoil was identified in Trench 2 at a mean height of 34.36m AOD (context 2019 = 2008). In the north-eastern part of the trench, natural deposits were truncated by a large pit cut of sub-oval plan (context 2021). Cut 2021 had a steeply-sloping profile and was 1.60m long, 1.40m wide and 1.12m deep (33.24m AOD). The feature contained a 0.34m deep basal fill deposit of silty sand (context 2020) and a 0.82m deep silty upper fill deposit (context 2018). Deposit 2020 contained a sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery, whilst Deposit 2018 contained sherds of 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date (Appendix 2).

6.2.2 In the south of the trench, Deposit 2019 was partially sealed by a silty dump layer (context 2016). Deposit 2016 covered an area of 3.10m x 0.90m and was situated at a mean height of 34.50m AOD. It contained flecks of charcoal, ceramic building material, animal bone and sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (Appendix 2).

6.2.3 Deposit 2016 was cut by a large pit of sub-circular plan that was situated in the south-western part of the trench (context 2017, Pl. 3). Pit Cut 2017 was 2.20m long, 2.10m wide and 0.98m deep (33.52m AOD). The feature was unusual in that it had a moderately-sloping profile that incorporated several breaks of slope. A 0.27m deep basal fill deposit (context 2014) yielded sherds of 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery and animal bone (Appendix 2), whilst the pottery assemblage from the silty clay upper fill (context 2011) yielded a later spot-date of early to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. Since Deposits 2014 and 2011 contained sherds from the same Brandsby type vessel, the later date for Deposit 2011 may be the result of intrusive material.

6.2.4 Deposit 2011 was cut by a 0.23m diameter, 0.09m deep posthole cut of circular plan (context 2013). Cut 2013 was excavated to a height of 34.35m AOD and contained a single sandy fill deposit (context 2012).

*Phase 2: Post-medieval (Figs.11 & 13)*

6.2.5 Deposit 2016 was partially sealed by a 0.40m x 0.20m spread of cobbles and pebbles (context 2010). This may have been the remains of a floor or yard surface and contained pottery sherds of mid to late 17<sup>th</sup> century date (Appendix 2). The true extent of this deposit could not be ascertained due to its truncation by a modern service trench (see below).

6.2.6 Deposit 2018 was partially sealed by a 0.90m long, 0.80m wide spread of silty material (context 2015). Deposit 2015 was also truncated by a modern service trench and the true extent of the deposit could not be determined. No dating evidence was recovered from this deposit.

6.2.7 Deposit 2015 was sealed by a 3.20m long, 1.10m wide deposit of silt that contained sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (context 2007, Appendix 2). It is likely that Deposit 2007 also partially sealed Deposit 2010. However, this relationship was also lost due to later truncation.

*Phase 3: Modern (Figs.12 & 13)*

6.2.8 Deposits 2007 and 2010 were sealed by a 0.10m to 0.40m deep deposit of topsoil (context 2002). Deposit 2002 extended over the entire trench and sloped from a maximum height of 34.87m AOD to the south to 36.62m AOD to the north.

6.2.9 Deposit 2002 was truncated by a modern service trench that was a probable continuation of Cut 1005 (context 2009). Cut 2009 was backfilled by a mixed sandy deposit (context 2003). The feature was not excavated.

6.2.10 Deposit 2002 and Service Cut 2009 were sealed by a 0.10m deep deposit of modern hardcore (context 2001) that acted as a bedding layer for a 0.04m deep gravel layer (context 2000). Existing ground level in Trench 2 sloped from 34.99m AOD in the south to 34.68m AOD to the north.

### **6.3 Trench 3**

*Phase 1: Medieval*

6.3.1 No features of definite medieval date were encountered in Trench 3

*Phase 2: Post-medieval (Figs. 14 & 16)*

6.3.2 Naturally-formed silty sand deposits (context 3007) were encountered in Trench 3 at a mean height of 34.61m AOD. Deposit 3007 was truncated by three features (contexts 3009, 3011, 3017, Pl. 4).

6.3.3 Cut 3009 was a 1.60m long, 0.30m wide, 0.20m deep (34.41m AOD) gully of U-shaped profile and concave base. The feature ran on a south-east to north-west alignment from the southern trench baulk and terminated within the

trench. It was filled by a deposit of silty sand that contained sherds of pottery and animal bone (context 3008, Appendix 2).

- 6.3.4 A second gully (context 3017, Pl. 5) was situated 0.90m to the east of Gully 3009 and ran on a parallel alignment. Gully 3017 also terminated within the trench and was 1.20m long, 0.30m wide and 0.18m deep (34.43m AOD), with a u-shaped profile. It was filled by a single deposit of silty clay (context 3016).
- 6.3.5 Cut 3011 was situated immediately to the west of Gully 3017 and extended into the southern trench baulk. The feature proved to be a 0.46m diameter circular posthole that was 0.32m deep (34.33m AOD). Posthole 3011 was filled by a deposit of sandy clay (context 3010).
- 6.3.6 Features 3008, 3010 and 3016 were sealed by a 0.47m deep deposit of silty clay subsoil that extended across the entire trench (context 3005). Deposit 3005 was situated at a mean height of 35.09m AOD and contained animal bone, fragments of clay pipe and sherds of early 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (Appendix 2).

*Phase 3: Modern (Figs. 15 & 16)*

- 6.3.7 Deposit 3005 was sealed by a 0.23m deep deposit of silty humic material (context 3004). Deposit 3004 was situated at a mean height of 35.30m AOD and was evidently a buried topsoil of relatively recent date.
- 6.3.8 Deposit 3004 was truncated by two modern features. These were a 0.70m deep modern fence-post cut (context 3019) and a 1.20m deep telegraph pole cut (context 3015). Cut 3019 was filled by a deposit of silty clay (context 3018) and was recorded in section only. Cut 3015 was filled by a deposit of clay and gravel (context 3014).
- 6.3.9 A final modern feature was observed in Trench 3. This was a single course of mortared, machine-moulded brick that rested on the upper surface of deposit 3004 (context 3006, Pl. 6). Structure 3006 ran along the southern trench baulk



for approximately 3.20m and was probably a wall foundation course. The feature was situated at a height of 35.30m.

6.3.10 Deposits 3014, 3018 and Structure 3006 were sealed by a 0.07m deep deposit of modern hardcore (context 3003). Deposit 3003 acted as a bedding deposit for a 0.05m deep layer of tarmac and chippings (context 3002) that was in turn sealed by a deposit of loose gravel (context 3001). Existing ground level in Trench 3 was at a height of 35.56m AOD.

#### **6.4 Trench 4**

##### *Phase 1: Medieval (Figs. 17 & 20, Pl. 7)*

6.4.1 Naturally-formed sandy subsoil (context 4021) was identified in Trench 4 at a mean height of 34.52m AOD. Deposit 4021 was cut by a linear feature that ran on a south-west to north-east alignment. Two segments were excavated through this feature (contexts 4008, 4012), which proved to be a shallow gully. Gully 4008 = 4012 was at least 0.86m wide, but the feature extended beyond the limits of the trench in the west and north so its full dimensions could not be ascertained. Similarly, the true extent of the feature to the east could not be determined due to later truncation (see below). The feature was quite shallow, with a depth of 0.10m (34.59m AOD) and a moderately-sloping, flat-based profile. It was filled by a deposit of silty sand that contained animal bone and pottery sherds of 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date (contexts 4005, 4011, Appendix 2).

##### *Phase 2: Post-medieval (Figs. 18 & 20)*

6.4.2 A second linear feature was situated 0.40m to the south-east of Gully 4008 = 4012. Three segments (contexts 4009, 4014, 4016) were excavated through this feature, which proved to be a 0.50m wide, 5.0m long gully cut of steep-sided, flat-based profile. Gully 4009 = 4014 = 4016 was 0.09m deep (34.53m AOD) and was filled by a deposit of silty sand (context 4006 = 4013 = 4015). Deposit 4013 contained animal bone and sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (Appendix 2). Deposit 4015 contained 3 sherds of similar date, together with one post-medieval sherd and a fragment of clay pipe stem. Deposit 4006

contained more post-medieval material and residual sherds of medieval pottery. (Appendix 2).

- 6.4.3 Gully 4008 = 4012 was truncated at its north-eastern end by a large pit cut of sub-rectangular plan (context 4007). Cut 4007 extended beyond the limits of trench and was apparently aligned south-west to north-east. The visible part of the feature was 0.90m wide, 2.40m long and 0.52m deep (34.28m AOD). It contained a 0.35m deep basal fill of silty sand that yielded clay pipe stems and sherds of late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (context 4010, Appendix 2). Deposit 4010 was sealed by a 0.20m deep gravel fill deposit (context 4004). Deposit 4004 was in turn sealed by a 0.20m deep upper fill of silty sand (context 4003). Deposit 4003 contained animal bone and pottery sherds of Ryedale Ware. A single sherd of early 19<sup>th</sup> century creamware was also recovered from this deposit and was probably intrusive (Appendix 2).

*Phase 3: Modern (Figs. 19 & 20)*

- 6.4.4 Deposits 4003 and 4006 = 4013 = 4015 were sealed by a 0.05 to 0.15m deep dump deposit of sandy material (context 4022). Deposit 4022 was truncated by a later pit cut of sub-circular plan and steep-sided profile (context 4019). The feature had a diameter of 0.80m and was 0.90m deep (33.94m AOD). It contained a 0.70m deep basal fill of gravel and stone chippings (context 4018) and an upper fill of silty sand (context 4020).
- 6.4.5 Deposit 4020 was sealed by a 0.66m deep deposit of silty sand subsoil (context 4002) that was situated at a mean height of 35.35m AOD. Deposit 4002 was sealed by a 0.20m deep gravel surface (context 4001). Existing ground level in Trench 4 was at a mean height of 35.55m AOD.

## **6.5 Trench 5**

*Phase 1: Medieval (Figs. 21 & 23, Pl. 8)*

- 6.5.1 In order to preserve *in-situ* a cobble yard surface that may have been associated with the brewery (see below), excavations in Trench 5 were confined to a 1.70m x 1.20m sondage that was situated in the north-western

corner of the trench. This excavation strategy was developed in consultation with, and was approved by, the Senior Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council.

6.5.2 Naturally-formed sandy subsoil (context 5010) was identified in the base of the sondage at a height of 34.46m AOD. Deposit 5010 was cut by a large pit of probable sub-circular plan and steeply-sloping bowl-shaped profile that extended beyond the limits of the sondage (context 5009). The visible portion of Cut 5009 had a diameter of 1.10m and was 0.65m deep (33.86m AOD). It was filled by a deposit of silty sand (context 5008). Deposit 5008 contained medieval pottery sherds of mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date (Appendix 2).

6.5.3 Deposit 5008 was sealed by a 0.45m deep silty sand deposit that contained sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (context 5006, Appendix 2). Deposit 5006 was situated at a mean height of 35.03m AOD.

*Phase 2: Post-medieval*

6.5.4 Deposit 5006 was sealed by a 0.22m deep deposit of sandy material that contained sherds of early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (context 5005, Appendix 2). Deposit 5005 was situated at a mean height of 35.16m AOD and probably represented a post-medieval garden soil.

6.5.5 Deposit 5005 was sealed by a second deposit of sandy material (context 5003). Deposit 5003 was situated at a mean height of 35.27m AOD and contained pottery sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century date (Appendix 2).

*Phase 3: Modern (Figs. 22 & 23)*

6.5.6 Deposit 5003 was truncated by the vertical-sided, flat-bottomed foundation cut (context 5007) of a brick wall (context 5004, Pl. 8). Wall 5004 consisted of a single course of machine-made red bricks, was 0.30m wide and was identified running for a length of 1.70m on a north-east to south-west alignment.

6.5.7 Deposit 5003 was partially sealed by a modern cobble surface (context 5002). Surface 5002 was situated at a height of 5.0m long, 2.0m wide and was sealed

by a 0.06m deep deposit of loose gravel (context 5001). Existing ground level in Trench 5 was at a mean height of 35.36m AOD.

## 7. Conclusions

7.1 The Archaeological Evaluation demonstrated the survival of in-situ archaeological features and deposits on the site. Evidence of medieval activity was identified in Trenches 2, 4 and 5. Of particular interest were the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century gully cut in Trench 4 and a pit cut of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date within Trench 5. Two large pits cuts of probable 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date were also identified in Trench 2. Given the location of the site, towards the rear of properties that faced the medieval streets of Stammergate, St. James' Green and Long Street, this activity is perhaps best explained as the digging of rubbish pits and/or horticultural features in open land to the rear of medieval tenements. Certainly, no evidence of medieval buildings or structures was encountered during the Evaluation.

7.2 The absence of medieval structural activity on the Stammergate frontage (Trenches 1 and 2) is somewhat surprising and it may be that the evidence of such structures has been removed by later truncation. However, the fact that this area is recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map as open land may be of significance in that it may reflect a similar arrangement in medieval times.

*did have med remains - see 6.2.1-6.2.4*

7.3 Post-medieval activity was noted in each of the trenches. Earlier post-medieval features included a gully in Trench 4, two 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pit cuts (contexts 1007, 4007) and a probable remnant of 17<sup>th</sup> century yard surface (context 2010). Three undated features in Trench 3 (contexts 3009, 3011 and 3017 may have represented horticultural features of post-medieval date.

7.4 The post-medieval gully in Trench 4 (Cut 4009 = 4014 = 4016) was interesting in that it seemed to follow a similar alignment to an earlier

medieval feature (Cut 4012 = 4008). It may be that these features represented the line of a property boundary that had persisted over time.

- 7.5 Later post-medieval activity was represented by a build-up of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century garden soil (contexts 2015, 3005, 4002, 5003) that was up to 0.60m deep. This accumulation of material was noticeably absent from Trench 1. Trench 1 was located in an area marked as open land on the 1796, 1843 and the 1856 First Edition Ordnance Survey maps, and it may be that the need to preserve access to the site at this location in the past precluded the deposition of material at this point.
- 7.6 Modern activity was represented in the main by various service cuts and levelling layers and was of minimal archaeological interest. In particular, no features indicative of brewing or any other industrial process were identified.
- 7.7 Two sections of wall were identified (contexts 3006, 5004). Neither wall was of a particularly substantial build and this, together with their east-west alignment, suggest that they were boundary walls associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century sub-division of garden plots that was revealed by the cartographic evidence. It is likely that these walls were cleared in the later 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in order to create or extend a yard associated with the former brewery. This interpretation is supported by the fact that the foundations of Wall 5004 were sealed by a later cobble yard surface that was situated immediately to the north of the surviving brewery building.
- 7.8 The Evaluation revealed the relatively shallow depth of the modern overburden, which is summarised in the table below.

	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4	Trench 5
Existing Ground Level (m AOD)	34.60	34.99	35.56	35.55	35.36
Horizon Level of Significant Archaeology (m AOD)	35.35	34.52	35.07	34.69	34.94
Horizon Level of Natural Subsoils (m AOD)	34.30	34.36	34.61	34.52	34.46

47cm

49cm

42cm

7.9 Bearing the above levels in mind, it can be said that the results of the Evaluation clearly indicate that any groundworks associated with the proposed re-development of the site have the potential to encounter and impact upon significant archaeological features of medieval and later date. It is therefore recommended that an appropriate Mitigation Strategy should be devised in order to minimise the impact of the proposed re-development upon the archaeological resource.

## 8. Bibliography

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