



Figure 1. Site Location (SE 31270 71385).

Reproduced from the 2005 Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
© Crown copyright. OSA Licence No: AL 52132A0001

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.

There have been a number of previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of Ripon Market Place that have demonstrated the survival of well-preserved remains associated with the medieval town. In addition, documentary research and assessment of previous archaeological discoveries provides an historic framework and context within which to place the current evaluation. This area to the east of Old Market place lies to the north west of the ecclesiastical precinct of Ripon Minster.

The earliest conclusive evidence for settlement and activity in Ripon is for the early medieval period. The early crypt beneath the present Cathedral is believed to be that of St Wilfrid's 7th century church and a contemporary monastery existed in Ripon. The focus of early medieval settlement in the town is believed to centre around the Allhallowgate and Stonebridgagate junction on the eastern side of the Cathedral. During the late 12th to early 13th century, the ecclesiastical precinct in Ripon underwent considerable reorganisation, with integration of ecclesiastical landholdings into an urban streetscape along which properties appear to have been swiftly built up. This reorganisation was accompanied by the layout of a new market place to the southwest of the old market at the end of Allhallowgate, and the setting out of burgage plots along Allhallowgate and to either side of the new market over the open fields of the Archbishop's manor.

Recent work on land to the rear of Wakeman's House on High Skellgate at the southwestern corner of the Market Place recovered a well-preserved and well-stratified series of deposits and features from the 11/12th century to the 15th century. Of particular note was a significant pottery assemblage, as well as indications of smithing in the vicinity, together with butchery and pelt processing. On land to the rear of 8/9 Market Place, deposits ranging from the 11th to 18th centuries were recorded, including the remains of structures on two burgage plots and divisions between them, together with pits that had been dug in the back yards. There was also good evidence for artefactual and environmental data within occupation-related features and deposits, as well as industrial activity. It has been suggested that in the later medieval period there has been a reworking of earlier material as uneven ground levels on this eastern side of the Market Place have been levelled, thereby disturbing and redistributing evidence and remains of earlier medieval activity.

Consequently, the area around the Old Market Place is important for understanding the character and development of the town of Ripon during the early and later medieval periods. There is high potential for there to be surviving remains of the backlands of medieval burgage plots within the application site. The redevelopment could disturb and destroy evidence of features and finds relating to former settlement, industry and trade within the medieval and later town.

Early Ordnance Survey mapping of the area of proposed development indicates that the present layout of the site differs quite considerably from that in 1891. The 1:500 edition of this date shows the site occupied at its eastern end by a ropewalk.

The above information is derived from the Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching prepared by North Yorkshire County Council, within which the original site reports are referenced.

4.0 Methodology.

The overburden was removed by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless 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.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the excavation. This involved the completion of a context sheet for each deposit 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 (38.39m AOD on the front wall of a building on the west side of Old Market Place). A photographic record of the deposits and features was also maintained.

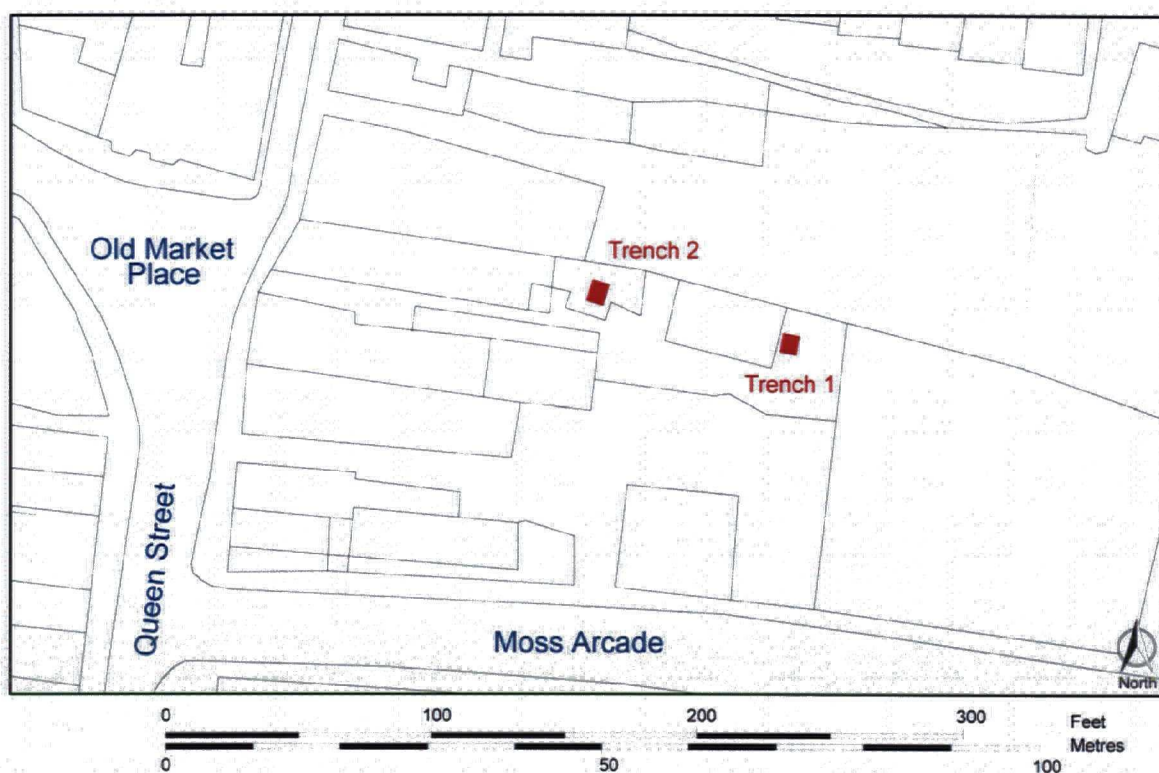


Figure 2. Trench location plan.

5.0 Results.

5.1 Trench 1. (Figs. 3-5 & Plate 1).

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was the stiff light reddish brown clay sand natural (1012), at a depth of 1.20m below the modern ground surface (37.28m AOD). In the northeast corner of the trench the natural was cut into by the edge of a shallow feature [1011]. Only the southernmost edge of this feature lay within the limits of the trench, making its interpretation uncertain; it may have been a shallow ditch, orientated west-northwest to east-southeast, or a pit. It was a maximum of 0.20m deep and contained a single fill (1010) of mid reddish brown clay sand, containing moderate pebbles, together with sherds of medieval pottery.

The natural and fill of the pit were overlain by a thick layer (up to 0.60m) of reddish brown clay sand silt (1003), from which sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved. Along the northern edge of the trench this layer had been cut by the near vertical construction trench [1009] for a brick and sandstone drain (1007). The drain comprised flat sandstone slabs in the base, with three course high brick side walls and a sandstone slabbed capping. The interior was entirely filled with mid blueish grey sandy clay silt (1016) from which occasional fragments of late 18th century pottery and clay pipe were collected. This deposit had clearly formed as the drain became silted up. The original construction backfill, above and to the sides of the drain, comprised loose grey silty sand (1008), with frequent pebbles, occasional fragments of tile and shreds of post medieval pottery.

The backfill of the drain and layer into which it had been cut were sealed by a layer of loose, very dark grey silty loam (1002), which clearly formed a garden soil. A single sherd of late 18th century pottery was recovered from this deposit. The surface of the garden soil was cut, in the eastern half of the trench, by a steep sided construction trench [1015] for a shallow, north south aligned brick wall foundation (1013). The construction backfill on either side of this foundation was very dark grey silty sand (1014) similar to the garden soil into which the wall had been cut. Along the southern edge of the trench the garden soil had been cut by a deep trench [1006], continuing down into the natural, holding a glazed drain pipe (1004).

The surface of the garden soil and features cut into it were sealed by a 0.30m thick layer of loose, brick, limestone and tile rubble (1001) make-up for the modern concrete yard surface (1000), which was 0.10m thick and recorded at a maximum height of 38.53m AOD.

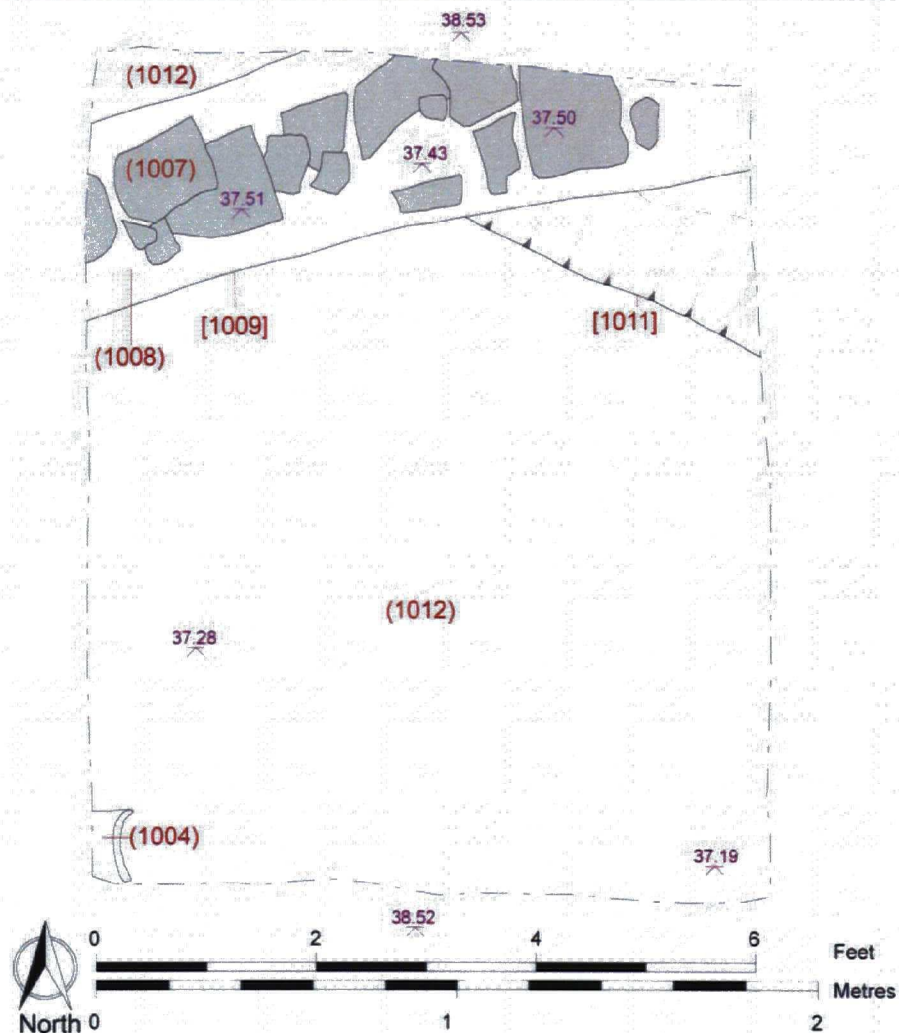


Figure 3. Plan of Trench 1.

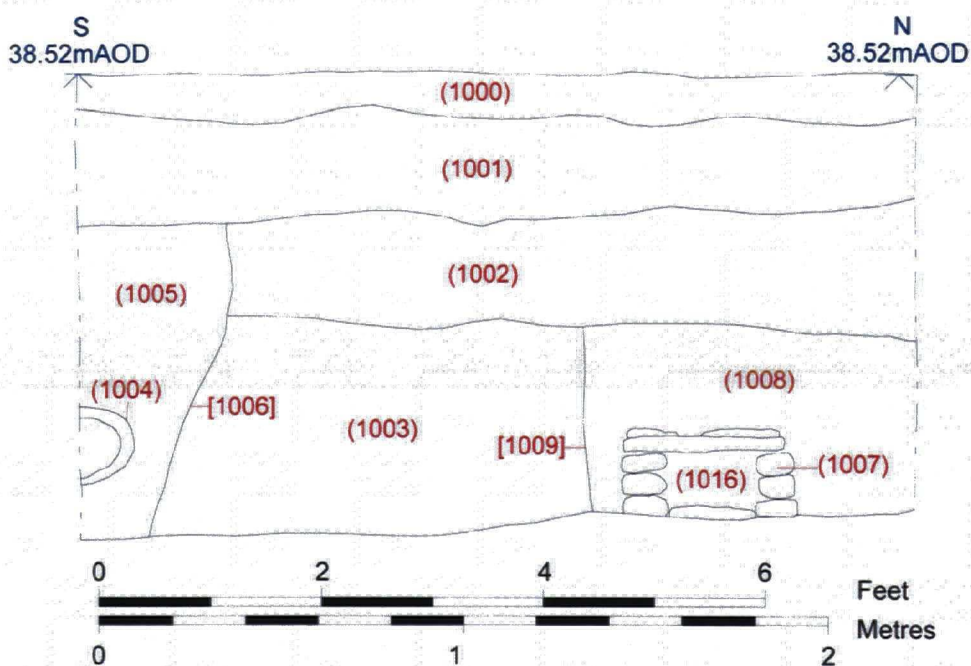


Figure 4. East facing section of Trench 1.

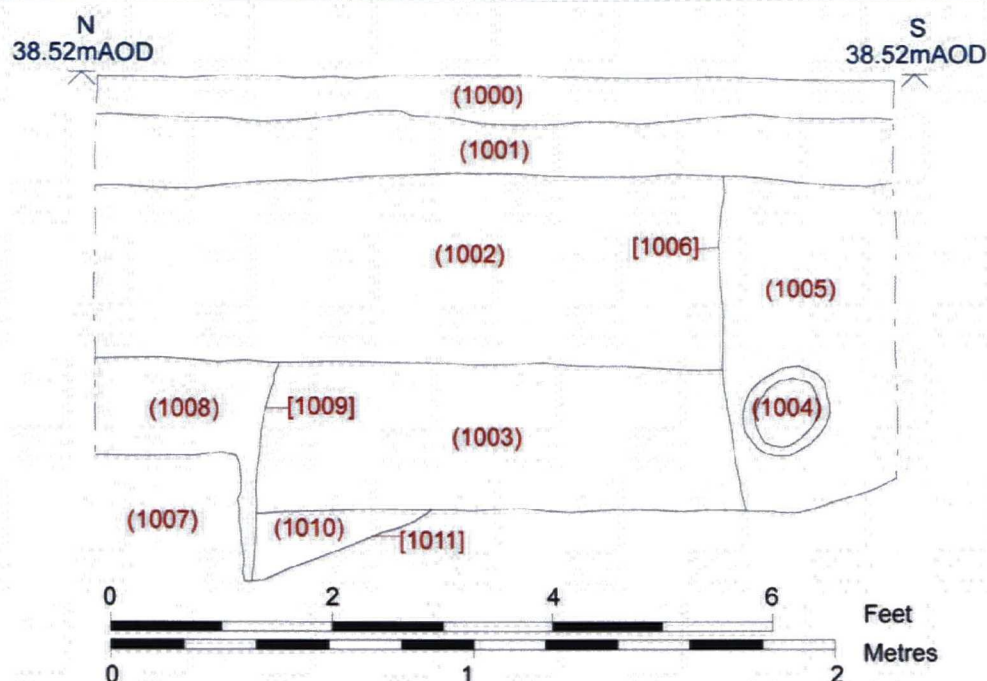


Figure 5. West facing section of Trench 1.

5.2 Trench 2. (Figs. 6-7 & Plate 2).

The earliest deposit encountered was the firm mid brownish orange gravely sand natural (2012), at a depth of approximately 1.00m below the modern ground level (maximum height of 37.18m AOD). The natural was cut by two features: Much of the centre of the trench was occupied by a substantial cut [2011]. This was a minimum of 1.80m long (east west), continuing beyond the western edge of excavation, and 1.20m wide. This had a steep north side more gently sloping south side and a flat base at a depth of 0.44m. As this feature extended beyond the trench edges its interpretation is not certain. It may be a large pit; alternatively it may be the end of a ditch, continuing to the west, towards the street frontage. The single fill (2010) of friable light grey brown sandy silt, contained frequent small pebbles, occasional flecks of charcoal, fragments of bone and sherds of medieval pottery. Immediately to the east of this large feature was an oval posthole [2014]. This had a maximum diameter of 0.25m, had steep sides and a concave base at a depth of 0.15m. The fill (2013) of light grey brown sandy silt (like the larger ditch fill) also contained small pebbles and occasional charcoal and bone, but unfortunately no pottery.

The surface of the natural and two cut features were sealed by a substantial layer (0.45m thick) of reddish brown sandy silt (2009), containing frequent pebbles and occasional flecks of charcoal, mortar and fragments of bone and medieval pottery. This thick deposit was overlain in the northwest corner of the trench by a thin lens of weakly cemented, cream, lime mortar (2007). A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from this mortar deposit. The mortar in the northwest corner and remaining area of the trench was overlain by a 0.25m thick mixed layer of yellow brown silty sand and clay, containing frequent large cobbles and large fragments of sandstone rubble (2008).

In the southwest corner of the trench the rubble layer had been cut by a substantial, late intrusion [2005]. Although recorded in the base of the trench as 1.10m long and 0.60m wide, this feature was cut from much higher in the sequence and was at least 1.80m across, with an irregular, stepped side. As it was clearly a late intrusion, cutting into the natural at the base of the trench, no attempt was made to excavate this feature to its full depth. The fill (2004) of mixed dark grey to yellow brown sandy silt and clay contained cobbles, fragments of concrete, tile, mortar and brick, and a small collection of pottery sherds dated to the early 19th century or later was retrieved.

The large intrusion and previous rubble layer were covered by a layer of dark grey sandy clay silt garden soil (2006), a maximum of 0.15m thick. Within the eastern half of the trench a light-weight, north-south, brick wall (2003) had been constructed on the surface of the garden soil. This wall comprised a single foundation course of header laid bricks, followed by three courses of single width stretchers. The west side of the wall was butted by 0.25m thick layer of loose mid yellow grey sand with frequent brick, concrete, mortar and cobble rubble (2001), which formed the foundation for a thin (0.06m) layer of concrete (2000). To the east of the wall was a single layer of loose light grey silty sand (2002) again containing frequent mortar, brick, cobbles and occasional concrete. A clay pipe bowl, dated to the mid 19th century was recovered from this deposit. Layer (2002) and concrete (2000) formed the modern ground surface, at a maximum height of 38.24m AOD.

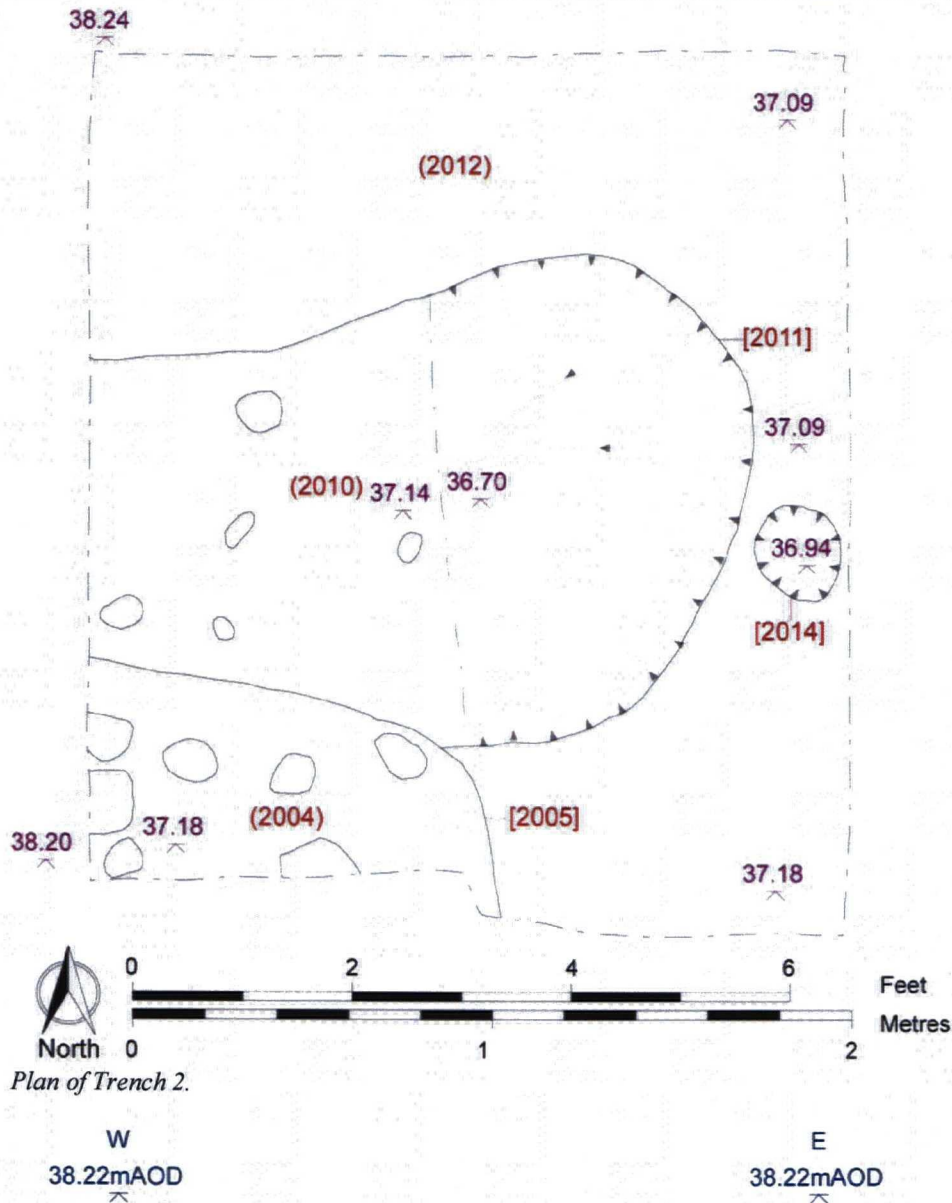


Figure 6. Plan of Trench 2.

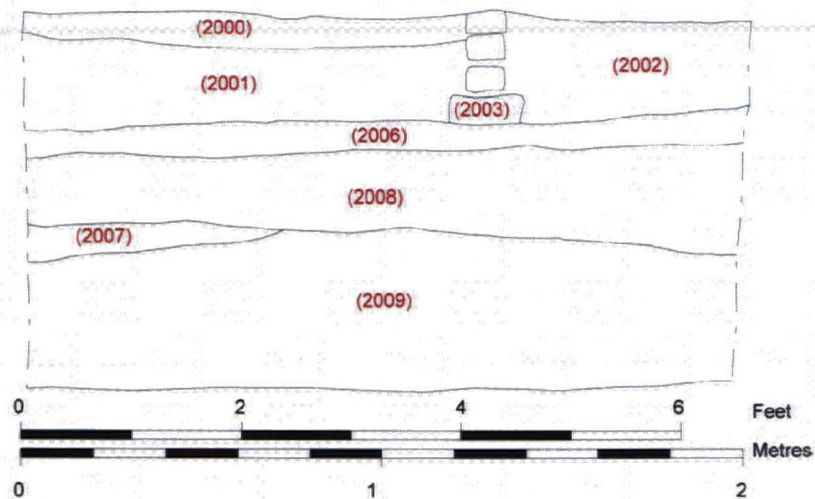


Figure 7. South facing section of Trench 2.

6.0 Discussion & Conclusions.

Both of the trenches encountered natural at similar depth below the modern ground surface (1.20m in Trench 1 and 1.05m in Trench 2). This was cut in both cases by medieval features. In Trench 1, this is likely to be a rubbish pit, typical of the sort of feature expected within the rear part of a medieval property. The larger feature in Trench 2 may also be a pit, although the fill does not suggest that it had been used for the disposal of domestic refuse.

Alternatively this feature may be the end of a ditch, running back from the Old Market Place street frontage and forming a boundary between two properties. Although there is no definite evidence to link the posthole to this possible ditch the similarity of their fills and the fact that they apparently respect each other's positions implies they are contemporary. It is possible, therefore, that the boundary formed by the ditch is continued further away from the street frontage as a fence.

The medieval cut features were sealed in both trenches by a medieval soil horizon 0.45m to 0.60m thick. In Trench 1 this layer was cut by the construction trench for the brick sided drain, which was dated by pottery within its construction backfill to the late 18th century. In Trench 2 the medieval deposit was covered by layers of what appear to be derived from the demolition or construction of masonry buildings. Whilst the thick rubble and cobble layer is suggestive of demolition the mortar in the northwest corner of the trench is more likely to represent excess building material as it has become cemented in the position that it has been deposited. This area of the site may have been used for storing building materials during a phase of construction in the vicinity, and possibly on the street frontage. A single sherd of medieval pottery recovered from the mortar deposit may indicate the date of this activity although it was noticeably abraded and could therefore significantly pre-date the deposition of the mortar.

All of the subsequent deposits and features encountered in the two trenches appear to date to the 19th and 20th centuries. In Trench 1 deposits of this date formed the top 0.70m depth of the trench and in Trench 2 the uppermost 0.45m were of a late date. In both trenches the foundations for the recently demolished outbuildings were recorded, but in neither case were these of sufficient depth to reach the medieval deposits. Modern services on the other hand truncated the medieval layers and cut into the surface of the underlying natural.

Although medieval archaeology has been shown to be present within both of the evaluation trenches this is recognisable as cut features into the natural, at depths greater than 1m. The proposed development, of a terrace of five houses and an office unit, is either going to employ a reinforced raft or traditional strip foundations, depending upon non-archaeological structural considerations. It is likely that strip foundations would be a maximum of 0.90m deep and a raft foundation would be shallower than this. Service trenches may, however, need to be deeper. An appropriate level of archaeological mitigation would be to undertake a watching brief during groundworks required for the development, although any decision regarding mitigation lies with North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section and the local planning authority.

7.0 Bibliography.

NYCC (June 2006). Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching.
Land to the rear of 4 Old Market Place, Ripon, North Yorkshire.

8.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context	Description	Extent	Depth
Trench 1			
1000	concrete	tr	0.10m
1001	Loose brick, tile and limestone rubble	tr	0.30m
1002	Very dark grey silty loam	tr	0.75m
1003	Reddish brown clay sand sitly	tr	0.60m
1004	Loose dark grey silty sand and rubble	2m x 0.50m	0.92m
1005	Ceramic drain pipe	2m x 0.25m	0.25m
1006	Vertical sided linear cut	2m x 0.50m	0.92m
1007	Brick sided, sandstone slab capped drain	2m x 0.50m	0.30m
1008	Mixed grey silty sand	2m x 0.90m	0.50m
1009	Vertical sided linear cut	2m x 0.90m	0.50m
1010	mid reddish brown clay sand	1m x 0.50m	0.20m
1011	Oval, moderately sided cut	1m x 0.50m	0.50m
1012	Stiff mid to light reddish brown pebbly clay silt sand. (natural)	tr	-
1013	N-S brick wall	2m x 0.34m	0.42m
1014	Very dark grey silty sand	2m x 0.34	0.42m
1015	Vertical sided flat based linear cut	2m x 0.34m	0.42m
1016	mid blue grey sandy clay silt	2m x 0.26m	0.20m
Trench 2			
2000	concrete	2.30m x 1.30m	0.06m
2001	Loose mid yellow grey sand with brick, concrete and cobble rubble	2.30m x 1.30m	0.25m
2002	Loose light grey silty sand	2.30m x 0.75m	0.30m
2003	N-S brick wall	2.20m x 0.25m	0.30m
2004	Mixed dark grey to yellow brown sandy silt and clay	1.80m x 1.10m	0.70m +
2005	Irregular cut	1.80m x 1.10m	0.70m +
2006	Dark grey sandy clay silt	2m x 2m	0.15m
2007	Weakly cemented cream mortar	0.70m x 0.60m	0.12m
2008	mid yellow brown mixed silty sand and clay with freq. Cobbles and sandstone rubble	2m x 2m	0.25m
2009	Light reddish brown sandy silt	2m x 2m	0.45m
2010	Light grey brown sandy silt	1.80m x 1.20m	0.44m
2011	Linear oval, with moderate sides and concave base	1.80m x 1.20m	0.44m
2012	Firm mid brownish orange gravelly sand (natural)	tr	-
2013	Light grey brown sandy silt	0.25m x 0.25m	0.15m
2014	Oval steep sided concave based cut	0.25m x 0.25m	0.15m

9.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.

9.1 Drawing Register.

Dwg No	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
1	Tr. 1 plan	1:20	050706	TPR
2	Tr. 1, E facing sect	1:20	060706	TPR
3	Tr. 1, S facing sect	1:20	060706	TPR
4	Tr. 1, W facing sect	1:20	060706	TPR
5	Tr. 2 plan	1:20	060706	GJB
6	Tr 2, E facing sect	1:20	060706	GJB
7	Tr 2, E facing sect through [2011]	1:20	060706	GJB
8	Tr 2, S facing sect	1:20	060706	GJB

9.2 Photographic Register.

Frame	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
<i>Film: 30/050706/1523 (Col Trans)</i>				
2-4	Tr 1, post ex	1 x 1m	050706	TPR
5-10	Tr 2 post-ex	2 x 1m	060706	GJB
11-13	Tr 1, drain (1007)	1 x 0.5m	060706	TPR
<i>Film: 47/050706/1520 (B&W)</i>				
2-4	Tr 1, post ex	1 x 1m	050706	TPR
5-10	Tr 2 post-ex	2 x 1m	060706	GJB
11-13	Tr 1, drain (1007)	1 x 0.5m	060706	TPR

10.0 Appendix 3 ~ Finds Assessment Report.

Alan Vince.

10.1 Summary.

A small collection of finds, comprising ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe and pottery, was recovered by *On-Site Archaeology Ltd* from an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 4, Old Market Place, Ripon.

10.2 Description.

The finds were identified and recorded (App A). They were quantified by sherd or fragment count, the maximum number of objects represented in the record (NoV) and weight in grams.

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	3	2	73
CTP	3	3	15
POTTERY	19	19	217
Grand Total	25	24	305

Table1.

10.2.1 Ceramic Building Material.

Two joining fragments from a glazed ridge tile were recorded. The fabric of this tile was examined at x20 magnification and found to contain abundant subangular quartz of fine grade, sparse sandstone fragments up to 2.0mm long, and moderate angular red clay/iron compound up to 1.0mm across in a light brown clay groundmass. This is a fairly distinctive fabric but its source is not known.

A featureless fragment of brick, probably of post-medieval or later date was recorded.

10.2.2 Clay Tobacco Pipe.

Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recorded. Two were plain stem fragments, whose bore diameters suggest dates in the late 17th or later and late 18th century or later periods.

The third fragment is the bowl of a mid 19th-century pipe with leaf-decorated seams but otherwise plain was recorded.

10.2.3 Pottery.

Medieval.

Fourteen fragments of medieval pottery were recorded. Two of these are from handmade, dark grey-fired vessels containing large fragments of quartz and sandstone of Millstone Grit type (classed here as Northern Gritty ware, NGR). These are probably of 12th or 13th century date and are of interest because this handmade medieval pottery tradition is uncommon in

West Yorkshire, where the potter's wheel was used from the Anglo-Scandinavian period onwards.

Two further sherds of Northern Gritty ware (defined on the basis of having moderate or abundant inclusions of Millstone Grit-type sandstone or quartz derived from such a sandstone), both from wheelthrown jugs with an external glaze (plain in one case, copper-mottled in the other) were also present.

Seven sherds all had a similar fabric; containing abundant red-stained subangular quartz grains, similar to those seen in the ridge tile. These included fragments of jars and jugs. The jugs were externally glazed and include plain glazed and copper-mottled examples. These have been classed as "MEDLOC", indicating a local but unknown source. Fragments of sandstone with a red haematite cement were present in the fabrics of pottery produced at Winksley and Lumley Farm, Grantley, but only as part of a mixed sand temper ({Bellamy & Le Patourel 1970 #45813}).

An eighth sherd comes from a glazed jug with sparse subangular quartz sand temper, including overgrown quartz grains up to 0.3mm across.

A final medieval sherd come from a York Gritty ware jar, probably produced in the Potterton area (YG).

Post-Medieval.

A single sherd of a wheelthrown slipware vessel with a fine pink body and combed slip on the interior (STRE). Such vessels were produced in the later 17th and early 18th centuries and although this example is made in a similar manner to those made in the Staffordshire potteries a more local source is more likely.

Early Modern.

Four sherds of pottery of late 18th century or later date were recorded. They consist of a buff ware jug? With a band of slip and mocha decoration (NCBW); a blue-feathered pearlware plate (PEARL) and two pieces of transfer-printed ware (TPW).

10.3 Assessment.

It is possible that some of the medieval pottery dates to the later part late 11th century (YG) although identical vessels were produced throughout the 12th and early 13th centuries. The two handmade vessels are probably late 12th or 13th century and the various glazed wares and the ridge tile are of similar date although perhaps extending to the mid 14th century.

No later medieval wares were present. Subsequent activity on the site is represented by a thin scatter of pottery, clay tobacco pipes and the brick fragment.

10.3.1 Trench 1.

Context 1010 produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, associated with a piece of medieval ridge tile. Context 1003 produced two sherds of medieval pottery.

Context 1008 can be dated to the late 17th century or later through the presence of the fragment of slipware and a piece of clay tobacco pipe stem.

Context 1002 can be dated to the late 18th century or later through the presence of the pearlware plate fragment.

Context 1016 can be dated to the late 18th century or later through the presence of a clay tobacco pipe stem.

10.3.2 Trench 2.

Context 2010 produced two sherds of medieval pottery, context 2009 produced 5 sherds of medieval pottery and context 2007 produced a sherd of medieval pottery.

Context 2004 can be dated to the early 19th century or later by the presence of the mocha-decorated jug sherd and context 2002 is dated to the mid 19th century or later through the presence of a clay tobacco pipe bowl.

10.4 Retention.

All the finds come from stratified deposits and should be retained for potential future study.

10.5 Further Work.

No further work is recommended at this stage.

10.6 Appendix A.

Context	class	potdate	cname	Form	Description	subfabric	Nosh	NoV	Part	Weight	Use	Condition
1002	POTTERY	emod	PEAR	PLATE	BLUE FEATHERED		1	1	BS	11		
1003	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	JUG	PLAIN EXT GL	LIGHT BROWN BODY; S SAQ INC OVERGROWN Q <0.3MM	1	1	BS	3		
1003	POTTERY	med	YG	JAR			1	1	BS	8		
1008	POTTERY	med	NGR	JUG	EXT PLAIN GL		1	1	BS	1		
1008	POTTERY	pmed	STRE	BOWL	COMBED SLIP INT	FINE PINK	1	1	BS	25	SOTTED BASE	
1008	CTP		PIPECLAY	PIPE	L17TH+ BORE DIAM; 3.0 MM		1	1	STEM	5		
1008	CBM		PMTIL	BRICK			1	1	BS	11		VITRIFIED
1010	CBM		MTIL	RIDGE	PLAIN GL	A SAQ <0.2MM; S FINE SST <2.0MM; M ANG RED FE <1.0MM; LI GHT BROWN BODY	2	1	BS	62		
1010	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	JUG	PLAIN EXT GL; WT	FINE SAQ <0.2MM; LI GHT BROWN BODY	2	2	BS	22		
1016	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	JAR		A RED-COATED SAQ <0.2MM	1	1	BS	5	SOTTED EXT	
1016	CTP		PIPECLAY	PIPE	L18TH+ BORE DIAM; 2.3 MM		1	1	BS	1		
2002	CTP		PIPECLAY	PIPE	M19TH C; DECORATED SEAM AND SPUR		1	1	BOWL	9	SOTTED INT	
2004	POTTERY	emod	NCBW	JUG?	INDUSTRIAL SLIP; MOC HA BAND		1	1	BS	15		
2004	POTTERY	emod	TPW	PLATE			1	1	BS	11		MORTAR- COVERED

												RE D
2004	POTTE RY	emod	TPW	VAS E?	SMALL MOULDE D VESSEL WITH WILLOW PATTERN DEC		1	1	BS	7		
2007	POTTE RY	med	MEDL OC	JUG	EXT CUGL;TW O- THUMBE D B/H JOIN	A SAQ <02MM;S SAQ <2.0MM	1	1	BS	38		
2009	POTTE RY	med	NGR	JUG	EXT CUGL		2	2	R	16		
2009	POTTE RY	med	NGR	JAR	HM	M SSTMG	1	1	B	16	SO OTE D EXT	
2009	POTTE RY	med	MEDL OC	JAR		A RED- COATED SAQ <0.2MM	2	2	B	11	SO OTE D EXT	
2010	POTTE RY	med	NGR	JAR	DKGREY HM	M SSTMG	1	1	B	26	SO OTE D EXT	
2010	POTTE RY	med	MEDL OC	JAR		A RED- COATED SAQ <0.2MM	1	1	BS	2		

11.0 Appendix 4 ~ The Plates.



Plate 1. Trench 1, culvert with pit, pre-excavation to the right. (Scale of 1m).



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north. (Scale 2x 1m).